

**THOUGHT
of the
DAY**

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.

-Buddha

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IN BRIEF

SMVD Yatra halted amid Navratri rush

JAMMU: The pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi was suspended on Saturday due to heavy rush at the Bhawan, as 39,000 devotees offered prayers till late afternoon, officials said.

The rush has increased due to the ongoing Chaitra Navratri, which began on March 19 and will end on March 27. The shrine board is expecting a heavy rush of devotees from across the country during this period.

"The yatra has been suspended temporarily due to heavy rush at Bhawan," a shrine board official said.

Police vehicles announced the suspension of the yatra, with fresh registration to resume at 4 am on Sunday, he said.

"The pilgrims are asked to go back to their hotels as the yatra has been suspended," the announcement said. On Saturday, more than 39,000 pilgrims

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Pezeshkian seeks India's role as BRICS chair to halt hostilities

PM speaks to Iran Prez; flags infra attacks, shipping safety

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, and condemned the attacks on critical infrastructure in West Asia, while stressing the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring shipping lanes remain open and secure.

In his telephonic conversation with the Iranian leader, Prime Minister Modi conveyed Eid and Nowruz greetings, expressing hope that this festive season brings peace, stability and prosperity to West Asia.

"Spoke with President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian and conveyed Eid and Nowruz greetings. We expressed hope that this festive season brings peace, stability and prosperity to West Asia," the prime minister said in a post on 'X'.

Modi condemned the attacks on critical infrastructure in the region, which threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains.



"Reiterated the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring that shipping lanes remain open and secure," he said.

The prime minister also appreciated Iran's continued support for the safety and security of Indian nationals in Iran.

This was the second telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Modi and the Iranian President since the present con-

flict started on February 28.

On March 12, President Pezeshkian briefed Prime Minister Modi on the current situation in Iran and shared his perspective on recent developments in the region.

The prime minister had expressed deep concern about the evolving security situation in the region and reiterated India's consistent position that all issues must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, drawing retaliation from Iran which targeted its neighbours and Israel.

Iran also controls the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route through which 20 per cent of the world's energy is transported. Since the conflict, very few ships have been allowed by Iran to cross it.

PM Modi has spoken to a number of world leaders since

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Illegal war imposed on world by US-Israel must end: Omar

■EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the "illegal" war imposed by the United States and Israel on the world should end at the earliest.

"Today, I only prayed for an end to this illegal war that has been imposed by the United States and Israel on us," Abdullah told reporters after offering Eid prayers at the Hazratbal shrine here.

The entire Muslim world is going through an uncertain period as there is no Muslim country that has not been affected by this war, Abdullah said.

The war in the Middle East has had an impact on India as well, he added.

"It affects the Muslims in India sentimentally, and every Indian in terms of energy needs. People are facing difficulties in getting (cooking) gas and diesel needed for the functioning of their homes," Abdullah said. On the closure of the Jamia Masjid

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West Asia crisis must be resolved via dialogue, diplomacy: Rajnath

PM's foresight protected India from global crisis

NEW DELHI/HALDWANI: The ongoing war in West Asia is a matter of concern not only for India, but for the entire world and it must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

India has clearly stated its position, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that war will not bring a solution, he said while speaking at an event in Uttarakhand's Haldwani.

"The constant attacks



in West Asia are a matter of concern not only for India but for the entire world," he said, adding: "If a solution is to be found, it will come through dialogue and diplomacy."

"When the world is facing conflict, no country can remain unaffected. India may also be affected, but to date, our prime minister, through his ability and wisdom

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Fisheries Project acquires Rs 111.66 Cr Central share

■EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Rajiv Ranjan Singh, for the release of the central share of Rs. 111.66 Cr to implement the approved fisheries development project in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said, "I am grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi

Ji and Hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj & Fisheries Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Ji for releasing the central share of Rs. 111.66 Cr to implement the approved fisheries development project in J&K.

