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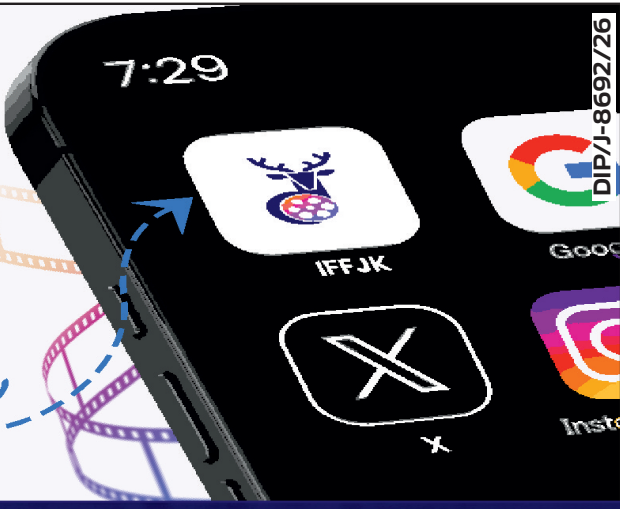
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India poised to become shipbuilding hub: Rajnath

Manoj Sinha addresses World Wisdom Forum

India’s journey to 2047 must be inclusive, rooted in tradition: LG

KOLKATA: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asserted that India is capable of becoming a global shipbuilding hub, taking advantage of a "vacuum" created in the industry in the traditional shipbuilding countries.

Singh was addressing a gathering here after virtually laying the foundation stone for five expansion projects of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers and Yantra India Ltd.

He also said that rapid developments were taking place in shipbuilding technology.

Traditional manufacturers were slowly bringing down production, and India can capture this opportunity, Singh said.

"India is capable of seizing this golden opportunity to become a global shipbuilding hub," the defence minister said, pointing to three sectors -- design, manufacturing and maintenance, ►P11

NEW DELHI: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday addressed the World Wisdom Forum, organised by the IIT Alumni Council in New Delhi, and felicitated achievers from diverse sectors. In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Council for its efforts in bringing together eminent personalities to deliberate on the theme of Viksit Bharat and India's collective future.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the importance of unity in progress and underscored that India's journey towards becoming a developed nation must be inclusive, rooted in tradition yet forward-looking, and balanced between technological strength and human sensitivity. "I believe that when a group of people from different sectors has a deep desire to achieve something, the pain and intensity of that yearning can ultimately become the means of achieving it. Just as a seed buried in the soil is restless to germinate, if the energy of a nation becomes intensely eager to achieve its goals, nothing is impossible," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Reflecting on India's aspirations under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the seed of Viksit Bharat has already sprouted and historic milestones have been achieved in the past ►P11

‘AI to speed up processes, not take decisions’

NEW DELHI: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha graced the valedictory function of the Induction & Orientation Programme at IIM Rohtak and addressed the 8th batch of the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) and the 6th batch of the Integrated Programme in Law (IPL).

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the institute's ►P11

‘Over ₹1,200 Cr on schools, yet coaching runs the show’: Shivang Satya Gupta’s ‘CJP’ warning

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Renowned educationist and CEO of SP Smart Schools, Mr. Shivang Satya Gupta has delivered a scathing critique of Jammu and Kashmir's education system, warning that the growing dependence on coaching centres is producing a generation that risks becoming what he bluntly described as a "Cockroach Janta Party."

In an interview, Mr. Gupta questioned how a society that takes pride in the legacy of Krishna, Guru Nanak Dev, Guru Gobind Singh, Kabir and Sufi saints could allow its education system to produce young people without the confidence, character and independent thinking expected from an educated generation.

His sharpest criticism was directed at the parallel education system created by coaching centres. Gupta questioned the logic of spending enormous public resources on schools and thousands of teachers while students and parents continue to depend on private coaching for competitive examinations.

Mushrooming of coaching centres is not merely a commercial development but an "alarm" signalling failure of mainstream education system. If schools are genuinely delivering quality education students should not need a parallel system to prepare for examinations and secure their future.

BJP holds state office bearers’ meeting

Modi’s tenure ushered in peace, development in J&K: Dr Jitendra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A two-day review meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP began Sunday to fix the agenda for its upcoming programmes, with discussions expected to revolve around various issues faced by people and highlighting the failure of the NC-led government to address them.

The meeting will also deliberate on the strategy of the party for the 2029 Lok Sabha polls and the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections which are also due the same year, a senior leader said.

Top saffron party leaders including MPs and MLAs are attending the two-day meeting, being held at a private hotel here.

