

World leaders arrive in Delhi for BRICS Summit Modi presses ‘safety’ of Indians in Black Sea with Putin, nudges Prez to end Ukraine war

PM holds talks with Iranian Prez Pezeshkian

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and several other leaders arrived in Delhi on Friday to attend the two-day BRICS summit that gets underway from September 12.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Vice President of Uganda Jessica Alupo and Vice President of Nigeria Sen. Kashim Shettima have also reached the national capital for the mega conclave.

India is hosting the 18th BRICS summit at Bharat Mandapam on September 12 and 13.

India assumed its fourth



BRICS Chairship on January 1. The year 2026 also marks a milestone as BRICS completes 20 years since its establishment. "Warmly welcome Pres-

ident Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa for the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. He was received by MoS Jayant Singh at the ► P11

Putin: BRICS not against any country

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday stressed the BRICS grouping was not against anyone and Moscow was open to working with the whole world as he agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties with India and slammed the economic ► P11

Leaders attending 18th BRICS Summit

NEW DELHI: India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13. Following is the list of prominent leaders who are scheduled to attend the mega summit.

1. Xi Jinping, China (ruled by the Chinese Communist Party) -- The Chinese President will attend the Summit. Xi has been president of China since 2013. He last ► P11



Situation in UT had changed considerably and urged members of the diaspora to experience the transformation themselves

CHICAGO: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is currently on a visit to the United States, has invited members of the Jammu and Kashmir diaspora to visit the Union Territory and contribute to its development, saying the region has undergone significant changes in recent years.

Addressing an event in Chicago organised by members of the displaced community and others from Jammu and Kashmir settled in the US, Sinha said he was pleased to get an opportunity to meet people from Jammu & Kashmir living abroad and interact with them.

Recalling his interactions

with members of the community, the Lieutenant Governor said there was no need for apprehension about visiting J-K, asserting that the Kashmir they had seen in the past was now "a matter of history". He said the situation in the Union Territory had changed considerably and urged members of the diaspora to visit Jammu and Kashmir and experience the transformation themselves.

Sinha invited the J-K diaspora to set aside some time

to visit the Union Territory and participate in its ongoing development. He particularly called upon them to explore opportunities in the industrial sector and contribute to economic growth.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the role of the diaspora in preserving and promoting Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage. He urged them to help carry forward the region's language, culture and traditions so that future ► P11

DGP reviews security grid along IB, LoC

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhakar on Friday chaired a high-level security meeting here to review the border protection grid along the International Border and Line of Control in the Jammu region, officials said.

The meeting reviewed the security arrangements and coordination among the forces deployed along the border to prevent infiltration of terrorists from across the border, they said.

The Border Protection Grid comprises the Army, BSF, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police, while the anti-infiltration obstacle system along the International Border and Line of Control forms a key component of the security ► P11

Northern Command ensuring security in J&K, shaping youth's future: Lt Gen

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM/JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Friday said the formations of Northern Command have ensured security in Jammu and Kashmir, working to provide opportunities for growth and shaping the future of the Valley's youth.

Addressing an event at the Army Goodwill School (AGS) in Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Lt Gen Sharma, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Northern Command, reaffirmed the Army's dual role of security and community empowerment.



"As we march towards 'Viksit Bharat', Northern Command will continue to remain committed to nation-building while ensuring peace and tranquillity in the region. That is our commitment to the people of J-K.

Your peace is our purpose, your aspirations are our missions, and your success is our pride," he said.

The Army Commander asserted that the security apparatus and the local population share an ► P11

Patwari held for accepting Rs 10K bribe

SRINAGAR: J&K Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) trapped and arrested Patwari Halqa Waterrehal while demanding and accepting Rs. 10,000 bribe for issuance of revenue extract.

As per reports, ACB received a written complaint alleging that a Patwari, namely Bashir Ahmad, Patwari Halqa Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for issuance of a Fard (Revenue Extract).

The complainant, a resident of Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, Tehsil Khanshab, District Budgam, had applied online for issuance of the Fard on 21 July ► P11

92 Pak Sikhs disallowed boarding flight to India

LAHORE: Over 90 Pakistani Sikhs with visas for pilgrimage to Sri Hemkund Sahib in Uttarakhand were stopped by the immigration authorities on Friday from boarding an indirect flight to India, officials said.

As many as 92 Pakistani Sikhs, including women and children, arrived at the Faisalabad International Airport (some 150 km from Lahore) to catch an indirect flight to India, an official of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said.

However, the authorities stopped them from boarding a Gulf-bound airline as they did not possess a return ticket and a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the federal government, the official added.

