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# PM Modi Gifts Russian Edition Of Bhagavad Gita To Putin

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted President Vladimir Putin with a Russian translation of the Bhagavad Gita during the Russian leader's two-day visit to India, underlining the cultural side of the India-Russia partnership as both governments discuss defence, trade, technology and wider geopolitical coordination in New Delhi till December 5.

Sharing a photo of the exchange on X, PM Modi calls the Hindu scripture a global guide. "Presented a copy of the Gita in Russian to President Putin. The teachings of the Gita give inspiration to millions across the world," PM Modi said. The gift signals shared interest in spiritual

and cultural links alongside strategic talks.

Putin arrives in India on December 4, marking the first visit in four years, and remains in New Delhi till December 5. During the trip, Putin and PM Modi are set to hold the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, where cooperation agendas across defence, economics and science feature prominently.

Both leaders travel together from Palam airport to the Prime Minister's residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, sharing a car ride that showcases the personal rapport between the two. Welcomed my friend, President Putin to 7, Lok Kalyan Marg.

India-Russia partnership messages and public

signals

PM Modi posts several messages on X, stressing continuity in India-Russia ties. One post reads, "Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a time tested one that has greatly benefitted our people."

The same post is repeated in full within the thread, together with a video and tag to the Kremlin account, underscoring the public nature of the outreach. Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow.

India-Russia friendship is a time tested one that has greatly benefitted our people. Delighted to welcome

ple.

Another post carries the image of the Bhagavad Gita being handed to Putin,

had occasion to serve twice in Moscow. I served at the time of the Soviet Union and then in the 1990s in the Russian Federation after dissolution of the Soviet Union. And I could sense that there is a historical

nature to the partnership," he said.

Arun Singh notes that New Delhi remembers the diplomatic backing it has received. "There is a confidence in the relationship on both sides. In India, there is

a memory of Russia being an important partner which has provided political support that we've needed from time to time, including at the UN Security Council," he added.



## Pancha Pranas are 'Eternal Mantras' for nation-building: Yogi

**He emphasized that India can achieve this goal only by fully embracing the five pledges.**

(Gns).

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted the vision of Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat and described the Pancha Prana, the five pledges articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as "eternal mantras" for national progress.

independence in 2047, we envision Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat, where every citizen lives with harmony, dignity, and responsibility. A nation free from caste, linguistic and regional divides, where no individual faces deprivation or disaster, and where every citizen contributes meaningfully to

India's emergence as a global superpower."

He emphasized that India can achieve this goal only by fully embracing the five pledges.

The Chief Minister, at a function here on Thursday, described the Pancha Pranas as eternal mantras and said they apply equally to every citizen.



## Centre halts MGNREGS funds to West Bengal over 'fake job cards' and misuse: FM Sitharaman defends move

(Gns). Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday strongly defended the Centre's decision to suspend funding for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal, citing widespread non-compliance with central directives and serious allegations of fund misuse.

During a discussion on the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman revealed a critical breach: she claimed the West Bengal government had issued 25 lakh fake MGNREGA job cards, resulting in the siphoning off of "crores of government money."

The Centre's decision to freeze funds was initially prompted by noted irregularities, including the awarding of contracts on a nomination basis and a general lack of transparen-

cy in the scheme's implementation.

Sitharaman stressed the Centre's commitment to ensuring transparency and

The move has intensified the ongoing political tussle between the Centre and the state. Trinamool Congress (TMC) members,

ment has not paid Rs 2 lakh crore dues which are for the people of West Bengal... We are protesting to demand that the pending amount should be paid."

The Finance Minister countered the allegations by pointing to a key development: the West Bengal State's own Action Taken Report (dated 11th July 2025). This report, she said, acknowledged the completion of recoveries totaling Rs 4.81 crore identified by the Central Teams in four districts, along with the status of disciplinary action initiated.

Sitharaman asserted that this report "in itself is an admission of misuse of NREGA funds." She concluded with a sharp retort to the TMC's claims of neglect, stating, "West Bengal has never been ignored by this government... In fact, it is the government of Trinamool Congress which is hurting the growth of West Bengal."ku



curbing corruption within MGNREGA. She highlighted that the Ministry of Rural Development had sent repeated communications to the state, based on inspection reports from central teams, demanding rectification of implementation issues.

However, she noted that "no noticeable improvements were observed in the State."

including Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, raised vehement objections in the Upper House.

They accused the Centre of withholding essential funds, thereby deepening the distress for lakhs of rural households who depend on the scheme.

TMC members claimed the BJP government has withheld substantial dues, stating, "The BJP govern-

## Indian Navy bulwarking nation from threats, shielding growth via maritime routes: Shah

(Gns).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday lauded the Indian Navy, stating that it is the citadel of country's pride that stands on the ocean bulwarking the nation from every threat with invincible valour.

Extending his greetings to the nation's maritime force on the occasion of the Navy Day, he said that it is shielding the country's growth through maritime routes.

Shah, taking to social media platform X, also wrote for the Indian Navy that, "The golden saga of patriotism they have scripted with ultimate sacrifice will inspire generations of

warriors."

Remembering the maritime force's personnel who

address at the IMW this year had said that the country serves as a vital

Meanwhile, country's maritime force is further stepping up its capabilities, with India's third indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine INS Aridhaman now in the final stages of its trials, and the Indian Navy is poised to commission the strategic platform shortly, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi had said on Tuesday.

Last month, the navy commissioned the first of the home designed and built submarine hunter shallow water craft INS Mahe, stepping up country's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.



## TMC doesn't practise communal politics: Mamata on party MLA's suspension

**Addressing a rally in minority-dominated Murshidabad, she said, "TMC does not practice communal politics. People of Murshidabad will not accept politics of riots."**

(Gns).

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asserted that the Trinamool Congress does not practice communal politics following the suspension of the party's Bharatpur MLA Humayun Kabir over his Babri Masjid construction remarks.

