



Vande Bharat Sleeper Train will connect the land of Maa Kali to the land of Maa Kamakhya: Modi

The country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train has been launched, and Prime Minister Modi flagged it off

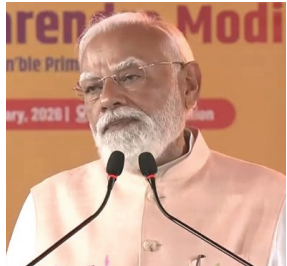
Agency. Malda

Prime Minister Modi said on Saturday that railway development in West Bengal has received new momentum and dimensions today. On one hand, this first Vande Bharat sleeper train of the country, which has started on the Howrah-Guwahati route, is connecting the land of Maa Kali to the land of Maa Kamakhya. On the other hand, West Bengal has received new connectivity to the northern, southern and western parts of the country with four new Amrit Bharat Express trains. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the ceremony after inaugurating various railway and road projects, including the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train, from Malda Town Railway Station in West Bengal. Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Shantanu



Thakur, Sukanta Majumdar, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, Members of Parliament Saumitra Bhattacharya, Khagen Murmu and Kartik Chandra Paul were also present at the event. The Prime Minister said that the campaign to give new momentum to the development of West Bengal has intensified today. Another big step has been taken towards the modernization of Indian Railways. The foundation stone laying and inauguration of several other development works related to the state will boost trade

and employment along with passenger convenience. He said, "From this sacred land of Bengal... today, the Vande Bharat sleeper trains are being launched in India. These new Vande Bharat sleeper trains will make the long journeys of the countrymen more comfortable, splendid, and memorable. ...This Vande Bharat train is Made in India; it has been built with the hard work of us Indians. This first Vande Bharat sleeper train of the country connects the land of Maa Kali to the land of Maa Kamakhya. In the coming times, this modern train will be expanded



throughout the country." The Prime Minister said that this Vande Bharat sleeper train will provide new opportunities to the youth of Bengal and strengthen regional connectivity. This train is a symbol of the strength of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India). He said that in the coming times, this modern sleeper train will be expanded throughout the country. The Prime Minister congratulated Bengal, Assam, and the entire country on this achievement. He said that similarly, Bengal has received four more modern Amrit Bharat Express trains:

New Jalpaiguri-Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express, New Jalpaiguri-Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar-Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express, and Alipurduar-Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express. This will further strengthen the connectivity of Bengal, and especially North Bengal, with South and West India. This is especially beneficial for passengers who come from different parts of the country to travel to Bengal and Eastern India, those who come to visit Ganga Sagar, Dakshineswar, and Kalighat, and those who travel from here to Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. These Amrit Bharat Express trains will make their journeys easier. Referring to his interaction with passengers, the Prime Minister said that people used to see trains from foreign countries in pictures and

PM-SETU Industry Consultation Workshop to be held in Pune on January 19, over 50 companies to participate

New Delhi: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will organize an industry consultation workshop under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Evam Rozgar Transformation (PM-SETU) scheme in Pune on January 19. The workshop will be held at the Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA) in Pune, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra. According to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

videos and wish that such trains existed in India, but today that dream has become a reality.

The welfare of the people of Bengal depends on the departure of the Trinamool and the arrival of the BJP: Modi

Agency. New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that the welfare of the people of Bengal depends on the Trinamool Congress leaving and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coming to power. The departure of the Trinamool Congress will end the politics of hooliganism and intimidation of the poor. For this, the people of Bengal will have to break the nexus between the infiltrators and the ruling party. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a political rally in Malda, West Bengal on Saturday. During this, he once again raised the issue of demographic change and called it a major challenge facing Bengal. He said that the demographic balance is being disturbed



in many parts of West Bengal. In many places, the everyday language is changing. The difference in language and dialect is clearly visible. Due to the increasing population of infiltrators, riots have started in many parts of West Bengal, including Malda and Murshidabad. The Prime Minister assured that strict action would be taken against infiltration and infiltrators as soon as the BJP government is formed. He said that even the developed and prosperous countries of the world are expelling infiltrators from their territories. It is very important to expel infiltrators from West Bengal as well. The Prime Minister said that today our country is working towards the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Brief News

Seed Bill to be introduced in Parliament; selling substandard seeds will result in 3 years imprisonment!

New Delhi: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Saturday that the new Seed Bill, which will be introduced in Parliament, will not only prevent the entry of foreign seeds into India but will also strengthen the regulatory system. This will ensure that seeds are approved only after a thorough evaluation of their suitability to our agricultural and climatic conditions. He said that the new bill increases the existing penalty for selling substandard seeds from Rs. 500 to Rs. 30 lakh. The bill also includes a provision for imprisonment of up to three years if substandard seeds are deliberately sold or produced. According to media reports, Agriculture Minister Chouhan said that the new Seed Bill will replace the decades-old Seed Act of 1966 and the Seed (Control) Order of 1983. He also dismissed concerns regarding the bill. He said that the bill protects farmers' rights to produce, sow, save, exchange, and sell their farm-saved seeds.



US Ambassador Sergio arrived in Mumbai, met with RBI Governor and Tata Chairman



New Delhi: US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, has begun his official duties. After assuming office, Gor first traveled to Mumbai. During his visit, he met with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Sanjay Malhotra. Sharing details of the meeting, Sergio Gor wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "It was a pleasure meeting with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. We discussed areas to enhance cooperation, including new state-of-the-art American technology." According to media reports, the US Ambassador also met with the Chairman of Tata Group, N Chandrasekaran. Sharing pictures of the meeting, Gor wrote: "I had a great meeting with N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Group. This is a group with a remarkable 150-year legacy and a significant presence in the United States." Gor had earlier written: "Excited to begin my first visit to Mumbai at our Consulate. Our dedicated team is working hard to strengthen the US-India partnership."

Naval exercise in South Africa not a regular or institutional BRICS activity: India

Agency. New Delhi

Amid reports of not participating in the naval exercise held off the coast of South Africa, India has said that it is not a regular or institutional BRICS activity. The exercise was entirely a South African initiative, in which India did not participate. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement that India did not participate in the recently held 'BRICS naval exercise'. This exercise was entirely a South African initiative, in which some BRICS member countries participated. It cannot be considered a regular or institutional



BRICS activity, and not all member countries participated in it. Jaiswal said that India has not participated in such exercises in the past either. The regular exercise that India is a part of is the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR), which involves the navies of India, Brazil, and South Africa. The last edition of this exercise was held in October 2024. Notably, a week-long joint naval exercise of BRICS countries began on January 13 near the Simon's Town naval base in South Africa, with China, Russia, and South Africa among the participating countries.

Indian citizens stranded in Iran return safely, express gratitude to the Indian government and embassy

New Delhi: Amidst the deteriorating situation and violent protests in Iran, several Indian citizens who were stranded there have returned safely to India. A large number of students were among these citizens who arrived in Delhi from Iran late Friday night. Upon their return to India, these citizens praised the efforts of the Indian government and the Indian embassy. Media reports indicate that approximately 10,000 Indian citizens are currently in Iran, including students, businessmen, and various professionals. Of these, about 2,500 to 3,000 students are pursuing medical studies in Iran. After the situation worsened, the Indian government took proactive steps to ensure their safety and even announced the possibility of an airlift if needed.

Dense fog causes flight delays in Delhi, 177 trains running late

Agency. New Delhi

The dense fog that enveloped large parts of the national capital New Delhi on Saturday morning, due to the ongoing cold wave in North India, has severely affected rail and air traffic. Several flights were delayed at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport due to low visibility. Meanwhile, a total of 177 trains are running late due to fog and poor visibility. Delhi Airport issued an advisory regarding delays in flight



operations this morning. The airport advised passengers to check the status of their flights with their respective airlines before heading to the airport, as operations may be intermittently affected due to the fog. According to information received from the railway's train running list, several trains are running late by two to eight hours.

Advani and Joshi will not be able to vote in the BJP National President election

Agency. New Delhi

January 20, 2026, will mark a significant change in the history of the Bharatiya Janata Party. 45-year-old Nitin Naveen is almost certain to be elected unopposed as the party's next national president. However, a surprising aspect of this election is that for the first time, party founding members Lal Krishna Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi will not be able to cast their votes. Nitin Naveen, who has been serving as the party's working president



since December 2025, is now set to become the full-time president. Nitin Naveen, a MLA from Bankipur in Bihar and a former minister, is the son of veteran BJP leader, the late Naveen Kishore Prasad Sinha. Naveen, who comes from an RSS background, is known for his deep connections within the organization and his significant role in the

party's electoral victories in states like Chhattisgarh. His nomination will be filed on January 19, and his victory will be formally announced on January 20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and Rajnath Singh will be among the proposers for his nomination. This is the first time since the BJP's founding in 1980 that the names of these two stalwarts are not on the voters' list for the presidential election. The reason behind this is not political dissent, but rather technical.

Bangladesh has become a jungle of jihadists, extremists have hijacked the system

Prayagraj: Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, commenting on the violence against minorities in Bangladesh, said that Bangladesh has become a jungle of jihadists. Extremists there have hijacked the country's system. He said that India's top leadership is serious about the violence taking place in Bangladesh. India is working to take action against the violence without any fanfare, and its widespread impact will be visible soon in the coming days. Naqvi also strongly criticized the grand alliance. He said that the alliance is riddled with numerous holes and disagreements. A new alliance is formed before every election, and it dissolves after the election is over. The Congress, which was once a major party in the country, has now been reduced to a local party.

US President Trump reiterates claim of preventing India-Pakistan conflict

Washington: US President Donald Trump has once again reiterated his claim of preventing a war between India and Pakistan. He said that Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had thanked him for saving the lives of at least 10 million people. Trump claimed that by preventing a conflict between the two nuclear-armed nations, he made a significant contribution and is therefore deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize. According to media reports, Trump said that in one year, they brokered eight peace agreements, ended the Gaza war, and established peace in the Middle East. Stopping a war between two nuclear powers like India and Pakistan was remarkable. Trump has been repeatedly making this claim since May 2025, asserting that peace between India and Pakistan was maintained only because of his pressure.



