



Democracy in India means delivering benefits to the last person: PM

The 28th Commonwealth Speakers Conference was inaugurated

Agency. New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the true meaning of democracy in India is ensuring that benefits reach the last person. He said that the government is working for every citizen without discrimination, driven by the spirit of public welfare, and this is why approximately 250 million people have been lifted out of poverty in the country in the last few years. Prime Minister Modi was addressing the 28th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers after inaugurating the conference in the Central Hall of the Parliament House complex on Thursday. He said that the historic Central Hall where the conference is being held is a very important site in India's democratic



journey. In the final years of colonial rule, when India's independence was assured, the Constituent Assembly met in this very Central Hall. For almost 75 years after independence, this building served as India's Parliament, where many important decisions and discussions related to the country's future took place. Now, this historic site dedicated to democracy has been named Constitution House (Samvidhan Sadan). The Prime Minister said that this is the fourth time that the Conference of

Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers is being held in India. This time, the main theme of the conference is the effective functioning of parliamentary democracy and its reach to public welfare. Highlighting the role of the Speaker in parliamentary democracy, he said that the Speaker's job is not to speak much themselves, but to listen to others and give equal opportunities to all. The patience of the Speakers upholds the dignity of democracy, and they handle even noisy or overly enthusiastic members with a smile. Prime Minister Modi said that at the time of independence, many doubted whether a country with such diversity could successfully run a democracy, but India has transformed its diversity into a strength of democracy. India has proven that

Prime Minister describes Kashi-Tamil Sangamam as an example of cultural unity on Pongal

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Pongal, described the expansion of the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam as a step that strengthens the cultural unity of the country. He said that this initiative has become a powerful platform connecting traditions, languages, and communities, further deepening the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India). In his article written in Tamil, the Prime Minister said that the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is a living example of the unity inherent in India's diversity, which is promoting cultural dialogue and strengthening mutual

understanding and respect among people from different regions. In separate posts on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister said that the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is a vibrant example of the unity inherent in India's diversity. This initiative is promoting cultural dialogue and strengthening mutual understanding and respect among people from different regions. Referring to his visit to Somnath, the Prime Minister said that during this visit, he interacted with citizens from various parts of the country who appreciated initiatives like the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam and the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam.

democratic institutions and processes provide stability,

momentum, and broad-based development.

On Army Day, PM and Defense Minister pay tribute to the valor and sacrifice of the Indian Army

Agency. New Delhi

On the occasion of Army Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh extended their heartfelt greetings to the brave soldiers, officers, veterans, war widows, and their families of the Indian Army. Both leaders wholeheartedly praised the indomitable courage, dedication, and sacrifice of the Indian Army in protecting the security, honor, and integrity of the nation, and said that the Army's contribution is invaluable to the country. In his message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that every Indian is proud of the discipline, courage, and sacrifice with which our soldiers remain steadfast on the path of duty at all times to protect the country. He said that the Indian Army has set the



highest standards of national service with its exemplary discipline, dedication, and high professional competence. From protecting the borders to relief and rescue operations during natural disasters, from internal security challenges to international peacekeeping missions, the Army has discharged its responsibilities with remarkable dedication and commitment in every situation. The Prime Minister made special mention of 'Operation Sindoor', saying that during this operation, the countrymen directly witnessed the indomitable courage and valor of our soldiers. He

said that today the Indian Army has established its unique identity as one of the most respected and capable military forces in the world. The Prime Minister also said that in the last few years, several important steps have been taken to make the Army and other security forces more capable, modern, and future-ready. The availability of state-of-the-art weapons and technical equipment has been increased, training facilities have been expanded, and concrete efforts are being made towards self-reliance by promoting indigenous defense systems.

Brief News

Iranian airspace closed... Air India cancels three flights to the US



New Delhi: Indian airline Air India has cancelled approximately three flights to the United States due to the closure of Iranian airspace, and some services to Europe will also be delayed. A source associated with the airline said that about three flights – two from Delhi to New York and Newark, and one from Mumbai to New York – have been cancelled. The airline posted that due to the evolving situation in Iran, the subsequent closure of its airspace, and keeping passenger safety in mind, flights transiting the region are now using alternative routes, which may cause delays. The company said, "Some Air India flights are being cancelled as rerouting is not currently possible." Air India expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to passengers due to this unforeseen disruption. Air India uses Iranian airspace for its flights to the US and Europe, and the alternative route involves flying through Iraqi airspace.

BMC Elections: RSS Chief Bhagwat Casts Vote, Emphasizes Choosing the Right Candidate

Nagpur: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat cast his vote in the Nagpur Municipal Corporation elections on Thursday. Bhagwat was among the early voters. Speaking to the media after casting his vote, he emphasized the importance of active participation in the democratic process and choosing the right candidate. The RSS chief said that opting for the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option indirectly promotes undesirable candidates. Bhagwat arrived at the polling station in the Mahal area of Nagpur around 7:30 am and cast his vote. He appealed to voters to vote for a deserving candidate in the elections, keeping the public interest in mind. He said, "That's why the first thing I did today was to cast my vote." Regarding the None of the Above (NOTA) option available to voters in the elections, he said that NOTA means you reject everyone, and by doing so, we end up promoting someone whom nobody wants. He said that NOTA gives people an option to express their dissent, but it is better to vote for someone than not to vote at all.

ED seizes assets worth Rs 21.45 crore in Mahadev betting app case

Agency. New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken major action in the Mahadev betting app case, seizing assets worth Rs 21.45 crore in Chhattisgarh. The agency took this action against an illegal betting and money laundering network. The ED says that this action is based on an investigation into a money laundering case linked to an illegal online betting syndicate. This syndicate was active in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and other parts of the country. The seized assets include properties and investments derived from the proceeds of crime earned through illegal betting



activities. The ED's investigation revealed that the Mahadev betting platform was operating through a well-organized network of promoters, panel operators, and agents. The illicit earnings were laundered through fake accounts, benami accounts, and multi-layered financial transactions. Investigators stated that a large portion of the profits, 70 to 75 percent, went to the main promoters, while the remaining share was distributed among agents and sub-agents.

Human Rights Commission takes cognizance of case involving a young man forced into bonded labor, seeks response within two weeks

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a case involving a young man who was separated from his family at Bahadurgarh railway station and subsequently subjected to bonded labor and physical torture in Greater Noida. The Commission has issued notices to the concerned authorities in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, seeking a response within two weeks. In a statement issued on Thursday, the NHRC said that based on media reports, it has taken suo motu cognizance of the incident and issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Haryana, the Police Commissioner of Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.

Significant Drop in NEET PG Cut-off Before the Third Round

Agency. New Delhi

More than 18,000 postgraduate medical seats remain vacant after the second round of NEET PG counseling across the country. According to sources in the Ministry of Health, the reason for the vacant seats was not a lack of qualified doctors, but rather the high percentile criteria. The National Board of Examinations (NBE) has decided to lower the cut-off before the third round. Under the revised

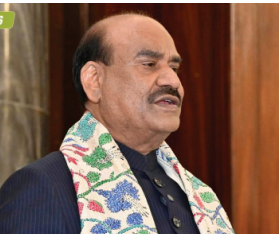


criteria, the percentile for the reserved category has been reduced from 40 to 0, with the minimum marks changing from 235/800 to ~40. For general and EWS candidates, the qualifying percentile has been reduced from 50 to 7. For PwBD general candidates, it has been reduced from 45 to 5 percentile.

Misuse of AI and Social Media a Serious Challenge to Democracy: Om Birla

Agency. New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the creation of ethical artificial intelligence (AI) and a reliable, transparent, and accountable social media framework is crucial for protecting democratic values. The misuse of AI and social media is creating serious challenges such as misinformation, cybercrime, and social polarization, which are the collective responsibility of the world's legislatures to address. Speaking at the



28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in the Central Hall of the Parliament House on Thursday, Birla said that AI and digital technologies have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of democratic institutions. Continuous

steps are being taken to make the Indian Parliament and state assemblies paperless and connect them to an integrated digital platform. He said that through the joint efforts of Parliament and the government, old and irrelevant laws have been repealed and new welfare-oriented laws have been enacted. These reforms are enabling India to move strongly towards its goal of becoming a developed and self-reliant nation. Birla said that maintaining the dignity, credibility, and

prestige of parliamentary institutions in the eyes of the public should be the top priority of all democratic entities. The deliberations at the conference will lead to collective solutions to global challenges and further deepen citizens' trust in democratic institutions. It is noteworthy that the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth is being attended by Speakers and Presiding Officers of the national parliaments of 53 sovereign countries.

Four astronauts returning to Earth from the ISS due to illness

Agency. Washington

An unprecedented event has unfolded in the history of space science. For the first time, a medical evacuation is being conducted from space. Four astronauts have departed from the International Space Station for Earth. They are expected to land in the Pacific Ocean today, Thursday. This decision was made because one of the astronauts on the mission fell seriously ill, and his examination and treatment were not possible



in space. It has been reported that an astronaut suddenly faced a serious health problem during the mission. A complete examination was not possible with the available resources, after which, prioritizing safety

and health, the decision was made to bring the entire crew back ahead of schedule. A Crew Dragon spacecraft was used for this purpose. On Wednesday, this spacecraft separated from the International Space Station and headed towards Earth. Four astronauts are on board, including two Americans, one Japanese, and one Russian. According to officials, the condition of one of the crew members suddenly deteriorated, forcing the mission to be cut short.

On Makar Sankranti, Union Home Minister Amit Shah performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the redevelopment project

Ahmedabad | On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah formally performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the redevelopment of the Surya Apartments Sector-2 housing complex in the Naranpura area of Ahmedabad, a project being undertaken by the Gujarat Housing Board. Minister of State for Urban Development and Urban Housing, Darshanaben Vaghela, was also specially present on this occasion. Union Minister Amit Shah performed the groundbreaking ceremony with due rituals and extended his best wishes to the beneficiaries of the redevelopment project. He said that this project is a significant step towards providing better, safer, and modern housing facilities to the residents of the area.

European Commission President and European Council President to be Chief Guests at Republic Day Celebrations

New Delhi: European Council President Antonio Lutos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will be on a state visit to India from January 25-27 as chief guests for the 77th Republic Day celebrations. During the visit, the two leaders will also co-chair the 16th India-European Union Summit on January 27. The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Thursday that the participation of the EU leaders as chief guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations and the 16th India-EU Summit will further deepen the India-EU strategic partnership and advance cooperation in priority areas of mutual interest. An India-EU Business Forum is also expected to be held on the sidelines of the India-EU Summit.



