J&K Police arrests an alleged OGW for aiding Pahalgam Terror Attack

Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested an **alleged Over Ground worker** (OGW) for providing **"logistical support"** to the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack.

About OGWs
- **OGWs** are people who **provide logistic support to militants** and **assist them in their surreptitious movement.**
- **Role played by OGWs for terrorist organizations:**
  - **Recruitment:** Recruiting local youth for joining terrorist ranks, including forced recruitments.
  - **Funding:** Through illegal trade, counterfeit currency, tax evasion, Hawala transactions, etc.
  - **Coordination with other stakeholders:** Such as secessionist leaders, organised crime networks, etc.
  - **Legitimization:** Through propaganda, radicalization, exploitation of local grievances, etc.
- **Measures taken to neutralize influence of OGWs:**
  - **Legal measure:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs notified 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir (JeI) as an unlawful association under **Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.**
  - JeI members are often **alleged to be working as Over Ground Workers (OGWs).**
- **Others**: Rehabilitating orphans and women to ensure Social welfare **[e.g., Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill)]**, improve Intelligence Infrastructure to keep track of radicalization attempts, Fast track courts for speedy conviction of terrorists and OGWs, etc.

> **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967**
> - Provides for effective **prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations,** and for dealing with terrorist activities.
> - **UAP (Amendment) Act, 2019** empowered the government **to designate individuals as terrorists, in addition to organizations.**
>   - It also added **International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)** to define terrorist acts.

Cabinet approves Rs 69,725 crore package to boost Shipbuilding and Maritime Sector

- The package introduces a **four-pillar approach designed to:**
  - Strengthen domestic capacity,
  - Improve long-term financing,
  - Promote greenfield and brownfield shipyard development,
  - Enhance technical capabilities and skilling, and implement legal, taxation, and policy reforms.
- **The package Includes:**
  - **Extension of the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS)** until March 31, 2036, to incentivize shipbuilding.
  - **A Maritime Development Fund (MDF)** will provide long-term financing for the sector.
    - MDF use cases would be for shipbuilding, shipbuilding clusters, ship repairs, ship ownership, port expansion, inland waterway transport, and coastal shipping.
  - **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)** to expand domestic shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage annually.
- A **National Shipbuilding Mission** will oversee all initiatives.
- **Significance of the Shipbuilding:**
  - **Job Creation and Investment:** It would generate nearly 30 lakh jobs, and attract investments of approximately Rs.4.5 lakh crore into India's maritime sector.
    - At present, Investment in commercial shipbuilding is dominated by China, South Korea and Japan.
  - **National Security:** Initiative will strengthen national, energy, and food security by bringing resilience to critical supply chains and maritime routes.

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs launches GSTAT and GSTAT e-Courts Portal

The launch of **GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** marks a major milestone in the evolution of the Goods and Services Tax regime and strengthens the **institutional framework for indirect tax dispute resolution** in the country.

About GSTAT

⏵ It is a **second appellate authority** established under the **Section 109 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.**
  ⊙ When a taxpayer has a dispute, the **first appeal lies within the tax administration.**
⏵ **Purpose:** To hear appeals against orders passed by the GST Appellate Authorities and to provide taxpayers with an independent forum for justice.
⏵ **Benches:** It will function through a **Principal Bench in New Delhi** and **31 State Benches across 45 locations in India,** ensuring accessibility and nationwide reach.
⏵ **Structure:** Each Bench of the GSTAT will comprise **two Judicial Members, one Technical Member (Centre),** and **one Technical Member (State).**
⏵ **Significance:** Structure reflects the spirit of cooperative federalism and is designed to deliver impartial and consistent decisions.

About GSTAT e-Courts Portal

⏵ It is a **digital platform** to enable taxpayers to file appeals online, track the progress of cases, and participate in hearings through digital mode.
⏵ **Developed by:** Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Union Cabinet approves expansion of PG and UG Medical Education Capacity

The expansion involves **Phase-III** of the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for strengthening and upgradation of existing government medical colleges and institutions nationwide.

⏵ India currently has **808 medical colleges,** the highest in the world, with a total intake capacity of **1,23,700 MBBS seats.**
⏵ **Significance of the expansion** of medical education capacity include -
  ⊙ Bridging the gap in healthcare accessibility, particularly in underserved rural and remote areas.
  ⊙ Strengthening the health system's resilience and contributing to overall socio- economic development.
  ⊙ Enhancing the quality of medical education and training to meet global standards.
  ⊙ Leveraging existing infrastructure of government hospitals and colleges for cost-effective expansion of tertiary healthcare, etc.

