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A PAPER WITH FOLLOW UP



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PM Modi meets German Chancellor at G7 Summit, discusses trade, Defence and IT; calls talks 'Very Fruitful'

New Delhi, June 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, with the two leaders reviewing progress in bilateral ties and discussing key regional and global developments. In a post on X following the meeting, PM Modi said the discussions were "very fruitful" and focused on strengthening cooperation across several sectors. "The talks with Chancellor Merz were very fruitful. We discussed ways to further cement bilateral cooperation by working together in trade,



investments, circular economy, defence, IT and more. We also talked about boosting cultural linkages between our nations", the Prime Minister wrote on X. The meeting, their second this year, came as India and Germany mark 75 years of diplomatic relations. According to an official statement, the

leaders expressed satisfaction over the renewed momentum in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership, citing Chancellor Merz's recent visit to India and the conclusion of negotiations on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement earlier this year. PM Modi and Merz reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across trade and investment, defence and security, green development, technology, innovation, education and mobility. They also welcomed the signing of the Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and the implementation of a

transit visa waiver for Indian nationals travelling through Germany. Additionally, the Prime Minister and Merz exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest, including the situation in West Asia and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. They also welcomed the understanding reached to end the conflict in West Asia. During the meeting, Chancellor Merz invited Prime Minister Modi to attend the 8th India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC), scheduled to be held later this year in Germany.

PM Modi rebuilt India as 'Bastion of Security' in 12 Years: Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, June 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday hailed the 12 years of Modi Government, and said the country has been rebuilt as a "bastion of security" that shields its citizens and responds firmly to threats during this period. In a post on X, Shah said that under the Modi Government's lead-

ership, India has set examples of its resolute commitment to national security for the world to admire. "In the 12 years of the Modi Government, our nation has been rebuilt as a bastion of security that shields the citizens and unleashes destruction upon its enemies," Shah said. "Whether it is

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Two dead after vehicle plunges into Gorge near Aru Valley

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: Two persons lost their lives after a private vehicle plunged into a deep gorge near Gujjar Sumbal on the Aru Valley road in Pahalgam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday. Authorities are also verifying whether any additional passengers were travelling in the vehicle at the time of the accident. Official sources said that an Alto car bearing registration number JK03C-6737 met with a

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"NC Will not sell its morals for power": CM Omar Abdullah on TMC, Sena (UBT) Splits



BANDIPORA, JUN 17: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday asserted that the National Conference would never compromise its principles or "sell its morals" for power, saying the party's ideology and commitment

to the people cannot be traded regardless of changing political equations. Reacting to the question of MPs from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Shiv Sena (UBT) backing the NDA on certain issues, Omar said no offer or

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Par Panel Flags Continuing Exam Irregularities, Seeks Roadmap For Reforms

NEW DELHI, June 17: A Parliamentary Committee has expressed concern over continuing examination irregularities despite measures taken by the government, and recommended that the Ministry of Education publish a time-bound roadmap for implementing reforms suggested by a high-level panel. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, presented its 381st



action taken report on the recommendations contained in the 364th report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to the

department of higher education to Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan on Tuesday. The committee

has endorsed Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's acknowledgement of June 16, 2024, that "a lot of improvement is needed in the NTA". It recommended that the National Testing Agency (NTA) expedite the implementation of the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations. The parliamentary committee also recommended that the department and the NTA conduct additional widespread consultations with all stakeholders to adopt a protocol for the "foolproof" admin-

istration of nationwide competitive examinations, the report said. "The Committee notes the steps taken by the ministry, including the constitution of a high-powered steering committee headed by K Radhakrishnan to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the high-level committee of experts (HLCE). "However, despite these measures, the paper irregularities are still happening, leading to cancellation of examinations, thereby causing a lot of anxiety

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Op Sheruwali Enters 26th Day In Rajouri Forests As Security Forces Intensify Anti-Terror Search

Rajouri, Jun 17: Operation Sheruwali entered its 26th day on Wednesday in the dense Dorimal forests of the Gambhir Mughlan area in the Manjakote sector of Rajouri district, making it one of the region's longest ongoing counter-terror operations in recent years. Security forces have intensified search and cordon operations across the challenging forest terrain. The

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Over 30 Illegal structures demolished as JDA reclaims Prime Land in Jammu