Addressing a rally in minority-dominated Murshidabad, she said, "TMC does not practice communal politics. People of Murshidabad will not accept politics of riots."

Her remarks came hours after the TMC suspended Kabir, its own MLA from the Bharatapur Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district. Kabir

the structure in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, which was demolished in December 1992.

TMC leader Firhad Hakim said by announcing the construction of the Babri Mosque, the legislator had actually tried to reignite the bitter memories of the original Babri Mosque in 1992. "We feel that the BJP has some role to play in his recent activities."

We also feel that the BJP is trying to ignite divisive politics by keeping Kabir in the forefront," he claimed.

Won't allow NRC in Bengal: Mamata

The Bengal CM assured minority communities that she will not allow the National Register for Citizens (NRC) or detention camps in the state.

"I will not allow NRC or detention camps in Bengal even if they slit my throat. No one will be driven out," she declared.

Attacking the ruling BJP over the deaths of BLOs under the alleged pressure of SIR (special intensive revision) exercise, Banerjee said, "More than half of those who died in SIR-related incidents are Hindus... do not cut the very branch you are sitting on."



## Omar Abdullah congratulates 711 Agniveers at JAK LI passing out parade in Srinagar

(Gns).

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday attended the Passing Out parade of Agniveer Batch-06 at the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) Regimental Centre, Srinagar, where he congratulated the young soldiers for successfully completing their 31-week rigorous training. As many as 711 recruits were inducted into the JAK LI.

He wished them a distinguished and honourable

career in the service of the nation.

Addressing the Agniveers and recruits on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "On this auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the Agniveers and recruits as you are going to become members of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment after passing the

tough test and rigorous training of 31 weeks. You

Army recruits would forever inscribe their names in the proud history of the Regiment. "You will make the name and legacy of this great Regiment proud," he added.

Expressing confidence in their capabilities, the Chief Minister said, "I not only hope but am confident that you will continue to excel beyond your abilities. You are the future of the country's Army, and you will have a huge responsibility on your shoulders."



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गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये



# Editorial

## Tropical Tempest

Chennai, Dark clouds loom over Kasimedu Fishing Harbour as strong waves crash along the coast with the remnant of Cyclonic Storm Ditwah nearing the Tamil Nadu shoreline on Sunday (Photo: IANS)

The deadly floods sweeping through Indonesia since last week mark a sobering moment for a region long accustomed to the monsoon's moods but rarely prepared for nature's most erratic turns. With more than five hundred people confirmed dead, another five hundred missing, and entire communities in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra cut off from the world, the scale of the tragedy is staggering. Yet what stands out most is not only the destruction itself, but the disturbing pattern emerging across South and Southeast Asia.

Indonesia's disaster was triggered by an exceptionally rare cyclone forming over the Malacca Strait – a place where tropical storms almost never develop because of its proximity to the equator. That anomaly alone should prompt governments across the region to reassess their assumptions about climate behaviour. When a storm forms where it should not, moves slowly enough to empty its reservoirs over land, and meets an already vigorous northeast monsoon, the outcome is devastation on a scale Indonesian officials are still struggling to comprehend. The images coming from Aceh and North Sumatra capture a society pushed to the brink: people waiting days for food, bridges swallowed by mud, and families trekking kilometres just to find a mobile signal. The tragedy of parents hoping their missing children might be found alive speaks more powerfully than any statistic. But numbers nonetheless underline the breadth of the disaster – 1.4 million people affected and vast stretches of terrain still inaccessible.

This crisis does not stand alone. In Sri Lanka, over three hundred and fifty people have died in floods and mudslides after the cyclonic storm Ditwah stalled over the island, dumping half a metre of rain in just a few days. Thailand, too, has recorded at least 176 deaths after another rare system intensified monsoon rains along the peninsula. Taken together, more than eleven hundred people have been killed in the span of a week across these three countries. These events are geographically scattered yet meteorologically connected – symptoms of a monsoon being distorted by overlapping tropical systems. No single storm can be blamed on climate change, but the physics is clear: warmer oceans supercharge the rainfall carried by cyclones and monsoons.

The storms may not be more frequent, but when they arrive, they carry catastrophe. The rare emergence of cyclones near the equator should, therefore, be treated not as an anomaly but as a warning. For countries in South Asia, including India, the lesson is unmistakable. Early-warning systems, food reserves, and emergency access routes must be strengthened not for hypothetical threats but for fast-changing realities. Indonesia's suffering is a reminder that climate risk has already drawn its own map – and governments must urgently redraw theirs to match it.

## "Zero to Hero": Amitabh Bachchan praises Shefali Verma's journey after her zero-run debut

Mumbai: In the upcoming episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati, India's youngest cricket sensation, Shefali Verma, opened up about her early struggles and the unusual start to her sporting journey. During a conversation with show host Amitabh Bachchan, she revealed that her debut match began with a zero-run innings—a moment she still remembers fondly. Talking about her early days, Shefali said, "Our financial situation wasn't good, and my father would initially take my brother to cricket coaching. I would go along, teasing him from behind, saying all these drills were so easy. One day, my father told me to try it myself, and I played the first two balls well, which impressed him. There wasn't a women's cricket academy near our house, so I started playing with the boys. Once, before a tour-



nament, my brother fell ill, so I wore his T-shirt with his name 'Sahil' written on it, and played in his place...

and I became the Player of the Tournament. That was the turning point in my life." When Amitabh Bachchan

asked how many runs Shefali scored in her debut match for India, she shyly explained that her first innings had started on zero, and she felt a little embarrassed at the time. Amitabh Bachchan immediately consoled her, saying, "Don't be embarrassed... the one who scores zero later becomes a hero." Her story on KBC paints a true picture of India's emerging athletes – their passion, limited resources, and the courage to overcome systemic challenges. This episode is a reminder of how Shafali Verma turned initial obstacles into opportunities and played a key role in taking Indian women's cricket to new heights globally. Don't miss this passionate journey of Shafali – coming soon in a special episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati, only on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV.

