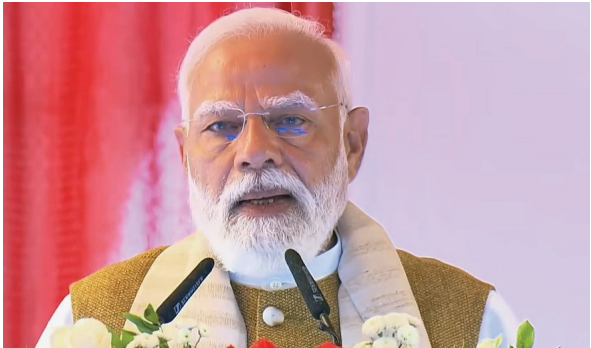


Kerala’s rail connectivity strengthened, development projects will create new opportunities: PM Modi

Agency.
Thiruvananthapuram

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the development projects launched in Kerala will strengthen the state’s infrastructure, enhance rail connectivity, and create new opportunities for the common people. He said that these initiatives mark the beginning of a new chapter in Kerala’s development journey and further strengthen the resolve for a ‘developed India’.

Addressing a program in Thiruvananthapuram, the Prime Minister said that the launch of Amrit Bharat Express trains, schemes related to urban livelihoods, investments in science and innovation, and the expansion of health facilities will take Kerala to new heights of development. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala received several important projects related to rail connectivity, urban



livelihoods, science and innovation, and health. On this occasion, the Prime Minister flagged off a total of four new train services, including three Amrit Bharat Express trains, and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects. The Prime Minister said, “A short while ago, the Amrit Bharat Express trains were flagged off. These trains will facilitate travel within Kerala and will also greatly benefit the tourism sector. The new passenger train between Guruvayur and Thrissur will provide significant convenience

Shikshapatri Bicentenary Celebration will give new energy to the traditions of Swadeshi, service, and knowledge: Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the country is currently advancing mass movements like Swadeshi, cleanliness, and ‘Vocal for Local’. He said that when the efforts of society join these campaigns, this bicentenary celebration of the Shikshapatri will become even more memorable. The Prime Minister was addressing the Shikshapatri Bicentenary Celebration via video conferencing. The Prime Minister said that the completion of 200 years of Lord Swaminarayan’s Shikshapatri is a matter of great fortune for all of us. He extended his best wishes to the millions of followers of Lord Swaminarayan on the bicentenary celebration.

Modi said that India has been dedicated to the path of knowledge since ancient times. Traditions like the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Shrutis, and Smritis have guided society according to the times. In different periods, great saints and sages have given a new direction to this tradition. He said that Lord Swaminarayan, through his life events and public teachings, provided invaluable guidance for life in simple words, which remains relevant even today in the form of the Shikshapatri. The Prime Minister said that Lord Swaminarayan’s life was an embodiment of service along with spiritual practice.

affordable, and timely travel facilities, while also boosting

PM Modi fondly remembers Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with a grateful nation



Agency. New Delhi

A grateful nation is remembering Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the leader of the Azad Hind Fauj, on his birth anniversary today. Prime Minister Narendra Modi fondly remembered him on his X handle. The Prime Minister said that Netaji’s sacrifice has always inspired him. His birth anniversary is a symbol of valor. His thoughts will always inspire future generations. The Prime Minister has posted several messages on X on this occasion. In one of them, he wrote, “Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has always inspired me greatly. On January 23, 2009,

President pays floral tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s birth anniversary is celebrated as ‘Parakram Diwas’ (Valour Day). On this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Netaji at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan paid tribute to Netaji on his birth anniversary, saying that his fearless leadership, indomitable courage, and unwavering commitment to India’s independence are true symbols of valour that will continue to inspire future generations. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the founder

of the Azad Hind Fauj and a great freedom fighter, and extended his best wishes to the countrymen on Parakram Diwas. Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge remembered Netaji, who awakened the spirit of revolution in the country through slogans like ‘Jai Hind’ and “Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom.” He said that Netaji’s dedication to the motherland and his firm stance against communalism remain a source of inspiration even today. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, called Netaji a great revolutionary and said that his courage.

the e-Gram Vishwagram scheme was launched. It was a unique scheme launched with the aim of transforming Gujarat’s IT sector. This scheme was launched from Haripura.

Haripura holds a significant place in Netaji’s life. I will never forget how the people of Haripura welcomed me and took out a procession on the same road that Netaji Bose had walked on.”

Brief News

Snowfall in Shimla-Manali, rain in Chamba leads to power outages in several areas



Shimla: The first snowfall of the year occurred in Shimla and Manali in Himachal Pradesh. The snowfall is still continuing. Meanwhile, it rained in Kangra. Strong winds have been blowing in Shimla since late last night. Continuous rain is also continuing in Chamba, and power outages have occurred in several areas. Cold wave conditions prevailed in Barthin, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Una, Mandi, and Kangra. The minimum temperature remained below 5 degrees Celsius at 20 major locations in the state. The Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for strong winds at a speed of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour and heavy snowfall in Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba, and Kullu districts on Friday. A yellow alert has been issued for thunderstorms with hailstorms and rain in Mandi, Kangra, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, and Solan. Snowfall is also expected in Manali, Kufri, Narkanda, and Solang Valley, in addition to Shimla city, on Friday.

ED raids eight locations of accused and associates in nightclub fire case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday launched a major operation against the accused, Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, in the infamous ‘Birch by Romeo Lane’ nightclub fire incident in Goa. The ED simultaneously raided a total of eight locations linked to the Luthra brothers, three in Goa and five in Delhi. This action was taken on suspicion of money laundering following the devastating fire on December 6, which tragically claimed the lives of 25 people. According to reports, police investigations have already revealed that the Luthra brothers operate a network of 42 shell companies registered at the same address in Delhi. These companies are suspected of being used for the misappropriation of crores of rupees and money laundering. The Luthra brothers, who were recently deported from Thailand to India, may face further difficulties. ED teams conducted simultaneous raids in Delhi and Goa on Friday morning.

Finance Minister to present budget on February 1, focus on middle class and healthcare

Agency. New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1, 2026. In the last budget, significant relief was provided by making income up to Rs 12 lakh tax-free under the new tax regime, so experts believe that major changes in direct taxes are unlikely this time. However, the middle class hopes that the government may provide some additional benefits through standard deductions or other concessions. The government’s main focus in Budget 2026 is expected to be on healthcare, infrastructure,



and the defense sector. To improve healthcare services, investment in preventive care may be increased, along with the establishment of new medical colleges and hospitals in Tier-2 cities. Meanwhile, a large allocation is expected for the modernization of railways, including new Vande Bharat trains, freight corridors, and track expansion. According to industry experts, this budget will focus on strengthening infrastructure and government schemes, keeping in mind the goal of a developed India,.

Tamil Nadu Assembly passes resolution against Developed India - G Ram Ji; BJP strongly objects

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) objected to the resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly against a central government law, Developed India - G Ram Ji, calling it unconstitutional. Party’s national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi questioned on Friday how a state assembly can have the right to pass a resolution or bill against a law that has already been passed by Parliament and has not been stayed by the Supreme Court. Dr. Trivedi said that under the Constitution, laws passed by Parliament are applicable throughout the country and are binding on all states. He gave the example that just as a district panchayat or a municipal corporation cannot reject a state law, similarly, state governments cannot reject a law passed by Parliament.

On Basant Panchami, the President, PM, and other leaders extended greetings to the countrymen

Agency. New Delhi

On the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and several other senior leaders extended their greetings to the people of the country and prayed to Goddess Saraswati for knowledge, wisdom, and prosperity. President Droupadi Murmu



posted on the social media platform X, stating that Basant Panchami symbolizes the arrival of spring, which is celebrated with great joy. Referring to the worship of Goddess Saraswati, she wished for happiness, prosperity, and the light of knowledge in the lives of all countrymen. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Basant Panchami as a festival dedicated to the beauty.

Significant Achievement: AIIMS performs first-ever laparoscopic Whipple surgery on an 11-year-old child

Agency. New Delhi

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has performed a laparoscopic Whipple surgery on a child for the first time. This achievement was highlighted during the 21st annual conference of the Pediatric Endoscopic Surgeons of India (PESICON 2026), organized by the Department of Pediatric Surgery at AIIMS. The Whipple procedure, medically known as pancreatoduodenectomy, is considered one of the most complex surgical procedures in general surgery. This operation involves removing the head of the pancreas, a portion of the small intestine,



the gallbladder, and the bile duct. Until now, this surgery was usually performed through open surgery, mostly in adult patients. Performing this surgery laparoscopically (using a minimally invasive technique) in a child is a first in India. According to AIIMS doctors, the 11-year-old girl has become the youngest patient in the world to undergo this complex procedure entirely through the laparoscopic method.

India-EU Emphasize Need to Stabilize Global Order

Jaishankar held discussions with ambassadors of European Union member states.

Agency. New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in a meeting with ambassadors of European Union member states, emphasized the need to stabilize the global order through a robust trade, mobility, and security partnership. The meeting was held in the run-up to the India-EU summit scheduled for January 27. The January 27 meeting is expected to see both sides

announce the conclusion of a trade agreement and sign a new security and defense partnership covering the maritime security, cybersecurity, and counter-terrorism. India and the EU are also planning an agreement on a comprehensive mobility framework to facilitate the movement of students, seasonal workers, researchers, and highly skilled professionals, and to promote research and innovation. The two sides are also preparing to finalize another agreement on the



‘security of information agreement’. Jaishankar said in a post on X that in his meeting with the EU member states’ ambassadors, he discussed the “current state of the world where instability has become commonplace.” The External Affairs Minister said he stressed the need for a strong India-EU collaboration that would safeguard the global economy from risks by cooperating on resilient supply chains and reassure the international community

by providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and other support. He said India and the EU need to “stabilize the global order through a robust trade, mobility, and security partnership.” Jaishankar said he was looking forward to the visit of European Council President Antonio Luis Santos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to New Delhi. Both will also be the chief guests at the Republic Day parade. He said preparations for the EU leadership’s visit to New Delhi are well underway, but there are also challenges.

Ministry of Home Affairs issues notification for Census 2027, enumeration to be conducted in two phases

Agency. New Delhi

The central government has formally initiated the process for Census 2027. The Ministry of Home Affairs has released a notification detailing the questionnaire for the first phase of the census. This phase will involve the enumeration of houses and buildings, comprising a total of 33 questions. This will be India’s 16th census, which was originally scheduled for 2021 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the government, the census



will be conducted in two separate phases. The first phase (House Listing Operation): This phase will be conducted in all states and union territories from April 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026. Each state will have to complete this task within 30 days. It will record basic information related to every house, building, and institution. The second phase (Population

Enumeration): This phase, to be conducted in February 2027, will collect detailed socio-economic information about people, including age, gender, education, employment, language, and religion. The questionnaire for this phase will be released later. The questionnaire for the first phase will focus on housing and household amenities. It will include information such as the identification number of the house or building, materials used for the floor, walls, and roof, the use of the house (residential, commercial, etc.)

