



'Time to go': Kapil Sibal jabs Rajnath on 'regime change' charge

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Alaya F pushes her limits, taking the 118 Hard fitness challenge to the next level

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Infiltration bid foiled

Security forces today foiled an infiltration attempt from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jungund area of Keran sub-sector in Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Officials said a suspicious movement was detected along the LoC in Jungund area in the morning, following which an alert was sounded.

While the intrusion bid was foiled by the suspected terrorists, the operation was underway when reports last came in, officials said.

Other details were awaited.

Man held with heroin

The Jammu unit of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) conducted an intelligence-based operation in Digiana area here and seized 385 grams of 'heroin', arresting one person.

According to officials, the operation followed specific intelligence regarding suspected heroin trafficking. During surveillance, the NCB team intercepted the suspect while he was allegedly attempting to deliver the contraband.

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Saxena lays foundation stones for 2 water bodies



LG Vinai Kumar Saxenalaidthe foundation stones for two water bodies, with a combined storage capacity of approximately 60-70 lakh litres, under Project Him Sarovar at Barchay and Apati in Sodh teshil of Kargil district.

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5 of family found dead

NOIDA, OCT 17: In a suspected case of food poisoning, five members of a family, including a couple and their three children, were today found dead at a village in Greater Noida's Rabupura.

According to police, Mahesh (37), his wife Lalita (35), their daughter Mishti (7), and sons Laddu (11) and Sakshat (3) were found dead in Nagla Shri Padam village in the morning.

Prima facie, it appeared to be a case of food poisoning, police said.

The family had consumed noodles the previous night, according to locals and Mahesh's mother.

Aadhaar mandatory for PM CARES for Children Scheme

NEW DELHI, OCT 17: The Centre has made Aadhaar authentication or proof of possession of an Aadhaar number necessary to avail of scholarship benefits under the PM CARES for Children Scheme.

However, it has made it clear that no child will be denied assistance for failure to authenticate Aadhaar or for not having been assigned an Aadhaar number.

In a notification issued on October 14, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said beneficiaries of the Special Scholarship Scheme un-

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'Hearsay dressed up as UN report'

India rejects UN expert's report on youth freedom

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 17: *India has rejected a report by a UN human rights expert, alleging that young people in the country face retaliation or stigmatisation for discussing mental health and gender justice, describing the claims as "hearsay dressed up as a UN report" and questioning the use of anonymous submissions.*

First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Anuj Swarup delivered the national statement at the 81st Session of the UNGA Third Committee at the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Swarup voiced objection

to the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association Gina Romero, calling out her assertion that young people in India face retaliation or stigmatisation for discussing mental health or gender justice.

Swarup said Romero merely cites "unnamed submissions" in the footnote. "A sweeping charge against the world's largest youth population, resting on anonymous and unverified claims, is not evidence. It is hearsay dressed up as a UN report, and my delegation rejects it outright," Swarup said.

"A mandate holder who relies on anonymous inputs to generalise for 1.4 billion people does a disservice to the very mandate she holds. We urge this Special Rapporteur to verify before she

vilifies and to bring the required rigour and fairness in her reports," he said.

Referring to Romero's report, he questioned the basis of its claims regarding young people in India. The report has been submitted amid widespread youth protests in India against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

"Yet, the special rapporteur asserts that young people in India face retaliation or stigmatisation for discussing mental health or gender justice, though merely citing unnamed submissions in the footnote. This level of arbitrary report writing is precisely the reason that the United Nations and its institutions have lost credibility."

In her report, Romero notes that in India, young people created a "satirical

Omar thanks Modi for Rs 475.41 cr approval for J&K ITI clusters

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 17

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary for approving Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) worth Rs 475.41 cr under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme for upgrading key Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters across Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the initiative, the



Jammu ITI Cluster, with ITI Jammu as the hub and ITIs at RS Pura, Nowshera, Samba and Kathua as spokes, will be upgraded with an approved investment of Rs 240 cr.

Similarly, the Srinagar ITI Cluster, with ITI Srinagar as the hub and ITIs at Ganderbal, Kangan, Budgam and Charar-i-Sharief as spokes, will be modernised with an invest-

ment of Rs 235.41 cr.

The initiative will follow a hub-and-spoke model to modernise training infrastructure, introduce contemporary courses and align curricula with evolving industry requirements and domestic and global skill demands.