Deputy Commissioner inspects various areas under Pathargama block of Godda district; necessary directions given for required improvements

Senior Journalist Kaushal Kumar

GODDA: With the objective of assessing the ground reality of public welfare schemes and basic services in the district, District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner, Godda, Ms. Anjali Yadav, IAS, inspected various areas under Pathargama block. During this inspection, the Deputy Commissioner inspected Anganwadi Center Babupur, Anganwadi Center Tardiha, Community Health Center Pathargama, Panchayat Bhawan Sonarchak (Pathargama), and Primary Health Center Bhalsudhiya, and gave necessary directions to the concerned officials for required improvements. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner first reviewed the attendance of children, distribution of nutritional food, attendance register of students, vaccination status, cleanliness

of the center, condition of the building, and maintenance of registers at Anganwadi Centers Babupur and Tardiha. She instructed the Anganwadi workers and helpers to ensure that all services prescribed by the government are provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children in a timely and qualitative manner. She also directed them to ensure regular attendance of children and make special efforts to improve their nutritional status. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Community Health Center Pathargama. During the inspection, in the presence of the Block Medical Officer and health workers, a comprehensive review of hospital management was conducted, including the OPD, delivery room, doctor's room, examination room, condition of health equipment, drug storage, cold chain status, cleanliness of the health center building premises, number



of ANMs, inspection of the doctor's residence premises, and inspection of the newly constructed building. She directed the doctors that providing timely and quality health services to the general public is the top priority of the administration. During the inspection, the facilities available at the Panchayat Knowledge Center, including computers, internet connectivity, and services provided to the general public, were reviewed. Instructions were given to ensure maximum utilization

of the center so that villagers can avail of government services at the panchayat level itself. During the inspection, instructions were also given to provide benches, desks, drinking water facilities, and competitive examination books to local students at the knowledge center to ensure proper educational facilities for them. During the inspection, he reviewed the facilities, livestock care, and management of the veterinary hospital in Pathargama, giving necessary instructions to hospital officials to ensure better



services. Strict instructions were also given that retired personnel illegally occupying the residential quarters within the veterinary hospital premises should vacate the premises, and the hospital premises should be kept clean. Subsequently, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Sonarchak Panchayat Bhawan in Pathargama. He gathered information about various schemes being implemented at the panchayat level. During the inspection, instructions were given to construct a boundary wall for the panchayat

building, provide drinking water and electricity facilities, and beautify the panchayat building using DMFT funds. Finally, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Primary Health Center in Bhalsudhiya. Here, he checked the attendance of doctors and healthcare workers, the availability of medicines, drinking water and electricity, the health services being provided to patients, sanitation, and the status of delivery services. He clearly instructed that healthcare workers should be continuously present at

the hospital and treat patients with sensitivity, and that no kind of negligence would be tolerated. He instructed the Medical Officer In-Charge of Pathargama to ensure the availability of a doctor three days a week so that local people can receive proper medical facilities. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officials to take necessary corrective measures and said that all departments should work in coordination so that the real benefits of the schemes reach the common people. Present on the occasion was the Block Development Officer of Pathargama, Mr. Nitesh Kumar Gautam, the in-charge medical officer of Pathargama Community Health Center, Dr. Mohan Paswan, DMFT team leader Mr. Anik Singh, officials from the health department, Anganwadi center workers and helpers, and staff from the block office were present.

The third Mine Safety Fortnight was celebrated grandly at the Pachwara Central Coal Block, and the DGMS issued important guidelines

Correspondent.DN

Pakur: As per the instructions of DGMS Central Zone Dhanbad, a grand program was held on Saturday, January 17th, near the camp office of DBL PSPCL at Alu Beda in Amrapara, during the third annual Mine Safety Fortnight 2025, which was being observed from January 12th to January 24th at the Pachwara Central Coal Block OCP. The program was held in the presence of Mr. Mithilesh Kumar, DGMS Central Zone Dhanbad. Also present were the committee members formed by the DGMS: Mr. Tribhuvan



Singh Chauhan, Convener of BCCL Muradih Phulari Tang OCP, Mr. Manoj Kumar, Coal Mine Engineer (Excavation), Mr. Ajit Sethi, Coal Mine Engineer, Mr. Ashok Kumar Pal, Mining Engineer, Mr. Ranjit Singh, Coal Mine Manager, Mr. Rajkumar Nayak, Coal Mine Surveyor, along with PSPCL Agent Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh and DBL

Project Head Mr. Brajesh Kumar. The Mine Safety Fortnight program, held in the DBL camp office premises, began with the hoisting of the flag by the chief guest, Mr. Mithilesh Kumar. On this occasion, young children from the Child Development Public School in Alu Beda village welcomed the guests with attractive welcome songs in



Santali and Hindi languages. During the program, the employees present were rewarded for performing their duties while ensuring their own safety and the safety of those around them at the DBL Central Coal Mines. Mr. Aman Kumar of DBL, who was conducting the program, requested

the employees to work according to the mine safety rules, interspersed with inspiring couplets. The chief guest, DGMS Mr. Mithilesh Kumar, also addressed the gathering. Mithilesh Kumar successfully completed his work by strictly adhering to mine safety regulations and explained several safety

nuances to the personnel present. He emphasized that ensuring one's own safety and the safety of others is the most important task, and all personnel should perform their duties by strictly following safety rules. After the program, the committee thoroughly inspected the excavation work, reviewed the mine safety standards, and provided several necessary guidelines. Present on this occasion were DBL's Mines Manager Mr. B.K. Diwakar, Civil Engineer Mr. Rakesh Chaurasia, Mr. Nirpendra Singh, and PR Company's PM Mr. Niwas Reddy, along with several other personnel.

To the respected residents of Ward No. 19, Nagar Parishad area,

Correspondent.DN

GODDA: I, Mohammad Iftekhar Ansari, humbly request all of you to cast your valuable vote for my wife and candidate, Tarana Khatoon, in the upcoming Nagar Parishad elections and ensure her victory. I assure you all that if the people of Ward No. 19 give us the opportunity to serve, we will work diligently in the public interest for the all-round development of Fasia Dangal. From addressing basic

problems to undertaking development projects, I will always be readily available and will carry out all tasks with complete responsibility. We also assure you that in the future, the people of Fasia Dangal will not have to bear any unnecessary or wasteful expenses. All development work undertaken in the ward will be for the benefit of all sections of society equally, without any discrimination. Your trust and support are our greatest strength.

Press Conference held under the chairmanship of DM and SSP regarding 'Respect for All - Easy Life'

Correspondent.DN

Bhagalpur: A press conference was organized at the Review Building in Bhagalpur under the joint chairmanship of District Magistrate Dr. Naval Kishore Chaudhary, IAS, and Senior Superintendent of Police Mr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, IPS, regarding the seventh resolution of the Bihar Government's Seven Resolutions-3, 'Respect for All - Easy Life' (Ease of Living). Addressing the reporters, the District Magistrate said that the main objective of the

seventh resolution of the Bihar Government's Seven Resolutions-3, 'Respect for All - Easy Life' (Ease of Living), is to reduce the difficulties faced by all citizens of the state in their daily lives and make their lives easier. It has been observed that when common people reach government offices with their problems, the officers are not present, which causes them inconvenience. Considering this, the government has issued the following guidelines to ensure that the general public of the state does not face any difficulties in

matters related to government offices: On two working days of each week (Monday and Friday), the general public will meet the concerned officers at their designated workplace/office to get their grievances addressed at all government offices at the Gram Panchayat, Police Station, Circle, Block, Sub-division, District, Division, and State levels. On both the designated days, all concerned officers will be present in their respective offices, meet people respectfully, and listen to their grievances with sensitivity and resolve them promptly.

Review Meeting of Panchayati Raj Schemes chaired by the Deputy Development Commissioner; instructions given for timely and quality data entry on the portal

Correspondent.DN

Sahibganj: A detailed review meeting of important schemes being implemented under the Panchayati Raj Department—Gyan Kendra, Panchayat and Panchayat Bhawan Strengthening, 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' (My Village My Heritage), and Chief Minister's Panchayat Incentive Scheme—was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Satish Chandra. During the meeting, necessary instructions were given to the concerned officers and staff for the effective implementation of the schemes.



All Panchayat Secretaries, Block Coordinators, and BLEs were strictly instructed to complete the data entry work on the portal in a timely and quality manner to ensure accurate assessment of the progress of the schemes. To strengthen the monitoring system, all Block

Coordinators and Block Panchayat Raj Officers (BPROs) were instructed to conduct mandatory weekly field visits. Furthermore, it was made mandatory to submit an inspection report to the district office every week after the field visit, to maintain transparency and

accountability in the implementation of the schemes. During the meeting, training on the 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' scheme was provided to all participants online by Komal Singh. The In-charge DPM, Mr. Abhijit Kumar, provided detailed information regarding the Chief Minister's Panchayat Incentive Scheme and emphasized the importance of timely data entry. The Deputy Development Commissioner instructed all concerned officers to ensure mutual coordination and continuous monitoring so that the benefits of the schemes reach the grassroots level within the stipulated time frame.

Prohibited lights and pressure horns removed from vehicles at University Chowk

Senior Journalist Kaushal Kumar

DUMKA: A comprehensive road safety awareness campaign was conducted at University Chowk as part of Road Safety Month 2026. This campaign was organized under the joint leadership of the District Transport Officer, Dumka, Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar, and the Motor Vehicle Inspector, Dumka. During the campaign, citizens and drivers were given detailed information about traffic rules. Officials encouraged safe driving speeds, urged



two-wheeler riders to wear helmets, four-wheeler drivers to wear seat belts, and emphasized the importance of not driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. During this time, the District Transport Officer, Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar, and the Motor Vehicle Inspector,

Dumka, removed prohibited lights and pressure horns from vehicles violating the rules on the spot. Coal-laden vehicles were also completely covered with tarpaulins on the spot to prevent inconvenience to other road users. District Transport Officer Mr.



Mrityunjay Kumar stated that speeding is a major cause of road accidents, and controlling it is crucial for effectively reducing accidents. He said that even a little carelessness can lead to serious accidents, while following the rules

protects lives. Members of the Road Safety Committee were present on this occasion. They unanimously appealed to the general public to follow traffic rules themselves and to create awareness among others as well.

The Minister of Sports, Government of Bihar, Ms. Shreyasi Singh, inspected the Odhani Dam. District Magistrate Mr. Navdeep Shukla, IAS, was also present during the inspection.

Correspondent.DN

Banka: The Minister inspected the boating facilities at Odhani Dam. On this occasion, she appreciated the natural beauty of the dam and held detailed discussions on the possibilities available there. She said that Odhani Dam can be developed as an important center for sports, tourism, and youth empowerment, which will create new employment opportunities in the district and strengthen the local economy. Following the discussions, the District Sports Officer was instructed to identify suitable land for the construction of a hostel for athletes to develop international-level water sports facilities. The Minister also inspected the site for the establishment of a Center of Excellence and instructed that a proposal be prepared. She further directed that the effective



implementation of these schemes will enable Banka district to establish its unique identity on the state and national sports map, and will give new impetus to tourism, infrastructure development, and socio-economic progress. On this occasion, the Additional Collector, District Sports Officer, Deputy Director of the Sports Department Mr. Sanjay Kumar, former Member of Parliament Ms. Putul Kumari, and other officers and dignitaries were present.