Indigo flight from Delhi to Pune receives bomb threat

New Delhi: An Indigo flight from Delhi to Pune received a bomb threat. Following the threat, the aircraft was thoroughly searched after landing at Pune airport, but no explosives were found. According to reports, the flight was scheduled to arrive at 8:40 PM, but it landed at Pune airport at 9:24 PM and was parked at 9:27 PM. The Air Traffic Control (ATC) then received information about a bomb threat. Reports indicate that a handwritten note threatening a bomb was found on a tissue paper in the aircraft’s lavatory. Following the information, the aircraft was moved to an isolation parking bay, and the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) was notified. Security agencies conducted a thorough search of the aircraft, but no suspicious objects were recovered. After the search, the flight was cleared for departure.

Bomb threats received by schools in Ahmedabad and Noida, security alert issued

New Delhi: Panic gripped Ahmedabad after two prestigious schools, St. Xavier’s and Sant Kabir, received bomb threats via email on Friday. Police and bomb disposal squads immediately rushed to the scene and conducted a thorough search of the school premises. No suspicious objects have been found so far, but all necessary security measures have been taken. The school administration informed parents and instructed them to pick up their children from designated safe drop-off points. Shiv Nadar School in Noida also received a similar threat via email. Police immediately increased security at the school premises and launched a search operation. According to police officials, the email appears to be a hoax based on preliminary investigations, but the investigation is ongoing from all angles.

A meeting was organized under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner regarding the successful conduct of the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Fair

Correspondent.DN

Deoghar: A meeting was organized at the auditorium of the Deoghar Circuit House regarding the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Fair under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS. During this time, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the various preparations for the Saras Fair point by point and directed the concerned officers regarding the various tasks to be undertaken for the organization of the Saras Fair from January 25 to 31, giving necessary and appropriate instructions to the concerned officers. In addition, during the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS, reviewed the work being done by the various departments created for the Palash Livelihood Festival



Saras Fair and gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers regarding accommodation, transportation, parking, sanitation and drinking water, publicity, health, inauguration and closing ceremonies, stall management, cultural program management, control room and electricity arrangements for the women coming from various states for the fair, so that the work can be completed on time. During this time, in addition to

the above, Municipal Commissioner Rohit Sinha, Sub-Divisional Officer Ravi Kumar, Civil Surgeon, Deputy Municipal Commissioner Sagari Baral, Nazir Deputy Collector Shailesh Priyadarshi, District Public Relations Officer Rahul Kumar Bharti, District Social Welfare Officer Ranjana, District Informatics Officer Abhay Parashar, Block Development Officer Sarwan Rajnish Kumar, Executive Engineer Building Division, Executive

▪ **More than 100 stalls will be set up by women from various states of the country at the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Fair....**
▪ **The Saras Fair will be organized for the first time in the district from January 25 to 31 at the Deoghar College premises: - Deputy Commissioner....**
▪ **Necessary instructions were given to the officers of various departments regarding the successful conduct of the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Fair....**

Engineer Electricity Division, DPM JSLPS, JSLPS state-level team, DMFT team, Assistant Public Relations Officer Rohit Kumar Vidyarthi, and officers from the concerned departments were also present.

Prize Distribution at Madarsa Rashidiya, Ranidih

Modern Education is a crucial need of the hour - Mr. Ikrarul Hasan

Correspondent.DN

Godda: A prize distribution ceremony was held with great enthusiasm and fervor among the students at Darul Uloom Madarsa Rashidiya, Ahmad Nagar, Ranidih. The prizes were distributed to the successful students who had participated in a competition. The chief guest at the event, Mr. Ikrarul Hasan, a member of the State Minority Commission, said in his address that modern education is a crucial need of the hour. It prepares us for the challenges of the future and equips us with new technologies, knowledge, and skills, which will help the students progress. The ceremony



was presided over by Qari Mushtaq, while the director of the madrasa, Maulana Mansoor, along with guests including Qari Nisar, Qari Manzoor, Qari Sanaullah, Qari Shaban Rahmani, Maulana Izrail, Maulana Maqsood, Qari Moin, Master Suhail, and Master Marghoob, distributed the prizes to the successful competitors. The winners in the recitation category were: First - Mohd. Ziaul Haque, Dangapara; Second

- Mohd. Zakir Hussain; Third - Mohd. Aminuddin, Lalmatia. In the Naat-e-Pak (religious poetry) category: First - Mohd. Zultan; Second - Mohd. Arbaz; Third - Mohd. Ali. In the Urdu speech category: First - Mohd. Ziaul Haque; Second - Mohd. Abdullah; Third - Mohd. Sahil. In the English speech category: First - Tariq Zafar; Second - Mohd. Ziaul Haque; Third - Mohd. Sufiyan.

Applications Invited for Class VI Admission at Eklavya Model Residential Schools

Senior Journalist Kaushal Kumar:

Pakur: Applications are invited from eligible and interested students for admission to Class VI for the academic session 2026-27 in the Eklavya Model Residential Schools operating under Pakur district. Applications will be accepted for 60 girl students at Eklavya Model Residential School, Kumarbhaja (Littipara). Applications are also invited for 30 boys and 30 girls at Eklavya Model Residential School, Rajbari (Pakuria). In this regard, Project Director, ITDA cum District Welfare Officer, Mr. Arun Ekka, informed that interested students can submit the duly filled registration form to the District Welfare



Office, Pakur, by February 10, 2026. Application forms are available at the District Welfare Office, Pakur, all block headquarters in the district, and the respective Eklavya Model Residential Schools. He further informed that the selection test for admission is scheduled for March 8, 2026. The age limit for applicants is between 10

and 13 years. Mr. Arun Ekka also informed that detailed information in this regard has already been published by the Welfare Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi, through newspapers on January 10, 2026. He appealed to all eligible students and their parents in the district to apply within the stipulated time frame.

Helmet and Sapling Distribution Ceremony

Correspondent.DN

Sahibganj: 2026, a helmet and sapling distribution ceremony was organized near the petrol pump in Udhwa block as part of the road safety awareness program. The objective of the program was to increase public awareness of road safety and to encourage environmental protection. The program was conducted under the leadership of District Transport Officer, Mithilesh Kumar Chaudhary. Sub-Divisional Officer of Rajmahal, Sadanand Mahto, District Supply Officer Jhunu Mishra, and District Land Acquisition Officer Chhuteshwar



Das were also present on this occasion. During the program, free helmets and saplings were distributed to two-wheeler riders in the Udhwa and Rajmahal areas, with priority given to those who are economically unable to purchase helmets. They were also made aware of traffic rules through

pamphlets, booklets, and handbills. Sahibganj District Transport Officer Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Chaudhary appealed to the drivers to compulsorily wear helmets while riding two-wheelers and seat belts while driving four-wheelers, not to drive under the influence of



alcohol or drugs, to operate vehicles only with a valid driving license, and to ensure compliance with all traffic rules. To reduce road accidents, reflective tapes were affixed to two-wheelers and four-wheelers to reduce the chances of accidents in darkness, fog, and rain.

A tree plantation program was also conducted for environmental protection. District Road Safety Manager Neeraj Kumar Sah, Road Engineer Analyst Anuj Parashar, IT Assistant Rajhans, and other staff members of the Transport Department were present at the program.

Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police inspected the arrangements for the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Mela to be held at Deoghar College premises

Correspondent.DN

Deoghar: Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS and Superintendent of Police Mr. Saurabh, IPS jointly inspected the arrangements being made for the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Mela to be held at Deoghar College premises from January 25 to 31. They also gave necessary and appropriate instructions to the concerned officers regarding the preparations

for the fair. In addition, during the inspection, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS gave necessary and appropriate instructions to the concerned officers and executive engineer regarding the stalls, food court, parking, law and order, security arrangements, drinking water, toilets, cleanliness, fire safety arrangements, health facilities and electricity arrangements under the Palash Livelihood Festival Saras Mela, so that



the work can be completed on time. The Deputy Commissioner also directed

the concerned officers to make the Saras Mela attractive in every respect,

▪ **Saras Mela to be organized in the district from January 25 to 31: - Deputy Commissioner....**
▪ **Saras Mela is being organized to provide a better platform for the women of Self-Help Groups and local workers: - Deputy Commissioner....**

so that this fair, being organized for the first time in Deoghar, can be made a success. Besides the above, Sub-Divisional Officer Deoghar, Mr. Ravi Kumar, Nazir Deputy Collector Mr. Shailesh Priyadarshi, District Public Relations Officer Mr. Rahul Kumar Bharti, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, DPM JSLPS, JSLPS state-level team, DMFT team DPM and concerned officers and executive engineers were also present during the inspection.

Cycling Competition Organized on the Occasion of Republic Day* (Under the supervision of Mr. Manish Kumar, IAS)

Only residents of Pakur district are eligible to participate in the competition.

Correspondent.DN

Pakur: The Pakur District Administration is organizing a cycling competition on January 24, 2026, at 7:00 AM, on the occasion of Republic Day 2026. The objective of this event is to promote health awareness, sportsmanship, discipline, environmental protection, and patriotism among the youth and general public. The cycling competition will start from near the residence of the Deputy Development Commissioner, Pakur, on VIP Road, and will proceed to Sonajori, concluding back at the VIP Road premises. The district administration has clarified that only residents of Pakur district are eligible to participate in this competition.



The district administration believes that such events not only promote physical and mental health but also strengthen environmental protection, social harmony, and a positive outlook. The district administration appeals to the general public to attend the event, encourage the participants, and make this public-spirited initiative a success.

District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police jointly inspected the strong room and counting hall for the Madhupur Municipal Council elections

Correspondent.DN

Deoghar: District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mr. Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS, and Superintendent of Police Mr. Saurabh, IPS, jointly inspected and reviewed the strong room and counting center being set up at the Women's College, Madhupur, for the Madhupur Municipal Council elections. During this time, they gave necessary and appropriate instructions to the concerned officers and police officials regarding the security arrangements



inside and outside the strong room centers and the necessary preparations to be made. In addition, during the inspection, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mr.



Naman Priyesh Lakra, IAS, gave necessary instructions to the concerned officers regarding the return of the polling team to the strong room after polling, smooth receiving of materials,

arrangement of tables, entry of agents, counting hall, parking, and other arrangements. Present on the occasion were the Sub-Divisional Officer of Madhupur, Sub-Divisional

▪ **The District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner gave necessary instructions to the officers and police officials regarding security standards, law and order, and traffic management.**

Police Officer, District Panchayati Raj Officer, Executive Engineer Building Division, and other concerned officers and police officials.

