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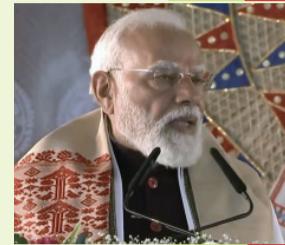
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Not just promises, the country now wants good governance and development: PM

Agency. Guwahati

- The country is continuously rejecting the negative politics of the Congress: Modi
- Laid the foundation stone of the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor
- Flagged off Amrit Bharat Express trains



During his visit to Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the Bharatiya Janata Party has become the first choice of the people of the country. The public is consistently rejecting the Congress, because the country's voters now want good governance and development, not just promises. Here, Prime Minister Modi said that in Maharashtra, where the Congress was in power for years, it suffered a complete defeat. This is a clear indication that the country has left behind the old politics. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor, which will be built at a cost of approximately Rs 6,957 crore in Kaliabor. This project is considered crucial for reducing traffic congestion and protecting wildlife around the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kaziranga.

Kaziranga National Park. In addition, the PM also virtually flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains, from Dibrugarh to Gomti Nagar (Lucknow) and from Kamakhya to Rohtak. In his address, PM Modi said that every year when the water level of the Brahmaputra River rises, rhinos and elephants migrate to higher areas, causing them to get stuck on roads and increasing the risk of accidents. To solve this problem, a 90-kilometer-long elevated corridor is being built, which will cost approximately Rs 7,000 crore. PM Modi said that in the last few years, the number of tourists in Kaziranga has increased

Prime Minister Modi flags off two Amrit Bharat Express trains in Assam



Kaliabor: During his two-day visit to Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor project, costing over Rs 6,950 crore, and flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains in Kaliabor, Nagaon district. The Kaziranga Elevated Corridor project involves the four-laning of the Kaliabor-Numaligarh section of National

Highway-715. This project has been designed with environmental protection in mind, aiming to improve regional road connectivity while ensuring the safety of the biodiversity of Kaziranga National Park. Earlier, in a post on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister had said that he was looking forward to the foundation stone laying ceremony for important development works in Kaliabor.

while the BJP government is providing assistance of

up to Rs 10,000 crore for development.

Developed India will be built through the development of Eastern India: PM

Projects worth Rs 830 crore launched in West Bengal

Agency. Singur



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that rapid and inclusive development of Eastern India, especially West Bengal, is essential to achieve the goal of a developed India. Without a robust infrastructure of ports, waterways, railways, and multi-modal connectivity, neither industrial expansion nor large-scale job creation for the youth is possible. The central government has been continuously investing in West Bengal for the past 11 years to make it a global hub for manufacturing, trade, and logistics. The Prime Minister on Sunday inaugurated, laid the foundation stone for, and launched various development projects worth over Rs 830 crore in Singur, Hooghly district of West Bengal. These projects aim to strengthen inland waterways, port-based infrastructure, in Kolkata. Made of special

aluminum, this modern vessel has a capacity of 50 passengers and features air-conditioned cabins. Operating in zero-emission mode, this catamaran will promote urban river transport, eco-friendly tourism, and last-mile connectivity on the Hooghly River. West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region Sukanta Majumdar, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Suvendu Adhikari.

Brief News

Judge's wife shot in Bihar, had come to court to give testimony



Patna: Vandana, the wife of Judge Santosh Kumar Sah, who is posted in Samastipur, Bihar, was shot in Jharkhand. She sustained two gunshot wounds. Vandana has a divorce case pending against her husband in the Godda court. Santosh Kumar Sah is a judicial magistrate in the Patori subdivision. Vandana says that she was returning from court on Saturday when two men on a motorcycle chased her and suddenly opened fire. Vandana fell to the ground after being shot, while the attackers fled the scene. According to the police, two of the woman's brothers-in-law are among those who shot her. Local people took the injured woman to the hospital, but given her condition, she was referred to Bhagalpur. According to the police, Vandana Kumari is a resident of Purana village in the Hanwara police station area.

Bomb threat at Aligarh station causes panic, Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express searched

Aligarh: A major panic erupted at Aligarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh last night when a threat was received to bomb the Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express (Tejas rake), one of the country's premium trains. Following this sensational information, security agencies immediately went on high alert, and the entire railway station premises and district administration remained under deep tension and fear for about 31 minutes. The incident began when the police control room received an anonymous phone call in which the caller made a very serious claim that explosives had been planted on the Rajdhani Tejas Express, which was en route from Delhi to Patna. Upon receiving the information, the Railway Protection Force and local police were put on high alert. The train was passing through the Aligarh area at the time and was immediately stopped at Aligarh station platform for security reasons. As soon as the train stopped, a large number of police personnel and senior security officials cordoned off the area. Following security protocols, bomb disposal squads and dog squads thoroughly searched every coach, pantry car, and toilet of the train.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appeals to the Chief Justice to protect the Constitution and democracy

Agency. Kolkata



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made an emotional appeal to the top leadership of the judiciary to uphold the country's Constitution, democracy, and judicial integrity. Speaking at a dignified ceremony marking the inauguration of the new building of the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court, the Chief Minister addressed Chief Justice Surya Kant and shared her concerns about the current situation in the country. She urged Justice

Shankaracharya stopped from reaching Sangam Ghat by police, supporters pushed

Prayagraj: A major controversy has erupted in Prayagraj on the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya. The convoy of Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktешwaranand Saraswati of Jyotishpeeth was stopped by the police from reaching the Sangam Ghat, after which the situation became tense. According to the police administration, the fair area has been declared a no-vehicle zone in view of Mauni Amavasya, due to which no large convoy or vehicle is allowed to proceed. According to reports, the Shankaracharya was stopped from going to the Sangam Ghat. When the police stopped the convoy, a heated argument ensued between the Shankaracharya's supporters and the police officers. The dispute escalated quickly, leading to a scuffle between the police and the Shankaracharya's disciples.

AAP MLA Sukhi resigns, a blow to Punjab's Mann government

Chandigarh: At the Muktsar Maghi Mela, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had stated that some of the missing sacred copies of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, which are currently the subject of an ongoing investigation, have been found at the religious place Rasokhana Sri Nabha Kanwal Raja Sahib in Majara Nau Abad village near Banga. Following this statement, the devotees associated with the said religious place

Millions of devotees take a dip on Mauni Amavasya

Agency. Prayagraj

Flowers were showered from a helicopter.



A massive crowd of devotees gathered at the Prayagraj Magh Mela from early morning on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya. During this time, the Yogi government showered flowers on the devotees and sadhus (holy men) at the Sangam (confluence) from a helicopter. A video of the flower shower has also surfaced, showing flowers being showered from a helicopter several hundred feet in the air. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath posted on X (formerly Twitter) that the flower shower on

the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya at Teerthraj Prayag is a tribute to faith and a salutation to the great Sanatan culture. Jai Maa Gange (Hail Mother Ganga). According to media reports, more than 1.3 crore devotees took a dip in the Ganga and Sangam by 8 am on Sunday on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya. A senior official of the Mela administration said that devotees started arriving at the Ganga and Sangam

ghats from midnight despite the dense fog and continued to arrive from all directions until the early hours of the morning. Earlier, about 1.03 crore devotees had taken a dip on Makar Sankranti, while about 85 lakh people had bathed in the Ganga and Sangam on Ekadashi. Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal said that reflective tapes have been put on poles in the Mela area to help guide pilgrims, while Civil Defence volunteers have been deployed to guide the devotees. The Magh Mela is spread over 800 hectares and is divided into seven sectors.

DGCA imposes a fine of Rs 22.20 crore on IndiGo over flight cancellations and delays

Agency. New Delhi



The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of Rs 22.20 crore on the airline company IndiGo. This fine has been levied under the Aircraft Rules. The lump-sum fine is Rs 1.80 crore. In addition, a fine of Rs 30 lakh per day has been imposed for non-compliance with FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) rules for 68 days, which amounts to Rs 20.40 crore. The DGCA took this action after 2507 IndiGo flights were cancelled

the software systems used by IndiGo. IndiGo Airlines has stated that it will fully comply with all DGCA orders and that all necessary improvements will be made in a timely manner. The company's board and management say that a thorough internal investigation and review of working methods, systems, and operations are being conducted following the recent incident. Media reports, citing the committee, stated that IndiGo management had not made adequate preparations to deal with operational delays or emergency situations.

Dense Fog Wreaks Havoc in UP, 7 Dead Including a Child

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh witnessed the densest fog of the season on Saturday. Conditions were so bad that visibility was almost zero on the roads. Even vehicle headlights were not visible. More than 40 vehicles collided in 15 districts, including Meerut and Barabanki. Seven people, including a one-and-a-half-year-old child, died, and more than 50 were injured. In Fatehpur, 10 vehicles collided on NH-2, resulting in the death of a car driver. In Moradabad, a truck ran over two motorcyclists, killing one of them. Similarly, in Sultanpur, a vehicle collided with a pickup truck carrying pilgrims, killing three people. In Meerut, a car fell into a ditch due to the fog, killing a one-and-a-half-year-old child. Low visibility also affected rail and air travel. More than 100 trains are running late at various stations, including Gorakhpur and Varanasi.

