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I have come to receive my brother: Modi

Agency, New Delhi

UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in India on Monday evening at 4:30 pm. Prime Minister Modi broke protocol and received him at Palam Airport in Delhi. In a post on X, Modi said, "I have come to the airport myself to receive my brother." Sheikh Zayed will hold a meeting with PM Modi shortly and will depart from India around 6 pm. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the two leaders may finalize major deals on trade, investment, defense cooperation, energy, and important global issues today. The Ministry of External Affairs also stated that the two leaders may discuss the current situation in the Middle East. This visit is taking place at a time when the situation in West Asia remains very sensitive. Tensions persist between the UAE and Saudi Arabia in Yemen. What does India export to the UAE? India's major exports to the UAE



India exports the most to the UAE among the Gulf countries

The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner. Trade between the two countries exceeds 6 lakh crore. Of this, the UAE imported goods worth 2 lakh crore from India. India has a trade deficit with the UAE, meaning India imports more from the UAE than it exports. India imported goods worth 4 lakh crore from the UAE in the financial year 2022-23. India has also signed a trade pact with the UAE. India exports petroleum products, metals, stones, gems and jewelry, minerals, food items such as grains, sugar, fruits and vegetables, tea, meat and seafood, textiles, engineering machinery products, and chemicals to the UAE.

include petroleum products, jewelry, minerals, food items metals, stones, gems and such as grains, sugar, fruits

Prime Minister and Home Minister pay tribute to brave NDRF personnel on its Raising Day

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to the courage, dedication, and selfless service of the brave personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on its Raising Day. The Prime Minister described the NDRF's role in saving lives, providing relief, and rehabilitation during disasters as an ideal for the country and the world, calling it a global standard for disaster management. Home Minister Shah hailed the NDRF as a reliable pillar of the nation during disasters and paid tribute to the martyred personnel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X that in

and vegetables, tea, meat and seafood, textiles, engineering

every challenging moment of disaster, NDRF personnel are at the forefront, saving lives, providing relief, and restoring hope. Their professional competence and dedication reflect the highest standards of service. The Prime Minister said that over the years, the NDRF has set a benchmark in the field of disaster preparedness and response, which has also been recognized internationally. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah also extended his best wishes to the NDRF personnel on its Raising Day on X. He said that the NDRF's role is crucial in realizing the Modi government's resolve to build a disaster-resilient India.

machinery products, and chemicals.

High-Speed Train Derails and Collides with Another Train, 39 Dead, Many Injured

Agency, Madrid



Passengers screamed in panic, breaking the windows with hammers to get out of the train.

and fall down a four-meter embankment. They said that the front of the Renfe train suffered the most damage. A Spanish journalist who was on one of the trains said by phone that there was a moment when it felt like an earthquake. He said that passengers used emergency hammers to break the windows and some managed to get out without serious injuries. A passenger reported that the train came to a complete stop with a jolt and everything went dark. He said he was in the last carriage of the train, where people fell on top of each other. He said the attendant behind him suffered a head injury.

not yet known. He also said that the train that derailed was less than four years old. That train belonged to the private company Iryo, while the other train involved in the accident belonged to Renfe, Spain's public train company. Iryo issued a statement saying it was deeply saddened by what happened and was working to manage the situation. According to reports, the rear section of the first train derailed and collided with the second train, causing its first two carriages to derail

Brief News

Supreme Court delivers setback to Minister Vijay Shah in Colonel Sophia case



New Delhi: Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah has suffered a setback from the Supreme Court in the case involving his controversial remarks about Colonel Sophia Qureshi. On Monday, the court, while hearing a petition to quash the FIR against Vijay Shah, said that it was now too late. The court also ordered the state government to decide on the prosecution of Vijay Shah within two weeks. It is noteworthy that an FIR was registered against Vijay Shah, a minister in the Madhya Pradesh government led by Mohan Yadav, after his controversial statement about Colonel Sophia Qureshi during Operation Sindoora. The Supreme Court heard the case on Monday. Senior advocate Maninder Singh represented Minister Vijay Shah in court. He told the court that Minister Vijay Shah had already issued a public apology and was cooperating with every investigation.

Congress is Spreading Lies About 'VB-G Ram Ji': Shivraj

New Delhi: Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, defended the 'Viksit Bharat' Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) or 'VB-G Ram Ji' Act, calling a letter circulated by the Congress party on social media a "bundle of lies and deceit." Speaking at a press conference here, Shivraj Singh took a dig at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, saying that the Congress has nothing to do with 'nation first' and 'country's development'. He said that the Congress had given the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' (Remove Poverty) in 1971, but in reality, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty during the Modi government's tenure. Mahatma Gandhi considered 'truth' paramount, but today's Congress is spreading confusion through AI-generated videos and fake photos. He directly accused Rahul Gandhi, saying that the then Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had deprived laborers of unemployment allowance under MNREGA.

A crucial report from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has issued a serious warning regarding India. According to the annual global assessment released in December 2025 by the museum's Early Warning Project, India ranks fourth among countries at risk of mass atrocities against civilians in the next two years. The study analyzed a total of 168 countries. Most concerning, the report places India at the top of the list of countries where mass atrocities are not currently occurring but are most likely to erupt in the future. In other words, India is being viewed

We should gradually retire: Nitin Gadkari

Agency, Nagpur



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said, "Ashish's father is my friend. Now we should gradually retire and hand over the responsibility to the next generation, and when this system starts running smoothly, we too should retire and do something else." Union Minister Gadkari, the chief patron of AID, said that this is the third year of the

'Advantage Vidarbha Expo' being held in Nagpur from February 6 to 8. Gadkari said that the Vidarbha region has very good entrepreneurs in various sectors. He said that the objective of the three-day event is to establish Vidarbha as a strong and emerging growth center on the industrial map of India.

Shankaracharya Avimukteswaranand gives up food and water over being stopped and his disciples being assaulted

Prayagraj: Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteswaranand's protest continues, saddened by being prevented from going to the Prayagraj Magh Mela and the assault on his disciples.

The Shankaracharya is staging a sit-in protest against being stopped from proceeding with his palanquin (chariot) procession, at the spot where the police had left him. He sat on protest in the cold all night in his tent. He has not consumed any food for 20 hours, nor has he drunk any water. He said that he will not take a dip in the Ganges until the police administration escorts him with respect and according to protocol. According to media reports, Shankaracharya's media in-charge, Shailendra Yogiraj,

Nitin Naveen files nomination for BJP President post



New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Working President Nitin Naveen filed his nomination for the post of National President at the party's central headquarters here on Monday, as part of the ongoing election process. BJP's current president, JP Nadda, wrote on the social media platform X that Nitin Naveen's

nomination papers for the post of National President were filed today at the party headquarters, along with the BJP Parliamentary Party. Several senior party leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister JP Nadda, and Nitin Gadkari, were present during the nomination process.

The Election Commission will host IICDEM-2026 from January 21 to 23

Agency, New Delhi

The Election Commission of India is fully prepared for the first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026. The conference will be held from January 21 to 23 at Bharat Mandapam here. It is being organized by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM).

According to the Election Commission, IICDEM 2026 will be the largest global conference of its kind organized by India in the field of election management and democracy. It is expected to be attended by approximately 100 international delegates from over 70 countries worldwide, along with representatives from international organizations, foreign missions based in India, and academics and experts involved in electoral processes.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commissioner Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, and Election Commissioner Dr. Vivek

Joshi will welcome the delegates and inaugurate the proceedings on January 21. The three-day program includes an inaugural session, plenary sessions of EMB Leaders, EMB working group meetings, and thematic sessions based on global electoral issues, model international electoral standards, and innovations and best practices in electoral processes. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commissioner Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, and Election Commissioner Dr. Vivek

36 thematic groups, formed under the leadership of CEOs of States/Union Territories and supported by national and international academics, will participate in in-depth discussions during the conference. These discussions will also involve participation from leading academic institutions including 4 IITs, 6 IIMs, 12 National Law Universities (NLUs), and IIMC. The Election Commission will hold more than 40 bilateral meetings with EMBs to discuss and further collaboration on various challenges faced by EMBs worldwide.

8 Army Soldiers Injured in Encounter with Terrorists in Kishtwar Forests

Agency, Jammu



Eight Indian Army soldiers were injured in a fierce encounter between security forces and terrorists in the upper and dense forest areas of Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. According to reports, the encounter lasted for several hours, with the firing finally ceasing late in the evening. The Army's White Knight Corps has named this special operation 'Operation Trashi-1'. The operation began when a joint team of the Army and Jammu

and Kashmir Police was conducting a search operation in the Sonnar area, northeast of Chatru. According to information provided by the security forces, they suddenly came face to face with terrorists during the search. Seeing themselves surrounded, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on the security forces and attacked with grenades to break the

Bus carrying wedding guests overturns in Jharkhand, nine dead, dozens injured

Ranchi: At least nine people were killed and dozens injured when a bus carrying wedding guests overturned in Latehar district of Jharkhand on Sunday, police said. The accident occurred in the Orsa Bangladhar valley under the Mahuadarn police station area, police said. The bus was carrying a wedding party from Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh to Mahuadarn in Latehar, the SP said. The bus suddenly overturned, killing five people on the spot. Four of the deceased were women. The injured have been admitted to the hospital. Another official said that two more people died during treatment at a hospital in Latehar, while two others died at the Sadar Hospital. Gumla Civil Surgeon Shambhunath Choudhary said that nine injured people were referred to the Sadar Hospital here, of whom two were declared dead.

India expresses objection to Poland's relations with Pakistan

New Delhi: India expressed its desire to promote mutual trade, cultural ties, and people-to-people relations with Poland, but also openly voiced its objection to India being unfairly targeted by the US through tariffs on trade with Russia, and to the fact that Polish assistance to Pakistan strengthens terrorist infrastructure. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar clearly presented India's position during a delegation-level bilateral meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Poland, Radoslaw Sikorski, at Hyderabad House on Monday. The visiting leader agreed with India's stance, acknowledging that targeting India selectively is unfair. He said that Poland has also been a victim of terrorist violence and therefore cannot support anything that strengthens terrorism.

Serious Alert for India: Risk of 'Mass Atrocities' in the Next Two Years

Agency, New Delhi

as a potential new "flashpoint." According to the report, there is a 7.5 percent probability of organized mass violence against civilians in India by the end of 2026. Researchers define "mass atrocities" as instances where at least 1,000 non-combatant civilians are killed within a year due to their group identity, such as religion, ethnicity, politics, or geographic location. The three countries ranked above India are Myanmar, Chad, and Sudan. However, these countries are already experiencing widespread violence and civil conflict. India's situation is considered different and more noteworthy because while such violence is not currently

widespread, the risk indicators are rapidly emerging. This study was conducted jointly by researchers from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Dartmouth College. It analyzed data from several decades to understand the common characteristics exhibited by countries before the onset of mass atrocities. These indicators were then compared to the current situation. The report asks the question: "Which countries today most closely resemble those countries where mass atrocities began one or two years after similar conditions existed in the past?"

