



## Cabinet approves extension of Atal Pension Yojana till 2031

Agency. New Delhi

The government on Wednesday decided to extend the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) till the financial year 2030-31 and approved increased government support for its promotion, developmental activities, and gap financing. This decision, taken at a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, will ensure regular income security in old age for crores of workers in the unorganized sector. According to the Cabinet decision, the scheme will be continued till 2030-31. Under this, the government will provide support for promotional and developmental activities such as public awareness and capacity building to increase the reach of the scheme to workers in the unorganized sector. Necessary gap financing will also be provided to ensure the financial stability of



### Cabinet approves modern corridor project

**New Delhi:** The BJP government in Delhi is set to complete one year in office next month. In this context, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's government appears to be actively working to fulfill its promises. On Tuesday, in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Finance Expenditure Committee approved a crucial infrastructure project for South Delhi. Under the project, a 6-lane integrated elevated road and two underpasses will be constructed on MB Road, from Saket G-Block to Pul Prahladpur. This will provide much-needed relief to the people of South Delhi from the long-standing problem of traffic congestion.

the scheme. This extension of the scheme will provide financial security in old age to low-income groups and workers in the unorganized sector. This will promote financial inclusion and help move the country towards a pension-based society. This decision will strengthen

a robust and sustainable social security framework in line with the goal of a developed India by 2047. The Atal Pension Yojana was launched on May 9, 2015, with the objective of providing income security in old age to workers in the unorganized sector.

## Spanish Foreign Minister meets with President

Agency. New Delhi

Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares paid a courtesy call on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. Welcoming Albares at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President said that India and Spain share centuries-old relations, enriched by trade, culture, and shared values such as democracy and pluralism. She noted that 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations

between the two countries, which is being celebrated as the 'India-Spain Bilateral Year: Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence'. The President said that economic relations between India and Spain are continuously strengthening, with trade and investment expanding. She added that Spain's expertise in sectors such as engineering, railways, renewable energy, urban services, and defense aerospace aligns with India's development priorities.



## Accurate Voter Lists Crucial for Democracy: CEC

Agency. New Delhi

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar said on Wednesday that accurate and updated voter lists are essential for strengthening democracy. He made these remarks at the inaugural session of the International Conference of Electoral Bodies of Democratic Countries held at Bharat Mandapam on Wednesday. The Election Commission launched the International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM-2026). Addressing the inaugural session, the CEC shared the success of India's electoral system. He stated that during the recently held assembly elections in Bihar, the voter list of approximately 75 million voters was extensively updated, against which not a single appeal was filed. Furthermore,



peaceful polling took place at nearly one lakh polling stations, and no re-polling was required anywhere. The Chief Election Commissioner said that India is the mother of democracy, with a tradition dating back to 600 BC. Referring to the Ashoka Pillar and a Sanskrit mantra from the Atharvaveda, he said that ancient village assemblies and committees reflect India's robust democratic ethos. Earlier, at a welcome ceremony, CEC Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners

Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, welcomed approximately 60 international delegates. The conference was attended by about one thousand participants, including representatives from 42 election management bodies, ambassadors and high commissioners from 27 countries, experts from more than 70 national institutions, senior officials of the Election Commission of India, and 36 Chief Electoral Officers from across the country.

## Brief News

### Broken seats, dirty and foul-smelling toilets, and poor quality food and drinks



**New Delhi:** The Delhi District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered Air India to pay a compensation of 1.5 lakh to a passenger and his daughter. This decision was made regarding poor services during a long international flight. Shailendra Bhatnagar and his daughter traveled on an Air India Delhi-New York-Delhi flight in September 2023. They had booked economy class tickets through MakeMyTrip. The passengers complained that they faced several problems during the flight. The aircraft seats were broken and uncomfortable. The in-flight entertainment system was not working. The seat buttons and call buttons were also faulty. In addition, the toilets were dirty and smelled foul. The passengers also stated that the quality of food and drinks was very poor. According to media reports, the biggest problem was that the cabin crew did not provide any proper assistance despite repeated complaints.

### Sunita Williams, who holds the record for traveling to space 9 times and spending 608 days in space, retires



**New Delhi:** Sunita Williams, the renowned Indian-origin astronaut who left an indelible mark on the world of space science, has bid farewell to the American space agency NASA. NASA has officially announced that Williams' retirement, after serving the agency for 27 years, became effective on December 27 of last year. This announcement comes at a time when Sunita Williams is currently on a visit to India, reliving memories of her ancestral homeland. Selected by NASA in 1998, Williams participated in three significant space missions during her career and spent a total of 608 days in space. She holds the record for the most spacewalks by a woman, with nine spacewalks totaling 62 hours and 6 minutes. This is the most for any female astronaut and the fourth highest in NASA's history.

## Aircraft crashes in Prayagraj, pilots jump into a pond

Agency. Prayagraj

Panic gripped the city of Prayagraj on Wednesday afternoon when a two-seater microlight aircraft suddenly went out of control and crashed into a pond. The accident, caused by a technical malfunction, shocked everyone, but thankfully, both pilots are safe. Surendra Kumar, who was present at the scene, said he saw the aircraft wobbling strangely in the sky. The next moment, two parachutes opened from the aircraft, and both pilots were seen floating in the air before the plane crashed. As soon



as the aircraft crashed into the middle of the pond with a loud bang, people rushed to the spot. The presence of water in the pond prevented a fire, thus averting a major disaster. According to media reports, people standing on the railway tracks near the pond saw both pilots land safely in the water and signaling for help. Seeing this, people jumped into the pond.

## BJP demands action against Udhayanidhi after High Court's decision in Amit Malviya case

**New Delhi:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has targeted the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) after the Madras High Court quashed the FIR registered against Amit Malviya, the party's IT cell chief, for allegedly distorting the remarks of Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin. The party has also demanded that Udhayanidhi be removed from his post and that a case be registered against him. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said at a press conference at the party headquarters on Wednesday that the High Court's decision exposes the DMK's "anti-Hindu and anti-constitutional mindset." He said the FIR was filed out of vendetta, with the sole purpose of harassing and punishing Amit Malviya for speaking the truth. Poonawalla said, "Satyameva Jayate."

## Legal action will be taken if the notice is not withdrawn: Avimukteshwaranand

**Prayagraj:** The controversy has deepened after the Prayagraj Mela Authority issued a notice to Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati. Politics has also entered the fray, and Swami Avimukteshwaranand has now sent an eight-page reply to the authority through his Supreme Court lawyer. In his reply, Swami Avimukteshwaranand completely rejected the allegations of the Mela Authority and stated that he is the Shankaracharya. The reply states that the late Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati had appointed him as his successor during his lifetime. It is mentioned that Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati passed away on September 11, 2022, and on September 12, 2022, Swami Avimukteshwaranand was formally consecrated according to Vedic rituals. He was installed as the Shankaracharya in a public ceremony.



## AI is now a necessity for the present and the future of telecommunications: TRAI

Agency. New Delhi

At a conference organized by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) on Wednesday, it was stated that artificial intelligence (AI) is improving customer experience and that a responsible AI framework is needed to maintain transparency and consumer trust. According to the Ministry of Communications, TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti, members Ritu Ranjan Mittar and Dr. MP Tangirala, Secretary Atul Kumar Chaudhary, STPI Director



General Arvind Kumar, and IIT Gandhinagar Director Prof. Rajat Moona were present at the event. STPI Director General Arvind Kumar said that networks were previously referred to simply as pipes, but now, due to artificial intelligence, they have become "intelligent pipes." TRAI Secretary Atul Kumar Chaudhary said that AI will improve the quality of service and that appropriate rules

and regulations are necessary for this. TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said that artificial intelligence is not a thing of the future but has already become the foundation of telecommunications. From network automation to preventing spam calls, AI is already transforming services. Its use should be transparent, responsible, and fair to maintain consumer trust. There was a consensus at the event that given the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence in the telecommunications sector, focus must be placed on secure deployment, indigenous research, and capacity building.

## BJP considering bringing new party president Nitin Naveen to Rajya Sabha

Agency. New Delhi

BJP's new national president, Nitin Naveen, will soon enter the Rajya Sabha. According to party sources, several Rajya Sabha seats will become vacant this year, and the party is considering bringing him into the Upper House of Parliament. However, he will not be included in the Union Cabinet for now, as the party is following the principle of one person, one post. The 45-year-old Nitin Naveen is a five-time MLA from Bihar. He has become the youngest national president of the

### The seat from Jharkhand that will become vacant in June 2026 can be used for the nomination

BJP. He was born in Ranchi (Jharkhand). His father, Naveen Kishore Prasad Sinha, was also a senior BJP leader. According to media reports, he formally took charge as president at the party headquarters on Tuesday, where several senior leaders, including PM Modi, congratulated him. Modi addressed him as a "millennial boss," signaling new energy in



the party. Party sources say that Nitin Naveen will be brought into Parliament in line with his new responsibility. There is currently no vacant Rajya Sabha seat from Bihar, but an option is available from the neighboring state of Jharkhand. The term of BJP MP Deepak Prakash from Jharkhand ends in June 2026. Sources said that since Nitin Naveen was born in Ranchi,

he could be nominated from there. However, the party's central leadership can send him from any state where a suitable seat is available. A total of 71 Rajya Sabha members are retiring this year, of which 30 are from the BJP. These include 8 seats from Uttar Pradesh, 3 from Gujarat, and two each from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, and Haryana. One seat each is becoming vacant from Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Manipur.

## Rahul Gandhi on Haryana visit, training district presidents, focusing on strengthening the organization

Agency. Kurukshetra

Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, arrived in Haryana on Wednesday. His plane landed at Ambala Air Force Station at around 10:20 AM, where he was received by Congress National In-charge BK Hariprasad, State President Rao Narendra Singh, and former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Rahul Gandhi then traveled to Kurukshetra by road. In Kurukshetra, Rahul Gandhi is participating in a training camp being held at the



Punjabi Dharamshala under the Congress's 'Organization Building Campaign'. The objective of this camp is reportedly to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level. At the beginning of the program, Rahul Gandhi met with the families of the Congress district presidents from Haryana and Uttarakhand. After this, he is giving training to the district presidents in a closed hall.

Party sources say that no other leader besides the district presidents has been allowed entry into this training session. Senior leaders and MPs are present in a separate room. State Congress President Rao Narendra Singh, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, MP from Sirsa Kumari Selja, Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala, along with several MLAs and MPs, are present at the Dharamshala premises, but they are not part of the training session. It is being said that Rahul Gandhi is directly interacting with the district presidents regarding the organizational structure, the role of grassroots workers.

## PM extends greetings on the Statehood Day of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura

Agency. New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday extended his greetings to the people of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura on the occasion of their Statehood Day. He said that these states have made significant contributions to the development of the country and expressed his hope that they will continue to reach new heights of progress. In a post on X today, the Prime Minister congratulated the people of



Meghalaya, saying that the state's cultural vibrancy and natural beauty are appreciated both in India and abroad. He expressed confidence that Meghalaya will scale new heights of development in the future. Addressing the people of Manipur, the Prime Minister said that the people of Manipur are playing a vital role in India's progress. He lauded the state's passion for sports, culture and nature and wished for Manipur's continued development.