Skill Development Ministry to hold two-day regional conference in Pune on January 19

New Delhi: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will organize a regional conference in Pune on January 19-20. The two-day conference, to be held at the Symbiosis Skill and Professional University auditorium, will review the progress of the 'Jan Shikshan Sansthan' (JSS) program and discuss future strategies. Representatives from 152 Jan Shikshan Sansthan across 11 states and Union Territories will participate in the conference. Senior officials from the Ministry, experts from the Directorate of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (DJSS), and the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) will also attend the conference. On the second day, January 20, the concluding session will be chaired by MSDE Secretary Debashree Mukherjee.

Delhi-NCR's AQI crosses 400, GRAP 4 restrictions implemented

Agency. New Delhi

The air quality in the national capital Delhi has deteriorated sharply. On Saturday, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 400 at 4 PM, which increased to 428 by 8 PM. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented GRAP 4 restrictions in view of the situation. Considering the continuously deteriorating air quality, and with the aim of preventing further decline, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) sub-committee of the CAQM unanimously took this decision. The sub-committee decided to implement all stringent restrictive measures under Stage



4 (Severe category) of GRAP across the entire National Capital Region (NCR) with immediate effect. This decision has been taken as a precautionary measure, even though the AQI has not yet crossed 450. According to officials, this sharp decline in air quality is due to a Western Disturbance, extremely unfavorable meteorological conditions, and inadequate dispersion of pollutants. The commission clarified that the measures implemented under Stage 4 will be in addition to the GRAP Stage-I, Stage-II, and Stage-III measures already in effect in Delhi. The

objective is to prevent further increase in pollution levels and mitigate the adverse effects on the health of citizens. The commission has directed all State Pollution Control Boards and concerned agencies in Delhi to strictly implement preventive measures for pollution control. This includes monitoring industrial emissions, controlling construction activities, management, and taking strict action against other polluting activities. Experts say that due to the prevailing weather conditions, there is little possibility of improvement in air quality in the coming days.

Direct interaction and blanket distribution among villagers in Telodhani, a primitive tribal Paharia village in Sundar Pahari block, by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Godda

Correspondent.DN

Godda: Sub-Divisional Officer, Godda, Mr. Baidyanath Oraon, established direct communication with the villagers during his visit to Telodhani, a primitive tribal Paharia village located in Karmatand Gram Panchayat of Sundar Pahari block in the district. On this occasion, the Sub-Divisional Officer obtained information about the problems, needs, and the status of implementation of government schemes for the people of the primitive tribal Paharia community residing in the village. During the interaction, the villagers presented various problems related to drinking water, health, housing, rations, old-age pension, education, and livelihood to the Sub-Divisional



Officer. The Sub-Divisional Officer listened carefully to the villagers' concerns and instructed the concerned officers to take necessary action for the speedy resolution of the problems. He said that the government is committed to the all-round development of the primitive tribal community

and that ensuring the benefits of the schemes reach the last person in the line is the priority of the administration. During the visit, the Sub-Divisional Officer distributed blankets to a total of 6 needy people in the village, providing them relief during the cold weather. The villagers expressed their



happiness upon receiving the blankets and expressed their gratitude to the state government and the district administration. The Sub-Divisional Officer appealed to the villagers present to come forward and avail the benefits of various welfare schemes run by the government and to inform the concerned

office or administration in case of any problem. He also assured them that the administration would maintain continuous communication with them and that necessary steps would be taken for the development of the village. Panchayat representatives and villagers were present on this occasion.

'Jam at Street' Becomes Major Attraction at Winter Fest, City's Enthusiasm Spills onto the Streets

Correspondent.DN

Jamshedpur: A pleasant winter morning and a festive atmosphere—this was the scene in Jamshedpur on Sunday. Under the Winter Fest organized by Tata Steel, the much-awaited "Jam at Street" event once again filled the streets of the Steel City with colors of celebration. Roads that usually remain busy with traffic and daily hustle were completely dedicated to people for the day, where children, youth, and senior citizens were seen enjoying themselves under the open sky. On Sunday morning, designated roads were closed to vehicular traffic, and within no time, these



streets transformed into a massive open-air festival. Music, dance, games, and creative activities filled the surroundings. In some corners, youngsters were seen grooving to guitar tunes and live music, while in others, participants enthusiastically worked up a sweat with Zumba, hip-hop, and freestyle dance. Groups of youths skating



and cycling became a major attraction. Special play zones, art and craft corners, and creative activity areas were set up for children, where they spent quality time engaging with colors, drawings, and games. The participation of senior citizens was also noteworthy. Many elderly people were seen doing yoga in groups, enjoying

morning walks, and smiling as they swayed to old songs, creating a beautiful confluence of generations at the event. Organized with the support of Tata Steel, the program was not limited to entertainment alone but also aimed at providing a shared platform for city residents to showcase and refine their hidden talents. Local artists, painters, and designers displayed their artwork, which received wide appreciation from visitors. "Jam at Street" emerged as a strong medium for promoting community bonding, creativity, and a healthy lifestyle. Despite the presence of thousands of people, robust arrangements for security and cleanliness were ensured at the venue. Tata Steel volunteers and security personnel were deployed at every corner. Adequate facilities for first aid, drinking water, and

sanitation enabled people to enjoy the event without any inconvenience. Once again, the event conveyed the message that Jamshedpur is not just an industrial city but also a frontrunner in social and cultural activities. Even till the closing hours, people remained on the streets, capturing these memorable moments through selfies and photographs. According to the organizers, "Jam at Street" will be held every Sunday for the next few weeks, allowing more city residents to participate and spend joyful time with family and friends. This vibrant event of the Winter Fest has further energized the city's social and cultural atmosphere.

The Martyrs' Dream Remains Unfulfilled: Jagannath Rajwar



Correspondent.DN

Bokaro: The 44th martyrdom anniversary of Jharkhand movement revolutionaries Shriprasad Mahto, Tilakdhari Mahto, and Jaylal Mahto was observed at Siyajori village. On this occasion, students who performed excellently in painting and general knowledge competitions were awarded. Farmer leader and former candidate from Chandankiari Assembly, Jagannath Rajwar, attended the program, paid floral tributes at the martyrs' statues, and offered his respects. Rajwar said that Jharkhand has a long history of martyrs who sacrificed their lives to protect water, forests, and land, and for the preservation of language, culture, and Jharkhandi identity. He saluted such brave sons of the soil. He said the martyrs had dreamed of building an exploitation-free and egalitarian society, and of a prosperous and happy Jharkhand. However, after the formation of the state, power fell into the hands of disruptive and violent forces, and today Jharkhand is passing through its 25th year in distress. Youth are being forced to migrate,

and many are losing their lives during migration. Instead of preventing this, the government is merely bringing back the bodies of migrant workers to their native villages to gain sympathy. He further stated that women feel unsafe, patients are being carried to hospitals on stretchers due to the lack of ambulances, and in severe cold, the distribution of blankets to the needy remains only on paper by the government and its representatives. In such times, there is an urgent need to build the Jharkhand that the martyrs had envisioned. Those present on the occasion included Simant Rajak, Central Organization Minister of JJKL SC Front; Kumari Binti, Block Women's Front President; Mithilesh Kumar Mahto, AJSU Block President; BJP leader JP Mahto; Gaura Chand Mahto; senior journalist Manoj Mahto; Gaur Mahto; JMM founding member Durga Charan Mahto; former Bokaro Assembly candidate Rajesh Mahto; Ankit Kumbhkar, Rakesh Kumar Mahto, teacher Niranjan Mahto, Lalduhari Mahto, Murli Dhar Mahto, Anil Mahto, Uttam Kumar Mahto, Raju Mahto, Mukesh Mahto, and others.

Bank district administration takes a major decision: Officials will now meet the public directly every Monday and Friday

Correspondent.DN

Banka: In line with the objectives of the seventh resolution, "Respect for All – Ease of Living," under the Bihar Government's Seven Resolutions – 3, the Banka district administration has taken an important decision to strengthen, sensitize, and make the administrative system more accountable. The aim of this initiative is to ensure that the common citizens of the district do not face any difficulty or inconvenience in getting their work done at government offices.