Brief News

Fire breaks out at a garage, three cars gutted

East Singhbhum: Late Friday night, unknown anti-social and criminal elements committed a serious act of arson at a garage called Car Hospital, located on Karanadih Main Road under Parsudih police station area. In this incident, three cars parked in the garage for repairs were completely destroyed, while another car was partially damaged. The incident of arson has created panic in the area, and the garage owners as well as the vehicle owners have suffered heavy financial losses. According to the information received, the Car Hospital garage is run in partnership by Vaidyanath Mahto and Mangal Kujur. At the time of the incident, several customers' vehicles were parked in the garage for repairs. A Duster car (JH10 AB 4439), a Tata Nano (JH 05 L 4648), and a Maruti Alto (OR02 BK 1670) were completely gutted in the fire. The bumper of a nearby Maruti 800 (JH05 H 3419) was also damaged by the fire. It is reported that most of the garage employees were on leave due to the Makar Sankranti festival. One of the partners, Vaidyanath Mahto, had also gone home. Only one staff member was present at the garage at night, but due to the biting cold, he was sleeping inside a room. During this time, the fire broke out outside, and the information could not be received in time, allowing the fire to spread rapidly. The garage owners have termed the incident suspicious and suspect that it may be a planned act of arson and that someone deliberately set the fire. However, the exact cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained. Upon receiving information about the incident, local residents reached the spot and informed the police. The Parsudih police have reached the spot and started investigating the matter. The police are examining the footage from nearby CCTV cameras to identify the people involved in the arson. Initial estimates suggest that this incident has caused losses worth millions of rupees to garage owners and vehicle owners. The police have assured that the case will be solved soon.

AJSU to field its candidates in Mango and Jugsalai municipal elections



East Singhbhum: The AJSU party has clarified its strategy for the upcoming Mango Municipal Corporation and Jugsalai Municipal Council elections. A meeting of the AJSU Party East Singhbhum District Committee was held on Saturday at a park in Jugsalai Municipality, where it was announced that the party will contest the Mango and Jugsalai municipal elections with full strength and will field its candidates for all major posts. The meeting was presided over by AJSU Party East Singhbhum District President Kanhaiya Singh, while the proceedings were conducted by District Spokesperson Appu Tiwari. The vote of thanks was given by Saurabh Rahul Singh at the end of the meeting. AJSU Party Central Principal General Secretary Ramchandra Sahis was the chief guest on this occasion. Addressing the meeting, former minister Ramchandra Sahis said that the AJSU party will field its candidates for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Mango Municipal Corporation, as well as for the posts of President and Vice-President in Jugsalai Municipal Council. He said that the people of Mango and Jugsalai have been suffering for a long time due to the lack of basic amenities, increasing corruption, and the inaction of their representatives. The AJSU party will contest the elections by focusing on local issues and will work to provide honest, accountable, and dedicated leadership to the people. He informed that preparations at the organizational level have been completed and the formal announcement of the candidates will be made soon. District President Kanhaiya Singh said that this opportunity of the third tier of democracy is very important for the region. He appealed to the workers to go door-to-door, explain the importance of voting rights, and convey the party's policies and struggles to the public. He expressed confidence that with the unity and hard work of the workers, the AJSU party will emerge as a strong alternative in the local body elections. Several office bearers and workers including Sanjay Singh, Appu Tiwari, Mrityunjay Singh, Kritiwas Mandal, Arup Mallick, Mantu Shukla, Sachin Prasad, and Madan Mohan Mishra were present at the meeting.

Journalist Surendra Singh's mother passes away, people express condolences

Khunti: Mudrika Devi, mother of Surendra Singh, a senior journalist from Khunti and currently working at the District Public Relations Office in Khunti, passed away late Friday night. She was 75 years old. Her last rites will be performed on Saturday at Murhu Muktidham. On the demise of Mudrika Devi, MP Kalicharan Munda, former State Rural Development Minister Neelkanth Singh Munda, former Torpa MLA Koche Munda, Congress District President Ravi Mishra, Congress leader Naimuddin Khan, social worker Dilip Mishra, along with Khunti Press Club President Ranjit Prasad, journalists Chandan Kumar, Rahul Mishra, Satish Sharma, Ajit Jaiswal, Ashok Sharma, Durga Baraik, Anil Mishra, Chandrashekhar Chaudhary, Premanand Tiwari, Rajkumar Gupta, Sonu Ansari, Shahid Ansari, Jyotsna Sheela Dang, Sunil Soni and many other journalists expressed their deep condolences.



Meeting held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner regarding the destruction of illegal opium cultivation

Instructions given to conduct a special campaign from January 20 to February 20, 2026, to identify and destroy illegal opium cultivation

Khunti: A crucial meeting was held in the office chamber of the Deputy Commissioner, Mrs. R. Ronita, at the Collectorate, regarding the destruction of illegal opium cultivation in the district. The Deputy Commissioner, following government directives, instructed that a special campaign be launched in the district. She stated that from January 20, 2026, to February 20, 2026, a month-long intensive inspection campaign should be



conducted in various blocks to identify and ensure the destruction of illegal opium cultivation. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Police Department, Forest Department, Circle Officers, and other relevant departments of the district administration to work in close coordination to effectively carry out

the destruction work. They were also asked to share daily reports of the destruction carried out. She clearly instructed that FIRs be registered against individuals involved in illegal opium cultivation, and other appropriate and strict action be taken to completely stop this illegal activity in the district. The Deputy Commissioner also

stated that those who are secretly cultivating illegal opium should destroy their crops themselves before the destruction campaign begins. The Police Department and other concerned departments were also asked to create awareness among the public about the harmful effects of illegal opium cultivation through various publicity campaigns in the district. The meeting was attended by Superintendent of Police Mr. Manish Toppo, Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Alok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer Mr. Dilip Kumar, Nazir Deputy Collector Mrs. Komal Kumari, NCB officials, and other officers from relevant departments.

Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal & Mines, Government of India Inaugurated Re-Operations of Rajhara Open Cast Colliery

Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal & Mines, GoI, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey Inaugurated Re-Operations of Rajhara Open Cast Colliery of Central Coalfields Limited today. On this occasion tree plantation, lighting of the ceremonial lamp & traditional rituals were performed to welcome the dignitaries. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal & Mines, GoI, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey said, "Coal burns itself to illuminate the nation & our coal workers serve the country in every circumstance. We are not limited only to coal production; rather, we are working in a planned manner

towards environmental protection, greenery & providing employment to local youth. Overburden (OB) is no longer merely dumped; research is being conducted to explore critical minerals within it. Through First Mile Connectivity, coal is being loaded into railway wagons in a shorter time. He further stated that the coal industry will play an important role in fulfilling the energy needs of a developed India." He added, " Apart from mining Coal India is also committed towards the help of the community . Under CSR schemes, priority is being given to education, health & social development. Schemes such as 'Nanha Sa



Dil', 'CCL ke Lal', 'CCL ki Ladli', and JSSPS are giving a new direction to children and youth." On this special occasion, Palamu Member of Parliament Shri V.D. Ram said, "Rajhara Colliery is dedicated to the people of this area. This project will become a medium for employment, development & social upliftment in the region. CCL will continue to work consistently in the

interest of the people and the area." Meanwhile, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of CCL, Shri Nilendu Kumar Singh, said, "On behalf of CCL, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister. The affection of the public towards Rajhara Colliery proves that this project is deeply connected with the people of the area. The large participation of women indicates that Rajhara

Cold wave subsides in Jharkhand, bringing relief to people; temperatures expected to rise



Agency. Ranchi

The cold wave did not affect Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, and other districts of the state on Saturday. With the cold wave subsiding, the warmth of the sun provided relief to the people. According to the Meteorological Department, a rise in both maximum and minimum temperatures will be recorded in the state in the coming days. However, the department also stated that cold winds are still blowing from the northwest to the north in the state, due to which the intensity of the cold will gradually

decrease. On Saturday, the weather remained clear in Ranchi and surrounding areas from the morning, and no cold wave was recorded. The sun felt warm during the day, while light cold winds started blowing in the afternoon, which resulted in a slight chill in the evening. In the last 24 hours, the highest temperature in the state was recorded at 27.8 degrees Celsius in Chaibasa, while the lowest temperature was 3.2 degrees Celsius in Gumla. On Saturday, the maximum temperature in Ranchi was 23 degrees and the minimum was 7.2 degrees,

In Khunti, bandh supporters demonstrated with traditional weapons in support of the shutdown. People were demanding the immediate arrest of Soma Munda's killer

Tribal communities have called for a Jharkhand bandh (shutdown) today in protest against the murder of Pahara Raja Soma Munda of Khunti. The impact of the bandh is clearly visible in Ranchi. Life has been disrupted in several major areas of the city, including Albert Ekka Chowk and Karam Toli Chowk. Hundreds of activists from tribal organizations took to the streets, demanding the death penalty for the killers and justice for the victim's family. The protesters alleged that the murder was part of a well-planned conspiracy against the tribal community. Due to the Jharkhand bandh, almost all shops in Albert Ekka Chowk and surrounding areas remained closed. Even the shops that were open were forced to close by the protesters. The protesters blocked



the road near Albert Ekka Chowk by tying ropes across it. Vehicles coming from Main Road had to be diverted towards Plaza Road. At Karam Toli Chowk, protesters burned tires and sat on the road, completely disrupting

traffic and causing a major traffic jam. In view of the Jharkhand bandh, the police and administration are on high alert. Additional police forces have been deployed in sensitive areas of the capital.

Jharkhand Bandh has widespread impact in Khunti district, roads blocked

Agency. Khunti

The Jharkhand Bandh called by various tribal organizations on Saturday to demand the immediate arrest of the killers of Jharkhand movement leader and Edel Sanga Padha Raja Soma Munda, among other demands, had a widespread impact in Khunti district. Bandh supporters blocked roads in Khunti, Torpa, Marcha, Karra, Rania, and other places. This resulted in long queues of vehicles on both sides of the roads. Due to the bandh, all shops and commercial establishments remained closed from morning in the district headquarters as well as in Torpa, Tapkara, Murhu, Arki, Karra, and other rural areas. The operation



of passenger vehicles was completely suspended. It is noteworthy that Soma Munda, the central executive president of the Abua Jharkhand Party, was shot dead on January 7. The police have arrested seven accused in this case, but the main conspirator and the shooter are still at large. Tribal organizations allege that the police are trying to cover up the matter and are arresting innocent people under public pressure to pat themselves on the back. To make the bandh successful, tribal organizations also took out a torchlight procession on Friday evening.

717 Arrested in Security Drive in CKP Railway Division

Agency. West Singhbhum

A comprehensive special operation was conducted by the Chakradharpur (CKP) Railway Division in West Singhbhum district from July 2025 to mid-January 2026 against crimes affecting railway security and safety. During this period, various types of railway crimes were uncovered, and strict action was taken against the culprits. According to a press release issued by the divisional administration on Saturday, strict action was taken against incidents of alarm chain pulling (ACP) without any valid reason during the campaign period. A total of 540 people were arrested under Section 141 of the Railways Act. In cases



of damage to railway signals, 40 accused were arrested under Section 174(C) of the Railways Act. In addition, 137 accused were arrested in cases related to the theft of signaling equipment under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act. The railway administration stated that such incidents of theft and vandalism not only damage railway assets but also pose a serious threat to train operations and passenger safety.