J&K BJP President and MP Sat Sharma (CA) chaired

the meeting. The meeting was also addressed by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Leader of Opposition J&K Sunil Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, MP Jugal ►P11

Nabin chairs strategy meet for Assembly polls in 7 states

NEW DELHI: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Sunday held an intensive meeting with the party office bearers to discuss a range of organisational matters, especially the strategy for high-stakes assembly polls due next year in seven states, including ►P11

18-yr-old NCB case closes in conviction

JAMMU: A local court has sentenced a drug peddler to three years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000, bringing to conclusion an 18-year-old narcotics case, the Jammu unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said on Sunday.

The NCB secured the conviction of Kunnu Bharti alias Abhinandan, who had jumped bail granted in 2010 and remained beyond the reach of the trial ►P11

Drone sighting puts IB on alert; triggers search

JAMMU: A suspected Pakistan-origin drone was sighted along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, triggering an extensive search operation, officials said.

The "drone-like object" was seen hovering over forward villages in Bobiyan area of Hiranagar sector around 10.35 am, officials said.

After few minutes, the suspected drone was seen receding towards Pakistan, they added.

Subsequently, security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to rule out the possibility of any payload -- narcotics or weapons -- being airdropped. However, nothing objectionable was recovered during the operation, officials said.

The search operation involved joint teams of security forces and police, which conducted checks in the ►P11

Centre pushes states to speed up PNG adoption

NEW DELHI: The Petroleum Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to provide district-level administrative support to accelerate the shift of households from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG), seeking appointment of nodal officers to coordinate with gas distributors and oil marketing companies.

In an August 21 letter to state chief secretaries, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said PNG, as a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, has an important role in advancing India's energy transition while reducing the logistics burden associated with LPG distribution and improving consumer convenience.

"PNG brings a safer, cleaner and more efficient cooking fuel, playing a critical role in advancing the country's energy transition objectives. Its accelerated adoption contributes to reducing the logistics burden

associated with LPG distribution, enhancing consumer convenience, and improving utilisation of CGD infrastructure created through substantial public and private investment," Mittal said in the letter.

The ministry is seeking district-level intervention as it moves to implement a regulatory framework aimed at preventing households from retaining both LPG and PNG connections in areas where piped gas is available.

The push for faster adoption of gas piped to households for cooking purposes, called PNG, follows the disruption to India's LPG supply chains during the West Asia crisis earlier this year. LPG was among the fuels most exposed to the conflict because India imports a large share of its cooking-gas requirement, with much of those supplies coming from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait and moving ►P11

Heavy rains affect normal life, house collapses in city

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: An abandoned house collapsed at Shaheedi Chowk here on Sunday as heavy rains lashed Jammu and adjoining areas, disrupting normal life and causing waterlogging in several parts of the city, officials said.

The collapsed house at Shaheedi Chowk in the heart of the city belonged to Rajni Salotra, who, along with her family, had shifted to rented accommodation a few months ago after cracks began developing in the old structure.

The officials said structure collapsed around 7.30 am amid heavy rains, damaging household items.

Residents said the incident could have resulted in casualties, as the lane is densely populated and witnesses regular movement of people. However, there was little to no movement at the time of the incident, as residents were indoors due to heavy rains.

They urged the authorities to immediately identify old, abandoned and structurally unsafe houses across the old city and take preventive measures before such structures collapse and cause loss of life.

"Such properties, including those under custodial ownership, need to be properly surveyed and assessed. Houses requiring urgent repairs should be repaired or

otherwise secured to prevent accidents, particularly during the monsoon season," Sanjay Kumar, a local resident said, expressing concern over the recurring collapse of old houses in the city during the monsoon every year.

Several parts of Jammu, including Tallab Tillo, Bagwati Nagar, Krishna Nagar and Canal Road, witnessed extensive waterlogging following the rainfall, ►P11

Adjourned, not Prorogued: Parl Session awaits closure

NEW DELHI: Ten days after both Houses of Parliament were adjourned sine die, the Monsoon session is yet to end formally, giving rise to speculation that the government wants to pass a key legislation without convening a new session.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die (for an indefinite period) on August 13. Usually, the session is prorogued (formally ended) within the next three to four days. However, the prorogation notification for the Monsoon session had not been issued as of Sunday morning.

The Budget session ended on April 18 and was prorogued on April 20.

According to constitutional provisions, the president convenes and prorogues the session on the recommendation of the government.

There has been strong speculation that the government could bring the bill to amend the women's reservation

law to ensure its implementation before the 2029 parliamentary polls.

An earlier attempt during the Budget session had failed as the government could not stack up the numbers. Opposition parties, particularly those from the south, were worried that population-based delimitation would reduce their strength in the Lok Sabha.

To assuage their concerns, the government has worked on a formulation to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats across states and Union territories by a uniform 50 per cent.

There were strong suggestions that the government could seek passage of the constitution amendment bill after Independence Day.

The Congress on Sunday raised questions over the session not being prorogued even 10 days after it was adjourned sine die and asked whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah ►P11