

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

03

AIIMS Jammu signs MoU with BMVSS Jaipur to establish Jaipur Foot Centre for Divyangs

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J&K Excise Deptt organises drug awareness programme, poster making competition under NMBA in KCIS

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Wushu selection trials from May 3

Modi commissions Vizhinjam seaport; says it will bring economic stability to Kerala, India

WAVES declaration champions ethical AI, cultural pluralism, media integrity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Friday, stating that the capacity of this transshipment hub would triple in the coming years, allowing some of the world's largest cargo ships to dock smoothly.

In his speech following the commissioning of the Rs 8,686 crore project, he noted that 75 per cent of India's transshipment operations had previously been carried out at foreign ports, resulting in significant revenue loss for the country.

Emphasising that this scenario is now set to change, Modi asserted that Indian money would now serve India, and the funds that once flowed out of the country would instead generate new economic opportunities for Kerala and the people of Vizhinjam.

He said ships from Kerala had long carried goods to other nations, establishing it as a vital hub for global commerce.

"Today, the Government of India is committed to further strengthening this channel of economic power," the Prime Minister said, adding: "India's coastal



PM Narendra Modi dedicating to the Nation Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on Friday.

states and port cities will become key centres for the growth of a developed India."

Praising the Vizhinjam port, developed by Adani Ports, Modi said people from Gujarat might be disappointed with Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani for building such a large port in Kerala, despite hailing from the western Indian state himself.

Modi also noted that Kerala Ports Minister V N Vasavan had referred to the Adani Group as a "partner" of the Communist-led state government, describing this as symbolic of the changes taking place in the country.

Highlighting the importance of the private sector in advancing India's maritime industry, Modi said that under the Public-Private

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■ VIVEK SHARMA

MUMBAI: The Global Media Dialogue held during the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), on Friday adopted a landmark 13-point 'WAVES Declaration', focusing on promoting ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI), media integrity, cultural inclusivity, and responsible content creation.

The high-level event, witnessing representatives from the 77 countries, was chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.

Both ministers emphasized the need to align tradition with technology, ensure responsible media practices, and address the challenges of the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The External Affairs Minister underlined that the democratization of the global order must go beyond politi-



External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav along with representatives from the 77 countries at WAVES in Mumbai on Friday.

cal and economic autonomy to include cultural identity and creative expression.

"Technology and tradition must go hand in hand," he said, stressing that AI should empower rather than erase cultural narratives. He said that modern innovation must build on the foundations of heritage, adding that modernity is not a rejection of the past, but a constant quest built on human achievements.

The WAVES Declaration commits participating nations to curb misinformation, promote fact-based journalism, and support responsible advertising. It pledges to uphold open, inclusive platforms for creative expression and collaboration, while also addressing digital inequality by enhancing access, affordability, and choice in media consumption.

Acknowledging the transformative power of AI, Jaishankar urged for its responsible use, highlighting concerns about authenticity and ethical implications. He cautioned that AI would bring unprecedented challenges, from intellectual property concerns to potential content bias, and called for urgent, collective action to address these.

Jaishankar said that AI can help deepen awareness of India's rich heritage, particularly among youth, and could be a powerful tool in realizing the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. However, he stressed that policies, mindsets,

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Law aids vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The law aids ed on "earnest money" and the vigilant, not those who sleep "advance money" for being over their rights, the Supreme Court on Friday said and upheld a high court verdict over a property-related dispute in Bengaluru.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan was hearing the issue over the forfeiture of Rs 20 lakh paid as the first tranche of the total sale consideration of a property.

The bench, which elaborat-



Govt notifies ITR-3 for individuals/HUFs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax department has notified ITR form 3 to be filed by individuals and HUFs having income from business or profession.

The tax department in a post on X late on Thursday night said ITR-3 for Assessment Year 2025-26 has been notified on April 30. ITR-3 is filed by individuals and HUFs having income from profits and gains of business or profession.

The threshold for reporting assets and liabilities under 'Schedule AI' has been raised from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore, thus reducing the disclosure burden on middle-income taxpayers.

In Schedule Capital Gains of the ITR, capital gains must now be split based on whether they arose before or after July 23, 2024.

In the Budget presented on July 24, 2024, the government had proposed to lower long-term capital gains tax on real estate to 12.5 per cent without indexation

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 29.6°C Min: 18.8°C

Humidity

Max: 79 Min: 78

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 24.8°C Min: 14.4°C

Humidity

Max: 82 Min: 61

Sunset: 19:12 Hours

Sunrise: 05:44 Hours

US stands strong with India against terrorism, PM Modi has our full support: State Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: The United States stands strong with India against terrorism and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has our full support", the State Department said underlining that Secretary of State Marco Rubio urges India and Pakistan to work towards a responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace and regional stability in South Asia.

State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a press briefing Thursday that Washington is "monitoring closely" the situ-

ation between India and Pakistan amid rising tensions.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke separately with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday.

"As the President articulated to Prime Minister Modi last week, the United States stands strong with India against terrorism, and Prime Minister Modi has our full support," Bruce said.

Rubio "encouraged both countries to work toward a ...responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace

and regional stability in South Asia. We continue to be in touch with the governments of both countries, as I mentioned, at multiple levels," Bruce added.

"This government is in constant communication. We are asking for a responsible resolution from both parties. And beyond that, there's nothing I can give you, any other details," she said.