JMM Godda Unit Holds Meeting to Prepare for 47th Jharkhand Foundation Day

Correspondent.DN

Godda : A meeting of the Godda district unit of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) was held at the Anjana Hotel auditorium in Godda to prepare for the 47th Jharkhand Foundation Day celebrations, which will be held at Gandhi Maidan in Dumka on February 2, 2026. The meeting was chaired by District President Prof. Prem Nandan Kumar. Those present included Litipara MLA and Central Spokesperson Mr. Hemlal Murmu, Central Committee Secretary Mr. Pankaj Mishra, and Borio MLA Mr. Dhananjay Soren. During the meeting, block presidents from all blocks, members of the central committee, and

the presidents of the various wings of the organization – the Women's Wing, Minority Wing, Farmers' Wing, and Youth Wing – shared their views on ensuring the success of the program. Central Secretary Mr. Pankaj Mishra said that a large number of workers from Godda district will travel to Dumka on February 2nd with drums, traditional musical instruments, and their traditional weapons (bows and arrows), and will surpass all previous records in terms of participation. He assured that there would be no shortage of resources. He emphasized that the workers are the backbone of the party and should not consider themselves inferior to anyone. He also stated



that the party's MLAs, MPs, or their representatives would dedicate one day a month to Godda district to listen to the problems of the workers and find solutions. He also mentioned the plan to construct a grand party office in Godda soon. Litipara MLA Hemlal Murmu recalled the old days, saying that they

used to walk to Dumka on February 2nd. He noted that times have changed, and people now travel by vehicle. Based on the attendance at the meeting, he expressed confidence that Godda district would lead other districts in bringing workers to Dumka. He suggested wall painting and holding meetings with villagers to promote the event. He also pledged to dedicate three days a week to Godda district to listen to the concerns of the workers and help resolve their problems. Borio MLA Mr. Dhananjay Soren said that while "Gurui" (referring to Shibu Soren) would no longer be seen on the stage on February 2nd, his ideas, thoughts, and inspiration would continue to guide them. He reiterated his commitment to ensuring maximum participation in the program. District President Professor Prem Nandan Kumar instructed all workers to hold meetings of all block committees, town committees, and affiliated units by January 28th. Supervisors were also appointed for all blocks to ensure the success of the program. He said that Godda district would break its own record. Present at the meeting were District Secretary Basudev Soren, Vice Presidents Munna Khurshid and Shyam Hembram, Central Committee members Pushpendra Tudu, Simon Malto, Rajendra Das, Mohd. Irfan, Indrajit Pandit, Sarwan Mandal, Vinod Murmu, Sunil Marandi, Shatrujan Singh, Yusuf Ansari, Ramchandra Soren, Sultan Ahmed, Tala Babu Hansda, Awadh Kishore Hansda, Poonam Devi, Mohd. Argaman, Vilas Mandal, Lalita Jha, Shivam Dubey, Vijay Mahto, Subal Soren, and hundreds of other workers.

Adani Foundation Organizes Grand Celebration of Traditional Tribal Festival 'Sohrai' in Godda

Correspondent.DN

Godda : Under its community development program, the Adani Foundation organized a grand celebration of Sohrai, a traditional and important festival of the tribal community, in the Godda district of Jharkhand. The event took place from January 9th to 18th, 2026, across nine tribal villages in four blocks of Godda district – Mahagama, Boarior, Thakur Gangti, and Godda – with over

1000 members of the tribal community participating enthusiastically. The festival, held in Govindpur and Karnu villages of Mahagama block, Jirali and Goradih villages of Boarior block, Bahadurchak village of Thakur Gangti block, and Ranidih, Gangta, Nayabadi, and Petbi Santhal villages of Godda block, vividly showcased the rich heritage of tribal culture. Sohrai is a major festival of the tribal community, deeply connected to agriculture, livestock, and nature worship. It symbolizes gratitude for a good harvest, prosperity of livestock, and ecological balance, reflecting the deep connection between humans, animals, and the



environment. As part of the Sohrai festival, houses in the villages were cleaned and decorated with traditional Sohrai murals. Livestock were also worshipped with due reverence and

gratitude. The community collectively offered prayers for prosperity, health, and mutual harmony. During the celebrations, villagers, dressed in traditional attire, performed captivating folk dances and songs in groups. Men and women danced to the melodious tunes of traditional musical instruments like the mandar, dhol, nagara, and flute. These performances effectively depicted various aspects of hunting, farming, seasonal changes, and tribal social life. Through this

CIPET Bhagalpur Celebrates its First Foundation Day with Great Enthusiasm
District Magistrate Inaugurates the Event by Lighting the Lamp



Bhagalpur : The first foundation day of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Bhagalpur, was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The program was inaugurated by the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur, Dr. Naval Kishore Chaudhary, IAS, by lighting the lamp. On this occasion, the Deputy Development Commissioner, the Joint Director and Head of CIPET Bhagalpur, Mr. Abhit Lakra, and all other distinguished guests also participated in the lamp lighting ceremony. On this occasion, the Joint Director and Head, Mr. Abhit Lakra, honored all the guests by presenting them with bouquets and shawls. Mr. Ram Nath Tiwari, Officer (Personnel & Administration) from CIPET Headquarters, was also present at the event. The Joint Director and Head, Mr. Abhit Lakra, and Mr. Ram Nath Tiwari, Officer (Personnel & Administration), in their addresses, provided detailed information about the objectives, achievements, and future plans of CIPET: Skill and Technical Support Centre (CSTS) and Plastic Waste Management Centre (PWMC). On this occasion, the District Magistrate addressed the CIPET trainees, encouraging them and highlighting the importance of technical education and plastic recycling. The District Magistrate of Bhagalpur, Dr. Naval Kishore Chaudhary, IAS, suggested that the water containers to be distributed to the Kanwariyas (pilgrims) should be manufactured at CIPET Bhagalpur in collaboration with the Industries Department, Government of Bihar. Certificates were also distributed to the trainees who had received training under the Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Scheme. During the program, cultural performances were presented by the CIPET trainees, which were appreciated by the guests and the institute's staff. At the end of the program, a vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Ram Nath Tiwari, Officer (Personnel & Administration), CIPET Headquarters.

Review Meeting of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) Held

Correspondent.DN

Bhagalpur : A 'Bankers Review Meeting' organized by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) was successfully concluded at Hotel Galaxy 16 in Bhagalpur. This important meeting was chaired by Ms. Khushboo Kumari, General Manager (GM), District Industries Centre (DIC), Bhagalpur. Senior officials from the development and banking sectors participated in the meeting, including Ms. Khushboo Kumari, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Bhagalpur, Mr. Abhinav Bihari, Lead District Manager (LDM), Ms. Priya Kumari, District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Mr. Gopal Prasad Singh, Officer, KVIC, In addition, all the officers of the District Industries Centre and representatives from



various banks were present at the meeting. During the meeting, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) was reviewed in detail. A bank-wise analysis of the progress made by banks under PMEGP during the year 2025 was conducted. The status of physical verification of PMEGP units was discussed. Cases referred back by the banks were reviewed so that they could be rectified and brought back into the process. Emphasis was placed on providing EDP training and the second installment

A review meeting was held regarding the works of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin under the Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Godda

Correspondent.DN

Godda : A review meeting was convened in the auditorium of the Collectorate under the chairmanship of District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ms. Anjali Yadav, IAS, regarding the works of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin under the Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Godda.* In the meeting, the concerned officers reviewed the various ongoing works under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin Phase-2 through a presentation. It was stated in the meeting that the main objective of the second phase of



Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) is to maintain the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of villages and to improve the level of cleanliness in rural areas through solid and liquid waste management. Under ODF Plus, block-level meetings should be held with the Block Development Officers, Mukhiyas (village heads), and Panchayat Secretaries in all blocks to

coordinate the construction of solid and liquid waste management structures in the villages. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner inquired about the construction of toilets under the Open Defecation Free program and the works related to Phase-2. She sought explanations from the personnel with slow progress, and if the explanations were not found

satisfactory, they were relieved of their duties, and instructions were given to complete the pending works as soon as possible. During the meeting, the Executive Engineer of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Godda, Mr. Sanjay Sharma, District Coordinators Shatrujan Prasad and Sanjeev Ranjan, all Junior Engineers, Block Coordinators, and all agencies.

Monthly Review Meeting of District Coordination Committee Held Under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner

Correspondent.DN

Sahibganj : A monthly review meeting of the District Coordination Committee was held in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mr. Hemant Sati, IAS. The meeting was primarily attended by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Prabal Garg. The meeting began with a review of the preparations for the upcoming State-level Maghi Purnima Fair, and necessary instructions were given to the concerned officers to ensure the successful, safe, and orderly conduct of the fair. Following this, pending cases in the Supreme Court and High Court were reviewed. The Deputy Commissioner instructed all concerned officers to file counter-affidavits promptly in pending cases and ensure their timely disposal. The meeting also included a detailed review



of prison and court security arrangements and matters related to the District Security Committee. During the review of the District Task Force (Mining), the Deputy Commissioner inquired about the work done in light of the instructions given in the previous meeting. Based on the mining measurement reports submitted by the

Circle Officers of all blocks, where illegal mining or mining outside the designated area was found, the Mining Officer was instructed to take immediate action in the respective cases. In the review of the District Road Safety Committee, necessary instructions were given regarding hit-and-run cases, and emphasis was placed on increasing vigilance regarding road safety. In addition, during the review of matters related to forest clearance and the Land Conservation Department, ongoing work on ponds, check dams, and renovation projects was discussed, and necessary instructions were given. The meeting was attended by Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Satish Chandra, Project Director ITDA Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das, Civil Surgeon Dr. Ramdev Paswan, Additional Collector Mr. Gautam Bhagat, Sub-Divisional Officer Sahibganj Mr. Amar John Aind, Sub-Divisional Officer Rajmahal Mr. Sadanand Mahto, District Supply Officer Mr. Jhunu Kumar Mishra, District Transport Officer Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Chaudhary, District Planning Officer Mr. Anoop Kumar, along with all Block Development Officers and Circle Officers.

District-Level Officers' Meeting Held at Banka Collectorate to Review Disposal of Pending Letters



Banka : A Monday meeting was held at 10:30 AM in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Banka District Magistrate Mr. Navdeep Shukla, IAS, with all district-level officers. The meeting reviewed the progress of the disposal of pending letters in various offices of the district, and instructions were given to immediately dispose of letters that had been pending for a long time. The Deputy Development Commissioner, Additional Collector, Special Officer, and other senior district-level officers were present at the meeting.

Brief News**Geeta demands improvements to the dilapidated conditions at Jagannathpur CHC**

West Singhbhum: The true state of the healthcare facilities at the Community Health Center (CHC) in Jagannathpur, West Singhbhum district, came to light on Monday when BJP District President Geeta Balmuchi conducted a surprise inspection of the hospital. During the inspection, she expressed her displeasure at the widespread disarray and severe shortage of resources in the hospital, calling it a direct disregard for the health of the general public. Geeta Balmuchi found that currently, only one doctor is posted at the community health center. Due to the severe shortage of doctors, patients are having to wait for hours for treatment, while seriously ill patients are not receiving timely and adequate treatment. She said that running health services for such a large population with only one doctor is extremely worrying. The condition of health facilities for women was also found to be alarming during the inspection. Due to the absence of a female doctor at the hospital, female patients, especially pregnant women, are facing considerable difficulties. In many cases, women are forced to go to private or other government hospitals, which increases their financial and mental burden. Geeta Balmuchi also questioned the lack of essential diagnostic facilities at the hospital. She stated that due to the unavailability of important diagnostic facilities like CT scans, patients are being referred elsewhere. This not only wastes time but also leads to the condition of many patients becoming critical due to the delay in diagnosis. In addition, complaints were received regarding the non-payment of regular salaries to employees working through outsourcing. The continuous delays in salary payments have led to discontent among the employees, which is clearly affecting the functioning of the hospital and the services provided to the patients. Several BJP workers were present on the occasion, including Mandal President Chandra Mohan Gop, Jagannathpur Mandal President Rai Bhumij, Sanjay Barik, Dheeraj Singh, Vishnu Gupta, Jitu Gupta, Shashi Das, Chetan Gop, Ravi Das, and Rani Tiriya.