## Road Safety Month 2026: Awareness Rally Organized in Jamtara with Participation of School Children

Correspondent.DN

**Jamtara:** Under the Road Safety Month 2026, a morning procession was organized in Jamtara district from the Sub-Divisional Office to Yagya Maidan, Jamtara, on the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate of Jamtara, Mr. Ravi Anand, IAS. Under the National Road Safety Month 2026, and in compliance with departmental instructions, the District Transport Office, Jamtara, is organizing various activities for road safety awareness. In this connection, on the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate of Jamtara, Mr. Ravi Anand, IAS, a road safety morning procession was organized from the

Sub-Divisional Office to Yagya Maidan, Jamtara, in which a large number of school children participated. The procession was flagged off by Sub-Divisional Officer Mr. Anant Kumar and District Transport Officer Mr. Mukesh Kumar, among others. During the procession, a stop was made at Gandhi Maidan to create awareness among the people about road safety. On this occasion, Sub-Divisional Officer Mr. Anant Kumar appealed to the residents of the district to follow traffic and road safety rules while driving on the roads. He emphasized wearing helmets while riding two-wheelers, not driving under the influence of alcohol, and adopting safe driving practices. During this program, people



were encouraged to wear helmets while riding two-wheelers, use seat belts in four-wheelers, keep their vehicles in good condition, avoid overspeeding, and overtake carefully. They were also made aware of the importance of following road safety rules. In addition, information was given

about the government-run Good Samaritan Scheme, which aims to ensure that injured persons in road accidents are taken to the hospital quickly. Under this scheme, a good Samaritan who takes an injured person to the hospital is rewarded by the government and is not compelled to give

any testimony or appear in court. Also present was District Transport Officer Mr. Mukesh Kumar. Mukesh Kumar informed the attendees about the importance of strictly following traffic rules, driving carefully on the left side of the road, driving only when of legal driving age, not driving without a valid driving license, not carrying more than two people on a two-wheeler, adhering to the prescribed speed limits, not driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, giving priority to emergency service vehicles, and ensuring the safety of everyone on the road. On this occasion, in addition to Road Safety Team Manager Tausif Jalili, Satish Kumar Singh, Maaz Alam, Vimlesh Kumar, and others were also present.

## DDC visits Nathnagar block

Correspondent.DN

**Bhagalpur :** Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Mr. Pradeep Kumar Singh visited Nathnagar block. During the visit, he reviewed the progress of the ongoing e-KYC and farmer registration work in the block. The main objective of the review was to expedite farmer-related work and ensure the effective implementation of schemes. The DDC held a meeting with the staff, farmer advisors, and coordinators at the block office to get information about the progress made so far. During the meeting, the problems encountered in e-KYC and farmer registration were discussed in detail, and necessary instructions were given for their quick resolution. The DDC interacted directly



with the staff present on the spot to understand the work process and said that all staff should work in coordination with each other so that e-KYC and registration of as many farmers as possible can be completed on time. He instructed that special attention should be paid to ensure that farmers do not face any inconvenience. The DDC also said that farmers whose registration is pending should be listed on a priority basis and their work should be completed

quickly. Emphasis was also placed on organizing camps to increase awareness in the area and providing correct information to the farmers. At the end of the visit, the DDC instructed the concerned officers and staff to expedite the work, conduct regular monitoring, and ensure progress as per the target. He expressed confidence that with the cooperation of all the staff, the e-KYC and farmer registration work in Nathnagar block would be completed soon.

## Distribution of Saree Sets for Sohrai Festival

Correspondent.DN

**Pakur:** As in previous years, this year too, the local DBL Central Coal Company is distributing saree sets to women and girls from five villages displaced and affected by its coal mining operations, under its CSR scheme, in connection with Sohrai, the major festival of the Santhali community. Last Wednesday, a camp was organized near the Alubera camp office, where the company's Project Head, Brajesh Kumar, personally distributed saree sets to the women. On Tuesday, DBL Coal Company organized a camp in New Kathaldihi village, where saree sets were distributed to the women under the direction of the



company's Project Head, Mr. Brajesh Kumar. Present at the saree distribution program on Wednesday were DBL company's Senior Manager Coordinator Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Senior General Manager Manoj Kumar Sinha, Mines Manager Bhavesh Kumar Diwakar, VPR Company's Project Manager S. Niwas

Reddy, Liaisoning Manager Sanjay Das, JP Rai, and other officials and staff. On this occasion, the local Project Head of DBL Coal Company, Brajesh Kumar, said that in view of the Sohrai festival of the Santhali community, which is currently being celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout Santhal Pargana

and the entire Jharkhand, the company is distributing saree sets to the women of the displaced and affected villages of Kathaldihi, Amjhari, Taljhari, Singh Dehri, and Alubera under its CSR scheme. Financial assistance is also being provided for the decoration of the villages through the village heads. This year, more than 1000 saree sets will be distributed. The rural women were very happy to receive the sarees and highly appreciated the company's work, saying that the company distributes saree sets to them every year on the occasion of the Sohrai festival. It is worth noting that a fair is organized in Alubera village on the occasion of Sohrai festival and Saraswati Puja.

## Adani Foundation Organizes Excellence Award Ceremony for Women in Godda

Correspondent.DN

**Godda:** A special felicitation and motivational program for women was organized by the Adani Foundation at the sewing training center in Dumaria, Godda district. The program was attended by women involved in sewing training, master trainers, and the Adani Foundation team. A total of approximately 80 participants took part in the event. Adani Foundation representatives appreciated the women's work and encouraged them to continue striving



for success. The main objective of the program is to empower women from rural and underprivileged families through sewing and self-employment. Through this initiative by the Adani Foundation, more than 2000 women have been

trained in Godda district over the past 7 years. Today, many women are earning between 5,000 and 6,000 rupees per month, which has significantly improved their families' economic condition. During the program, the women

shared their experiences and success stories. An exhibition of garments made through sewing was also organized, which was highly appreciated by all. Women who performed exceptionally well and the master trainers were honored with awards. At the end of the program, the women thanked the Adani Foundation, stating that this initiative has given them new confidence and respect in their lives. This initiative by the Adani Foundation in Godda district is considered a significant step towards women's empowerment and social development.

## Review Meeting of Committees Regarding the Upcoming Municipal Elections 2026

Correspondent.DN

**Dumka:** A review meeting was held in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Aniket Sachan with the nodal officers, assistant nodal officers, and election officers of the various committees formed for the preparation of the upcoming municipal elections in 2026. During the meeting, the Deputy Development Commissioner reviewed in detail the responsibilities and functions of each committee and gave necessary instructions to ensure that the election process is conducted fairly, transparently, and on time. He instructed all the nodal officers to provide timely training to the officers and staff deployed in their respective committees and to properly assess the required manpower. The Deputy Development Commissioner directed that the painting and maintenance of ballot boxes and the availability of



necessary election materials be ensured. The transport committee was instructed to assess the required vehicles for the election work and initiate necessary action in a timely manner. He clarified that municipal elections are to be held in Dumka Municipal Council and Basukinath Nagar Panchayat, and therefore, all committees should work in coordination with each other and complete their preparations within the stipulated time frame. All officers involved in the election process were instructed to work with vigilance and responsibility.

## Meeting related to Acquittal Appeals concluded

Correspondent.DN

**Godda:** A review meeting on cases related to Acquittal Appeals was held today in the auditorium of the Collectorate, chaired by District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Godda, Ms. Anjali Yadav, IAS, and Superintendent of Police, Godda, Mr. Mukesh Kumar. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the acquittal orders passed in various courts in the district. She instructed that in all cases where there is a strong possibility of appeal based on evidence, facts, and legal provisions, it should be ensured that an Acquittal Appeal is filed in the competent court within the stipulated time frame. The Deputy Commissioner directed



the officers associated with the prosecution to review all acquittal cases systematically and identify cases with strong grounds for appeal. In appealable cases, they

were instructed to thoroughly examine the case diary, evidence, witness statements, and court observations and take prompt action. They were also instructed

to work in coordination to avoid any unnecessary delay in filing appeals. Priority should be given to serious crimes, cases related to women/children, and matters of public interest. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that maintaining public trust in the judicial process is the primary responsibility of the administration; therefore, legal, transparent, and prompt action should be taken in matters related to Acquittal Appeals. At the end of the meeting, the concerned officers were instructed to provide progress reports within the stipulated time frame. The District Prosecution Officer, Assistant Public Prosecutor, senior officers from the concerned departments, and officers from the legal branch were present at the meeting.

## Commissioner Holds Review Meeting on Internal Revenue

Correspondent.DN

**Bhagalpur:** A divisional-level review meeting on internal revenue was held under the chairmanship of the Divisional Commissioner. The meeting was attended by the Municipal Commissioner, Bhagalpur / Additional Collector / District Transport Officer / District Cooperative Officer / Mineral Development Officer / District Sub-Registrar / Sub-Registrar / Executive Officers of all Municipal Councils / all Nagar Panchayats and Executive Engineers of all engineering departments of Bhagalpur / Banka districts. In the meeting, the Mineral Development Officers of Bhagalpur/ Banka were directed to form teams and conduct

intensive inspections of illegal mining. Instructions were also given to conduct investigations at the level of Sub-Divisional Officers and Sub-Divisional Police Officers. In cases where recovery is not made in illegal mining, instructions were given to take further action regarding auction. It was also directed that the installed weighbridges should be inspected. The Mineral Development Officers of Bhagalpur/ Banka districts were directed to take further action to collect the prescribed fees from the owners of trucks/tractors caught in illegal mining within the stipulated time frame as per rules. In case of non-payment of fees within the time limit, instructions were given to auction the vehicles



through the Collector's court. Instructions were given to check the challans, and if found illegal or if no challan is found, to register an FIR. The Additional Commissioner of State Taxes, Bhagalpur Division, Bhagalpur was directed to achieve 100% recovery of the prescribed revenue target by the end of the current financial year. The Deputy Director of Agriculture-cum-Joint

Controller, Weights and Measures, Bhagalpur Division, Bhagalpur was directed to achieve 100% recovery of the prescribed annual revenue target. All Executive Officers of Nagar Panchayats were directed to conduct a campaign to collect the prescribed annual revenue target. For this, the outstanding holding tax should also be checked. After identifying the outstanding holdings,

all holding owners should be issued notices, and it should also be ensured that commercial/residential holding tax is being collected according to the correct classification. The Executive Officers of Nagar Panchayat, Akbarnagar/ Sabour/Habibpur/Bausi and others, who do not have their own office buildings, shall coordinate with the concerned Circle Officer/ Additional Collector to ensure further action for obtaining office buildings under the continuous lease policy/government land. The Executive Officers of Nagar Parishad Sultanganj/ Navgachia/Banka have been directed to take further action for implementing an online payment system for holding tax collection. The Sub-Registrar, Kahalgau, has been directed to

coordinate with the concerned Circle Officer/ Additional Collector to ensure further action for obtaining an office building under the continuous lease policy/government land. The allocation of any department/working department should not lapse without any valid reason. The Additional Collectors of Bhagalpur/Banka have been directed to ensure weekly review meetings with the concerned officials for the recovery of royalty. The Mineral Development Officers of Bhagalpur/ Banka have been directed to instruct the Mine Inspectors to coordinate with the Accountants of all working departments twice a week to verify the accuracy of Mining Royalty and Seigniorage Fee and take further action accordingly.