"The immigration offi-

cials told them to produce an NOC from the federal government and the return ticket, after which they would be allowed to proceed to their destination," he said.

Currently, there is no direct air, rail or road link between Pakistan and India.

Another official from the federal government told PTI that the Sikhs in question had arranged their Indian visas through the Delhi Mandar Management Committee on their own.

"They should have coordinated with the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee for their travel and preferred Wagah Border for crossing into India," he said, adding that it is likely that they may be allowed to go for pilgrimage via the Wagah ► P11

Pak intruder held along IB in Kathua

JAMMU: A Pakistani intruder was arrested by security forces in a forward area along the International Border in Kathua district on Friday, officials said.

They said the intruder was caught near the fencing in the Bobiya area of Hiranagar sector.

According to reliable sources, the arrested person is a Pakistani national aged around 60-65 years.

Sources said the intruder was taken into custody for questioning, while further details regarding his identity, circumstances of border crossing and the purpose of his presence in the area are awaited.

Earlier on September 7, 2026, another ► P11

Highway expansion: Nearly 3 dozen shops razed, traders demand relief

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Over a dozen shops were demolished by the administration on Friday as part of highway expansion work in Jammu city, triggering resentment among shopkeepers who sought immediate rehabilitation.

Men and machinery of the administration carried out the demolition drive for the second day in the Satwari-Nai Basti area amid heavy security deployment, officials said.

The drive was undertaken after shopkeepers and other occupants vacated the premises following notices issued by the authorities, they said.

Nearly 20 shops were demolished in the Satwari area on Thursday, while 13 shops were demol-



ished on Friday, according to locals.

Officials said the shopkeepers had been served notices several times and were informed two days

ago to remove their belongings before the demolition. The power supply to the structures was also disconnected on ► P11

25th anniversary of 9/11 attacks commemorated at Ground Zero

NEW YORK: A solemn ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of 9/11 was held at Ground Zero here on Friday, attended by all four living former US presidents, Vice President J D Vance and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

The commemoration was held at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in Lower Manhattan, Ground Zero, where the former twin towers of the World Trade Centre stood before planes hijacked by Al-Qaeda terrorists crashed into them on a crisp September 11 morning in 2001.

The ceremony ► P11

Critical minerals vital for energy, security: Dr Jitendra Coastline must be viewed through “ecology-security-economy”: MoS

NEW DELHI: India's coastline must be viewed as an interconnected space of ecology, security, economy, technology and human development, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said today while virtually addressing the National Conference on Coastal Ecology, Security and Sustainability (CCESS) 2026. India's 11,000–12,000 km long coastline offers significant potential for marine resources and the "Blue Economy", he added.

The Minister said that the



country's long coastline and extensive marine ecosystem offer significant opportunities, while

also requiring an integrated approach combining scientific knowledge, ► P11

J&K Bank secures ‘Best Bank Award’ for digital transformation in Mumbai



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has won the Best Bank Award for Digital Transformation in Banking at the Navbharat BFSI Summit & Awards –

2026 in Mumbai. This accolade highlights the bank's successful deployment of cutting-edge technology to transform customer-facing banking services. Zonal Head (Mumbai) Ir-

fan Kawoosa received the award on behalf of the Bank during the ceremony held at Taj President, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai.

Commenting on the achievement, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said that the recognition belongs to the entire J&K Bank family, whose commitment and adaptability continue to drive the Bank's transformation into a future-ready financial institution.

He further said, "For us, digital transformation is about simplifying banking, improving accessibility and delivering seamless, reliable services across ► P11

India's electoral process among most transparent in world: CEC

AHMEDABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Friday said India's electoral process is among the most transparent in the world as verification is carried out at every stage, starting with electoral rolls to counting of votes.

He was speaking at the 'Interaction with Booth Level Officers' programme held at Atal Kalam Hall of Gujarat University. "At every stage of India's electoral process, political parties, candidates or their agents continuously carry out verification. Therefore, India's electoral process is among the most transparent electoral processes in the world," an official release quoted Kumar as saying.

The electoral rolls are continuously verified with the partici-

pation of political parties and their Booth Level Agents (BLAs), he said.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are responsible for identifying cases, such as Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Foreigner (ASDDF), while ensuring that eligible voters remain on the electoral rolls, the CEC added.

The name of every eligible Indian citizen, who has completed 18 years of age, should be included in the electoral rolls, he said.

Explaining the transparency of the polling process, he said that before polling begins, EVMS and VVPATs are checked during the mock poll in the presence of polling agents of candidates.

After polling concludes, the procedures related to ► P11

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