



Omar seeks action over attack on J&K bus

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has taken up the incident of attack on a J&K bus in Haryana with the state government, seeking stringent action against those responsible and measures to ensure the safety of passengers.

The CMoffice has conveyed its concern to the Haryana government over the incident and the safety and well-being of the passengers. The Haryana administration has assured prompt and stringent action in accordance

Centre abolishes 2 PCCF posts in J&K

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has abolished two temporarily created posts of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), one cadre and one ex-cadre, in Jammu and Kashmir with effect from August 1, 2026.

The decision was taken on the recommendation of the Joint Cadre Authority and in continuation of an earlier order

CRPF cop commits suicide

A CRPF cop was today alleged to have committed suicide inside a camp in Manasbal area of Ganderbal district of Kashmir.

He was identified as Ranjit Das of Hajo in Kamrup district of Assam.

According to officials, he allegedly committed suicide by using a nylon rope to hang himself inside the CRPFcamp at Manasbal.

Officials said it was not immediately known as to why Das took the extreme step. Police had, however, registered a case in this connection.

2 feared drowned in Chenab

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 18

Two persons were feared drowned in Chenab river in Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu today.

According to officials, a woman, who was identified as Priya (30) of Balwana village, allegedly jumped into Chenab river from Bug bridge in Doda district in the afternoon. She was mother of two minor children.

The woman was swept away by the strong river currents, following which a search operation was

Cont. on P9 >

Pak extends airspace ban on Indian aircraft

ISLAMABAD, OCT 18: Pakistan has extended its airspace ban on Indian-registered aircraft and planes owned, operated or leased by Indian airlines for another month, until November 24, according to the country's airports authority.

The restriction, initially imposed on April 23, 2025, has been extended periodically since then amid strained relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) announced the extension in a post on X on Saturday, saying the restriction also

Cont. on P9 >

The Himalayan Mail

JAMMU, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 RNI No. 66860 Vol. 31 No. 288 12 Pages | Rs. 2.00

India rejects report by UN human rights expert that says Indian youth face retaliation, terms claims as 'hearsay'

P-7

Tiger Shroff Shot At In Mumbai's Juhu, 3 Bike-Borne Suspects On The Run

P-10



Navratri prayers turn into mourning 15 killed as truck mows down devotees outside temple

GWALIOR/BHOPAL, OCT 18: Fifteen people, including several teenagers, lost their lives and around 25 were injured after a speeding truck ploughed into devotees gathered for Navratri prayers outside a temple in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district early on Sunday.

The paddy-laden truck, bearing a Punjab registration number, entered a no-entry zone on Chinara Road at around 1.30 am, crashed into several devotees waiting for darshan and roadside shops before hitting the Sheetla Mata temple's entrance gate, police said.

The impact brought down a section of the temple wall, trapping people under the debris, officials said.

The truck driver fled the



scene, and police teams were searching for him, they added.

An investigator said the truck's brakes may have failed, forcing the driver to

swerve left in a desperate attempt to control the vehicle. Had it continued straight, he said, it would have ploughed into at least 600 to 700 devotees.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and announced ex-gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh to the

Cont. on P9 >

Many don't know about my decision: Trump on Russia sanctions waiver

WASHINGTON, OCT 18: Facing intense criticism, US President Donald Trump said he had taken a "good decision" to exempt Russia from sweeping sanctions under a new law and asserted that many did not know what it actually meant.

"A lot of you don't know what my decision is yet, but we'll figure it out, and you'll figure it out," Trump told reporters at the Mar-a-Lago resort in Miami.

"It's a very good decision, and it's going to be a decision that's good for the country, and I think good for the world because we're really at a world stage," Trump said.



On Friday, Trump signed an executive order exempting Russia from a new sanctions measure - Graham Act - that the US Congress passed last month.

The executive order also granted a waiver from 100 per cent tariffs on the top five purchasers of Russian oil and gas, including China and India.

The order states that the waivers shall remain in ef-

fect until such time as the President or the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Trade Representative, as appropriate, determine that further action is appropriate.

Trump's decision to waive sanctions on Russia came under fire from the Republicans and Democrats, who last month came together to overwhelmingly pass the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act.

Senator Darline Graham, a Republican from South Carolina, also criticised Trump for exempting Russia from a sanctions law that was championed by and

Cont. on P9 >

Iran def minister threatens 'enormous damage' if US attacks

TEHRAN, OCT 18: Newly appointed Iranian defence minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi threatened on Sunday to inflict "enormous damage" on the United States and its allies in the Middle East if Washington resumes its military campaign against the country.

"People can rest assured that they will most likely not dare to attack us," he told reporters shortly after securing parliament's vote of confidence.

"If they (the US) do, they themselves and the region will suffer enormous damage," the defence minister

asserted.

Iranian lawmakers had earlier approved Akhlaghi's appointment as the country's new defence minister, after his predecessor was killed on the first day of the war with the United States.

"Members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (parliament) today gave a vote of confidence to Mehrdad Akhlaghi, the nominee for minister of defence and armed forces logistics," state television reported, nearly eight months after the initial US-Israeli strikes that sparked the conflict.

According to the govern-

ment website, Akhlaghi "was elected to the post with 237 votes in favour", out of a total of 277 votes cast.

The veteran defence official replaces Aziz Nasirzadeh, who was killed in a US-Israeli attack on a leadership compound on February 28, alongside former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and senior military commanders.