## Prospects for Peace

It is no coincidence that a tsunami of pro-Ukrainian propaganda, including an op-ed by leading European pro-NATO ambassadors who advocate pursuing the war until the last Ukrainian, has hit our mainstream media just prior to Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India. For these Europeans evidently, security and sovereignty are paramount for all countries other than Russia; they raise no objection to the exercise of the Monroe doctrine when it comes to the USA.

Meanwhile, the Ukraine corruption investigation is proceeding in a manner which suggests a campaign aimed at political outcomes representing a scandal that is a blow to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy who is emerging as a lame duck because he

cannot reject Washington's mediation since it drastically limits his scope for defiance. The prospect for a US President Trump-inspired peace is more realistic now because a scapegoat has emerged for Ukraine's looming defeat, namely Zelenskyy himself. Significantly, the negotiation process for peace has been taking place energetically for weeks between the Europeans led by UK, France and Germany, with the US, rather than with Russia, while Moscow repeats that it has not yet been shown any plan.

The talks initiated by Trump earlier this year did not progress because nobody wished to be responsible for an outcome that contrasted with the expectations Western war zealots had promoted, namely, that Russia could

be coerced into accepting Western diktats. That presumption underpinned Western policy throughout the conflict, and was why Kyiv refused an end to the war in April 2022 on terms that it can only dream about today. Ukraine would have retained its formal sovereignty over the Donbas region, only a part of which would have achieved Russian-influenced autonomy and Ukraine would have lost the Crimean Peninsula, which in any case Russia occupied and annexed in 2014. The opportunity in 2022 having been rejected, NATO members supplied Ukraine military support and funding along with nineteen packages of economic sanctions against Moscow but have failed to stop the advances by the Russian army, which has

grown stronger and more technologically advanced than it was at the start of the conflict. Meanwhile, Ukraine's population has



dropped from 50 million at independence to about 31 million in territory controlled by Kyiv as of early 2025. The Kiev government has failed to motivate or mobilise the country; in fact, the opposite. Ukraine is struggling with draft dodging, territorial and human

losses; 255,000 cases of unauthorised absence and more than 56,000 for desertion since 2022. In the first 10 months of 2025

alone, 162,500 AWOL cases and 21,600 desertion cases have been registered. Desertion from the army last October was the highest monthly figure so far.

Ukraine could run out of Western funding by April 2026, and its close allies

Poland and Germany have indicated they are unwilling to keep subsidising the large numbers of Ukrainian refugees they are currently hosting. NATO decided to support Ukraine with weapons and training while avoiding steps that could trigger any direct NATO-Russia war, which remains its position, and Ukraine is effectively fighting Russia alone even as the Kremlin demands major territorial concessions and withdrawal of Ukrainian forces. Without this and other pre-conditions, Russia says it will not halt its advance. Ukraine, for its part, maintains that it will not surrender territory. This year, Ukraine abandoned its entirely unrealistic demands for a full Russian withdrawal and reparations in favour of a comprehensive ceasefire along the

current front lines though this still reflects the absence of any plan that could improve Ukraine's negotiating position.

Trump has no leverage here; he can threaten weaker states, but he exercises no influence over Putin. Presently the Ukrainian army is under-supplied. USA has all but halted arms deliveries to Ukraine; military assistance has dwindled to a trickle, consisting mostly of supplies approved by USA under Joe Biden and Europe has not filled the gap. The European Union's defence industry and joint-procurement schemes have produced promises but few results and while a few billion euros have been formally committed, far less has been delivered. Member states prefer to rearm themselves first and

Ukraine later, although their own programmes are moving slowly.

The EU is divided between governments willing to take greater risks to support Kyiv and others that fear provoking Russia or depleting their own budgets. Brussels is now pushing for a plan to use frozen Russian assets to back a loan of up to \$162bn for Ukraine, which could support Kyiv's budget and defence spending over the next two years. Ukraine will continue launching precision drone strikes on Russian oil infrastructure in the hope of grinding down the Kremlin's economy and waiting for Putin to concede, but this is an illusion. A radical change in approach is needed immediately, before Ukraine's strategic options narrow further.

## Riding the waves of valour and compassion

The Blue Economy now drives national thinking—not merely as an abstract concept but as a framework connecting defence, trade, environment, fisheries,



energy, tourism, and maritime diplomacy. With India's 7,500-km coastline and its central position in the Indian Ocean, the Navy becomes both guardian and enabler of ocean-based growth. The Indian Navy's area of influence has expanded dramatically. Its operational reach now covers the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to the west; the Strait of Malacca, Singapore, and the Indonesian archipelago to the east; and stretches down to the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. To the southeast, it keeps a vigilant eye near Australia's western coast, extending cooperation, joint exercises, and maritime support.

These are not just geographical markers—they are signs of trust earned from friendly nations and deterrence projected to adversaries. Yet, maritime capability does not function in isolation. A strong navy must be complemented by equally strong air and land forces. Here lies an uncomfortable truth: while the Navy has surged ahead,

the Indian Air Force faces a worrying decline in its fighter squadron strength. In 2010, the IAF had 37 fighter squadrons. According to the 2025 edition of the

Military Balance, that number has fallen to 29, far below the sanctioned strength of 42. It is difficult to speak of air dominance with shrinking squadrons. The recent crash of a Tejas jet at the Dubai Air Show, though likely a temporary setback, raised questions about indigenous aerospace reliability at a time when India urgently needs robust, modern aircraft.