Review Meeting of Committees under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Regarding Preparations for the Municipal (General) Elections, 2026

Khunti: A review meeting was held today in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of the District Election Officer (Municipality)-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Khunti, Mrs. R. Ronita, with the senior officers and in-charge/assistant in-charge officers of all the committees constituted for the successful conduct of the Municipal (General) Elections, 2026. Detailed discussions were held regarding the preparations for the Municipal (General) Elections, 2026. During the meeting, necessary directions were given to the concerned officers regarding the smooth functioning



of the Municipal Election Committee, Personnel Committee, Ballot Paper and Ballot Box Committee, Materials Committee, Transport Committee, Law and Order-cum-Code of Conduct Committee, Helpline and Public

Grievance Committee, Observer Committee, Training Committee, Media Committee, Election Expenditure Monitoring Committee, Information Technology Committee, and Control Room. Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R.

Ronita instructed that all the committees constituted for the Municipal (General) Elections, 2026 should hold meetings at their respective levels and complete the preparations in a timely manner, so that all committees can become fully functional and begin work as soon as the election is announced. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Development Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Officer, Project Director ITDA, Additional Collector, District Panchayati Raj Officer, Deputy Election Officer, along with nodal officers, assistant officers, and other concerned officials of various committees.

NIA chargesheets five for propagating ideologies of banned terror outfit online

New Delhi, Agency: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday chargesheeted five persons, including a woman, in a case relating to online radicalisation of vulnerable youth by terror group Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) in Gujarat.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday chargesheeted five persons, including a woman, in a case relating to online radicalisation of vulnerable youth by terror group Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) in Gujarat.

The accused — identified as Mohammad Fardeen, Kureshi Sefulla, Mohammad Faique, Zeeshan Ali and Shama Parveen — have been named in the charge



sheet filed before a special NIA court in Ahmedabad, officials said.

NIA's investigation in the case had revealed that the accused used social media platforms for propagating, supporting and disseminating the anti-India ideolo-

gies of the banned AQIS, a statement issued by the probe agency said. They posted provocative posts, including videos, audios and photos, through various social media accounts, it said.

NIA further found that, through these posts, the accused

had called for armed revolt against the democratically elected Indian government, and for the establishment of the Caliphate based on the Sharia law, the statement alleged. They also promoted the extremist ideologies of other proscribed terror organisations to radicalise gullible youth, it said. NIA, which had taken over the investigation from ATS Gujarat, had seized various incriminating materials, in both paper and digital formats, along with deadly weapons like semi-automatic pistol with cartridges and a sword from two of the five accused in the course of the investigation. The NIA, during investigation, further traced the digital footprints and identified incriminating posts strengthening evidence against the accused.

Maharashtra has quit them': BJP's BMC victory has personal significance for Kangana Ranaut after 2020 demolition

New Delhi, Agency: The outcome also holds personal significance for the actor-turned-politician. In 2020, the BMC, then controlled by the undivided Shiv Sena, had demolished a portion of Ranaut's Mumbai office

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has congratulated her party leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, after the BJP registered a major victory in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, ending the long-standing dominance of the Shiv Sena in India's richest civic body.

Calling the result a "historic win," Ranaut told NDTV, "I am absolutely thrilled with the BJP's landslide victory in the Maharashtra BMC election. I congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ji, and the entire BJP family of Maharashtra for this incredible saffron sweep all the way."



19 Bills pending in Rajya Sabha, oldest dates back to 1992

New Delhi, Agency: As many as 19 government Bills remain pending in the Rajya Sabha, with the oldest, pertaining to population control, dating back to 1992.

The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House which is never dissolved, with one-third of its members retiring every two years. While the Bills pending in the Lok Sabha lapse when the House is dissolved, a Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha never lapses. According to a bulletin of the Upper House, there are 19 pending Bills at present, the oldest being The Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992. The Bill proposed to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to provide that the State shall promote population control and the small family norm, and to include promot-



ing and adopting the small family norm in the Fundamental Duties. It also proposed that an MP or an MLA should be disqualified if they have more than two children.

Also among the pending Bills is The Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997, which was to amend the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 that aimed to

modernise rent control laws, but faced significant pushback from tenant and landlord groups. While the government is working on bringing The Seed Bill 2025, among the pending Bills is The Seeds Bill, 2004, which aimed to regulate the quality of seeds for sale, import and export and to facilitate the production and supply of quality seeds.

Another Bill that remains pending is The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011, which was introduced when Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was the labour minister.

Other pending Bills which were introduced in the UPA 2 include The Building and Other Construction Workers Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013; The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Amendment Bill, 2013; and The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (Third) Bill, 2013.

Senior Maoist among two killed in encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh

New Delhi, Agency: Security forces on Saturday gunned down two Naxalites, including senior cadre Dilip Bedja, in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said.

The gunfight broke out in the morning hours in the forested hills of the district's northwest region, where a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, a senior official said.

He said that personnel belonging to the Special Task Force and District Reserve Guard — both units of the Chhattisgarh police, and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action — an elite unit of CRPF) were involved in the operation, which was launched based on inputs about the presence of Bedja, a divisional committee member, in the area.

The identity of the other cadre



killed in the firing was yet to be ascertained, the official said.

"So far, bodies of two Naxalites and AK-47 rifles have been recovered from the spot," he said, adding that a search operation is underway.

Bedja was active in the national park area committee of Maoists and had been involved in several attacks, the official said.

Acid attack on minor girl in Wayanad, neighbour arrested

New Delhi, Agency: A 14-year-old girl suffered severe burns after her neighbour allegedly attacked her with acid in Wayanad district in Kerala, the police said on Saturday.

The accused Raju Jose (53), a resident of Priyadarshi Unathi, Marakavu, Pulpalli, has been arrested.

According to police, the incident occurred on Friday evening when Jose allegedly poured acid on Mahalakshmi, a Class VIII student living in the neighbourhood.

The police said there were multiple issues between the neighbours that led to the inci-

dent.

The accused had recently asked the girl to give him her Student Police Cadet (SPC) uniform, which she refused.

The victim was first taken to a nearby government hospital and later shifted to Kozhikode Medical College Hospital for further treatment.

She suffered around 40 per cent burns, including injuries to her face, a police officer said.

The accused fled the scene after the attack but was arrested early Saturday morning.

He is being interrogated to ascertain the exact motive behind the attack, police said.

Priya Kapur files criminal defamation case against Sunjay Kapur's sister Mandhira Kapur

New Delhi, Agency: Priya Sachdeva Kapur has moved a criminal defamation complaint against Sunjay Kapur's sister, Mandhira Kapur Smith, and another individual, alleging that a series of statements made against her across podcasts, social media platforms, media interviews and republished online content constitute a sustained and deliberate campaign to damage her reputation.

The complaint, filed before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, asserted that the impugned remarks contain false assertions, insinuations and personal attacks presented as established facts, despite the issues being sub judice, thereby causing serious reputational harm.



Priya Kapur is represented by senior advocate Maninder Singh, along with counsel Smriti Asmita. According to the com-

plaint, the material circulating in the public domain advances misleading narratives and allegations aimed at maligning and

harassing Priya Kapur through public discourse rather than lawful remedies.

Maninder Singh submitted that such conduct squarely attracts the offence of criminal defamation under the applicable law.

The matter was taken up before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at the Patiala House Courts, New Delhi, where the complaint was formally registered. The filing of the defamation case follows recent developments in connected proceedings, in which the court sought a response from actor Karisma Kapoor on a plea moved by Priya Kapur seeking certified copies of divorce-related court records involving late

'On-paper' doctors, 'fake' work certificates: How Al Falah University misled regulators to get NMC approvals

New Delhi, Agency: Faridabad-based Al Falah University had appointed three doctors -- two arrested by the National Investigation Agency and the third an alleged suicide bomber of the November 2025 Red Fort area blast -- apart from other specialists without police verification or scrutiny, the Enforcement Directorate has found.

The agency, as part of its money laundering probe against the promoter of the university, is understood to have furnished statements of various senior executives

and faculty of the varsity in this context in a chargesheet filed before a Delhi court on Friday. Arrested 61-year-old Al Falah Group chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui and the Al Falah Charitable Trust that controls all the educational institutions of the varsity are the two accused named in the complaint filed under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The about 260-page chargesheet seeks prosecution of Siddiqui and his Trust for alleged generation of illicit funds from fees paid by stu-



dents, while allegedly misrepresenting the accreditation and recognition of his institutions.

In a statement issued

on Friday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said it has provisionally attached the university land and building,

worth about Rs 140 crore and located in the Dhauj area of Faridabad. The court is yet to take cognisance of the ED chargesheet. Quoting the ED chargesheet, officials told PTI that doctors at the medical college were employed "on paper" and were listed under a "22 days punch" or "two days per week" clause to be represented as regular faculty "just to obtain" requisite approvals from the National Medical Commission (NMC) so that the healthcare facility runs uninterrupted.

According to officials, the ED has recorded the

statement of the Registrar of the University, who "acknowledged" the visit of probe agencies to the campus and the arrests of "Dr Muzammil and Dr Shaheen, associated with the University hospital."

He said in his statement that the doctors of the medical college, established in 2019, were hired "without" any police verification.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University told the ED that the doctors reported to be involved in terror-related activities -- Dr Muzammil Ganaie, a jun-

ior resident in general medicine department since October 2021; Dr Shaheen Saeed, an associate professor in pharmacology since October 2021, and Dr Umar Nabi, the alleged suicide bomber and an assistant professor in general medicine since May 2024 -- were appointed during her tenure.

She informed the agency that these appointments were, however, "recommended" by the varsity's HR head and "approved" by Siddiqui, following which she issued formal appointment letters.

Iran's turmoil and confrontation with America pose a serious challenge

Lalit Garg

Iran's recurring turmoil isn't simply the result of a single event, a single decision, or the outrage of a single generation; it's the culmination of the historical, ideological, and geopolitical structures that have shaped the country since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Today, as street protests rage on social media, and Western analysts speculate about regime change, it's crucial to understand that Iran's crisis isn't

simply a matter of internal discontent, but deeply intertwined with the global balance of power. Iran's internal turmoil and instability, along with its confrontation with the United States, are becoming a major source of war and global imbalance. The growing conflict between Iran and the United States is not merely a bilateral issue; its repercussions could impact the entire world. This conflict increases the risk of war in West

Asia, which could directly impact global energy supplies and oil prices. Any instability in the Strait of Hormuz could disrupt international trade, increasing the risk of inflation and economic recession. Furthermore, this conflict could directly or indirectly draw regional countries into war, potentially exacerbating refugee crises, terrorism, and sectarian tensions. A confrontation between superpowers would further

polarize world politics, weaken international cooperation, and replace peace with an atmosphere of distrust and military competition, ultimately resulting in the consequences for all of humanity. The 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran not only ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and established a new government, but also created an ideological-political structure in which religion, politics, and the security apparatus

were intertwined. Under the concept of "Wilayat-e-Faqih," ultimate political authority was vested in the supreme religious leadership. To preserve and expand this system, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was established, which over time became not only a military force but also a center of economic, political, and ideological power. This is why Iran's system cannot be understood simply as a gov-

ernment or regime; it is a complete system, for which mere protests are not sufficient to remove it. Iran has witnessed several major popular movements over the past four decades. The 2009 Green Movement, the wave of economic discontent in 2017-18, the violent protests against fuel price hikes in 2019, and the calls for social freedoms in 2022—each time it was believed that the system might be toppled.