Grand Shukrana Kirtan Samagam to be held at Guru Gobind Singh Public School from 31st

East Singhbhum: A Shukrana Samagam (thanksgiving congregation) will be held at Guru Gobind Singh Public School, Kamde, Ranchi, on January 31st and February 1st. This congregation is being organized to express gratitude to the Almighty and to offer prayers for Guru's blessings. On this auspicious occasion, special prayers will be offered for the inauguration of the school's newly constructed auditorium and the laying of the foundation stone for a super-specialty hospital and nursing college. Renowned Ragi Jathas (groups of Sikh musicians) will grace the occasion with their presence. The program will begin with a Diwan (congregation) on the evening of January 31st, followed by Gurbani Kirtan (recitation of Sikh hymns) from 11:00 AM on February 1st. Bhai Satinderbir Singh, Bhai Charanjeet Singh Lal (Delhi), and Bhai Sukhpreet Singh and Pawandeep Singh (Lucknow), all Hazuri Ragis from Darbar Sahib Amritsar, will present Shabad Kirtan. Guru Ka Langar (community meal) will be served continuously after the Diwan. Transportation arrangements have also been made for the convenience of the congregation. Regarding this, a delegation from the organizing committee, led by Jyoti Singh Matharu, Vice Chairman of the Minority Commission of the Jharkhand Government, and including Ranjit Singh Happy, Paramjit Singh Tinkoo, Jaideep Singh Chadha, Ranbir Singh, Rajdeep Singh Chhabra, Surender Singh, Saranjit Singh Bal, Tavinder Singh Manga, Savit Singh, and Harjot Singh Swinky, arrived in Jamshedpur and met with Sardar Nishan Singh, President of Sakchi Gurdwara, to discuss the details of the Kirtan Samagam. Also present on this occasion were Trustees Satnam Singh Sidhu, Khajan Singh, Paramjit Singh Kale, Randhir Singh, Sukhwinder Singh Nikku, Jaspal Singh Jasse, and social worker Satbir Singh Soma from the Sakchi management committee. Jyoti Singh Matharu stated that, with Guru's grace, the school trust has resolved to provide education as well as healthcare services to all. He added that this Shukrana Samagam will further strengthen the spirit of collective unity, service, and dedication. Nishan Singh, the head of Sakchi Gurdwara, said that this gathering will not only strengthen religious faith but also mark the beginning of a new chapter of social service in the fields of education and healthcare. He urged the congregation to attend in large numbers and pay their respects in the presence of the Guru. The organizing committee appealed to the congregation to arrive on time and help make the program a success.

Ekal Abhiyan's Teacher Training Program Begins

Khunti: The collective annual residential teacher training program of Ekal Abhiyan's zonal office in Gayatri Nagar began on Monday. The training program was inaugurated with the lighting of lamps and chanting of mantras near the images of Bharat Mata and Goddess Saraswati. Thirteen teachers from Khunti, 17 from Karra, and 19 from the Rania cluster are participating in the training program. Members of the zonal committee and senior workers were prominently present at the inaugural session. On this occasion, Raju Pandey, the central co-youth head of Ekal Abhiyan, highlighted the objectives of Ekal Abhiyan and explained in detail the importance of the five-pronged education—primary education, health education, village development education, self-respect awakening education, and values education. The zonal committee and guardians said that the work of Ekal Abhiyan is akin to divine service.

FSEAM 2026 Has Been Announced by BIT Mesra in an Academic Collaboration with IIT Kharagpur

Ranchi, Jharkhand: Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra (BIT Mesra) is pleased to announce its academic collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur for the International Conference on Frontiers in Surface Engineering & Additive Manufacturing (FSEAM 2026). The conference is scheduled to take place from 21st - 23rd January, 2026 at the Kalidas Auditorium, IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, India. Bringing together experts from academia, industry and research, FSEAM 2026 will explore and exchange knowledge on sustainability through engineered surfaces and additive innovation. The event is jointly organised by the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, with a distinguished



Attendees will include Dr. Shivaji Chakraborty, President of the West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology (WAST India); Dr. Narendra B. Dahotre, Regents Professor, University of North Texas; Dr. S Somnath, former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); Mr. J. D. Patil, President of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE); and Prof. B. S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad. FSEAM 2026 aims to serve as a global platform for presenting scientific advancements, facilitating technical discussions, and fostering collaborations that bridge academic research with real-world applications.

Tata Steel becomes active after MLA's intervention, initiates steps to free Aam Bagan from encroachment

Agency. East Singhbhum



Following a letter from Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy, Tata Steel has swung into action to free Aam Bagan (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Maidan) from encroachment. Anand Kumar, head of Tata Steel's land management department, wrote a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of East Singhbhum on Monday, requesting the deployment of a large number of police personnel under the supervision of a magistrate to free the ground from encroachment and illegal activities. The letter was written on January 6th. In the letter sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Tata Steel mentioned that a large part of Aam Bagan was earlier fenced with iron grills to protect it from undesirable elements, but it has come to light that the grills have been

cut by anti-social elements. Following this, a part of the ground has been illegally converted into a vehicle parking lot. Not only that, several illegal garages are operating there, and fairs are also being organized without any permission. The letter states that to protect Aam Bagan from encroachment and illegal activities, the company has decided to construct a new boundary wall around the entire ground. Administrative cooperation is necessary for this, so that the encroachment removal operation can be carried out in the presence of a magistrate and sufficient

**BJP submits memorandum against drug trafficking, warns of agitation**

Agency. East Singhbhum

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has started putting pressure on the administration regarding drug trafficking, illegal activities, and the deteriorating law and order situation in the city. On Monday, delegations from various BJP units in the Burmamines, Sidgora, and Birsnagar police station areas met with the station house officers and submitted memorandums, warning of agitation if timely action is not taken. At the Burmamines police station, a delegation led by BJP Burmamines Mandal President Ritesh Jha submitted memorandum to Station House Officer Dilip Yadav. State Executive Committee member Kulwant Singh Bunti said that drug trafficking, theft, snatching, and other criminal incidents have increased rapidly in the police station area. He gave the police a 15-day ultimatum, warning that if drug trafficking is not completely stopped within this period, the BJP will launch a large-scale agitation. Hundreds of workers, including Satveer Singh, former Mandal President Deepak Jha, Suraj Singh, Ravijent, Saurabh Srivastava, Rakesh Chaudhary, and former General Secretary Rakesh Singh, were present on the occasion. Regarding the problems in the Sidgora police station area, BJP Baridh Mandal President Kumar Abhishek led a delegation of workers who submitted a memorandum to the station house officer. They expressed concern over drug addiction, the sale of brown sugar, illegal liquor, theft, robbery, and snatching incidents. District General Secretary Sanjeev Singh, Anil Singh, Santosh Thakur, Pankaj Priya, Jagannath Upadhyay, Rajesh Rajak, Vinay Verma, Ranjit Singh, Manmohan Lal, Puri Rao, Nirmal Gop, Pramod Mishra, Saket Kumar, Kanchan Dutta, and other workers were present.

Orientation Program for Jan Arogya Samiti Members in Ranchi

Agency. Ranchi



An orientation program for members of the Jan Arogya Samiti (JAS) was organized on Monday at the auditorium of the Sadar Hospital complex in Ranchi. The program aimed to familiarize committee members with their responsibilities, working methods, and the role of public participation in health services. Initiating the program, District Program Coordinator Preeti Chaudhary explained that the Jan Arogya Samiti has been formed to ensure the quality of services in every Ayushman Arogya Mandir (health and wellness center). The committee is chaired by the head of the Gram Panchayat (village council), while its members include community health officers, Sahiyas (community health workers), women from village organizations, and other rural representatives. On this occasion, State Program

Coordinator Akai Minj provided information about various schemes and programs of the Health Department. He elaborated on the structure, objectives, scope of work, monitoring of health schemes, financial management, and the role of the Jan Arogya Samiti in increasing health awareness in the community. Sahiyas are a bridge between the Health Department and the village: During the program, it was explained that the Jan Arogya Samiti plays a crucial role in strengthening health services at the local level. The Sahiyas act

■ Public participation in healthcare services will be strengthened

among farmers, laborers, and people working in slum areas and construction sites. Comprehensive testing at the panchayat level is necessary. If a person experiences symptoms such as cough for more than two weeks, fever, loss of appetite, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, or difficulty breathing, they should get tested immediately.

14 Panchayats Declared TB-Free: Notably, 14 panchayats in Ranchi district have been declared TB-free. This achievement has been made possible through the active cooperation of the health department, panchayat representatives, Sahiyas (community health workers), Anganwadi workers, and the community. Under the TB-Free India campaign, additional nutritional support is being provided to TB patients undergoing treatment by becoming 'Nikshay Mitra' (friends of TB patients).

running throughout the country since 1962, and currently, there are 28-29 lakh TB patients in the country. He said that approximately four lakh people die from TB every year in the country, although there has been a significant reduction in the TB mortality rate in Jharkhand. TB can be eradicated not only through medicine and testing but also through public participation, better nutrition, a clean lifestyle, and quality food. Dr. Kamlesh stated that this disease is particularly prevalent

Missing Kanhaiya recovered from Koderma by Ranchi Police

Agency. Ranchi



Ranchi police have recovered Kanhaiya, who had been missing for 61 days, from Koderma. According to information received on Monday, 12-year-old Kanhaiya Kumar went missing from Ormanji on the evening of November 22. The Ranchi Police SIT was conducting raids in seven states for his safe recovery. During this time, Ranchi SSP Rakesh Ranjan received information that the child was being held captive in Koderma. Following this, a team of Ranchi police, with the help of Koderma police, safely recovered the child. The SSP himself was monitoring the entire operation. Notably, Kanhaiya Kumar, a resident

of the Ormanji area, had been missing since the evening of November 22, 2025. According to Kanhaiya's mother, he had gone to play football with other children near SS Plus-Two High School near Ormanji Block Chowk. After returning from there, he reached near Mamta Market, where his mother sells street food (puchka). After coming to the shop, he made some chaat himself and gave it to his mother to eat. After eating the chaat, he left saying he would be back in a short while. But he did not return. The family searched extensively, but he could not be found. The woman's eldest son, Krishna Kumar, a total of 13 accused.

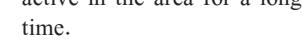
Five arrested in firing incident

Agency. Ranchi



Police have taken major action in connection with the firing incident that took place in the Pandara area of Ranchi on Saturday night. A special team formed under the direction of SSP Rakesh Ranjan conducted raids and arrested a total of five criminals, including the main accused in the incident. The arrested accused include Sanjay Pandey (the main accused), Bablu, Ravi, Ajju Sah, and another accomplice. The police will produce all these accused in court on Monday, from where they will be sent to jail under judicial custody. It is noteworthy that a violent clash took place between the Sandeep and Sanjay gangs near Manya

Tower in the Pandara area on Saturday night. In this power struggle, the criminals fired indiscriminately, seriously injuring three youths, Akash, Vikas, and Ravi Yadav. The injured are undergoing treatment at the hospital. A disputed piece of land had been sold, and a dispute over the distribution of the proceeds was ongoing between the two groups, which escalated into a violent clash on Saturday night. According to the police, this gang has been active in the area for a long time.



Temperature Rises in Jharkhand, Chaibasa Records Over 30 Degrees Celsius

Ranchi: Temperatures have been steadily rising in various districts of Jharkhand for the past two to three days. As a result, the maximum temperature in Chaibasa crossed 30 degrees Celsius. Minimum temperatures are also on the rise. On Monday, Jamshedpur recorded the highest minimum temperature in the state at 10 degrees Celsius. According to the Meteorological Department, both maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to increase by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in most districts of the state, including the capital Ranchi, in the coming days.