Brief News

Torpa Police Take Swift Action in Scooter Theft Case, Four Minors Apprehended

Khunti: The police in the Torpa police station area have solved a scooter theft case within just 24 hours, apprehending four minors. This information was given by Torpa Sub-Divisional Police Officer Christopher Kerketta in a press conference held at his office on Friday. He said that a scooter was stolen on January 5, 2026, from in front of a school in Dementatoli under the Torpa police station area. A case was registered at the Torpa police station based on a written application given by the vehicle owner. A team formed under the leadership of Police Inspector Ashok Kumar Singh took swift action and recovered the stolen scooter (registration number JH 23 C 367) and another scooter (JH 23 C 344) within 24 hours. Two minors were apprehended in this case, who confessed to their crime during questioning.

Biker Dies After Being Hit by an Unidentified Vehicle

East Singhbhum: A young man on a motorcycle died in a road accident late Thursday night near Pinky Hotel, about 200 meters from the Ulidih police station. The deceased has been identified as Sirajuddin Ansari (35), a resident of Hayatnagar, Dimna Basti, Road Number 5, Ulidih, who lived in a rented house in Jamshedpur. According to his family, Sirajuddin worked as a driver at Spectra Super Alloys Limited company in Kandra. On Thursday night, after finishing work, he was returning home on his motorcycle. Around midnight, in the Ulidih area, an unknown vehicle hit him with great force, causing him serious injuries. After the accident, passersby informed the police. Ulidih police arrived at the scene and took the injured Sirajuddin to MGM Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The police have taken the body into custody for post-mortem examination and have launched a search for the unknown vehicle. The deceased's younger brother, Fayaz Alam, said that Sirajuddin was the father of four children and the sole breadwinner of his family. He was originally from Chhapra district in Bihar. The sudden incident has plunged the family into mourning, and local residents are also deeply saddened by the tragedy.



Torpa MLA Sudip Gudiya lays foundation stone for Rs 1 crore lift irrigation scheme in Saridkel village

Khunti: Torpa MLA Sudip Gudiya officially laid the foundation stone for a lift irrigation scheme costing approximately Rs 1 crore in Saridkel village under Okda Panchayat in Khunti district on Friday. A large number of villagers, public representatives, and party workers were present on the occasion. Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony, MLA Sudip Gudiya said that this lift irrigation scheme will prove to be a boon for the farmers of the area. He said that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) had given top priority to agriculture and irrigation in its election manifesto, and the state government and public representatives are continuously working in that direction. The MLA said that this scheme is being built with public money, therefore, any kind of negligence or compromise with quality in the construction work will not be tolerated. He instructed the concerned officers and contractors to ensure timely and quality construction work by making proper use of the allocated funds. He said that mainly paddy and wheat are cultivated in this area. With the availability of irrigation facilities, farmers will not have to depend on rain for cultivation, which will increase crop production and strengthen the economic condition of the farmers. The MLA said that the state government is continuously committed to implementing development schemes related to public interest on the ground. On this occasion, JMM District President Zubair Ahmed said that this amount is for the overall development of the area, therefore, special attention should be paid to transparency and quality in the construction work. He emphasized the need for strict monitoring to prevent misuse of government funds. The villagers expressed their happiness over the foundation stone laying of the irrigation scheme and expressed their gratitude to the MLA and the government. JMM Block President Ruben Topno, Mojir Ansari, Mukesh Singh, and a large number of villagers, party workers, and local people were present at the program.

Governor pays tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary, extends greetings to countrymen on 'Parakram Diwas'

Ranchi. Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Friday paid heartfelt tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a great hero of the Indian freedom struggle, on his birth anniversary and extended warm wishes to all countrymen on 'Parakram Diwas' (Valour Day). In a message shared on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the Governor said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's life is a unique example of patriotism, indomitable courage, and leadership. He urged the people of the country to draw inspiration from him and follow his ideals. The Governor also extended greetings on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, the festival dedicated to the worship of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge and wisdom. He prayed that the blessings of Goddess Saraswati may always be upon everyone and illuminate their lives with knowledge and virtuous values.



Seven-Year-Old Boy's Arm Saved at Paras Hospital Ranchi Through 'Limb-Saving Surgery'

Successful operation performed by Dr. Avkash Kumar and his team

Ranchi: A miraculous surgery has been performed in the Orthopedics department of Paras HEC Hospital, Ranchi. Dr. Avkash Kumar, a renowned orthopedic consultant at the hospital, and his team successfully saved the arm of a seven-year-old boy. The boy's arm bones were fractured and protruding from his body after he fell from a swing at school. The injury was so severe that both bones of his right arm (radius and ulna) were broken and exposed. Examination revealed that soil and mud from the school playground had entered the open wound and the fractured bones. Dr. Avkash Kumar



immediately decided to perform emergency limb-saving surgery. In this complex procedure, the soil and infected debris were thoroughly cleaned from inside the bones. Then, both bones were successfully fixed in a single operation.

Dr. Avkash Kumar's timely surgery prevented the spread of infection and completely saved the child's arm. According to the medical report, the child's arm is now fully functional, and he is rapidly returning to a normal life.

The Orthopedics team received full support from the Anesthesia team during this surgery. Their expert care and continuous monitoring played a crucial role in the success of this limb-saving surgery. Dr. Avkash said that this was a "high-risk" case. Due to the presence of soil in the bones, there was a risk of osteomyelitis, a life-threatening bone infection, which could have rendered

the arm permanently useless. Timely surgery saved the child's arm. The hospital's Facility Director, Dr. Nitesh Kumar, said that in such serious and emergency cases, making the right decision at the right time is paramount. The skill, dedication, and promptness with which Dr. Avkash Kumar and his team handled this case are commendable. At Paras Hospital Ranchi, we are consistently making even the most complex surgeries successful through advanced technology, experienced specialists, and superior patient care. This success is the result of the coordinated efforts of the entire medical team.

Former Tata Steel senior official dies of heart attack during Saraswati Puja

Agency, East Singhbhum

The Saraswati Puja organized on the occasion of Basant Panchami at the office of the Tata Workers Union, the recognized union of Tata Steel, turned into a condolence meeting on Friday when Jaydev Upadhyay, a senior former official associated with the union, suddenly passed away during the puja. 71-year-old Jaydev Upadhyay's health suddenly deteriorated during the puja. He was immediately taken to Tata Main Hospital, where despite all efforts by the doctors, he could not be saved. This tragic incident has cast a pall of gloom over the union office, Tata

Steel management, and the city's industrial sector. According to the information received, the Saraswati Puja program was underway at the Tata Workers Union office at around 10 am on Friday. Jaydev Upadhyay, who was participating in the puja, suddenly felt severe chest pain. His condition deteriorated rapidly, after which his colleagues present there immediately rushed him to TMH. At the hospital, he was describing his pain to the doctors when he suddenly fainted. Doctors tried to revive him by continuously giving him CPR for about an hour, but he was finally declared dead. The news of this incident caused a great

shock to the union and the family. Tata Workers Union President Sanjeev Chaudhary Tannu, General Secretary Satish Singh, Deputy President Shailesh Singh, Vice President Shah Nawaz Alam, and several other office bearers reached the hospital and consoled the bereaved family. Mourning spread throughout the union premises, and the Saraswati Puja program was immediately suspended. Jaydev Upadhyay was an experienced and respected officer in the Human Resources Department of Tata Steel. He worked as a Senior Manager in the HR department for many years and gained special popularity

among employees and officers due to his efficiency, simple nature, and gentle demeanor. After retirement, he was made in charge of the Michael John Center run by the Tata Workers Union, where he discharged his responsibilities with complete dedication and commitment for about ten years. According to family members, he had been feeling mild chest pain since Friday morning. He had told his wife that he would attend the puja first and then go to the doctor, but unfortunately, that puja became his last journey. His sudden demise has deeply shocked not only his family but also everyone associated with the union and Tata Steel.

Dhanuka Agritech's collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research enhances access to scientific technology across 66 Agricultural Development Centres

Ranchi: Under the collaboration between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Dhanuka Agritech Limited, access to scientifically validated agricultural technologies is being strengthened for farmers through 66 Agricultural Development Centres across Bihar and Jharkhand. Dhanuka Agritech's Chief Scientific Advisor, Dr. P.K. Chakravarty, stated that this collaboration is playing a crucial role in enhancing farmers' productivity and strengthening sustainable agriculture. The initiative focuses on crop protection, pest and disease management, resistance management, correct application

techniques, and creating awareness against counterfeit and spurious agricultural inputs. Key contributors to this collaborative effort include ICAR Deputy Director General (Extension) Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director of ICAR-ATARI Patna Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director of ICAR-NISA Ranchi Dr. Abhijit Kar, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Ashram Ranchi Swami Bhaveshanand, Vice Chancellor of Bihar Agricultural University Sabour Dr. Indrajit Singh, former Vice Chancellor of Bidhan Chandra Agricultural University Nadia Dr. M.M. Adhikari, and Vice Chancellor of Birsa Agricultural University Ranchi Dr. S.C. Dubey.

Deputy Commissioner and SSP pay tribute on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary

Agency, Ranchi

On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri and SSP Rakesh Ranjan paid tribute to him by laying wreaths at Netaji's statue in the park at Kachari Chowk. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, while recalling Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's invaluable contribution to nation-building, said that his life is an inspiring example of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. Netaji's ideas continue to inspire the youth to move forward on the path of national



service and dedication to duty. During this time, Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Ranjan, Sub-Divisional Officer Sadar Rajat Kumar, and Deputy Collector Nazarat Sudesh Kumar also paid tribute by laying wreaths at Netaji's statue and resolved to imbibe his ideals and follow the path shown by him.

On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R. Ronita, along with district-level officials, offered floral tributes at the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



Khunti: On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary today, Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R. Ronita, along with district-level officials, offered floral tributes at the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose located at Subhas Chandra Bose Chowk, Khunti (Upper Chowk). On this occasion, Sub-Divisional Officer Mrs. Deepesh Kumari, DCLR Mr. Arvind Kumar, Nazir Deputy Collector Mrs. Komal Kumari, Executive Officer Nagar Panchayat Mrs. Srishti

Minj, along with other officials of the district administration, social workers, and a large number of local citizens, also offered floral tributes and paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Deputy Commissioner said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's struggle, sacrifice, and dedication are inspiring and exemplary for every Indian. His life is a symbol of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance, which will always inspire future generations.

