

Pak Navy vessel collides with Indian ship; MEA calls ‘Envoy’

India rejects Pak-China boundary commission

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday summoned the Pakistani Charge d’Affaires (CDA) and lodged a strong protest over “unacceptable conduct” by a Pakistan Navy vessel that led to a collision with a frontline warship of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea.

The Charge d’Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission, Saad Warrach, was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and a “strong protest was lodged with him over the unacceptable and unprofessional conduct of Pakistani naval units at sea that caused the collision last night”, the MEA said in a statement. The Pakistani



diplomat was advised to convey to the Pakistani authorities concerned the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents, the statement said.

On the evening of September 15, a Pakistani Navy vessel closed in on a frontline Indian Navy warship that was on a routine surveillance mission in the north Arabian Sea at high speed, official sources said. The Pakistani vessel Hunain manoeuvred

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India ‘condemns’ attempted drone attack on Makkah

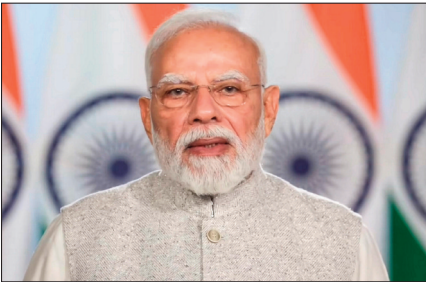
NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday voiced deep concern over an attempted drone attack on the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia and renewed its call for early restoration of peace in West Asia.

Saudi authorities said in Riyadh that a drone sent by Houthi militants attempting to target Makkah was intercepted and destroyed on Tuesday evening. “We are deeply concerned at the drone attack near Makkah,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

“India reiterates its condemnation of attacks on the sovereign

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PM Modi: India should lead in emerging tech



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India should aspire to be among the early leaders in emerging technologies and asserted that the government is committed to a predictable and responsive policy environment.

Charing a semiconductor roundtable with leading CEOs here, the prime minister also emphasised the importance of close collaboration between the government and the semiconductor industry in shaping India’s technology future.

He highlighted India’s strong foundation of talent, technology adoption and infrastructure, and called for greater industry participation in skilling, innovation and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum

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LG attends Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha in Raebareli

Sanatana culture nurtures diversity, harmony & human wellbeing: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended the Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha in Raebareli, in the holy presence of the revered Pandit Pradeep Mishra Ji. He observed that the divine teaching of Lord Shiva is a sacred pilgrimage for seekers of truth. The Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt gratitude to Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Manoj Kumar Pandey, for organising this extraordinary spiritual gathering, which has infused new vitality among the people. He remarked that just as gold is refined by fire, holy company rekindles and purifies the spiritual energy within our souls.

Highlighting the eternal vision of universal welfare, the Lieutenant Governor recalled that Sanatana Dharma has always emphasised unity and harmony. He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is manifesting this philosophy globally.



Referring to the recent BRICS Summit in Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor observed that the ancient mantra Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—“the world is one family”—is now being embraced by nations worldwide as a foundation for peace and collective welfare.

“What our ancestors envisioned millennia ago is now being embraced by nations worldwide, as they step forward to adopt this phi-

losophy for peace and harmony,” he said. The Lieutenant Governor urged society to remain vigilant against divisive elements and emphasised that unity is India’s greatest strength. He reminded the gathering that Sanatana culture nurtures diversity, harmony, and human welfare. He called upon saints and enlightened members of society to guide the nation in realising comprehensive development.

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Over Rs 5K Cr earned from scrap in 5-year: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: More than Rs 5,000 crore has been earned through scrap disposal during special cleanliness drives undertaken by the government over the last five years, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

Addressing an event to launch the website for Special Campaign 6 to monitor cleanliness and reduce pendency in government offices, Singh said the initiative reflects the citizen-centric approach of the government and demonstrates how a national call can become a people’s movement when it addresses foundational issues affecting the everyday lives of citizens.

The campaign has also shown that systematic cleanliness and waste management can generate substantial economic value, said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel. Over the last five years, Rs



5,000 crore has been earned through scrap disposal, while 1,000 lakh square feet of office space has been freed, more than 24 lakh cleanliness campaign sites have been undertaken, and around two crore files have been weeded out to improve record management, he said.

These achievements reflect the expansion of the campaign beyond cleanliness

to efficient utilisation of government resources, reduction of pendency, better use of public spaces and conversion of waste into wealth, Singh said.

Recalling the beginning of the swachhata initiative, he said cleanliness was among the earliest priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the government assumed office in 2014.

Modi’s emphasis on swachhata in his first Independence Day address on August 15, 2014, brought a foundational issue affecting the everyday lives of common citizens to the centre of the governance agenda, he said.

The initiative also marked a departure from the conventional status quo approach and greater emphasis on citizen-centric governance, Singh said. He said the response to the

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Don't trust ‘verbal’ assurances from Centre: Omar to Ladakh's leadership

CM lays foundation for Rs 86 Cr projects in Pulwama

“Ladakh has its own issues, our issues are separate. However, I can only advice them not to rely on any verbal assurances

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah advised the leadership of Ladakh not to rely on the Centre’s verbal assurances regarding their struggle for constitutional safeguards with regard to land and jobs.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has been a victim of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre’s verbal as-



surances.” “Ladakh has its own issues, our issues are separate. However, as a friend and a well-wisher, I can only advice the leadership of Ladakh not to rely on any verbal assurances from the central government unless they provide those in writing and officially signed,” Abdullah told reporters in Pulwama district.