Under this initiative, on two working days of each week—Monday and Friday—citizens will be able to meet the concerned officers directly at their designated workplace/ office chambers at the Gram Panchayat, Police Station, Circle, Block, Sub-division, and District levels to get their grievances addressed. District Magistrate Mr. Navdeep Shukla, IAS, Banka, has directed all officers to clearly display the designated days and times for meeting visitors outside their office

chambers so that the general public can easily obtain accurate and clear information. On these two designated days, all block-level officers, including the Block Development Officer, Circle Officer, Block Panchayat Raj Officer, Revenue Officer, Station House Officer, Child Development Project Officer, Block Supply Officer, Block Cooperative Officer, Labour Enforcement Officer, Block Education Officer, Block Welfare Officer, Block Statistics Officer, Block Agriculture Officer, etc., will be present at the block headquarters. Similarly, all sub-divisional level officers, such as the Sub-Divisional Officer, Deputy Collector for Land Reforms, and Deputy Superintendent of Police/ Sub-Divisional Police Officer, etc., will be present together at the sub-divisional headquarters to meet citizens respectfully, listen to their problems with sensitivity, and ensure their prompt resolution. If any officer is absent on Monday or Friday due to unavoidable circumstances, the officer

authorized by them will be responsible for meeting the public. Officers who are in charge of multiple offices will schedule their time conveniently and be present in all the relevant offices to meet the citizens. All government offices have also been instructed to ensure respectful seating arrangements for visitors, provide basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets, and ensure an effective system for continuous monitoring and timely resolution of received complaints. The District Magistrate has directed all controlling officers to ensure regular review and monitoring of strict compliance with the above instructions by their subordinate officers. This arrangement is being implemented with effect from January 19, 2026. All concerned officers are directed to not only ensure compliance with these instructions themselves but also to inform their subordinate officers and ensure their complete compliance. For any information and assistance, please contact telephone number 06424-223001.

The grand Mandar Festival – 2026 concluded successfully, with the five-day event ending with cultural programs and an awards ceremony

Correspondent.DN

Banka: The grand Mandar Festival – 2026 concluded successfully with a prize distribution ceremony. The festival was held from January 14th to January 18th, 2026, with the agricultural exhibition, cultural programs, and visits to Mandar Hill and Papaharani Lake being the main attractions. A large number of devotees and tourists participated in this five-day event and thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. Following the inauguration on January 14th, the spectacular performances by artists

including Yasir Desai (Bollywood playback singer), Sawan Sawre (renowned singer), Suswati Malik (renowned singer), Kapil Thapa (Bollywood playback singer), and Kavita Paudwal (Bollywood playback singer),

(Bollywood playback singer), Sawan Sawre (renowned singer), and Rakesh Kumar Sanu (renowned singer) made the festival memorable.

and poetic fervor. Despite the cold weather, there was no lack of enthusiasm among the people at the fair. Throughout the event, under the leadership of District Magistrate Mr. Navdeep Shukla, IAS, all the assigned officers and personnel remained active at their respective duty posts, maintaining law and order, which ensured the peaceful and orderly conduct and successful completion of the fair. Today, the Mandar Festival – 2026 was formally concluded with the distribution of prizes and certificates from the main stage.

Uncontrolled Bike Collides with Iron Pole, Youth Dies on the Spot, Two Seriously Injured

Jamshedpur: In a tragic road accident on Saturday night near Hariyan Kali Temple under the Kovali police station area of East Singhbhum district, a youth from Bakulchanda village of Dumaria block died on the spot, while his two companions were seriously injured. The accident occurred around 8 PM when all three youths were returning home on a single motorcycle after watching the Tudi fair. According to information received, the motorcycle bearing registration number JH-05 BZ 0698 suddenly went out of control and collided with an iron signboard pole installed on the roadside. The impact was so severe that the rider, Sanjeet Nayak, died on the spot. Meanwhile, the two pillion riders, Gelhun and Shrishant, sustained serious injuries. After the accident, local people immediately informed the police. On receiving the information, Kovali police reached the spot and sent the injured to MGM Hospital, Jamshedpur, for immediate treatment. The police took the body of the deceased into custody and sent it for postmortem. It is reported that all three youths were residents of Bakulchanda village in Dumaria block and had gone to watch the Tudi fair on Saturday evening. The accident occurred while they were returning. Meanwhile, the police have initiated necessary action in the matter and are investigating the causes of the accident. Prima facie, overspeeding and loss of balance are being considered the reasons behind the accident.

Kolhan Bh: Rumool–2026: First Meeting Held to Prepare for the Event



Chaibasa: The first important meeting of the organizing committee for Kolhan Bh: Rumool–2026 was held at Khuntkatti Ground, Tambo, Chaibasa. The meeting focused on detailed discussions to make the Kolhan Bh: Rumool, proposed to be held in the coming month of March, grand, well-organized, and historic. During the meeting, key aspects such as the program framework, finalization of dates, venue arrangements, planning of cultural performances, preservation of traditional customs, reception of guests, security arrangements, and publicity were discussed. Committee members stated that Kolhan Bh: Rumool is a symbol of the cultural identity, unity, and traditions of the tribal society, and therefore no shortcomings should be allowed at any level of the organization. The meeting also discussed the formation of various sub-committees to ensure better execution of all responsibilities. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring active participation of local villagers, social organizations, and youth. At the end of the meeting, the organizing committee expressed confidence that with collective cooperation, Kolhan Bh: Rumool–2026 would be organized in a historic and memorable manner and would provide wide recognition to the rich cultural heritage of the Kolhan region.

Goa nightclub where 25 died in fire was flagged for illegal construction in 2024

New Delhi, Agency: The Goa government has told the legislative assembly that the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub, where 25 persons died in a fire last month, had been flagged for illegal construction by revenue officials in 2024.

Twenty-five persons were killed last month in a fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub, located at Arpora in North Goa.

State Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate, in a written reply to the House on Friday, attached documents that show the club was constructed by demolishing the traditional sluice gate inside the salt pan by illegally converting the land.

The original owners of the property, Pradeep Ghadi Amonkar and Sunil Divkar, had filed a complaint before the Bardez taluka mamlatdar (revenue officer) on December 21, 2023.

The complaint was filed against the then Maizon Lake View Resort (later named as the Birch by Romeo Lane after it was leased out to brothers Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra).

The complainants had signed an agreement for sale with Surinder Khosla, the proprietor of the resort.

Their complaint specifically mentioned that there was a construction without the conversion of land and without the change of zone.

It alleged that there was construction in the tenanted land and the "traditional sluice gate was demolished."

The complaint also pointed out that the establishment was "discharging sewage into the Baga river".

The documents, tabled by the minister, also showed that the complainants had specifically mentioned that the discotheque (nightclub) was



being operated in an "unsafe structure which could cause a major tragedy."

The complaint also mentioned that there was "mis-utilisation of open spaces in contravention to the building by-laws."

Responding to the complaint, the Bardez mamlatdar had asked Arpora-Nagoa panchayat talathi to

The talathi had listed out that 4,000 sqm area was earmarked for parking, 7,500 sqm for construction of shops, 7,250 sqm for landscaping and water sports, another 3,600 sqm for landscaping in the property's western part, and in the centre of the property where the salt pan existed, there were two structures of 2,000 and 1,400 sqm each, where the controversial nightclub cum restaurant was located.

"The party (Khosla) says he has all the documents but did not produce (them) even after being given several opportunities for almost two months," as per the documents tabled by Monserrate to a question by Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai.

The winter session of the state assembly was held from January 12 to 16.

Mumbai mayor polls likely on January 28 Army launches 3rd Bailey bridge in SL following Ditwah cyclone

Voting, reservation and selection process explained

Mumbai, Agency: The next Mumbai mayor will be elected through a vote by corporators in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) House, with the candidate securing the highest number of votes declared mayor.

The election is expected to be held on January 28, 2026, during a special meeting convened by the municipal administration, civic sources said.

The Mayor will be elected through voting by corporators in the house. "Whoever gets the maximum number of votes is declared the Mayor and deputy Mayor," said an official.

While it is not mandatory for the party with the highest number of corporators to secure the Mayor's



post, past trends show that the party with a clear majority usually managed to claim the prestigious position. The last Mayor was Kishori Pednekar of the Shiv Sena, who won the election this time as well.

According to sources, the Urban Development Department will hold a lottery next week to decide the reservation category of the mayor's post—such as general, women or reserved classes. The mayoral election will be held some days after the lottery, placing the election firmly towards the last week of January. How Mumbai mayor is elected

The process begins with

the Urban Development Department conducting a lottery to decide the reservation of the mayor's post. Once the category is announced, eligible corporators file their nominations. The election is then held at a special meeting of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). All elected corporators vote, and the candidate who secures a simple majority—more than half of the House strength—is elected mayor.

If no party has a clear majority, alliances and post-poll negotiations become decisive. Given the present political equations in Mumbai, sources said the possibility of shifting loyalties or realignments during the mayoral race cannot be ruled out.

New Delhi, Agency: The Indian Army's Engineer Task Force has successfully constructed a third Bailey bridge in Sri Lanka, following widespread destruction due to cyclone Ditwah. The new 120-feet-long bridge has been built on the B-492 highway in Sri Lanka's Central Province. Linking Kandy and Nuwara Eliya districts, it will restore a vital lifeline that was cut off for over a month in the aftermath of the recent cyclone.