Editorial

Union-Chinese Communist Meeting

At BJP headquarters, a team led by party general secretary Arun Singh met with a delegation from the Communist Party of China (CPC). Clearly, some discussions took place. Later, a delegation led by Sun Haiyan, Deputy Minister of China's International Department, visited the RSS headquarters and met and held talks with Sarkaryavah (General Secretary) Dattatreya Hosabale. These meetings can neither be considered "courtesy" nor "diplomatic." Of course, publicly, the BJP and the RSS have been, more or less, ideologically opposed, even antagonistic. There was a period when India's Defense Minister called China "enemy number one." Indeed, China has a dictatorial "monopoly," while India is a fully democratic country. In our country, the President and Prime Minister are elected for five-year terms. The Chinese President can remain in office for as long as he wishes. Indeed, China has occupied more than 43,000 square kilometers of our land. Of this, approximately 38,000 square kilometers of territory was captured by China in the 1962 war, and Pakistan later "surrendered" 5,180 square kilometers to China. India and China have extremely serious and contentious disputes. Even the Mansarovar Yatra was banned before 2025. The military attack in Ladakh's Galwan Valley in June 2020, in which 20 brave Indian soldiers were martyred, can never be forgotten. It is a different matter that our soldiers later retaliated and killed 40-45 Chinese soldiers, but China has not acknowledged this reality to this day. The exact number is not known, but Indian soldiers certainly retaliated.

Mastering the Last Mile of JEE Main and Decoding NIT–IIIT–GFTI Cut-offs



Prashant Jha

As the countdown to JEE Main enters its final phase, lakhs of aspirants across the country find themselves standing at a decisive crossroads. Months—often years—of disciplined study now converge into a handful of crucial days. These last moments are not about learning everything anew; they are about sharpening what you already know, managing pressure, and converting preparation into performance. Alongside strategy, another question dominates the minds of students and parents alike: What rank or percentile is needed to enter NITs, IIITs, and GFTIs? Understanding last year's cut-offs offers both direction and realistic expectation. This mentor-style guide aims to do both—help you navigate the final days of JEE Main with clarity and provide a grounded overview of last year's cut-offs for premier government engineering institutions in India.

The Psychology of the Final Days: Calm Is a Competitive Advantage– In the final stretch before JEE Main, anxiety is natural, but panic is optional. Many students make the mistake of overloading themselves with new books, unsolved problem sets, and unfamiliar concepts. This

often leads to confusion and loss of confidence. The truth is simple: your rank will improve more by clarity and composure than by cramming one extra chapter. A calm mind recalls formulas faster, avoids silly mistakes, and manages time better in the examination hall. The final days should therefore focus as much on mental discipline as on academic revision. Last Days Strategy for JEE Main: Subject-wise Mentor Advice

Physics: Precision Over Proliferation– Physics in JEE Main is more about concepts than complexity. In the final days: Revise formula-based chapters such as Current Electricity, Capacitors, Modern Physics, Semiconductors, and Communication Systems. Focus on error analysis, units & dimensions, and graphs, which frequently yield direct questions. Avoid diving into new derivations or rare problem types now. Instead, re-solve previously attempted questions where you made mistakes. A well-revised Physics section can become a major score booster.

Chemistry: Your Rank Multiplier– Chemistry remains the most scoring subject if revised intelligently. Inorganic Chemistry should be revised directly from NCERT—line by line. Questions are often factual and NCERT-based. Physical Chemistry needs formula revision and practice of standard numericals from topics like Mole Concept, Electrochemistry, Thermodynamics, and Chemical Kinetics. Organic Chemistry should focus on reaction mechanisms, name reactions,

and common conversions. Avoid learning new reactions now; strengthen what you already know. Many top rankers credit Chemistry for stabilizing their percentile above 98.

Mathematics: Selective Strength, Not Complete Coverage Mathematics can be time-consuming, so smart selection is key. V Focus on high-weightage and familiar topics such as Matrices & Determinants, Vector & 3D Geometry, Probability, Statistics, Quadratic Equations, and Sequences & Series. Revise standard results, formulas, and shortcuts. Practice timed solving to avoid getting stuck on lengthy questions during the exam. Accuracy matters more than attempting all questions.

Mock Tests and Analysis: The Real Game-Changer– In the last 10–15 days, mock tests are not about testing knowledge—they are about refining strategy. Attempt mocks in the same time slot as your actual exam. Analyze each test deeply: identify silly mistakes, time traps, and weak areas. Decide your attempt order (which subject first) and stick to it. A student who improves mock analysis often outperforms another with higher theoretical knowledge but poor exam temperament.

The Day Before and Exam Day: Mentor's Golden Rules– Do light revision only a day before the exam—formulas, short notes, and NCERT highlights. Avoid discussing preparation with anxious peers. Sleep well; a fresh mind is more valuable than one extra hour of revision. On exam day, read questions carefully, avoid negative marking traps, and don't chase ego-driven attempts.

Understanding Last Year's Cut-offs: NITs, IIITs, and GFTIs (Indicative) Cut-offs vary every year depending on difficulty level, number of candidates, and seat matrix. However, last year's trends provide a realistic benchmark. The following cut-offs are approximate based on previous JoSAA counselling trends and should be used for guidance, not as absolute guarantees. NIT Cut-offs (General Category – Home State / Other State)

Top NITs demand very high ranks:

NIT Trichy, Surathkal, Warangal (CSE): Closing ranks typically within 2,000 – 6,000

Top NITs (ECE, EE, Mechanical): Around 6,000 – 15,000

Mid-tier NITs (CSE): Around 10,000 – 25,000

Lower NIT branches: Seats may extend up to 40,000 – 60,000, especially under Home State quota A percentile above 99 significantly increases chances in top NITs, while 97–98 percentile keeps mid-tier NITs within reach.

IIIT Cut-offs (IIIT Hyderabad Excluded)– IIITs focus heavily on CSE, IT, and allied branches. IIIT Allahabad, Bangalore, Gwalior (CSE): Around 6,000 – 12,000 Other IIITs (CSE/IT): Around 15,000 – 30,000 Electronics & allied branches: Up to 40,000 – 55,000 IIIT Hyderabad remains exceptional, with CSE closing well under 1,000 rank, and is not part of JoSAA counselling. GFTIs Cut-offs: A Practical Opportunity Government Funded Technical Institutions often remain underestimated but offer solid infrastructure and placements.

Popular branches may close between 35,000 – 70,000 Some GFTIs and newer institutes extend admissions beyond 1,00,000 rank, depending on category and quota For students with moderate ranks, GFTIs can be a strategic and respectable choice. Category-wise Advantage Students belonging to OBC-NCL, EWS, SC, and ST categories benefit from relaxed cut-offs, often extending opportunities by tens of thousands of ranks. However, preparation quality still determines branch and institute quality.

Percentile vs Rank: Clearing the Confusion– Many aspirants misunderstand percentile. A 99 percentile does not mean 99 marks. It means you performed better than 99% of candidates. Depending on the session, a 99 percentile may correspond to different marks but usually ensures a rank within 10,000–12,000.

Beyond Cut-offs: Choosing Wisely– A mentor's advice goes beyond chasing CSE at any cost: A good branch at a decent institute often outperforms a poor branch at a top institute in long-term satisfaction. Skills, internships, and self-learning matter immensely after college entry. Choose an institute where you can grow, not just survive. JEE Main is not the end—it is a gateway. Your discipline, clarity, and courage in these final days will define not just your rank, but your confidence going forward. Revise smartly, trust your preparation, and walk into the exam hall with belief.

Remember, ranks open doors—but it is you who must walk through them and build a future beyond numbers.

The state should also have its own sports institute

If a sports institute is established in Himachal Pradesh, it will not only help in making the players medal winners at the international level, but the country will also have a good training centre for the summer season...India has already secured its bid for the 2036 and 2030 Commonwealth Games, securing the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. India is likely to win the 2036 Olympics as well. Therefore, medal-winning performances in these Games are essential for the country's athletes. Himachal Pradesh, with its climate similar to that of Europe and America, should have a high-level sports institute for training, as our athletes often travel abroad, spending millions of rupees to train in better climates.

Bhupinder Singh

The National Institute of Sports, Patiala, is a very good training ground, but training here in the summer is extremely difficult. When we enter the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, a hundred meters from the gate, a plaque on the left reads, "We should not produce university scribes, not senior clerks, but great men who can bring glory to India on the world stage." A sports institute means an institution that fosters excellent performance at the global level. In Himachal Pradesh, efforts have been made to develop a high-quality sports infrastructure and tailor training programs to suit the needs of the athletes, enabling them to compete at the international level, win medals for the state and country, raise the tricolor aloft, and recite the tune of "Jana Gana Mana" to the entire world. The then-rulers of Himachal Pradesh have advocated transforming the Sports Department into a Sports Authority or a Sports Institute, but the reality of sports in Himachal Pradesh is evident to all. The new Sports



Policy also mentions a State Sports Institute. While world-class sports infrastructure has been established for many sports in Himachal Pradesh, a lack of trainers and other facilities has prevented the launch of such training programs. The lack of a sports culture is still evident in Himachal Pradesh. The three percent reservation in government jobs for Himachal athletes in the Sports Policy formulated during the Dhimal government is a significant gift. Now, two decades later, the new Sports Policy has been improved on various aspects. However, when faced with ground realities, it remains to be seen how effectively the government machinery and sports insti-

tutions can implement it. Participation of maximum number of people in sports should be ensured, by this when thousands of students will undergo fitness program then some good players will also be found among them. In the sports policy, for the medal winning performance of Himachali players at national and international level, maximum number of sports academies and sports wings in educational institutions have been asked to be opened in the state through government and sports associations keeping in view the facility of place and talent and in future there is also an intention to strengthen the sports infrastructure in the

state through CRS from various big companies. It has also been said to arrange the facility of play field in rural areas through MNREGA. The level of various sports in Himachal Pradesh has not improved even after opening of sports hostels in the state. While Himachal Pradesh has occasionally been able to deliver good results thanks to a few passionate coaches, it has often lagged behind at the national level, barring a few sports. Whether in Himachal or any other state, the coach is often seen as the key player in achieving excellent performance. This is why the Indian Sports Ministry and several states are emphasizing the establishment of high-performance training centers and contracting coaches who can achieve excellent performance. Similar to the Khelo India, Gujarat, and Odisha training centers that have achieved high sports results, Himachal Pradesh should also establish mores such high-performance centers and academies. Experienced coaches who have produced medal-winning performances at the international level should

be contacted for five years, subject to the condition of achieving excellent performance, so that the children of Himachal Pradesh can also receive the same training facilities while living in Himachal Pradesh. Following the Central and Kerala governments, cash prizes and awards have been provided to coaches, just like athletes. You will take every student to the sports ground for fitness, and you will surely find some good players among them. After discovering talent, good sports facilities should be provided for training along with studies. For this, there should be a state sports institute on the lines of the National Sports Institute. If the government seems determined to do this, then it should be implemented soon. The sports institute should conduct long-term training camps for the players of Himachal Pradesh on a scientific basis, and there should be seminars and short-term training courses for the physical education teachers and former national and international players of the state.