Netaji possessed a remarkable balance of military discipline and spiritual consciousness

Agency, East Singhbhum

On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, a procession was organized by Proutist Universal, Jamshedpur, on Friday. The procession started from Sakchi roundabout and reached Am Bagan, where floral tributes were offered to Netaji's statue. During the program, speakers recalled Netaji's ideas, his struggles, and his contributions to the nation, and urged everyone to imbibe his ideals. Addressing the gathering, Proutist leaders Gangadhar Dutta and Asha Devi said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was not limited to political freedom alone,



but was a strong advocate of complete economic independence for the country. They said that India achieved political freedom, but the goal of economic freedom remains

unfulfilled even today. The speakers emphasized that the country can become strong only by following Netaji's vision, foresight, and ideals. They further added that

Netaji believed that for a true soldier, military training alone is not sufficient; spiritual training is equally essential. Netaji's personality exhibited a wonderful balance of military discipline and spirituality, which made him a great leader and a source of inspiration. The program emphasized the need to adopt this holistic approach of Netaji. On this occasion, many workers, including Gangadhar Dutta, Soma Dutta, Rohit Kumar Gorai, Kartik Mahto, Asha Devi, Rupa Devi, Shankar Jamuda, Jai Narayan Singh, Ganesh Prasad, and Devabrata Dutta, actively contributed to making the program a success.

Sanjeev Sinha Assumes Charge as Jamshedpur Metropolitan BJP District President



Sanjeev Sinha, the newly elected District President of BJP Jamshedpur Metropolitan, formally assumed office on Friday. The ceremony was held at the BJP district office in Sakchi on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. Former District President Sudhanshu Ojha handed over the charge to Sanjeev Sinha with due ceremony. Senior party leaders and workers were present at the charge-taking ceremony. The entire office and premises were decorated and painted. The ceremony began with prayers, during which priests performed special rituals according to Sanatan tradition and customs, wishing success for Sanjeev Sinha's new tenure. There was an atmosphere of joy and enthusiasm among the workers and leaders at the ceremony. Party workers believe that under Sanjeev Sinha's experience and able leadership, the Jamshedpur Metropolitan BJP will reach new heights. It is noteworthy that Sanjeev Sinha was elected unopposed as the Jamshedpur Metropolitan BJP District President on January 10, 2026. No other leader had filed a nomination against him, and it was already being discussed that his name had been forwarded by the BJP Jharkhand state unit.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose remembered on his birth anniversary

A program was organized with reverence and respect in Khunti on Friday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner R. Ronita, along with district-level officials, offered floral tributes at Netaji's statue at Subhas Chandra Bose Chowk (Upper Chowk). Sub-Divisional Officer Deepesh Kumari, DCLR Arvind Kumar, Nazir Deputy Collector Komal Kumari, Executive Officer of Nagar Panchayat Srishti Minj, along with other officials of the district administration, social workers, and a large number of local citizens were present at the program. Everyone offered flowers at Netaji's statue and paid heartfelt tributes to him. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's struggle, sacrifice, and dedication are an inspiration for every Indian. His life is a symbol of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance, which will always inspire future generations.



Makhana to microchips, Republic Day to showcase India's story of growth

NEW DELHI, AGENCY: At the Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in Delhi Cantonment, the days leading up to Jan 26 are marked by constant activity. The smell of fresh paint hangs heavy in the air as the sound of construction echo across the parade ground. Artisans climb makeshift stairways, painters add final touches and workers carefully align massive structures.

Amid this controlled bustle, Republic Day tableaux are taking shape, with every frame, colour and detail preparing to tell captivating stories on Kartavya Path.

This year's Jan 26 parade marks 150 years of Vande Mataram, and its spirit runs through every creation. On Thursday, media witnessed around 30 tableaux in different stages of completion, each reflecting India's past, present

and its aspirations. Nearly 10,000 people will soon watch them roll along Kartavya Path, while 2,500 artistes are set to perform, capping the visual spectacle on wheels.

One of the most striking displays is a tableau titled 'Operation Sindoor: Victory Through Jointness', which highlights India's military strength, with Rafale jets and Akash missiles on display. Nearby, Gujarat's tableau traces the journey of India from 1906 to 1947 under the theme of 'Vande Mataram', its structure anchored by a towering figure of Mahatma Gandhi.

Delhi's tableau pays tribute to the Prime Ministers' Museum while showcasing the capital's transformed skyline, featuring the new Parliament, Bharat



Mandapam, Signature Bridge and Yashobhoomi as symbols of a changing nation.

Other states, too, have brought their landscapes and legacies vividly to life. Bihar's tableau follows the journey of makhana - from pond to plate. "It took one month to make this whole thing," a carpenter said. Himachal Pradesh is honouring its 1,203 gallantry award winners and Punjab is reflecting the spiritual courage of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur through their tableaux.

Ladakh showcases the engineering feat of Shyok Tunnel, Uttarakhand displays its traditional instruments and utensils, while J&K recre-

ates the charm of a houseboat. Dancers from Tamil Nadu will perform mayilattam, also known as peacock dance. "A team of 17 members is here from Chennai to perform," said Jyotsana, adjusting her costume with a smile. Parasmal Solanki from Rajasthan will perform along with his 16-member team.

Nagaland's tableau features a massive hornbill. "We want everyone to know about Hornbill Festival," said Yangerla, a folk dancer. Jharkhand's tableau showcases the state's natural beauty and aims at attracting tourists, said Neha Agarwal, a state representative.

Karnataka's tableau, From Millets to Microchips, tells a story of holistic growth through scenes of a farmer family with millets, silicon crystals, a robot and a giant microchip - linking agriculture with technology and innovation. Assam has transformed terracotta into visual poetry. Chhattisgarh's tableau pays homage to tribal heroes like Veer Gunda Dhur and Veer Narayan Singh.

Union ministries have added their own narratives. The education tableau traces the evolution of India's knowledge from Aryabhata's shunya (zero) to PM Shri schools. "All my team members and I are from different Kendriya Vidyalayas," said Elix Singh, a Class XI student.

A unique tableau designed by filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali for the ministry of information and broadcasting depicts the evolution of storytelling - from its oral tradition to cinema. The panchayati raj tableau in the vicinity highlights the SVAMITA scheme.

MHA notifies Census 2027 schedule, lists 33 questions

NEW DELHI, AGENCY: The ministry of home affairs on Thursday notified the schedule for upcoming houselisting and housing phase of Census 2027, replicating each of the 33 questions that were proposed to be asked in Census 2021 before the pandemic forced its postponement.

The fields of information sought to be collected in the housing phase of Census, scheduled to be conducted between April 1 and Sept 30, include the building number; predominant material of floor, wall and roof of the census house; use of the census house and its condition; as well as household number.

Information will have to be furnished on total number of persons residing in the household, name and sex of the head of the



household; and if he/she belongs to the SC, ST or other category. Also included are fields pertaining to ownership status of the house; number of dwelling

rooms in possession of the household; and number of married couples residing in the household.

As regards amenities, respondents will need to apprise the census authority - either digitally through the census app or during the enumerator's visit - of the main source of drinking water, main source of lighting, access to and type of latrine, waste water outlet and availability of bathing facility. Information will also be sought on availability of LPG or CNG connection in the household and the main fuel used for cooking.

Household amenities and facilities to be mapped shall include transistor, radio, TV, internet access, mobile phone or smartphone; and mode of transport. Respondents will also need to share details of the main cereal consumed in the household. The mobile number of the household (head or any other) will be collected but used only for census-related communications.

Brazilian President dials PM Modi

Reaffirm India-Brazil partnership; discuss global issues

NEW DELHI , AGENCY: Prime Minister Narendra on Thursday had a telephonic exchange with Brazilian President Luiz Inacia Lula De Silva.



According to a statement by the ministry of external affairs, both the leaders reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen India-Brazil strategic partnership.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a telephone call today from the President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership and take it to even

greater heights in the year ahead," MEA said.

"The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They also underscored the importance of reformed multilateralism in addressing shared challenges." it added. During the exchange, PM Modi also invited Lula to visit India at an early date.

Engineer shoots wife accidentally distressed by death, he kills self

AHMEDABAD, AGENCY: Congress Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil's nephew Yashrajsinh Gohil allegedly shot his wife "accidentally" in the head with a licensed revolver in their Ahmedabad flat late Wednesday and then turned the gun on himself, police said.

The shooting unfolded in their fifth-floor apartment between 10.30pm and midnight, ACP Jitendra Brahmabhatt said. Yashrajsinh (35) was a Class-I officer with Gujarat Maritime Board. He had married Rajeshwari (30) last Nov.

Citing a statement by Yashrajsinh's mother Devyaniba, cops said while the two were in the bedroom, a bullet accidentally discharged from Yashrajsinh's revolver and struck Rajeshwari at the base of her head.

Devyaniba said her son rushed to her room and said an ambu-



lance needed to be called. Police records indicate Yashrajsinh called 108 emergency ambulance service at 11.42pm. Paramedics arrived and declared Rajeshwari dead. According to Devyaniba's statement, Yashrajsinh appeared deeply shaken after hearing that his wife had died. Moments later, a gunshot was heard from the bedroom.

Low Vitamin D may worsen Dengue outcomes, global study raises questions for India

NEW DELHI, AGENCY: A clinical study from Colombia, published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the peer-reviewed journal of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has found that low vitamin D levels are linked to more severe dengue, a finding with clear relevance for India, where both dengue and vitamin D deficiency are widespread.

Dengue remains a recurring public health challenge in the country, especially during the monsoon, when hospitals see sharp rises in patients with high fever, falling platelet counts and bleeding complications. While many recover with supportive care, a significant proportion deteriorate rapidly, and predicting severity remains difficult.

In the Colombian study, researchers analysed blood samples from nearly 100 laboratory-confirmed dengue patients, classified by disease



severity, and compared them with healthy individuals. They measured serum vitamin D levels along with miRNA-155, a molecule that regulates immune and inflammatory responses. Patients with milder dengue had higher vitamin D levels, while those with warning signs or severe disease showed significant deficiency.

At the same time, miRNA-155 levels rose steadily with increasing severity, indicating an exaggerated immune response. The study also found an inverse relationship between vitamin D and inflammatory markers such as

TNF-alpha and interleukin-6, both linked to severe dengue and complications like dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Commenting on the findings, Dr R. Goswami, professor of endocrinology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, said the study strengthens earlier evidence linking low vitamin D with severe dengue, particularly dengue haemorrhagic fever. "What this study adds is a possible disease mechanism through microRNA-155, which is involved in immune dysregulation via Th1 and Th2 pathways," he said, adding that it is prudent to maintain normal levels.

Doctors say the findings resonate with Indian clinical experience. Dr Pankaj Soni, principal director (internal medicine) at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, said low vitamin D is associated with bleeding and complications and may worsen inflammation and viral replication, making it a modifiable risk factor but not a treatment.

Triple talaq-halala FIR puts focus on legal grey area

NEW DELHI, AGENCY: When police in UP registered an FIR on Dec 9, 2025, it was not just another complaint under the 2019 Triple Talaq law. The allegations were shocking and went further, into a grey zone the law has never squarely addressed: What happens to women after talaq is pronounced.

According to the FIR filed in Amroha's Said Nagli, the woman, after being divorced through instant triple talaq, was pressured by her husband, her brother-in-law and clerics to undergo "halala" multiple times so she could be returned to the marriage. An exception that permits a divorced Muslim couple to remarry, the practice of halala often involves planned, short-term mar-



riages - even arranged one-time encounters - to facilitate consummation of the woman with another man, enabling the former couple to reunite.