A 3-member team from the Minority Commission met with the family of Pappu Ansari

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GODDA: A 3-member investigation team of the Jharkhand State Minority Commission, comprising the Commission's Vice Chairman Dr. Pranesh Solomon, member Mr. Ikrarul Hasan, and member Barkat Ali, reached the residence of the deceased Pappu Ansari's family in Ranipur, under Pathargama police station area. The team spoke with the deceased's wife Aisha Begum, brother, son, two daughters, and other family members, offering them solace and assuring them of all possible government assistance. The Commission's Vice Chairman, Dr. Pranesh Solomon, clearly stated that the criminals would not be spared under any circumstances. The police are continuously conducting raids to apprehend the culprits. Solomon said that strict action would be taken against the culprits under

- Visited the incident site and took stock of the situation
- The culprits will not be spared - Dr. Solomon

the provisions of mob lynching and other relevant sections of the law. He also stated that a proposal is being put before the government to ensure appropriate compensation for the family. Earlier, the Minority Commission team, regarding this brutal mob lynching incident, held a meeting at the Godda Circuit House with the district administration and police administration to discuss the investigation of the case and to prevent the recurrence of such mob lynching incidents. They reviewed the investigation conducted so far. It was stated in the meeting that the government is very serious about this incident, and that the



guilty should not be spared, nor should any innocent person be implicated. The team requested the district administration to constitute a separate investigation team under the leadership of the Sub-Divisional Officer in addition to the police investigation, so that appropriate action can be taken. The Poraiahat police station was instructed to submit a detailed three-month report to the commission, including details of the number of patrolling

police teams and their patrol areas each month, the steps taken to raise public awareness that taking the law into one's own hands is a crime and that mob lynching is a serious offense, and the number of meetings held each month regarding police-public coordination. Instructions were also given to investigate all aspects of this brutal mob lynching incident according to the law. The team visited the incident site in Matihani under Podaiyahat

police station and conducted an on-site investigation, questioning the villagers. They then went to Ranipur in the Pathargama police station area to meet the deceased's family. The Minority Commission team was accompanied by Additional Collector Ms. Premlata Murmu, Sub-Divisional Officer Baidyanath Oraon, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Mr. Ashok Priyadarshi, Deputy Superintendent of Police Mr. J.P.N. Chaudhary, Civil Surgeon R.D. Sharma, District Welfare Officer Mr. Sudhir Kumar Singh, Block Development Officer of Podaiyahat Mr. Phuleswar Murmu, Circle Officer, Police Inspector and City Police Station In-charge Mr. Dinesh Mahli, Podaiyahat Police Station In-charge Pandit, Pathargama Police Station In-charge, and Mukhiya's husband Manoj Mehra, along with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha minority leader Qayyum Ansari.

District Education Establishment Committee meeting concluded



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Godda: A review meeting of the District Education Establishment Committee was held in the auditorium of the Collectorate under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Godda, Ms. Anjali Yadav, IAS. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner considered the deputation of graduate trained teachers (TGTs)

in the newly upgraded high schools and decided to depute teachers to the concerned schools. Present on the occasion were Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Deepak Kumar Dubey, IAS, District Education Officer Ms. Mithila Tudu, District Welfare Officer Mr. Sudhir Prasad Singh, District Education Superintendent Mr. Deepak Kumar, and other staff members of the Education Department.

Meeting of the PM Poshan Scheme Steering/Monitoring Committee Concluded

Correpondent.DN

Godda: A meeting of the district-level Steering/Monitoring Committee related to the PM Poshan (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) scheme was held in the auditorium of the Collectorate under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Godda, Ms. Anjali Yadav, IAS. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the quality, regularity, and adherence to nutritional standards of the mid-day meal program in all government and aided schools of the district. She gave clear instructions that children should be provided with clean, nutritious food according to the prescribed



menu, and that any kind of negligence would not be tolerated. The Deputy Commissioner sought detailed information on the supply and storage of food grains in schools, the attendance of cooks/assistants, payment of honorarium, cleanliness of kitchens and utensils, and other related points. She instructed the concerned

officers to conduct regular inspections in all schools and submit reports.

It was also directed in the meeting that handwashing facilities, clean drinking water, cleanliness of the kitchen, and strict adherence to the prescribed standards in food preparation should be ensured in all schools. Emphasis was

also placed on conducting regular health check-ups and nutrition awareness activities for the children. The Deputy Commissioner said that the main objective of the PM Poshan scheme is to increase children's attendance, improve their nutritional status, and develop their interest in education. Better coordination among all the concerned departments is essential for its successful implementation. The meeting was attended by the District Education Officer, District Education Superintendent, District Supply Officer, Mr. Avinash Purendu (representative from the Health Department), concerned Block Education Officers, and other relevant officials.

“Reduce Speed, Increase Safety” Road Safety Awareness Campaign Held at Rampur Chowk

Correpondent.DN

Dumka: Under the Road Safety Month 2026, a comprehensive road safety awareness campaign was conducted by the district administration near Rampur Chowk. This campaign was organized under the joint leadership of the District Transport Officer, Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar, Dumka, and the Motor Vehicle Inspector, Dumka, with the theme “Reduce Speed, Increase Safety.” During the campaign, citizens and drivers were given detailed information about traffic rules. Officials encouraged safe driving speeds, urged two-wheeler riders to wear helmets, four-wheeler drivers to wear seat belts, and emphasized the importance of not driving under the influence of alcohol or



drugs. During the campaign, the District Transport Officer, Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar, Dumka, and the

Motor Vehicle Inspector, Dumka, removed prohibited lights and pressure horns from vehicles violating the

rules on the spot, preventing inconvenience to other road users. Free helmets were also distributed to needy drivers. Officials stated that speeding is a major cause of road accidents, and that effective reduction in accidents can only be achieved by controlling speed. They emphasized that even a little carelessness can lead to serious accidents, while following the rules protects lives. Members of the Road Safety Committee, traffic officials, and several social workers were present on this occasion. They all appealed to the general public to follow traffic rules themselves and to create awareness among others. The campaign conveyed the message that a little caution, controlled speed, and adherence to rules can protect precious lives.

District Education Establishment Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner



Deoghar: A review meeting of the District Education Establishment Committee was held at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed various issues related to teachers' promotions, dismissals, postings, and court cases point by point and gave necessary and appropriate directions to the concerned officials. The Deputy Commissioner also gave necessary instructions to the education department officials regarding the inter-district posting of 51 teachers.

Meeting held regarding five aspirational blocks

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Bhagalpur: A meeting was held at the Review Building in Bhagalpur to review and assess the progress of the aspirational blocks of Bhagalpur district (Jagdishpur, Pirpainti, Sabour, Sanhaura, and Sultanganj). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Praveen Ranjan, Director, Department of Finance, Government of India, who was deputed by NITI Aayog. At the meeting, District Magistrate Dr. Naval Kishore Choudhary, IAS, extended a warm welcome to him on the soil of Bhagalpur by presenting him with a plant. District

Planning Officer Mr. Monu Kumar presented a PowerPoint presentation, informing about the progress made since 2023 on the 40 different progress indicators set for all departments in all the blocks. He informed that NITI Aayog has created a total of 40 indicators for the aspirational blocks, based on whose progress the aspirational blocks can be brought to the level of normal blocks. In all five blocks of Bhagalpur district, almost 100% achievement has been made in several indicators. Almost 100% achievement has been made in all seven indicators set for the Health Department: antenatal check-ups,



institutional deliveries, low birth weight, hypertension, diabetes control, and reduction in TB cases. In the past year 2024, a comprehensive campaign was conducted in these blocks, and all five blocks received gold medals for achieving 100% saturation in all six indicators (antenatal check-ups, screening

for hypertension and diabetes, soil health cards, supplementary nutrition for pregnant women, and Jeevika). Bhagalpur is the only district in India whose all five aspirational blocks have been awarded. Almost 100% achievement has also been made in the seven parameters set for nutrition. Mission-45 was

launched in Bhagalpur to transform severely malnourished children into normal children. This has been praised at the state and central levels. Bhagalpur's aspirational blocks have achieved remarkable progress in the 11 parameters set by the Education Department, five parameters of the Agriculture Department, five parameters of infrastructure, and parameters of social development. The Central Nodal Officer, Mr. Praveen Ranjan, appeared quite satisfied and appreciated the work done in Bhagalpur district. District Magistrate Dr. Naval Kishore Chaudhary,

IAS, also provided detailed information to the CPO regarding Mission 45 and the work done in the health sector in Bhagalpur. The meeting was attended by Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Pradeep Singh, Civil Surgeon Dr. Ashok Prasad, Joint Director Public Relations Mr. Nagendra Kumar Gupta, Lead Bank Manager, DRDA Director, Director NEP DRDA, District Agriculture Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Fisheries Officer, DPO Education Department, DPO ICDS, and the Block Development Officers of all five blocks joined through video conferencing.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the District Health Committee to work towards strengthening and improving the health system day by day

Correpondent.DN

Deoghar: A meeting of the District Health Committee was held at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS. During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of the progress of health schemes being implemented in the district, the availability of health services, and their quality implementation. The Civil Surgeon and the team of

- Providing quality and timely health services to the district residents is the administration's top priority: - Deputy Commissioner Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS
- In the DLC meeting, the construction of a total of 35 health sub-centers in the district was approved....

doctors were directed to work towards improving and strengthening health facilities day by day. In addition, during

the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS reviewed the various works being carried out by the



Health Department and the various special campaigns being run, and directed the concerned officers to work at the ground level. Further, during

the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the current status of annual and periodic maintenance, operation, management, and repair of buildings


of all health sub-centers/ Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers, Sub-Divisional Hospitals, and District Hospitals/ Sadar Hospitals under the Chief Minister's Hospital Operation and Maintenance Scheme. A detailed review was conducted on various points related to the renovation of buildings, painting, upgrading of the surroundings, purchase of minor medical equipment and medicines, etc., and necessary and appropriate directions were given to the

concerned officers. Also, approval was granted for a total of 35 health sub-centers, and instructions were given to re-identify the sites for 7 health sub-centers where buildings already exist. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner gave necessary and appropriate directions to the concerned officers regarding the speedy completion of construction work on health buildings and sub-centers in the district, strengthening the drinking water supply system, taking effective action under the PCPNDT

Act to improve the child sex ratio, and matters related to human resource management. In addition to the above, the meeting was attended by the District Council Chairman, Deputy Development Commissioner, Municipal Commissioner, In-charge Civil Surgeon, officials of the District Health Committee, Medical Officers, Assistant Public Relations Officer, Mr. Rohit Kumar DPM, DAM, DPC (TB), BPM and officers from the concerned departments.

Brief News

VBG Ram Ji is an important step towards making the country self-reliant: Manoj




Khunti: The Vikasit Bharat Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (VBG Ram Ji) is an important step towards making the country fully self-reliant by 2047. The scheme aims to eliminate corruption and loot prevalent in MNREGA. BJP State General Secretary Manoj Singh stated this while addressing a press conference held at the District BJP office on Thursday. Manoj Singh said that MNREGA previously guaranteed 100 days of employment, but the new Act has increased this to 125 days. He stated that the Vikasit Bharat Rozgar Guarantee Yojana is an important initiative towards empowering and empowering rural India. The scheme aims to provide assured employment at the local level to the poor, laborers, and unemployed families living in villages, thereby preventing migration and strengthening the rural economy. He said that under this scheme, priority is being given to public utility works in rural areas. These include construction of rural roads, water conservation, digging of ponds and reservoirs, agricultural works, cleanliness campaigns, tree plantation, and infrastructure development at the Panchayat level. These works not only provide employment to villagers but also build permanent assets in the villages. Under the Rural Bibi Ji Ram Ji scheme, every eligible family is provided with wage-based employment for a fixed period. Wages will be paid directly into bank accounts, ensuring transparency and eliminating the role of middlemen. This will increase the income of rural families and meet their daily needs.