## Review Meeting of the Education Department Held Under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Hemant Sati

Correspondent.DN

**Sahibganj:** A detailed review meeting of the Education Department was held in the office chamber under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mr. Hemant Sati, IAS. The meeting reviewed the monthly progress of the District Education Establishment Committee (Primary and Secondary), the District Executive Education Committee, and the District Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee. The Deputy Commissioner took detailed information about the departmental work and the progress of ongoing schemes and provided necessary instructions. He laid special emphasis



on school management, quality of education, and the effective implementation of schemes. The meeting was attended by District Education Officer Mr. Durganand Jha, District Education Superintendent Mr. Kumar Harsh, and other concerned officials.



Brief News

Weather fluctuations continue, Chaibasa records temperature six degrees above normal

**Ranchi:** Weather fluctuations continue in various districts of the state. Some districts are experiencing cloudy conditions, while others are feeling the heat. This is why the maximum temperature in Chaibasa was recorded six degrees (31.2) above normal. Similarly, the temperature in Ranchi was 2.4 degrees above normal, Jamshedpur 30.5, Daltonganj 3.6 degrees above normal, and Bokaro 2.7 degrees above normal. Temperature fluctuations are likely to continue in the coming days across the state, including the capital Ranchi. The Meteorological Department stated on Wednesday that a low-pressure area persists over northwestern Uttar Pradesh and adjoining areas. Additionally, a new Western Disturbance is likely to affect the northwestern parts of the country from January 26th. Its impact will be seen in various states, including Jharkhand. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the sky remained partly cloudy in Ranchi and surrounding areas from morning. This resulted in alternating feelings of warmth and coolness. However, the weather cleared up in the afternoon. In the last 24 hours, the highest temperature was recorded in Chaibasa at 31.2 degrees Celsius and the lowest in Gumla at 8.4 degrees Celsius. On Wednesday, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded were: Ranchi 26.6 and 12.9 degrees, Jamshedpur 30.5 and 13.2 degrees, Daltonganj 29.2 and 9.7 degrees, Bokaro 28.2 and 12.1 degrees, Chaibasa 31.2 and 12.6 degrees, Khunti 27.7 and 10.3 degrees, Lohardaga 27.7 and 10.8 degrees, Latehar 22.7 and 12.2 degrees, and Seraikela 31.2 and 12 degrees Celsius.

Proposed Zayka Food Fest at DSPMU opposed, student organizations submit memorandum to Registrar

**Ranchi:** A joint delegation of the Adivasi Students' Association (ASA), AJSU Students' Union, and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) met with the Registrar of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University (DSPMU), Ranchi, on Wednesday and submitted a memorandum protesting the proposed Zayka Food Fest. ASA President Vivek Turkey stated that the food fest, being organized by the university's MBA and BBA departments, is completely inappropriate given the current academic and career-related challenges faced by students and should be canceled immediately. He added that the position of Placement Officer at the university has been vacant for the past three months, adversely affecting students' employment and career opportunities. Despite this, the university administration has not taken any concrete steps in this regard. The AJSU Students' Union specifically raised the issue of over 150 to 200 students in the BBA department having year-back issues under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for the 2023-27 session. The organization termed this a serious academic crisis for the university and a crucial issue concerning the students' future. The ASA, NSUI, and AJSU Students' Union jointly stated that instead of events like food festivals, the university should organize job fairs, placement drives, career counseling, and skill development programs to provide real benefits to the students. The organizations also questioned the university administration's indifference regarding the AICTE accreditation of the MBA and BBA courses. The student organizations warned that if the university administration does not seriously consider their demands, they will be forced to launch a phased agitation. Present during the meeting were ASA President Vivek Turkey, Dinesh Oraon, Ajit Mahto, Ashu Mahto, University Convener Ravi Roshan, Prashant Mahto, Nitesh Sharma, Bittu Verma, Raj, NSUI Ranchi Metropolitan President Satish Kesari, General Secretary Hrishik Kumar, Vice President Sudhanshu Raj, and several other office bearers and students from the three student organizations.

Many Patients Treated with Ayurvedic Methods at Pranami Temple



**Ranchi:** An Ayurvedic health camp was organized on Wednesday at the Shri Radha Krishna Pranami Temple, Pundag, run by the Pranami Trust, in collaboration with Sai Balaji Dhanvantari Panchakarma Ayurvedic Hospital, Morabadi. On this occasion, the camp's chief physician, Dr. Rishi Kumar, treated several patients and provided free consultations. The doctors examined people who came to the camp for various ailments such as joint pain, gas, indigestion, diabetes, blood pressure, skin diseases, obesity, headaches, and seasonal illnesses. They also provided Ayurvedic treatment and appropriate advice to the patients. On the occasion, patients were given important suggestions regarding Ayurvedic lifestyle, diet, and daily routine. Dr. Rishi Kumar said that Ayurveda not only treats diseases but also provides a complete system for living a healthy life. Many serious diseases can be prevented through a proper daily routine, a balanced diet, and natural medicine. He appealed to people to avoid the indiscriminate use of chemical medicines and adopt Ayurvedic medicine.

Paras HEC Hospital Organizes 'Sports Injury Conclave'

Sports Injury Clinic Launched at Paras HEC Hospital



**Ranchi:** Injuries sustained during sports will no longer hinder the careers of athletes. With this objective, a 'Sports Injury Conclave' was organized at Hotel BNR Chanakya under the aegis of Paras HEC Hospital, Ranchi. The aim of this conclave was to create awareness among athletes regarding timely identification of sports-related injuries, modern treatment, and safe return to play. A Sports Injury Clinic was also launched at the event, Ajay Nath Shahdeo, President of the Jharkhand State Cricket Association, said that injuries are inevitable during sports, but with timely and proper treatment and scientific rehabilitation, players can not only recover quickly but also return to their sport safely. Such events provide

30% discount on surgeries. The chief guest at the event, Ajay Nath Shahdeo, President of the Jharkhand State Cricket Association, said that injuries are inevitable during sports, but with timely and proper treatment and scientific rehabilitation, players can not only recover quickly but also return to their sport safely. Such events provide

yield excellent results. It is crucial to tailor the treatment plan according to the player's age, the nature of the sport, and the severity of the injury. Orthopedics consultant Dr. Avkash Kumar said that along with treatment, proper rehabilitation and conditioning are extremely important for athletes. Rushing back to the field increases the risk of re-injury. A scientifically designed, phased rehabilitation program allows athletes to safely regain their previous performance level. Dr. Nitesh Kumar, Facility Director of Paras HEC Hospital, Ranchi, said that the hospital's objective is not limited to treatment alone, but also to create awareness among athletes about injury prevention, timely treatment, and complete recovery. Through programs like the 'Sports Injury Conclave,' modern techniques and expert services available in sports medicine are being made accessible to the community. The conclave included detailed discussions on early injury detection, modern rehabilitation and physiotherapy techniques, personalized treatment approaches, and a scientific approach to returning to sports. The event was attended by Dr. Ravi Gupta, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Mir, Dr. Rahul Khanna, Dr. Mohammad Haseeb Ghani, Dr. D.P. Sharma from other Paras Health centers, and a large number of athletes, sports coaches, and physiotherapists.

The dream of a prosperous Jharkhand is incomplete without granting state employee status to Anganwadi workers and helpers: JP Pandey

Agency. Ranchi

Jay Prakash (JP) Pandey, convenor of the Jharkhand State Social Welfare Anganwadi Employees Union, has stated that making Jharkhand a developed and prosperous state is merely a pipe dream without granting state employee status to Anganwadi workers and helpers. He made this comment through a press release issued on Wednesday. JP Pandey also questioned Chief Minister Hemant Soren's statement about making Jharkhand prosperous by 2050. He said that malnutrition remains a serious problem in the state, and the Anganwadi

workers and helpers who care for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers in villages are themselves struggling with financial difficulties due to meager wages and irregular payments. He alleged that the supply of rations and nutritional supplements has been disrupted for months in many Anganwadi centers, preventing the benefits of the schemes from reaching the target group. Along with this, the wages, allowances, and other outstanding payments of the Anganwadi workers and helpers have also been pending for a long time. JP Pandey said that sustainable development of any state is impossible without strong human resources.

Minister Sudivya emphasizes UNESCO recognition for Jharkhand's megalithic heritage; international discussions held in the UK

Agency. Ranchi

A Jharkhand delegation, led by Minister Sudivya Kumar of the Urban Development and Housing Department, Higher and Technical Education Department, and Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Department of the Government of Jharkhand, participated in high-level meetings with leading international institutions and expert groups during their visit to the United Kingdom (UK). The central focus of these meetings was the preservation, restoration, scientific management, and strategies for gaining global recognition for Jharkhand's ancient megalithic/monolithic heritage. According to information released by the Information and Public Relations Department on Wednesday, the meetings included detailed discussions on the scientific documentation of megalithic



sites, structural conservation, landscape management, risk assessment, and long-term conservation plans in accordance with international best practices. Experts emphasized the use of modern technologies in conservation efforts and a phased action plan. The meetings stressed that this heritage of Jharkhand is not merely archaeological structures, but is deeply intertwined with the vibrant

cultural identity of the tribal communities. Therefore, meaningful and continuous participation of local communities must be ensured in any conservation initiative to maintain cultural sensitivity and ensure sustainable conservation. During discussions with international experts, the preparation of a robust, factual, and credible dossier for the inclusion of Jharkhand's megalithic heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage List was also discussed. Agreement was reached on presenting mapping, historical evidence, conservation status, and management framework in accordance with global standards. These meetings helped identify potential areas for leveraging international experience in archaeology, heritage conservation, engineering, and consulting, and for institutional capacity building. The state government will prepare a clear and practical roadmap based on expert suggestions.

CCL Jan Arogya Kendra, Gandhinagar Organizes Free Mega Health Check-up Camp in Gagi Basti

Central Coalfields Limited's Jan Arogya Kendra, Gandhinagar, successfully organized a free mega health check-up camp in Gagi Basti, Ranchi, on January 21, 2026. A total of 204 people received free health check-ups and necessary medical consultations from specialist doctors at the camp. During the health camp, free tests were conducted for hemoglobin, blood sugar, hypertension, and other common and serious diseases. Free medicines were also provided to all beneficiaries after the check-ups. The successful organization of the camp was made possible by the commendable contributions



of Dr. Bharat Singh (CMO In-charge, Gandhinagar), Dr. Preeti Tigga (CMO, CSR In-charge), Dr. Anita Horo, Dr. Deepali, Dr. Rajni Kujur, Dr. Ambrish, Dr. Veena, Mr. Munna Kumar Singh, and all the paramedical staff. The local residents appreciated CCL's welfare initiative and expressed their hope for similar health camps to be organized in the future.