The Army's announcement follows the earlier successful launch of two Bailey bridges in the Jaffna and Kandy regions. Collectively, these engineering efforts have restored road connectivity, improved access to essential services, and provided much-needed relief to communities affected by the cyclone.



Indians start returning from Iran amid protests



New Delhi, Agency: Several Indians, including students, have arrived in New Delhi on board commercial flights from Iran amid widespread protests in the Islamic nation and Tehran's crackdown that has so far killed more than 2,500 persons.

A woman medical student said, "The Internet was not working. So, we didn't exactly know what was happening around the country." The Indian Embassy in Tehran has been reassuring Indian nationals there through available means of communication.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in his weekly media briefing on Friday said, "At present, there are approximately 9,000 of our nationals living in Iran. Most of them are students." Besides, there are sailors, pilgrims and some people who are associated with business and reside there," he said, adding that in view of the recent developments and activities taking place in Iran, the MEA had issued "two to three advisories".

A senior mela administration official said devotees began arriving at the Ganga and Sangam ghats from midnight, braving dense fog, and continued to stream in from all directions through the early morning hours.

Earlier, about 1.03 crore devotees had taken a dip on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, while nearly 85 lakh people bathed in the Ganga and Sangam on Ekadashi.

Divisional Commissioner Saumya Agrawal said reflective tapes have been installed on poles across the mela area to help pilgrims navigate correctly, while civil defence volunteers have been deployed to guide devotees.

She said the Magh Mela

has been spread across 800 hectares and divided into seven sectors. More than 25,000 toilets have been installed in the mela area, and over 3,500 sanitation workers are deployed to maintain cleanliness.

Agrawal added that a tent city has been set up for tourists and pilgrims wish-

ing to observe short-term Kalpvaks (purification rituals), with facilities for meditation and yoga. To ensure smooth movement, services such as bike taxis and golf carts have also been provided. Superintendent of Police (Magh Mela) Neeraj Pandey said over 10,000 police personnel have been deployed across the mela area to ensure security and smooth movement of devotees. For crowd management and traffic regulation, 42 temporary parking zones have been created this year, with a capacity to accommodate over one lakh vehicles. He said a total of 12,100 feet-long bathing ghats have been constructed for the Magh Mela 2025-26, equipped with all essential basic facilities.

Japan to invite 500 AI experts from India by 2030

New Delhi, Agency: Japan plans to invite 500 skilled artificial intelligence (AI) professionals from India by 2030 to promote joint research and innovation, officials said. This comes as a significant boost to technological cooperation between the two nations.

The announcement was made during the 18th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in New Delhi.

According to officials aware of the matter, the meeting lasted for over two hours and covered a spectrum of bilateral and regional issues.

As part of the newly launched "Japan-India AI Cooperation Initiative", both sides agreed to set up a "Japan-India AI Strategic Dialogue" to facilitate research partnerships, academic exchanges and technological collaboration in the rapidly evolving field.

Motegi, visiting India for the first time in six years, said Tokyo wants to deepen cooperation with New Delhi in advanced technology sectors while contributing to the upcoming AI Impact Summit. India will host the summit next month.

Welcoming Motegi's proposal, Jaishankar termed it a "forward-looking step" in expanding innovation-driven ties.

The two ministers reaffirmed



their commitment to strengthening cooperation across three key pillars — security and defence, economy and innovation, and people-to-people exchanges — under the "Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade".

According to a joint press statement released by the two ministers, both sides agreed to intensify efforts to build resilient supply chains in critical sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, critical minerals, information and communication technology (ICT), and pharmaceuticals. The two nations also plan to launch a new private-sector dialogue on economic security within the first quarter of 2026.

Motegi and Jaishankar

announced that 2027 will be designated as the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, and plans were in the works for a year-long series of cultural and academic exchanges.

Among key regional issues, the ministers discussed cooperation in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, enhancing connectivity in the North East region and maintaining close coordination within the Quad framework involving the United States and Australia. They also exchanged views on global governance reforms, including cooperation at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

BJP's decisive victory in Maharashtra for development and trust

Lalit Garg

The recently concluded urban local body elections in Maharashtra have emerged as a massive mandate, indicating the direction, trend, and future of the state's politics. The historic success of the Mahayuti alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party has made it clear that Maharashtra's politics is now at a decisive turning point. This change is not limited to a mere transfer of power, but rather signifies a

profound shift in political thinking, public expectations, and democratic behavior. These elections have re-emphasized the ideological and organizational strength of saffron politics, while also advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's positive thinking and development politics. This success comes less than a year after the opposition's crushing defeat in the assembly elections. Despite this, the dominance of the BJP-led Mahayuti

alliance in the statewide local body elections demonstrates that this victory is not a fluke, but the result of a strong political momentum. These results captured national attention because these elections were described as mini-assembly elections. The decades-old stronghold of Shiv Sena in Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which was a symbol of Shiv Sena's dominance for decades, has collapsed. The emergence of

the BJP as the largest party and its dominance in the BMC and urban body elections across the state is the strongest proof of a major political change. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's political thinking and working style have emerged as a decisive factor in this entire scenario. Fadnavis has not confined Maharashtra's politics to the boundaries of power balance alone, but has instead aligned it with a long-term development vision. He has strived to

adapt the comprehensive national development programs being implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, such as infrastructure expansion, digital governance, transparency, an investment-friendly environment, and good governance, to the state's needs. His politics has not been based on emotional outbursts or immediate popularity, but on planned development, administrative efficiency, and future-

readiness. From Mumbai to Vidarbha and Marathwada, the uniform concept of development, urban-rural balance, and the emphasis on job creation reflect his thinking.

The four key pillars of Fadnavis's strategy behind this grand victory have been a balance between Hindutva and development, a focus on local issues, an effective response to the opposition, and a strong connect with the public.

Editorial

On mute: On the U.S. geopolitical turmoil India's response

The new year has brought little change in the geopolitical turmoil unleashed by the Trump administration, beginning with the U.S.'s unlawful action in Venezuela, followed by its threats to carry out similar regime-changing operations in South America and stated plans to annex Greenland. The U.S. Congress is now expected to discuss a new law that mandates up to 500% in tariffs on countries purchasing oil or uranium from Russia. The U.S. also stepped up its rhetoric against Iran for crackdowns against protesters, imposing more sanctions and threatening to attack it. In a social media post, Mr. Trump said that he would levy an additional 25% tariff on trade with any country doing business with Iran and the U.S. is pushing India to wind up operations at Chabahar port, where India has invested billions of dollars. In the face of such aggressive and unilateral actions, New Delhi's responses have been muted, when not weak. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has expressed "deep concern" over events in Venezuela, but did not mention the U.S.'s egregious action of kidnapping the Venezuelan President and his wife, nor did it refer to the violation of basic tenets of international law. No statement has been made on the threats against the other countries (Cuba and Colombia), presumably as they are not in India's immediate vicinity. On Iran, however, which is a close neighbour and has a historical relationship with India, the government's reaction has been the most puzzling.

Trump's feudalism on the world stage is an abuse of power

The behavior

of US

President

Donald

Trump is constantly shocking the world.

Trump's stubbornness is becoming more and more apparent day by day. How a powerful country can create problems for other countries by behaving chaotically can be understood from his actions.

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

In the latest development, the US has begun to surround Iran from all sides. US President Donald Trump has announced a 25 percent tariff on any country trading with Iran. Trump's decision has increased pressure on the Khamenei government over the violent crackdown on protests inside Iran, which has left at least 648 people dead and thousands arrested across the country. Trump's tariff action could potentially affect several countries, including India and China, that trade with both Iran and the US. Trump wrote on the social media platform Dooth Social, "Effective immediately, any country trading with the Islamic Republic of Iran will be subject to a 25 percent tariff on all trade with the United States. This order is final and conclusive." The tariff announcement comes at a time when Trump is considering possible military action against Iran. White House Press Secretary Caroline Levitt said on Monday that one option for the US is to launch an airstrike on Iran. But he also said that Iran has an open diplomatic channel to talk to Trump's special envoy, Steve Wittkoff. He said that Iran is speaking a very different



language in private than its public statements. China is considered Iran's largest trading partner, but Trump's move will also impact India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Turkey, which are also among Tehran's major trading partners. According to the Indian Embassy in Tehran, India exported goods worth \$1.24 billion to Iran in the financial year 2024-25, while importing \$0.44 billion, taking the total trade to \$1.68 billion (approximately Rs 14,000-15,000 crore). Of this, the largest share was organic chemicals worth \$512.92 million. This was followed by fruits, nuts, citrus peels, and melons worth \$311.60 million, and mineral fuels, oils, and distillation products worth \$86.48 million. It should be noted that the US has already imposed tariffs totaling up to 50 per-

southeastern coast, is particularly strategically important for India. It provides India with a direct trade route to Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Europe, bypassing Pakistan. This port is also a crucial part of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

This route saves India approximately 40 percent of time and approximately 30 percent of costs in exports and imports. If instability in Iran increases and the Chabahar Port is affected, it could significantly impact India's geo-economic strategy. According to government data, bilateral trade between India and Iran in the fiscal year 2024-25 was approximately \$1.68 billion. Of this, India exported \$1.24 billion to Iran and imported \$0.44 billion. This translates into a trade benefit of approximately \$0.80 billion. Major commodities exported from India to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, medicines, electrical machinery, and artificial fibers. India also imports dried fruits, chemicals, and glass products from Iran. If the crisis deepens and the Chabahar Port or INSTC route is disrupted, India-Iran trade could be directly impacted. Iran is among the world's largest oil and gas producers.