SUGAR Cosmetics Launches 'Sugarquoted', a First-of-its-Kind Beauty Education Podcast in Collaboration with YOSO Media

New Delhi,Agency; SUGAR Cosmetics, a premium beauty brand with a cult following among Gen Z and millennials, has launched Sugarquoted, a first-of-its-kind podcast dedicated to beauty education in India, in collaboration with YOSO Media, a leading content and storytelling studio. Hosted by Vineeta Singh, CEO and Co-founder of SUGAR Cosmetics and a widely recognised Shark on Shark Tank India, the podcast sets out to bring depth, authenticity, and expertise to conversations around beauty.

In a beauty industry flooded with viral trends and often conflicting advice, Sugarquoted positions itself as a space for thoughtful, intelligent dialogue. The podcast features raw, unfiltered conversations with creators, founders, dermatologists, beauty opinion leaders and other cultural voices, offering industry insight directly from those shaping the future of beauty, alongside the emotional and personal dimensions that are rarely articulated.

The debut episode features Ankush Bahuguna, one of India's pioneering male beauty creators, known for breaking gender barriers in makeup through his widely followed series Wing It With Ankush and collaborations with global brands. The season also features a diverse lineup of voices, including Diipa Khosla, founder of global beauty brand Inde Wild; Dr. Jamuna Pai, pioneering cosmetologist and founder of Blush Clinic; and Namita Thapar, entrepreneur and investor.

Together, these conversations span beauty, makeup and skincare, alongside culture, science, entrepreneurship, women's wellness, and identity - bringing together perspectives rarely seen on a single



Indian beauty platform.

With India's beauty and personal care market currently valued at USD 28 billion and projected to reach USD 34 billion by 2028, the industry has witnessed an explosion of content but a shortage of credible, educational voices. Sugarquoted aims to bridge this gap by creating a trusted platform where beauty is discussed with the nuance, context, and depth it deserves.

Commenting on the launch, Vineeta Singh, CEO and Co-founder, SUGAR Cosmetics, said:

"Beauty in India deserves a deeper conversation. With Sugarquoted, we're creating a space where we can move beyond trends and truly explore what beauty means - a ritual, a passion, a business, and a form of self-expression. This podcast is for anyone who has ever loved a lipstick, obsessed over a skincare rou-

tine or simply wondered why beauty matters far more than we often admit."

Ashish Sangle, Co-founder and COO, YOSO Media, added:

"While podcasting may seem crowded, we strongly believe that long-form content still builds trust when done with clarity and intent. Partnering with SUGAR Cosmetics on Sugarquoted allows us to combine our experience in building content-led platforms with SUGAR's deep understanding of the Indian beauty consumer. This is not just another podcast - it's a meaningful step towards elevating beauty education in India."Season 1 of Sugarquoted comprises 10 episodes, releasing every Friday across all major streaming platforms, including YouTube, Spotify Podcasts. Viewers can simply search for Sugarquoted to tune in.

WEF economists expect global economic conditions to weaken in 2026 over mounting debt, geopolitics

Davos,Agency: Around 53 per cent of World Economic Forum chief economists who were surveyed expect global economic conditions to weaken in the year ahead, down from 72 per cent in September 2025, even as they acknowledge the relative resilience of the global economy amid turbulence.

The global economic outlook has improved modestly but remains uncertain, with asset valuations, mounting debt, geoeconomic realignment and rapid artificial intelligence deployment creating both opportunities and risks, according to the World Economic Forum's latest Chief Economists' Outlook, published on January 16. Although 53 per cent of chief economists expect global economic conditions to weaken in the year ahead, this marks a significant improvement from the 72 per cent who held this view in September 2025.

Uncertainty around technology



care, engineering and retail follow as "fast-movers", with one to two-year timelines.

On growth, expectations diverge by region, with economists expecting strong momentum in South Asia and East Asia and weak to moderate growth in Europe.

On macroeconomics, nearly a third of respondents are concerned about sovereign debt crises in advanced economies and nearly half in emerging economies; over 60 per cent expect governments to rely on higher inflation and tax revenues to manage elevated debt.

"The Chief Economists survey reveals three defining trends for 2026: surging AI investment and its implications for the global economy; debt approaching critical thresholds with unprecedented shifts in fiscal and monetary policies; and trade realignments," said Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum.

remains high, with 52 per cent expecting AI-related stocks to decline and 40 per cent expecting gains.

When it comes to the potential expected returns from AI, there is wide variation across regions and sectors. Roughly four in five chief economists expect productivity gains within two years in the US and China. Chief economists expect the information technology sector to adopt AI fastest, with nearly three-quarters anticipating imminent productivity gains. Financial services, supply chain, health-

YES SECURITIES' OMNI App Offers Faster, Smarter Demat and Multi-Asset Trading for Today's Investors

New Delhi ,Agency: YES SECURITIES designed its OMNI App in line with the leading financial firm's commitment to digital-first services. The next-generation platform is designed to offer investors a seamless, fast, and smart trading experience. The app features advanced tools, an intuitive interface, and multi-asset capabilities. It enables users to manage equities, derivatives, mutual funds, and bonds from a single platform. With the OMNI App, YES SECURITIES seeks to enhance the investment experience for tech-savvy individuals who value efficiency, more educated decision-making, and secure transactions.

- * Unified services across asset classes - equities, derivatives, mutual funds, and bonds.
- * Real-time market updates, price alerts, and advanced charting tools.
- * Swift account opening with digital KYC verification.
- * Comprehensive portfolio tracking features along with performance analytics.
- * Secure transactions with end-to-end encryption and multi-factor authentication.

OMNI app serves as an all-in-one uni-

fied platform, taking away the need to juggle multiple applications to manage different asset classes.

Open a Demat account, monitor live markets, track prices, and receive instant notifications of vital developments, all within a single app. It's advanced charting tools and technical indicators help investors make smarter, data-driven decisions, whether they are executing quick intraday trades or want to build long-term investment strategies. All investment options on one platform streamline portfolio management, save time, and reduce hassle, assisting investors to focus more on strategy.

Opening a Demat account with the OMNI app is easy. New investors can complete the registration and KYC verification process entirely online in a short time, with less manual paperwork and no in-person visits. Existing clients of YES SECURITIES just need to link their account, and they can access a consolidated view of all holdings, past transactions, and portfolio performance. So, migration from other platforms is smoother, along with a coherent overview of one's financial portfolio, offering a seamless user experience.

India-EU free trade agreement will be ‘mother’ of all deals, says Goyal

New Delh,Agency: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the free trade agreement between India and the 27-nation bloc EU, the negotiations for which are at the last leg, will be the “mother of all deals” the country has signed so far.

The conclusion of talks for the agreement is likely to be announced on January 27.

The president of the European Council, Antonio Luis Santos da Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will be on a state visit to India from January 25-27. They are chief guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations.

“I have done seven deals so far. All with developed economies. This one will be the mother of all,” Goyal told mediapersons here.

“In sectors of India’s interest, we are getting a super deal. In areas of EU interest also, we are giving them a super deal.

It has to be a win-win. The good part is we do not compete with each other. We have different interests,” he added.

The NDA government has finalised seven trade pacts since 2014: Australia, the UK, Oman, New Zealand, the UAE, the EFTA bloc and Mauritius.

Before that, several pacts were imple-



mented, and that includes with 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian nations) bloc, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Agreement) and Singapore.

India’s pact with the EU will be the biggest, as the bloc comprises 27 developed countries.

The EU bloc includes France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria,

Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Denmark and Sweden.

He also said the bilateral trade between the two sides was reasonably balanced in goods and services.

It will open huge opportunities for growth, Goyal said, adding that India and the European Union (EU) complement each other and were not in competition.

Strong performance: Nuvoco Vistas records record sales and profit in the third quarter

Ranchi: Nuvoco Vistas Corporation Limited delivered a strong performance in the third quarter of FY 2025-26, recording its highest-ever third-quarter cement sales. During the quarter, the company sold a total of 5 million metric tonnes of cement, marking a 7 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Consolidated revenue from operations rose to Rs 2,701 crore, while profit increased by 50 per cent to Rs 386 crore. According to the company, the share of premium products remained at a high level of

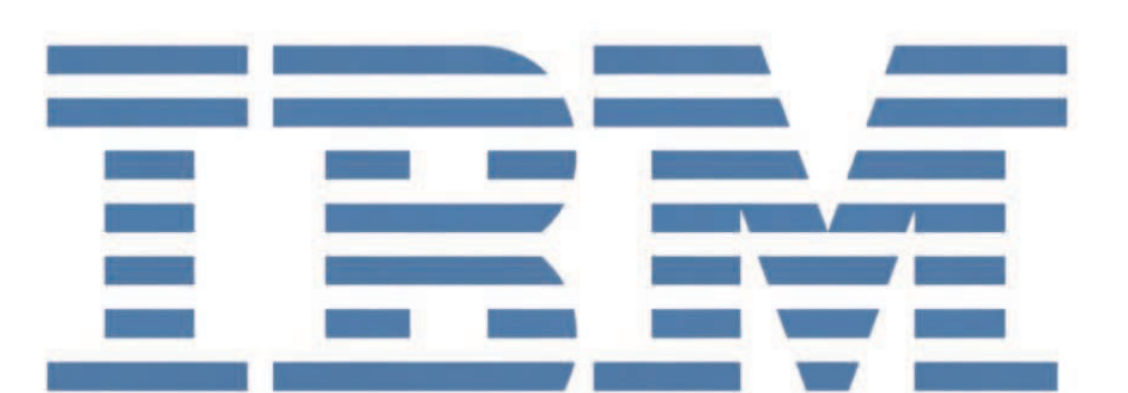
44 per cent for the second consecutive quarter, strengthening brand traction. Nuvoco said that capacity expansion in East India and ongoing work at the Vadraj Cement plant are progressing as planned, which will increase the company's total production capacity to around 35 million tonnes per annum in the coming period. Managing Director Jayakumar Krishnaswamy said that demand was impacted in the initial months due to weather conditions and festive season, but a sharp recovery was



seen in December, supported by improved operational efficiency and cost control. He added that these measures would further strengthen the company's competitive position in the long term.