Tata Motors launches next-generation 17 trucks, setting new benchmarks in safety, profitability and technology

**Ranchi/Dhanbad:** India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer Tata Motors has launched its next-generation portfolio of 17 trucks in the 7 to 55-tonne category, marking a significant transformation in the Indian trucking industry; Girish Wagh, Executive Director and Managing Director of Tata Motors Limited's Commercial Vehicle Business, said that India's trucking sector is rapidly evolving due to supportive government policies, improved road infrastructure, and growing demand for safe and clean transportation, and Tata Motors has consistently led this change. In line with this vision, the company has introduced the new Azura



series, advanced high-efficiency powertrains, a comprehensive range of electric trucks based on the I-MOEV architecture, and robust cabins aligned with European safety standards, along with industry-leading safety features, aimed at delivering higher payload capacity, improved fuel efficiency, and lower operating costs for transporters. According to the company, the Azura range developed for the

ILMCV segment will set new benchmarks in performance, comfort, and uptime, while Fleet Edge digital services enhance real-time vehicle monitoring, safety, and fleet management. The electric truck range is expected to accelerate zero-emission transportation across e-commerce, construction, and logistics sectors, reinforcing the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and sustainable, environment-friendly mobility.

Rahul Dubey gang demands five crore rupees in extortion money from Ranchi builder

Agency. Ranchi

A case of extortion from Ranchi builder Rafe Kamal came to light on Wednesday. The Rahul Dubey gang has demanded five crore rupees from the builder. He has also been threatened with death if he does not pay the ransom. Builder Rafe Kamal has registered a First Information Report (FIR) at the Argora police station in this regard. Following the registration of the FIR, the police have started investigating the matter. According to the FIR, Rafe Kamal has alleged that he owns a plot of land in Pandara. He has been receiving threats regarding



this land for the past few days. The names of Tausif, Naeem, Badshah, and Asif are included among those who threatened him. According to the FIR, on January 6, when he went to the land, he was told to talk to the Rahul Dubey gang and the Aman Sahu gang. He was chased away from the spot after the names of the criminal gangs were mentioned.

Governor receives draft of Jharkhand Geo-Heritage (Fossil) Bill from Saryu Rai

Agency. Ranchi

Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Rai is set to introduce the "Jharkhand Geo-Heritage (Fossil) Bill" as a private member's bill in the upcoming budget session of the Assembly in 2026. This bill will be introduced as a money bill. Saryu Rai stated on Wednesday that, according to constitutional provisions, the Governor's permission is required before introducing any money bill in the Assembly. Accordingly, he submitted the draft of the bill to the Governor of Jharkhand on Wednesday and requested permission to present it in



the Assembly. According to Saryu Rai, the Governor assured him that he would forward the draft bill to the state government with his recommendations. He further assured that he would grant approval for its presentation as soon as the file reaches him through the proper channels from the state government and

the Assembly. Earlier on Tuesday, Saryu Rai had also submitted the draft of this bill to the Speaker of the Assembly and informed him of his intention to present it as a private member's bill during the upcoming budget session of 2026. Saryu Rai explained that a large number of wood fossils are scattered in the

open in the Rajmahal hills of Jharkhand, particularly in Sahibganj and Pakur districts. These valuable fossils are rapidly being destroyed due to mining and other human activities, even though they represent significant geo-heritage not only for the state but also at the national level. He said that a clear legal framework is necessary for the conservation, management, and scientific study of these fossils. This bill proposes to create an act and rules for this purpose, so that Jharkhand's geo-heritage can be preserved and safeguarded for future generations.



# Nitin Nabin takes charge as BJP president

## What's at stake for PM Modi's 'boss' in party

**New Delhi,Agency:** Nitin Nabin, who formally took charge as the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party today, has his task cut out for him. His immediate challenge are the assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The BJP has a lot at stake in this round of elections as it defends its government in Assam and Puducherry and goes all-out to wrest power from Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the BJP is trying hard to expand its base.

2027 will be another busy year electorally for the BJP president as seven states, including Uttar Pradesh, will



vote to elect new assemblies. The other six are: Gujarat, Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal and Manipur.

Chhattisgarh, a state which played a key role in giving prominence to Nitin Nabin, will vote in 2028 along with eight other states - Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Karnataka, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya. Nitin Nabin was the party in charge in Chhattisgarh in the 2022 assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. And finally, 2029 will see

the BJP under Nitin Nabin go all out for a record fourth consecutive victory in the general elections.

The five-time Bihar MLA, who is widely recognised for his organisational acumen and administrative experience, will play a key role in anchoring the BJP's election efforts.

More than the opposition parties, his toughest competition will come from his predecessors in the party who have led the party to great electoral successes since 2014.

With coalitions becoming an integral part of today's politics, Nitin Nabin will also have to play an important role in working with the party's regional allies in different states.

# No hassle over 'logical discrepancies'

## CM Mamata backs new SC directives on SIR; urges officials to ease voter hearings

**New Delhi,Agency:** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday personally addressed concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, urging district magistrates to ensure that voters face no inconvenience over "logical discrepancies."

Banerjee made the remarks during an unexpected meeting with district magistrates at the state secretariat, Nabanna, which was chaired by chief secretary Nandini Chakraborty.

"The CM made it clear that all hearings related to SIR must be conducted strictly in accordance with the apex court's directives. She specifically instructed officials to ensure that people are not put to inconvenience under the pretext of logical discrepancies," a senior official said.

On the difficulties faced by voters during SIR hearings, the CM called for



a humanitarian approach. "She underlined that documents declared valid by the Supreme Court must be accepted during hearings without exception. District magistrates were also instructed to ensure that receipts are issued after documents are submitted," the official added.

Banerjee also stressed that alternative arrangements should be made for voters unable to attend hearings on the designated dates. She said that while the Election Commission's work must continue, the state's development programmes should not be disrupted "under any circumstance."

The Supreme Court had on Monday directed the Election Commission to display the names of those on the 'logical discrepancies' list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices, where documents and objections can also be submitted. The apex court also granted electors an additional 10 days to submit documents to confirm their inclusion in the state electoral roll. The latest directions have brought relief to several voters in Kolkata who were summoned for hearings after discrepancies were found in their voter records.

# 'Committed contempt': SC criticises Maneka Gandhi on remarks on stray dogs order; and makes a 'Kasab' reference

**New Delhi,Agency:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over former Union minister Maneka Gandhi's criticism of the apex court's order in the stray dog case. Though the court said that the remarks qualified as "contempt", it had decided not to go ahead with the charges "due to its magnanimity."

"You said the court should be circumspect in its remark but have you asked your client what kind of remarks she has made? Have you heard her podcast? She has made all kinds of remarks against everybody without even thinking. Have you seen her body language?" the bench said.

The bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria went on remark that "Ajmal Kasab did not commit contempt". This came when senior advocate Raju Ramachandran,



appearing for Maneka, said that he had also appeared for Kasab.

"Ajmal Kasab did not commit contempt of court but your client has," Justice Nath remarked.

The top court further questioned the BJP leader what "budgetary allocation" she had helped in getting for solving stray dogs problem.

The Supreme Court, earlier this month, reviewed the stray dog issue in Delhi-NCR after a rise in dog bite cases. The judges said public safety must come first, especially in places like schools, hospitals, and railway stations.

# Vande Bharat Sleeper littered hours after inaugural run; video goes viral

**New Delhi,Agency:** Indian Railways' first Vande Bharat sleeper train attracted widespread attention for its modern features and promise of faster overnight travel. However, Indian tourists were quick to prove a lack of civic sense, as a video showing litter on the newly inaugurated train emerged.

The high-tech Vande Bharat Sleeper, connecting Howrah and Guwahati, was flagged off on Saturday. A passenger-recorded video from Malda shows plastic packets and spoons scattered across one of the coaches.

Sharing the video, X handle @Indianinfoguide wrote, "People litter on vande bharat Sleeper train within hours of its inaugural run. Just see the civic sense."

Several social media users criticised the commuters for their behaviour. One commented, "honestly, this was an expected behaviour from the citizens of India."

Another added, "India doesn't



need enemies.

We sabotage ourselves just fine. From breaking rules to trashing infrastructure, from apathy to entitlement, we do more damage internally than any external force could. The real national security threat isn't always at the border.

It's our collective indifference to the country we live in."

Some users were more casual, with one writing, "Expected !! What's new here...Wait for orange gutka stamps."

According to the Ministry of Railways, the first commercial run of the Vande Bharat Sleeper between Kamakhya and Howrah saw all tickets

# Monkey pox strain links Kerala cases to foreign travel: Study

**Pune,Agency:** A first-of-its-kind genetic study of a newer and more stubborn Mpox variant detected in Kerala has linked those cases to international travel and reported signs of continued human-to-human transmission.



The study of Mpox Clade 1b, which has been driving outbreaks in parts of Africa and has since showed up in several countries outside the continent, showed that it is prone to spreading faster and wider than older variants of the virus, necessitating enhanced surveillance. The study, led by researchers from Pune's ICMR-National Institute of Virology and teams from Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories across India, focused on 10 lab-confirmed cases of Mpox Clade 1b in Kerala between Sept 2024 and March 2025. The findings, published in the journal Virology, indicate active viral evolution with implications for disease surveillance and public health preparedness. "The study confirmed the Mpox virus is indeed mutating, as we found a distinctive mutational pattern that signals sustained human-to-human transmission," a researcher said. Scientists found the mutation pattern stronger in Clade 1b than in older forms of the virus, suggesting it continues to adapt while circulating.

# Education Leader Swadesh Kumar Singh Meets Nitin Gadkari

**DB Reporter, Greater Noida:** Swadesh Kumar Singh, State President of the Technical Wing of the Uttar Pradesh Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GNIOT Institute of Management Studies, Knowledge Park, Greater Noida, paid a formal courtesy visit to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, at his residence.

During the meeting, both leaders held an in-depth and meaningful discussion on contemporary issues related to education and technology. Key topics included innovation in higher education, skill development, industry-academia collaboration, research-oriented learning, and technological advancement. Swadesh Kumar Singh described the meeting as highly inspiring and memorable. He stated that the Union Minister's visionary outlook, simplicity, and unwavering commitment to nation-building serve as a strong source of inspiration for the education sector.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari



emphasized the need to strengthen quality education, practical knowledge, skill-based learning, and technological integration. He also appreciated the efforts being made by educational institutions in this direction and stressed the importance of continuous innovation to meet future challenges.

The courtesy meeting is being viewed as a significant step toward promoting positive initiatives in education and technology, strengthening institutional-industry collaboration, and shaping future opportunities in the academic landscape.