Question on the credibility of the judiciary

Sanat Jain

In Indian democracy, the judiciary is recognized as the guardian of the Constitution and the fundamental rights of citizens. The courts are recognized as the citizens' ultimate trust. The Supreme Court and High Courts are expected to keep the executive and legislature in check. The executive and legislature govern the citizens. Those who are oppressed by the government and administration are vulnerable. The protection of their rights is possible only through the judiciary. In recent years, the way the Supreme Court and High Courts have been applying different rules for the government and different rules for the general public, the way judicial decisions are being repeatedly overturned, and previous decisions of constitutional benches and larger benches are being ignored, has raised serious questions about the credibility of the judiciary.

Contradictory comments, decisions, and reversals by different benches on the same issue are not only creating legal instability but also fostering distrust in the judiciary among citizens and those involved in the legal profession. Justice is no longer based on the principles of the Constitution and the rule of law, but rather, courts are rendering decisions based on circumstances. When the decisions of constitutional benches are not accorded the respect required by Supreme Court and High Court judges, judicial discipline and the judicial system are bound to weaken. In recent years, courts have been delaying hearings and delivering decisions in cases against the government. Many constitutional cases and public interest litigations remain unheard for years. Even the decisions that are delivered after long delays are often incomplete. Numerous instances have emerged of judges making decisions based on religious biases, ignoring the merits and demerits of the government in bail and other matters.

Delays in justice in many cases involving citizenship, elections, freedom of expression, and the federal structure are tantamount to a denial of justice. This perception is strengthening the perception that the judiciary is now reluctant to deliver decisions contrary to the wishes of the central government. A similar situation is being observed in the High Courts of various states across the country. High Court and Supreme Court judges share this fear regarding promotions, transfers, and postings. Consequently, hearings are neither being conducted on time nor are decisions being delivered promptly. At times, High Court and Supreme Court judges have also begun to avoid tough constitutional questions. During hearings, it sometimes appears as if judges are representing the government. This situation is extremely frightening for the common man. When courts fail to deliver timely justice, people will seek alternative avenues for justice. They will seek justice from criminals and politicians. This is bound to damage the image of both

the judiciary and law and order. Recent incidents, such as the distrust of the judicial process and the tendency toward mobocracy in West Bengal, can be seen as a result of this eroding trust. In recent years, cases in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, The kind of mob-like incidents that have been witnessed in Nepal and elsewhere. The way the Supreme Court kept postponing the Election Commission and SIR cases, and the elections in Bihar were also held in the meantime. Similarly, many other petitions were not heard for long periods. When they were heard, the decisions were rendered unjustified. The election bond case is a prime example. Maharashtra experienced an unconstitutional government for many years. Such a situation has eroded public confidence in the judiciary. This has weakened the rule of law. The collegium system is being questioned continuously. The recent appointment of a judge to the Supreme Court, bypassing the seniority of 56 judges, has also exacerbated the crisis of trust in the judiciary. Allegations of lack of

transparency in the appointment of judges, increasing government interference, favoritism, and nepotism have long been circulating. Judicial appointments are made within a limited scope, behind closed doors. In such a situation, it is natural to doubt the impartiality of the judiciary. The manner in which a Collegium member recently spoke about not registering her objection, and the ongoing debate surrounding the case of High Court Judge Yashwant Verma, require introspection by the judiciary. Judiciary independence is not merely ensured by distancing itself from the government, but by consistent decisions, timely hearings, transparent appointments, and constitutional decisions. The Supreme Court will not respect its own decisions. The stability of the Constitution and the current functioning and decisions of the judiciary will not remain within the ambit of credibility. In such a situation, there are doubts whether the judiciary, the strongest pillar of democracy, will remain standing.

The judiciary needs to work towards immediate improvement and maintain public confidence. This is ensured by transparent appointments and constitutional decisions. The Supreme Court will not respect its own decisions. The stability of the Constitution and the current functioning and decisions of the judiciary will not remain within the ambit of credibility. In such a situation, there are doubts whether the judiciary, the strongest pillar of democracy, will remain standing.

Adani Solar only Indian company in Wood Mackenzie's global top 10 ranking solar panel companies

New Delhi, Agency: India's growing stature in global clean energy manufacturing has received a boost with Adani Solar emerging as the only Indian company to feature in Wood Mackenzie's Global Solar Module Manufacturer Ranking for the first half of 2025.

Adani Solar, the solar photovoltaic manufacturing arm of Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL), was assigned a Grade A classification by the global energy and natural resources consultancy. It was ranked No.8 on the Wood Mackenzie Global Solar Module Manufacturer Ranking.

Wood Mackenzie has released its latest "Global Solar Module Manufacturer Ranking" report for the first half of 2025, which assesses solar panel companies on shipments, bankability and performance.

JA Solar and Trinasolar jointly

claimed the top rank, with scores of 91.7 and 91.6, respectively, according to the Wood Mackenzie report which evaluated 38 manufacturers of crystalline silicon modules.

Adani Solar had a score of 81 points.

Wood Mackenzie evaluates manufacturers on 10 criteria, including third-party reliability testing, financial health, manufacturing track record and patent activity. The Grade A rating serves as an independent benchmark for companies meeting the industry's highest standards of performance and transparency.

Adani Solar's rating reflects strong performance across parameters such as technology capability, supply chain resilience, vertical integration, research and development, environmental, social and governance practices, and corporate responsibility.



While Chinese companies continue to dominate the global top 10, the report highlights a diversifying competitive landscape with representation from India, South Korea, Singapore and the United States.

The top 10 manufacturers reported a collective USD 2.2 billion net loss in H1 2025, a result of steep price declines that have impacted even the industry's largest players,

according to Wood Mackenzie. In sharp contrast, all non-Chinese players in Top 10 remained profitable by focusing on premium and protected markets.

These manufacturers maintained an average utilization rate of 70 per cent in H1 2025, in contrast to the global average of just 43 per cent for all other manufacturers. Adani Solar

and DMEGC Solar were notable for maintaining a 100 per cent utilisation rate, the report said.

The top 10 manufacturers collectively shipped 224 GW of modules, representing 75 per cent of global shipments in the first half of the year.

Rising challengers from India, South Korea, Singapore and the United States confirm that the competitive landscape is diversifying beyond China, driven by tightening trade policies, it added.

The recognition coincides with a key milestone for Adani Solar, which has shipped over 15,000 MW of solar modules across domestic and international markets as of 2025. Of this, 10,000 MW were deployed in India and 5,000 MW exported overseas.

Senior citizens likely to get relief under targeted tax measures in Budget 2026: Deloitte ED Garg

New Delhi, Agency: Senior citizens could be among the biggest beneficiaries of India's Union Budget 2026, with the government expected to consider higher deductions on interest income and healthcare-related relief according to Tarun Garg, Executive Director at Deloitte India.

"I would call it from an individual tax perspective that the government may want to give some impetus to senior citizens," Garg told media in an exclusive interview. "Medical expenditures are increasing and they have to put in more on their health budget and healthcare, so maybe some bit of additional deductions may be given to senior citizens."

As has been the convention, the Union Budget for 2026-27 will be presented in the Parliament on February 1. Garg said there is also growing demand to raise deductions on interest income earned from bank deposits and small savings schemes.

"There is a vast majority of individuals who are saying that this should be



increased," he said, referring to the current limits of Rs 10,000 for non-senior citizens and Rs 50,000 for senior citizens. According to Garg, higher exemptions on interest income could help senior citizens cope with inflation and rising living costs.

Beyond senior citizens, Garg said Budget 2026 is more likely to focus on fine-tuning the new tax regime rather than announcing "path-breaking" or

huge changes", particularly because "the government also doesn't have that kind of a kitty within their availability".

One such targeted change could involve provident fund contributions. Garg said the government "may want to bring in" employer-driven provident fund deductions into the new tax regime.

"When we talk about provident fund, you are doing it structurally through the employer, and you do not need to furnish additional proofs for that," he said, adding that this could help bridge gaps between the old and new tax regimes without increasing compliance burdens. He also flagged the standard deduction as an area where limited relief could be offered. "This is one area that can see some tweaks," Garg said, noting that while the old tax regime has seen little change in recent years, the standard deduction under the new tax regime "may get further increased", possibly by Rs 25,000 or more.