The woman's complaint detailed the ordeal. She said she was "gang-raped under false pretenses of halala

carried out under threats, intimidation and coercion".

Police have invoked the law banning instant triple talaq - sections 3 and 4 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019. Multiple provisions and relevant sections of BNS that deal

with rape, aggravated hurt, criminal intimidation and criminal conspiracy, have also been added.

In the initial FIR, there are three accused: Her husband, his cousin and a hakim (traditional healer.) Since then, police have added more accused to the list.

Amroha police told media that one accused - her husband - had been arrested so far. "The FIR has been registered on the basis of a written complaint. Further action will depend on corroboration and evidence," SHO Vikas Sahrawat said. Amroha police are on the lookout for others on the run, he added.

This week, based on Zubaida's (name changed) age at the time of her marriage, police added multiple

provisions of the PocsO Act to the FIR, expanding its scope. (The move, incidentally, also brings into focus an unresolved legal grey area, as Muslim personal law is not codified and does not prescribe a minimum age, instead linking marriageability to puberty. The issue remains unsettled by the Supreme Court so far, with courts in different states taking conflicting positions.)

The FIR covers several years of alleged abuse, assault and rape. Zubaida told police she was forcefully married off in 2015 at the age of 15, and subjected to pronouncements of instant triple talaq twice - once in 2016, and again in 2021, followed by three coerced reconciliation attempts through halala.

Travel and Cultural Sublimity

Dr. Yogendra

In Goa, the sun sets and rises later. Nights and mornings are a little cooler, but the sun shines brightly during the day. The weather is pleasant. Spring has arrived on the trees. Mangoes are laden with blossoms. The mango trees are very tall, and coconut trees are competing with them. There are jackfruit, jasmine, black pepper, and hundreds of other plants I don't recognize. Almost every house is

surrounded by trees. As I climbed a hill during my morning walk, Goa appeared immersed in hills and trees. I heard the sounds of mountain birds, but the birds were few in number compared to the number of trees. Crows haven't been seen yet, there are pigeons, and even mynas. How is it possible for people to come to Goa and not see the sea? I went with my friends to two beaches—Mirabar and Donapauna, both in Panaji.

Donapauna has been artificially landscaped. A fee of fifty rupees is charged, and you can enter. It's said that the film "Ek Duje Ke Liye" was shot here. In Mirabar, gentle waves crash onto the shore. The sand is abundant, and you can stroll along the shoreline for long stretches. Walking on the waves is a joy. I ventured a little deeper into the sea, my feet sinking into the sand. When the rays of the setting sun shine on the waves, it's hard to focus

on them. Goa was ruled by the Mauryas, Chalukyas, and Satavahanas, before the Portuguese conquered it in 1510. They ruled for 450 years. Goa gained independence in 1961 and became part of India. Dr. Lohia is highly respected here because he first raised his voice for Goa's independence in 1946. Christianity spread after the Portuguese arrived. Old Goa is home to 15th-century churches. When I visited the Basilica

of Bom Jesus, its grandeur captivated me. Christian monuments have existed and are still vibrant. Opposite it is the cathedral, built in the 17th century. King Dom Subastio of Portugal commissioned its construction. Spread over thousands of acres, this cathedral houses numerous prayer halls. The campus is covered with coconut trees. There is an archaeological museum here. The name Old Goa evoked Old Delhi in

my mind, and I assumed Old Goa would be as dirty as Old Delhi. But its cleanliness and serenity captivate. Old Goa is also known as Rome of the East. Cannons are placed in front of the museum. These cannons also represent the triumph of the colonial empire. India experienced various princely states, and their internal conflicts provided opportunities for outsiders. Today, India's unity requires multicultural unity.

Editorial

Panchayat elections on the map

A new wave is emerging in the Panchayat elections and politics. In an atmosphere rife with testimonies, twists and turns, and political points, Himachal will, for a time, chart new options. Panchayat elections are considered a festival of democracy, but they are also seen as a reflection of the changing nature of politics. Ironically, this time, pre-election efforts have led to the directive to complete the election process by April 30th. This means that elections will be held within the stipulated timeframe only after completing the roster process by February 28th. Through the Panchayat elections, Himachal will provide a political narrative of its expectations, potential, and the desires of civil society, and a massive awareness campaign will be witnessed by approximately 5.6 million voters. If the election campaign continues in 71 urban bodies, in addition to the 3,577 Panchayats, it could be a tough test for changing political discourse. While the elections may not be held on party symbols, these elections will create a mix of reality and fiction amidst claims and counterclaims. Last time, the Panchayat elections attracted a large section of the youth. Those who were perfecting their degrees in search of a career also entered the Panchayat elections to enter the political arena. This time too, the mood will be similar, as numerous examples of politics blossoming as a career are inspiring the youth. The BJP is launching a full-fledged campaign for political leadership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisioned making one lakh youth directly columnists of Indian politics.

Relationships confined to materialistic life

Ultimately, the question is: have we become so busy and self-centered that we no longer have the patience to pay this last and most sacred tribute to human connection? Attending the funeral is not merely a ritual, but an affirmation of our shared humanity. By reducing it to a mere formality, we are weakening our own social fabric... In today's fast-paced, digital, and materialistic life, human relationships are shrinking. This shrinking isn't limited to distance, but also extends to emotions and duties.

Ramesh Dhawala

Society is fragmenting in many ways, where, despite having thousands of "friends" on social media, true companions willing to shoulder the funeral procession in real life are becoming rare. This has emerged as a worrying trend in the past few years. The sacred tradition of carrying a loved one's body on four shoulders on the journey to the grave is now often replaced by the compulsion of a "hearse vehicle." The lack of skilled people to handle the pyre at cremation grounds and offer the final farewell is a sign of the erosion of a collective heritage. Indeed, when the person who until yesterday breathed, laughed, spoke, and shared joys and sorrows with us is reduced to a mere lifeless body, people now begin to calculate before offering a shoulder.

Lack of time, busyness, or simply the burden of formality—these have all become factors that distract us from this most basic duty of humanity. This isn't just the final journey of an individual, but rather the final jour-



ney of our collective values, our shared humanity, and our social values, which are slowly disappearing. It's worth considering whether we are, knowingly or unknowingly, throwing our bundle of emotions and relationships into the fire of carelessness. A common sight at cremation grounds today: the pyre is burning, but most of the people standing near it are busy on their mobile phones, talking to someone, sending messages, or scrolling through social media. This scene creates a profound irony. Even this sacred moment of mourning and farewell is no longer untouched by digital disruptions. There was a time when news of a person's death would send a wave of grief throughout the area.

People would leave their work and stand with the bereaved family. Every person, young and old, in the area joined the funeral procession, bidding farewell to the departed soul with the echo of "Ram Naam Satya Hai." The procession wasn't merely a journey of a dead body to the crematorium, but rather symbolized an emotional bond, social solidarity, and an unwavering sense of duty among the living. Today, sadly, funerals have become a mere formality. People immersed in worldly affairs express their condolences over the phone, and if they do reach the crematorium, it's often only for show, to prove that they came. Our religious texts are clear on this matter. The Garuda Purana and other texts consider the last

rites to be the most important of the sixteen rites. Its purpose is not merely to consign the body to the flames, but also to liberate the soul from mortal bondage and lead it towards salvation. These texts also clearly state that participating in someone's last journey is a virtuous act. This action shows that you not only respect the person's life, but are also a true support to their family in their grief.

This is the basis of social cooperation and harmony. Traditions also state that a lack of proper reverence and duty toward ancestors can lead to problems like domestic discord and unrest. One example is from my neighborhood, where a family faced unexplained unrest and accidents for nearly four months. After various religious measures, when they properly worshipped and respected their ancestors, the situation calmed down. This example may seem superstitious, but it certainly underscores the socio-psychological significance of our rituals and beliefs.

Time to open the closed doors of girl child development

National Girl Child Day is a day to raise awareness about the rights, education, health, and empowerment of girls, and to promote gender equality. Launched in 2008, the picture of girls is changing, with them now excelling in education, sports, and leadership. However, challenges like child marriage, female foeticide, and malnutrition remain, which are being addressed through schemes and laws like "Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child," enabling them to become a symbol of society's pride and progress.

Lalit Garg

The day aims to raise awareness about girls' rights, reduce gender discrimination, and emphasize the importance of education, health, and nutrition. Girls are now advancing in fields like science, technology, defense, and leadership. Society's perception of girls has changed. Legal measures like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the POCSO Act, and government schemes like Mission Vatsalya and PM Cares for Children are working for the welfare of girls. Despite this, girls still face exploitation and discrimination. Although the girl child sex ratio has improved, malpractices such as child marriage and female foeticide persist. Nutritional problems such as anemia and underweight among girls remain a concern. There is a need to eradicate patriarchal mindsets and provide equal opportunities to girls. In the elixir of independence, India is reinventing itself with renewed confidence, new aspirations, and new resolve. If there is one, the strongest foundation of this transformative India, it

is the girl child. National Girl Child Day is an opportunity to introspect about the state of our girls today, the direction they are progressing, and the future society is shaping for them. It also raises the question of whether we are truly building an India where girls are not considered a burden from birth, but rather the architects of the future. A new India must be built with the power of both men and women, embodying the principle of "both hands together." The status of girls has improved significantly over the past few decades. Their participation in education has increased, and girls and women have achieved extraordinary accomplishments in sports, science, administration, politics, and entrepreneurship. Today, even daughters from rural India are making their presence felt in space science, startups, the military, and the civil services. This change indicates that in the elixir of independence, the role of women and girls will not only be participatory but also leadership, and they will become the force that propels the nation to its

highest heights. But parallel to this rosy picture lies a harsh reality that cannot be ignored.

Even today, crimes against girls and women, including exploitation, sexual violence, domestic abuse, child marriage, and cyber harassment, question the sensitivity of society. Incidents of rape and violence are not merely law and order problems; they are the result of a failure of our collective psyche. When a girl's safety is not ensured anywhere—at home, school, street, or digital world—it becomes clear that claims of development are incomplete. In his vision of a New India, a Developed India, and an Equal India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is centered on the empowerment of women, especially girls.

His approach is not limited to welfare schemes, but calls for a transformation of social mindsets. Numerous initiatives like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" have fostered a vision of girls as national assets, not burdens. Schemes related to education, health, nutri-

tion, sanitation, digital empowerment, and security have opened new doors of opportunities for girls. The Prime Minister's clear message is that the dream of a developed India will remain unfulfilled until girls are educated, safe, and self-reliant. His broad vision sees girls not as mere objects of protection, but as active participants in leadership, innovation, and nation-building. This is why today's girls are confidently advancing in science, sports, administration, and entrepreneurship, and the future India appears to be emerging as a balanced, egalitarian, and empowered nation under the leadership of women. The root of the problem isn't just the perpetrators, but the mindset that views girls as weak, dependent, and tolerant. This mindset begins in the family and extends to society and institutions. Discrimination between sons and daughters is still evident in the distribution of resources, opportunities, and freedom in many homes. Girls are taught to remain silent in the name of "culture," while boys are given rights and freedom.

