

Inking the Truth

His Holiness the Dalai Lama receives grand traditional welcome on Leh arrival

Thousands gather at Airport and along city roads to welcome the Tibetan spiritual leader amid chants, prayers and cultural celebrations.

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LEH: His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama arrived in Leh on Sunday to a magnificent traditional welcome, with thousands of devotees, monks, public representatives and residents gathering to receive the revered Buddhist spiritual leader after his arrival from

Delhi. A spiritually charged atmosphere prevailed at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport as senior officials, representatives of Buddhist organisations, members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), monks from various monasteries, schoolchildren, cultural

troups and people from different walks of life assembled to welcome His Holiness. His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama arrived aboard a special Army flight. The reception reflected the deep reverence and affection that the people of Ladakh hold for the Nobel Peace Prize

laureate. Dressed in traditional attire, cultural performers presented ceremonial welcomes while monks offered prayers for the long life, good health and continued guidance of His Holiness.

Following the reception, His Holiness travelled through Leh amid an overwhelming public response. Thousands of people lined the roads, waving ceremonial scarves (khataks), prayer flags and flowers, while many folded their hands in prayer and sought blessings as his motorcade passed **▶P11**

Ladakh notifies VB-GRAM G Scheme to guarantee rural employment from July 1

New flagship scheme aims to strengthen livelihood security, village planning and sustainable rural development across the Union Territory.

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LEH: Strengthening rural livelihoods and ensuring guaranteed employment in villages, the Union Territory Administration of Ladakh has formally notified the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM G) Scheme, which will come into force from July 1, 2026.

The notification, issued by the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department under the provisions of the VB-GRAM G Act, 2025, extends the scheme to all notified rural areas of Ladakh. The initiative is designed to provide a legal guarantee of wage employment while promoting sustainable and convergence-based rural development.

The scheme seeks to enhance livelihood opportunities by ensuring timely employment to eligible rural households while creating durable community assets through development works. It also emphasizes inclusive growth by prioritising vulnerable groups and integrating employment generation with long-term village development.

Under the new framework, every eligible adult residing in notified rural areas will have the right to apply for work. Applications can be submitted either individually or collectively through Gram Panchayats, Ward Members, Programme Officers, authorised officials or digital platforms. Authorities have been mandated to compulsorily register every application and issue dated receipts to ensure transparency and account-

ability. A key feature of the scheme is the preparation of Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs), envisioned as future-ready, convergence-based local development plans aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat. These plans will guide the identification and execution of development works based on local priorities while integrating resources from multiple government programmes.

The notification assigns a central role to Gram Panchayats in implementing the scheme. Panchayats will be responsible for registering households, processing work applications, preparing village development plans, executing approved works and maintaining records and accounts as prescribed by the Administration. **District Collectors ▶P11**

Iran attacks Bahrain and Kuwait following US strikes

DUBAI: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched drone and missile attacks Sunday targeting Bahrain and Kuwait in response to US airstrikes that hit the Islamic Republic, and threatened a "complete halt" could come to negotiations to end the war if Washington continues its attacks.

The attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait came as a multinational maritime body overseen by the US Navy said Saturday that it would expand a route near Oman in the Strait of Hormuz to allow for both inbound and outbound traffic - setting up a new flashpoint with Tehran.

An interim deal between the US and Iran to end the war called for the Strait, which

once saw a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas pass through it, to see transits resume. However, Iran has twice attacked vessels going through the Oman route, backed by a United Nations agency, as Tehran insists that it must control passage through the crucial waterway despite American and Gulf Arab opposition.

In a social media post, Trump said the US had "struck Iranian missile and drone storage locations, and coastal radar sites, for violating the Cease Fire Agreement, AGAIN!" He warned of a point where the US may no longer be able to be reasonable, "and will be forced to militarily complete the job." "If that happens, the Islamic **▶P11**

Sonam Wangchuk begins hunger strike at Jantar Mantar

NEW DELHI: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday began a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, joining the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) protest demanding accountability over alleged irregularities in examinations and seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



Before sitting on the fast, Wangchuk, along with CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, visited Rajghat and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. The protest began with the gathering observing a two-minute silence.