The contrast between the Navy's rise and the Air Force's struggle is a reminder that national defence is only as strong as its weakest link. The Indian Navy too has challenges, even as it stands tall. One of the most persistent issues is India's dependence on foreign engines and propulsion systems. A warship may be designed in India, built in India, and equipped with Indian weapons – but if its heart beats with an imported engine, true autonomy remains incomplete. The two newest frigates, Udaygiri and Himgiri, carry propulsion systems sourced from the US and

Germany. For submarines, destroyers, and even aircraft carriers, the story is similar. Without indigenous aero and marine engines, India remains vulnerable to global supply chains and geopolitical disruptions. A nation aspiring for strategic autonomy cannot afford such dependency.

Another chronic problem is time and cost overruns in shipbuilding. Indian shipyards possess immense technical talent and industrial capability, but bureaucratic processes and manufacturing delays often slow down progress. Defence projects are not ordinary construction assignments; every delay weakens preparedness, and every escalation burdens national resources. India's naval future demands not only vision but also efficiency. Despite these challenges, the larger narrative is one of optimism. India's maritime confidence is rising like a tide that refuses to retreat. The seas around India have become more contested and more central to global trade than ever before. Over 80 per cent of the world's trade-by-volume moves through oceans. Energy shipments that fuel India's economy sail through vulnerable choke points like the Strait of Hormuz and Malacca. The Navy ensures these arteries remain open and secure.

Beyond warfighting, the Indian Navy has become a symbol of humanitarian strength. Whether evacuating Indian citizens from conflict zones, delivering aid after natural disasters, rescuing stranded sailors,

or offering support to island nations during crises, the Navy stands as a force of compassion. The Indian Ocean remembers the Navy's operations during the Yemen crisis, the tsunami relief missions, and the countless times Indian ships were the first to respond in emergencies across the region. This blend of strength and service has elevated India's reputation in global maritime diplomacy. Navy Day also highlights the human element – the sailors, officers, engineers, and families who give their lives to guard the seas. Behind every ship that sails confidently into the horizon is a network of sacrifice and dedication. Their work is silent but indispensable.

As India stands at a maritime crossroads, the message from the waves is unmistakable. The Indian Ocean is not just geography; it is a destiny. India is no longer merely a land civilisational power. It is becoming a maritime power with global responsibilities, regional partnerships, and a capability that is respected across continents. The celebration of Navy Day at Shanghumugham is therefore more than a ceremonial display. It is a reminder of who we are and what we aspire to be. The roar of the waves against the rocks is a reminder of India's ancient maritime heritage – from the Cholas who sailed to Southeast Asia to the seafarers of Gujarat who traded with Arabia and Africa. Today's Navy carries that civilisational memory into a modern world shaped by strategy and technology.

## Finding his voice



a small but telling moment that suggested the deeply personal dimensions of his new office. Yet caution has not meant silence. In Turkey, standing alongside the country's powerful President, the Pope criticised the dangerous swagger of nations that treat military and economic might as first principles of global order. He warned starkly that the future of humanity cannot be safeguarded by a world endlessly sharpening its divisions. And in invoking the need for a Palestinian state, while simultaneously reaffirming friendship with Israel, he signalled a willingness to articulate moral clarity in

one of the planet's most entrenched disputes. Lebanon, however, offered the fullest glimpse into Pope Leo's instincts. Despite its governance failures, sectarian fissures and the aftermath of recent attacks, the country welcomed him with an uncommon unity.

Christians, Muslims and Druze alike turned out, a reminder that symbolic gestures still matter in a region fatigued by geopolitical manoeuvres. Even groups whose relations with the West are typically adversarial extended greetings, underlining how the papal office remains a rare bridge across ideological

divides. But every bridge has its limits. Critics in southern Lebanon, especially those living closest to the fighting, felt overlooked. Their resentment is a reminder that high-level diplomacy cannot erase the lived realities of communities whose suffering is ongoing. For Leo, this tension between symbolic presence and tangible engagement will define many future journeys. What this first trip ultimately revealed is a leader emerging slowly but deliberately.

Pope Leo seems less interested in dramatic gestures and more in steady-ing a fractured global conversation. His approach is neither fiery nor withdrawn; it is a deliberate search for common ground at a time when the world is running out of it. If his early steps are any indication, Leo XIV is shaping a papacy rooted in listening, humility and the quiet conviction that dialogue, however imperfect, remains the only durable path through conflict



## MODIFICATION IN TATKAL BOOKING SYSTEM

Mumbai, Western Railway will be implementing an important modification in the Tatkal booking system in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Railway Board. Tatkal tickets will now be issued only after authentication of a system-generated One Time Password (OTP). This OTP will be sent to the mobile number furnished by the passenger at the time of booking and the ticket will be issued only after successful validation of the OTP. According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer,

Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, OTP-based Tatkal authentication system was initially implemented in Train No. 12009/12010 Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express on 01st December 2025. Now, the OTP-based Tatkal authentication system has been extended to few more trains mentioned below with effect from 05th December 2025.

1. Train No. 12227/12228 Mumbai Central - Indore Durgam Express.
2. Train No. 12239 Mumbai Central - Hisar Durgam Express.

3. Train No. 12267/12268 Mumbai Central - Hapa Durgam Express.
4. Train No. 12297 Ahmedabad - Pune Durgam Express.
5. Train No. 12462 Sabarmati - Jodhpur Vande Bharat.
6. Train No. 12951 Mumbai Central - New Delhi Rajdhani Tejas.
7. Train No. 12953 Mumbai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin AK Rajdhani Tejas Express.
8. Train No. 12957 Sabarmati - New Delhi Rajdhani Express.

The new system will be applicable for Tatkal book-

ings made through computerized PRS counters, authorized agents, IRCTC website and IRCTC mobile app. The objective of this change is to ensure transparent Tatkal bookings and to facilitate genuine passengers in getting better access to Tatkal tickets. Passengers are advised to provide a valid, accessible mobile number at the time of booking to ensure smooth completion of the OTP verification process. Western Railway urges all passengers to take note of this important change.