"If I receive parliament's vote of confidence, responsibility for the Ministry of Defence will fall to me at a sensitive juncture," Akhlaghi said before the

Cont. on P9 >

Amit Shah to visit Punjab on Oct 20

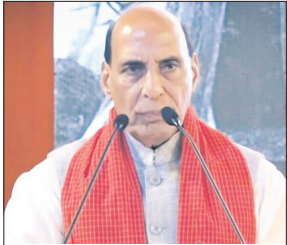


NEW DELHI, OCT 18: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit the neighbouring Punjab on October 20.

"Punjab welcomes Union Home Minister AmitShah on his visit on October 20. At a time when Punjab is battling the grave menace of drugs, we need decisive action, strong leadership and a firm resolve to secure our youth and our future," BJP

Cont. on P9 >

Rajnath to represent India at SCO meet in Tajikistan



NEW DELHI, OCT 18: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the upcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, to be held at Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on October 19-20.

The meeting will focus on

Cont. on P9 >

Army officer's wife booked

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 18

Police have booked the wife of an Army officer for allegedly "collecting & sharing" sensitive information with foreign intelligence operatives, including individuals linked to China.

According to sources, she was pursuing certain research-related activities, which were now being examined.

Police were also examining the nature of her activities and whether any information or material was "communicated" to foreign intelligence operatives, sources said.

The case was registered at

Cont. on P9 >

CJI inaugurates Ladakh bench of High Court in Leh

Historic milestone, says LG Saxena

LEH, OCT 18: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant inaugurated the newly constituted Ladakh bench of high court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh here today.

Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena called the day a landmark milestone, fulfilling a long-standing demand for a court closer to home.

"A new era of accessible justice begins in Ladakh! Deeply grateful to Chief Justice of India, for inaugurating the Ladakh Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, today at Leh, in the gracious presence of Supreme Court judges and the Chief Justice and other companion Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh," Saxena said on X after the event.

He said the Ladakh Bench of the High Court and the CJI's successive



visits to the Union Territory within six months reflect his commitment to ensuring "access to justice" to all, particularly to remote communities in Ladakh.

"My sincere thanks and gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for consistently guiding Ladakh on the path of prosperity and inclusive development," he added.

Supreme Court Justices

MM Sundresh, PS Narasimha and Arun Palli, along with judges of the High Court, were also present on the occasion.

Attorney General for India R Venkatramani and Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena also attended the event.

The occasion was further graced by all the judges of the High Court, accompanied by their spouses; the

Cont. on P9 >

Govts change by power of ballot not threat of bullets: Naqvi

Slams Oppn for 'regime change craze'

NEW DELHI, OCT 18: Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday accused the opposition of pushing for a "regime change" and asserted that in India, governments are chosen and changed by the "power of ballot", not by the "threat of bullets".

Some political parties were in the grip of a "regime change craze", he said while speaking to reporters here.

"Barring the period of barbarity during the 1975-77 Emergency, in 18 general elections and hundreds of Assembly, Panchayat and local body elections, the people made 'ballot' as their



weapon of mandate, not bullets," the former Union Minister said.

Naqvi said those pushing for a "regime change" should remember that in India, governments are chosen and changed by the "power of ballot", not by the "threat of bullets".

"Even today this people's

mandate through elections is the passion and spirit of our vibrant democracy and it is still strong and alive," he said

Naqvi said the "national and international investors and sponsors" of the ongoing "anarchy, arrogance and chaos for regime change will be disappointed".

"The lobby looking to lynch people's mandate, is trying to put a gun to the head of democracy, and they will be wiped out," he said.

The BJP leader said the "sinister syndicate" must understand that the "con

Cont. on P9 >

Cong gears up for Uttarakhand polls; assigns tasks to office-bearers

NEW DELHI, OCT 18: Ahead of the upcoming 2027 Assembly Elections in Uttarakhand, the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) on Sunday has assigned responsibilities to newly appointed state-level office-bearers.

Officials said they were tasked with overseeing districts, metropolitan areas, assembly constituencies and various affiliated organisations, departments, and cells, to make the party organisation more robust and active.

Rajiv Maharshi, Vice President of the State Congress Committee, said the

AICC leadership had taken this significant decision to bolster the state organisation to accelerate preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections.

"Party leadership has assigned these charges based on the organisational capacity, experience, and efficiency of the newly appointed office-bearers, ensuring the effective execution of party activities across the state," he said.

He added that by assigning specific responsibilities to state-level office-bearers, the party aims to intensify organisational activities and foster better

coordination among party workers.

"All newly appointed office-bearers are expected to maintain constant contact and coordination with party officials and workers in their respective assigned areas, working toward strengthening the organisation down to the booth level," added Maharshi.

The newly appointed officials-in-charge have been instructed to regularly visit districts, metropolitan areas, and assembly constituencies under their purview to review the activities of the local organisa

Cont. on P9 >

Collective participation essential to realising Viksit Bharat vision: Kavinder

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, OCT 18

Describing India's spiritual and cultural traditions as a timeless source of inner peace, social harmony and national consciousness, Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today said collective participation was essential to realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

"The presence and guidance of saints and spiritual leaders provide society with an important source of inspiration, reminding people of the values of compassion, service, harmony, discipline and devotion to the nation,"



the governor, who attended the samagam of Jagadguru Mahabrahmarshi Kumar Swami here, said in his ad-

dress.

"India's rich civilisational heritage has always placed

Cont. on P9 >