He was in the south Kashmir district to review development projects.

“We ourselves have been victims of this. We too were given verbal assurances that statehood

would be restored immediately after the (Assembly) election. Almost two years have passed since and that promise has not materialised.

“Therefore, with folded hands, my humble request to the leaders of Ladakh and Kargil is not to trust verbal commitments from the Centre until they receive something in writing, perhaps in the form of a formal affidavit,” Abdullah said.

The chief minister also said in terms of execution of development projects and expenditure of the allocated funds, Pulwama would likely rank among the top five among all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

“The deputy commissioner and his team have delivered good performance. Now, I have only asked them that during the two to three months remaining in our current working season, they should push further to utilise as much of the funds as possible. If, after that, reallocation is required,

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J-K Govt sanctions free transport for differently-abled

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday sanctioned free public transport services for differently-abled persons in the Union territory, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s office said.

“Fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March this year, the Government has sanctioned free ridership for differently-abled persons in public transport,” the CMO said in a post on X.

It said the facility will cover Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation services as well as e-Buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

“Congratulating Transport Minister @satishsharmajnk on the initiative, the Chief Minister said it reflects the Government’s commitment to social justice and marks an important step towards ensuring greater accessibility, ease of travel and inclusive mobility across Jammu and Kashmir,” the post added. The Abdullah-led government also provided free public transport

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Govt hikes EPFO wage ceiling to Rs 25,000

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday approved raising the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the EPFO to Rs 25,000 per month from Rs 15,000 to expand access to provident fund savings and pension protection.

The wage ceiling revision is taking place after 12 years. The Union Cabinet decision is expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional employees within the ambit of mandatory EPFO coverage, significantly

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IGP Sujit Kumar reviews security situation across central Kashmir

“IGP directs officers to ensure security arrangements remain dynamic & responsive to any vulnerable situation

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Zone Inspector General of Police Sujit Kumar on Wednesday reviewed the prevailing security situation and the preparedness of police func-



tionaries across the central Kashmir range.

Kumar reviewed the security at a meeting at the Police Control Room here.

The IGP Kashmir was briefed by field officers on the prevailing security situation in their respective areas of responsibility, with

particular focus on the deployment and operational readiness of personnel.

They apprised him of the security grid put in place to maintain peace, public order and a secure environment, an official spokesperson said. Kumar stressed the need

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CEO suspends teacher over “harassment” allegations

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A government school teacher has been placed under immediate suspension following allegations of harassment of a female student in Ramban district, officials said.

The action was taken against Raiz Ahmed, posted at Government High School Harroge in Zone Gool, following a formal report submitted by an inquiry committee constituted on September 14, they said. The probe was ordered by authorities following complaints

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Rohingya families demolish sheds after eviction notice

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Rohingya families have started dismantling their settlements in the Karyani Talab area of Narwal here after authorities served vacation notices to owners of plots rented out to the immigrants.

Residents were seen removing their makeshift huts and shops and gathering their belongings on Wednesday. The eviction drive began on Tuesday.

Rashid Din, a Rohingya immigrant, said they have been asked to vacate the plots within three days. “We are poor labourers and earn our livelihood through daily work. We do not know where we will go now,” Din said.

The residents said first, around 30-40 shops were removed and now they have been asked to vacate the shanties. According to Sarwar Rohingya,

over 500 families living in around 80-90 makeshift huts have been asked to vacate the plots.

He claimed that some families had been living there for 15-16 years.

Din also claimed that the families had limited access to basic amenities, including water and electricity.

“Water is not available regularly and electricity supply is also erratic. We somehow manage with whatever is available,” he said.

The residents also claimed that they possess a United Nations refugee card and said several families had come to India after the situation deteriorated in Myanmar.

“At that time, the situation was very bad. People left to save their lives and went wherever they found a route. We are now working as labourers and earning to feed our families,” Din said.

Another resident said

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Bukhari: Statehood restoration 'requires' dialogue, persuasion



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday said the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would require sustained dialogue and persuasion with the Centre, rather than confrontation.

Asked about the roadmap

that the government should adopt for it, Bukhari said, “There is only one way forward on the restoration of statehood, and that is dialogue. There is no other way.”

Opposing the path of confrontation, he said, “J-K has seen enough confrontation since 1947. You have to convince, you have an argument. It may not be easy, but Delhi has to be convinced and we have an argument.”

Bukhari referred to the historical status of Jammu and Kashmir, saying, “We are a 200-year-old state.”

He also referred to the recent mobilisation in Ladakh and said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir could similarly make their collective voice heard. “If

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Nazool Land occupants get eviction notice

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a move targeting expired commercial leases in the prime business hubs in the summer capital here, the Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the eviction of several occupants of ‘Nazool’ (state) land, citing the absence of a subsisting lease (active rental agreement) or valid renewal order.

The properties that have been served eviction notices include some in posh areas of the city, such as Polo View near Lal Chowk, Rajbagh, and Karan Nagar. One of the properties that has been served an eviction

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ACCLAIMED SPIRITUALIST**
—Shri Swami Paul Ji

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Kaladi Phulka

with Anardaana Chutney

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GI Tagged
Ramnagar Kaladi

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