## Skill development initiatives and diploma courses to begin in Haryana prisons

(Gns). The Punjab and Haryana High Court, in collaboration with the Haryana Government, will launch skill development centres, polytechnic diploma courses, and ITI-level vocational training programs across various prisons in the state. The initiative will be inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, on December 6, 2025, at the District Jail, Gurugram. On this occasion, Supreme Court Judges Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Augustine George Masih, along with the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Sheel Nagu, and all judges of the High Court will also be present.

A government spokesperson informed that continuous efforts of the committee on "Rehabilitation and Skill Development of Undertrials/Prison Inmates," chaired by Justice Kuldeep Tiwari, have played a crucial role in shaping this initiative. Their collective vision underscores the

belief that prisons should evolve into institutions of reform, capacity building, and human dignity.



The launch of polytechnic and skill development programmes in Haryana's jails marks a transformative shift in the state's approach towards correctional justice. Under this initiative, inmates will gain access to a wide range of vocational and technical educational options. These include ITI courses such as Computer Operator and Programming Assistant, Welder, Plumber, Grease Maker, Electrician, Woodwork Technician, Sewing Technology, and Cosmetology, along with a three-year polytechnic diploma in Computer Engineering.

The initiative aims to equip inmates with employment-oriented skills that align with current industry

potential for reform, growth, and reintegration. Through these educational and vocational interventions, the programme aims to reduce recidivism, promote financial independence, and empower inmates to lead a dignified life.

The spokesperson further informed that alongside this reformatory initiative, the Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA) has conceptualized a comprehensive anti-drug awareness campaign, which will also be launched during the same event. This initiative is being shaped under the guidance and vision of Justice Lisa Gill, Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and Executive Chairperson of HALSA.

This ambitious, month-long, state-wide anti-drug awareness campaign aims to combat the alarming rise in drug abuse cases affecting the youth and their families across the state. The campaign will strive to bring sustainable behavioural change among affected individuals.

## Govt-run Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya faculty sacked for alleged sexual harassment

(Gns). Authorities on Thursday sacked a guest faculty teacher of the government-run Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya here for allegedly sexually harassing a girl student.

The accused lecturer, Shatrughna Samal, who was serving on a contractual basis in the drama department, was terminated



ed after a three-member inquiry committee constituted

ed by the State Culture Department found the alle-

gations to be true.

Meanwhile, the accused has been detained. Further investigation is underway, police said.

Earlier in the day, the students of the government-run institution staged an agitation and sought stringent disciplinary and legal action against the accused.

## Row erupts over J-K's unequal ex-gratia policy; ex-DGP Vaid flags gaps

(Gns). Former J-K DGP S P Vaid has raised serious questions over the "discriminatory" ex gratia announced by the Lt Governor for domicile soldiers, Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel, J&K Policemen and civilians losing their lives in law and order disturbances.

According to the government notification issued Wednesday evening, the families of local Army and CAPF personnel who die in the line of duty within the J&K UT or outside will receive Rs.25 lakh, while the kin of policemen and SPOs will get only Rs.5 lakh.

Families of non-domicile soldiers and CAPF personnel will get Rs.5 lakhs, whereas the ex-gratia for civilians has been fixed at Rs.1 lakh under the security related expenditure (SRE).

The ex-gratia for magistrates has been fixed at Rs.2 lakhs.

Tagging the disparity as unjust, Vaid posted on X: "Why the disparity — Rs.25

lakh for local CAPF & defence personnel, but only Rs.5 lakh for police/SPOs and Rs.1L for civilians? Sacrifice doesn't become smaller because of someone's background. A life is a life."

"The new ex-gratia announcement is welcome



and long overdue. Every step that supports the families of our martyrs deserves appreciation", Vaid added.

Former DGP's remarks have reignited a debate on parity, recognition and dignity for all who die in the line of duty in J&K.

The government has also announced an ex-gratia of Rs.1 lakh for the surrendered terrorists and ter-

rorists turned informers.

As per the order, the ex-gratia for the NoK of ex-servicemen killed in the law and order related duties under the SRE has been fixed as Rs 2 lakh.

For cases where magistrates, police personnel, or ex-servicemen suffer per-

sonal injury i.e. hospitalisation for more than 24 hours, Rs 1,000 for injury requiring hospitalisation of less than 24 hours and Rs 500 for minor injury when the Government employee is discharged after first aid.

For the death of a civilian, the ex-gratia amount has been set at Rs 1 lakh, including the deaths occurring on the International Border or LoC. A same compensation will be paid to the families of the surrendered militants and militants turned informers on their death.

For major damage, the maximum relief has been set at Rs 10 lakh—including Rs 7 lakh for immovable property and Rs 3 lakh for moveable assets. Damage due to cross-border shelling along the IB or LoC will also be compensated at 50% of the loss or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is less.

## RS Chairman curtails misuse of Rule 267, limits it to listed business only

(Gns). Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan delivered a significant ruling on Thursday, clarifying and heavily restricting the use of Rule 267 of the House's Rules of Procedure. The Chairman emphatically stated that the rule is being misused to seek daily discussions on unlisted issues and confirmed its sole purpose is to suspend a rule related to the business already listed for that day. The ruling follows persistent attempts by various Members of Parliament to file notices under Rule 267 to demand discussions on subjects of their choosing, which often led to disruptions.

Chairman Radhakrishnan lamented the near-daily submission of such notices, stating, "I have observed that notices under Rule 267 are being submitted almost daily to Rajya Sabha is not equivalent to an Adjournment Motion in the Lok Sabha. The Adjournment Motion is exclusive to the Lok Sabha due to application of Article 75(3) of our Constitution. There is no constitutional or procedural provision authorizing Rajya Sabha Members to give any adjournment notice in any manner."

He clarified the crucial distinction between the Rajya Sabha rule and the Lok Sabha's Adjournment Motion: "Rule 267 in the

seek suspension of the listed business and to demand discussions on issues as deemed fit by individual Members. Regrettably, this is not the purpose of Rule 267."