> **Other Initiatives to expand Medical Education Capacity**
> ⏵ **Targeted Seat Expansion:** This scheme targets adding 5,000 PG and 5,023 UG (MBBS) seats in government institutions **by 2028-29,** utilizing existing infrastructure.
> ⏵ **Infrastructure Augmentation:** Establishment of **22 new AIIMS** under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana **(PMSSY)** to provide high-standard tertiary care and professional training.
> ⏵ **Faculty Strengthening:** Issuance of new **Medical Institution (Qualifications of Faculty) Regulations, 2025** to promote inclusive, competency-based recruitment, thereby expanding the pool of qualified faculty.

Issues in Medical Education System

⏵ **Regional Imbalance:** Approximately one-third of medical colleges are concentrated in the southern part of India.
⏵ **Accessibility Gap:** 70% shortage of specialists in rural India (Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2024).
⏵ **Demand Mismatch:** ~81% registered allopathic doctors practice in urban areas that house 31% of the country's population.
⏵ **Hospitals & Infrastructure Under-Utilization:** Some government colleges with large hospital beds-capacity are still limited to low MBBS seat quotas.

Cancer deaths expected to rise to over 18 million in 2050

As per the analysis conducted by the Global Burden of Disease Cancer Collaborators, at least 30.5 million people worldwide are forecast to receive a new cancer diagnosis in 2050.

Key Findings of the Study

▶ **Modifiable risk factors:** At least 42% deaths globally in 2023 were attributable to 44 potentially modifiable risk factors, including tobacco use, an unhealthy diet and high blood sugar.
  - ↪ It represents enormous opportunity for prevention.
▶ **Deadliest cancers worldwide:** Lung cancer, Breast cancer, Stomach cancer, Prostate cancer and Cervical cancer respectively.
  - ↪ **Increases in deaths are greater in low-income** and middle-income countries compared with high-income countries.
▶ **Finding related to India:**
  - ↪ India ranks 168th out of 204 countries for cancer death rates.
  - ↪ **Breast cancer and Lung cancer major contributors** in India.

Primary Causes of Cancer

▶ **Occupational Risks:** Workplace-related exposures, **Air pollution.**
▶ **Infections:** Unsafe sex, HPV (cervical cancer risk).
▶ **Lifestyle Changes:** Rising obesity, **High blood sugar, High alcohol use,** changing diets affecting breast cancer risk.
▶ **Cultural, Geographic Factors:**
  - ↪ **Betel nut/Pan consumption:** Direct link to high oral cancer rates.
  - ↪ **Hot beverages:** Oesophageal cancer.
  - ↪ **Tobacco:** Smoking, chewing, bidis (lung, oral cancers).

Initiatives to curb cancer in India

▶ **The National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP):** Under ICMR enabling evidence-based policy decisions.
▶ **Union Budget 2025-26:** Day Care Cancer Centres in all district hospitals over the next three years.
▶ **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS):** Under the National Health Mission (NHM).
▶ **Other:** NexCAR19 therapy, National Cancer Grid (NCG), Quad Cancer Moonshot, etc.

Also in News

Sixth Schedule

Protests for demand of statehood and recognition as tribal area under Sixth Schedule turned violent in the UT of Ladakh.

About Sixth Schedule

▶ Under **Article 244(2) and Article 275(1)** of the Constitution, it provides for the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura,** and **Mizoram.**
▶ It **empowers the Governor** to create **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and Autonomous Regional Councils (ARCs)** in these four states.
  - ↪ ARCs are constituted if there are **different Scheduled Tribes in an autonomous district.**
▶ ADCs and ARCs have been conferred with different legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers in respect of land, forest management, inheritance of property, marriage, etc.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approves extension of tenure of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) till May 2026.

About Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

▶ It is **one of eight cabinet committees** within the Union Executive.
▶ **Composition: Two-member committee** - Prime Minister (Chairperson), with the Minister of Home Affairs as the only other member.
▶ **Responsibilities:**
  - ↪ Handling senior government appointments, including Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, and Joint Secretaries.
  - ↪ Deciding on appointments to top positions in Public Sector Units (PSUs), banks, insurance companies, and autonomous bodies.

ECINET Portal

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a **new e-sign feature on its ECINET portal** and application.