Focus on Digital Sovereignty, IBM launches new software for AI-related work

Ranchi: IBM has launched a new software called IBM Sovereign Core, which will enable companies and government institutions to keep their data and AI-related operations completely under their own control. IBM India head Sandeep Patel said that the use of AI is growing rapidly in the country, making local control over sensitive information extremely important. According to the company, the software has been developed keeping in mind new regulations and increased oversight, ensuring that data and AI-related systems operate strictly under national laws. The solution allows organizations to work securely within their own data



centers or domestic technology infrastructure. It also reduces dependence on external technologies and makes audits and compliance processes easier. IBM said the software will help organi-

zations quickly start AI-related work, keep data secure, and strengthen systems in line with future technological needs. Through this, organizations will maintain full control over their

systems and will not have to depend on external agencies. According to the company, this initiative will further strengthen digital security and technological self-reliance in the coming years.

Decisive battle in Indore, India-New Zealand ODI series final today

Agency, New Delhi

The three-match ODI series between India and New Zealand has reached a crucial stage. Both teams have won one match each in the first two encounters, leveling the series at 1-1. Now, the third and final ODI will be played on Sunday at the Holkar Stadium in Indore, where the series winner will be decided. Both teams have arrived in Indore and are preparing for the crucial match. The first ODI of the series was played in Vadodara, where India registered a strong start with a 4-wicket victory. However, New Zealand made a brilliant comeback in the second ODI, winning the match by 7 wickets in Rajkot. With this victory, the Kiwi team leveled the series and set the



stage for the decider. Daryl Mitchell's performance was the biggest factor in New Zealand's victory in the second match. He played a superb unbeaten innings of 131 runs and shared a crucial 162-run partnership with Will Young, which made chasing the target of 285 runs easier. For the Indian team, the biggest concern remains the inconsistent performance of the batsmen. So far, the batting has not lived up to expectations, and better performance is

expected from the top and middle order in the decisive match. On the other hand, the bowling, especially the spin department, is also under scrutiny. Indian spinners have failed to make an impact on home ground. In the second ODI, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja proved expensive. Kuldeep conceded 82 runs in 10 overs for one wicket, while Jadeja gave away 44 runs in eight overs. Together, they conceded 126 runs in 18 overs, which proved costly for the team.

In contrast, New Zealand's debutant spinner, Jayden Lennox, showed good control over the Indian batsmen. He took one wicket for 42 runs in 10 overs and kept the middle order in check. This victory for New Zealand has once again highlighted the problem that India has been facing in domestic cricket for some time, where the visiting team's spinners appear more effective than the Indian spin attack. Indore's Holkar Stadium is known for being a batsman-friendly ground. Due to its short boundaries and flat pitch, high scores are often seen here. Therefore, all eyes will once again be on the batsmen of both teams. On Friday, both teams held net practice sessions, where the players assessed the pitch and conditions. It will

be interesting to see which team performs better under pressure in the decisive match and clinches the series. India ODI Squad: Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (Wicketkeeper), Shreyas Iyer (Vice-Captain), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant (Wicketkeeper), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal New Zealand ODI Squad: Michael Bracewell (Captain), Adi Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway, Zak Foulkes, Mitch Hay, Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Jayden Lennox, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rae, Will Young.

Formula 1: Lewis Hamilton to get new race engineer at Ferrari for the 2026 season

Agency, London

Seven-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton will have a new race engineer at Ferrari for the 2026 season. Ferrari announced on Friday that Riccardo Adami has been moved from his current role and given a new responsibility. According to Ferrari's statement, Riccardo Adami will now manage the team's driver academy and the testing of previous cars program. The team clarified that Hamilton's new race engineer will be announced in due course. Several reports emerged last season regarding tense radio exchanges between Hamilton and Adami during Hamilton's first year with Ferrari. However, Hamilton dismissed these speculations, calling them "just noise." In May 2025, Hamilton said, "Do we have disagreements? Yes, like in every relationship. But we work them out. We're both working towards the same goal." Despite this, uncomfortable radio communication between the two continued



until the end of the season. The season was one of the most disappointing of Hamilton's career, as the 41-year-old failed to secure a single podium finish throughout the entire season, while his teammate Charles Leclerc achieved several podium finishes. Notably, Riccardo Adami has previously worked with four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel and Spain's Carlos Sainz at Ferrari. He has been part of the Maranello-based team for the past 11 years. Ferrari is set to launch its new car livery next week.

Damien Martyn returns after battling meningitis, says, 'Ready for 2026'

Agency, New Delhi

Former Australian cricket legend Damien Martyn has shared an emotional post on social media after miraculously recovering from a serious illness like meningitis. The 54-year-old Martyn wrote on X on Saturday, "Ready for 2026, I'm back." He also expressed his gratitude to his family, friends, and well-wishers. Damien Martyn fell ill suddenly last month. His condition worsened, and he was immediately admitted to the hospital, where doctors confirmed he had meningitis. This disease causes inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. During treatment, he was kept in an induced coma for more than a week. In his post, Martyn wrote, "On December 27, 2025, my life slipped through my fingers when



meningitis took hold of my brain. I was put into a medically induced coma for 8 days without my knowledge so I could fight this deadly disease, and I fought." He further stated that doctors had given him a 50-50 chance of survival. After coming out of the coma, he was unable to walk or speak, but within just four days, he not only started walking and talking but also surprised the doctors. He was

then discharged from the hospital and is now in the recovery phase. Damien Martyn played 67 Tests, 208 ODIs, and 4 T20 Internationals for Australia between 1992 and 2006. He was a key member of the Australian Test team under Steve Waugh's captaincy and was known for his brilliant stroke-play. In Test cricket, he scored 13 centuries and averaged 46.37. Martyn was also part of the Australian team that won the 2003 ODI World Cup. In the final against India, he scored an unbeaten 88 runs, forging a match-winning partnership with Ricky Ponting. He retired from international cricket during the 2006 Ashes series and has largely remained out of the public eye since then. Now, after overcoming a serious illness, Damien Martyn's return is nothing short of an inspiration for his fans and the entire cricketing world.

Sports Authority of India invites applications for 323 Assistant Coach positions in 26 sports

Agency, New Delhi

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has invited applications from eligible Indian citizens for the recruitment of 323 Assistant Coach positions across 26 sports disciplines. The Sports Authority is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The selected Assistant Coaches will be posted at SAI's regional centers, National Centers of Excellence, or training centers located across the country. The pay scale for these positions will be Level-6, ranging from 35,400 to 1,12,400 (formerly Pay Band-II 9,300-34,800 + Grade Pay



4,200). Sports included in the recruitment: The sports disciplines for which vacancies have been announced for Assistant Coach positions include Athletics (28), Archery (12), Badminton (16), Basketball (12), Boxing (19), Canoeing (7), Cycling (12), Fencing (11), Hockey (13), Football (12), Gymnastics (12), Handball (6), Judo (6), Kabaddi (6), Kho-Kho (2), Rowing (11), Sepak Takraw (3), Shooting (28), Swimming (26), Table Tennis (14), Taekwondo (11), Tennis (8), Volleyball (10), Weightlifting (10), Wrestling (22), and Wushu (6). Reservation and Eligibility Criteria: The recruitments will be made as

per the standard reservation policy of the Government of India. In addition, 33 percent horizontal reservation for women will also be applicable in each sports discipline. The maximum age limit for these positions is 30 years. The essential qualification includes a Diploma in Coaching from SAI NSNIS, Patiala, or an equivalent certificate from a recognized Indian/foreign university. In addition, candidates with a coaching certificate along with participation in the Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games, or World Championships, or those who have received the Dronacharya Award in the relevant sport, will also be eligible.

Brief

Controversy surrounds Babar Azam being prevented from taking a single

New Delhi: A moment of tension between Steve Smith and Babar Azam during the Sydney Derby played at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the Big Bash League has become a topic of discussion. In the 11th over of the Sydney Sixers' innings, Babar Azam wanted to take a single and change the strike, but captain Steve Smith, who was at the non-striker's end, refused. Following this decision, a conversation ensued between the two players on the pitch, and Babar's displeasure was clearly visible. After the match, Smith reacted to the entire incident, calling it a purely strategic decision. In a conversation with a channel, Smith said that the team management was asking him to play faster, but he wanted to stay on strike for one more over, keeping the Power Surge in mind. He explained that it was important to take advantage of the short boundaries at that time, and that is why he did not take the single. Babar was at the crease at that time, having scored 47 runs off 38 balls. After three dot balls in Chris Green's over, Babar tried to take a run on the last ball, but Smith clearly refused. Immediately after this, Smith justified his decision. During the Power Surge, he hit four consecutive sixes in Ryan Hadley's over, scoring a total of 32 runs.

Ajinkya Rahane pulls out of remaining Ranji Trophy matches due to personal reasons

Agency, New Delhi

Mumbai's experienced batsman Ajinkya Rahane will not be seen playing for Mumbai in the remaining matches of this season's Ranji Trophy. Rahane has informed the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) that he will not be participating in the remaining two league matches of this season due to personal reasons. Mumbai will play its next two league matches, the first against Hyderabad from January 22 to 25 and the second against Delhi from January 29 to February 1 at the MCA-BKC Ground. According to a report in an English newspaper, Rahane has clarified that he will not be available for the remaining red-ball matches of this season. The team for the Hyderabad match is yet to be announced. Rahane has been representing Mumbai for the last two seasons but has not played for India since July 2023. His performance in this Ranji season has been average, with only one century in four matches. The 37-year-old Rahane will be a part of the Kolkata Knight Riders team in the upcoming IPL season. Earlier, he had also relinquished the captaincy



of Mumbai, and Shardul Thakur was appointed the new captain. Despite stepping down as captain, Rahane had expressed his commitment to contributing to the team as a player. In the current Ranji Trophy points table, Mumbai is at the top of Group D with 24 points from three wins and two draws in five matches. Now, the team has two league matches remaining, and Rahane's absence will have to be taken into account. Ajinkya Rahane played his last Test match for India against West Indies in 2023. He has scored a total of 5077 runs in 85 Tests, including 12 centuries and 26 half-centuries. Rahane also played in the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023 final, where he scored a total of 135 runs in two innings.

Australian Open 2026: Venus Williams thanks organizers for wildcard, ready to make history

Agency, Melbourne

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams has expressed her gratitude to the organizers for being granted a wildcard for the 2026 Australian Open. The 45-year-old American legend will become the oldest female player to compete in the singles main draw with this wildcard. Venus returned to tennis last season after a long 16-month break. She started 2026 at the Auckland Classic, where, despite receiving a wildcard entry, she lost in the first round to world number 53 Magda Linette of Poland. She also



received a wildcard at the Hobart International, but was eliminated in the first round against 38-year-old German player Tatjana Maria. This match also became the match with the highest combined age in WTA history. Speaking to reporters at Melbourne Park, Venus said, "It's been five years since I've been here. Time has flown by so quickly. I am incredibly

grateful for this opportunity given by Tennis Australia. It's special for me to have the opportunity to play in front of the fans. I have received tremendous support while walking around the city and during the competition. I will try my best to perform at my highest level." There has also been considerable debate this time regarding the allocation of wildcards at the Australian Open. Questions were also raised about domestic star Nick Kyrgios, who eventually withdrew from the men's singles. Kyrgios only completed four singles matches last season and his ranking is outside the top

600. The organizers then also gave a wildcard in the men's singles to 40-year-old former champion Stan Wawrinka. Some fans questioned why Venus Williams, who hasn't won a Grand Slam match since 2021, was given a wildcard instead of an emerging player. However, former Grand Slam champions Andy Roddick and Kim Clijsters strongly voiced their support for Venus. Venus, a two-time finalist at Melbourne Park, will break the record held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who lost in the first round of the Australian Open in 2015 at the age of 44.