IndiGo to inform if it can fly 2k flights daily

New Delhi, Agency: As IndiGo's exemption from the new safety-enhancing flight duty rules for A320 fleet pilots expires Feb 10, the airline must tell DGCA this week, likely Monday, whether it can still run more than 2,000 flights a day under the new rules that increase pilot requirement, reports Saurabh Sinha.

If it cannot, authorities are expected to step in and cut flights in time to avert a repeat of last December's chaos, for which the DGCA fined the airline Rs 22.2cr, an amount pilots' body has dismissed as "peanuts", saying the regulator counted only three days of disruption when the turmoil lasted far longer.

IndiGo chaos lasted beyond 3 days DGCA probed: Pilots body

Regular meetings are being held with IndiGo to get a status on their

preparedness for once the flight duty time limitation (FDTL) exemption ends on Feb 10. They have informed us about their pilot hiring plans. The airline has been doing dry runs with its scheduling software by matching available pilot strength with number of flights to be operated. On Monday they are expected to share their post Feb 10 preparedness," said people in the know.

It is learnt that from Feb 1 IndiGo will plan its crew rosters as per new FDTL rules and without factoring in the current exemption that will end later that month. IndiGo flights have been reduced till the end of winter schedule (which ends on last Saturday in March) and the airline plans to serve its entire network with these cuts under the new FDTL rules. It is learnt IndiGo may not seek any further exemptions.

The aviation ministry and the DGCA are keeping a very close watch



on the situation.

"We can't and won't allow a repeat of what happened last Dec," said sources.

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has termed the DGCA's Rs 22.2cr fine on IndiGo as "peanuts" and questioned some aspects of its

report. FIP president Captain CS Randhawa said: "The DGCA probe takes cognisance of IndiGo flight disruptions only on three days – Dec 3, 4 & 5. In reality, the disruptions lasted much longer till about mid Dec and the scale was much higher." Captain Randhawa ques-

tioned the lack of action. "Issuing a warning letter after a massive disruption of this scale is a joke, like the fine amount."

Also with IndiGo flights cut, why hasn't the FDTL exemption been revoked? The DGCA is levying a fine of Rs 30 lakh for each day of non-compliance of the new flight duty rules.

Does it mean that non-compliance of the law can be traded with a penalty?" Captain Randhawa said.

IndiGo said on Saturday that it is "committed to taking full cognisance of the orders and will, in a thoughtful and timely manner, take appropriate measures... an in-depth review of the robustness and resilience of the internal processes at IndiGo (is) underway to ensure that the airline emerges stronger out of these events in its otherwise pristine record of 19 plus years of operations.."

In 2023 too, -40 was good enough for NEET PG TMC taunts PM Modi over Singur silence

New Delhi, Agency: There is much outrage in the medical community that the cut off for NEET PG 2025 has been reduced to zero percentile for the reserved category, which is equivalent to a score of minus 40. However, this is not the first time a score of minus 40 was good enough to qualify. The cut off was similarly reduced to zero percentile in 2023 for all categories and then too the equivalent score was minus 40.

In 2023, when the medical counselling committee announced the reduction to zero percentile, it did not reveal that this was equivalent to a score of minus 40. media had analysed the NEET scores and pointed out that zero percentile meant 14 candidates who scored zero marks, 13 with negative marks and the one getting the lowest mark of -40 out of 800 would also qualify. In 2025, there are 126 candidates who have scored zero or less. Zero percentile means the lowest score or that none of the candidates got less. In 2023 and in 2025, one candidate got the lowest score of -40. Interestingly, in July 2022, in



response to a petition filed by three students seeking lower cut off, the government had stated in court that "minimum qualifying percentile for admission is required to be maintained to ensure minimum standard of education and general standards for admission to professional courses". Taking the government's argument into consideration, the court dismissed the petition and ruled against lowering the standards of medical education as it "involves in its ambit the matter of life and death".

In 2023, govt officials were quoted in news reports justifying lowering the

cut off to zero as a one-time measure to fill vacant PG seats. However, this has become a regular feature with cut offs being lowered to abysmal levels every year. About 2 lakh to 2.3 lakh students appear for NEET PG for over 70,000 seats (about 57,000 MD/MS seats and the rest are DNB and PG diploma seats). However, the seats in private medical colleges remain vacant as the fees for clinical subjects in many of them runs into crores which most candidates cannot afford. Lowering the cut off increases the pool of 'qualified' candidates and improves the chance of finding candidates with deep pockets who can afford the fees even if they have rock bottom scores.

To lower NEET PG qualifying marks to abysmal level is driven solely by commercial considerations. This decision 'reserves' post-graduate medical seats to the rich and mighty in commercial fiefdoms called private medical colleges. This is shameful and must be condemned as unadulterated corruption," tweeted former principal health secretary of Andhra Pradesh Dr PV Ramesh.

Kolkata, Agency: Bengal industries minister Shashi Panja mocked PM Modi for skipping any project announcement for Singur at a rally on Sunday, saying it left state BJP functionaries "disappointed and frustrated". "We hoped the PM would announce projects for Singur. There was none," she said, accusing Modi of speaking "on multiple topics" while avoiding specifics.

TMC also pushed back against BJP's pre-rally claim of an industry exodus from Bengal and attempts to revive Singur as a symbol. In a post on X, the party said state approved a Rs 500-crore warehouse project on 11.35 acre in Singur, aimed at boosting e-commerce logistics and generating employment.

Party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee took aim at Modi's call for "real change" in Bengal, saying: "Outsiders from Delhi, landlords of Gujarat will



change, we will not change." At a roadshow in Nadia's Chapra, he accused Centre of punishing Bengal by suspending funds for welfare schemes. "Bengal will not change by bowing its head," Banerjee said.

TMC accused BJP of trying to "appropriate" Durga Puja and Bengali culture. MP Partha Bhowmik recalled BJP's past legal challenge to state grants for Durga Puja committees, crediting CM Mamata Banerjee with taking the festival to the global stage.

'Most consequential board ever'

Trump invites India to join Gaza 'Board of Peace'; what is it

New Delhi, Agency: US President Donald Trump has invited India to be part of a proposed international "Board of Peace" aimed at overseeing post-war governance and reconstruction in Gaza. The initiative forms a key pillar of Trump's broader Gaza ceasefire plan and is now beginning to take shape, with the White House confirming the involvement of several global figures.

In a letter, shared by US

"Now it is time to turn all of these Dreams into reality. At the heart of the Plan is the Board of Peace, the most impressive and consequential Board ever assembled, which will be established as a new International Organization and Transitional Governing Administration," the letter read.

The invitation places India among a growing list of countries and global figures being courted by Washington as Trump seeks to operationalise a 20-point

"Comprehensive Plan" aimed at ending the Gaza conflict and managing the transition to long-term stability.

What is the Board of Peace? According to the White House, the Board of Peace will serve as the central strategic body overseeing Gaza's post-war transition. Chaired by Trump himself, it is expected to focus on governance capacity-building, regional relations, reconstruction, investment mobilisation and large-scale funding.

Confirmed members include US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Trump's special negotiator Steve Witkoff, his son-in-law Jared Kushner, former UK prime minister Tony Blair, billionaire financier Marc Rowan, World Bank president Ajay Banga and senior National Security Council aide Robert Gabriel. More appointments are expected in the coming weeks.

'Old generation should step aside'

Nitin Gadkari backs leadership shift; pitches youth to take charge

New Delhi, Agency: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday made a strong pitch for generational transition in leadership, suggesting that the older generation should step aside once systems begin to function smoothly and allow younger people to take charge.

Addressing a press conference in Nagpur ahead of the Advantage Vidarbha-Khasdar Audhyogik Mahotsav, Gadkari said he firmly believes in gradually handing over responsibility to the next generation.

The industrial expo has been conceptualised by Gadkari and is organised by Ashish Kale, president of the Association for Industrial Development (AID).

Highlighting Kale's role, Gadkari said the initiative has actively involved young people. "I believe that gradually, the generation should also change," he said.

Referring to his long association



with Kale's family, Gadkari added, "Ashish's father is my friend.

Now we should be gradually made to retire and the responsibility be given to the new generation, and when the vehicle starts running smoothly, then we should withdraw and do some other work."

Gadkari, who serves as AID's chief mentor, said this year marks the third edition of the Advantage Vidarbha

expo, which will be held in Nagpur from February 6 to 8. He noted that Vidarbha has strong entrepreneurial talent across multiple sectors and said the aim of the event is to position the region as a growing industrial hub.

"The objective of the three-day event is to establish Vidarbha as a strong and emerging growth hub on India's industrial map," he said.

Emphasising the pillars of regional development, Gadkari underlined the importance of the industrial sector, agriculture and allied activities, and the services sector.

He said balanced growth across these areas is essential for long-term economic progress.

The Advantage Vidarbha expo will see participation from industries across a wide range of sectors, including textiles, plastics, minerals, coal, aviation, logistics, IT, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, defence, real estate, renewable energy, and startups.

Highway builders write to FM, road ministry

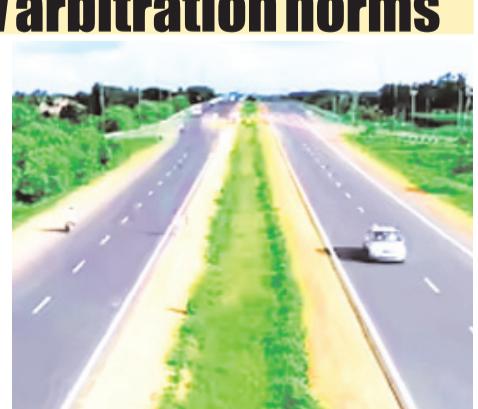
seek review of new arbitration norms

New Delhi, Agency: The apex body of highway builders, NHBF, has opposed the road transport ministry's move to end arbitration in disputes with claims of over Rs 10 crore even for ongoing and contracted projects where arbitration has not been invoked yet. It has also requested finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to issue sector-specific clarification or guidance regarding her ministry's 2024 order to end arbitration for all such projects.

In its circular with regard to revised dispute resolution issued on Jan 12, the road transport ministry, while referring to the finance ministry order, said that any dispute between parties involving value of

Rs 10 crore or more will not be referred to arbitration, and these will be resolved by conciliation.

In its letter to road transport secretary V Umashankar, the National



Highway Builders Federation (NHBF) has said invoking this provision in ongoing projects is "against settled principle of fair contracting" and would have a cascading impact on lenders and highway builders. It has urged the ministry to withdraw the revised provisions to ongoing projects, claiming that such a move will "impair project cash flow and debt servicing ability", "trigger lenders concerns" as well as shift financial stress to the banking system. In a separate letter to Sitharaman dated Jan 17, the federation has submitted that the revised dispute framework, in its present form, discourages investment, increases project cost, delays execution and transfers the financial risk to the banking system.

All city buses across the country manufactured from Oct 2026 onwards will be low-floor

New Delhi, Agency: All public buses meant for intra-city operation across the country manufactured from Oct 2026 onwards will be of low-floor, having ground clearance of 400 mm, which will make these more passenger friendly. As per the draft notification issued this week, all such buses of new models manufactured on and after April 1, 2026 and existing models manufactured after Oct 1 "shall conform to the requirements of AIS-216, as amended from time to time". It proposes that all these new buses with length 9-metre and above shall have floor height of 400 mm. The ministry has issued the draft notification considering that the manufacturers are already producing such buses. "The ecosystem is in place for implementing this norm," said an official. High steps, narrow aisles, poor handholds, and cramped seating make boarding difficult, especially for elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities in most of the city buses operating across the country.