▶ Anyone seeking to register as a voter, or apply for deletion or correction, must authenticate his or her identity through Aadhaar-linked phone number.

About ECINET

▶ ECINET is a **unified digital platform** of ECI to streamline electoral processes.
  - ↪ It will integrate and subsume 40 existing apps like Voter Helpline App, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, etc.
▶ It is designed to serve as a **single-point interface** for all election-related services.

K Visa

It is a new visa category by China which will be effective from October 1.

About K Visa policy

▶ It specifically aimed **to attract foreign science and technology talents** who meet certain conditions and requirements in China.
  - ↪ All foreign nationals, including those without a confirmed job, can enter China.
  - ↪ Allows multiple entries, longer validity, and extended stays.
▶ **Eligible applicants include graduates in STEM fields** who have earned at least a bachelor's degree from recognised universities or research institutions.

Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation

External Affairs Minister hosted a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the **Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation** (FIPIC).

About FIPIC
➤ Founded in **2014,** it is a **multinational grouping of Pacific island nations** formed for cooperation between India and **14 Pacific Islands.**
➤ It has been announced as part of India's broader "**Act East**" policy.
➤ **Members:** Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
  ⊙ These Islands are part **three major groups of islands** namely **Melanesia, Micronesia,** and **Polynesia.**

Unified Payments Interface

NPCI International Payments Ltd, in partnership with Qatar National Bank, has enabled the acceptance of QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across Qatar.

About Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
➤ Launched in **2016, it is an instant payment system developed** by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an RBI regulated entity.
➤ It is built over **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) infrastructure.**
  ⊙ **Safe and Quick Payments:** With secure two-step authentication.
➤ Other countries where UPI-based international merchant payments are accepted include **Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka,** and **the UAE.**

National Medical Commission

National Medical Commission completed 5 years since its constitution.

About National Medical Commission
➤ **Genesis:** It is a **statutory body** constituted under the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019.**
  ⊙ Notification of the NMC led to dissolution of Board of Governors of Medical Council of India constituted under of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.
➤ **Aim:** To improve access to quality and affordable medical education.
➤ **Functions:**
  ⊙ Lay down policies for regulating medical institutions, medical researchers and medical professionals.
  ⊙ Ensure coordination among the Autonomous Boards, etc.

Spot Market

RBI sold net $2.54 billion in spot forex market in July, shows monthly bulletin.

Spot Market
➤ The spot market is where financial instruments, such as **commodities, currencies, and securities, are traded for delivery** either immediately or within few days.
  ⊙ Delivery is the exchange of cash for the financial instrument.
➤ **Importance:** Crucial for importers, exporters, and monetary stability.
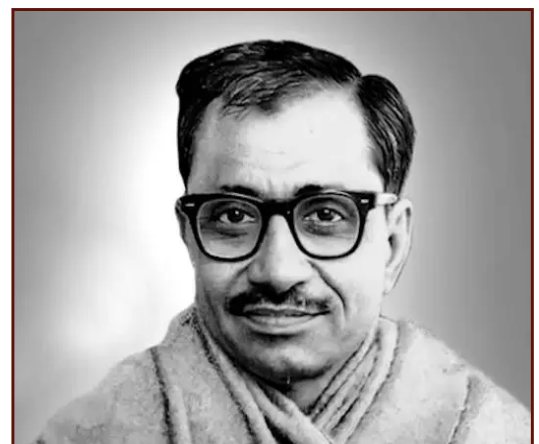
Personality in News — Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Leaders Pay Tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary.

About Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (25 September 1916 – 11 February 1968)
➤ **Born:** Nagla Chandrabhan, Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh.
➤ Gave the **Theory of Integral Humanism** as an indigenous Indian **alternative to both Western Capitalism and Marxist Socialism.**
  ⊙ It emphasizes the holistic development and harmonious integration of the **four elements** of the human being: Body, Mind, Intellect, and Soul.
➤ **Literary Work:** Edited publications like the weekly '**Panchjanya**' and the daily '**Swadesh**', using them to propagate nationalist and cultural values.
➤ **Legacy:** His birth anniversary (25 September) as **"Antyodaya Diwas"** to promote welfare of the last person in the queue.

AHMEDABAD   BENGALURU   BHOPAL   CHANDIGARH   DELHI   GUWAHATI   HYDERABAD   JAIPUR   JODHPUR   LUCKNOW   PRAYAGRAJ   PUNE   RANCHI