Pro Wrestling League: Haryana Thunders make a spectacular start, defeating Punjab Royals 7-2

Agency, Noida

Haryana Thunders made a strong start in the Pro Wrestling League 2026, defeating Punjab Royals 7-2 in their first match. In the match played late on Friday night, Haryana took an early lead and maintained their dominance till the end.

Neha Sangwan, who was the Player of the Match, gave a brilliant performance in the 57 kg women's category, defeating Punjab's captain Roxana Zasina 8-0. Meanwhile, Under-23 World Champion and Asian Championship bronze medalist Priya Malik was chosen as the Fighter of the Match for her spirited performance in the 76 kg women's category. The Pro Wrestling League 2026 is being held from January 15 to February 1 at the Noida Indoor Stadium.

Haryana started the match in spectacular fashion. In the 86 kg



category, Ashirov Ashraf defeated Taniel Gaphrindashvili 6-5 in a thrilling match. However, in the 74 kg category, Punjab's Chandramohan took advantage of the power minute to defeat Parvinder 13-6, leveling the score at 1-1.

After this, the match completely went in favor of Haryana. Neha Sangwan gave Haryana the lead by defeating Roxana Zasina 8-0 in a one-sided match in the 57 kg women's category. In the 62 kg category, two-time Olympic medalist Irina Koliadenko further strengthened the

lead by defeating Ana Godinez 15-2.

After this, Ankush Chandram defeated Chirag Chhikara 5-2, while in the 65 kg category, Tumur Ochir Tulga defeated Islam Guseynov 15-0 on the basis of technical superiority.

The 76 kg women's category match was the most exciting, where a close contest was seen between Priya Malik and Kajal Dhochhak. The match ended in a 2-2 draw, but Kajal secured the win based on the final point, giving Haryana a 6-1 lead. For Punjab, Dinesh Dhankhar defeated Anirudh Gulia 7-3 in the heavyweight category, making the score 6-2.

In the last match of the day, Haryana's Yui Susaki and Punjab's Hanshika Lamba faced each other. The match was awarded to Olympic champion and four-time world champion Susaki via forfeit, giving the Haryana Thunders a resounding 7-2 victory.

Liverpool goalkeeper handed six-match ban by FA for racist comments

Agency, London

The English Football Association (FA) has handed Liverpool goalkeeper Rafaela Borggräfe a six-match ban for making racist comments. Liverpool manager Gareth Taylor confirmed the ban on Friday, stating that the player has already served five of the six matches. According to British media reports, the FA launched an investigation into Borggräfe in September. She was accused of using offensive and discriminatory language towards a teammate. The identity of the player has not been publicly revealed. Speaking to reporters ahead of Sunday's Women's Super



League (WSL) match against Tottenham Hotspur, Gareth Taylor said, "There is an update on this matter. The FA has completed its thorough investigation and the player has been given a six-match ban. This ban has been running concurrently with our matches, so she will not be available for selection this weekend. She will be

available for selection after that." He added, "We are pleased that this matter is now concluded. We have full clarity now and we can all move on from this episode." The 25-year-old Rafaela Borggräfe joined Liverpool in July and has played three matches for the team in the Women's Super League so far.

Akshay Kumar's Fun with Contestants on Wheel of Fortune, Find Out When and Where You Can Watch the Entertaining Show



After Amitabh Bachchan's quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati, Akshay Kumar is now bringing a new way for viewers to win money. The promo of the actor's game show Wheel of Fortune has been released, in which the rules of the game are explained and contestants are seen trying their luck by spinning the wheel. The show's promo is truly entertaining.

Ahead of its premiere on January 27, Sony TV released a new promo of Akshay Kumar's upcoming show Wheel of Fortune. The show is hosted by Bollywood star Akshay Kumar himself, and it features three contestants who are seen using both their luck and intelligence at the same time. In the promo, the first contestant is asked to solve a puzzle and, after choosing a letter, spins the wheel. Different amounts of money are written on the wheel. If the chosen letter is correct, the contestant wins the entire amount that appears on the wheel—but the game is not complete without a twist.

There are also images of snakes in the middle of the wheel. If the wheel stops on a snake image, all the earnings of that round become zero. Akshay Kumar has shared the new promo of the show on social media. In the caption, the actor wrote, "Luck is yours, money is from the channel, and lots of fun from my side. Wheel of Fortune and much more is coming from January 27, Monday to Friday at 9 pm, only on Sony TV."

Let us tell you that Wheel of Fortune India is not an original Indian show.



"Success Turned Poisonous and Life Became Hell": Kangana Ranaut Recalls the Events of 2016

When there is a social media trend, it is impossible for actress Kangana Ranaut to stay away from it. Following the trend, the actress has revisited the painful memories of the year 2016. Kangana recalled those old days when a long legal battle of notices went on between her and Hrithik Roshan. However, the actress believes that if she had known earlier how things would turn out, she would not have been so unhappy.

Kangana shared a video on Instagram in which she spoke about her memories from 2016—a year that felt like a curse for her and her career. From dealing with legal cases to

Kangana recalled those old days when a long legal battle of notices took place between her and Hrithik Roshan. However, the actress believes that if she had known earlier, she would not have been so unhappy. Kangana shared a video on Instagram in which she talked about her memories from the year 2016, although 2016 was like a curse for her and her career.

becoming part of a media trial, she went through a lot. Sharing the video, she wrote in the caption, "Why is everyone suddenly remembering 2016? The pace of my career only kept rising from beginning to end. After blockbuster films like Queen and Tanu Weds Manu Returns, I became the highest-paid actress. But then in January 2016, one of my colleagues sent me a controversial legal notice that shook the industry and divided it into two

parts."The actress further wrote, "Success turned into poison and life became hell. People were divided into different groups and many legal battles began. If ten years ago I had known that in 2026 I would be eating carbohydrates in every meal, laughing freely, and that none of the 2016 drama would matter anymore, I truly wouldn't have been so sad back then. Thank God it's not 2016—we are in 2026."

Taking a Step Back: Neha Sharma Gets Nostalgic While Sharing Unseen Pictures from 2016

Bollywood actress Neha Sharma has carved her own identity in the film industry, leaving behind her father's political legacy. On Friday, she revisited old memories through social media. Actress Neha Sharma shared a post on her official Instagram account, in which she posted some old pictures and videos from 2016. These images include photo-shoots, travel moments, and beautiful memories with her sister. The clips featured in the post bring back memories of her early career. Along with the post, she wrote, "Let's take a little step back. There was something special about the year 2016."

The actress hails from Bhagalpur, Bihar. Her father, Ajit Sharma, is a senior Congress leader and former

MLA, who has been active in politics for a long time. Despite coming from a political background, Neha chose not politics but the entertainment industry to make her mark. She began her career in Telugu cinema and made her debut with the film Chirutha. However, the actress did not gain much recognition initially. Later, she was seen in Kurradu in 2009, which turned out to be a hit. After establishing a distinct identity in the Telugu film industry, she turned towards Bollywood.



Miss Universe Manika Vishwakarma Visits NCC Camp, Says "Today's Cadets Will Be India's Strength Tomorrow"

A special enthusiasm was seen at the NCC camp in Delhi Cantt when Miss Universe India 2025, Manika Vishwakarma, arrived there. She not only shared her experiences with the cadets but also answered all their questions. She encouraged the cadets to dream big and gave them the confidence to achieve those dreams. As soon as she reached the camp, Manika was given a warm welcome. She interacted openly with the cadets and learned about their training, daily routine, and future plans. The cadets, in turn, asked her questions about career choices, self-confidence, stage fear, and dealing with failures. Manika answered all the questions in a very simple and approachable



manner.

Speaking to IANS, Manika said, "Many people here are my batchmates. They have a sense of responsibility along with passion and strong determination. I have visited this place before, and today I have come here again as a guest. What I see in front of me are strong and capa-

ble citizens of India."

She further said, "The discipline and confidence gained from NCC are useful in every field of life. Those who are cadets today will be the strength of India tomorrow. I can see the same discipline and confidence in the people here. The values we learn through NCC help us become responsible citizens."Talking about Manika Vishwakarma's journey, she has become an inspiration for millions of young people today. Born in Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, Manika comes from a simple family.

Hearing on Petition Related to Karisma Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor's Divorce Documents; Court Issues Notice to the Actress



After the death of Sanjay Kapoor, a case related to his property has already been pending in court. Last year, Karisma Kapoor's children, Samaira and Kiaan Kapoor, had demanded criminal action against the industrialist's estate and his third wife, Priya Kapoor. Now, the Supreme Court has heard a

petition filed by Priya Kapoor seeking documents related to the divorce of Sanjay Kapoor and Karisma Kapoor, and has also issued a notice to Karisma Kapoor in the matter.

On Priya Kapoor's plea concerning the divorce case of Karisma Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor, the

Supreme Court has issued a notice to Karisma Kapoor and asked her to file a response within two weeks. Justice A. S. Chandurkar's chamber bench heard Priya Kapoor's application. In fact, Priya Kapoor filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking certified copies of all documents related to the divorce case of Karisma Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor that took place in 2016. In her application filed before the Supreme Court, Priya Kapoor has demanded certified copies of all documents related to the divorce petition, documents submitted in court, orders passed by the Supreme Court, and especially the settlement agreement.

Bhojpuri Actress Anjana Singh Is Alive, Refutes Death Rumors Circulating on Social Media

News about the deaths of superstars like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Kajal Aggarwal, and Rajinikanth has gone viral on social media in the past. Now, reports claiming the death of leading Bhojpuri actress Anjana Singh are spreading rapidly online. However, the actress herself has informed her fans through a post that she is alive and completely safe.

Instagram queen Anjana Singh shared a post featuring a smiling photo of herself with the words "RIP" written on it. The image also shows a garland of marigold flowers, making it appear as if the actress has truly passed away. However, the photo is not original—it is edited. The text on the image reads,



"Famous Bhojpuri film actress dies in a road accident." In the caption, the actress wrote, "Fake news. Do not believe it at all. Anjana Singh is absolutely safe."

Fans are deeply hurt by the fake news spreading about the death of their favorite actress and are strongly criticizing those responsible for circulating such rumors. This is not the first time fans' emotions have been hurt in this way. Earlier, false news about Dharmendra's death had also caused a wave of mourning across the country. At that time, Sunny Deol, Hema Malini, and Esha Deol had refuted the rumors on social media and also expressed their anger at the media.