The LG further stated that in current financial YEAR, a mother sanction for an amount of Rs 10 crore has been released by the Ministry and once the amount is utilised, the GOI has assured me to release further central share. "The Government of India is fully committed to improving the livelihoods and welfare

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Jammu marks Eid celebrations with prayers for global peace

■EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Amid tight security arrangements, Eid al-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervour and traditional gaiety across the Jammu region on Monday, with a large number of Muslims gathering at various eidgahs and mosques to offer prayers for peace and an end to the conflicts in the Middle East.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, which is observed through fasting, prayers



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Shah to table 'umbrella' law for CAPFs on Apr 23

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce in the Rajya Sabha on Monday an "umbrella law" for central armed police forces (CAPFs) to regulate recruitment, deputation, promotion and other conditions of services of their officers, according to the List of Business issued by the House.

All the CAPFs -- CRPF, BSF, ITBP and SSB -- are governed by their respective Acts. The rules under these Acts govern the recruitment and conditions of service of Group A General Duty Officers and other officers and members in the

CAPFs. The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, provides that

for the purposes of appointment of officers from the Indian Police Service in CAPFs, 50 per cent of the posts will be filled by deputation in the rank of Inspector General and a minimum of 67 per cent of the posts will be filled by deputation in the rank of Additional Director General.

The posts in the ranks of Special Director General and Director General shall be filled by deputation only

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US eases curbs on Iranian oil

WASHINGTON: The United States has announced the temporary lifting of sanctions on the sale of Iranian oil stranded at sea in an effort to cool down soaring global crude prices.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the temporary measure will make available 140 million barrels of Iranian oil to global markets.

"This temporary, short-term authorisation is strictly limited to oil that is already in transit and does not allow new purchases or production," Bessent

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Equality must become reality: CJI Surya Kant

BENGALURU: CJI Justice Surya Kant on Saturday underscored the need to transform "formal equality" into real, lived experiences for women in the legal profession, calling for structural reforms and sustained institutional support to ensure their continued participation and advancement.

Speaking at the National Conference-2026 on "Reimagining Judicial Governance: Strengthening Institutions for Democratic Justice", organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on the outskirts of Bengaluru, he highlighted key findings of a survey documenting the challeng-



es faced by women lawyers and the need for systemic solutions.

"I personally believe

that when we talk of equality within our constitutional framework, this equality

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Govt raises commercial LPG allocation to 50 pc

NEW DELHI: The government has approved an additional 20 per cent allocation of commercial LPG to states and Union Territories, taking the total allocation to 50 per cent, as increased domestic output is helping the situation crawl back to normalcy.

The three-week-long war in the Middle East disrupted energy supplies to India, leading to initial curtailment in LPG supplies to commercial establishments like hotels to prioritize supplies to household kitchens.

Later, a fifth of their supplies were restored, and the government offered an additional 10 per cent, subject to states expediting piped gas projects.

On Saturday, the government announced a 20 per cent enhanced allocation to key sectors such as restaurants, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing units, community kitchens and subsidised food outlets, while also supporting migrant workers through targeted distribution.

The additional allocation will be subject to commercial establishments registering with oil companies and applying for a piped natural gas connection, according to a letter written by the oil secretary to states.

An official statement said domestic LPG supply

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Navy set to commission frontline stealth frigate 'Taragiri' on Apr 3

NEW DELHI: Indigenous stealth frigate 'Taragiri', endowed with the cutting-edge weapon suite including supersonic missiles, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 3, officials said on Saturday.

The ceremony in Visakhapatnam is scheduled to be presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and it will serve as a powerful testament to the nation's journey toward becoming a completely self-reliant naval power, they said.

As the fourth potential platform of the Project 17A class, 'Taragiri' is not mere-



ly a ship; it is a 6,670-tonne embodiment of the 'Make in India' spirit and the sophisticated engineering ca-

pabilities of our indigenous shipyards, a Navy spokesperson said. The

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