# J&K: IED detected on Srinagar-Baramulla highway; destroyed

**Srinagar,Agency:** Days ahead of Republic Day, security forces Tuesday detected an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on Srinagar-Baramulla national highway, which was later defused.

A senior Sashastra Seema Bal official said SSB personnel responsible for road opening party duties in Tapper Pattan area detected the explosive during a routine anti-sabotage check. The area was immediately cordoned off, and traffic on the highway was halted. The object was examined using a deep-search metal detector, which confirmed that it was an IED.

The official said a bomb disposal squad was called in and the device was destroyed in a controlled explo-

sion. Traffic was later restored on the highway, which connects the north Kashmir districts of Baramulla and Kupwara with Srinagar.

Meanwhile, J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat Tuesday chaired a security review meeting in north Kashmir's Ganderbal district to assess the prevailing security scenario and operational preparedness. The meeting was attended by senior police officials.

"During the meeting, the DGP took a detailed review of the law and order management, counter-terrorism preparedness, crime control measures, and security arrangements for Republic Day 2026," a police spokesperson said.



"The DGP stressed heightened alertness, foolproof security planning, intensified area domination, and robust intelligence-based operations to ensure peaceful and incident-free celebrations. He also issued clear directions to deal firmly and decisively with anti-national elements who pose a threat to public safety, peace, and tranquility," the spokesperson added.

# Government advises kin of Indian officials in Bangladesh to return

**New Delhi,Agency:** Amidst the threat of violence against Indian establishments in Bangladesh, the Indian govt has advised the families of Indian diplomats and officials in the country to return to India. "Given the security situation, as a precautionary measure, we have advised the dependents of mission and post officials to return to India. The mission and all posts in Bangladesh continue to remain open and operational," said an official source, adding that the Indian mission in the country continues to work at full strength. According to sources, the decision was taken in the light of recent anti-India protests that threatened to get out of hand. "It's for the time being and will be reviewed later," said an official on condition of anonymity. In India's neighbourhood, Afghanistan remains the only non-family posting for Indian officials. While diplomats in Pakistan are allowed to take their families along, they generally avoid it because the govt had advised them after the Peshawar school attack to not send their children to local schools.





# The mail did not arrive

**Dr. Sushil Kumar Phull**

The postal system holds as important a place in Indian democracy as the railways. If the mail stops, society's heartbeat stops; if a train stops, it causes havoc. Like many other services, both of these systems are essentially for public welfare, and therefore, certain concessions have been granted. For example, in the railways, senior citizens received a 30 percent ticket discount. Postal services also offered

various discounts for the dissemination of knowledge, such as registered book post and ordinary book post, which have now been discontinued. Perhaps an attempt is being made to commercialize the postal department. While some sectors deserve concessions, it seems that the postal department, like the corporate sector, is now engaged in a race to make money. While Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was expected to be generous and

ensure the postal department's commitment to public welfare, he has become a melon. And the postal department has begun to show its true colors. One night, the post office in my village, Rajpur, disappeared. It was surprising that during the era of a government that promised development, a facility vanished without a sound, leaving post office customers bewildered. After a ten-year struggle, the Rajpur branch post office was upgraded to a sub-post

office, which was inaugurated by former Union Minister Shanta Kumar on March 25, 2018. The people of Rajpur and its surrounding areas welcomed it, and thousands of accounts were opened. However, in the past seven years, senior post office officials have never held a meeting with post office beneficiaries. In fact, with a few exceptions, none of the in-charges appointed here have shown any resolve. The majority of the population in Rajpur is

senior and super-senior, elderly women and men. You are taking away this privilege without warning, without notice. The villagers' anger is justified, and that is why they have decided to boycott the protest and operate their accounts from Rajpur. A letter of protest has been submitted to Dr. Rajiv Bhardwaj, Lok Sabha MP from Kangra-Chamba, Mr. Shanta Kumar, and other concerned individuals. In fact, the department's uni-

lateral decision to link Rajpur residents to the Agricultural University Post Office is invalid, impractical, and a dictatorial decree. These accounts were opened in Rajpur and were intended for the Rajpur Post Office. The department's intransigence seems strange. This unilateral, dictatorial action is not only unfair and unjust, but also a despicable step against the people as India embarks on the path to development.

## Editorial

### BJP's 'Nabin' era

Nitin Nabin has been elected the new National President of the BJP. He began his tenure with a grand ceremony in the presence of Prime Minister Modi. A total of 37 nominations were submitted in favor of Nabin by Union Ministers, State Presidents, and the Parliamentary Board, and there were no nominations against him. Therefore, he was elected unopposed. It is an established tradition within the BJP that the top leadership finalizes a name, and the entire organization approves it. There has never been any opposition or challenge to the selection of a National President in the BJP, so the "Nabin era" has now begun within the party. This should be acknowledged. At 45, the new National President is the youngest leader. Before him, Amit Shah was 49 and Nitin Gadkari was 52 when they became BJP President. News has also emerged from within the party that 70 percent of the positions in the BJP organization will now be given to those under the age of 60. It is clear that major changes are imminent at the level of the National Executive and office bearers. Since the Nitin Nabin era, the BJP has begun promoting the idea that 65 percent of the country's population is young and that the BJP is the preferred party of "Gen G." The party's primary concerns, goals, priorities, and programs will also be "Gen G"-centric. This thinking and strategy are also driven by the mandate data. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, over 39 percent of young people voted for the BJP-NDA. This support figure has even reached 45-47 percent in state-level elections.

# Mask of Peace, Strategy of Power: Trump's Global Paradox

**The personality and working style of US President Donald Trump, who is passionately seeking the Nobel Peace Prize, have emerged as a profound irony and paradox for global politics. As appealing as his claim to be a messenger of peace appears, the reality of his actions is equally contradictory. While he seeks credit for establishing peace in various parts of the world, his decisions, statements, and policies often seem to breed war, unrest, fear, and instability.**

**Lalit Garg**

What kind of peace is this, accompanied by the echo of bombs, the brunt of sanctions, and the language of hatred? What kind of a charade of peace is this, in which humanity's blood continues to flow while the regime pursues its own interests? Trump's proposed plan for peace in Gaza is a recent example of this paradox. It is presented more as a business deal than as peace, as if the future of a people who have been struggling with violence, displacement, and identity crises for decades can be decided by a real estate or economic package. This attempt to impose peace, bypassing international law, the role of the United Nations, the consent of local populations, and accountability, reveals that in Trump's view, peace is not a moral or humanitarian value, but a tool for power and political gain. Thus, the claim of peace under the shadow of bombs is merely a charade, revealing a bargain for peace and a hunger for power. Trump's so-called peace plan is merely a politics of domination in the name of peace. It appears that the words are nonviolent, but the actions are vio-



lent. Trump has consistently disparaged the United Nations, calling it incompetent, biased, and bureaucratic, while the truth is that the multilateral institutional framework is essential for global peace and stability. When powerful countries find this framework unsuitable, they begin to undermine it—Trump is the vocal embodiment of this trend. The idea of a new global peace institution proposed by Donald Trump is as attractive as it is entangled in contradictions. In the name of peacebuilding, the attempt to establish an international institution that bypasses accepted multilateral structures like the United Nations reveals a desire for power-centric dominance rather than peace. It's natural to question how a

leadership whose policies are based on the production and sale of weapons, the expansion of military alliances, the threat of war, and the pressure on the world through economic punishment can suddenly become the new purveyor of peace. In Trump's political thinking, peace appears not to be a humanitarian commitment, but a means of bargaining, control, and profit. Therefore, the utility of his proposed peace institution is seriously questioned. Any institution established without legitimacy, accountability, and global consensus cannot be a vehicle for peace; it merely serves as a tool for imposing the will of powerful nations. In this context, Trump's efforts do not appear to be a concrete initiative towards peace, but rather another conspiracy and

evil attempt to cover up violence-oriented policies and strengthen his hold on the global governance system. In Trump's view, peace does not mean resolving conflicts, but rather turning them in his favor. Sometimes he talks about establishing such a so-called peace mechanism parallel to the United Nations, and sometimes he threatens war on Iran. On the one hand, he praises European countries and attempts to establish his influence, while on the other, he pressures those same countries with trade sanctions and military spending. This double standard and discrepancy between words and actions exacerbates global instability. While speaking the language of peace, arms sales, the expansion of military alliances, and economic penalties have all been integral to his policies. As a result, the world stands at a juncture where the signs of war are growing louder, and humanity appears to be on the brink of extinction. In the context of the Gaza crisis, it becomes even clearer that peace imposed without legitimacy, consent, and accountability is never lasting.

# Implications of US control over Venezuela

**As for the US's vulture-like gaze on Venezuela's natural oil resources, that's also true. However, if Maduro had made serious efforts to interdict drugs from reaching the US and had acted on US advice to punish international drug traffickers, he and his wife would certainly not have been kidnapped, and Venezuela's oil resources would have been under his control. The global media is not interested in this.. The public life of countries occupied by different human species over many periods of time is still governed and managed by the perspectives established by the species of that time. India is a prime example of this. The last occupiers of this country were the British. They came from Britain,**

**Vikesh Kumar Badola**

that is, England. From the earliest days of their occupation until now, this country has not been able to free itself from the life patterns they established. The outlook they instilled in its inhabitants remains intact. The English language they taught remains the dominant language. Politics, economics, social policy, communication policy, family policy, and overall life ethic are somewhat similar to what the British taught. These policies, to some extent, are the same as those taught to the people by the plunderers who came to plunder this country. The adverse effect of this is that the people here live by a Hindu philosophy in their imagination and a variety of imported, non-Indian philosophies in their practice. Because of this, every thought, emotion, conduct, behavior, and concern here is filled with contradictions. This situation remains unchanged. In our country, social, mass, and personal discussions are currently taking place from this perspective on the Venezuelan incident. America is being

vilified, but ambitions to obtain a US visa and settle there remain unsaid. Trump is being labeled with new accusers, but efforts are also being made to appear good in his eyes. Whether domestically or internationally, it's impossible to truly identify who is on whose side or against whom. No one seems to grasp the underlying problem at the root of every incident. The abduction of the Venezuelan president would, in a common sense, make the kidnapper consider the American president a criminal. However, if the Venezuelan incident is considered in light of the growing number of zombies in America, both America and Trump will appear justified. Just as the proliferation of drugs and drugs in India is destroying the lives of the youth, in a similar way, the drugs transported to and from Venezuela are turning scores of American youth into zombies, destroying their own lives. It's common to see young men, deeply intoxicated and unconscious, lying in abandoned American streets, lying there for days and months. Numerous awareness programs are