EDITORIAL

Growing self-confidence in "New India's" youth is visible transformation

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal today highlighted that one of the most visible transformations in a resurgent and new India is the growing self-confidence among the country's youth.

While addressing the "Startup Pe Charcha" interaction at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Minister Goyal highlighted that one of the most visible transformations in a resurgent and new India is the growing self-confidence among the country's youth.

He noted that young Indians today are increasingly willing to take risks, pursue entrepreneurship and experiment with ideas, marking a significant shift from earlier hesitations around career choices, and said that this self-confidence reflects a fundamental change in India's mindset towards innovation and future-ready growth.

Speaking on the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Goyal said India's recent agreements with developed economies provide significant opportunities for startups and entrepreneurs.

He explained that these agreements create certainty and confidence for investors while opening new markets for Indian goods and services. Further, the minister encouraged startups to explore startup-to-startup collaborations and partnerships with countries abroad to attract investment and expand globally, highlighting opportunities across services, mobility, payments, sustainability, renewable energy and advanced technologies.

On deep-tech innovation, Goyal expressed optimism about the progress being made across the country, and noted that recent policy discussions have brought sharper focus to deep-tech development and said that the second Rs 10,000-crore Startup Fund of Funds announced by the government will significantly support deep-tech startups, particularly at early and critical stages of growth. He added that his interactions with incubators and academic institutions across the country reflect strong momentum in this sector. Referring to India's space startup ecosystem, he noted that over 350 startups are currently operating in the sector, with deep-tech innovation at their core, and said the sector has crossed a valuation of USD 2 billion, with the government aiming to support the emergence of multiple unicorns in the coming years.

He further addressed concerns related to sectors such as handicrafts, and highlighted the importance of integrating technology into inventory management to enable artisans to access digital and e-commerce platforms. The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is willing to support such efforts by facilitating onboarding, inventory digitisation and market access, including through integration with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), he added.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Machado faces criticism

Has the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize lost its sheen? Did Venezuelan Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado belittle the prestige of the coveted award by giving it away?

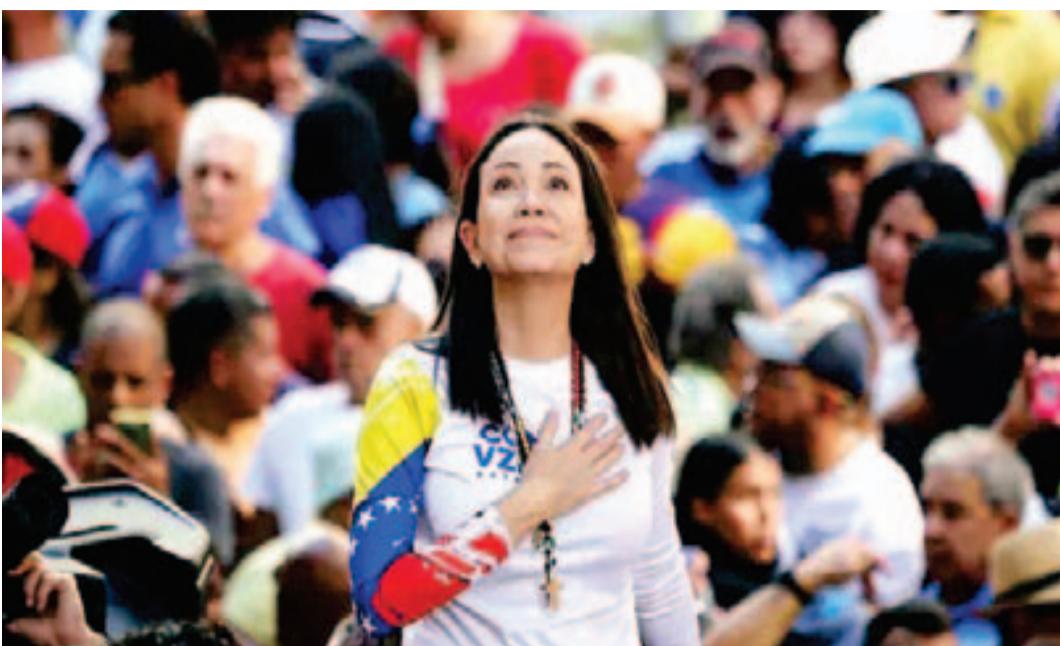
Maria Corina Machado, who presented her 2025 Nobel Peace Prize medal to US President Donald Trump as a symbolic gesture of gratitude for his support of Venezuela's freedom struggle, faces criticism and joins a group of Nobel laureates who have rejected or presented their awards to others for different reasons.

The general perception is whether Machado should have presented it to Trump, particularly days after US forces invaded her country and arrested her country's President Nicolas Maduro, along with his wife. Her gesture has sparked controversy, especially in Norway, with critics viewing it as an attempt to curry political favour or a bargaining chip.

While presenting her gold Nobel medal to President Trump during a private White House meeting, Machado described it as an 'act of gratitude on behalf of the Venezuelan people for his role in the removal of Nicolás Maduro.'

Machado put the award in a proper frame with a signed note which said 'To Donald J Trump, in gratitude for your extraordinary leadership in promoting peace through strength, advancing diplomacy and defending liberty and prosperity.'

She said the award was presented as a 'personal symbol of gratitude on behalf of the Venezuelan people in recognition of President



However, the ethical implications of Machado's action are widely debated, with critics viewing it as a political manoeuvre that diminishes the prestige of the Peace Prize.

Machado's gesture has been criticised in many political circles, particularly in Norway. The decision has been widely condemned by Norwegian politicians and some international observers, who view it as a political stunt that demeans the prestige and values of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Some Norwegian political leaders described the act as "absurd," "meaningless," and "embarrassing and damaging" to the Nobel Peace Prize's reputation. Some critics suggest Machado used the medal as a "bargaining chip" to curry favour with Donald Trump and secure US support, rather than focusing on the democratic

transferred, shared, or revoked once it has been awarded.

According to the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation, § 10, "No appeals may be made against the decision of a prize-awarding body about the award of a prize".

None of the prize awarding committees in Stockholm and Oslo has ever considered revoking a prize once awarded.

As a matter of principle, the Norwegian Nobel Committee will not comment upon what the Peace Prize Laureates may say and do after they have been awarded the prize. The Committee's mandate is restricted to evaluating the work and efforts of the nominated candidates up to the moment it is decided who shall be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for a given year.

A Nobel Prize can neither be revoked, shared, nor transferred to others. Once the

decisions have become controversial.

The most controversial handover was that of Knut Hamsun, a Norwegian writer who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1920. During the Second World War, Hamsun supported the Germans. He met high-ranking Nazi officers, including Adolf Hitler and Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels. Hamsun gave his Nobel Prize medal to Goebbels in 1943. Since then, its whereabouts are not known.

Despite Muratov, a Russian journalist, television presenter and the former Editor-in-Chief of the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, was awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Marisa Ressa for "their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and

lasting peace."

On March 22, 2022, Muratov decided to sell his Nobel Peace Prize medal at an auction, donating the proceeds to UNICEF for the benefit of refugees from Ukraine. The medal auction was carried out by Heritage Auctions and was sold for 103.5 million USD, the highest price ever recorded for a Nobel medal.

Nane Annan, the widow of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, donated her late husband's medal to the United Nations.

American novelist Ernest Hemingway, known for an economical, understated style that influenced later 20th-century writers, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. He reportedly placed his Literature Prize medal at a shrine in Cuba.

Le Duc Tho, a Vietnamese revolutionary, diplomat and politician, was the first Asian to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1973. But Tho declined to accept the award, claiming that peace had not yet been established, and that the United States and the South Vietnamese governments were in violation of the Paris Peace Accords.

Notwithstanding some of these famous handovers of the Nobel Prizes, the Nobel Foundation and the Norwegian Nobel Committee maintain that the integrity of the prize itself is separate from the actions a laureate chooses to take with the physical award (the medal, diploma, and prize money) after they receive the honour.

India steps toward about 800 Vande Bharat trainsets by 2030



Expanding train services to long-distance overnight travel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today flagged off country's maiden 'Vande Bharat' sleeper train from West Bengal's Maldia district. The central government now gears up for the ambitious plan that by 2047, the Vande Bharat fleet is to scale up to around 4,500 trainsets, aligned with India's long-term development goals. In the medium term, the focus will be on scaling up services, operating about 800 Vande Bharat trainsets by 2030 which is, subject to infrastructure readiness and

manufacturing capacity. "Vande Bharat Express, India's first indigenously designed and manufactured semi-high-speed trainset has been developed to strengthen inter-city rail services by combining modern technology, improved passenger comfort, and reduced journey times," a release by the Railway Ministry reads. Launched on February 19, 2019, the Vande Bharat Express commenced service on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Prayagraj-Varanasi corridor. The 16-coach, fully air-conditioned

trainset is designed for a maximum speed of 160 kmph with modern passenger amenities to improve energy efficiency and operational sustainability. Till last year 164 Vande Bharat services had been operationalised in 274 districts, which carried more than 7.5 crore passengers, mentioned Railway Ministry in the release. Commercially inaugurated on 15 February 2019, the project has gained momentum with around 80 trains currently being operated across the network.

Taiwan detects Chinese drone in its aerial zone

Taiwan detected a Chinese army's reconnaissance UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) entering Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said that the UAV departed after radio warnings. In a post on X, it said, "At 0541hrs (UTC+8), a PLA reconnaissance UAV was detected entering Taiwan's southwestern



ADIZ and entering airspace near Dongsha (the Pratas Islands). After radio warnings, the UAV departed the area. The ROC Armed Forces are monitoring the situation and responding accordingly."

Earlier in the day, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense detected the presence of 26 sorties of Chinese military aircraft, eight naval vessels, and an official ship around its territorial waters. Of the 26

sorties, seven crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, central, and southwestern ADIZ. In a post on X, the MND said, "26 PLA aircraft, 8 PLAN vessels and 1 official ship operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 7 out of 26 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, central and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded."

Earlier, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said he would continue safeguarding Taiwan and would not allow China to interfere, Focus Taiwan reported. It stated that President Lai, as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, pledged to protect the country and safeguard the lives and property of all citizens. "I will certainly safeguard the nation and absolutely not allow Chinese pressure or China's hand to reach into Taiwan," President Lai said. He also said on Thursday that China's "cross-border pressure" against the people of Taiwan proves that Beijing's authority does not extend to Taiwan and confirms that Taiwan is not part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Focus Taiwan cited the recent visit to Taiwan by China-born Japanese lawmaker Hei Seki, who has been sanctioned by China and barred from entering the PRC, saying that the visit demonstrated how the Republic of China (ROC) -- Taiwan's official name -- and the PRC are not subordinate to each other.

POEMS

Thrilling Conclusion

And when the end came it came silent
but clear like bird prints on snow
and no one was surprised to see it arrive
and still friends lingered in doorways
letting goodbyes go bad
and chirping cats were fed a second
time just to be sure
and the family dogs formed a congress
in the woods with the coyotes
and someone was careful to leave
bubble wrap for children to burst
and the night watchman pretended his
glasses fogged over as we passed
and it turned out the trees were unmemorable
and the government a trick of the light
and it was sorry, the ending,
but it didn't know what for
and it was okay at least as much as we were
and we swam with it in whatever
we had on under
and we kissed so hard we clanged teeth
and we ate without speaking
and then at last spoke all at once
like an unknotted hose
and then it began, the ending,
the way all creatures do, small
and angry at its own
misunderstandings.