Gaurav kidnapping case raises questions about law and order, demands for action

East Singhbhum: The kidnapping of Gaurav Gandhi (24), son of Adityapur's renowned industrialist Devang Gandhi, has raised serious questions about the state's law and order situation, said area MLA Saryu Rai on Thursday. On Thursday, he released a video message about the incident, stating that he had spoken to the state DGP and SSP Piyush Pandey and demanded the immediate arrest of the perpetrators. Saryu Rai stated that this incident has created an atmosphere of fear not only among the business community but also among the general public, and that the government and district administration should take immediate action. Gaurav Gandhi is the son of Devang Gandhi, vice-president of the Adityapur Small Industries Association (ASIA). The kidnappers demanded a ransom of 5 crore from the family via internet calling. According to reports, on Tuesday, Devang Gandhi was busy in an important meeting at the Adityapur Auto Cluster. At that time, he received a WhatsApp call from an overseas number (+62-831-94765544), which he could not answer due to the meeting. When Devang Gandhi returned home at around 2 pm and tried to contact his son Gaurav, his phone was switched off. Upon investigation, it was discovered that Gaurav had neither reached the bank nor the company. Later, when Devang Gandhi read the message from the same foreign number, he learned of his son's kidnapping and a ransom demand. Initially, when the family suspected a kidnapping, the police began investigating it as a missing person case. However, after the ransom message and technical evidence surfaced, the Bistupur police swung into action and, based on the statement of Devang Gandhi, a resident of CH Area Inner Circle Road, filed an FIR against unknown kidnappers. Police have launched a massive operation to safely recover Gaurav Gandhi.


Quiz Competition Held at Meteorological Center, Winning Children Awarded



Ranchi: A program was organized at the Meteorological Center, Ranchi on Thursday to mark the completion of 151 years of service of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). A quiz competition was also organized for children during the program, and the winning children were awarded. On this occasion, scientists discussed in detail all the services provided by the Meteorological Center, Ranchi, including weather forecasts, information on heavy rainfall, hailstorms, cold and heat waves, dust storms, Nor'westers, snow, and tropical cyclones, as well as seasonal warnings and the successful operation of services for aviation, agriculture, irrigation, navigation, and offshore oil exploration. On the occasion, Abhishek Anand, the principal scientist of the Meteorological Center, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the children from Surendra Nath Centenary School, informing them about the various activities of the Meteorological Center. He also told the children about the department's various apps, Damini, Sachet, Meghdoot, and Mausam, and advised them on how to use them. The children visited various meteorological instruments (automatic weather station, radiosonde) and the surface observation observatory and saw demonstrations. They were also informed about the working methods of the department. Scientists and staff of the Meteorological Center were present at the program.

Cold wave likely to continue in Jharkhand till Basant Panchami

Agency. Ranchi



The cold wave is likely to continue in the state till Basant Panchami (January 23). After Basant Panchami, the cold wave is expected to subside, and both maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to rise. According to the Meteorological Department, temperature fluctuations are expected in the coming days. Several districts of the state are still in the grip of a severe cold wave. On Thursday, the minimum temperature recorded in Khunti was 2.7 degrees Celsius and in Daltonganj it was 3.7 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department has predicted a cold wave in the northwestern, central, and southern parts of the state. These districts include Garhwa, Palamu, Latehar, Chatra, Koderma, and Lohardaga in the northwestern part; Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla, Ramgarh, Hazaribagh, and Bokaro in the central part; and East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Simdega, and Seraikela-Kharsawan in the southern part. Westerly winds are increasing the chill - Meanwhile, during the last 24 hours, the highest temperature recorded in the state was 28.8 degrees Celsius and the lowest was 2.7 degrees Celsius in Gumla. During this period, light fog prevailed in some places, and a cold wave situation was observed in some areas. According to the department, cold winds (westerly winds) are blowing over Jharkhand from the northwest to the north. This is the reason why the cold is not subsiding in the state, and the chill persists. On Thursday, a severe chill was felt in Ranchi and surrounding areas due to the cold wave since morning. Despite bright sunshine, there was no feeling of warmth in the atmosphere. In the evening, people felt intense cold. On Thursday, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in Ranchi were 22.2 and 9 degrees Celsius respectively, in Jamshedpur 25.2 and 9.3 degrees, in Daltonganj 25.6 and 3.7 degrees, in Bokaro 23.5 and 6.1 degrees, in Chaibasa 28 and 7.8 degrees, in Khunti 23.9 and 2.7 degrees, in Lohardaga 22.9 and 6 degrees, in Latehar 17.8 and 6.9 degrees, and in Seraikela-Kharsawan 26.4 and 6.1 degrees Celsius.

JDU stages protest against corruption in Mango Municipal Corporation

Agency. East Singhbhum



The Janata Dal (United) (JDU) metropolitan unit organized a protest on Thursday against alleged irregularities, corruption, and problems affecting the general public in the Mango Municipal Corporation. A large number of party workers and local residents participated in the protest. Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy also arrived at the scene and encouraged the workers. The protest was led by JDU District President Subodh Srivastava. Raising serious questions about the functioning of the Mango Municipal Corporation, he said that public problems are continuously increasing in all 36 wards of the corporation area, but the government and the municipal administration are not taking any concrete steps in this regard. He alleged that corruption is rampant in the municipal corporation and the common people are directly bearing the brunt of it. The district president held the state government directly responsible for these problems. He alleged that because the JDU is in the opposition, public facilities are being deliberately withheld in the Mango Municipal Corporation at the behest of the government to harass the public. He said that this is a completely undemocratic and anti-people attitude. During the protest, JDU leaders warned that if the problems of the Mango Municipal Corporation are not resolved in time, the party will intensify the agitation. Srivastava said that if necessary, the party will also lock down the municipal corporation office, for which the Hemant Soren government will be entirely responsible.

Gang operating as fake police officers busted, main accused arrested

Agency. West Singhbhum



West Singhbhum police have busted a gang that was defrauding people by posing as fake police officers and arrested a cunning accused, while a minor involved with him has been taken into custody. The accused used to roam around on a motorcycle with a fake police number plate, claiming to be a CID officer, and extorted money from people by intimidating them. On Thursday, police officials said that based on the information, the police team took swift action and stopped the suspicious motorcycle near Tungri bridge and searched it. Two people were on the bike. During questioning, one identified himself as Roshan Ekka (38), son of late Vardan Ekka, a resident of Mahulsai (Matkamahatu), under Muffasil police station, while the other was identified as a minor, Sanatan Pat Pingua (17), son of Devendra Pat Pingua, a resident of Mursai, under Majhgaon police station. During the search, the original number plate JH06Q 3520 was recovered from under the motorcycle seat, while a fake number plate JH06Q 8055 with a police logo was attached to the bike. In addition, a stolen mobile phone was recovered from Roshan Ekka and two mobile phones were recovered from the minor. The preliminary investigation also revealed that the accused used to put a picture of a senior police officer on his WhatsApp profile and portray himself as a high-ranking officer, and in this way, he would intimidate people and demand money. During questioning, both the accused confessed that about two months ago, they had defrauded Vicky Kumar Gop, a resident of Dangowaposi Mundasai village under the Noamundi police station area, by posing as CID inspectors. According to the police, the accused had been involved in such fraudulent activities for a long time.

Wild elephant damages house and warehouse


Agency. East Singhbhum



Early Thursday morning, a wild elephant emerged from the forest and entered Rupushkundi village in Sardih panchayat under Chakulia block of East Singhbhum district, causing damage in several places and spreading panic among the villagers. According to reports, the elephant first targeted the house of Jayanti Nayak, a resident of the village. Her house was completely damaged in the attack, and the belongings inside were also destroyed. The woman suffered heavy financial losses in this incident. After this, the elephant reached the Rupushkundi LAMPS complex in search of paddy, where it broke the iron shutter of the warehouse and caused further damage. The sudden attack by the elephant has created an atmosphere of fear throughout the village. Villagers say that people are terrified by this incident that occurred in the early morning and are afraid to venture out of their homes at night. Villagers are particularly worried about the safety of children and the elderly. After wreaking havoc, the elephant left the village and returned to the Samphdhara Sal forest, where it is reportedly currently residing.

Ranchi Police Arrives at ED Office to Investigate Assault Case Against Drinking Water Department Clerk

Agency. Ranchi




In Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, two Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials have been accused of assault by Santosh Kumar, a clerk in the Drinking Water Department. Following these allegations, a team from the Ranchi Police arrived at the ED office on Airport Road on Thursday morning to investigate the matter. It is noteworthy that Santosh Kumar, a resident of Upper Chutia, has made sensational allegations against ED Assistant Director (II) Prateek and Assistant Shubham, accusing them of summoning him to the office, assaulting him, causing a head injury, and attempting to destroy evidence. After Santosh Kumar filed a complaint, the police registered a case (Case No. 05/2026) at the Airport Police Station and have begun an investigation. According to the complaint filed by the victim, Santosh Kumar, he was instructed to appear at the ED office in Hinoo at 10:00 AM on January 12, 2026. Santosh Kumar alleges that when he reached Assistant Director Prateek's office at around 1:35 PM, the officers present there began pressuring him to confess to the allegations. The complaint states that when Santosh Kumar refused to admit to the allegations, officers Prateek and Shubham verbally abused him and brutally assaulted him. The victim alleges that the officers launched a life-threatening attack on him, causing a severe head injury and profuse bleeding. During the assault, the officers allegedly said, "Even if you die, it won't make any difference to us." According to Santosh Kumar, after being injured, he was taken to Sadar Hospital, where he received six stitches on his head. He was also threatened at the hospital and told not to tell the doctor the real reason for his injuries. Upon being brought back to the ED office, the victim alleges that his blood-stained T-shirt was forcibly removed, and he was given a new one. He was also forced to sign an 'incident report' without being allowed to read it. It is alleged that the officials threatened him, saying that if he informed the media, police, or a lawyer, his wife and children would be sent to jail. On the other hand, official sources from the ED stated that Santosh Kumar had not even been summoned. However, when he arrived, questioning began. After only a couple of questions, he became uncooperative.



Khunti Police: On January 14, 2026, the Superintendent of Police, Khunti, received confidential information that 90 cows had been gathered in Manhu village, Khunti police station and district, for transportation by cattle smugglers. Following the instructions of the Superintendent of Police, Khunti, a raiding team was formed and reached the walled compound in Manhu village. Upon seeing the police vehicle, four individuals inside the compound attempted to flee but were surrounded and apprehended by the raiding team. From the arrested individuals, 4 mobile phones, Rs. 23,260/- in cash, and a total of 102 cattle were recovered. These items were seized after preparing a proper seizure list, and the arrested individuals were formally taken into custody.

Jagriti Branch Delivers Anti-Drug Message Through Street Play

Agency. West Singhbhum



With the aim of spreading awareness against the growing drug abuse in society, the Jagriti branch of Marwari Yuva Manch Chaibasa, inspired by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), conducted a drug de-addiction awareness campaign in Meri Tola on Thursday. On the occasion, people were informed about the ill effects of drug abuse through a street play, and a message was given towards a healthy, drug-free society. During the program, the drama team led by Prakash Kumar Gupta and Usha Mishra presented an impactful street play. The play depicted how drug abuse harms a person's physical health, destroys family happiness, and promotes crime, poverty, and stress in society. Through simple language and vibrant acting, the artists conveyed the message that drug abuse not only ruins the individual but also the entire family and society. During the street play, the audience was also informed about the importance of correct information, family support, and social awareness in preventing drug abuse. People were appealed to stay away from drugs themselves and to create awareness among others against it. On this occasion, the president of the Jagriti branch, Chanda Agarwal, said that in a recent meeting held by DLSA Secretary Ravi Chaudhary, various social organizations were encouraged to run campaigns against drug abuse. This awareness program was organized under that inspiration, so that the growing drug abuse in the area can be curbed and meaningful efforts can be made towards making society drug-free. The successful organization of the program was made possible by the significant contributions of Jagriti branch secretary Rinki Agarwal, treasurer Shilpa Firoziwala, Richa Agarwal, Mamta Jindal, and other members.