Hundreds of protesters, mostly youth and students, gathered at Jantar Mantar as Wangchuk started his hunger strike. Several farmer leaders were also present at the protest site.

Explaining his decision to join the protest, Wangchuk

said education had been close to his heart for the last 40 years and that he could not remain silent when young people raised concerns over the education system.

"I have been forced to sit here, I am not doing this happily. I am sitting on a fast in support of both issues. Many people ask me, you were doing a movement in Ladakh, why are you with CJP now. Education, which is the issue here, has been close to my heart for the last 40 years, since I was a student," he

said. "I did engineering, but never took a job because I felt the key to all generations is in education. When some youth raise their voices on issues with the education system, how could I have remained silent? It was natural for me to support them," Wangchuk added.

He said the focus should be on using education to "build children's lives and give direction to the nation". Referring to his work in Ladakh, Wangchuk said pro-

tecting the Himalayas was everyone's responsibility as billions of people depend on water originating in the region.

"I wish the government had shown sensitivity, we would not have had to go through this and sit here in such heat," he said. Wangchuk said that in the absence of accountability, peaceful protest was the only option available in a democracy.

"When there is no accountability, we are forced to take the only way possible in a democracy—peaceful protest, and we will do that," he said. He also praised the protesters, saying that many youths were observing hunger strikes despite the heat, and appealed to people to make it a community hunger strike and observe at least a day-long fast. **▶P11**

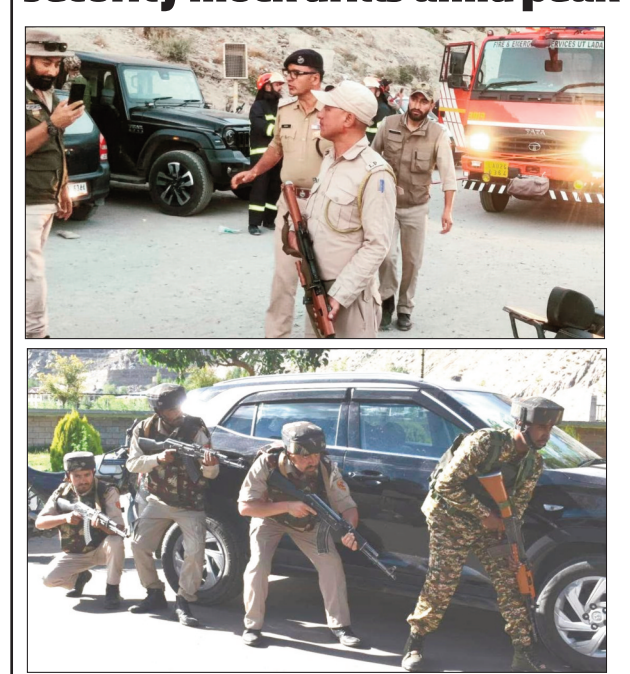
Seychelles confers 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' title on PM Modi



SEYCHELLES: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon', Seychelles' highest distinction for leadership in environmental conservation and sustainable development. The award acknowledges PM Modi's long-standing push for sustainable growth and his green vision.

This is the latest in a series of global honours recognising PM Modi's work on climate action, sustainable development and green growth. Just last month, in May 2026, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) presented him with the Agricola Medal for strengthening food security, transforming **▶P11**

Leh district simulates bomb threat at historic Leh Palace Ladakh Police conduct coordinated security mock drills amid peak tourist season



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LEH: District Police across Ladakh on Sunday carried out a series of coordinated mock security exercises at key tourist destinations and strategic locations to strengthen operational preparedness, enhance inter-agency coordination, and ensure the safety of residents and visitors during the peak summer tourist season.

The most prominent exercise was conducted in Leh district, where District Police, in collaboration with the CRPF, Anti-Sabotage Units of the Security Wing, Fire & Emergency Services, medical teams and other concerned agencies, organised a comprehensive joint mock security drill at the historic Leh Palace.