The core of the ruling is

that, henceforth, Rule 267 notices will only be considered if they strictly meet a five-point criteria, which centers on the day's official List of Business. The Chairman cited a key 2000 amendment to Rule 267, adopted following recommendations from a Rules Committee presided over by then Chairman Krishan Kant. This amendment was designed to restrict the rule's use strictly to subjects related to the List of Business. "The Committee observed that the Rule was being used to seek discussions on matters not listed or not yet admitted. The Committee therefore recommended restricting Rule 267 strictly to subjects related to the List of Business..."

## 'Pay Respect to PM Modi, he has worked for all': Nitish's remark sparks political buzz

(Gns). Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday said that over the past 20 years, his government has worked extensively in the fields of health, education, roads, electricity, and women's empowerment. He asserted that the state is progressing rapidly, with the central government playing a major role in Bihar's development. His address in the Assembly made headlines when he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appealed to the entire House to raise their hands in respect. Nitish said, "Everyone, pay respect to PM Modi... Honourable PM Modi has done a lot for Bihar."

He also urged the Opposition, saying, "Look, should pay respect." The remark immediately echoed through political circles. Many interpreted Nitish's praise as a public display of NDA unity, while others viewed it as a signal ahead of the approaching election season.

Nitish emphasised that Bihar's development is possible only through the



partnership between the Centre and the State, and that this partnership is being led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He reiterated that several major projects in Bihar have begun due to the Prime Minister's initiative, adding that "this

development belongs to everyone, not any one political party."

He also said with pride that "the goal of reaching any part of the state within six hours has now been achieved."

Earlier, the Chief Minister moved the motion of thanks on the Governor's address and urged the House to pass it unanimously.

He appreciated the priorities outlined in the address, expressed gratitude to all MLAs, and said that the direction presented would further accelerate Bihar's development. His speech projected a new chapter in the state's development pace, government employment, and public services.

## Chaos at Lucknow Airport as IndiGo cancels 12 flights

(Gns). Passengers of IndiGo airlines created ruckus at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport here on Thursday after 12 incoming/outgoing flights were cancelled.

Passengers annoyed with the IndiGo airlines alleged that the airline did not provide any prior notice of the flight cancellations, forcing them to wait for hours.

IndiGo Airlines canceled six flights to Lucknow and six flights from Lucknow to other cities due to operational and crew-related issues.

Passengers faced inconvenience due to the sudden flight cancellations.

According to airport sources, the IndiGo flights that were cancelled include flights from major cities of the country like Delhi,

Thursday were 6E338 – from Pune, 6E608 – from Hyderabad, 6E2442 – from Mumbai, IX194 – from Dubai, 6E277 – from



Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad, as well as flights coming from Dubai.

The flights cancelled on

Ahmedabad, and 6E6614 – from Delhi.

Departure flight cancelled were: 6E758 – to

Delhi, 6E325 – to Bengaluru, 6E2441 – to Mumbai, IX1507 – to Delhi/Bengaluru, 6E279 – to Ahmedabad, and 6E6615 – to Delhi.

IndiGo is currently facing significant operational challenges across the country. New DGCA duty-time regulations have disrupted pilot and crew schedules, increased crew shortages on many routes, and system glitches and congestion at airports have added to the difficulties.

Due to these reasons, hundreds of flights across the country have been affected in the last week, and Lucknow has also been affected by it.

## Rajasthan removes jail term for minor violations under 11 laws

(Gns). Minor violations of rules and norms, or petty offences such as cattle grazing on forest land, obtaining a water connection without prior clearances, or failing to produce account books (bahi-khata) before Commercial Department officials, will henceforth not lead to imprisonment in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Government has decided to promulgate an ordinance to drop the clause – provision of imprisonment for such minor acts from as many as 11 existing laws.

The state cabinet met here on Wednesday under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma here on Wednesday approved the draft of the Rajasthan Jan Vishwas Adhyadesh (Ordinance) 2025. Briefing the media persons on the decisions

taken at the state cabinet meeting here last evening,

mentioned acts of violations would be liable for



Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joga Ram Patel and Food and Supply Minister Sumit Godhara said that the provision of imprisonment was being dropped from these laws.

These 11 laws include the Rajasthan Forests Law – 1953, Rajasthan Udhog Sahayata Act 1961, and Jaipur Water Supply & Sewerage Board Act 2018. Now onwards, afore-

cash penalties only, that might be enhanced, Patel said.

He said that the ordinance is being promulgated to ensure the ease of living and the ease of doing business in the state. We also want to ensure the reduction of the pendency of cases in the courts, he added.

The cabinet also approved the drafts of 3

new polices -Pravasi Rajasthan Policy, the Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy and the Rajasthan Tourism Policy.

The Pravasi Rajasthan Policy 2015 facilitates contribution and investment from the Non-Resident Rajasthanis (NRRs) in development in the state and also ensures strengthening of their emotional bonding with the native land.

The trade promotion policy will encourage small traders to extend their market access, and the tourism policy will focus on attracting investors in the tourism sector and will also strengthen tourism infrastructure and create jobs for the unemployed.

The cabinet also approved the proposal of the free allotment of 15 acres of land for the expansion of the Kishanghar airport.



# Su-30, C-17, IL-78 fleet returns after Indo-French Garuda Exercise

(Gns). The Indian Air Force contingent comprising of Su-30MKI fighters, IL-78 air-to-air refuelling aircraft and C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft, has returned to India following the completion of 8th edition of Exercise Garuda, a bilateral Indo-French air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force (FAF), held at Air Base 118, Mont-de-Marsan, France.

In a statement issued here today, the IAF spokesperson stated that both air forces conducted a range of complex air operations in a realistic operational environment. The training involved joint mission planning, coordinated execution of strike and escort missions and familiarisation with each other's operational procedures, thereby enhancing interoperability.