Khunti: The annual festival of the Maa Mansa Devi temple was celebrated today in Birhu village. Prior to this auspicious event, a grand procession carrying sacred water pots (Kalash Yatra) was held with due rituals, in which hundreds of devotees participated. The procession started from the Maa Mansa Devi temple premises, traveled through the village, and reached the Birhu Chhath Ghat on the Tajna River. There, after taking a vow, water was collected. During the procession, offerings were made to Lord Nandi Maharaj, the Hanuman temple, and the village deity, inviting them to participate in the puja. The procession then returned to the Maa Mansa Devi temple premises. Hundreds of male and female devotees participated in the procession, creating a devotional atmosphere throughout the route. After the procession, kheer (rice pudding) and jaggery with chickpeas were distributed among the devotees. After the puja rituals, the yagna (fire sacrifice) was concluded. A grand feast (Mahabhandara) was organized in the evening. A twelve-hour kirtan (devotional singing) program was also organized, starting at 6 PM.



Padmashree Anuj Sharma dominated the evening of the first day of the Tatapani Festival

the crowd was mesmerized by his brilliant presentation of Chhattisgarhi songs

Balrampur, Agency: The evening of the first day of the three-day Tatapani Festival was completely immersed in the colors of Chhattisgarhi folk culture at the Tatapani campus. The lively stage performance of "Mor Chhaiyan Bhuiyan" superstar, Padmashree awardee and MLA from Dharsiwan Assembly, Anuj Sharma, enthralled the audience in an ocean of emotions and enthusiasm. On the first day of the three-day festival held at Tatapani, on the evening of January 15, in the cultural program, the popular artist of Chhattisgarhi cinema and folk music, Padmashree Anuj Sharma, enthralled the stage with his powerful and soulful presentation, making the entire campus reverberate with applause and folk tunes.

Anuj Sharma performed several popular Chhattisgarhi songs from the stage, including "Hamar Para Tuhar Para" and "Mor Chhaiyan Bhuiyan." The audience swayed to every line of his songs, and the crowd in the pandal cheered the artist with rapturous applause. This evening's cultural event became a living symbol of Chhattisgarhi folk spirit, tradition, and cultural soul.

During his performance, Anuj Sharma stated that events like the Tatapani Festival are a powerful means of preserving Chhattisgarh's folk culture and passing it on to the new generation. He expressed gratitude for the love and respect he received from the people of Balrampur district.



Cabinet Minister Ramvihar Netam, other public representatives, administrative officials, and a large number of local citizens were present on the occasion. Cabinet Minister Ramvihar Netam praised Anuj Sharma's performance, saying that through his art, he has strengthened Chhattisgarh's cultural identity at the national level. It is noteworthy that Anuj Sharma, a Padma Shri awardee, is currently the MLA from Dharsiwan Assembly constituency and plays an active role in both art and public service. His powerful performance on the evening of the first day of the Tatapani Festival made the entire event memorable, generating considerable enthusiasm among the audience for the next two days of events.

'Discussed evolving situation': Jaishankar speaks to Iran FM Araghchi; tensions mount in Middle East

New Delhi, Agency: Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday held talks with external affairs minister S Jaishankar. EAM Jaishankar noted that the exchange focused on recent developments amid escalating tensions in Iran. "Received a call from Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi. We discussed the evolving situation in and around Iran," Jaishankar wrote on X.

The discussion came as India issued a fresh advisory urging all its nationals in Iran to leave the country using available means. The Indian embassy in Tehran asked students, pilgrims, businesspeople and tourists to depart via commercial flights, while advising those



who remain to exercise extreme caution and avoid areas affected by protests or demonstrations. According to estimates, more than 10,000 Indians, including students, are currently living in Iran. The embassy also urged Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to stay in close contact with the mission, keep their travel and immigration documents readily accessible, and ensure registration with the embassy. "In view of the evolving situation in Iran, Indian nationals who are currently in Iran (students, pilgrims, business persons and tourists) are advised to leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights," the

embassy said. The advisory was issued amid mounting international alarm over Iran's security crackdown on nationwide protests. Rights groups say at least 2,586 people have been killed, making it the deadliest unrest the country has seen in decades. The protests, which began late last month after the Iranian rial plunged to record lows, have spread to all 31 provinces and evolved from economic grievances into broader demands for political change. US President Donald Trump has warned of potential military action in response to the killings. "If they hang them, you're going to see some things..."

'Unwanted person gets promoted' RSS chief says Nota not best option; casts vote in NMC

New Delhi, Agency: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said "choosing the Nota option indirectly helps promote an unwanted candidate" as he cast his vote in the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC). Bhagwat was among the early voters in the Nagpur civic body polls. He went to a polling booth in the Mahal area of the city around 7.30 am and exercised his franchise. The RSS chief said elections are a mandatory part of democracy and hence, voting is the responsibility of all citizens. He appealed to electors that keeping the public interest in mind, everyone should vote for a suitable candidate during the elections. "Hence, today the first thing I did was to vote," the RSS chief was quoted as saying by news agency. On the None of the



Above option available to voters in elections, he said, "Nota means you reject everyone, and by doing so, we promote a person who is not wanted." He said Nota is an option given to people to express their displeasure, but it is better to vote for someone than not have anyone. Former RSS general secretary and central committee member Bhaiyaji Joshi, who was also among the early voters, stated the importance of voting in elections.

Former chief and tea vendor were shot in the firing

Palamu, Agency: Three rounds of gunfire erupted at a tea stall on Kandu Mohalla Gas Godown Road in the city police station area of Medininagar, the Palamu district headquarters, at 9 a.m. on Thursday. Former chief Naveen Prasad (45) was hit in the back, while a tea vendor, Ajit Kumar Gupta (52), was hit in the leg. Even after being shot, former chief Naveen fought the attacker and tried to snatch the pistol. Although unsuccessful, the attacker, seeing Naveen overpower him, fled the scene. The youth has been identified as Golu Paswan, whose house is adjacent to the scene of the incident. Police are attempting to arrest him. Naveen Prasad has been admitted to a private hospital for better treatment, while the tea vendor is undergoing treatment at MMCH.

According to reports, former



chief Naveen Prasad was sitting at Ajit Prasad's tea stall. Suddenly, Golu Paswan arrived and fired a shot from behind. One bullet hit Naveen Prasad in the back. However, Naveen Prasad immediately grabbed Golu Paswan's pistol and attempted to snatch it. A scuffle ensued. Two more rounds were fired from the pistol, one hitting the shopkeeper Ajit in the leg.

'Jana Nayagan' row: Setback for actor Vijay's film SC refuses to entertain plea for CBFC clearance

New Delhi, Agency: In a big setback to actor Vijay, the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea against an order of stay passed by a division bench of the Madras high court over the certification of his movie "Jana Nayagan". The top court asked KVN production to raise its grievances before a division bench of the Madras HC, which is examining the issue. A bench of Justices Deepankar Datta and AG Masih asked the Madras high court to decide the matter by January 20. On January 9, the Madras high court stayed a single judge's order directing the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to immediately grant a censor certificate to Jana Nayagan, leaving the fate of actor-turned-politician Vijay's film uncertain. KVN Productions LLP moved an appeal against the single judge's



directive, after a division bench of the high court last Friday put the order on hold and restrained the CBFC from issuing the certificate. Vijay recently launched his political party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. "Jana Nayagan", widely projected as Vijay's final film before his full-time entry into politics, was scheduled for a Pongal release on January 9. However, the release hit last-minute hurdles after the CBFC

failed to issue certification in time. The division bench's order came hours after Justice P T Asha directed the CBFC to clear "Jana Nayagan", setting aside the film board's decision to refer the matter to a review committee. Subsequently, the first bench comprising Chief Justice M M Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan, acting on an appeal filed by the CBFC, granted an interim stay on the single judge's verdict. Earlier, while allowing KVN Productions' plea seeking a direction to the CBFC to issue the censor certificate, Justice Asha held that once the board had decided to grant certification, the chairperson had no authority to refer the film to a review committee. The film board immediately challenged the order before the division bench.

From Chabahar to Kashmir: Why chaos in Iran hurts India, benefits China & Pakistan

New Delhi, Agency: As protests driven by economic distress and political fatigue spread across Iranian cities, New Delhi is watching events unfold with quiet unease. For India, the question is not whether Iran's clerical leadership can weather the unrest, but what a weakened or collapsing Iranian state would mean for India's already constrained strategic environment. India's engagement with Iran has never been ideological. It has been shaped by geography, access and balance. With Pakistan blocking overland routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia, Iran has long functioned as India's only viable western corridor. It has also acted as a counterweight to Pakistani influence in the region and as a stabilising pillar in India's carefully calibrated West

Asia policy, which seeks engagement across rival power blocs. A sudden weakening or collapse of the Iranian state would not produce a clean transition. It would generate uncertainty at a moment when India's strategic room for manoeuvre is already narrowing — with Bangladesh in uncertainty with reports of minority killings, Pakistan being Pakistan, China expanding its footprint across the region and the US under Donald Trump hurtling the world into one crisis after another. Any disruption in Iran would ripple outward, reshaping trade routes, diplomatic alignments and security calculations that India has spent decades managing. For decades, Iran has served as India's most viable land bridge to



Afghanistan and Central Asia. With Pakistan denying India overland access, Tehran became the cornerstone of New Delhi's westward connectivity strategy. At the heart of this vision lies Chabahar Port. Developed with Indian assistance, Chabahar was designed to give India direct access to the Iranian coast, bypassing Pakistan entirely, and linking

onward to Afghanistan and Central Asia through road and rail networks. For India, Chabahar was not merely a commercial port; it was a strategic statement — proof that geography need not be destiny. JNU professor Rajan Kumar in conversation with the Times of India says: "Iran remains India's most important land bridge to Central Asia, since Pakistan denies India access to overland routes." Even after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan and the stalling of rail projects due to sanctions, the logic of Chabahar has not disappeared. If anything, it has become more critical. A regime change that leads to prolonged instability would place these projects in jeopardy. Connectivity corridors require polit-

ical coherence, security guarantees and long-term planning. As Kumar warns, "In a post-Khamenei power struggle, Chabahar risks becoming a hostage to instability rather than a strategic asset." For India, losing Iran as a stable transit partner would mean losing its only realistic access point to Central Asia. How Iran historically balanced Pakistan Iran's value to India has not only been geographic; it has also been strategic. Despite being a Muslim-majority country, Tehran has never aligned itself with Pakistan's anti-India narrative. On the contrary, Iran has consistently opposed Sunni extremist groups that threaten Shia populations — the very networks that have targeted Indian interests over the decades.