The exercise simulated a realistic emergency involving

Similar large-scale preparedness exercises were simultaneously organised across the Union Territory, reflecting Ladakh Police's coordinated approach to strengthening security infrastructure during the busy tourism season.

In Kargil district, District Police, in coordination with the CRPF, Security Wing, UDRF, Fire & Emergency Services and the Health Department, conducted a high-intensity mock drill at the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC), one of the district's major tourist locations. The exercise recreated a terror-related emergency, with participating agencies establishing inner and outer security cordons, evacuating civilians and tourists, carrying out tactical intervention, casualty evacuation, emergency medical response, firefighting operations and area sanitisation. The drill highlighted seamless multi-agency coordination, rapid decision-making and synchronized crisis management while identifying areas for further improvement in emergency preparedness.

In Zaskar district, District Police organised a comprehensive mock drill at the Tourist Dak Bungalow in Padum to evaluate preparedness for security-related contingencies during the tourist season. The exercise involved systematic room intervention and search operations under established SOPs, with personnel from Police Station Zaskar demonstrating coordinated tactical response and effective communication while ensuring civilian safety. Fire & Emergency **▶P11**

India trashes Pak allegations on Karachi attack

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday dismissed Pakistan's allegations of an Indian link to an attack on a military base in Karachi that left four paramilitary personnel dead, saying the neighbouring country should look inwards and take credible action against terror infrastructure on its soil.

Reports from Islamabad said Pakistani security forces killed six terrorists and captured another alive after foiling a brazen attack by militants on a Sindh Rangers compound in Karachi on Saturday night.

The attack left four paramilitary personnel dead and marked the city's first major terrorist **▶P11**

8 CISF personnel injured in road mishap

JAMMU: Eight Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel and a civilian driver were injured as a bus carrying them overturned near Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district on Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred along the Tarakote route to the shrine, and the condition of three injured CISF personnel — head constables Sammy Kumar and MM Dubey and constable PK Traya — was said to be serious, they said. The seriously injured personnel were admitted to Narayana hospital, the officials said. The rest of the **▶P11**

France records 1,000 excess deaths during record-breaking heatwave

PARIS: France has recorded 1,000 excess deaths during the blistering heatwave sweeping Europe, the public health agency said on Sunday, warning that the true figure was likely to be higher.

Detailing its preliminary count of excess deaths, Sante Publique said most of the fatalities involved older people and that it expected the mor-

tality rate to rise as more information became available about deaths in residential care and homes.

Europeans have been enduring blistering conditions during a heatwave that has been linked to dozens of deaths - shattering records, disrupting power generation and damaging infrastructure. Scientists have said the heat-

wave, which began on June 20, was the worst recorded in Europe, where the climate is changing faster than the global average.

The heatwave has been moving east. But while France's weather agency said the extreme heat had diminished in most parts of the country, some areas in the northeast were still **▶P11**

Himanshu visits infrastructure and industrial devp projects in Nubra



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NUBRA: The Administrative Secretary Industries & Commerce, UT Ladakh, Himanshu Gupta, IAS accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Nubra, Mukul Beniwal, today visited the proposed Industrial Area, Carpet weaving centres and M/s Gyalson Dairy and Food

Processing Unit Nubra. During the visit, the officers inspected the proposed Industrial Area to assess the progress and explore the development potential of the sites and reviewed the future development plans. They discussed measures to create better infrastructure and facilities to promote industrial activities in the **▶P11**

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LEH / KARGIL

Invite application for admission in below mentioned Emerging Technologies

- Fundamentals of Internet of Things
- Foundation of AI Technology
- Fundamentals of Information Security
- Cloud Computing Assistant
- Essentials of Data Entry and Office Automation
- Computer Application Accounting and Publishing Assistant
- Essentials of AI (Upskilling)
- Product Assembly Assistant(Solar-LED)

Last date : 15/07/2026

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