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President Murmu confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on Veer Bal Diwas

(Gns).

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on children for their exceptional achievements in the fields, including bravery, sports, art and culture, and science and technology, at a ceremony held here on Friday. She expressed confidence that these awards will inspire all children across the country.

She presented awards to 17 children—seven boys and 10 girls—from 14 states, recognising achievements in art, sports, culture, and innovation. The event coincided with Veer Bal Diwas, honouring the courage of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's sons—Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh, and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.

To commemorate their sacrifice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in 2022 that December 26 would be observed annually as Veer Bal Diwas.

Congratulating the recipients of the Puraskar, the President said the award-winning children have brought pride to their families, their communities, and the entire country. She stated that this award has been presented to them for their encouragement.

Addressing the gathering, President Murmu said, "About 320 years ago, Guru Gobind Singh Ji—the tenth Guru of the Sikh faith and revered by all Indians—and his four sons made supreme sacrifices while fighting in support of truth and justice. The bravery of the two youngest Sahibzadas is honoured

and respected both in India and abroad." She remembered with reverence the great child heroes who laid down their lives with pride for truth and justice.

exceptional talent in various fields such as bravery, art and culture, environment, innovation, science and technology, social service, and sports.



The President expressed confidence that the greatness of a country is certain when its children are filled with patriotism and high ideals. She was happy to note that the children have showcased their

"It is because of talented children such as the seven-year-old Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika that India is considered a chess powerhouse on the world stage. Ajay Raj and Mohammed Sidan P, who saved the

lives of others with their bravery and intelligence, deserve all the praise they receive. Nine-year-old daughter Vyoma Priya and eleven-year-old brave son Kamlesh Kumar lost their lives while saving the lives of others with their courage," she said.

She also praised 10-year-old Shravan Singh,

who, amidst the risks associated with war during Operation Sindoor, regularly delivered water, milk, and lassi to the Indian soldiers stationed at the border near his home, whereas the differently abled daughter, Shivani Hosuru Uppara, has achieved extraordinary accomplishments in the world of sports, overcoming

economic and physical limitations.

Praising Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who has made a name for himself in the highly competitive and talent-filled world of cricket and has set many records, President Murmu expressed confidence that brave and talented children like them will continue to do

good work and make India's future bright.

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is the highest civilian honour for children in India. It is awarded annually to children in the age group of 5-18 years for their exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements in seven categories.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Inaugurates National Tribal Trade Fair-2025 in Newly Formed Ambika Taluka of Surat District

(Gns).

Gandhinagar, 26 December 2025 : While inaugurating the three-day National Tribal Trade Fair, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel expressed confidence that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mantra of "Vocal for Local, Local for Global" would be effectively realised through this fair.

This Fair has been organised from 26 to 29 December at Vasrai in the newly formed Ambika taluka of Surat district, through the collective efforts of the entire tribal community of the state and supporting organisations. The fair has been organised with the objective of motivating tribal youth, towards self-employment, while bringing small and medium MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and businesses together on a single platform to expand business and industrial activities. In addition, with over 370 stalls, more than 80 tribal cuisine stalls, participation of over 700 representatives from across the country, and MSME business workshops, the fair will also realise the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

In the presence of Finance and Urban Development Minister Shri Kanubhai Desai, Tribal Development Minister Shri Naresh Patel, and Minister of State Shri Dr. Jayram Gamit, Chief Minister,

along with inaugurating the fair, also carried out e-foundation stone laying ceremony and e-inauguration of various development works worth Rs. 858 crore undertaken by the Roads and Buildings Department in Surat district.

Chief Minister stated that the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat and Aatmanirbhar Bharat would gain new momentum through this fair by strengthening the contribution of tribal industries, traditional arts and crafts, and MSMEs. Describing Gujarat's successful role in effectively implementing the Prime Minister's vision of self-reliance and swadeshi, the Chief Minister said that the state government has transformed youth from job seekers into job providers through the promotion of self-help women's groups, startups, and skill development centres. He also expressed pride in the Rs. 2 lakh crore Janjati Kalyan Yojana launched by the Prime Minister for the holistic development of Gujarat's tribal community, which has lived for centuries with hard work, honesty, and self-respect, stating that it has become a guiding force for tribal development across the

country. Tribal Development Minister Shri Naresh Patel stated that



today is a moment of pride for all, adding that the development journey initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat is being carried forward seamlessly under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel. He further that the Tribal Trade Fair seeks to preserve tribal culture while creating opportunities for tribal youth in industry and business, thereby generating employment at the local level, and urged all stakeholders to actively participate in efforts that help tribal youth build skills and progress.

