



Leh 'unrest'

Cases withdrawn against 20 persons

LG Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the withdrawal of criminal cases against 20 individuals, related to the violence that erupted in Leh on September 24 last year.

The cases were withdrawn under Section 360 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, on the recommendation of Ladakh police, following a comprehensive review of the status of investigations into the cases.

On September 24 last year, Leh witnessed

3 landmines defused near LoC

Three landmines were detected and subsequently defused near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu today.

Officials said Army troops discovered two mines near the LoC at Phagwara Gali in Mendhar sub-sector during routine patrolling in the border area.

Both the mines were later defused by a bomb disposal squad without causing any damage, offi

'Gangster' held from Delhi

A Jammu-based gangster, who had escaped from an observation home at R S Pura here along with two Pakistani nationals in February this year, was arrested in Delhi after a seven-month-long hunt.

His two associates, both allegedly linked to Khauf gang, were also arrested during the operation, police said.

Presenting main accused Karanjit Singh alias "Gugga" of Dablehar, R S Pura, before reporters here, SSP, Jammu, Joginder Singh said his arrest by the special opera

Banks to remain open on Sunday

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: The finance ministry today said that all banks, including Regional Rural Banks, would remain open on Sunday for the convenience of customers in view of a strike called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU).

The UFBU, which claims to represent 90 per cent of the banking workforce, is set to go on a three-day strike beginning September 28, primarily seeking a 5-day banking week, among other demands.

The strike, if it materialises, would coincide with the half-yearly closing of the banking sector.

In view of the proposed three-day nationwide bank strike called by the UFBU

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DoPT has cleared 23,000 promotions: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, SEP 23: Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said that over 23,000 promotions had been cleared by DoPT in the last 12 years.

"The timely career progression is important for keeping employees motivated and ensuring effective functioning of the administration," he said during an

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If CEC allowed elections to be rigged its 'treason': Priyanka Gandhi

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Raveena Tandon Says She, Karisma Kapoor Worked On 6 Films At A Time In The 90s

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India rejects OIC reference to J&K, calls it factually incorrect

Asks group to counsel Pakistan

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: India on Wednesday categorically rejected the "unwarranted and factually incorrect" references to India in the joint communique of an OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, saying that OIC had no locus standi on matters internal to the country.

The entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are "integral and inalienable part of India", and "no amount of repetition of politically motivated propaganda can change this reality", the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"Repeated political narratives cannot alter this reality. The OIC has no locus standi to pronounce on matters that are strictly in-

India rejected the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group's references to Jammu and Kashmir after its New York meeting. The MEA said the bloc should counsel Pakistan and stop amplifying what it called motivated propaganda.

ternal to India," the MEA said.

The statement came after the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Pakistan's foreign ministry in a post on X on Wednesday said Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the ministerial meeting of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on the

sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Dar urged OIC member states to maintain a "unified position" on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations and other international fora. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a "just and peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people", the post said.

Dar also called for the reversal of measures taken by

India since August 5, 2019, besides seeking the release of political prisoners and access for international observers.

The references made by the OIC contact group on Jammu and Kashmir, drew a sharp response from New Delhi.

"India categorically rejects the unwarranted and factually incorrect references to India in the Joint Communique of the so-called OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir. The OIC has no locus standi to pronounce on matters that are strictly internal to India," the MEA said.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in a post on X shared India's statement on references to it in the joint communique of the OIC Contact Group on

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Record savings on expenses under Ayushman Bharat: Modi



NEW DELHI, SEP 23 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said more than 60 crore beneficiaries now have access to Rs 5 lakh annual health cover under Ayushman Bharat, as the flagship healthcare programme completed eight years.

In a post on X marking

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SIR row Oppn demands CEC's removal

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: Expansive red flags raised by two Election Commissioners within the poll panel over the Special Intensive Revision of the voter list triggered a political storm today, with the Opposition demanding CEC Gyanesh Kumar's removal and the poll panel asserting that differing views were a normal part of deliberation.

Opposition leaders also sought legal action against CEC Kumar and fresh elections in states. The Congress dubbed the row as "Gyaneshgate" and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP, the RSS

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Hamas finance chief killed: Netanyahu



TEL AVIV, SEP 23: Israeli today said its forces had killed Muhammad Abu Alwan, head of Hamas' finance department, during a targeted operation in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

In a joint statement released by the PMO, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Min

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US' Sanctioning Russia & Iran Act EAM Jaishankar raises India's concerns with Marco Rubio

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised India's interests and concerns over the newly enacted US law targeting countries continuing to buy Russian oil during a meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

India and the United States discussed this potentially sensitive issue in their bilateral relationship. The discussion came at a sensitive point in India-US ties, with the new US legislation giving President Donald Trump sweeping powers to impose 100 per cent tariffs on countries that continue to buy Russian energy.

India and China, among the major buyers of Russian energy, could therefore face the impact if Trump decides to use those powers.



Jaishankar said the two sides also discussed the situation in the Gulf and the Ukraine war, as the two countries seek to coordinate on wider regional and global issues.

The meeting came days after Trump signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act

of 2026 into law on September 18.

Importantly, the law does not automatically impose a 100 per cent tariff on India. It provides the Trump administration with the authority to impose such tariffs.

The legislation also ex

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Won't surrender in war with US: Iran President

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 23: Iran will not surrender in the war with the United States, but believes in diplomacy to try to end the conflict, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations on Wednesday.