India-France successfully conclude 8th edition of bilateral air exercise Garuda 2025

The IAF maintenance crew ensured high serviceability throughout, enabling smooth conduct of all planned missions. Senior officials from both nations interacted with the participants during the closing ceremony, commending the professionalism, discipline, and commitment displayed by both participating forces.

Exercise Garuda 25 was one of the largest international air training engagements undertaken by the IAF this year. The exercise reaffirmed the strong strategic partnership between India and France and provided valuable operational insights to the participating forces.

The lessons learnt will further enhance the IAF's war-fighting capabilities and strengthen jointmanship with friendly foreign air forces, the statement read.

# District Magistrate and SSP inspected regarding Bravery Day

Mathura. The district administration is on full alert to ensure that 6th December Bravery Day is celebrated peacefully in the district. Late in the night, Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar and District Magistrate Chandraprakash Singh inspected the city and other highly sensitive areas on foot. During this, the officials established communication with the local people and took stock of the security arrangements. He also gave necessary directions to the policemen present on the spot.



During DM and SSP inspection

and additional forces have also been deployed. The SSP warned that strict legal action would be taken against those trying to disturb law and order. To strengthen the security system, sensitive areas have been divided into three layers. The entire area has been divided into sectors and zones, where officials are continuously monitoring. Extra vigilance is also being taken in the security of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi complex. Intensive checking of vehicles and passengers entering the city is being done to ensure peace and security.

ensure peace and security.

also been put up near the Shahi Idgah Mosque. VHP Mathura Metropolitan President Kanhaiya Aggarwal responded to the objections raised on the hoardings. He said that no wrong or provocative language has been used in it. According to Aggarwal, the work of Ayodhya has been completed, now we are preparing for Mathura. All our activities are within the ambit of law. He also clarified that the administration is on alert regarding December 6, whereas Shaurya Yatra is proposed on December 7. Security agencies are already active in Mathura as December 6 is the anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid. Additional police forces have been deployed in sensitive areas and surveillance has been increased. The vigilance of the administration has increased further after the controversial hoardings came to light. Police and intelligence departments are keeping a close watch on the situation to prevent any possible tension or untoward incident

# Refinery celebrated International Disability Day

Mathura. International Day with Disabilities was celebrated all over the world. On this occasion, Mathura Refinery also organized a program for its employees with special abilities and thanked them for their contributions and inspired them to overcome their physical limitations and achieve new heights.

Addressing the highly skilled employees of the refinery on this special occasion, Executive Director and Refinery Head Mr. Mukul Aggarwal said that I am happy that the refinery has a strong team of exceptional people whose contributions have taken the refinery to the pinnacle of glory. Motivating the employees, he said "Disability is a state of mind but it should not be a hindrance in one's



Refinery chief Mukul Agarwal and others making physical contribution in the program

progress. I see a lot of people working with me today who are a source of inspiration. On the occasion of International Disability Day, Ravindra Yadav, Secretary, Officers

all work is commendable and the Refinery is indebted to you all for your contribution.

Association and Harish Pahal, Mathura Refinery Employees Association also addressed the employees and inspired them.

Later, some of the employees with special abilities visited Swami Rambhadracharya Institute for Visually Impaired, Farah and shared their life experiences and their journey at IndianOil and inspired all the students of the school to achieve excellence in their field of work. On behalf of the management, Deep Chand Verma, General Manager (Employee Services, Management Services, Development & Learning) also attended the event and wished everyone all the best for their bright future

# JSSC CGL case: candidates celebrate after HC clears deck for results and appointments

(Gns). Hundreds of JSSC Combined Graduate Level aspirants gathered at the Chief Minister's residential office on Thursday after the Jharkhand High Court lifted the stay on the declaration of results and the appointment process. The crowd, carrying drums and banners, thanked Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Gandey MLA Kalpana Soren for what they called "a long-awaited relief."

Speaking to the candidates, the Chief Minister said the state had ensured a fair and comprehensive probe into the allegations related to the CGL examination. He added that strict action had been taken against those found responsible for attempting to compromise the recruitment process. "The court



served," he said.

Soren told the gathering that recruitment examinations had gained pace under his government. He claimed that the Jharkhand Public Service Commission had conducted as many civil service examinations in the last five years as it

had in the previous 18. He said earlier exams were marred by irregularities, while recent ones had

remained free of controversy.

Calling youth welfare the government's priority, Soren said the administration would continue to work "with clarity and commitment" to improve employment opportunities. "When the youth are satisfied, the

state moves toward prosperity," he said.

The Chief Minister also noted that the government had planned to distribute appointment letters during the first anniversary celebrations of his current term, but the legal process caused delays. He congratulated the candidates for their persistence. "Your success has come after a long struggle. You deserve every bit of it," he told them.

Several aspirants who addressed the gathering credited the government for ensuring a transparent inquiry and for standing by them throughout the case. They said the final verdict was a result of the administration's "consistent support and firm action" against those involved in malpractice.

# NHRC to commemorate Human Rights Day on Dec 10; Prez Murmu to attend

(Gns). The National Human Rights Commission will organise the Human Rights Day on December 10 where President Droupadi Murmu will be the chief guest, according to a press release issued on Thursday.

The function will be held at Bharat Mandapam at 10.00 am.

Human Rights Day is celebrated to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on this day in 1948. This is one of the most referred documents in the world.

On Human Rights Day, a national conference on 'Ensuring Everyday Essentials: Public Services and Dignity for All' is also being organised. It is aligning with this year's Human Rights Day theme "Human Rights, Our Everyday



and Dignity for All' is also being organised. It is aligning with this year's Human Rights Day theme "Human Rights, Our Everyday

The Conference, under two thematic sessions, will deliberate upon the imperative of ensuring universal, equitable and dignified access to public services as an indispensable condition for ensuring human rights for all. Eminent speakers will address the Conference.

State Human Rights Commissions, other national commissions and officials from both Government of India and states/ UTs, human rights defenders, civil society organisations, members of academia, professionals, representatives of print and electronic media, among others, are expected to participate.

