



J&K, Ladakh HC sets up resident office in New Delhi

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has sanctioned the establishment of its Resident Office in New Delhi to coordinate matters with the Supreme Court and central government departments & institutions.

A high court order issued in this regard says: "Sanction is hereby accorded to the establishment of Resident Office of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh in New Delhi."

The resident office would coordinate with the

2 killed as earth caves in

Two labourers were killed and three others injured after earth caved in during a road construction work in Ladakh.

According to officials, the incident took place in Jimchan area of Zaskar district while the labourers were engaged in a road construction work.

A portion of earth suddenly collapsed, trapping at least five labourers under the debris. While a rescue operation was launched soon thereafter,

Woman among 3 held with 500 gold coins

Three persons, including a woman, were apprehended by security forces along with over 500 gold coins in Mirbazar locality of Kulgam district of the valley today.

Officials said during the checking of a vehicle at Mirbazar, security forces recovered 500-600 gold coins.

Soon thereafter, the vehicle, which was heading from Qazigund towards Srinagar, was seized and taken to Mirbazar police post, officials said.

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GOC visits encounter site in Majalta woods

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 18

A day after security forces killed two Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, White Knight Corps GOC, Lt Gen P K Mishra today visited the encounter site in Brattal woods of Majalta in Udhampur district, and reviewed the ongoing counter-terrorism operation.

He was accompanied by GOC of Delta Force, a specialised counter-insurgency force of Army headquartered at Batote that operates primarily across the Chenab valley districts of Ramban,

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Saxena inaugurates Sea Buckthorn Conclave



LEH, SEP18: In a landmark decision aimed at enhancing the production of Sea Buckthorn, increasing farmers' income and strengthening the complete value chain, LG Vinai Kumar Saxenainaugurated Se Buckthorn Conclave here today.

On the occasion, he announced an increase in the procurement price of Sea

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Usual prevarication: India on Pakistan's collision allegation

Raises alarm over escalating Red Sea tensions

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: *Calling the Pak allegation over a collision between a Pakistani vessel and an Indian Navy warship in the Arabian Sea 'usual prevarication', the Ministry of External Affairs today raised an alarm over the escalating tensions in Red Sea area.*

Over the Arabian Sea collision, the MEA asserted that "dangerous" manoeuvres by the ship from the neighbouring country caused the incident.

The incident took place on Tuesday night after the Pakistani vessel closed in on the frontline Indian Navy warship that was on a routine surveillance mission in the north Arabian Sea.

India summoned Pakistani charge d'affaires Saad Warraich on Wednesday and lodged a diplomatic protest. Pakistan reacted to the development, with its foreign ministry subsequently summoning Indian charge d'affaires Satyanjal Pandey, alleging that "aggressive" manoeuvres by the Indian warship triggered the collision.

At a media briefing, External Affairs

Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday that Pakistani vessel carried out a "dangerous" manoeuvre in violation of a 1991 agreement requiring naval ships to maintain a distance of three nautical miles.

He identified the Indian warship as INS Kolkata, a stealth guided missile destroyer.

"We have seen Pakistan's response to the protest we had lodged. It is the usual prevarication that we expected. We reject the allegations and insinuations contained therein," he said.

"Let me reiterate the facts of the matter. INS Kolkata was on a routine deployment in the western Arabian sea when Pakistani Naval ship Hunain conducted itself in an unacceptable and unprofessional manner at sea that resulted in a collision," he said.

Jaiswal said the "dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by PNS Hunain was in gross violation of Article 10 of the agreement between India and Pakistan on advance notice on military exercises, manoeuvres and troops movements of April 1991, which specifies

that naval units at sea are not to be within three nautical miles of each other.

The spokesperson said the Pakistani ship also "infringed the international regulations for preventing collisions at sea". "The Pakistan side has once again been advised about the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents," he said.

Jaiswal said the incident did not cause "any major damage" to INS Kolkata and she remains at sea.

The Pakistani foreign ministry had alleged that the incident happened following a "highly provocative and unacceptable action" by the Indian vessel in the Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Meanwhile, India again raised alarms over the escalation in the security situation in the Red Sea area and strongly condemned Houthi strikes targeting Saudi Arabian territory, "in

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Modi, UAE Prez discuss key issues

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday received a telephone call from UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the two leaders exchanged views on developments in West Asia and ways to deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The prime minister and the UAE president reaffirmed their commitment to continued cooperation and coordination in efforts to promote regional peace, security and stability, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said.

The two leaders also discussed new measures to further deepen the India-UAE

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Birthday boy kills friend for smearing cake on his face

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 18

A youth was murdered by his friend whose birthday they were celebrating at Lower Muthi on the city outskirts here late last night.

Officials said some youths were celebrating the birthday of their friend Neeraj alias Anshu by the roadside at Lower Muthi Thursday night. One of them, who was identified as Pawan Nair alias Samir smeared cake on Neeraj's face as part of the celebration.