Mahuva MLA Shri Mohan Dhodia stated that the government has reached the doorstep of the tribal community to encourage and empower it, describing the fair as a valuable opportunity to promote tribal entrepreneurs. He added that the government has shown genuine

concern for the tribal community and congratulated the state government for the creation of the new Ambika taluka.

President of the Samast Adivasi Samaj, Dr. Pradeep Garasia, while providing details of the Tribal Trade Fair, stated that at a time when the state government is promoting the adoption of swadeshi, this fair has around 400 stalls. The objective is to promote Vocal for Local, natural farming, and tribal food treasures, enabling entrepreneurs to achieve self-employment. He also stated that there are plans to establish an eco-friendly business centre.

This event was attended by Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Shri Antra Singh Arya, Chairperson of the ST Welfare Parliamentary Committee Dr. Fagga Singh Kulaste, District Panchayat President Smt. Bhavini Patel, Bardoli MP Shri Prabhubhai Vasava, Valsad MP Shri Dhavalbhai Patel, MLAs Shri Ganpatsinh Vasava, Shri Ishwarbhai Parmar, Shri Kunvarji Halpati, Shri Sandipbhai Desai, Shri Vijaybhai Patel, Shri Mukeshbhai Patel, Shri Mohanbhai Konkani, social leader Shri Mansinhbhai Patel, and District Development Officer Shivani Goyal, along with other dignitaries.

BJP-Shinde Sena Finalise Seat-Sharing For BMC Polls: BJP To Contest On 140, Shiv Sena Gets 87

(Gns).

The Bharatiya Janata Party and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena have agreed on a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation seat-sharing plan after several days of talks. Sources said the BJP will contest 140 wards, while the Shinde-led Sena will field candidates in 87 wards for the BMC elections.

The arrangement has been decided among Mahayuti partners and aims to project unity before voting. Internal discussions within the alliance reportedly focused on balancing strength in Mumbai, where the BMC elections are seen as a key test for both parties and their local leadership.

Mahayuti partners finalised a seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming BMC elections in Mumbai, aiming to project

the Maharashtra State Election Commission's supervision; the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP performed well in recent local polls.



unity, with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation vote scheduled for January 15 and counting on January 16 under

Before this final formula, BJP and Shinde Sena leaders held a series of long meetings over seat distribution. Reports had sug-

gested unrest within the alliance, yet both parties publicly rejected those claims. According to sources, an agreement on 200 seats came first, with negotiations continuing over the remaining 27 seats.

Tension reports also prompted Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to intervene earlier and support Shinde's Shiv Sena. Fadnavis had asked BJP leaders not to criticise the ally in public. While addressing journalists on Friday, Fadnavis again stressed the strength of the partnership and played down talk of rifts. "The BJP and Shiv Sena are united. Everything is going on smoothly.

Sharad Pawar-led NCP leader Jayant Patil meets Uddhav Thackeray for alliance talks

(Gns).

Senior Sharad Pawar-led NCP leader met Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray here on Friday at his Bandra East 'Matoshree' residence to explore the possibility of an alliance to contest the forthcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation election scheduled to be held on January 15, 2026.

After a two-hour-long detailed discussion, senior Sharad Pawar-led NCP leader Jayant Patil told media persons that "Our discussions are going on. I came to discuss an alliance with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray. A lot of discussions took place, though we have not

reached a conclusion yet. We are a part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). Therefore, we are trying to form an alliance with Shiv Sena in Mumbai. But we have not concluded our discussions yet".

"We (Sharad Pawar-led NCP) are of the opinion that the Congress, the Shiv Sena and Maha Vikas Aghadi parties should come together in Mumbai. Our party does not have as much strength as the Congress and the Shiv Sena in Mumbai city.

Therefore, our discussions with Shiv Sena are going on," Jayant Patil said.

"We had positive discussions. Some Sharad



Pawar-led NCP corporators had won in the last election. We demanded that those seats be vacated so that our candidates can contest from these seats. We will respond after our discus-

sions are completed," Sharad Pawar-led NCP leader Jayant Patil said.