Gautam Adani says Vishakha Group's coordinated industrial ecosystem represents new model of Indian manufacturing

Gandhinagar, Agency:

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Saturday said that Vishakha Group's coordinated industrial ecosystem spanning solar glass, aluminium, polymer films and advanced materials represents a new model of Indian manufacturing capable of strengthening the country's renewable energy future while setting international benchmarks. Speaking on the 25-year journey of Vishakha Group, he stressed that the success was not the result of legal agreements alone, but of shared conscience and mutual respect. He also acknowledged broader contributions of Jigish Doshi, Chairman, Vishakha Group, to the society, including leadership roles in community and charitable organisations. Adani pointed to the commissioning of India's largest solar glass



furnace, a 660-tonne-per-day facility, completed within just 24 months, as evidence of this shift. "This was not an Indian timeline trying to catch up with global standards. It was an Indian benchmark setting a global benchmark," he said. He further highlighted one of the country's largest integrated aluminium complexes at Vishakha Group, anchored by India's largest fully automated anodizing line.

CII Business Confidence Index rises third straight quarter, reflects stronger demand, business sentiments

New Delhi, Agency:

Business confidence among Indian industry is high, as corroborated by the latest Business Outlook Survey of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which said India has firmly established itself as the world's fastest-growing major economy, demonstrating remarkable resilience amid global uncertainty shaped by geopolitical tensions, trade weaponisation, and a slowing world economy.

This growth is largely being attributed to bold reform initiatives.

CII's Business Confidence Index rose for the third consecutive quarter to 66.5 in Q3FY26, the highest level in five quarters.

The improvement is driven by optimism around demand, profitability, and investment conditions, the industry chamber said in a statement.

Domestic demand remains the key driver, with two-thirds of firms reporting higher demand in Q2FY26 and 72 per cent expecting further growth in Q3FY26, aided by GST rate cuts and festive consumption. Investment and hiring intentions remain robust.

"The steady rise in business confidence shows industry's ability to navigate external headwinds, anchored by resilient domestic demand and a robust reform agenda," noted Chandrapratap Banerjee, Director General, CII.

He further added that industry anticipates the growth momentum to strengthen further in the months ahead.

CII is confident that the reform momentum will continue in the forthcoming Union Budget and has made several recommendations as it continues to engage with the policymakers on the next set of reforms.

Rationalise customs duty on imported luxury cars

Mercedes-Benz India CEO

New Delhi, Agency: A rationalisation of customs duties on imported luxury cars would help stimulate demand in the premium segment, leading to higher overall tax revenue for the government, according to Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Santosh Iyer.

Besides, a more stable macroeconomic policy and improved fiscal management to arrest the ongoing decline of the rupee would help luxury car makers, which have been forced to increase prices due to rising input costs that, in turn, have had an impact on demand, Iyer told PTI when asked about expectations in the upcoming Union Budget.

Terming GST 2.0, under which rates were rationalised last year as "a very positive step", he said, "The same should happen for customs duties as well".

At present, imported passenger vehicles priced below USD 40,000



attract a basic customs duty of 70 per cent, and those priced above USD 40,000 are taxed at an effective customs duty of 110 per cent.

"This customs duty can be rationalised and brought under one slab..." he noted.

"These cars are not affecting the total mass market. They are operating in a different segment. Only 5-8 per cent of the cars we sell in India are facing customs duty and import duty. So, rationalising it, reducing it will make

it simpler and help to grow, help get more taxes and get even better cars on the roads," Iyer added.

Stating that the current rupee depreciation has had an adverse effect, Iyer said, "A more stable macroeconomic policy, if there is a better fiscal management in the Budget that helps the forex movement and arrests the decline of the rupee, can help (improve) our demand".

Due to the adverse impact of rupee depreciation, Mercedes-Benz India would be looking to increase prices of its vehicles by 2 per cent every quarter in 2026, Iyer had said.

Overall, he said, India's improved intercity travel road infrastructure has driven luxury car demand and developing it further would be helpful for the industry.

"We would ideally like to see that more capex is allocated for roads. That helps for the overall economy and also the luxury car market," Iyer noted.

DGCA imposes Rs 22.20 crore penalty on IndiGo over December 2025 flight disruption

New Delhi, Agency: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed penalties amounting to Rs 22.20 crore on IndiGo Airlines following widespread flight disruptions in early December 2025 that affected more than three lakh passengers across the country.

The action follows a comprehensive inquiry ordered by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) after IndiGo cancelled 2,507 flights and delayed 1,852 others between December 3 and 5, 2025.

A four-member committee constituted by the DGCA examined the airline's operational planning, crew rostering, management oversight and software systems.

According to the committee's findings, the primary causes for the

disruption were over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness, along with deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control on the part of IndiGo.

The inquiry noted that the airline's management failed to adequately identify planning deficiencies, maintain sufficient operational buffer, and effectively implement the revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) provisions, leading to large-scale cancellations and delays.

The committee observed that an overriding focus on maximising utilisation of crew, aircraft, and network resources, which significantly reduced roster buffer margins. Crew rosters were designed to maximise



duty periods, with increased reliance on dead-heading, tail swaps, extended duty patterns, and minimal recovery margins. This approach compromised roster integrity and adversely impacted operational resilience.

Based on these findings, DGCA issued enforcement actions against several senior officials of InterGlobe Aviation, IndiGo's parent company.

The airline's CEO was cautioned for inadequate oversight of operations and crisis management, while warnings were issued to the Chief Operating Officer and the Senior Vice President (Operations Control Centre).

The SVP has also been directed to be relieved of current operational responsibilities. Additional warnings were issued to senior officials responsible for flight operations, crew resource planning and roster management.

In addition to individual actions, DGCA imposed one-time systemic penalties of Rs 1.80 crore for multiple violations of Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs). These included failures related to crew duty limits, operational control, and accountable management responsi-

bilities.

A further penalty of Rs 20.40 crore was levied for continued non-compliance with revised FDTL provisions over a period of 68 days, from December 5, 2025, to February 10, 2026, at a daily rate of Rs 30 lakh.

DGCA has also directed IndiGo to furnish a Rs 50 crore bank guarantee under the newly instituted IndiGo Systemic Reform Assurance Scheme (ISRAS).

The release of the guarantee will be phased and linked to DGCA-verified implementation of reforms across leadership and governance, manpower planning and fatigue risk management, digital systems and operational resilience, and board-level oversight over a 9-15 month period.

WPL 2026: Smriti Mandhana lauds bowlers after impressive win over Delhi

New Mumbai, Agency: Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain Smriti Mandhana praised the team's bowling unit after their impressive win against Delhi Capitals in the 11th match of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 season. She said that all the bowlers performed their duties well.

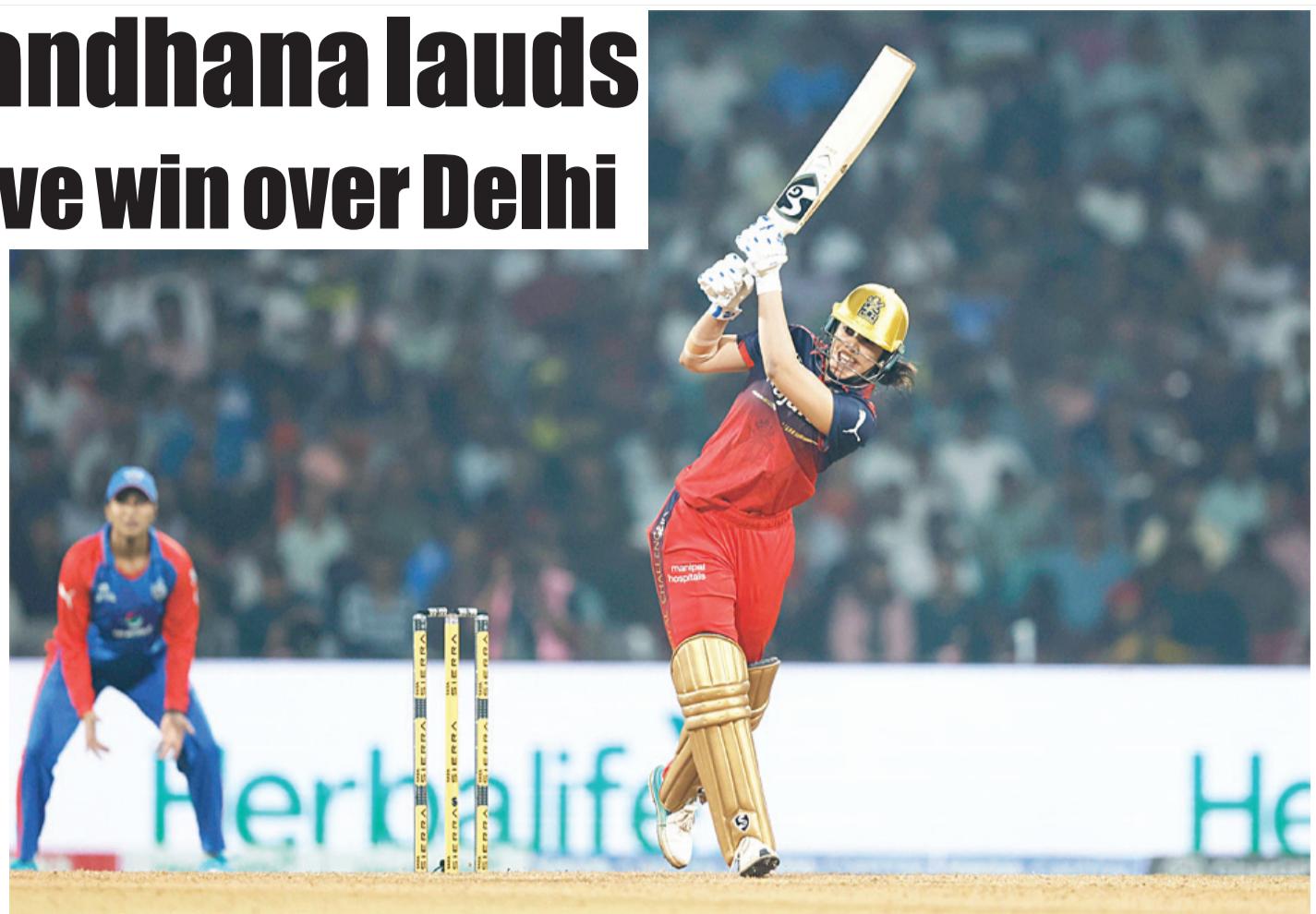
Mandhana said after the match that it was amazing to see how effectively everyone bowled, especially in the first three overs, when we broke Delhi's strong start and took four wickets. Sayali Satghare took two crucial wickets on her debut, and then Bell (Lauren Bell) did what she does best.