The great bravery of the Indian Armed Forces roars on water, sky and land

Nilesh Verma

The roar of indigenous weapons that strikes fear into the veins of the enemy (Special on Indian Army Day - 15 January)
Today, our country is not just a nation that protects its geographical borders, but has become a powerful nation that demonstrates balanced power in all three dimensions: water, sky, and land. In the rapidly changing global landscape, India has transcended the traditional forms

of warfare and achieved mastery in cyber, space, and drone warfare. India has molded its military doctrine around the principle of "strength with restraint." This is why, while remaining a proponent of peace, India appears capable and decisive in responding to every challenge posed by an enemy who does not provoke anyone, and if provoked, does not spare them, entering their homes and striking. The security of Indians is the nation's top priority, and

therefore, coordination between the Army, Navy, and Air Force is no longer merely a practice, but a strategic necessity. Modern border surveillance systems, network-centric warfare, real-time intelligence sharing, and precision strike capabilities have enhanced India's deterrence manifold. India's preparedness on all three fronts, including rapid deployment in mountainous regions, security of sea lanes, and air-based rapid response, sends a clear message that any mis-

adventure will be met with immediate and effective response. Indian national security is strengthened not only by weapons, but also by policy, diplomacy, and public confidence. In recent years, India has strengthened its border security, improving its defense infrastructure, pursuing joint command initiatives, and enhancing strategic cooperation with friendly countries. A policy of "zero tolerance" towards threats such as ter-

rorism, cross-border infiltration, and piracy has strengthened India's security credibility. It is clear that India does not seek war, but if war is imposed, its response will be decisive. A recent example is Operation Sindoor, in which Pakistan targeted several cities in the country, but the capabilities of our soldiers and military systems thwarted its nefarious designs. The biggest pillar of India's military power is its indigenous defense technology.

Missiles like Agni and Prithvi, developed under the leadership of DRDO, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile by BrahMos Aerospace, the indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft, the Dhruv helicopter manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the modern Akash air defense system, and the indigenous Arihant-class nuclear submarines have all been developed. All of these are powerful examples of India's self-reliant defense capability.

Editorial

After the Iranian genocide

Iran is no longer witnessing a rebellion or revolt, but a genocide. One estimate puts the number of deaths at around 650, while Western media reports over 6,000. The so-called "revolutionary" Irfan has been sentenced to death. Iranian police have arrested or detained over 11,000 rebels. 1.5-1.8 million rebels are protesting in the streets. People are being burned alive. A colonel of Iran's Revolutionary Guards has been murdered by rebels. Mosques, banks, government buildings, and police stations have been burned. The governor's residence has also been targeted by arson. The Iranian government has issued orders to shoot rebels on sight. They could even face the death penalty. Despite these announcements, a mob of millions of young people is determined to overthrow Supreme Leader Khamenei. Khamenei supporters have also flooded the streets. The movement began against inflation, unemployment, economic collapse, and the collapsing currency, the rial, but it has now taken an international turn. US President Trump is constantly threatening the Iranian regime with the threat of an attack at any time. On one side is the US, and on the other, Iran is surrounded by superpowers like Russia and China. There were reports that Khamenei might flee to Moscow with his family and 20 close supporters, but he remains within a highly secure location in Iran, guarded by highly lethal forces. Iran is not Venezuela, so Trump should not be under any illusions. Iran possesses a powerful and trained military. It also possesses nuclear-capable missiles, a picture of which was shown in the media.

Animal rights vs. human safety

Stray dogs, human compassion, and public safety: The Supreme Court's strong comments and the global question facing India
Clear judicial guidelines, compensation framework and legal responsibility of dog feeders are the need of the hour to protect the elderly and children from stray dogs.
Dog Bite: The next hearing on January 20, 2026, is not just a date, but could be a crucial hearing for policymaking, accountability frameworks, and future direction.

Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

The issue of stray dogs in India is not new, but after the Supreme Court hearing on January 13, 2026, the issue has become a serious matter of public safety, administrative accountability, and constitutional duty, not just a matter of love or compassion for animals. The Court's sharp observations have made it clear that this debate will no longer revolve around emotions, but will instead center on the right to life, state responsibility, and citizen security. When a nine-year-old child loses his life in a stray dog ??attack, it becomes not just an accident but a symbol of the state's failure, societal priorities, and policy-making weaknesses. In the January 13, 2026 hearing, the Supreme Court stated very clearly that if incidents of stray dog ??bites or attacks continue, state governments may have to pay substantial compensation in each case. Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believes this observation marks a turning point in India's judicial system. The Court also indicated that not only the government, but also individuals



and organizations that feed dogs in public places and then refuse to take responsibility for any consequences, can be held accountable. This approach highlights the judiciary's view that duty and rights cannot be viewed as separate from each other. The Supreme Court's most significant observation was that stray dogs are not the private property of any individual or organization. If they truly belong to someone, there can be no moral or legal right to release them onto public streets. The Court asked, "When dog-loving organizations or individuals feed dogs and protect them, why do they shirk responsibility in the event of a dog bite or death?" This question adds a new dimension to the debate on animal rights versus human safe-

ty, not just in India but worldwide. Friends, if we consider the issue of "Children and the Elderly: The Most Vulnerable, the Most Neglected." During the hearing, the Supreme Court expressed deep concern about the safety of children and the elderly, particularly those who are vulnerable and neglected. The Court stated that these groups are unable to defend themselves or respond quickly in the event of an attack. When a child on their way to school, an elderly person on a morning walk, or a patient outside a hospital becomes a victim of stray dogs, it is not merely an accident but a violation of constitutional rights. The Court's remark, "Should this court close its eyes?" indicates that the judiciary no longer wishes to

remain a neutral spectator on this issue. One of the Supreme Court's most scathing remarks was, "Are emotions only shown for dogs, not for humans?" This question exposes the double standards of Indian society, where protests over dog rights are immediate, but the deaths of children are not met with the same intensity. The Court made it clear that the value of human life cannot be less than that of any animal, even when the issue is sensitive. The Supreme Court bench stated unequivocally that if any individual or group wishes to feed or care for dogs, they should do so within their own home, premises, or compound. Releasing them on public roads, creating fear and increasing the risk of attack, and then evading responsibility, will no longer be acceptable. This observation is also significant from a global perspective, as in developed countries, pet ownership is mandated by legal responsibility. Friends, if we consider the issue of administrative inaction versus law and order, the court clarified that this is not merely a matter of law and order, but of administrative inaction.

Who is the true companion in old age?

The report states that the government should provide jobs for less educated seniors so they can earn a living. Overall, we should remember that old age isn't just about age. Old age reflects negativity, stress, fear, and anxiety. It also reflects a lack of enthusiasm and laziness. In the Western world, there have been numerous scholars who wrote immortal works in their old age. The example of John Milton, who wrote Paradise Lost in his advanced years, is glaring. Leo Tolstoy was also one such individual. In our country, too, there have been many people who, in their old age, accomplished feats that even young people couldn't have accomplished...

Dr. Varinder Bhatia

Nowadays, many people seem to be facing misery and misery in old age. There could be many reasons for this, such as if you haven't saved enough money for the future, if you've cheated others throughout your life, if you've taught your children to pursue only their own selfish interests, if you haven't given your life the right direction, if you haven't been loyal to your spouse, if you've given more importance to charity and temporary pleasures, if you've considered yourself a machine and considered retirement the end of life. There are many other reasons, too. Those who waste their entire lives trying to earn and accumulate wealth, those who waste their lives solely on making money rather than on their families, those who have never learned to laugh, and those worthless individuals, when they become infirm, find themselves reaping the seeds of deprivation and dissatisfaction they have sown within their families. They receive the same retribution from their family and relatives: neglect, contempt, taunts, sarcasm, etc. In contrast, those who prioritize their families over wealth,

remain happy all the time, content with their earnings, give their close friends their full time and respect, prioritize their body and health over business, and enjoy old age while accepting death as an inevitable truth, are neither cynical nor neglected. Thinking seriously, who is the greatest companion in old age is a profound question, and the answer may vary slightly from person to person. But if we were to consider the single greatest companion, most people would agree that good health is the most important. Good health is the foundation of old age. Without it, both money and relatives become less important. Good health keeps you independent. You can manage your own affairs without having to depend on others, which is crucial for self-respect and dignity in old age. If your health is poor, all money is spent on treatment and medicines. Good health saves money. Only when you are healthy will you be able to spend time with relatives and friends and enjoy their company. With a sick body, every relationship can feel like a burden. Money provides security and comfort in old age, especially when your health begins to falter. Money gives you the confidence to



maintain a good lifestyle, meet your needs, and not be dependent on others. If your health deteriorates, money can provide you with the best medical care and care (nursing or aides). Money gives you the freedom to travel as you wish or pursue your hobbies. Relatives and family also provide emotional support and relief from loneliness in old age. Loneliness is a major problem in old age. Family support is essential for mental peace and well-being. When health and money fall short, family provides a true support. Being around grandchildren and children gives life a new purpose and meaning. Good health makes it easier to earn money or enjoy relationships. But if you have to

choose between them, good health is the best ally. Healthy health will make you happier, stronger relationships, and better manage your savings. After completing education, every person works hard in their youth to earn money so they can live a comfortable old age. That's why the retirement age is set at 60. However, people are currently facing financial pressures and inflation, which is not everyone's ability to endure. Due to the lack of pensions in private jobs, people face many problems in old age. A similar situation is occurring in South Korea, where nearly half of the elderly population is looking for jobs. This shocking revelation was made by government data. According to

the data, half of the elderly over the age of 65 in South Korea want to work. Of these, approximately 20 percent have also searched for jobs during this period. The results of this survey show that 55.7 percent of elderly people aged 65 to 79 are facing financial challenges and want to work. A year earlier, this figure was 54.8 percent. Compared to 2013, the number of elderly people looking for jobs at that time was only 43.6 percent. The Korea Employment Information Service stated that the analysis based on the survey has revealed surprising results. The need to earn money among the elderly is increasing. In the 10 years since 2013, the number of older adults seeking employment has jumped by 12.1 percent. This is a worrying statistic. Looking at other findings from this report, we find that 65 percent of the elderly job seekers are men and 47 percent are women. The reasons revealed in our interviews were surprising: they are all forced to seek employment due to economic challenges. In the past year, 19 percent of men and 18 percent of elderly women have gone out looking for jobs.

Muthoot FinCorp Ltd. Honours Star Performers at Dil Se Awards Hosted by Shah Rukh Khan

Mumbai,Agency; Muthoot FinCorp Ltd. (Muthoot Blue), recently recognised its top-performing employees at their annual Dil Se Awards, held at a national event in Mumbai, hosted by brand ambassador Shah Rukh Khan. The awards recognised employees for outstanding performance and merit.

The Dil Se Awards form a part of Muthoot FinCorp’s structured annual recognition framework, celebrating employees who consistently deliver strong outcomes and demonstrate commitment to the organisation’s values. This people-first approach has also earned the company recognition as a Great Place to Work.

“At Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., we are a deeply customer-centric and employee-first organisation,” said Shaji Varghese, CEO – Muthoot FinCorp Ltd. “We believe engaged employees build stronger customer relationships and drive meaningful impact on the ground.”

He added, “Our recognition philosophy is not driven by competition or pressure, but by our belief in

meaningful rewards. Our employees, fondly called as Muthootians... deserve to be acknowledged for their consistent efforts.”