# Kasganj team lost by 126 runs in the inaugural match of 17th Inter-district Police Cricket Competition in Police Lines.

Mathura. The 17th Inter-District Police Cricket Competition 2025 Agra Zone Agra was inaugurated on Thursday by DIG Range Agra and District Magistrate and SSP Shlok Kumar by cutting the ribbon and releasing a pigeon. The first match was between Kasganj and Mathura in which Mathura won by 126 runs over Kasganj. The inaugural match of the 17th Inter-District Police Cricket Competition 2025 Agra Zone Agra was held between Mathura and Kasganj team at the Parade Ground located at Police Lines, in which Mathura team, playing first after winning the toss, scored 242 runs at the loss of 4 wickets. DIG Shailesh Pandey and SSP Mathura could not do anything special in the inauguration. DIG Shailesh Pandey and SSP Shlok Kumar were out after scoring 5 runs, but DIG and SSP were seen boosting the morale of their team. After this, Mathura team captain Vijay Chauhan took charge of the team. He played brilliant innings of 52, Sahil Hasan 51, Manish



DIG 6th Range Agra, District Magistrate CP Singh, SSP Shlok Kumar present at the inauguration ceremony in Mathura Police Line.

Yadav 69 and Vaibhav Tyagi played brilliant innings of 39 runs. In response to this, Harish scored 32 runs and Chintu scored 22 runs for Kasganj, apart from this no other batsman could survive. DIG Shailesh Kumar and SSP Shlok Kumar bowled brilliantly and broke the back

of Kasganj team by taking two wickets each. Apart from this, PRO Ajay Kishore and Servlance in-charge Vikas Sharma also took two wickets each and Sahil Hasan and Sunny Yadav took one wicket each. Man of the match Sahil Hasan was selected. In this way Mathura defeated Kasganj by 126 runs. During this time, a large number of people including SP City Rajeev Singh, SP Countryside Suresh Rawat, SP Security Rajkumar Aggarwal, SP Traffic Manoj Yadav, CO Line Suman Kanojia, RI Ramratan Singh were present at the stadium. Umpiring was done by Karmaveer and Vishnu and commentary was done by PTI Subodh Kaushik and scoring by Gaurav Kasana

# No genuine voter will be left out in special intensive revision (SIR): UP Dy CM Maurya

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Thursday asked people to not fall prey to the opposition's narrative of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, adding that the ruling BJP is working to ensure that no genuine voter is left out.

He said the party has assigned the chief minister and both the deputy chief ministers the responsibility of 25 districts each, and that they are starting the process with Prayagraj.

Talking to the media, Maurya also hit out at TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's demand for an immediate end to SIR. He said, "I urge all BLOs (booth level officers) not to fall prey to Mamata Banerjee, Rahul Gandhi, or Akhilesh Yadav."

He also urged them not to fall prey to those opposing SIR. BLOs should perform their duties honestly and responsibly. He added

that suicide is not a solution to any problem. The voter list purification campaign is underway to strengthen

democracy. He added that the voter list revision is a democratic process and has been



practiced in the past. The Deputy CM stated that the BJP has consistently won elections, including a historic victory in Bihar, and the opposition is panicking and making false statements. However, this will have no impact on the public.

Regarding the Congress's decision to contest the Panchayat elections alone, Maurya stated that this is the Congress's problem. Whether it fights

alone or in alliance, the lotus will bloom. Responding to Akhilesh Yadav's statement that reservations could be abolished if voting rights are denied, the Deputy CM stated that Akhilesh Yadav has been fighting the elections but lost every time.

"Akhilesh Yadav has become unwell and his mental balance has deteriorated. He envisioned himself nearing power in Uttar Pradesh in 2027. However, his chances of returning to power by 2047 have vanished. Akhilesh Yadav continues to make baseless statements," he alleged.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that no one will be able to abolish reservations, nor will anyone be able to abolish the Constitution.

Regarding the resumption of the Kashi Tamil Sangam Yatra, inspired by PM Modi, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that all pilgrims visiting Uttar Pradesh are welcome.

# 'Clues to Alzheimer's treatment found in betel leaves'

(Gns). The betel leaf, which has religious, cultural, and health significance, has now raised new hopes for the treatment of a serious disease like Alzheimer's. A team of scientists at Lucknow University's Biogerontology and Neurobiology Laboratory has explored the potential of using hydroxychavicol, a unique natural compound found in betel leaves, as a medicine.

Alzheimer's disease is considered the leading cause of dementia worldwide. This disease gradually leads to a loss of memory and thinking ability. Currently, there is no complete cure for this disease, and the available medications provide only limited relief. Therefore, scientists are constantly searching for new medicines.

On Thursday, Dr Nitish Rai, who led the research, explained here on Thursday that computer-based techniques were used to examine how hydroxychavicol affects



proteins in the body that are linked to Alzheimer's. He explained that the research identified 88 genes linked to both the substance and the disease. Of these, three proteins, COMT, HSP90AA1, and GABPDH, proved to be the most important. These pro-

teins play a vital role in transmitting messages in the brain and protecting brain cells.

The research also revealed that the substance binds well to these proteins and can simultaneously impact multiple factors related to the disease. It has been shown to have drug-like properties and is easily absorbed by the body. Therefore, in the future, it could be developed as an oral medication, i.e., a pill.

According to Dr Nitish Rai, this research is still in its early stages and will only be put to use after further laboratory and patient testing. He said that this element found in betel leaves can be cheap, safe, and easily available, so it is being promoted as a better alternative.

Currently, this research is going to showcase the power of traditional Indian medicines to the world. If future trials are successful, this discovery could play a major role in providing relief to millions of people suffering from Alzheimer's.

In Alzheimer's disease, brain cells lose contact with each other and begin to die. It is usually found in people over 60 years of age. AD also causes a decrease in the amount of certain chemicals in the brain. These chemicals are