The chief minister said the initiative would strengthen industry linkages, promote outcome-based training and equip the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with industry-ready skills, enhancing their employability and access to better livelihood opportunities.

He said the investment

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Iran insists end to war key for regional peace: Dy FM

BEIRUT, OCT 17 : Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh has underlined that a complete halt to the war on every front remains essential for peace, warning that any ongoing fighting in one area would keep the war alive throughout the region.

According to the state-run agency, Khatibzadeh said Iran remained committed to ending the Israeli war on Lebanon and had secured this objective in the Islamabad memorandum of understanding, which Iran and the United States signed in mid-June this

year.

He said Lebanon was among the key issues discussed between Iran and the US, adding that he sought to bring the two sides closer during his visit to Beirut.

The senior Iranian official, who reached the Lebanese capital on Wednesday for talks with local leaders, described the exchanges as "good" and confirmed meetings with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Foreign Ministry representatives.

He insisted that Israel must stop its war in

Lebanon and the Levant, pointing out that events in the two areas remain closely linked.

One core Iranian demand, he explained, is the termination of all wars. Continued combat on even a single front would signal that the war is still under way everywhere. This stance, he noted, guided Tehran's efforts to conclude the war in Lebanon, an outcome it succeeded in securing.

Khatibzadeh also charged that Washington and Tel Aviv had breached the Islamabad memoran-

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Sabarmati-Jammu Tawi Express extended to Katra

3 new halts approved

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 17

In a big relief for pilgrims, the Ministry of Railways has approved the extension of Sabarmati BG-Jammu Tawi Express to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, with the extended service commencing from Sabarmati on October 18 and from Katra on October 20.

The extension will add another train service to Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Trikuta Hills, and provide an additional travel

option for passengers from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab along the route, officials, quoting a senior railway official, said.

According to officials, the railways has also approved three additional halts for the train at Samba, Bari Brahmana and Martyr Capt Tushar Mahajan railway stations in the Jammu region.

The new stoppages were expected to benefit local residents, students, traders, industrial workers and military personnel, particularly those associated with the Bari Brahmana industrial area, officials said.

"The daily service will connect Katra with Sabarmati and major stations along the route, including Bathinda, Firozpur, Jalandhar and Pathankot," the officials added.

The extension of the train service is also expected to support to a large extent the religious tourism, facilitate passenger movement and provide a boost to trade and employment in the region.

Every year, lakhs of pilgrims visit the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and

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political movement", a reference to the Cockroach Janata Party, and said that "young people from India reported retaliation or stigmatisation for discussing mental health or gender justice."

Swarup further emphasised that "this level of arbitrary report writing is precisely the reason that the United Nations and its institutions have lost credibility."

He said that in India, these freedoms, together with freedom of speech and expression, are guaranteed to every citizen under Article 19 of the Constitution, and are protected by an independent judiciary, a free press, and an empowered National Human Rights Commission.

India also termed the re

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CJI to inaugurate Ladakh bench of High Court



LEH, OCT 17: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kantwill visit Ladakh on Sunday to inaugurate the newly constituted Ladakh bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The CJI would be accompanied by four Supreme Court judges, the chief justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court, and other high court judges. The Attorney

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6 IPS officers adjusted; 12 DSPs transferred

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 17

The police headquarters has adjusted six IPS officers, besides ordering the transfers and postings of 12 DSPs.

According to an order, the six IPS officers were adjusted following their joining the J&K segment after completion of their Basic Course Training (Phase-II).

Kumari Someya is posted as ASP Headquarters, Jammu, ?Daniel Raj C as ASP Headquarters, Budgam, Aditi Verma as SDPO West, Srinagar, ?Chaitanya Giri as SDPO RSPura, ?Anant Dhanraj

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Trump waives tariffs on Russian oil buyers



WASHINGTON, OCT 17: US President Donald Trump has waived tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods imported from the five largest purchasers of Russian oil or gas, along with specified sanctions provisions under a new law targeting Moscow, citing the national interest of the United States.

In an executive order

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'Blanket ban impermissible'

Children have fundamental right to access internet: SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 17

: Declaring access to and use of the internet a 'fundamental right' for every individual, including children, the Supreme Court has directed the central government to create a national database for the detection and removal of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM) on digital platforms.

A bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice K Vinod Chandran also suggested introducing "child mode" for social media accounts, with greater emphasis on parental consent, guidance and oversight.