Over the years, Muthoot FinCorp Ltd. has strengthened its people practices by enhancing ease of work, introducing structured rewards and recognition, and enabling faster, clearly defined promotion pathways for deserving employees.

Employee performance is assessed through well-quantified objectives, with nearly 90–95% of management evaluations based on measurable outcomes within individual control. This has brought greater transparency and clarity towards career progression across the organisation.

The Dil Se Awards recognise employees across functions and geographies, including branch teams, business units, and central support teams, who play a critical role in delivering exceptional customer experience and business execution.

With a legacy of over 138 years, the Muthoot Pappachan Group con-



tinues to place people at the heart of its journey. Through initiatives like Dil Se and its continued recognition as a Great Place to Work, Muthoot FinCorp reinforces its commitment to merit-based recognition, employee well-being, and long-term customer trust.

About Muthoot FinCorp
Muthoot FinCorp Limited, the flagship company of 138-year-old business conglomerate Muthoot Pappachan Group, is India's leading

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with an aim to transform the lives of common man by ensuring their financial wellbeing through an array of varied products and services.

The Company today offers more than three dozen products and services through its 3750+ branches across India and aims to serve the under-banked, to be their most trusted financial partner, and ensure financial inclusion of every household in India. Muthoot FinCorp's long-

standing experience, expertise and stronghold in the semi urban and rural areas has enabled the company to provide quick & customized finance options to the masses.

About Muthoot Pappachan Group

Founded in 1887, Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG) is a significant entity in the Indian business landscape with nationwide presence and tailor-made products and services for its customers.

The Group which planted its roots in retail trading, later diversified into various sectors including Financial Services, Hospitality, Automotive, Realty, IT Services, Precious Metals, and Alternate Energy. With Muthoot FinCorp Limited as its Flagship Company and Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador, Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG) today stands as a formidable presence in India.

With over 50000+ Muthootians and a vast network of over 5900 branches across the country, the Group is deeply committed to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) excellence aiming to create long-term value for its stakeholders while contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future. Muthoot Pappachan Foundation, the CSR arm of the group facilitates the CSR activities for the entire Group companies focusing on Health, Education, Environment and Livelihood (HEEL).

X implements tech measures to prevent Grok from generating sexualised AI content

New delhi,Agency: X has implemented technological measures to prevent Grok from allowing the generation of images of real people in revealing clothing in jurisdictions where it is illegal, after it faced heavy backlash over obscene deep-fakes generated by the AI chatbot.

This restriction applies to all users, including paid subscribers, X said in a post on its official ‘Safety’ handle.

Further, image creation and the ability to edit images via the Grok account on the X platform are now only available to paid subscribers.

“We now geoblock the ability of all users to generate images of real people in bikinis, underwear, and similar attire via the Grok account and in Grok in X in those jurisdictions where it’s illegal,” the post said.

X said it has implemented technological measures to prevent the



Grok account from allowing the editing of images of real people in revealing clothing, such as bikinis. “This restriction applies to all users, including paid subscribers,” it added.

ot change its existing safety

protocol that all AI prompts and generated content posted to X must strictly adhere to its stipulated rules. “However content is created or whether users are free or paid subscribers, our Safety team are working around the clock to add addi-

tional safeguards, take swift and decisive action to remove violating and illegal content, permanently suspend accounts where appropriate, and collaborate with local governments and law enforcement as necessary,” X said.

X said it remains committed to providing a safe platform for everyone and continues to have zero tolerance for any forms of child sexual exploitation, non-consensual nudity, and unwanted sexual content. “We take action to remove high-priority violative content, including Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and non-consensual nudity, taking appropriate action against accounts that violate our X rules,” the post said.

It added: “We also report accounts seeking Child Sexual Exploitation materials to law enforcement authorities as necessary.”

House Of Makeup's Most Viral Skin Tint, Loved For Its Glow, Introduces 3 New Shades Designed Solely For Indian Skin

Mumbai ,Agency: 2026 marks a shift towards skincare-first makeup for all skin types, where everyday beauty feels effortless, intuitive, and grounded in real skin needs. Building on the same philosophy and the success of its bestselling and viral product, Face Anything Luminous Skin Tint, House Of Makeup has expanded its dewy skin tint shade range with three new additions, bringing the total to 12 shades, tailor-made for Indian skin tones. The tint's composition remains unchanged, delivering a lightweight, luminous finish with a fresh, juicy glow that stays breathable on the skin and is formulated to be non-comedogenic, without blocking pores.

Thoughtfully developed to offer a more flexible match, the new shades of this celebrity-loved skin tint include F02 for fair skin tones, M07 for medium skin tones, and D15 for deep skin tones. Infused with hyaluronic acid, niacinamide, and goji berry extract, the skincare-forward formula of this multi-use tint nourishes with every wear. Non-comedogenic and suitable for all skin types, including acne-prone skin, Face



Anything also offers everyday protection with SPF 25. Priced at INR 799, this versatile skin tint is available on the brand's website. "At House Of Makeup, inclusivity is embedded in every formula, designed to suit all Indian skin tones," says Harlin Sachdeva, Founder and CEO, House Of Makeup. "We view tinted formulas as an extension of skincare, created to deliver instant radiance while genuinely working for Indian skin across different skin types, tones, undertones, and lifestyles.

Today's skin tints go beyond sheer coverage and are formulated to address a range of skin concerns, including sensitive and acne-prone skin, often with added SPF for everyday protection.

Samsung India Introduces Special Offers on Big-Screen TVs for Republic Day



Ranchi: Samsung India has announced its ‘Super Big Republic, Super Big TV’ offers on the occasion of Republic Day, under which special benefits are being extended to consumers on big-screen TVs equipped with Vision AI technology until January 31, 2026. During this period, select TV models are available with up to 20 percent cashback on select bank cards, zero down payment, and easy EMI options for up to 30 months. In addition, customers purchasing select big-screen TVs can avail benefits of free Samsung soundbars worth

up to ₹92,990, aimed at enhancing the in-home audio-visual experience. As an added offering, Samsung Care Plus services are also available, starting at ₹599, providing long-term protection for televisions. According to the company, this limited-period campaign is available through Samsung dot com, major online platforms, and retail stores across the country, with the objective of offering consumers an enhanced entertainment experience powered by advanced technology during the Republic Day period.

Tata Motors’ Sierra gets record-breaking bookings in just four hours of opening reservations

New Delhi,Agency: The Indian automobile market is witnessing an unprecedented surge in demand, with homegrown manufacturers Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra setting new benchmarks in vehicle bookings.

Recent reports suggest that Tata Motors’ much-anticipated Sierra received nearly 70,000 bookings in a single day, while Mahindra’s new SUV, the 7xO, stunned the industry by clocking around 93,000 bookings within just four hours of opening reservations. These extraordinary figures underline a significant shift in consumer sentiment, reflecting growing trust in Indian automotive brands. Once dominated by foreign manufacturers, the Indian SUV space is now being reshaped by domestic players that are aggressively competing on design, technology, safety, and value for money.

Its vehicles consistently score



well in crash safety ratings, a factor that has become increasingly important for Indian buyers. The Sierra’s strong response highlights Tata’s ability to blend nostalgic design cues with modern features, appealing to both emotional and practical considerations.

Mahindra, on the other hand, has positioned the 7xO as a bold,

tech-forward offering.

With a strong focus on connected features, performance, and aggressive styling, the company appears to have struck a chord with younger and more tech-savvy customers. The speed at which bookings poured in reflects Mahindra’s success in creating excitement and urgency around its

new launch.

Industry experts believe this intense competition between Indian manufacturers is ultimately benefiting consumers. As brands push each other to innovate faster and price products competitively, buyers are gaining access to safer, more feature-rich vehicles at better value.

Visa Supports Chinese Cardholders to Add Cards to Apple Pay for a More Convenient and Secure Payment Experience

Singapore, Agency: Visa has longbeen committed to providing Chinese cardholders with diverse payment options, enabling them to enjoy a secure and seamless payment experience wherever they are. Upholding our long-standing commitment to the Chinese market and to our cardholders, Visa is increasing its investments in data and payment security, launching tokenization services and taking the lead in enabling their use in cross-border scenarios. We are delighted to work with Apple and financial institutions to bring Chinese cardholders a safer and more convenient new mobile payment experience."

The first batch of supporting issuing banks includes Industrial

and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of Communications, China Merchants Bank, China CITIC Bank, Ping An Bank and Industrial Bank. Visa and Apple are working closely with more banking partners, including Shanghai Pudong Development Bank, China Construction Bank, China Minsheng Bank and China Everbright Bank, and related features will be rolled out in the future.

Easy Payments Online and Offline When using Apple Pay for in-store payments, consumers simply double-click the side button, authenticate, and hold their iPhone or Apple Watch near the payment terminal for contactless payment. Every



Apple Pay transaction requires secure authentication using Face ID, Touch ID, or device passcode, and the result is sent to the issuing bank as a one-time dynamic security transaction

code, putting transaction security firmly in the hands of the consumer.

Consumers can also use Apple Pay on iPhone and iPad for faster, more convenient pay-

ments in overseas mobile apps or online websites, without the need to create accounts or repeatedly entering contact information, card numbers, shipping, and billing details.

Built-in Privacy and Security Protection

Security and privacy are at the core of Apple Pay.

When adding Visa cards, the actual card number is neither stored on the device nor on Apple's servers. Instead, the system assigns a unique Device Account Number generated using Visa's tokenization technology, encrypts it, and stores it securely in the device's Secure Element. This is an industry-standard certified chip designed specifically to securely store payment information on the device.

Quick Setup, Easy to add Visa Cards

Setting up Apple Pay is simple. Open the Wallet app on your iPhone, tap the plus sign, then

follow the prompts to navigate to your bank's app and add your Visa card, or add your Visa card directly to Apple Wallet via your bank's app.

Once the card is added to your iPhone, Apple Watch, or iPad, you can immediately start using Apple Pay on that device.

Cardholders continue to enjoy the same rewards and benefits as with their physical cards. In addition, Visa has launched exclusive offers such as first-time binding bonuses and transportation perks, covering travel abroad and overseas living scenarios. Cardholders can visit the Visa "V Select" WeChat Mini Program for more information on benefits.



Shubman blames bowling for the defeat

They couldn't take wickets in the middle overs

Agency, Rajkot

Indian cricket team captain Shubman Gill expressed disappointment over the 7-wicket defeat against New Zealand in the second ODI, blaming the bowling and stating that they failed to take wickets in the middle overs. New Zealand easily won the match thanks to Daryl Mitchell's century (131 runs). The Kiwi team chased down the target of 285 runs in just 47.3 overs. Shubman said, "We couldn't take any wickets in the middle overs. He further added that if you can't take



wickets in the middle overs even with five fielders inside the circle, it becomes very difficult. Even if we had scored more runs, we wouldn't have been able to defend our score. Taking

wickets is crucial to stop any team. If that doesn't happen, winning is not possible." He said that they had given the visiting team a challenging target. Our bowling was tight in the first

10 overs, but we couldn't maintain it later. We were trying to put pressure on the opposition, but we were unsuccessful. Also, as the game progressed, batting became easier, which benefited the visiting team. This is because the wicket settled down well. I think we should have taken risks and bowled aggressively in the middle overs." The captain also blamed the team's weak fielding for the defeat. He said that they missed several opportunities, and if that hadn't happened, the result would have been different.