being run to wean them off drugs. De-addiction centers are being established for them. Rehabilitation programs are also being implemented. Vast sums of money are being spent on all these American programs aimed at de-addiction. Despite all this, the US remains plagued by the drug menace. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were not captured by US Delta Force soldiers in the early morning hours of January 3, 2026. The US had taken several harsh actions and issued warnings before capturing Nicolás Maduro. In March 2020, the US officially charged Maduro with narco-terrorism, i.e., drug-induced terrorism. A \$15 million bounty was placed on him for this, which was increased to \$50 million in 2025. In August 2025, the Trump administration issued a secret directive warning of using military force against cartels. Subsequently, in September 2025, the US attacked boats used for smuggling off the Venezuelan coast. Thus, after years of diplomatic and economic sanctions,

which had been imposed with modifications since 2017, in early January 2026, US Special Forces finally arrested Maduro in a covert operation and presented him in federal court in New York, where he faces charges of narcoterrorism and arms trafficking. The indictment presented to the court clearly states that, according to US estimates in March 2020, 200 to 250 metric tons of cocaine were smuggled through Venezuela annually. In 2024, Venezuela earned a total revenue of \$8.2 billion from 24 percent of the cocaine shipped to the US. A 2019 CNN report stated that the 240 tons of cocaine shipped from Venezuela are worth approximately \$40 billion to the US. Thousands of American youth are becoming addicted to these drugs every year. Although the rulers before Trump made the issue of young generation becoming zombies a social issue and many films were also made in America showing the horrors of zombie life, but no one had shown the courage to attack the basic mechanism of youth becoming zombies. Hurt by this, Trump made a

list of 'Major Drug Transit and Illicit Drug Producing Countries', that is, the major narcotic or illegal drug producing countries, which almost matched the 'World Drug Report 2025' of the United Nations UNODC. According to this, the most crisis-prone drug trafficking and producing countries of the world are Afghanistan, Myanmar, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. The major transit countries for smuggled drugs include Mexico, India, China, Pakistan, and Ecuador. The US President, in September 2025, identified a total of 23 countries as major drug transit or production hubs in the 2026 fiscal year list. Among these, countries in Central America and the Caribbean include the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Panama. Countries like Venezuela and Ecuador in South America, and Laos and Thailand in Asia, are also involved in trafficking.



# AVPN's AI Opportunity Fund Expands Regional Efforts to Build AI Skilling Infrastructure for a Future-Ready Workforce Across Asia-Pacific

**Singapore, Agency:** AVPN, the largest network of social investors in Asia, today announced three initiatives that further expand the impact of the AI Opportunity Fund: Asia-Pacific, supported by Google.org and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which started as a USD 15 million Fund. Last year, the Fund expanded with an additional USD 10 million for Phase Two, which has selected 18 local training providers across Asia-Pacific.

The 18 organisations were selected based on their skills and experience in AI skilling training. AVPN will work with the local training providers to develop and deliver the most effective programme, while ensuring the autonomy and

flexibility of the organisations to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Building on the strong outcomes of Phase One, AVPN aims to have curriculums that ensure workers are prepared for an AI-ready workforce and continuing to overcome systemic barriers in the region.

Beneficiaries include farmers, healthcare workers, vocational school and university students, those seeking employment, domestic workers or caregivers, and Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians.

The full list of the organisations is available here. Amongst the organisations receiving funding are:

- Centre for Social and Behaviour Change (India)



seeks to strengthen the capabilities of self-help group women. Workers with no prior exposure to AI will acquire practical, role-specific skills they can apply immediately. Crucially, the programme aims to build lasting institutional capacity by integrating AI modules into the government's cascade training systems based on the collaboration with the AI

Mission of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

- Manabiya Mom Inc. (Japan) creates long-term impact by building digital confidence and employability among vulnerable groups in Japan's service economy. By equipping workers in tourism, retail, and caregiving with foundational AI skills, we help them enhance productivity, improve communication, and adapt to the changing labor market. MSME employees will gain tools for business competitiveness and digital transformation, while caregivers will benefit from time-saving AI applications.
- Ruang Kolaborasi Perempuan (Indonesia) strives to generate a signifi-

cant impact for workers across various sectors by equipping them with the ability to utilise AI as a tool that enhances their daily tasks. For those seeking employment, this translates to crafting more persuasive CVs, preparing effectively for interviews, and identifying job opportunities with greater precision. For agricultural workers and fishers, AI will facilitate weather predictions, yield assessments, and more accurate production planning. For workers in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), AI will create avenues to boost sales, comprehend customer behaviour, and manage businesses in a digital environment.

In addition, AVPN is also

building an AI training ecosystem through the AI Opportunity Fund. This includes a publicly-available AI training content hub, AI Learning for the Future of Work, which provides open access to Local Training Providers and their programmes for the general public to discover and enrol in relevant courses, thus increasing the number of workers able to benefit from localised AI upskilling.

On a policy infrastructure level, AVPN has also developed an AI Skilling Policy Toolkit for governments and policymakers. Built on insights from the AI For All report and engagements with policymakers across Asia-Pacific.

## L'Oreal plans Rs 3,500 crore investment in Hyderabad GCC, inauguration this year

French multinational personal care corporation L'Oreal is expected to inaugurate its Global Capability Centre (GCC) in November this year, official sources said on Wednesday.

The beauty tech company will be investing Rs 3500 crore (350 million Euros) by 2030 and will create 2,000 highly skilled advanced tech jobs, including AI specialists, tech engineers, and data scientists and will accelerate the delivery of state-of-the-art, AI-powered beauty solutions at scale, an official release said. The decision was announced by Nicolas Hieronimus, Chief Executive Officer, L'Oreal, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum being held at Davos,



Switzerland, it said.

The L'Oreal facility would be the world's first GCC in the beauty-tech niche in Telangana. The facility is expected to create jobs for 2000 beauty tech engineers, a government official said. "This first-of-its-kind Beauty Tech hub will serve as a flagship for crafting the next generation of AI-powered beauty innovation and services. With an

initial investment of over Rs 3,500 Crores (350 million Euros) through 2030, the hub is set to become a global powerhouse, unleashing the potential of Data, AI, Generative AI, and Agentic AI, alongside emerging technologies," the release said. The GCC will serve the world-renowned cosmetics company as a global innovation, technology, data, and supply chain hub. This

new facility will support L'Oreal's digital transformation, AI, and analytics initiatives worldwide, boosting Hyderabad's growing status as a key centre for global enterprise operations.

Tech solutions generated from the Hyderabad GCC will be supplied to our facilities all around the world, Hieronimus explained. The cosmetics company invited Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Minister D. Sridhar Babu for the GCC inauguration in November. Minister Sridhar Babu recalled that CM Revanth Reddy was very keen to bring L'Oreal's GCC investment to Hyderabad, with all possible support from the government side.

## Financial sector seeks capital easing, credit push and policy stability in Union Budget 2026;

**New Delhi ,Agency:** As the Union Budget 2026 approaches, stakeholders across the financial sector have called on the government to strengthen the financial system through policy measures that ease capital constraints, promote responsible credit expansion, and deepen financial inclusion.

Industry experts said the next phase of growth will depend not just on expanding access to financial services, but on improving the quality of credit, the sustainability of financial institutions and last-mile delivery. Lokanath Panda, COO, BLS E-Services, said, "As the Union Budget approaches, the focus should be on strengthening the financial ecosystem that supports inclusive growth across savings, credit and payments. While significant progress has been made in expanding account ownership and digital adoption, the next phase of financial inclusion



will depend on improving account activity, credit flow to underserved segments, and last-mile service delivery."

According to him, this will require sustainable operating models, adequate liquidity support and aligned incentives for banks, intermediaries and service providers. Policy measures that ease capital constraints and strengthen on-ground financial infrastructure will be crucial to ensure that financial inclusion leads to meaningful economic participation.

President of India Appoints Three Academicians as Nominees to AMU Executive Council

**Aligarh:** The Honourable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in her capacity as the Visitor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), has appointed three eminent academicians as her nominees on the Executive Council of the University under Statute 16(1)(XII).

The appointments are for a period of three years with effect from January 19, 2026. The nominees are Prof. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi; Prof. Shahid Akhtar, Department of Management, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; and Prof. Geeta Bhatt, Director, Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board, University of Delhi.

## Hathi Marka takes centre stage as BP Oil Mills celebrates 100+ years of trust

**Ranchi :** At a time when consumers seek brands rooted in authenticity and trust, Hathi Marka continues to stand tall as a symbol of reliability in Indian kitchens. This legacy took centre stage at BP Oil Mills' (BPOM) landmark Dealer Meet, themed "Parampara & Progress," celebrating over 100 years of the company's enduring presence in the edible oil industry.

For generations, Hathi Marka has been more than just an edible oil brand-it has been a household name associated with purity, strength, and consistency. From traditional family meals to everyday cooking, the brand has earned

its place by delivering uncompromised quality across decades, making it one of BPOM's most trusted and recognisable offerings.

Marking the 100 year a Dealer Meet was organised at Chanakya Hotel in Ranchi. The event highlighted Hathi Marka's pivotal role in BPOM's growth journey, acknowledging how the brand has evolved with changing consumer preferences while staying true to its core promise. Long-standing dealer partners were recognised for their contribution in building Hathi Marka's strong market presence and deep consumer trust across regions. Addressing partners at the event,

BPOM's leadership outlined a clear roadmap for the future-one that places Hathi Marka at the forefront of expansion plans. Focus areas included strengthening distribution, widening market penetration, enhancing brand visibility, and reinforcing consumer confidence in an increasingly competitive edible oil landscape.

While BPOM continues to operate across multiple categories through its diverse portfolio, Hathi Marka remains the cornerstone of its edible oil business, complemented by brands like Elephant. Together, they reflect BPOM's commitment

to quality-led growth and long-term value creation.

Today, backed by a robust distribution network, Hathi Marka reaches households across India and international markets, carrying forward BPOM's legacy far beyond geographical boundaries.

Speaking at the meet, Mr. Bharat Bhagat, Managing Director, emphasised the responsibility of nurturing legacy brands like Hathi Marka with purpose, integrity, and a future-focused mindset. Mr. Raghav Bhagat, President, spoke about building deeper partnerships to ensure sustainable growth for both the brand and its distributors.

## Mahindra Refreshes Bolero Camper and Bolero Pik-Up with New Styling and Comfort Features

**Ranchi:** Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., maker of India's No.1 pickup brand Bolero Pik-Up, has launched refreshed versions of the Bolero Camper and Bolero Pik-Up range with updated styling, improved comfort and added convenience features.

The Bolero Camper is now offered with the advanced iMAXX telematics solution on select variants, providing real-time vehicle insights to improve operational efficiency and fleet management. The refreshed model features a bolder front design, new decals, body-coloured ORVMs and door handles. Comfort upgrades include rear seat headrests, air conditioning, heater and a Bluetooth-enabled music system. Reclining driver seat with headrest, wider co-driver seat, central locking and rear seat belts have been made standard across all variants.

The Bolero Pik-Up also gets a new front look along with a reclining driver seat, wider co-driver seat and the addition of air conditioning and heating for all-weather comfort.

Ex-showroom prices for the Bolero Camper range from Rs. 9.85 lakh to Rs. 10.49 lakh, while the Bolero Pik-Up range is priced between Rs. 9.19 lakh and Rs. 9.99 lakh.