The US has encouraged India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions, reaffirming its commitment to cooperate with Delhi against terrorism and urging Islamabad's cooperation in investigating the "uncon-

reasonable" Pahalgam terror attack.

In his call with Jaishankar, Rubio expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in the "horrific" terrorist attack in Pahalgam that had killed 26 civilians.

Rubio "reaffirmed the United States' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism. He also encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia," a statement issued by Bruce had said.

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'Time to teach Pakistan a lesson': Cong; adopts Pahalgam attack resolution

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday urged the Centre to act with firmness in the wake of the Pahalgam attack to "penalise" Pakistan for its continued export of terror and asserted this is a time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to "teach Pakistan a lesson".

Calling for national unity and resolve, the Congress also pressed for "time-bound accountability" into the "serious lapses" in security and intelligence in one of the most heavily-guarded regions of the country.

The opposition party made the assertions in a resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee (CWC) at its meeting which was chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Jairam Ramesh, K C Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among others attended the meeting.

"This is a time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to teach Pakistan a lesson and curb terrorism decisively. The masterminds and perpetrators of this cowardly attack must face full consequences for their actions," the resolution said.

The Congress urged the government to act with firmness, strategic clarity and international coordination to isolate and penalise Pakistan for its continued export of terror into our territory, according to the resolution.

"We must rise above partisan divides and send out an unambiguous message that India stands together, and will not be broken."

"The entire country awaits accountability, answers and justice. In the face of such

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'Bharat is axing down drug cartels with ruthless aggression': Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Drugs worth Rs 547 crore were seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and 15 people arrested in this connection, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

"Bharat is axing down drug cartels with ruthless aggression. The Amritsar Zonal Unit of the NCB axed a drug diversion cartel through a 4-month-long operation across 4 states, seizing drugs worth Rs 547 crore and arresting 15," Shah wrote on X.

He said this action is a giant stride towards building a drug-free India under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a major step towards the government's zero tolerance approach against drugs, the NCB has seized 1.36 crore psychotropic tablets from a distributor



in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, an official release said.

The NCB has also seized 11,693 Codeine-based cough syrup (CBCS) bottles and 2.9 kg of Tramadol powder from a manufacture in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. The total value of seized drugs is around Rs. 547 crore.

The Amritsar zonal unit of the NCB busted major networks involved in illegal diversion and distribution of phar-

maceutical medicines for non-medical use across Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi.

A sustained intelligence-driven operation and 'Top to Bottom and Bottom to Top' approach in investigation of cases from December 2024 to April 2025 led to significant seizures and arrests, exposing a complex nexus between manufacturers, stockist, and front operators, the release said.

On April 20-21, 2025, the raids were conducted in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

The search in Uttarakhand resulted in seizure of 11,693 CBCS bottles and 2.9 kg of Tramadol powder from J R Pharmaceuticals.

The search at the premises of key distributor, Embit Bio Medix, Himachal Pradesh, resulted in the seizure of 19,25,200 tablets

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Heavy rain triggers mudslides in Ramban, Jammu-Srinagar NH closed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed after cloudburst-induced heavy rain triggered mudslides in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Friday, a traffic police officer said.

The heavy rain triggered flash floods in the Chenab river, prompting the authorities in Reasi and Akhnoor sectors to issue warnings about avoiding the riverbank.

"Vehicular movement has stopped from both sides on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to mudslides at Chamba Seri in Ramban following flash floods caused by a cloudburst," the traffic police officer said.



A JCB engaged in highway restoration work near Ramban after mudslide following rains.

Commuters have been advised not to travel until the road is cleared.

"Please check the status of roads before starting your journey," the officer said.

Officials reported heavy rainfall following a cloudburst in the Chamba Seri area, triggering flash floods and mudslides on the highway, and a landslide in Chamba that

blocked the highway, he said.

There was no loss of life or injury, he said and efforts were underway to clear the highway.

National Highways

Authority of India (NHAI) project director Parshotam Kumar said three machines had been deployed to clear the highway.

Heavy rain induced by cloudburst had triggered flash floods and landslides in Ramban district on April 20, resulting in the deaths of three people and damage to scores of houses, shops and roads.

Hundreds of vehicles were left stranded after traffic on the strategic 250-kilometre national highway -- the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country -- was suspended due to debris from the mountains blocking the route at nearly a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal.

'Pak has history with extremist groups, as a result we suffered': Bilawal

■ AGENCY

LONDON/ISLAMABAD: , Pakistan has a past with extremist groups and suffered because of this, Pakistan Peoples Party chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said while answering a question on Islamabad backing terror outfits.

Bhutto-Zardari was asked in an interview with Sky News on Thursday whether he agreed with Defence Minister Khwaja Asif's controversial remark last week. Questioned if Pakistan has been supporting, training and funding terrorists, the minister had then said his country did the West's "dirty work" for decades.

The Pakistan Peoples Party leader's remarks come amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan after ter-

rorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

Answering the question if he agreed with Asif's claim, Bhutto-Zardari said, "I don't think that it's a secret that Pakistan has a past as far as extremist groups are concerned. And as a result of this, we have suffered. Pakistan has suffered. We've gone through wave after wave of extremism."

"We went through the Islamisation and militarisation of our society. But as a result of what we suffered, we also learnt our lessons. We've gone through internal reforms in order to address this problem, not only for us, but also the concern of the international

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