Jammu, Jun 17: The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) launched a demolition drive near Jammu railway station on Wednesday, clearing over 30 illegal structures and reclaiming encroached land valued at Rs 10 crore, officials said. The early morning action targeted unauthorised commercial units, including dhabas and shops, occupying prime urban land, the officials said. Teams of the JDA, in coordination with the district administration, reclaimed half an acre of prime land opposite Mangal Market, behind Vaishnavi Dham and near Jammu railway station,



they said. The land had been under unauthorised occupation for several years, with a number of dhabas and commercial establishments illegally operated by two individu-

als, they added. The occupants had earlier approached the high court seeking regularisation of their possession. Pursuant to the court's directions, the competent authority

examined the matter and concluded that the occupation was unauthorised and impermissible under law, following which orders were issued for the removal of the encroach-

ments and restoration of the land to the JDA. During the operation, more than 30 unauthorised structures were vacated and demolished, the officials said. They said the encroachments had contributed to persistent traffic congestion in the railway station area due to heavy vehicular movement and roadside parking, frequently causing bottlenecks for commuters, pedestrians and railway passengers. Authorities had also repeatedly flagged unlawful activities around the encroached area that affected public safety, while food at the dhabas

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LoP Sunil Sharma dismisses NC's proposed statehood protest as 'Eyewash'



Srinagar, Jun 17: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Wednesday described the ruling National Conference's proposed protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar over restoration of statehood as an "eyewash", saying that the Abdullah government was trying to divert people's attention from its 'zero-governance'. "It is an eye-

wash," Sharma told reporters here when asked about the National Conference protest. The NC had announced a sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar on the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament to remind the Centre of its promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. "People are demanding

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Rain, Thunderstorms Likely Across J&K Till June 25; MET Issues Advisory

SRINAGAR, Jun 17: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday forecast generally cloudy weather with intermittent rain, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir over the next several days, while advising people to take necessary precautions. Director Meteorological Department, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, as per news agency JKNS, said that on June 17, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with light rain, brief intense showers, thunder, lightning

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GOC of White Knight corps reviews security scenario along LoC in Rajouri

Jammu, Jun 17: General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based White Knight Corps, Lt Gen P K Mishra, on Wednesday visited forward areas along the Line of Control in the Naushera sector of Rajouri district and took stock of the security situation and the combat readiness of the troops, the Army said. Accompanied by the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Ace of Spades Division, Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee, the Corps Commander also interacted with the troops. He lauded their steadfast commitment and unwavering vigilance in safeguarding the country's borders, it said. "GOC White Knight Corps, accompanied by GOC Ace



of Spades Division, visited forward areas in the Naushera Sector to assess the prevailing security environment and review the combat effectiveness of troops deployed along the LoC," the White Knight Corps said on X. During the visit, Lt Gen Mishra was briefed on force posture, surveillance

measures and ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening operational capabilities in the sector. "Interacting with troops in forward locations, the Corps Commander lauded their steadfast commitment, high morale and unwavering vigilance in safeguarding the nation's frontiers," the Army said.

NIA Attaches land of Terror Case accused in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, June 17: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday attached two plots of land in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), officials said. The plots measuring 7.5 marla (2,050 square feet) and 6 marla (1,632 square feet) in Kanispora belong to Shaheen Ahmad Lone, an accused in a case registered by the NIA in 2020, the officials said. The plots measuring 7.5 marla (2,050 square feet) and 6 marla (1,632 square feet) in Kanispora belong to Shaheen Ahmad Lone, an accused in a case

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False narratives being created to stop India's rise: RSS Chief Bhagwat

UDAIPUR, June 17: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said attempts were being made both within and outside India to create false narratives and spread false reports to weaken the country's rise. Those opposing India's rise were using different means despite having greater resources, he said at a programme here on Maharana Pratap Jayanti without elaborating. "Today, people are trying to ensure India does not rise. False narratives are being created, false reports are being spread, and many tactics are being used to mislead," he said. Those doing so have population, power, financial strength and organisational capacity, yet we must stand firm on the basis of our values, he said. Bhagwat asserted that India's rise was important not only for itself but for global welfare. "A strong India is necessary for the world as well," he said. Referring to the legacy of Maharana Pratap and the historic Battle of Haldighati, the RSS chief said it was a symbol of India's civilisational resistance. "Our history is



not a history of slavery. It is a history of struggle against those who tried to enslave us," Bhagwat said, adding Maharana Pratap's struggle represented resistance in defence of "dharma, culture and self-respect". "Maharana Pratap fought not for personal gain but for the protection of society and culture. He was fighting against atrocities, for dharma and culture, and for the freedom of his land," he said on the eve of 350th anniversary of the battle of Haldighati. Bhagwat said there was

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