## Banking sector outlook remains positive, earnings to grow approx. 16% CAGR over FY26-28: Motilal Oswal

**New Delhi,Agency:** The outlook for the banking sector remains positive, with earnings expected to recover steadily over the medium term, supported by stable margins, improving asset quality, and a pickup in loan growth, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The report estimates that the banking sector will deliver an earnings CAGR of around 16 per cent over FY26-28E, signalling a gradual but sustained recovery after a period of pressure.

It stated, "Sector outlook positive; Estimate earnings CAGR of approx. 16 per cent



over FY27-28E Buoyed by resilient margin performance and improved asset quality, we have earlier raised our aggregate FY26/27 earnings estimates by approx. 3 per cent/1 per cent in 2QFY26

results, mainly led by PSU banks".

The report added that resilient margin performance and improved asset quality have supported earnings, prompting it to earlier raise

its aggregate FY26 and FY27 earnings estimates by around 3 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively, after the 2QFY26 results, mainly led by public sector banks.

These estimates have been maintained in the 3QFY26 preview as well.

According to the report, prate banks are expected to see stronger growth, with aggregate earnings projected to grow by 21 per cent over FY27-28. The recovery in earnings momentum, along with better loan growth aided by factors such as GST implementation, direct tax rate cuts, and lower borrowing costs, is expected to support

improved sector performance over the medium term.

It noted that BFSI earnings estimates were consistently downgraded in recent quarters due to margin pressure, weak loan growth, and elevated credit costs. However, the pace of earnings downgrades has slowed significantly in recent months, indicating that the worst may be behind for the sector.

The report highlighted that margins are now stabilising, stress in unsecured asset quality is easing and loan growth is gaining traction. These factors are expected to support a recovery in earnings growth in the coming quar-

ters. It expects the banking sector's earnings cycle to undergo a calibrated "U-shaped" recovery. After a largely flat FY26, the report estimates earnings growth of around 8 per cent year-on-year in FY26E, followed by a stronger recovery in FY27. Overall, earnings are projected to grow at a CAGR of about 16 per cent over FY27-28E, broadly in line with the consensus estimate of around 15 per cent. The report added that the improvement in earnings momentum, combined with better loan growth conditions, should help drive improved sectoral performance in FY27.



# Shubman couldn't utilize his players effectively: Ashwin

Agency, Chennai

Former Indian spinner R Ashwin has questioned the leadership abilities of Indian Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill. According to Ashwin, there was a lack of management in the middle overs during the ODI series against New Zealand. Ashwin believes the bowlers were not rotated properly. Especially in the second and third ODIs, the resources were not utilized effectively in the middle overs, which allowed the matches to slip away from the Indian team. According to Ashwin, when the match was on the line, Shubman failed to utilize his best players effectively. Ashwin also questioned the way spinner Kuldeep Yadav was used against Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips. Ashwin said, "MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma's captaincy is praised so much because they know where and when to use their resources



and against which batsman. This was somewhat lacking in this series." Ashwin suggested that Shubman's decisions seemed influenced by the failures of previous matches, which led to a lack of confidence in his bowlers in the crucial third match, whereas a

bowler should not be judged based on the previous match's performance. Ashwin said that Shubman didn't have a Plan B when one approach failed. He said, "If you utilize your resources properly and still fail, that's fine, but at least try to use them correctly first."

# After her match-winning innings against Mumbai Indians, Jemimah Rodrigues said, "I wanted to take the innings to the end

Agency, Vadodara

In the Women's Premier League 2026, Delhi Capitals captain Jemimah Rodrigues led from the front, scoring an unbeaten half-century and guiding her team to a seven-wicket victory against Mumbai Indians. In the match played at the BCA Stadium, Jemimah's composed innings put the team in a strong position while chasing the target. Chasing a target of 155 runs, Delhi Capitals got off to a good start. Openers Lizelle Lee and Shafali Verma provided a quick start, after which Jemimah Rodrigues anchored the innings, scoring an unbeaten 51 runs off 37 balls. Marizanne Kapp provided good support at the end, and Delhi achieved the target in just 19 overs. After the match, Jemimah spoke about the importance of the opening partnership, saying, "Lizelle and Shafali are a very dangerous opening



pair. Bowlers know that if they make even a slight mistake, they will be punished. The way they batted in the powerplay on this wicket was very important for us. When the ball got older, the wicket started to slow down,

so their start made things easier for the batsmen who followed." Regarding her innings and finishing the match, Jemimah said, "In the last few matches, I played impactful innings, but I was coming in to bat late. More was expected of me, and I myself wanted to finish the innings till the end. Today I am happy that I could stay till the end and fulfill my responsibility for the team." Sharing her initial experiences of captaincy, Jemimah said, "This is a learning phase for me. I thought that captaincy would increase the pressure, but the team and support staff have reduced that pressure considerably. Head coach Jonathan Batty and the leadership group have helped me a lot. In captaincy, you have to trust your decisions, and it is also important to learn from your mistakes." Regarding team balance and her batting position, Jemimah said, "As a captain, I have to think about the team first."

## The difference between IPL and PSL comes to light

The total team salary is even less than the salaries of Rishabh and Shreyas combined.

Agency, Lahore

The significant difference between India's Indian Premier League (IPL) and Pakistan's Super League (PSL) has once again become apparent. The PSL has increased player salaries ahead of the 2026 season. Even after this increase, the players' earnings are still less than those of Indian team players Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer, who play in the IPL. The PCB has stated that the salary cap has been increased from \$1.3 million (approximately 11.3 crore) to \$1.6 million (approximately 14.5 crore) per team. This is



the amount that each of the eight teams can spend in the auction. In total, this amount will be \$12.8 million (approximately 116.48 crore) for all eight teams. Even after the PSL salary increase, the difference in earnings between players in the PSL and IPL is evident. The two highest-earning players in the IPL 2025 season, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer (27 crore and 26.75

crore respectively), have earned more than the entire salary budget of a single PSL team. Even MS Dhoni received approximately 6 crore in the first IPL auction in 2008, which is equivalent to the amount spent on the entire squad of a PSL team. The earnings of the teams in the first IPL season were approximately 20 crore, which is more than the earnings of the 11th season of the PSL.

## Lizelle Lee fined 10 percent of match fee and given one demerit point for breaching Code of Conduct

Agency, New Delhi

Delhi Capitals player Lizelle Lee has been sanctioned for breaching the Code of Conduct in the Women's Premier League (WPL). Lee was fined 10 percent of her match fee and given one demerit point for an incident that occurred during the match against Mumbai Indians at the BCA Stadium in Vadodara. The incident took place in the 11th over of the Delhi Capitals' innings when Lizelle Lee was given out stumped off the bowling of Amanjot Kaur. The ball was on the leg side, and Lee lost her balance while attempting a flick shot. Wicketkeeper Rahila Firdous quickly completed the stumping. The on-field umpires then referred



the decision to the third umpire, who reviewed the incident from various angles, including the stump camera. After reviewing the replays, the third umpire ruled that Lee's bat was in the air when the bails were dislodged, and she was given out. At that time, Lee was batting brilliantly, having scored 46 runs off 28 balls. After being given out, Lizelle Lee appeared visibly upset with the decision. She expressed her displeasure while walking off the field and continued to show her frustration even after the decision.

## RCB and Royals to name home ground by January 27: BCCI

Agency, Mumbai

The issue of home grounds for Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for the 2026 IPL season remains unresolved. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has given both teams until January 27 to decide whether they want to play their home matches at their designated home grounds or at an alternative venue. It is unlikely that either team will be able to play at their traditional home grounds. The Royals may not be able to play in Jaipur because the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) elections have not yet been held. Meanwhile, several people died in a stampede at the M.



Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru during celebrations after the IPL 2025 victory. Given this incident, it is unlikely that the IPL organizers will allow RCB to play there. In this scenario, the Royals might play their home matches in Pune, while RCB could host five home matches at the DY Patil Stadium and two in Raipur. For matches in Navi Mumbai,

RCB would need permission from Mumbai Indians, as IPL rules stipulate that two teams cannot host matches in the same city. RCB owners are also hesitant to push for the Bengaluru ground because, under new regulations, they would be held responsible if any incident occurs. The IPL 2026 season is scheduled to begin on March 26, with the final match on May 31.

## Brief

**Australian Open 2026: Alcaraz overcomes Hanfmann's challenge to reach the third round**



**Melbourne:** Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the third round of the Australian Open 2026 after defeating Germany's Yannick Hanfmann in a tough match, 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-2. With this victory, Alcaraz took another strong step towards achieving a career Grand Slam. The 22-year-old Alcaraz, who had an easy win against Adam Walton in the first round, faced a tough challenge from Hanfmann at Rod Laver Arena this time. Alcaraz struggled in the opening set, but he showed experience and composure to gain control of the match. Alcaraz trailed 1-3 in the first set, but he made a brilliant comeback to level the score. However, he missed several break points against Hanfmann's powerful serve. Ultimately, Alcaraz prevailed in the tiebreak, winning the first set which lasted 78 minutes. In the second set, Alcaraz dominated with his speed and precise shots and doubled his lead. Hanfmann received medical treatment before the third set, after which Alcaraz looked completely in control.

## Australian Open 2026: Top seed Sabalenka defeats Bai to reach third round

Agency, Melbourne

World number one Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the third round of the Australian Open 2026 after defeating China's Bai Zhuoxuan 6-3, 6-1 despite a challenging start. The match was played on Wednesday at Rod Laver Arena. Defending champion Sabalenka got off to a brilliant start in the first set, building a 5-0 lead, but then her game suddenly faltered. Bai Zhuoxuan not only held her serve but also broke Sabalenka's serve, winning three consecutive games. This increased the tension in the match for a while, and Sabalenka also looked quite frustrated on the court. However, using her experience, the 27-year-old Belarusian player eventually



won the first set. At the start of the second set, Sabalenka regained her composure, and the difference in skill between the two players became evident. She won four consecutive games to completely take control of the match and easily won the set to finish the contest. After the match, Sabalenka said, "She was a tough opponent. In the first set,

she played aggressively, and for a while, I didn't know what to do. But I'm happy that I managed to win the first set; it boosted my confidence." She further added, "There is always room for improvement, but the most important thing was that I didn't lose my focus. I kept telling myself to focus on each point and keep fighting."