This unequal social training ultimately leads to violence and exploitation. Today, a new social perspective is needed—one that focuses on prevention before the crime occurs, not on post-crime reactions. Society must understand that atrocities against women are not just a women's issue, but a moral defeat for the entire society. Strict laws are essential, but even more important is a shift in social consciousness. As long as we continue to question the victim—her clothes, her time, her freedom—the morale of the perpetrators will not be broken. At the same time, girls and women must reshape their thinking. Self-reliance should not only be economic, but also mental and ideological. The goal of education shouldn't be just a degree, but rather the development of self-confidence, self-respect, and decision-making. Girls must be taught to recognize their rights, speak out against injustice, and never consider themselves inferior. The need of the hour is to make today's girls "aware and empowered," not "tolerant."

Kafe Group Vietnam Invests USD 1.2M in Momos Pro Noida to Transform Frozen Food Market

New Delhi,Agency: India – Kafe Group Vietnam, the pioneering Vietnamese urban fusion cafe chain, today announced a strategic \$1.2 million investment in Momos Pro, Delhi NCR's leading wholesale momos supplier and momos factory based in Noida. This landmark cross-border investment represents one of the largest Vietnamese food sector investments in India's frozen food market, coming as India opens its food and beverage sector to 100% foreign investment. The partnership will transform Momos Pro's operations across Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad markets.

Strategic Partnership Drives Expansion The investment enables Momos Pro, operating from its state-of-the-art momos factory in Sector 63, Noida, to double

production capacity from 50,000 to 100,000 pieces daily. This expansion strengthens the company's position as the region's premier wholesale momos supplier in Delhi NCR and ready-made frozen momos manufacturer.

"This partnership represents a transformative moment for Momos Pro," said Sachin Panwar & Sunny Tomar, founder of Momos Pro. "Vietnamese expertise in urban fusion cuisine, combined with our manufacturing capabilities, creates unprecedented opportunities to scale across India and Southeast Asia." Proven Vietnamese Food Innovation Kafe Group , pioneered Vietnam's first urban fusion cafe chain before strategic restructuring. The company's experience scaling multiple food brands brings valuable operational expert-



ise. Despite home market challenges, Kafe Group's track record in securing \$5.5 million Series D funding from Xing Investments demonstrates its appeal to sophisticated Asian food sector investors. Massive Market Opportunity India's frozen food market, particularly wholesale momos suppliers, has experienced explosive growth driven by urbzation and demand for convenient Asian cuisine. Delhi NCR, encompassing Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad, represents the fastest-growing readymade frozen momos market with restaurants and food service operators seeking reliable suppliers.

Momos Pro's competitive advantages include FSSAI-certified manufacturing, automated production systems, and over 80 varieties of momos and spring rolls. Competitive pricing starting at Rs. 4.5 with free delivery has made it the preferred momos factory partner across the region.

Strategic Investment Deployment The \$1.2 million investment will be deployed across key areas: Production Scaling: Doubling manufacturing capacity to meet growing wholesale momos demand across Delhi NCR. Cold Chain Infrastructure: Expanding refrigerated storage and distribution for Wholesale Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad markets. Product Innovation: Leveraging Vietnamese culinary expertise to develop

fusion flavors while maintaining authentic taste profiles.

Market Penetration: Strengthening distribution networks in the competitive wholesale momos supplier in Delhi segment. India-Vietnam Economic Cooperation This investment aligns with strengthening India-Vietnam economic ties, with bilateral trade reaching \$15 billion in 2024. Vietnamese compes increasingly view India as strategic for expansion, particularly in food processing.

India's 100% foreign direct investment policy in food and beverage, combined with streamlined work permits, creates favorable conditions for international partnerships. The government's commitment to "speedy and easy" work permits directly benefits alliances like Kafe Group-Momos Pro.

UOB prices AUD2 billion in five-year senior unsecured notes

Sydney,Agency: UOB Sydney Branch has priced AUD2 billion in senior unsecured notes across five-year (5Y) fixed and five-year floating rate tranches. This comprised AUD1.25 billion five-year Fixed-Rate Note (FXD) and AUD750 million five-year Floating-Rate Note (FRN) tranches, which were priced on 21 January at the three-month Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) plus 0.72%.

Pricing: Relative Value versus Australian Major Banks and Regional Peers

- Priced 2 basis points (bps) inside of the most recent Australian Major Bank 5Y Senior (CBA: +74 bp vs UOB: +72 bp)
- Priced flat to an Australian major bank 5Y senior unsecured new issue in today's market, representing no new issue concession
- UOB leveraged one of the flattest 3-5yr tenor of 13 bps today vs. a peak of 28 bps in the post-Covid era
- Price the tightest 5Y A\$ bank senior unsecured transaction globally since UOB's own A\$ 5Y in November 2021



- Priced flat to 1 bp tighter vs. UOB US\$ 5Y Senior, which was also more impacted by headlines vs. the more defensive nature of the AUD bond market
- Investor Demand
- This transaction demonstrates our continued engagement with AUD investors.
- UOB has raised two AUD2 billion transactions across both 2025 and 2026, with a domestic investor allocation of approximately 55%
- UOB offered both floating and fixed rate tranches to maximise investor participation given strong investor demand for 5-year notes due to the higher spread and yield offered amidst the multi-year tight spread environment - This trade also cap-

tured robust fnd managers, corporations and official institutions demand, at 58% for the fixed rate tranche and 29% for the floating rate tranche. 58% for the fixed rate tranche is one of the highest real money participations in AUD bond offerings from non-domestic banks

- This strong investor interest resulted in UOB being able to print the largest non-domestic 5Y fixed rate tranche
- The transaction was announced on 20 January (Tuesday), and the strong combined orderbooks of >AUD3.38 bn overnight gave UOB the confidence to launch the transaction on 21 January (Wednesday) Ms Koh Chin Chin, Head of Group Treasury, Research and Customer Advocacy, UOB, said, "We are happy to have offered investors relative value through our choice in tenor whilst achieving our objectives in both size and pricing, and are very pleased to have seen the continued strong support from the investor community despite global markets sentiment softening this week."

Ad Total Gas reports double-digit volume growth in Q3 and 9M FY26

Ahmedabad ,Agency: Ad Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) reported a steady operational performance for the nine months and third quarter of 2025-26, supported by growth in gas volumes and continued expansion of its distribution network.

For the nine-month period, ATGL recorded a 14 percent year-on-year increase in gas volumes, while volumes during Q3 2025-26 rose 12 per cent compared to the corresponding quarter last year.

The growth seemed to have been driven by higher adoption of compressed natural gas (CNG) and piped natural gas (PNG).

During the period, the company expanded its CNG infrastructure, taking the total number of CNG stations to 680. The PNG household customer base also increased to 10.5 lakh homes.

On the financial front, ATGL reported EBITDA of Rs 314 crore for Q3 2025-26. EBITDA for the



nine-month period stood at Rs 919 crore. The Ad Group company also continued to scale its electric mobility initiatives. Installed electric vehicle (EV) charging points increased to 4,908 during the quarter, compared to 4,209 in the previous quarter. "Team ATGL has delivered yet another strong quarter with double-digit growth in volumes, revenue, and EBITDA. Despite continued lower availability of APM gas and higher Henry Hub-linked RLNG prices, our diversified sourcing strategy enabled us to manage the gas basket efficiently and ensure uninterrupted supplies of PNG and CNG to all our customers," said Suresh P. Mangl, CEO and ED, ATGL.

Maharashtra and CANEUS partners to establish world's first Mid-TRL innovation institute in Mumbai

Davos ,Agency: CANEUS International and the Government of Maharashtra announced their partnership at the World Economic Forum in Davos to establish the world's first dedicated Mid-Technology Readiness Level (TRL) Innovation Acceleration and Skilling Institute. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Milind Pimprikar, Chairman of CANEUS International.

According to a press release from CANEUS International, the facility will be located in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and will focus on frontier technologies, including aerospace, space, energy, and deep tech. The project aligns with the World Economic Forum's 2026 theme regarding the responsible deployment of innovation at scale. The institute aims to address Mid-TRL levels 4-6,



which represent the transition from laboratory research to qualification and early production. The facility will be situated within a purpose-built ecosystem in the MMR, spanning 10 million square feet to support global collaboration and industry partnerships. At the signing of the MoU, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, reaffirmed the State's strong commitment to the global investor community. He emphasised, "Maharashtra is well equipped and proud to partner with CANEUS International to pioneer the creation of innovation centres across dynamic sectors, frontier technologies, and aerospace.

Look forward to continuing our conversation at Summit: Google DeepMind CEO after meeting with Ashwini Vaishnaw in Davos

Davos ,Agency: Google DeepMind CEO and Co-founder Demis Hassabis confirmed his participation in the upcoming AI Impact Summit in New Delhi following a meeting with Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The summit, scheduled for February 2026, focuses on India's role in the global development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies.

The announcement followed a series of diplomatic engagements at Davos, where the Union IT Minister Vaishnaw met with global technology lead-



ers to discuss the sector's growth.

Google DeepMind CEO Hassabis shared details of the interaction on the social media platform X, noting the significance of the upcoming summit. The discussions centered on the strategic positioning of India within the international AI landscape and the technical potential of these systems to address global

challenges. "Great to meet you Minister @AshwiniVaishnaw. Really enjoyed our discussion on AI's incredible potential to benefit humty & India's important role in realising this - looking forward to continuing our conversation at the Summit!" Hassabis stated on X. The Google DeepMind executive's commitment to the February event aligns with

the government's efforts to centralize AI policy discussions in the capital.

Vaishnaw also met with OpenAI Chief Global Affairs Officer Chris Lehane during the forum. The Minister highlighted the necessity of collaborative frameworks in shaping technology for public benefit. He emphasized that the February summit serves as a platform for these international entities to engage directly with India's digital infrastructure. "Met Mr. Demis Hassabis, CEO & Co-founder, Google DeepMind and Mr. Chris Lehane, Chief Global Affairs Officer, OpenAI, at WEF, Davos. Discussed India's growing role in shaping AI for global good.

Kshk Aluminium India Limited IPO Opens on January 28, 2026

Mumbai ,Agency: Kshk Aluminium India Limited specialised manufacturer of aluminium extrusion profiles and premium aluminium door & window systems, proposes to open its Initial Public Offering on Jan 28, 2026, aiming to raise ₹ 29.20 Crores with shares to be listed on the BSE SME platform.