By Robert Wood Lynn

US-EU trade deal on pause after Trump threatens to impose tariffs on European nations

Following US President Donald Trump's warning to impose tariffs on Denmark and other European countries over the sale of Greenland, the European Union has called for a pause to the ratification process of the EU-US trade deal announced back in July 2025.

Vice-President of the European People's Party, Siegfried Muresan, in a post on X, confirmed the pause in the ratification process, stating, "We were supposed to ratify the EU-US trade deal from last July very soon, reducing tariffs for imports from the US into the European Union to 0%. However, in light of recent developments, this ratification will have to wait a little longer in this



new context." The deal announced in July 2025, between the US and the EU, comprising 27 member states, unveiled a bilateral framework agreement aimed at resolving various tariff and trade issues. However, Trump's recent post on Truth Social has cast doubt on the future of the agreement. On Saturday, Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Denmark and other European countries unless they agreed to sell Greenland. In his post, Trump claimed the move is necessary for national security, citing China's and Russia's interest in the territory. He offered to negotiate with the European nations but warned of escalating tariffs of 10 per cent from

February 1, 2026, and 25 per cent from June 1, 2026 if a deal wasn't reached, stating it was "time for Denmark to give back" after years of US support. Starting on February 1st, 2026, all of the above mentioned Countries (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Finland), will be charged a 10% Tariff on any and all goods sent to the United States of America. On June 1st, 2026, the Tariff will be increased to 25%. This Tariff will be due and payable until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland," Trump posted. Trump has been adamant about acquiring Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, citing national

security concerns. Washington claims Greenland's strategic location and mineral resources are vital to its security, but the leadership in Denmark and Greenland have rejected the idea, emphasising their right to self-determination. Muresan, in a follow-up post, added that Trump's latest announcement undermines the "stability" which was the sole benefit expected from last year's trade deal.

He further stated that this was the reason why delaying the ratification of the trade deal is warranted. "STABILITY would have been the only gain from last year's trade deal between the US and the European Union. Today's announcement by

President Trump to eventually impose new tariffs on several EU member states takes away that stability. This is why the postponement of the ratification of that trade deal is justified," Muresan added. Meanwhile, Germany, Sweden, France, Norway, the Netherlands, and Finland have sent small numbers of military personnel to Greenland, with Denmark increasing its own military presence amid Trump's call for acquiring the Arctic island.

The situation has sparked concerns about the potential impact on NATO, with some European leaders warning that a US attempt to seize Greenland could lead to the alliance's demise.

Chemco Group Commissions Rs. 125 Crore rPET Bottle-to-Bottle Recycling Facility in Gujarat

Mumbai, Agency: Chemco Group, one of India's leading plastic packaging manufacturers, has commissioned a state-of-the-art food-grade rPET recycling facility in Sanand, Gujarat, marking a major milestone in the country's transition towards a circular plastics economy. The project represents a capital investment of approximately Rs. 125 crore and positions Chemco among a select group of Indian companies offering true end-to-end bottle-to-bottle recycling at industrial scale.

The facility is designed to recycle over 1 billion post-consumer PET bottles annually, converting them back into high-quality, food-grade recycled PET (rPET) suitable for direct food and beverage packaging applications. With this commissioning, Chemco significantly strengthens India's domestic capability to replace virgin plastic with certified recycled material while maintaining stringent quality and safety standards.

Located in the industrial hub of

Sanand, the plant has been developed to meet global regulatory expectations. The recycled PET produced at the facility is US FDA and EFSA approved, and fully compliant with FSSAI requirements for food-contact applications in India. In addition, the operations adhere to all applicable Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) governing plastic recycling and recycled PET materials, reinforcing Chemco's commitment to regulatory excellence and product integrity.

"This facility represents a strategic shift in how Chemco approaches sustainability," said Mr. Vaibhav Saroogi, Managing Director, Chemco Group. "Rather than treating recycling as an external dependency, we have built a fully integrated bottle-to-bottle ecosystem that gives our customers confidence in supply security, traceability, and compliance. This is not just an investment in infrastructure; it is an investment in the future of responsible packaging."



The commissioning of this plant comes at a time when global brands and regulators are intensifying their focus on recycled content, carbon reduction, and circularity. By establishing in-house recycling capabilities, Chemco enables its brand partners to meet recycled-content mandates, extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations, and sustainability commitments without compromising on performance or food safety.

The Sanand facility has been developed as a closed-loop operation, ensuring complete control across the recycling value chain. This integrated approach enhances traceability, reduces dependency on external suppliers, and lowers the

environmental impact associated with long logistics routes. The scale of operations also allows Chemco to deliver consistent quality and volumes required by large beverage, FMCG, and food brands.

Beyond environmental impact, the project delivers meaningful industrial and regional benefits. The facility generates skilled employment, strengthens Gujarat's position as a manufacturing and sustainability hub, and contributes to India's broader objectives of waste reduction, resource efficiency, and circular manufacturing.

Chemco Group brings over three decades of experience in PET packaging to this initiative, supplying rigid and flexible packaging solutions to leading domestic and international brands.

The addition of large-scale rPET recycling further consolidates Chemco's position as a long-term partner for companies seeking credible, compliant, and scalable sustainable packaging solutions.

Shipwaves Online Limited Secures International Order worth of USD 58,000 (equivalent of Rs.52,61,180 approx)

Mumbai, Agency: Shipwaves is a global SaaS technology company transforming logistics and supply chain operations through intelligent, end-to-end digital platforms. Built for the complexities of modern global trade, Shipwaves enables enterprises to plan, procure, execute, track, and financially manage logistics operations on a single, unified system-driving efficiency, transparency, and resilience across supply chains. At the core of Shipwaves' offering is a comprehensive logistics process management platform that automates and digitizes the entire lifecycle of trade and logistics. The solution includes Order Management, Procurement & Rate Management, Shipment Planning &



Booking (Shipment Orchestrator), Document Management, and real-time end-to-end visibility across cargo movement, documentation, and the flow of money. By eliminating manual interventions and data silos, Shipwaves delivers actionable insights and control across multimodal supply chains.

Founded in 2015,

Shipwaves has grown into a trusted global technology partner for the logistics and supply chain industry. The company has a strong international footprint with offices in Mumbai, Mangalore, Dubai and other strategic locations. With a revenue of ?108 crore and a robust 44.5% CAGR, Shipwaves continues to scale rapidly across

geographies and industry verticals.

Shipwaves is at the forefront of adopting AI and Machine Learning in logistics—not as bolt-on features, but through practical, real-world use cases that solve core industry challenges.

A key example is its automated freight bill auditing solution, which intelligently validates carrier invoices against contracted rates, surcharges, shipment milestones, and service-level agreements, significantly reducing revenue leakages and manual effort. In addition, the platform enables intelligent rate benchmarking, shipment orchestration, predictive visibility, exception management, and data-driven decision support.

Samsung launches 'Big Bespoke AI Fest' on Republic Day



Ranchi: Samsung has launched the 'Big Bespoke AI Fest' on the occasion of Republic Day, under which consumers are receiving benefits across various categories on Bespoke AI refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and microwave ovens until January 31, 2026. According to the company, selected models are being offered with discounts of up to 50 per cent, cashback of up to Rs 20,000 and benefits such as 'one EMI off' on select products. Under the fest, different

cashback offers have been defined across categories including frost-free double-door and side-by-side refrigerators, front-load washing machines, washer dryers and air conditioners. In addition, select microwave models come with a 10-year warranty on the ceramic enamel cavity, while air conditioners are being offered with a 5-year comprehensive warranty. The campaign is applicable through Samsung's authorised retail stores, leading e-commerce platforms and Samsung dot com.

Davos decked up for WEF 2026 as Madhya Pradesh showcases India's Investment Promise



Davos, Agency: The Alpine town of Davos is once again at the centre of global attention as it prepares to host the 56th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) from January 19 to 23, 2026. With streets decked up and security tightened, Davos-Klosters is set to welcome nearly 3,000 participants from over 130 countries, including a record number of world leaders, CEOs, innovators and policymakers. Held under the theme "A Spirit of

Dialogue", the WEF Annual Meeting 2026 comes at a critical juncture for global cooperation, bringing together top political leaders, including heads of state and government, alongside global CEOs and leading unicorns and technology pioneers. Amid this high-level global gathering, Madhya Pradesh is stepping onto the world stage to showcase its emergence as one of India's most dynamic and future-ready investment destinations.

Our societies face decline of truth, trust, says WEF founder Klaus Schwab ahead of Davos 2026 summit

New Delhi, Agency: World Economic Forum founder and ex-chairman of its Board of Trustees, Klaus Schwab, has issued a stark warning regarding the erosion of societal foundations ahead of this 56th edition of the annual gathering of the global elite at Davos, which is taking place at a time of geopolitical tumult.

In a message shared on X, Schwab emphasised that the global community currently lacks the two fundamental pillars of truth and trust required to address urgent international challenges. He stated that without restoring these values, the capacity for collective action remains at risk.

"We are missing in our society two fundamental pillars. It's truth, and it's trust. And without restoring those pillars, we will not be able to solve the big global issues which we face at this moment. Our societies face a decline of truth and trust. Without truth, we



lose a shared reality; without trust, we lose our capacity to act together. It's a keyword of dialogue of listening each to another and in such a way to see the different aspects, the different dimensions of a problem and such fundamental in order to be able to create solutions afterwards," Schwab noted.

He identified the present moment as a critical juncture where the restoration of these pillars is the only path toward solving significant global issues.

Schwab highlighted that the cur-

rent era of rapid and disruptive technological change requires a focus on maintaining human essence. "If there is one decisive factor of the intelligent age, what is it? I think it's the capability in view of the fast and disruptive technological change to remain human beings.

And as human beings, we have to exercise empathy, we have to listen to each other, and I think we have to analyze issues not just with our brains, but also with our heart, and with an understanding that ultimately we have to serve not ourselves, but society," he said. Schwab founded the World Economic Forum in 1971 from which he was dismissed last April before being reinstated a few months later, following an internal investigation that deemed the allegations against him unfounded. Schwab retired from his roles at the Forum in 2025.

CEPT University Confers Degrees on 589 Students at Its 20th Convocation

Announces Launch of New Program - MBA in Real Estate



Chennai, Agency: CEPT University marked a significant academic milestone today as it held its 20th Annual Convocation, conferring degrees on 589 students across undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes. The occasion also marked a pivotal moment in the University's academic journey with the formal announcement of CEPT's entry into MBA education, through its MBA in Real Estate Program under its Faculty of Management. Of the graduating cohort, 392 were postgraduates, 196 undergraduates, and one Doctor of Philosophy recipient, while 45 students were awarded University Awards of Proficiency

in recognition of outstanding academic achievement. Graduates represented the full academic breadth of the University, with 213 students from the Faculty of Architecture, 95 from the Faculty of Design, 10 from

the Faculty of Management, 151 from the Faculty of Planning, and 120 from the Faculty of Technology.

The Convocation ceremony was graced by Prof. Ashoke Chatterjee, eminent design educator and former

Executive Director of the National Institute of Design, as the Chief Guest.

Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Barjor Mehta, President, CEPT University, reflected on the University's evolving academic vision and announced the launch of the MBA in Real Estate, a new flagship programme under the Faculty of Management. "The launch of our MBA offerings marks an important milestone for CEPT University," said Prof. Mehta. "The MBA in Real Estate recognizes the growing need for professionals capable of steering the rapidly expanding formal real estate sector in the country. CEPT is well-positioned to deliver high-quality education in this emerging field,

drawing on our long-standing strengths in architecture, urban planning and design, structural engineering, construction and project management, and urban management. The new program will provide opportunities for students from diverse undergraduate backgrounds to build careers in the market-facing production and management of the built environment." Dressed in CEPT's customary off-white and beige ceremonial attire, accented by vibrant faculty stoles, graduating students arrived at the iconic Shrenikhai Plaza and were welcomed by cheering family members and friends. The procession was led by Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman, CEPT University; Prof.

Virat Kohli sets several records with his century, breaks one of Sachin Tendulkar's records

Agency, Indore

Indian cricket team's experienced batsman Virat Kohli has set several records with his brilliant century in the third One Day International against New Zealand. However, Virat could not save his team from defeat in this match. Virat scored 124 runs off 108 balls in this match, setting several major records. With this innings, Kohli scored his 54th century in his ODI career. This was his 85th century in his international career. Despite Virat's innings, the Indian team could only score 296 runs while chasing a target of 339. With his century at the Holkar Stadium, Virat also broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of scoring centuries at 34 different venues. Indore has become the 35th ground where Virat has scored a century. This was Virat's 10th century against New Zealand across all formats, and with this century, he



has become the batsman with the most centuries against the Kiwi team. In this way, he surpassed Jacques Kallis, Joe Root, and Tendulkar. All three of them have 9 centuries each against New Zealand. By scoring his seventh ODI century against New Zealand,

Virat has become the batsman with the most centuries against this team in ODIs. He has surpassed Virender Sehwag and former Australian captain Ricky Ponting. Sehwag and Ponting have scored 6 centuries each against New Zealand in ODIs, while Virat now has 7 centuries.

Rohit, who failed in the series against New Zealand, defended by Shubman Gill

Agency, Indore

The Indian cricket team suffered a 1-2 defeat in the three-match ODI series against New Zealand. The reason for the Indian team's defeat in this series was the failure of opening batsman Rohit Sharma, which has once again raised questions about his form. Rohit could not play a big innings in all three matches of the series and scored only 61 runs. In the third ODI, the Indian team was given a target of more than 300 runs, but Rohit could only score 11 runs. His highest score in the series was 26 runs. Meanwhile, team captain Shubman Gill defended Rohit, saying that he could not convert good starts into big innings in this series, and that this happens sometimes. Earlier, he had batted well in the South Africa and Australia series. In the last six ODIs, he had scored more than 50 runs four times, but this time he could not maintain that rhythm. In the third and final ODI against New Zealand, Rohit could only score 11 runs. Thus, in the



three ODI matches, he scored only 26, 24, and 11 runs. This is why the Indian team could not post big scores and had to face defeat. After the match, Shubman said, "I think he is in good form; he has scored runs from the Australia series to the South Africa series. In this series, he could not convert good starts into big innings, but I think he gave the team a good start in the first two ODIs. As a batsman, you always want to convert those starts into big scores and centuries, although it is not always possible."

Playing in the World Cup is everyone's dream: Siraj

Agency, Mumbai

Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has not been included in the Indian team for the T20 World Cup, which will be held from February 7 next month. However, Siraj is not disappointed and says that the Indian team will perform well in the tournament. Siraj said that he also wanted to play in this tournament because it is every player's dream to represent their country in big tournaments like the World Cup. This World Cup will be played in India and Sri Lanka. Jasprit Bumrah will lead the Indian team's fast bowling attack in this tournament. He will be supported by Arshdeep



Singh and Harshit Rana. Siraj said, "I played in the last T20 World Cup, but I didn't get the opportunity this time. The biggest dream for a player is to play in the World Cup and contribute to the team's victory." He said that our team is good for the World Cup. They are also in good form, so it is hoped that the team will win the tournament. Siraj also emphasized the importance of workload management. He was rested during the series against South Africa before the series against New Zealand. He said, "I was rested from the last ODI series against South Africa because I bowled 40 overs in the second Test against them in Guwahati.

Ashalata hopes for Indian team's qualification for the FIFA World Cup

Agency, New Delhi

Veteran Indian women's football player Ashalata Devi is hopeful that the team will be able to qualify for the FIFA World Cup this time. She acknowledged that the senior team is constantly improving but is still lagging behind world-class standards. According to the experienced defender, who has played more than 100 matches, everyone dreams of playing in the FIFA World Cup, but for this, we need to work at the grassroots level to bridge the gap with the world's top players. Ashalata said, "Our dream of playing in the World Cup is still alive. We need to put in even more effort now." She also said that all three national teams – Under-17, Under-19, and senior teams



and the senior team – have already qualified for the AFC Asian Championships, which will make 2026 a crucial year for Indian women's football. She said, "The Under-17, Under-19, and senior teams have already qualified for the AFC (competitions). If we perform well there, then obviously our dream of

Brief

AFCN 2025: Senegal defeats Morocco in extra time, wins controversial final to become champion for the second time

Rabat: Senegal won the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCN) 2025 title, defeating host nation Morocco 1-0 in the final. Pape Gueye's decisive goal in extra time secured the victory for Senegal, but the match was marred by a controversial penalty and ugly incidents both on and off the pitch. The most dramatic moment of the match came in the 24th minute of injury time when Morocco was awarded a penalty. Referee Jean-Jacques Ndala gave the spot-kick after a VAR review for a foul on Brahim Diaz for a foul on Brahim Diaz in the box. However, after nearly 20 minutes of commotion and protests, when Diaz finally stepped up to take the penalty, his weak chip shot was easily saved by Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy. The penalty decision had enraged the Senegalese players and fans. Several players began to leave the field, while Senegalese supporters in one section of the stadium threw chairs and other objects and attempted to storm the pitch. Police and stewards had to intervene to restore order. Earlier in the match, a Senegalese goal had also been mired in controversy when Abdoulaye Seck's header in the second minute of injury time, followed by Ismaila Sarr's rebound goal, was disallowed for a foul.

ICC gives Bangladesh board two days to decide on T20 World Cup participation

» If India is not willing to play, we will include Scotland

Agency, Dubai



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has warned the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to be prepared to play the T20 World Cup in India, failing which another team will be given the opportunity. The ICC has said that a European team could be included in place of Bangladesh. According to a report, the ICC has given the BCB until January 21 to decide, and has also said that if they do not agree, Scotland will be included in their place. This is because Scotland also has a good T20 ranking. The BCB, however, says that its matches should

be held outside India due to security concerns. In this matter, the ICC's investigation found that there are no such security concerns. ICC officials, in a meeting with the BCB in Dhaka, asked them to decide on the India tour within the given timeframe. The BCB reiterated its demand to hold its matches in co-host Sri Lanka due to security reasons. According to the ICC, there is no threat to the Bangladeshi team. The ICC

has also rejected the BCB's suggestion to swap groups with Ireland. Ireland plays all its group stage matches in Sri Lanka. The BCB had suggested that its group be swapped with Ireland's. Bangladesh is scheduled to play three of its group stage matches in Kolkata and the fourth in Mumbai. The ICC has released the tournament schedule and all preparations for its organization have been completed, so no changes are possible.

HIL made me a better striker: Lalremsiami

» Shrachi Bengal Tigers' Lalremsiami finished as the runner-up in the Women's Hero HIL 2025-26.

Agency, New Delhi



Shrachi Bengal Tigers forward Lalremsiami, reflecting on her team's runner-up finish in the Women's Hero HIL 2025-26, described it as a season full of learning, both individually and as a team. She expressed confidence that the team will take another step forward and win the title next season. In an official statement, Lalremsiami said, "This season was quite good for us. We definitely wanted to be champions, but as a team, we performed excellently. Sometimes the results are not in your control, but I really enjoyed the Hero HIL experience this time. We enjoyed the game and learned a lot from each other." Shrachi Bengal

Tigers played several matches in the tournament that went to penalty shootouts, including the final against SG Pipers. Talking about these high-pressure matches, Lalremsiami said that the team focused more on their game than the results. She said, "Our matches against SG Pipers have always been very close. In one match, we conceded a goal at the last minute and it went to a shootout, and in another, we dominated but couldn't score. We felt we could have won the match. Before the final, our focus was only on our game and

skills, but unfortunately, we couldn't win in regulation time. Nevertheless, this experience was very important for us." After a slow start to the tournament, the Bengal Tigers found their rhythm. Lalremsiami praised the team's atmosphere, communication, and the role of senior players. She said, "We didn't get much time to build combinations, but the players and coaching staff worked hard to understand each other. The team atmosphere and communication were excellent. The senior players guided the younger players in the right direction, which was clearly visible on the field." Personally, this season was also special for Lalremsiami. She scored three goals and finished among the top 5 goal scorers in the tournament. She said, "Last season I was playing in midfield, but this time I played as a striker throughout the tournament. This gave me more opportunities to score goals. The

support from the midfielders and defenders was fantastic. I thoroughly enjoyed this season." She also acknowledged that the Hero HIL has improved her decision-making abilities inside the circle. She said, "As a striker, you have to make quick decisions in 1v1 situations and under pressure. I got many such opportunities in this league. Initially, I made some wrong decisions, but I learned match by match, and now my decision-making has improved significantly." Speaking about the strong core of Indian players, she said that playing alongside senior players like Vandana Kataria, Monika, and Gurjot was a special experience. Looking ahead to future challenges, Lalremsiami said that the experience gained in the Hero HIL will be invaluable in major tournaments, including the Women's 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad in March.

These teams will be strong contenders for the IPL playoffs: Amit Mishra

Agency, New Delhi



Former cricketer Amit Mishra has said that Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and defending champions Royal Challengers Bangalore could reach the playoffs of IPL 2026. According to the former spinner, Gujarat Titans should also not be considered weak in the title race. The former cricketer said, "KKR, MI, SRH, RCB, and GT. I think four of these five teams will reach the playoffs." Mishra's exclusion of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) from the list of title contenders has surprised everyone. CSK

is a five-time champion. Mumbai Indians and RCB strengthened their teams by retaining their favorite players even before the auction. Other teams have increased their team strength through the mini-auction. KKR bought Cameron Green for a record Rs 25.2 crore, while Sunrisers bought Liam Livingstone for Rs 13 crore.

Australia announces 17-member T20 squad for Pakistan tour; Cummins, Hazlewood, and David rested

Agency, Melbourne



Australia has announced a 17-member squad for the tour of Pakistan ahead of the T20 World Cup. Captain Pat Cummins, fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, and explosive batsman Tim David, who are recovering from injuries, have been rested for this tour to ensure they are fully fit before the upcoming T20 World Cup. Australian selectors have chosen a mix of young and experienced players for the three T20 International matches to be played against Pakistan in Lahore. Perth Scorchers fast bowler Mahli Beardman and Sydney Sixers young all-rounder Jack Edwards have been included in the T20 squad for the first time based on their outstanding performances in the Big Bash League (BBL). Both players are yet to make their international debut, but they were part of the white-ball squad during the tour of India earlier. Brisbane Heat batsman Matthew Renshaw is also a contender for his T20 International debut against Pakistan. His excellent performance in the recent Big Bash season has earned

him this reward. Renshaw has scored 604 runs in the last two BBL seasons with an average of 35.53. Jack Edwards is currently the leading wicket-taker for Sydney Sixers, having taken 15 wickets in the current Big Bash. Meanwhile, 20-year-old Mahli Beardman played a key role in leading Perth Scorchers to the top by taking 8 wickets in his first full BBL season. Players who played in the BBL 15 final will join the team in Pakistan after the tournament ends. Selection committee chairman George Bailey said, "This series is a great opportunity for players who are on the cusp of selection. It will also give some young players the opportunity to gain experience with the World Cup group." All three T20 matches against Pakistan will be played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on January 29, January 31, and February 1. Ten of the 17 players on this tour are also part of the T20 World Cup squad. Australia is confident that Josh Hazlewood (hamstring and Achilles injury) and Tim David (hamstring) will be fit by the start of the T20 World Cup. The team management is being patient with Pat Cummins' recovery from a back injury and hopes he can play a key role in the later stages of the tournament. In the T20 World Cup, Australia will play its group matches in Sri Lanka, while if they reach the Super 8s, the team will head to India. Australia's T20 squad against Pakistan: Mitchell Marsh (captain), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Mahli Beardman, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Jack Edwards, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitch Owen, Josh Philippe, Matthew Renshaw, Matt Short, Marcus Stoinis, and Adam Zampa.

