

INBRIEF

PM Netanyahu invites Modi to light torch on Israel's I-Day

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said he spoke with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and invited him to light a torch together with Indian pilot Smit Machchhar on the Jewish state's Independence Day.

In a post on X, the Israeli Prime Minister also said that PM Modi appreciated the "strong, long-standing ties" between the two countries. "I spoke with my friend, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and invited him to light a torch - together with a brave Indian pilot - on Israel's Independence Day," Netanyahu said.

"Modi thanked me for the invitation and said ► P11

Indian killed, 3 injured in Saudi attacks

**DUBAI:** An Indian national was killed and three others injured in two separate attacks targeting a major airport and an oil field in Saudi Arabia, officials said on Thursday, amid a spate of missile and drone strikes by Yemen's Houthis on key infrastructure in the Gulf country.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh said that Saudi authorities have informed it about the casualties in the attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia on the Persian Gulf near Bahrain and Qatar on Wednesday night.

It said that one Indian national was earlier ► P11

Pathankot-Dayalachak expressway stretch set to open by Dec'26: MoS

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**JAMMU:** Nearly 40-kilometre stretch of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway between Pathankot and Dayalachak is expected to open by December this year, Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

"Delhi-Katra Expressway: A major boost to connectivity in the region!"

"The nearly 40-km Pathankot-Dayalachak stretch of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra



Expressway is expected to open by December, bypassing the Lakhanpur toll plaza and

reducing travel time from 50-70 minutes to just 25-30 minutes," Dr Singh said in ► P11

Two OGWs held with IEDs, arms

**SRINAGAR:** Security forces arrested two over ground workers (OGWs) of terrorists and recovered arms and explosives from their possession in Baramulla district, officials said on Thursday.

A joint team of police and Army conducted searches in the Delina area of Baramulla district on Wednesday and apprehended two suspects, identified as Waseem Ahmad Beigh and Tahir Ahmad Malik, the officials said.

Two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), a pistol, 10 pistol rounds and Rs 6,500 in cash were recovered from their possession, ► P11

Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign reaches to over 35 Cr people

Abhiyaan has reached including 13.94 crore youth & 10.86 crore women, and engaged over 32 lakh institutions

**NEW DELHI:** The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has reached more than 35 crore people, including 13.94 crore youth and 10.86 crore women, and engaged over 32 lakh educational institutions across the country, the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment said on Thursday.

The campaign, launched on August 15, 2020, under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), initially covered 272 vulnerable districts and has since expanded nationwide, the ministry said.

The ministry highlighted Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks at the third National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) heads of states and Union territories in New Delhi in September, where he expressed confidence that the country would uproot the drug trade by December 31, 2029.

New Delhi rejects UN rapporteur's 'India-based' tag for D-Company

**UNITED NATIONS:** New Delhi has strongly rejected a UN special rapporteur's description of gangster Dawood Ibrahim-led D-company as "India-based" criminal group, flagging "glaring inaccuracies" in the report and cautioning that such incompetence causes tremendous harm to the world body.

First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Raghoo Puri delivered the strong rebuttal on Wednesday in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, responding to a report by Ben Saul, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ► P11

Shah emphasised coordinated action, clear targets and accountability, with a focus on dismantling drug networks. He also stressed the need to protect young people from substance abuse as part of the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the ministry said.

The campaign seeks to strengthen community participation in drug demand reduction through awareness programmes, educational activities and collaboration with government departments and civil society organisations, it said. Educational institutions, youth clubs, women's groups and local communities serve as key platforms ► P11

JAI MATA DI

India backs every meaningful efforts to bring peace to Ukraine, West Asia: PM

**NEW DELHI:** India and Poland on Thursday agreed to deepen ties in defence, space, and nuclear energy domains, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk pledging to boost bilateral strategic partnership amid growing global instability.

Following the talks, Modi said both sides believe in democratic values and the rule of law and that India will continue to support every meaningful effort in bringing peace to Ukraine and West Asia.

Tusk is on a three-day visit to India amid renewed global push to end the conflict in Ukraine.

"Today we have agreed to deepen ties in defence, space, and nuclear energy. We invite Polish companies



to engage in co-development and co-production with India in all these strategic areas," Modi said.

"In critical minerals and coal gasification too, we will develop new partnerships with Polish expertise," he added.

Modi said the friendship between India and Poland is based not only on diplomatic relations but also on a shared heritage of humanity and compassion.

"During World War II, the royal families of Jamnagar and Kolhapur ► P11

Modi lauds Shah's role in tackling "Maoism"

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah on his birthday, and said his administrative understanding has ensured that India's internal security systems become more effective.

Shah, who has been serving as the country's home minister since 2019, turned 62 on Thursday. ► P11

Protests won't help, win people's 'mandate': Shah to Rahul Gandhi

The way Congress and Gandhi were practising "negative politics", they would not be able to form a Govt till 2030

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah slammed the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, saying protests would not achieve anything, and asserted that the BJP would remain in power for 30 years as the party existed among people and addressed their concerns.