The issue size is 40,00,000 equity shares with a face value of ₹ 10 each with an IPO Price of ₹ 73 Per Share.

Equity Share Allocation

- Non-Institutional Investors - Up to 18,99,200 Equity Shares
- Individual Investors - Up to 19,00,800 Equity Shares
- Market Maker - 2,00,000 Equity Shares

The net proceeds from the IPO

will be utilized for Repayment / prepayment, in full or part, of certain borrowings, Branding and Promotion of Company brand, 'Baari by Kshk', and General Corporate Purpose. The issue will open on Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026 and will close on Friday, Jan 30, 2026.

The Lead Manager to the Issue is Sun Capital Advisory Services Private Limited, and the Registrar is KFIN Technologies Limited.

Mr. Parmanand Agarwal, Chairman & Managing Director of Kshk Aluminium India Limited, expressed, "Kshk Aluminium India Limited has focused on building a strong, integrated aluminium extrusion and systems platform with consistent quality and customer-centric



execution.

Our technologically advanced facility in Jodhpur and diversified product portfolio across construction, engineering, solar, and architectural applications have enabled us to establish a growing domestic footprint and serve select export markets.

The proposed IPO marks an

important milestone in our growth journey.

The net proceeds will be primarily utilized towards strengthening our balance sheet through repayment and pre-payment of borrowings, which will improve financial flexibility and reduce interest costs. Additionally, focused investments in branding and promotion of our pre-

mium aluminium systems brand, 'Baari by Kshk', will enhance market visibility, deepen brand recall, and support penetration in higher-value architectural segments." Mr. Ajesh Dalal, Managing Partner and Head - Marchant Banking of Sun Capital Advisory Services Private Limited said, "Kshk Aluminium India Limited operates in a structurally growing aluminium extrusion and building solutions industry, supported by increasing urbsation, infrastructure development, and preference for sustainable materials. With its integrated manufacturing capabilities, diversified end-use exposure, and the 'Baari by Kshk' brand, a B2C initiative, the company is well positioned to participate in industry growth.

Rinku is a brilliant finisher, he should be given consistent opportunities: Simon Doull

Agency, Auckland

Former New Zealand fast bowler Simon Doull has heaped praise on cricketer Rinku Singh, saying that he is a brilliant finisher but has received very few opportunities in the Indian team so far. Simon said that Rinku has proved himself whenever he has been given a chance. In the first T20 against New Zealand, Rinku scored an unbeaten 44 runs off just 20 balls, hitting four fours and three sixes. Seeing this, Simon said that considering Rinku’s ability and consistency, he should have played many more matches by now. He also said that now that everyone has seen his talent, he should be given a regular place in the team. Simon has included Rinku among the best finishers of the present time. He said that Rinku had shown his talent in the IPL four or five years ago. His ability to hit big shots in the final overs and his calm demeanor under pressure makes him special. Doull believes that India



has not yet fully utilized Rinku’s potential. Since making his T20 debut in 2023, Rinku has played only 36 international T20 matches, although he has proved his worth by playing match-winning innings on several

occasions. He has been included in the Indian team for the T20 World Cup 2026, which proves that the management has faith in his finishing abilities. Therefore, he can perform even better in the future.

Adam Milne ruled out of T20 World Cup 2026, Kyle Jamieson gets the opportunity

Agency, Wellington

The New Zealand team has suffered a major setback ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026. Fast bowler Adam Milne has been ruled out of the tournament due to a serious hamstring injury in his left leg. Kyle Jamieson has been included in New Zealand’s World Cup squad as his replacement. According to a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket on Friday, Milne sustained the injury while bowling during the SA20 league last weekend. Scans confirmed a tear in his left hamstring, after which the decision was made to rule him out of the tournament. Kyle Jamieson



was initially selected as a traveling reserve for the T20 World Cup, which will be held in India and Sri Lanka in February-March. He is currently part of the New Zealand white-ball team on their tour of India. Following Milne’s withdrawal, Jamieson has been promoted directly to the main World Cup squad. New Zealand head coach Rob Walter expressed his

disappointment at Milne’s exclusion. He said, “We are all incredibly disappointed for Adam. He had worked very hard to prepare himself for this tournament and was looking in excellent form in the eight matches he played for the Eastern Cape Sunrisers.” Walter further added, “This is unfortunate timing for Adam and we wish him a speedy recovery.”

Australian Open: Alcaraz defeats Moutet in straight sets to reach pre-quarterfinals

Agency, Melbourne

Spanish young tennis star Carlos Alcaraz continued his impressive run at the Australian Open, defeating France’s Corentin Moutet in straight sets on Friday to advance to the Round of 16. In his 100th Grand Slam match, Alcaraz won 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. The match lasted two hours and five minutes. The 22-year-old six-time Grand Slam champion looked completely dominant on Rod Laver Arena. With this victory, he will face 19th-seeded Tommy Paul of the United States for a place in the quarterfinals. Alcaraz has not yet progressed beyond the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, and it is the only Grand Slam title missing



from his collection. If he wins the title here, he will become the youngest male player to win all four Grand Slams. After the match, Alcaraz said, “It’s not easy to play against a player like Corentin because you don’t know what the next shot will be. But I enjoyed myself a lot on the court.” This was Alcaraz’s 100th Grand Slam match, and his record now stands at 87 wins and 13 losses, matching the record of tennis legend Bjorn Borg.

Hobart Hurricanes suffer major blow, Nathan Ellis ruled out of remaining BBL matches

Agency, Sydney

The Hobart Hurricanes have suffered a major blow ahead of the final stages of the Big Bash League (BBL) 2025-26. Team captain and star fast bowler Nathan Ellis has been ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to a hamstring injury. This means he will miss the Challenger match against the Sydney Sixers. Ellis had also missed the rain-affected match against the Melbourne Stars. However, he had travelled to Sydney for the Challenger match and was included in the Hurricanes’ 14-man squad. It was hoped he would return for the crucial match, but he was ruled out just hours before the start of the game at the SCG. Batsman Charlie Wakim has



been added to the squad in his place. The Hobart Hurricanes said in a statement released on Friday, “The club confirms that captain Nathan Ellis will miss the remainder of the BBL season and BBL | 15 Finals due to a hamstring strain. Ellis, who also missed Wednesday night’s Knockout match, was hoping to return for the final two matches of the Finals series, but unfortunately, he has not recovered from the injury.” In Ellis’s absence, Ben McDermott will continue

to captain the team. He also captained the side against the Melbourne Stars. Fast bowler Billy Stanlake is likely to retain his place in the playing XI. The Hurricanes management is also monitoring the fitness of Chris Jordan. Jordan participated in the Knockout match only as a batsman due to an ankle injury and inclement weather in Hobart. Notably, Nathan Ellis is also part of Australia’s T20 World Cup squad.

Brief

Wrestler Ravi Dahiya sets his sights on the Los Angeles Olympics

New Delhi: Olympic medalist wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya has said that his goal is to win a gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, and he is preparing for it. Ravi, who won a silver medal in the 57 kg freestyle category at the Tokyo Olympics, failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics in 2024. Therefore, he is now changing his weight category and preparing for the Los Angeles Olympics. Ravi may now compete in the 65 kg weight category instead of 57 kg. The country has high hopes for him to win a gold medal in the next Olympics. The wrestler says that he cannot be content with just a silver medal. His goal is to win gold. Ravi gained recognition at the 2018 Under-23 World Championships, where he won a silver medal in the 57 kg weight category. In 2019, he secured his place in the Tokyo Olympics by winning a bronze medal at the World Wrestling Championships. Ravi is also a winner at the Asian Championships, having won gold medals in 2018, 2020, and 2021. After the Tokyo Olympics, Dahiya also won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2022. While his father, Rakesh Dahiya, is a farmer, his uncle, Mukesh Dahiya, has been involved in wrestling.

Australian Open: Sabalenka defeats Potapova in a tough match to reach the pre-quarterfinals

Agency, Melbourne

World number one Aryna Sabalenka has overcome her first major challenge at the Australian Open, advancing to the round of 16. In the third-round match played on Friday, Sabalenka defeated Anastasia Potapova in straight sets, 7-6(4), 7-6(7). In the match held at Rod Laver Arena, Potapova played excellent tennis and gave Sabalenka a tough fight. Potapova, who recently changed her citizenship from Russia to Austria, represented the Central European country brilliantly in the opening match. In the second set, Sabalenka was trailing 0-4, but then Potapova broke serve three times to take a 6-5 lead, bringing the match to a thrilling point. However, in the decisive tiebreak, Potapova could not capitalize on four set points, which ultimately cost her the match. Sabalenka showed composure at crucial moments and created a match point with a drive volley. Finally, with Potapova’s backhand going into the net, the match went to Sabalenka. After the match, Sabalenka said, “She played incredible tennis. I was under constant pressure, and honestly, there are days when you just have to hang



in there and fight. Emotionally, I was quite confused, my mind was somewhere else, my hands were going somewhere else. But somehow, magically, I managed to win this match.” The four-time Grand Slam champion Sabalenka has reached the fourth round at Melbourne Park for the sixth consecutive time. She won consecutive titles here in 2023 and 2024. In the pre-quarterfinals, Sabalenka will face Canada’s 17th seed Victoria Mboko, who made her Australian Open main draw debut and reached the last 16 by defeating Clara Tauson.

Men’s Hero HIL Eliminator Preview: Hyderabad Hurricanes and HIL GC to battle for a playoff spot

Agency, Bhubaneswar

The knockout stage of the Men’s Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26 is at its peak. Today, Hyderabad Hurricanes and HIL GC will face each other in the Eliminator match. The match, to be played at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium from 5:00 PM, will see the losing team eliminated from the tournament, while the winner will advance to Qualifier-2. In the league stage, both Hyderabad Hurricanes and HIL GC earned 11 points each. Hyderabad Hurricanes finished third due to a better goal difference (+6), while HIL GC finished fourth with a goal difference of +3. The winner of this match will face the loser of the Qualifier-1 match between Vedanta Kalinga Lancers and Ranchi Royals for a place in the final. Hyderabad Hurricanes: Strong defense and reliance on penalty corners - Hyderabad Hurricanes had a balanced performance in the league



stage. The team registered three wins, lost two matches in regulation time, and lost two matches in shootouts. The team scored 17 goals in the tournament, while conceding only 11, the second lowest in the league. Penalty corners have been Hyderabad’s biggest strength. Amandeep Lakra is the team’s top scorer with six goals, all of which came from penalty corners. The team’s penalty corner conversion rate is 23.8%, the third best in the tournament. HIL GC: A ggressive play and sharp set-pieces - HIL GC also secured three wins in the league stage, but the team is known for its aggressive

style of play. HIL GC has scored 21 goals so far, the second highest in the league. Ken Russell has been HIL GC’s most lethal player. He has scored 13 goals, all of which have come from penalty corners. With a penalty corner conversion rate of 36.8%, HIL GC is at the top of the tournament in this aspect. Before the match, captain Hardik Singh said, “We have played positive hockey throughout the tournament. In matches like the eliminator, composure and making the right decisions are very important. We have full confidence in our attack and penalty corners, and we will play fearlessly.” Head-to-Head and Rising Excitement - The two teams faced each other once in the league stage, with Hyderabad Hurricanes defeating HIL GC 3-2. That match was incredibly exciting, and this has further increased the anticipation for the eliminator match. Everything at Stake - Winning is crucial for both teams in the eliminator match.