Ashalata hopes for Indian team's qualification for the FIFA World Cup

Agency, New Delhi



and the senior team – have already qualified for the AFC Asian Championships, which will make 2026 a crucial year for Indian women's football. She said, "The Under-17, Under-19, and senior teams have already qualified for the AFC (competitions). If we perform well there, then obviously our dream of

playing in the World Cup can come true." She added, "We have been performing better for a long time, but we still haven't reached world-class standards. I have complete faith in the abilities of all the players. I am very hopeful that this time we will be able to qualify for the World Cup."

La Liga 2025-26: Real Sociedad stuns Barcelona 2-1, ending their winning streak

Agency, San Sebastian



Real Sociedad pulled off a major upset on Sunday, defeating La Liga 2025-26 table-toppers Barcelona 2-1 in a thrilling match played in rainy San Sebastian. The defeat ended Barcelona's 11-match winning streak across all competitions. Real Sociedad's lead with a superb volley from inside the box. Real Sociedad suffered a major blow in the final moments

side in the 32nd minute with a powerful volley. Barcelona's substitute Marcus Rashford equalized in the 70th minute with a close-range header. However, the joy was short-lived, as just a minute later, Gonçalo Guedes restored Sociedad's lead with a superb volley from inside the box. Real Sociedad suffered a major blow in the final moments

far behind with 41 points each. The match saw fast-paced and aggressive play from both teams right from the start. In the seventh minute, Fermín López's goal was disallowed after a VAR review, as a foul on Takefusa Kubo was found in the build-up. Both teams also had early goals ruled out for offside. In the second half, Barcelona pushed hard for an equalizer. Dani Olmo hit the post twice in quick succession, while in the 51st minute, Remiro made a crucial save to deny Ferran Torres a certain goal. Robert Lewandowski's header in the 65th minute also struck the post after a superb save from the goalkeeper.



Rahu Ketu vs Happy Patel Who Became the Audience Favorite Over the Weekend

Over the weekend, two new comedy films tried to grab the audience's attention in cinemas. On one side was stand-up comedian and actor Vir Das's film Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasoos, while on the other side, Rahu Ketu, starring Fukrey fame Pukit Samrat and Varun Sharma, hit the big screen. Both films were released on January 16, and from the very beginning, a direct box-office clash was seen between them. However, by the time the weekend ended, it became clear that the earnings of both films were almost equal, though Rahu Ketu had a slight edge. Over three days, both films did business of more than ₹4 crore.

Sunny Deol's Border Streams on OTT: Relive the Patriotism of the 90s Before the Sequel

Whenever patriotic films in Hindi cinema are discussed, a few movies from the 1990s automatically come to mind. Among them, one of the most important names is Sunny Deol's film Border, which not only created history at the box office but also left a deep imprint of patriotism in the hearts of audiences. Now, with the release date of its sequel Border 2 approaching, watching this 1997 classic on OTT has become a wonderful opportunity to once again feel the patriotism and passion of that era. Border is currently streaming on Amazon Prime Video and YouTube, allowing the new generation to connect with this memorable story as well. Released in 1997, Border was directed by J. P. Dutta. The film was based on true events from the 1971 India-Pakistan war, with a special focus on the historic battle at the Longewala post in Rajasthan. The movie portrayed the reality of the battlefield, soldiers' strategies, fighting with limited resources, and the sacrifices made for the nation in a deeply emotional manner.



Court Issues Summons to Raj Kundra in Bitcoin Scam Case

A special PMLA court in Mumbai has issued summons to businessman Raj Kundra in connection with a Bitcoin scam. The court took cognizance of the charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and initiated this action. In the same case, Dubai-based businessman Rajesh Satija has also been summoned. Both accused have been directed to appear before the court.

The ED had filed a supplementary charge sheet in September 2025 before the special court handling

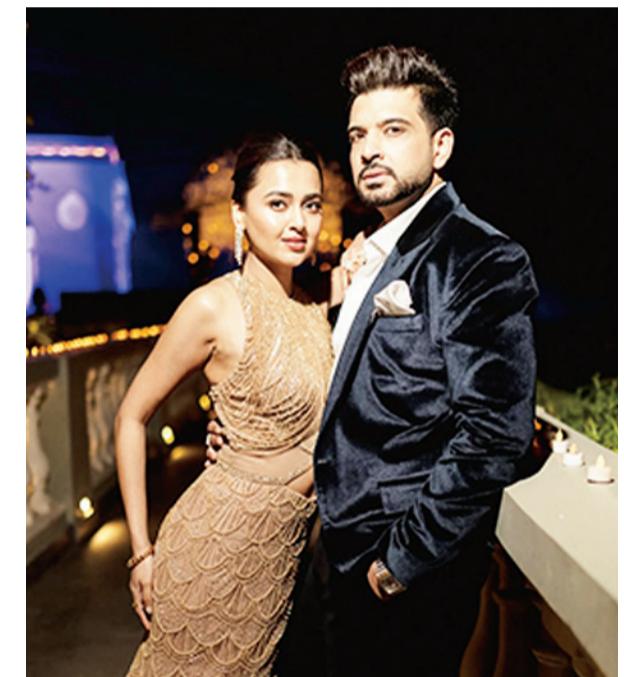
PMLA cases, naming Raj Kundra and Rajesh Satija as accused. According to the investigating agency, Amit Bhardwaj, the mastermind and promoter of the infamous Gain Bitcoin Ponzi scam, had given 285 bitcoins to Raj Kundra to set up a Bitcoin mining farm in Ukraine. Although the deal could not be completed, the ED claims that the 285 bitcoins are still in Raj Kundra's possession, and their current value is stated to be over ₹150 crore. The charge sheet also states that Kundra claimed

to be merely an intermediary in the transaction but failed to produce any concrete documents to support this claim.

The ED further stated that an agreement referred to as a "term sheet" was executed between Raj Kundra and Mahendra Bhardwaj, which clearly indicates that the actual agreement was between Raj Kundra and Amit Bhardwaj. The charge sheet asserts that Kundra's claim of being only an intermediary is not acceptable.



Karan Kundrra and Tejasswi Prakash Add Charm to Nupur-Stebin's Wedding, Share Photos



The Year 2016 Was Special for Manushi Chhillar

She Shares 10-Year-Old Memories

As soon as 2026 began, a trend of sharing photos and memories from ten years ago started on social media. Bollywood celebrities have been sharing their sweet and sour memories from 2016. Now, former Femina Miss India and Miss World, Manushi Chhillar, has lifted the curtain on her memories from 2016 and shared several interesting moments.

Manushi Chhillar posted old modeling pictures and a few photos from her time as an MBBS student on Instagram. In the caption, she wrote,

"One year, like Hannah Montana, I tried to balance college and AIIMS, New Delhi, with my early photoshoots after being selected by Miss India.

Aamir Khan Shares His Fitness Mantra: Diet and 8 Hours of Sleep Are Most Important, Then Workout

Actor Aamir Khan participated in a marathon held in Mumbai along with his daughter Ira Khan, filmmaker Kiran Rao, and actor Dino Morea. Speaking to the media during the marathon, Aamir

Khan said, "I am really enjoying being here, and the enthusiasm seen among people with disabilities and senior citizens is truly commendable.

The passion with which people take part in this marathon motivates me to come here every year." He also revealed that it was his daughter Ira Khan who insisted that he attend the marathon, but now he feels that the decision was absolutely right.

Actor Aamir Khan participated in a marathon held in Mumbai along with his daughter Ira Khan, filmmaker Kiran Rao, and actor Dino Morea. Speaking to the media during the marathon, Aamir

Khan said, "I am really enjoying being here, and the enthusiasm seen among people with disabilities and senior citizens is truly commendable.

The passion with which people take part in this marathon motivates me to come here every year." He also revealed that it was his daughter Ira Khan who insisted that he attend the marathon, but now he feels that the decision was absolutely right.

Actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister, Nupur Sanon, recently tied the knot with her long-term boyfriend Stebin Ben. The couple hosted a reception in Mumbai, which was attended by several relatives and celebrities. Karan Kundrra and Tejasswi Prakash were also present at the event and shared some pictures and videos from the beautiful evening.

In the photos, Nupur is seen posing with Karan Kundrra, while the videos include performances by Nupur and Kriti. In some pictures, Tejasswi can be seen posing alongside Karan. While sharing the post, Tejasswi wrote in the caption, "Best wedding ever... we love you both so much, Stebin and Nupur Sanon. May God bless you with all the happiness on this beautiful new journey."

Stebin and Karan are old friends and share a very strong bond with each other. Some time ago, a video from another wedding had gone viral, in which Karan, Tejasswi, and Stebin were seen dancing together.

Nupur and Stebin got married according to both Christian and Hindu traditions.

Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa Introduce Their Daughter to Fans, Reveal Her Name



Popular Bollywood couple Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa shared one of the most special moments of their lives with their fans and well-wishers on Sunday. About two months ago, the couple welcomed their daughter, and they have now revealed the name of their little angel. Rajkummar and Patralekhaa have named their daughter Parvati Paul Rao.

In their post, they wrote, "With folded hands and full hearts, we introduce to you our greatest blessing, Parvati Paul Rao."

They also shared an adorable picture in the post, in which Rajkummar and Patralekhaa can be

seen holding their daughter's hand.

The news has created a wave of excitement on social media, and fans as well as many stars from the film industry are expressing their happiness. Several Bollywood celebrities reacted in the comment section of the post. Actress Ahana Kumra wrote,

"Congratulations Rajkummar and Patralekhaa, and welcome little Parvati." Meanwhile, stars like Bhumi Pednekar and Ayushmann Khurrana expressed their joy by sharing red heart emojis.

Rahu Ketu Box Office: Second Day Belongs to Family Audiences, Strong Growth in Earnings

The fantasy comedy Rahu Ketu, starring Pukit Samrat and Varun Sharma and directed by Vipul Vig, is gradually picking up pace at the Indian box office. The film registered an encouraging jump on its second day, with the biggest credit going to family audiences, whose positive response made this growth possible.

Notably, Rahu Ketu collected 1.60 crore on its second day, showing an almost 60% increase compared to its Day 1 collection of ₹1 crore. With this, the film's two-day net collection has reached ₹2.60 crore, while the gross collection including GST is reported to be ₹3.06 crore.

Day-wise Box Collection (India Net):
Day 1: 1.00 crore
Day 2: 1.60 crore
Total: 2.60 crore
Along with the box office

growth, Rahu Ketu is receiving positive responses from both critics and audiences. The film's clean humor, performances by the cast, and its family-friendly

entertainment value are being especially appreciated. This is the reason why the number of families and young viewers in cinemas is steadily increasing.

The jump in collections clearly indicates that the film is reaching the right audience due to its strong family appeal.

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