## Inspired by wife's HIL title win: Mandeep Singh

Agency, Bhubaneswar

Udita's success in winning the Women's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26 title with SG Pipers has not only inspired her team but also her husband and Ranchi Royals forward Mandeep Singh. Mandeep, who is playing in the men's Hero HIL, said that his wife's achievement has further intensified his hunger to win a trophy. In an official statement, Mandeep said, "I had told her before the final that her team would win, but when I saw her lifting the trophy, that moment was very special. I felt very proud of her. We both live for this sport and play in the same league, so her victory was very emotional and inspiring for me." No pressure, only positive inspiration - Regarding Udita's victory, Mandeep clarified that it doesn't put any negative



pressure on him, but rather it's a positive inspiration. He said with a smile, "We jokingly say that she has put pressure on me, but it's good pressure. It motivates me to play even better. I also have a chance now and I want to make the most of it. Our team is performing well and winning matches consistently." 'I also want to win the trophy' - When asked if

his wife's success has increased his hunger to win the title, Mandeep said without hesitation, "Absolutely. I also want to win the trophy." The couple, who got married last year, had decided before the league started that both of them would give their best this season. Mandeep said, "If both of us win the trophy, the celebration will also be special. The beginning of 2026 will become very memorable for our family." Wife's victory is an inspiration in every match - Mandeep admitted that whenever he steps onto the field, Udita's victory is on his mind. He said, "Every time I go to play, her medal is on my mind. It motivates me to score goals, win matches, and perform better. I want her to feel the same pride in me that I feel in her." Hockey is a way of life - The Singh family's daily routine also revolves entirely around hockey.

Mandeep said with a laugh, "We don't stay away from hockey even at home. We go to the gym together in the morning and practice in the evening. There's a good turf near our house, so hockey is a part of our everyday life." Mental strength is Udita's greatest asset - Udita is also playing the role of a mentor for Mandeep before the knockout stage of the men's league. Mandeep said, "We talk about the matches every day. She tells me what I did well, where I need to improve, and how to stay calm under pressure. Her greatest strength is her mental fortitude." As the Hero Men's HIL 2025-26 moves towards its final stages, Mandeep Singh's dream of winning the title is no longer just a personal one, but a shared goal—a goal that is already half-fulfilled in their home and waiting to be fully realized.

## UEFA Champions League 2025-26: Real Madrid crushes Monaco 6-1 thanks to Mbappé and Vinícius Jr

Agency, Mumbai

Madrid. In a spectacular performance in the UEFA Champions League 2025-26, Real Madrid thrashed Monaco 6-1 at the Santiago Bernabéu late Tuesday night. Kylian Mbappé scored two goals, while Vinícius Júnior scored a brilliant solo goal and played a key role in two others. Real Madrid adopted an aggressive approach from the start of the match. In the fifth minute, Mbappé gave the team the lead with a low finish after receiving a pass following a brilliant run by Franco Mastantuono. In the 26th minute, he scored another goal on a quick counter-attack, making the score 2-0. Real's dominance continued



at the start of the second half. In the 51st minute, Vinícius made a brilliant run from midfield and delivered a precise through pass to Mastantuono, who scored with his first touch. Four minutes later, Vinícius's low cross was inadvertently turned into his own net by Monaco defender Thilo Kehrer,

making the score 4-0. In the 63rd minute, Vinícius Júnior scored the best goal of the match. He dribbled past three defenders inside the box and fired a powerful shot into the top corner. This was his first goal at the Santiago Bernabéu since the beginning of October, and the entire stadium erupted in cheers for him. In the

72nd minute, Monaco got a consolation goal when Jordan Teze capitalized on a Real Madrid mistake, beating Thibaut Courtois. However, Real Madrid didn't stop there. In the 80th minute, Jude Bellingham scored a fantastic goal from a pass by Federico Valverde, making the score 6-1. With this resounding victory, Real Madrid has climbed to second place in the table with 15 points. They are level on points with Bayern Munich and six points behind league leaders Arsenal. Monaco, meanwhile, remains in 20th place with nine points. Real Madrid's performance under new coach Alvaro Arbeloa was well-received by the fans.

## Indonesia Masters 2026: Sindhu and Srikanth advance to the second round

Agency, Jakarta

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and former world number one Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the second round of the Indonesia Masters 2026 badminton tournament with impressive victories in their respective matches. In the women's singles, fifth seed Sindhu defeated Manami Suizu of Japan in a hard-fought match that lasted 53 minutes, winning 22-20, 21-18. Sindhu displayed composure at crucial moments to secure the victory in straight games. In the men's singles, world number 33 Kidambi Srikanth fought valiantly to defeat world number 22 Koki Watanabe of Japan in a thrilling match that lasted one hour and 12



minutes, winning 21-15, 21-23, 24-22. Srikanth will now face fourth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the next round, who defeated Nhat Nguyen of Ireland 21-14, 21-15 in the first round. However, the day was disappointing for other Indian players. In the men's singles, Kiran George suffered a first-round defeat against Moh Zaki Ubaidillah of Indonesia, losing 17-21, 14-21. In the women's singles, Aakarshi Kashyap also failed to progress beyond the opening round, losing to Julie Dawall Jakobsen of Denmark 21-8, 20-22, 17-21.





### Bhagyashree Advises Ignoring Society's Bitter Remarks Through a Kishore Kumar Song

Actress Bhagyashree is known for her hard work and positive mindset. On Tuesday, she shared an inspiring video for her fans on Instagram, in which she advised people not to be influenced by society's negativity. In the video, the actress gave an interesting analogy, saying that a saucer never breaks inside the ocean unless there is a small crack in it and water enters. In the same way, our lives remain strong and happy as long as society or other negative thoughts do not find a place in our minds.

She further said that the famous Kishore Kumar song "Kuchh To Log Kahenge, Logon Ka Kaam Hai Kehna" reminds her of this very truth. She added that today's message for everyone is to not let people's negativity dominate your life and to live life in a simple way.

### Elvish-Jannat Romance Takes Over Ahead of Valentine's Week, "Tere Dil Mein" Works Its Magic



Popular content creator and actor Elvish Yadav was recently seen in the web series Aukat Ke Bahar, which received a very positive response from audiences. While he was already in the spotlight for the series, his new song "Tere Dil Mein" has now been released and is being loved by fans. The song is special because it features actress Jannat Zubair alongside Elvish.

The on-screen chemistry between Elvish and Jannat looks impressive. In the song, both are seen in a romantic avatar, expressing love for each other.

## Neha Dhupia Shares Her Mantra for Staying Healthy, Emphasises Small Daily Habits

In today's times, a new fitness or wellness trend, diet, or challenge emerges almost every day. As a result, people often get confused about what is right and what is wrong. Perfect bodies shown on social media and claims of instant results unknowingly put pressure on people. Amidst all this, Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia, while speaking to IANS, has presented a different perspective on wellness. She believes that good health is not achieved through magic or shortcuts, but through small daily habits. Talking to IANS,

Neha Dhupia said that challenges related to good health are based on sustainable practices. She believes in adopting those methods that she has personally tried in her own life. Rushing or chasing perfection when it comes to health can be harmful, which is why paying attention to small daily habits is important.

Neha said that initiatives like her anti-inflammation challenge aim to encourage people to take small but effective steps. The purpose of these challenges is not to make anyone perfect, but to

mentally prepare them so they can take responsible decisions regarding their health. When we consistently adopt a good habit, it gradually becomes part of our lifestyle. It is worth noting that Neha has started an anti-inflammation challenge. As part of this, she consumes a drink made of turmeric, ginger, and black seed (kalonji) daily, which helps reduce internal inflammation in the body.



### My Three Children Grew Up on the Sets of Splitsvilla: Sunny Leone

Many stars in the film industry keep their children close to their work so that they can understand their parents' world and learn life experiences early. Sunny Leone follows the same approach. In an interview with IANS, she revealed that all three of her children have grown up on the sets of Splitsvilla, and that the experience has been very educational for them.



Speaking to IANS, Sunny Leone said, "My children have been coming to the sets of Splitsvilla from the very beginning. They have spent nearly seven years on the sets of this show. They have closely observed the work and the shooting process. The entire team knows my children."

Sunny added that this experience has been very special for her kids. She has many photographs of them playing in the swimming pool on the sets. She does not think there is anything wrong with children watching such shows.

## When an Entire Life Changed in a Year Priyanka Chopra Revisits Her 2016 Memories

From Bollywood to Hollywood, actress Priyanka Chopra has carved a distinct identity for herself. There have been certain years in her career that completely changed the direction of her life, and 2016 was one such defining year, which Priyanka still considers one of the most important phases of her life. On Wednesday, Priyanka took to social media to revisit some special memories from that year and shared how so much was changing in her life at the same time.

Career highs, international



recognition, personal happiness, and deep sorrow—all seemed to arrive together in her life. For Priyanka, 2016 was the year when everything happened at once. That year not only established her as a successful actress but also turned her into a global icon. While Priyanka was already a big name in India, 2016 marked her strong presence on the world stage.

Priyanka shared that 2016 brought both honour and responsibility for her. In the same year, she was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India. The honour was conferred on her by the then President Pranab Mukherjee. Along with this, she was also appointed as UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador.

## From Arun Govil to Jr NTR, These Stars Won Audience Love by Portraying Lord Ram on Screen

The core essence of Sanatan Dharma is believed to be embodied in Maryada Purushottam Lord Ram. His ideals, life values, and messages of devotion continue to guide people even today. The date of January 22 holds special religious and historical significance. In 2024, on this very day, the grand consecration (Pran Pratishtha) of Ram Lalla took place at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The grace of Lord Ram, his miracles, and his ideals have not remained confined to temples alone. From South Indian cinema to Bollywood and television, various mediums have portrayed the life, struggles, and values of Lord Ram on screen from time to



time. Through these portrayals, the younger generation is also connecting with the Ramayana and drawing inspiration from Lord Ram's life values.

Veteran actor NTR (N. T. Rama Rao) portrayed Lord

Ram in several films such as Lava Kusa, Sri Rama Anjaneya Yuddham, and Sita Rama Kalyanam. Although he played the roles of many deities, his portrayal of Lord Ram remains the most memorable.

In the 1997 mythological film Bala Ramayanam, Jr NTR played the role of young Ram, while Smita Madhav portrayed Goddess Sita. Directed by Gunasekhar, the film won the National Film Award for Best Children's Film the same year. The movie depicted events from the Ramayana—especially the exile—through the perspective of children.

In the 1972 film Sampoorana Ramayanam, Shoban Babu played Lord Ram and Chandrakala portrayed Sita. In the film Sri Rama Rajyam, Nandamuri Balakrishna played Ram, Nayanthara appeared as Sita, and Srikanth portrayed Lakshman.

### Urvashi Dholakia Set to Create a Stir in The 50, Shares Her Feelings Ahead of Joining the Show

Popular actress Urvashi Dholakia will soon be seen in the reality show The 50. While she is very excited about entering the show, she is also feeling nervous. She recently spoke candidly to IANS and shared her thoughts.

Urvashi said, "I am very excited to be a part of The 50, but at the same time, I'm nervous too. This is going to be a big adventure for me. It will also be a different and new experience. I am going on the show simply to gain new experiences."

Talking about planning and strategy, the actress said, "Who goes into a show with a plan? If someone does, please tell me as well. The last time I did a reality show was in 2012, and now I'm doing one again after so many years. So, I don't have any strategy. I'll just go there and enjoy whatever happens."

Speaking about the list of contestants, Urvashi said that she only knows the names that have been revealed so far. She added, "Even when I went for my first reality show, I didn't know anything about the other contestants in advance."