David Warner signs new one-year deal with Sydney Thunder

Agency, Sydney

Australian batting legend David Warner will be seen playing in the Big Bash League (BBL) for at least one more season. Warner has signed a new one-year contract with Sydney Thunder after a stellar performance in the 2025-26 season. Although Sydney Thunder had a disappointing season, finishing at the bottom of the points table—for the second time in three seasons, after being runners-up the season before—Warner’s individual performance was outstanding. He scored 433 runs at an average of 86.60 and a strike rate of 154.09, including two centuries. His last four innings included scores of 130 not out, 67



not out, 82, and 110 not out. Matthew Gilkes was the Thunder’s second-highest run-scorer after Warner, with 232 runs, but his average was only 23.20. Sam Billings was the only other batsman to score more than 200 runs. With the new contract, Warner, who is the fourth-highest run-scorer in the history of T20 cricket, will be seen playing in the BBL even after

turning 40. After signing the contract, Warner said, “It was certainly a challenging year for us. We are a much better team than what we showed on the field this season and we couldn’t perform consistently. But the support of our fans, who turned up in large numbers for every match, was crucial in my decision. I feel I still have a lot to offer to this team and this game.

I was quite comfortable with my performance and proud of keeping the team in contention. We have started reviewing the season and are making the right plans for a strong comeback in BBL 16.” Sydney Thunder General Manager Trent Copeland said that retaining Warner was an easy decision. He said, “We are thrilled that David Warner will be staying with us for another season. He had a fantastic year. He has been one of the world’s best T20 players for the past 15 years and remains one of the BBL’s top batsmen. His fitness is excellent, and his hunger and leadership qualities to drive the team forward after a disappointing season are as strong as ever.”

Tilak Varma expected to be fit for T20 World Cup

Agency, New Delhi

Tilak Varma, who has been out of the Indian team since undergoing surgery, is expected to be fit before the T20 World Cup. Tilak is currently undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. Tilak has expressed hope for a speedy return by posting some pictures and videos on social media. A video of Tilak exercising has also surfaced. In it, he wrote, “Leaving no stone unturned, comeback soon.” Tilak is an excellent T20 batsman. In the Asia Cup final, this batsman played a tremendous innings to lead the Indian team to victory. His aggressive batting also benefited the Indian team in the home series against South Africa last year. Tilak scored the most runs in the series, 187, including two half-centuries. Tilak also played two matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy to prepare for the series against New Zealand, scoring 109 and 34 runs. During this time, he experienced abdominal pain, which required surgery. Because of this, he was ruled out of the first three matches of the five-match



T20 series against New Zealand. The left-handed batsman Tilak is a reliable batsman for India at number three. His presence in the World Cup will benefit the Indian team. He bats exceptionally well under pressure. Tilak has so far scored 1,183 runs in 37 innings of 40 matches at an average of 49.29. His strike rate during this period is 144.09. He has two centuries and six half-centuries in T20 Internationals. While batting at number three, he has scored 542 runs in 15 innings at an average of 60.22 and a strike rate of 160.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali to Showcase Indian Cinema Tableau at Republic Day Parade, IFTDA Expresses Gratitude to PM



Every year on Republic Day, the tableaux that roll out on Kartavya Path showcase the country's diversity, history and creative strength. This year, the honor being given to Indian cinema on Republic Day is especially in discussion. Regarding the presentation of a tableau based on Indian cinema by renowned film director and producer Sanjay Leela Bhansali, a major film industry body has now written a letter expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a letter sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian Film and Television Directors' Association (IFTDA) said that the Indian film industry feels proud that a prestigious director like Sanjay Leela Bhansali has been given the opportunity to represent Indian cinema at the Republic Day parade.



Neelam Giri Gets The 50's Golden Ticket, Bhojpuri Queen Enters the Lion's Palace

Famous Bhojpuri cinema actress Neelam Giri, after Bigg Boss 19, is now set to enter the reality show The 50. She herself shared this information through social media. The actress shared a video on Instagram in which she confirmed, saying, "Here is my Golden Ticket of The 50 and I have received the invitation to enter the Lion's Palace. Now I am going shopping. You can watch The 50 from February 1 on JioHotstar and Colors."

Along with the video, the actress wrote, "After Bigg Boss 19, it is a matter of great happiness for me to once again associate with JioHotstar and Colors, but this time with a completely new reality show, The 50." She further wrote, "My journey in the Bigg Boss house was very wonderful. The audience gave me a lot of love, especially for moments like 'going straight, taking a left and making tea."

Vasant Panchami 2026

Vasant Panchami is a festival that welcomes the spring season and brings a flow of new energy, conveying a message of enthusiasm, hope and creativity in life. On this day, the color yellow is considered a symbol of knowledge, prosperity and positive thinking. While actresses reflect the softness of spring in yellow outfits, Bollywood male stars also present a beautiful blend of desi and modern style in yellow attire. So let us take a look at the style statements of these actors, who enhance the joy and confidence of Vasant Panchami with their yellow looks.

Ranveer Singh: Ranveer Singh's yellow look appears bold and energetic as always. His experimental style reflects the fun and openness of spring.

Kartik Aaryan: Seen in a yellow kurta, Kartik Aaryan has

Bollywood Actors' Desi-Style Statement in Yellow Outfits



adopted a minimal and elegant style in yellow, which stands as an example of beauty in simplicity.

Shahid Kapoor: Shahid Kapoor has adopted a classy and

balanced style in yellow. His soft yet strong look has become a symbol of calmness and confidence.

Siddhant Chaturvedi: Siddhant Chaturvedi's yellow

avatar is full of young energy and modern vibes. His look reflects the confidence and change-oriented thinking of the new generation.

Vicky Kaushal: Vicky Kaushal's yellow outfit is a beautiful blend of simplicity and desi charm. His style gives a glimpse of hard work, positivity and being grounded.

Ranbir Kapoor: Ranbir Kapoor's simple and classy style in yellow further enhances his natural charm. This look shows that grace can be brought into festive style even without too much fuss.

Sidharth Malhotra: Sidharth Malhotra has adopted a minimal and elegant style in yellow. His composed look symbolizes confidence and calmness, which perfectly matches the gentle spirit of Vasant Panchami.

Aamir Khan Had Decided to Dub Rani Mukerji's Voice in Ghulam

On Completing 30 Years of Her Career, the Actress Shared an Anecdote

Bollywood's "Mardaani" Rani Mukerji has completed 30 years in her career. She entered Bollywood in 1997 with Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat and over the past 30 years has carved a distinct identity for herself. However, in the early phase of her career, she faced several rejections because of her heavy and husky voice. Now, on the occasion of completing 30 years in her career, she has shared many untold stories related to her professional and personal life in a conversation with filmmaker Karan Johar.

Rani Mukerji thanked filmmaker Karan Johar for trusting her heavy voice, which many filmmakers had rejected in the initial phase of her career. She said in the conversation that it was Karan Johar who helped her retain her own voice in future films and gave her the courage to make her natural voice her strength.

Recalling old memories, Rani shared an incident from the film Ghulam. She explained how the decision was taken to dub her voice in the film. Rani said, "As a new artist, you did not have many options. Doing a film with Aamir Khan at that time was a very big deal, because he was already one of the biggest superstars. So I could not say much about the decision to dub my voice, but it was a painful decision for me." She revealed that she later learned from director Vikram Bhatt that the decision to dub her voice in Ghulam was taken jointly by Vikram Bhatt, producer Mukesh Bhatt and Aamir Khan. Later, Aamir Khan also explained the reason behind the decision and said that sometimes, for the betterment of a film, actors have to make certain sacrifices. Giving the example of superstar Sridevi, Aamir said that even her voice was dubbed in several of her films, but it did not affect her stardom or career.



Bollywood Beauties Drenched in the Colors of Spring Dazzling in Yellow Attire

On the occasion of Vasant Panchami, the color yellow is considered the most special, as it signifies energy, happiness and prosperity. Many beautiful Bollywood actresses are being seen in yellow outfits on this occasion, spreading a wonderful message of fashion and positivity. Their looks are adding extra charm to the freshness and enthusiasm of spring.

Deepika Padukone: The actress is presenting a beautiful blend of royal grace and confidence in a yellow outfit on this day. Her look has become a symbol of strength, peace and balance, which perfectly matches the spirit of Vasant Panchami.

Kriti Sanon: The



actress's yellow avatar looks full of freshness and young energy, reflecting the enthusiasm of spring and the feeling of new beginnings.

Alia Bhatt: Actress Alia Bhatt, wife of actor Ranbir

Kapoor, has a very simple yet elegant look. It beautifully reflects the softness of Vasant Panchami. Her natural smile and soft styling remind one of the gentle beauty of spring.

Kriti Kharbanda:

Kriti has adopted a playful and positive style in yellow. Her look shows that spring is not just a season, but also a celebration of inner joy.

Mrunal Thakur: In yellow, Mrunal Thakur's traditional-modern touch looks very soft and classy. Her look presents a beautiful blend of modern culture and Indian tradition with elegance.

Kiara Advani: On this special occasion, the actress has won hearts with grace and simplicity in a yellow outfit. Her look is a fine example of the gentleness and positive energy of spring.

Nushratt Bharuccha: The actress looks vibrant and full of life in her yellow look. Her styling reflects the happiness and colorful feel of spring.

Rani learned sign language for the film Black, shared her experience of working with Amitabh Bachchan

Bollywood star Rani Mukerji has completed 30 years in her career. During this time, she has worked with many big stars. The actress also worked with Amitabh Bachchan in the film Black, which she considers one of the finest works of her career. Rani described it as an important turning point and said that the experience was like the best acting class, from which she got a chance to learn a great deal.

On completing 30 years in her career, Rani Mukerji shared her successful and unsuccessful experiences in Hindi cinema with Karan Johar. She said that sharing the screen with Amitabh Bachchan in Black was extremely inspiring. She added, "For any actor, working with Amitabh Bachchan is a career-defining moment. Watching him perform every day on set as Debraj Sahai in Black was like attending an acting class, where a master of the art is teaching you everything." Talking about her much-awaited film Black, Rani said that it is one of the most spiritual and magical films of her life. Recalling an emotional moment from the film, she said that when she and Amitabh Bachchan watched the final cut together, "we both hugged each other and broke down in tears, because we were completely immersed in our respective characters."