This made Neeraj angry and this followed a verbal duel between them. Offi

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Rlys to run 3 special trains to meet festival rush

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 18

To meet the anticipated festival rush and facilitate passenger movement, the Northern Railway's Jammu division will operate three special trains connecting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Kutra, Jammu Tawi, Varanasi and New Delhi from next month.

Terming the decision a "big gift" to rail passengers, a railway spokesperson said the operation of three reserved trains will help clear the extra rush and waiting list during Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath Puja.

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UNSC meeting on 'safe seas'

Navigational rights must not be subject to threats: India

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 18: India has told a United Nations Security Council meeting that navigational rights must not be subject to coercion, threats, unlawful restrictions or arbitrary interference, warning that maritime insecurity has effects far beyond immediate risks.

Speaking at an Arria-Formula meeting on safe seas and freedom of navigation, India said secure maritime routes were essential for international peace, security and global prosperity.

India also said recent disruptions to major shipping routes, including at the Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing US-Israel conflict against Iran, have shown how quickly maritime instability can affect energy and food security.

It called for practical arrangements to ensure the

continued movement of essential commercial and humanitarian supplies during crises.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, said, "Recent disruptions to significant global maritime routes have underpinned a fundamental reality: the security of maritime routes are vital to international peace, security and global prosperity."

He added, "It has implications across regions of the globe, particularly in terms of energy and food security."

Addressing the UNSC meeting titled 'Safe Seas, Shared Security: Protecting Freedom of Navigation in an Evolving Security Environment', Parvathaneni said, "Disruptions at one chokepoint can increase pressure on alternative

routes, raise freight and insurance costs, disrupt energy and food supplies and adversely affect developing countries."

He said, "The international community must therefore move beyond responding to individual incidents by crafting practical arrangements to facilitate the continued movement of essential commercial and humanitarian supplies during crises."

He added, "The objective should not merely be to restore navigation after a crisis, but to build a maritime system capable of withstanding shocks before they cascade into wider economic and humanitarian crises."

India voiced strong support for a free, open, secure and rules-based maritime domain. Parvathaneni said,

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Delhi Conference

Omar hopes deliberations will shape J&K's financial pathways

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today attended a conference on 'Financing India's Journey towards Viksit Bharat' here and expressed hope that the deliberations will help shape clear financial pathways for Jammu and Kashmir.

The two-day conference organised by the Union Ministry of Finance brought together chief ministers, finance ministers, finance secretaries and senior officials from states and Union Territories.

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman at-



tended the inaugural session of the conference of State Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries of States and Union Territories with legislature.

The conference provides a platform for deliberations on financing challenges and policy priorities shaping India's development journey

towards Viksit Bharat, while exploring policy complementarities between the Centre and the states through a combination of academic rigour and practical policy perspectives.

Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, Finance Ministers and senior representatives from several states and Union Territories are participating in the conference.

"The deliberations will help shape clear financial pathways for Jammu & Kashmir, with a focus on macroeconomic growth, agricultural transformation

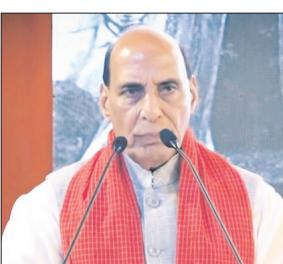
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Delays in def projects can lead to 'technology obsolescence': Rajnath

NEW DELHI, SEP 18 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today warned that delays in defence projects could create capability gaps, escalate costs and even render technology obsolete by the time it reaches the armed forces.

His remarks came as state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) finally completed its original Tejas Mk1 order, nearly a decade after the contractual deadline.

HAL handed over the last two Tejas Mk1 FOC twin-seater trainers to the Indian Air Force at a ceremony in Bengaluru attended by



Singh and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

The company also handed over three HTT-40 basic trainers to the IAF and four Dhruv NG helicopters to Pawan Hans.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said delays in technology projects needed to be taken seriously as they

could create gaps in meeting critical defence requirements and lead to cost escalation.

"There are some issues on which we have to work. Among them one of the important issues is delays," Singh said.

He also warned about the risk of technology becoming obsolete before it reaches the armed forces. "We all know about technology obsolescence...we have to keep the timelines realistic."

Singh's remarks came as HAL completed an order for 40 Tejas Mk1 aircraft that dates back to 2006 and

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J&K Bank renews MoU with Tata Motors as preferred financier

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 18

J&K Bank today renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Motors Limited - India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer - to offer convenient and competitive financing solutions for the company's extensive range of commercial vehicles.

Under the agreement, J&K Bank will act as a preferred financier for all variants of commercial vehicles manufactured and marketed by Tata Motors. The partnership will operate on a pan-India basis, building on the Bank's established pres-



ence in J&K and Ladakh while extending support to customers across the country.

The renewed arrangement will enable the bank's branches to work closely with Tata Motors and its authorised dealer network to facilitate finance for eligible customers. Tata Motors and

its dealers will also undertake promotional initiatives, generate customer leads, and connect prospective buyers with the Bank for financing support.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager (RAM) Sanjay Gupta said, "The renewal of our association with Tata Motors reflects