Laura Wolvaardt-Jamie says she knows how to get the best out of the team after DC's first win

Agency, Mumbai

JSW and GMR co-owned Delhi Capitals (DC) have registered their first win of their Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 campaign. In a match played at the Dr. DY Patil Sports Academy on Wednesday, the Capitals defeated UP Warriors by seven wickets to claim their first points of the season. Chasing a target of 155, the Capitals achieved the target with seven wickets remaining. The top-order batsmen played a key role in the team's victory. Openers Shafali Verma and Lizelle Lee provided a strong start. Shafali scored 36 runs off 32 balls, including six fours, while Lizelle Lee anchored the innings with a brilliant 67 runs off 44 balls, including eight fours



and three sixes. The match became exciting after a few wickets fell in the middle overs, but Laura Wolvaardt (25 not out, 24 balls) and captain Jemimah Rodrigues (21 runs, 14 balls) showed composure and led the team to victory. Earlier, the Delhi Capitals bowlers performed disciplinedly, restricting the UP Warriors to 154 for 8. Marizanne Kapp took 2 wickets for 24 runs, while Shafali Verma took 2 wickets for 16 runs to curb the run rate in the

middle overs. After the match, Laura Wolvaardt, commenting on the tense moments of the final overs, said, "I feel very relieved. There was definitely tension because the situation was similar to the last match. At one point, Jamie and I were batting again, and some old memories came back, but this time we managed to finish the match." Speaking about the pitch conditions, she said, "This wicket was quite slow, with the ball coming on slowly and turning a lot. The previous pitch didn't turn, and the ball came on well, so this was a completely different challenge. Perhaps we should have taken a little more responsibility up front, but in the end, we managed to achieve the target." Praising Lizelle

Lee, Wolvaardt said, "She's been fantastic. I'm very happy for her. She's been performing consistently well in Australian franchise cricket. We've had a good opening partnership for South Africa, too, so it's a great experience to bat with her again." Praising captain Jemimah Rodrigues' leadership, Wolvaardt said, "Jemim has been excellent. She knows how to connect with people and is a great at getting the best out of the team. As a new captain, she has a lot of responsibility, but she has handled it very well and has been an inspiration to the team." Delhi Capitals will next take on Royal Challengers Bangalore on Saturday, January 17, and will look to continue their winning momentum.

Siraj to captain Hyderabad in remaining Ranji Trophy matches

Agency, Mumbai

Mohammed Siraj has been appointed captain of the Hyderabad team for the remaining Ranji Trophy matches, replacing Tilak Varma. The Hyderabad team is scheduled to play its remaining two matches of the season against Mumbai and Chhattisgarh on January 22 and 29, respectively, at their home ground. Tilak, who captained the team in the initial matches, has been included in the squad for the T20 series against New Zealand. This is why Siraj has been given the captaincy. However, Tilak will miss the first three T20 matches due to injury. This is the first time Siraj has



been given the captaincy. Siraj will make his captaincy debut against Mumbai. He was previously unavailable due to his commitments with the national team. The selection committee said, "We have spoken to Siraj and he is available for the rest of the season. He is a fighter and always wants to win, and we are confident that this will have a positive impact on the others." Aman

Rao Peral, who recently performed brilliantly in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, has also been included in the team. Hyderabad squad: Mohammed Siraj (captain), G Rahul Singh (vice-captain), CV Milind, Tanay Thyagarajan, K Rohit Rayudu, K Himateja, A Varun Goud, M Abhirath Reddy, Rahul Radesh (wicketkeeper), Aman Rao Peral, CTL Rakshan Reddy.

Gujarat Giants coach Klinger defends his team

Agency, Navi Mumbai

Gujarat Giants head coach Michael Klinger has said that his team's morale remains high despite the defeat against Mumbai in the Women's Premier League (WPL) match and that they are ready for the upcoming matches. Klinger admitted that poor fielding in the last match also cost his team dearly. The Gujarat Giants suffered their first defeat of the WPL 2026 season against Mumbai. The team dropped three catches of Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur, which proved costly. Harmanpreet scored an unbeaten half-century in the match. Klinger said that the team played well consistently but things went wrong in the end. Klinger said after the



match, "We fielded very well in the first few matches. We fielded quite well in the first 14-15 overs, but a lot of catches were dropped in the last five or six overs." He admitted that such mistakes are costly but said that his players gave their best effort. He said, "When you give three chances to a good player like Harmanpreet, it's difficult to win, but our efforts and training cannot be questioned. The players are working very hard with our fielding coach Sarah Taylor and all the other coaches."

Conor Gallagher joins Tottenham Hotspur, transfers from Atletico Madrid

Agency, London

England midfielder Conor Gallagher has officially joined Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur. Tottenham announced the signing of the 25-year-old Gallagher from La Liga club Atletico Madrid. He joins Thomas Frank's team on a long-term contract, although this is subject to international clearance. In a statement released on the club's website, Gallagher said, "I wanted to be a Tottenham player and fortunately the club felt the same way. Everything happened very quickly and smoothly. Now I'm fully ready to get on the pitch." He added, "I know how fantastic the fans are here. I'm incredibly happy to be a part of this club and I want to create special moments and memories with everyone." Conor Gallagher started his career at the Chelsea academy and later became a key member of the club's first team. He also captained Chelsea. Gallagher has played a total of 177 Premier League matches for Chelsea and Crystal Palace. He has also played on loan for Charlton Athletic, Swansea City and West Bromwich Albion. In August 2024, Gallagher



joined Atletico Madrid under the coaching of Diego Simeone, where he participated in 77 matches. His goal in 27 seconds against Real Madrid in the Champions League Round of 16 was historic. He became the first English player to score in a Madrid derby and it was also the fastest goal by an English player in the UEFA Champions League. Internationally, Gallagher has played 22 matches for England. He was also part of the England team for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the 2024 UEFA European Championship. Gallagher's arrival at Tottenham is expected to strengthen the midfield, and the club's fans are hoping for a significant contribution from him.

Brief

West Indies Board contacts experienced players for T20 World Cup

Jamaica: The West Indies team's performance in T20 cricket has been consistently declining lately. Considering this, the West Indies Cricket Board is once again trying to bring experienced players back into the team for the T20 World Cup. The T20 World Cup will be played in India and Sri Lanka next month. As part of the effort to include experienced players in the team, the board contacted aggressive batsman Nicholas Pooran and appealed to him to come out of retirement, but Pooran refused. Cricket Director Miles Bascombe said that Pooran is satisfied with his decision and has recently indicated that he does not want to return to international cricket. Pooran has been one of the best batsmen for the West Indies in the T20 format. His explosive batting and experience were crucial assets for the team. His absence from the team before the World Cup is a major blow. Besides Pooran, the board also contacted players like Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, and Andre Russell. However, they were asked to join the team management. According to Bascombe, the IPL starts immediately after the T20 World Cup, so players who become part of the team management would have to be away from home for a long time.

Ledecky Makes History at Pro Swim Series, Records Second Fastest Time in 1500m Freestyle

Agency, Los Angeles

Nine-time Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky of the United States once again proved her dominance, recording the second fastest time in history in the women's 1500-meter freestyle. She secured a resounding victory at the US Pro Swim Series in Austin, Texas, finishing in 15 minutes 23.21 seconds. Ledecky completely dominated the race, winning by more than a minute over 16-year-old Brinkley Hanson. Hanson finished second with a time of 16:31.31, while Becca Mann came in third with 16:35.09. Although Ledecky couldn't break her own world record (15:20.48) set in 2018, she improved upon her previous second-best time of 15:24.51,



which she set last year during the Pro Swim Series in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Ledecky then went on to win her sixth world title in this event at the World Championships in Singapore. Since the 1500-meter freestyle was made an Olympic event for women, Ledecky has won two consecutive gold medals at the Tokyo 2021 and Paris 2024 Olympics. The 28-year-old Ledecky, who won her first Olympic gold in the 800-meter freestyle at the 2012 London Olympics, is also looking in superb form heading into the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Ledecky is

the only woman to have swum the 1500-meter freestyle in under 15:30 ten times. She holds the top 12 times and 24 of the top 25 times ever recorded in this event. Italy's Simona Quadarella's time of 15:31.79, which she set last year while finishing second to Ledecky at the World Championships, is now the 13th fastest time in history. In the men's 1500-meter freestyle, world record holder and Ledecky's training partner Bobby Finke won with a time of 15:01.70. Ireland's 800-meter Olympic champion Daniel Wiffen finished second in 15:04.98. In other events, Canadian Olympic star Summer McIntosh and France's Léon Marchand advanced to the finals of the 200-meter individual medley.

Australian Open 2026 Men's Draw: Sinner-Djokovic and Alcaraz-Zverev could clash in the semifinals

Agency, Melbourne

The men's singles draw for the Australian Open 2026 was released on Thursday during the draw ceremony held in Melbourne. Two-time defending champion Jannik Sinner and World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz have started their campaigns with relatively easy matches, although the draw suggests high-voltage clashes between Sinner and Novak Djokovic, and Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev in the semifinals of the tournament. Two-time defending champion Sinner will face Hugo Gaston of France in the first round, while top seed Carlos Alcaraz will take on local Australian player Adam Walton. After the draw ceremony, Sinner said, "The draw is very tough, it doesn't matter who you play. We are the best players in the



world and it's a very long journey." 38-year-old Serbian legend Novak Djokovic will be aiming for a record 25th Grand Slam title. Playing in his 21st Australian Open, Djokovic will face Pedro Martinez (World No. 71) of Spain in the first round. Djokovic's first major test could come in the fourth round against 16th seed Jakub Mensik, who defeated Djokovic in the Miami Open final last year. In the quarterfinals, he could face fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti or ninth seed Taylor Fritz. The Australian Open

2026 will be held from January 18 to February 1. Key first-round matches: [10] Alexander Bublik (Kazakhstan) vs. Jenson Brooksby (USA) [6] Alex de Minaur (Australia) vs. Matteo Berrettini (Italy) [3] Alexander Zverev (Germany) vs. Gabriel Diallo (Canada) Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) vs. Tomas Machac (Czech Republic) [WC] Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) vs. Laslo Djere (Serbia) [16] Jakub Mensik (Czech Republic) vs. Pablo Carreño Busta (Spain) Hubert Hurkacz (Poland) vs. Zizou Bergs (Belgium) [8] Ben Shelton (USA) vs. Ugo Humbert (France) [12] Casper Ruud (Norway) vs. Mattia Bellucci (Italy) [15] Karen Khachanov vs. Alex Michelsen (USA)

AFCON 2025: Mane outshines Salah as Senegal defeat Egypt to reach the final

Agency, Tangier

Thanks to a decisive 78th-minute goal from Sadio Mane, Senegal defeated Egypt 1-0 in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 semi-final on Wednesday, securing their place in the final. With this victory, Mane gained the upper hand over his former Liverpool teammate and Egypt captain Mohamed Salah in this crucial match. After the match, the 33-year-old Mane revealed that this is his last Africa Cup of Nations tournament. He said, "I am very happy to have had the opportunity to play in my last AFCON. I will try to win the final and take the trophy back to Dakar." Former champions Senegal maintained greater possession against a cautious Egyptian team. Senegal will now face hosts Morocco in the final on Sunday. With this result, Senegal maintained their dominance over Egypt. The 'Teranga Lions' had also defeated Egypt in the 2022 AFCON final and the 2022 FIFA



World Cup play-offs. Both matches were decided by penalty shootouts. This will be Senegal's fourth appearance in the AFCON final. They previously lost to Cameroon in 2002 and Algeria in 2019, while they won the title in the 2021 edition (held in 2022) by defeating Egypt. Egypt captain Mohamed Salah was effectively contained by Senegal's strong defense throughout the match. This was Salah's fifth AFCON, and so far, he has come closest to winning the title by finishing as runner-up twice. Mane said, "From the beginning, we played as a team. We tried to avoid individual mistakes and unnecessary fouls. We managed the game well throughout and

overall deserved the win." He further added, "The most important thing for me is that Senegal wins every time. I am a soldier of the country and I try to give my best every day, whether it's training or a match. The Africa Cup of Nations is one of the toughest competitions in the world because all the teams are almost at the same level." Tense atmosphere, then peace returned - There were several tense moments between the two teams during the match. Senegal's experienced defender Kalidou Koulibaly received a yellow card in the 17th minute for fouling Egyptian striker Omar Marmoush. This was his second yellow card in as many consecutive matches, which means he will miss the final in Rabat. However, even worse news followed six minutes later when Koulibaly got injured and had to be replaced by Mamadou Sarr. In the first half, Senegal played aggressively but could not seriously challenge Egypt's 37-year-old goalkeeper Mohamed El-Shenawy.