Inaugurating projects worth Rs 8,941 crore for Yamuna rejuvenation, Shah accused the previous Congress and AAP governments in the city of doing nothing to check pollution in the river.

He also launched a scathing attack on AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal and said the "politics of making excuses" would not last long and his party would be "routed" in the Punjab elections next year.

Shah accused Gandhi of gathering party cadres from



other states to stage protests in Delhi and asserted that they could not reject the mandate given by the people to the BJP.

"People of the country understand you. You cannot hear me because you are sitting somewhere abroad and you don't even explain why you are abroad. It is alright, as it is your private life," Shah said, taking a dig at the leader

of opposition in Lok Sabha over his unannounced foreign visits.

Gandhi was not going to have a chance of coming to power even in the next 30 years, he said. "Crores of BJP workers and Prime Minister Modi exist among the people, understand their concerns and work continuously to solve them." Referring to recent opposition ► P11

CM unveils, lays foundation for projects valued Rs 52 Cr

■ Calls for faster implementation of devp projects

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**ANANTNAG:** Continuing his district-level outreach, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting in Anantnag to review developmental progress, winter preparedness and public service delivery, directing departments to expedite ongoing projects, improve implementation of government schemes and ensure timely redressal of public grievances.

Emphasising the need for coordinated and effective winter preparedness, the Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to put in place robust arrangements to minimise public inconvenience during the win-



ter months. He stressed close coordination among the Roads and Buildings, Mechanical Engineering, Municipalities, Urban Local Bodies, PMGSY and other concerned agencies for timely snow clearance, di-

recting the designation of nodal officers to ensure that no road remains unattended.

He also directed the administration to ensure adequate stocking of essential commodities, strengthen LPG buffer stocks and main-

tain uninterrupted emergency healthcare services in snow-bound areas. Reviewing power supply arrangements, he stressed strict adherence to notified power curtailment schedules and prior intimation ► P11

J-K Bank Q2 net profit rises 11% to Rs 546 Cr

Business grows 19.4% to Rs 3.10 lakh Cr, with decadal finest asset quality metrics

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**SRINAGAR:** Supported by growth in earnings and further improvement in asset quality, J&K Bank today reported 28.8% rise quarter-on-quarter and 10.6% rise year-on-year in its net profit to Rs 546.36 Cr for the quarter (Q2) ended September 30, 2026, when compared with Rs 424.18 Cr and Rs 494.11 Cr recorded during Q1 FY 2026-27 and Q2 FY 2025-26 respectively.

The Bank announced the financial results after its Board of Directors reviewed and approved the quarterly and half-yearly figures at a meeting held at the Bank's corporate headquarters on 22nd October 2026.



The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) rose 5% YoY during the quarter to Rs 1502 Cr. During the quarter, other income doubled to Rs 314.90 Cr YoY from Rs 153.76 Cr recorded in

the corresponding quarter last year while also growing 47% sequentially.

With controlled operating expenditure, witnessing just 1.5% YoY growth for the half-year, the operating Profit for the half-year has also grown by over 15% YoY, being recorded at Rs.1,492 crores. The Cost-to-Income Ratio for the quarter has consequently witnessed substantial improvement, being recorded at 56.57% compared 60.79% for the corresponding quarter last year. The Bank's Return on Assets during the quarter jumped 20 bps sequentially and has been recorded at 1.07%.

Commenting on the financial performance, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "The ► P11

Motion to 'impeach' CEC to be examined: Speaker

**NEW DELHI:** Amid protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said if the opposition brings any fresh impeachment motion against the country's top poll officer, it will be examined according to rules and procedures.

The opposition has twice attempted to remove Kumar.

In the first move, the notices were rejected by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha while the notices submitted in the second attempt are still pending in the Upper House.

"If any fresh notice



comes, we will see and examine it accordingly under rules and procedures," Birla told a press conference here, responding to a question on a possible impeachment motion against the CEC.

There have been

protests in the last fortnight in different parts of India seeking the resignation of Kumar for alleged irregularities while carrying out the special intensive revision of voters list.

According to the Constitution and law on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners, a CEC can only be removed by Parliament the way a sitting Supreme Court judge can be impeached.

The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, also says ► P11

ITBP has raised drone platoons, erects bunkers along LAC: DG

**NEW DELHI:** The ITBP has raised drone platoons in all its border units, prepared a new 'Strike' course to better handle Galwan-like battles and is creating underground infrastructure along the front "in a big way" as part of the new warfare to counter India's "biggest adversary" China, the force's chief said on Thursday.

ITBP Director General (DG) Shatruej Singh Kapoor told his troops at a force base in Rajasthan's Alwar that countering China through "traditional" means of warfare was a thing ► P11