She further said, "I think everyone executed their plans well. The way Shafali Verma was batting was really brilliant." At that point, we changed our strategies and tried to

limit her runs. We knew Shafali was a batsman capable of scoring big, so it was important to dismiss her early. It's easy to say, but the entire team executed the plans brilliantly.

Mandhana also praised the other bowlers, saying that Prema and Radha bowled well, and that every bowler who came in at that stage performed exceptionally.

Regarding her own batting, Mandhana said it was a good innings. She said that chasing a target is often a little easier than setting a target, because the batsman knows what to do, especially on such wickets. When Delhi scored around 160 and we lost Grace early, I was clear about which bowlers to attack and which to respect. These are small things that sometimes work and sometimes don't in T20 cricket, but I'm glad it worked in our favor today and we won the match.



India Open: An storms into final:

New Delhi, Agency: Third seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia held his nerves during crucial moments in the match against Singapore's Loh Kean Yew to advance to the men's singles final of the India Open badminton tournament. Christie beat Loh 21-18 22-20 in 46 minutes.

Loh brought the heat on the court early on and scored some quick winners to race to 11-5 but Christie switched tactics and started to engage in long rallies that started to eat into the Singaporean's lead. Christie's all-round defensive play played a big part as it started to force errors off Loh's racquet. Christie won six straight points to draw level at 15-15 and then turned it on with net taps and down the line smashes to win the opening



game.

In the second, Loh started with a few errors but settled with his power game and deceptive play to open up a 17-13 lead.

For a while it looked that the semifinal was headed towards the deciding and third game. But the Indonesian found a second wind and went for

quick attacks to mount a comeback. In the end, he needed just two match points to close out the match.

"In the second game when Loh started to come back, I held my nerves and adapted to the game better and managed to win," said Christie.

The world No. 4 will face Lin Chun-Yi in the title clash after the Chinese Taipei shuttler beat Canada's Viktor Lai 21-9 6-21 22-20 in the other semifinal, which lasted just over an hour.

Earlier, world No. 1 An Se Young set up the women's singles final against China's Wang Zhi Yi. Young defeated former champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand 21-11 21-7, while Wang got the better of compatriot Chen Yu Fei 21-15 23-21 in the semifinals.

ICC won't move Ireland's T20 World Cup 2026 matches from Sri Lanka amid Bangladesh's 'group swap' idea



New Delhi, Agency: Cricket Ireland has said that the International Cricket Council (ICC) will not shift their matches from Sri Lanka for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, hours after reports emerged that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had requested a group swap with Ireland.

According to reports by Cricbuzz, an official from Cricket Ireland said the ICC has given "definitive assurances" that Ireland will stick to the original schedule and play all their group-stage matches in Sri Lanka.

"We've received definitive assurances that we won't move from the original schedule. We're definitely playing the Group Stage in Sri Lanka," the official was quoted as saying. Ireland are placed in Group B of the 2026 T20 World Cup alongside Australia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Oman. The team is scheduled to play all its group-stage matches in Sri Lanka (the first three in Colombo and the final

match in Pallekele). Meanwhile, Bangladesh are part of Group C along with England, the West Indies, Nepal and Italy. As per the existing schedule, Bangladesh are slated to play three matches in Kolkata and one in Mumbai. The BCB has expressed reluctance to travel to India for the tournament, citing security concerns.

On Saturday evening, the board requested the ICC to swap Bangladesh with Ireland so that Bangladesh could play its group-stage matches in Sri Lanka instead of India. A two-member ICC team, consisting of Gaurav Saxena, General Manager (Events and Corporate Communications), and Andrew Ephgrave, General Manager (Integrity Unit), was in Dhaka to discuss security arrangements in India and urge the BCB to adhere to the original schedule. In a statement after the meeting, the BCB said discussions were held regarding Bangladesh's participation in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

PWL 2026: Haryana Thunders continue their unbeaten run with a 6-3 win over Delhi

Noida, Agency: Japanese legend Yui Susaki produced another stellar performance to guide Haryana Thunders to an impressive 6-3 victory over Delhi Dangal Warriors in the fifth match of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026. Susaki won the bout by technical superiority in just 57 seconds, setting a record for the fastest technical victory in league history. With this win, Haryana continued their unbeaten run and topped the points table with four points. Susaki was adjudged Player of the Match, while Turan Bayramov of Delhi Dangal Warriors received the Fighter of the Match award.

After the match, Haryana



Thunders captain Yui Susaki said, "Today's match was good, and I'm

satisfied with my performance. My goal was to win decisively, whether by pin or technical superiority, and I executed my plan well. The team also performed brilliantly, and the efforts of all the players were encouraging."

Delhi Dangal Warriors captain Sujeet Kalkal said, "We had hoped for victory, but the first few bouts didn't go our way. These were tough and close matches, not one-sided, but today wasn't our day. We will learn from the defeat, regroup as a team, and come back stronger in the upcoming bouts."

Haryana started the match on a strong note with Kajal Dhochak in the 76kg women's category.

SAFF Women's Futsal Championship: Diti Kanungo's four goals help India outplay Nepal

Nonthaburi, Agency: The Indian women's futsal team triumphed 8-1 against Nepal in the SAFF Women's Futsal Championship 2026 at the Nonthaburi Stadium in Thailand, on Saturday, as per the AIFF website.

Diti Kanungo (4', 4', 13', 15') scored four goals in the first period to put India in command of the match. Ritika Singh (22', 37') scored two, while Nishka Prakash (8') and Khushbu Saroj (24') netted one each. Manisha Thapa Magar (8') was the only scorer for Nepal.

India currently leads the table with six points from

three matches, followed by Bangladesh and Pakistan, both on four points but with a match in hand.

India, coming on the back of a 1-3 defeat against Bangladesh earlier this week, pinned their pivot high up the court right next to the opposition goalkeeper, a tactic that paid dividends in the early exchanges. In this case, Diti, who was sent to operate within an arm's length of the Nepal custodian, caused confusion and scored the early goals.

She put India in the lead in the 4th minute, back-heeling a shot from Arya More to score. Lightning struck twice within



seconds, when Ritika's long-range effort was deflected from within the circle by Diti. Nepal never really man-

aged to recover from the early onslaught, save for a couple of stray counter-attacks, which were dealt with by the Indian defence.

Nishka finished off a move that she herself orchestrated, breaking down the centre, before playing a one-two with Sonali Mondal to open up the defence and scoring into an empty net.

Manisha dribbled past her marker and produced a shot that beat India goalkeeper Aiswarya Arumugam. The Indian custodian redeemed herself seconds later, when she pulled off a fine save in a one-on-one opportunity off

Manisha.

The tides turned back in the Futsal Tigresses' favour once again. Ritika drilled a low and hard pass to Diti at the Nepal goalmouth, and the latter scored with just one touch in the 13th minute. A couple of minutes later, a low cross by Khushbu evaded all for an unmarked Diti to poke in at the far post.

India did not step off the gas in the second half and scored immediately after the restart. Diti returned the favour to Ritika this time, as the latter finished it off, beating the goalkeeper at the near post.