The United States delegation walked out at the start of Pezeshkian's speech. The US mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Strait of Hormuz, conduit for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas before the war, has become a focus of tensions between Iran and the US.



"It cannot be the case that everyone benefits from the Strait of Hormuz while we are denied access to shipping through this waterway. The permanent deployment of hostile fleets and the expansion of the war will not lead to peace," Pezeshkian said.

He addressed the 193-member General Assembly

a day after US President Donald Trump spoke. Trump used his speech on Tuesday to make the case for his war on Iran, arguing he has prevented Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and warning that he could "annihilate the Islamic Republic" if no deal is reached to end the conflict.

He said his people had been 'victims of terrorism' by the United States, delivering a rare wartime speech at UN General Assembly a day after President Donald Trump said he could "annihilate" the Islamic Republic.

The defiant speech by him marked a striking in

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Pak human rights situation raised at UNHRC

Balochistan, minority rights highlighted

GENEVA, SEP 23: Concerns over the human rights situation in Pakistan, including alleged enforced disappearances in Balochistan and attacks against religious minorities, were raised during the 63rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Speaking during the General Debate under Agenda Item 4, Diana Stephanie Dehimat made an urgent appeal concerning Dr Sabiha Baloch, who is associated with the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC).

Referring to Dr Baloch's

concerns, Dehimat said she feared that she could be arrested, forcibly disappeared or killed for speaking about the situation of the Baloch people. She said five of her colleagues were already in prison for peacefully raising concerns over human rights violations.

Dehimat also referred to the cases of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders Dr Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shah, claiming that they were serving life sentences following proceedings that had raised concerns over due process.

She cited documentation

by PAANK, according to which 1,223 cases of enforced disappearance and 188 extrajudicial killings were recorded in Balochistan in 2025. She also alleged that civilians, including children, had lost their lives during military operations.

Calling for international attention to the situation, Dehimat urged the United Nations to investigate alleged human rights violations in Balochistan and called on Pakistan to address enforced disappearances, protect civilians and

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Kavinder calls for education that goes beyond degrees

KANGRA, SEP 23: Stating that there is a need for an education system that imparts knowledge along with skills, confidence, employability and opportunities for entrepreneurship, Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that merely obtaining a degree these days was not enough.

"The real identity of any university is defined by its contribution to knowledge, values, research, innovation and society," he said while addressing the foundation day celebrations of Shri Sai University at Palampur in Kangra district.

He said that the academic journey of the Shri Sai



Group, which began at Badhahi in 1996, was an inspiring example of long-term commitment and sustained efforts in the field of education.

Highlighting Himachal Pradesh's unique geographical conditions, the governor

said that many parts of the state were mountainous, rural and remote. In such circumstances, establishing an institution of higher education in a region was not merely an academic achievement but also an im

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Education, health top priorities of govt to compete globally: Omar



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 23

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said education and healthcare must remain the top priorities of the government to enable children from the Union

Territory to compete at national and international levels.

He also stressed the need to provide children across the education system a level playing field and equip them with skills to compete nationally and internationally, saying sustained in-

vestment in these sectors was essential for overall development of the region.

"Education and health remain the two foremost responsibilities of the government," the chief minister said while addressing the award ceremony of ALOHA National Level Competition-2026 in Srinagar.

"Education is the foundation of everything. Without education, what can we achieve? Education and health: without these two things, there is no point in getting anything else," he said.

He said the government was focusing on improving the education system so that children were better

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BJP appoints state in-charges

Satish Poonia gets J&K, Rajkumar Bhatia UT of Ladakh

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: In a major reshuffle of its state organisational teams, BJP today appointed in-charges and co-in-charges for all 28 states and eight Union Territories, with senior leader Satish Poonia getting charge of J&K, and Reena Kashyap as co-in-charge. Delhi leader Rajkumar Bhatia has got the responsibility of UT of Ladakh.

The appointments, announced by BJP president Nitin Nabin, come as the party reworks its organisational structure ahead of the

Assembly elections due in several states in 2027.

The party assigned two-state responsibilities to several leaders. Besides Poonia, who got J&K and the neighbouring Punjab, Ram Madhav has been given the responsibility of Tamil Nadu & Uttarakhand.

The party has also given national general secretary Smriti Irani the charge of Haryana & Chhattisgarh.

National general secretary Harish Dwivedi will be in charge of Bihar and Karnataka, while Sunil Bansal has been given charge of

Telangana and West Bengal.

Anil Antony has been appointed in-charge of Nagaland and will also serve as co-in-charge of Goa.

In Uttar Pradesh, BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde has been appointed in-charge, with Jagdish Patel, Medha Kulkarni, Pardeep Varma and Anand Ojha as co-in-charges.

Senior BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabudde has been made in-charge of Delhi, with Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and Darshana

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Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary celebrated across J&K

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, SEP 23

The 131st birth anniversary of last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh was today celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir, with political and social groups holding programmes and paying tributes to the erstwhile ruler.

LG Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the Maharaja and said his ideals of public service, equality and inclusive development should continue to guide society.

"An enlightened statesman and progressive thinker, he introduced far-



reaching reforms for the welfare and empowerment of people," he said in a post on X. Several city markets were decorated on the occasion. Special prayers were also held at several places. YRS activists took out rallies in Jammu city

and other parts of the UT to mark the occasion. Activists in traditional attire, some carrying swords, took out a motor rally to Tawi bridge and garlanded the Maharaja's statue amid slogans.

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