The court observed: "We have no hesitation in saying that the right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right of every individual under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Our children,

irrespective of their age, enjoy the same rights, and to deny them the same altogether would be as absurd as saying children below a certain age do not have a conscience worth protecting or a freedom of speech worth expressing. The safety of our children and their freedom are not at odds with each other."

The bench made these observations in connection with the case of Just Rights for Children Alliance (JCRA) and Anr vs S Harish & Ors. Just Rights for Children is India's largest civil society network, with over 300 NGOs working against child sexual exploitation, child trafficking and child marriage.

The Supreme Court acknowledged that the internet is far from safe for children but held that keeping children away because of the failures of intermedi-

aries to detect and remove harmful material would amount to mistaking the victim for the problem.

It directed that a National Hash & URL List Database be set up for the detection and removal of CSEAM, and said any entry in the database should be made after multiple tiers of verification, with the final screening being done by at least three trained human analysts who independently determine whether the material constitutes CSEAM.

Every database entry shall be used by intermediaries to cross-check and remove any content on their platforms that matches the entry. Law enforcement agencies shall use the same process to identify, detect and remove any such material that matches an entry in the database, the court

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18 killed, several injured in stampede at Durga Puja pandal

KOLKATA, OCT 17: At least 18 people were today killed and several others injured in a stampede at the Chorbagan Sarbojanin-Durgotsab Samity puja pandal in central Kolkata.

The injured individuals were rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The incident occurred at around 7.40 pm, and the pandal had now been closed to visitors, police said.

"Today at around 7.40 pm, a stampede occurred at the exit gate of Sarada Park (Chor Bagan) Puja Pandal, under Girish Park Police Station, due to heavy crowds of pandal hoppers amid rainfall. The Puja Pandal has now been closed to visitors. All injured persons were rescued and shifted to MCH for treatment," the police said.

West Bengal chief minister Suvenud Adhikari and chief secretary Manoj Agarwal visited the hospitalised injured at Calcutta Medical College and Hospital.

State health minister Sharadwat Mukher-

jee also visited the injured people admitted to the hospital.

The situation arose from a crowd surge at the community Durga Puja in the evening, reports said, citing police.

According to a senior official, as it started raining, the crowd waiting outside the pandal rushed forward, and some of them fell on the road, leading to the stampede-like situation.

"Reinforcement from the Control Room, Fire Brigade, Kolkata Police, DMG team and ambulances with medical teams were deployed. As per the information received so far, around 35 people have been taken to MCH," officials added.

Several visitors alleged that the stampede occurred due to inadequate safety arrangements by the Kolkata Police.

According to hospital and police sources, several people succumbed to their injuries, while the condition of many others was

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Regulation issued to revise structure, electoral procedure of LAHDCs

NEW DELHI, OCT 17: The Centre has amended the legal terminology, administrative structure and electoral provisions governing the Autonomous Hill Development Councils in Ladakh to align them with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which led to the creation of the Union territory of Ladakh.

The government had in 2019 bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Develop-

ment Councils (Amendment) Regulation, the number of elected seats in each council will be determined by the Ladakh administration, with a minimum of seven and a maximum of 24 seats.

The administration can nominate up to four members from among women and unrepresented communities, subject to the one-sixth limit of the population, the regulation states.

The sitting Lok Sabha MP representing Ladakh will be an ex-officio member of the councils constituted for each district of the

Union Territory.

Each council will have a term of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting, unless dissolved earlier. The term can be extended if holding elections is considered impracticable.

The regulation also replaces references to state and governor with Union territory of Ladakh and Administrator, respectively.

The regulation establishes that the State Election Commission for the Union territory of Ladakh will have superintendence, direction, and control over

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Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's legacy of courage to inspire generations: Kavinder

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 17

Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today called for strengthening social harmony, mutual respect and national unity, urging intellectuals and community leaders to uphold the timeless values of humanity, equality, service and brotherhood.

"Inspired by Guru Gobind Singh, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur fought against injustice and championed the rights of the disadvantaged. His life continues to inspire society to work for equality, justice and the welfare of the



weakest sections," he said while addressing the 2nd Sikh Intellectual Conclave 2026, organised by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Trust at Abhinav Theatre here.

Recalling the legacy of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, the governor said that his life exemplified courage,

sacrifice, justice and the protection of human dignity.

He highlighted the enduring relevance of Sikh Gurus' teachings, particularly Guru Nanak Dev's message of equality and universal brotherhood, Guru Gobind Singh Ji's courage in de-

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