One year has passed since Aman Devgan's debut, Ajay got emotional and wrote a special post

Ajay Devgan's nephew and actress Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani made her Bollywood debut with Ajay Devgan's film Azaad. It has been 1 year since the film was released. On this occasion, Ajay Devgan remembered Aman. Ajay shared a picture with Aman on his Instagram Stories section. With this he wrote, This is the same feeling that I had when you were born. The child has grown up today. Always proud of you, champ. Peace. Ajay Devgan seems to be the maternal uncle of Aman Devgan. Ajay Devgan has two sisters – Neelam Devgan and Kavita Devgan. Aman is the son of Neelam Devgan. Aman was seen in the film Azad with Rasha Thadani. This was the debut film of both. Diana Penty also played an important role along with Ajay in the period film directed by Abhishek Kapoor.

Release date of film Dhamaal 4 Changes, makers gave information

Ajay Devgan's much awaited film Dhamaal-4 is ready to hit the theaters soon. The makers of the film informed about the change in the release date of the film in a funny manner. The makers shared a fun poster on Instagram. Release information has been given in this poster, in which it is written that the film Dhamaal will be released in 4 theaters on June 12. He shared the poster and captioned it, "Telling you quickly, then we have to go to create a blast." After seeing the post, fans seem very excited about its release. Also, some users are attributing the change in the release date of the film to Yash film Toxic. Let us tell you that the film Dhamaal 4 was also going to be released on the occasion of Eid, but due to some reason the makers have changed its release, the reason for which fans are citing Dhurandhar 2 and Yash starrer Toxic. Dhurandhar 2 and Toxic are to be released on the occasion of Eid. At the same time, the fanbase of Yash's fans is very strong and fans have been waiting for his film for a long time.

Sonakshi Sinha becomes part of Trend 2016, shows glimpse of wonderful memories

These days, the trend of 2016 is prevalent on social media, in which many celebrities are sharing their memorable moments of 2016 with their fans. Actress Sonakshi Sinha also joined this trend. He posted a special carousel of 17 photos on social media. Sonakshi Sinha shared 17 pictures on her Instagram account and wrote in the caption, 2016 - Let's Go!. In the post, Sonakshi has described the

year 2016 as her busiest and memorable year. He told that this year is associated with action movie star Akira. In the first pictures, he shared memories of the film Akira, which included singing a song and shooting a cool music video. Then she talked about playing the role of a secret agent in Force 2, where she was seen doing action. Not only this, Sonakshi posted memories of getting her friends married. Referring to the wedding of one of his friends, he wrote, let's get Smera married. Yes, but tricks don't work, it took me 8 years to get married even after falling for me.

In another picture, he mentioned about the wedding he attended in Goa.

Monica Bedi - When I fell in love with underworld don, I left my career

After being released from jail, she is now spending her life like

Once the glamor queen of Bollywood, whose beauty and acting were discussed everywhere, today her story is quite different. That glittering film world, where everyone is struggling today to reach the heights of success, actress Monica Bedi had left it just for her love. This was no ordinary love story, because the person Monica Bedi fell in love with and left her career for was underworld don Abu

Salem. Monica Bedi, born on 18 January 1975 in Chabwal, Punjab, started her career with the Telugu film 'Taj Mahal'.

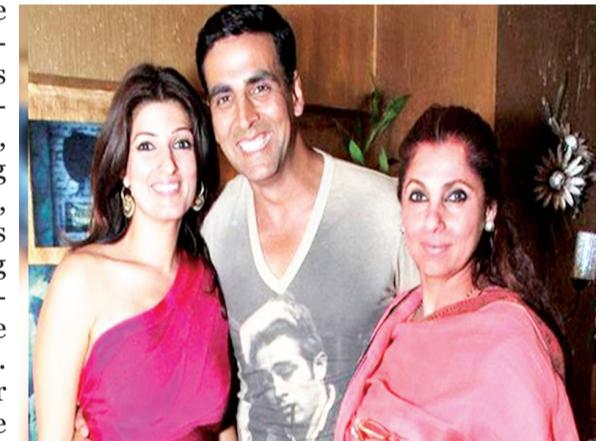
Soon she made her Bollywood debut with the film Suraksha opposite Saif Ali Khan and worked with well-known actors like Govinda, Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty, Chiranjeevi, Salman Khan and Dharmendra. His famous films include the comedy hit Jodi No.1. People were thinking that this girl was going to play a long innings in Bollywood, but destiny had something else in mind.

Monica first came in contact with Abu Salem during a stage show in Dubai in 1998. Initially, Abu described himself as a businessman, but gradually his style and conversation touched Monica's heart. Their relationship started to blossom, but this turn of life later created problems for Monica. In 2002, Monica was arrested along with Abu Salem and had to face a harsh life in jail.



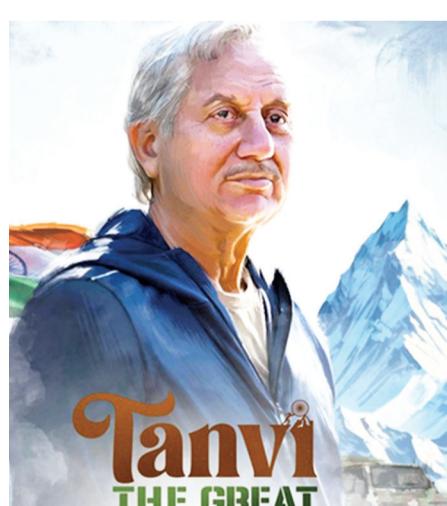
My mother-in-law never lies, Akshay Kumar remembered Dimple Kapadia after 25 years of marriage

Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna are such couples of Bollywood cinema, who do not miss the opportunity to pull each other's legs from media interviews to social media. With this laughter, fun and happiness, the couple has completed 25 years of their marriage. However, on his wedding anniversary, Akshay Kumar is remembering what his mother-in-law Dimple Kapadia said. Akshay Kumar has shared the happiness of completing 25 years of marriage on social media and has shared a strange video of Twinkle Khanna in which she is walking in a crooked manner on the beach. Posting the video, Akshay wrote in the caption, When we got married on this day in 2001, his mother had said, 'Son, be ready to laugh even in strange situations, because that is exactly what she will do.' It has been 25 years and I know that my mother-in-law never lied. His daughter doesn't even want to walk straight, she prefers to live her life dancing. The actor further wrote, From day one to year 25, salute to my lovely wife who keeps me laughing, making me think and sometimes even a little disturbing! Happy anniversary, Tina. 25 years of fun that we both love.



Indian talent on global stage, Tanvi the Great and Paro echo in Oscar eligibility list

Indian cinema is moving forward these days with experienced veterans and new artists. From emotional stories to mythological and cultural depth, the films have not only broken the boundaries of the artists but also redefined their screen personas. These performances are in the news recently as the names of many Indian films have been included in the eligibility list for Oscar 2026. Anupam Kher-Tanvi The Great:



Veteran actor Anupam Kher has played the lead role along with directing the film. The film tells the story of Tanvi, an autistic girl who dreams of joining the army in memory of her late father. Anupam's acting in the film is sensitive, deep and impressive. The film achieved success by running in theaters for 100 days and has

now made it to the Best Picture eligibility list of Oscar 2026. Rishabh Shetty - Kantara: Chapter 1: After the massive success of Kantara, Rishabh Shetty is back with its prequel Kantara: Chapter 1. This time the mythological and traditional roots have been shown in more depth in the story. In such a situation, Rishabh's powerful presence along with spiritual connection makes the film not just a cinematic experience but a cultural journey. Ishaan Khattar-Homebound: Ishaan Khattar has made everyone his fan with his acting in the film Homebound directed by Neeraj Ghaywan. This film is a story of friendship, social inequality and struggle between two friends.

Minissha Lamba: With the support of her parents, she entered films, was slapped hard on the sets in her very first film

Actress Minissha Lamba, who rose to fame with Ranbir Kapoor's film Bachna Ae Haseeno, has been a part of Bigg Boss 8. She has been away from the film world for a long time but is still living her dreams through theatre. The actress never thought that she would work in Hindi cinema, because her Hindi was not good at all, but because of her parents, she changed her decision. Minissha Lamba, born on 18 January, got her first break because of Cadbury's chocolate ad. The actress used to do modeling and advertising along with her studies during her college days, but had no intention of going into films, but after doing a Cadbury advertisement, director Sujit Sarkar changed her life. Sujit liked the acting of the actress and he approached her for

the 2005 film Yahaan. It was very difficult for Minissha to decide to enter films, because she had been living in Chennai for the last 10 years and she knew only broken Hindi. At that time the actress felt that with this broken Hindi why would anyone cast her in films. Whereas Sujit Sarkar was determined that he wanted Minissha as the lead actress in the film. What happened next, he himself went and talked to the actress's parents and convinced them for the film. Minissha Lamba herself had revealed in an interview that Sujit Sarkar talked to her parents and my parents left the decision to me. He said that if you really want to do all this, then do it only.