BCB issues notice to director, BPL's first match postponed due to players' boycott

Agency, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to its director, M. Nazmul Islam, for making objectionable comments about the players publicly. The BCB clarified that formal disciplinary action has been initiated against the concerned board member. The BCB's official statement said that the board has initiated a formal disciplinary process against the concerned director. He has been issued a show-cause notice and asked to submit a written reply within 48 hours. The matter will be dealt with under the established procedure, and appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. However, the Bangladesh Cricketers Welfare Association (CWAB) remains firm on its stance and has called for a boycott of all forms of cricket until Nazmul Islam resigns. BPL affected, match postponed - According to an ESPN



Cricinfo report, the Chattogram Royals and Noakhali Express teams, scheduled to play the first match of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), did not arrive at the ground until the scheduled start time, resulting in the match being postponed indefinitely. Furthermore, four first-class matches of the Dhaka Cricket League could not be held on Thursday. CWAB leaders have also announced that they will hold a press conference soon. Background of the controversy - The controversy began when Nazmul Islam reiterated his refusal to tour India for the T20 World Cup next month and dismissed the players' concerns regarding their remuneration.

Army Day: From Anushka Sharma to Nakuul Mehta, These Stars Have a Deep Connection with the Army

Army Day is celebrated across the country on 15 January to honor the bravery, discipline, and spirit of national service of the Indian Army. On this special occasion, let us talk about those Bollywood stars whose families are deeply connected with the Indian Armed Forces. These actors have learned the values of patriotism, discipline, and duty from their fathers, mothers, siblings, or other family members. The list of stars with a strong Army background is quite long. Along with Anushka Sharma,

Priyanka Chopra, Lara Dutta, Preity Zinta, Gul Panag, and Nimrat Kaur, several television actors are also included.

Many of these stars studied in Army schools from childhood and closely witnessed the simplicity and discipline of military life. Anushka Sharma's father, Ajay Kumar Sharma, was a Colonel in the Indian Army. He fought against the enemy in the 1999 Kargil War. Anushka completed her schooling from Army Public School, Bengaluru. Actress Lara Dutta is the daughter of former Wing

Commander L.K. Dutta. Her sister, Cheryl Dutta, has also served in the Indian Air Force. Lara often speaks about her father's bravery.

Preity Zinta's father, Durganand Zinta, was an officer in the Indian Army. Preity was only 13 years old when her father was martyred while serving the nation. Gul Panag's father, Harsharanjit Singh Panag, was a Lieutenant General in the Indian Army and was honored with several medals. Gul also learned discipline from her Army background. Similarly,

Nimrat Kaur's father, Major Bhupinder Singh, was martyred at the age of 44 in an attack by Kashmiri separatists in Verinag, Kashmir.

Priyanka Chopra's parents were both doctors in the Indian Army. Her father, Dr. Ashok Chopra, and her mother, Dr. Madhu Chopra, served on the borders. Actor Akshay Kumar is also on this list; his father, Hari Om Bhatia, was a soldier in the Indian Army and served in the Amritsar Regiment. Akshay learned discipline from his father.

Pongal: From Vidya Balan to Janhvi Kapoor, Bollywood Divas Shine in White Sarees with Traditional Charm



White sarees are considered a symbol of new beginnings, prosperity, and purity during the harvest festival of Pongal. Cotton or silk sarees with golden borders make this festival even more special. While this tradition has deep roots in South Indian culture, many celebrities from the entertainment world have also embraced white sarees, styling them in their own unique way and making them a part of festive fashion. Let's take a look at how the white saree—an emblem of simplicity, purity, and elegance—has been beautifully carried by saree queen Vidya Balan, along with Janhvi

Kapoor, Kriti Kharbanda, Kangana Ranaut, and Kriti Sanon in their individual styles.

Vidya Balan: Actress Vidya Balan is known to be a true admirer of white sarees. Her graceful look in gold-bordered Kanjeevaram or cotton sarees perfectly reflects the spirit of Pongal. Her confidence and traditional style serve as an inspiration for women of all ages.

Kangana Ranaut: Kangana Ranaut's white saree look is as powerful and classy as her personality. Paired with a handloom white saree, minimal makeup, and traditional jewelry, Kangana's style feels absolutely perfect for a cultural festival like Pongal.

Janhvi Kapoor: The actress has styled white sarees several times in a youthful and fresh manner. She pairs them with minimal makeup, sleek hairstyles, and light jewelry. Her look represents a beautiful blend of modern and traditional elegance for Pongal.

'Thalaivar 173' Shoot to Begin in April; Superstar Rajinikanth Shares the Update Himself

Tamil cinema superstar Rajinikanth has always been a source of special excitement for his fans. Whether it is a major festival or his film projects, fans eagerly look forward to seeing him and connecting with him on every occasion. This time too, on the occasion of Pongal, Rajinikanth expressed his love and respect for the fans gathered outside his home.

On Pongal, Rajinikanth came outside his house,

waved to the fans, and greeted them warmly. He extended Pongal wishes to everyone and said that this festival is not only about happiness but also about honoring farmers. He added, "Farmers are the backbone of this country. Only if farmers are happy can the entire nation be happy." During his interaction with the media on Pongal, Rajinikanth also shared information about his upcoming film. He revealed that his next film, which will

be directed by Sibi Chakravarthy, will begin shooting in April 2026. The film is being produced by Kamal Haasan's production company, Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI). Rajinikanth said that the film will be a complete entertainer for the audience.

Recently, Kamal Haasan announced that his production house is backing a film starring Rajinikanth, which has been given the tentative title Thalaivar 173.

On Army Day, Yami Gautam Shares a Glimpse of Article 370, Writes "Today and Every Day, Jai Hind"

Army Day is celebrated in India every year on 15 January. This day is dedicated to honoring the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the security of the nation. On 15 January 1949, Lieutenant General Kodandera M. Cariappa took charge as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Prior to this, the position was held by British Commander General Francis Roy Bucher. Remembering this historic occasion, the country pays tribute every year to the courage and sacrifices of its soldiers.

This year, on the occasion of Army Day, Bollywood actress Yami Gautam also paid tribute



to the Indian Army. Yami shared a post on the social media platform X, in which she also posted a few scenes from her 2024 political thriller film Article 370. She wrote, "Happy Army Day. Today and every day. Jai Hind."

Talking about the film, Article 370 is directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale. The film stars Yami Gautam and Priyamani in lead roles. Apart from them, Skand Thakur, Ashwini Kaul, Vaibhav Tatwawadi, Arun Govil, and Kiran Karmarkar are also seen in important roles. The film is based on the 2019 event of the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, which was linked to Article 370 of the Constitution.

Shweta Tripathi Reveals How Golu Gupta Changed Her Destiny, Says "I Will Always Be Grateful"

Actress Shweta Tripathi has completed the Mumbai schedule of Mirzapur: The Movie. During this time, in an interview with IANS, Shweta said that the film is extremely special to her. Her character Golu Gupta not only gave her recognition but also awakened her inner strength and courage. For Shweta, this role has been a turning point in her career, completely changing how audiences perceive her and the kind of stories that became available to her.

Speaking to IANS, she said, "Completing the shoot of the film has been an emotional experience for me. The character of Golu Gupta will always remain close to my heart, and for that, I will always be grateful. I believe this role not only gave me new challenges as an actor but also taught me how a female character can be portrayed on screen with complete seriousness and strength." She further added, "Bringing Mirzapur to the big

screen has been an exciting experience. The audience's love for this story and these characters runs very deep. Reuniting with my old team during the shoot, especially Ali Fazal, who is like family to me, felt wonderful. Stepping back into Golu's character was like returning to an old home with a new approach and fresh energy. I am eagerly waiting for the audience to enjoy this new chapter in theatres."

The web series Mirzapur is set against the backdrop of Mirzapur district in the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh. Its story revolves around Akhandanand Kaleen Tripathi, the local don and businessman. The first season of the series became immensely popular among audiences and gave recognition to several new actors. The lead cast in the first season included Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Divyendu Sharma, Vikrant Massey, Shweta Tripathi, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Rasika Dugal,



Harshita Gaur, and Kulbhushan Kharbanda.

Famous Singer and Music Director Anu Malik Has Incredible Musical Energy!



Mumbai-based famous singer and music director Anu Malik possesses remarkable musical energy. Renowned song director Rhythm Sanadhya says that although she has directed nearly 300 projects so far, the most important milestone of her career has been directing more than 100 songs composed by Anu Malik.

She said that since he has been her favorite composer, working with him and directing his songs is nothing less than the fulfillment of a dream. It was a huge fan moment for that girl who grew up dancing to his music.

Speaking about the changes taking place in Bollywood, she said that circumstances are changing very rapidly, and in the ever-evolving age of social media, music video makers must be prepared to match international standards in terms of pace, scale, and narrative detailing.

Today, the biggest challenge is to preserve the soul of the story, as audiences now expect cinematic beauty and immersive storytelling within a three to four minute visual experience. This medium is being redefined every single day.

Amitabh Bachchan Praises Pulkit Samrat's Film Rahu Ketu, Set to Release on 16 January 2026

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has not only praised actor Pulkit Samrat's upcoming film Rahu Ketu but has also expressed his support publicly. With the film slated for a theatrical release on 16 January 2026, Amitabh Bachchan's endorsement has become a proud and memorable moment for the entire team. This support from the legendary actor has significantly boosted discussions and excitement around the film.

Pulkit Samrat, the film's lead actor, was deeply moved by Amitabh Bachchan's warm and encouraging message. He shared his happiness and gratitude through a social media post, writing, "Your blessings mean a lot to us. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!" Amitabh Bachchan's appreciation has given Rahu Ketu a special identity even before its release.

It is worth noting that Big B, known for supporting meaningful and unconventional cinema, is seen as giving a strong stamp of approval to the film through his reaction.