"We are trying to fight together as the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in as many municipal elections as possible. Our leader Sharad Pawar has ordered local leaders of all areas to decide with whom to ally with, in order to contest the elections, after looking at the situation at the local level," Patil said.

Dismissing claims being made that the Sharad Pawar-led NCP is likely to join hands with the BJP-led NDA, Jayant Patil said that "Some people are trying to question our credibility. There is no truth in such claims".

TN Speaker hopes Guv Ravi will keep up convention and honour of Assembly

(Gns).

Announcing the commencement of the first session of the new year on January 20, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker M Appavu on Friday expressed hope that Governor RN Ravi will keep up the tradition and honour of the State legislature.

"The conventions of the Assembly will not be changed. Singing 'Thamizh Thai Vazhthu' (the state anthem in praise of Mother Tamil) at the commencement of the session and the rendering of the national anthem at the close of the day's proceedings is the long-held convention, and it will continue without any

change," he said in a response to a question at a media briefing at his Chambers at the Secretariat.

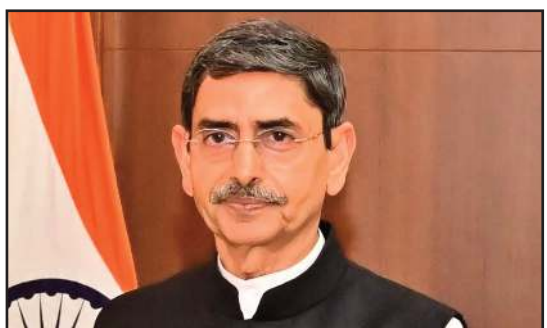
"The session is being convened after the prior approval from the Governor," he added.

"The Governor has to deliver the address prepared by the government," he said. Earlier this year, at the first session of 2025 in January, Governor Ravi had staged a walkout within three min-

utes of entering the Assembly hall without reading the customary address in protest against the

the Lok Bhavan, in a statement, charged the Speaker, the leader of the House, and the Chief Minister with 'cussedly' turning down his appeal to sing the national anthem. "The Constitution of Bharat and the national anthem were insulted once again in the assembly," the Lok Bhavan alleged in a post on its 'X' handle.

The Assembly passed a resolution not to take the remarks of the Governor on record, and Appavu read the Tamil version of the Governor's address. It marked a new low in the turf war between the Raj Bhavan and the elected DMK Government of Stalin.



national anthem not being sung at the beginning. It was customary to sing the Tamil anthem at the beginning and not the national anthem. Later in the day,

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देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Defining Aravallis

The renewed debate over the Aravalli hills exposes a familiar fault line in India's environmental governance: the tension between ecological complexity and administrative simplicity. What appears, on the surface, to be a technical redefinition of hills is in fact a decision with profound implications for land use, climate resilience, and the survival of fragile ecosystems in north-western India. The Aravallis are among the oldest mountain systems on Earth, but their importance today lies not in dramatic peaks or dense forests. Much of their ecological value resides in low, scrub-covered ridges and shallow undulations that slow desertification, recharge aquifers, and act as a climatic buffer against the advancing Thar.

These understated landscapes rarely fit popular notions of "hills," yet they quietly sustain agriculture, groundwater and habitability across Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. By tying protection to a minimum elevation threshold, policymakers risk mistaking visibility for value. A hill system is not a stack of discrete high points; it is a continuous geological and ecological fabric. Once that continuity is broken on paper, it becomes easier to fragment it on the ground ~ through mining, construction and infrastructure projects that may individually seem minor but collectively erode the system's resilience. Environmental damage in such landscapes is rarely sudden or spectacular. It accumulates slowly, revealing its costs only when groundwater tables fall, heatwaves intensify and dust storms grow more frequent.

The government argues that a uniform, objective definition brings regulatory clarity and does not automatically open the floodgates to mining. In principle, consistency across states is desirable. Yet environmental regulation is not the same as taxation or land records. Nature does not conform neatly to round numbers or legal thresholds. A definition that prioritises ease of enforcement over ecological function may simplify files but complicate the future. Public protests signal a deeper unease: that environmental decisions are increasingly framed through narrow technical lenses, with insufficient weight given to cumulative impact and local knowledge. Farmers, residents, and activists are not merely opposing development; they are questioning a model that treats landscapes as interchangeable once they fall outside a formal category. Their insistence that the Aravallis be defined by geology, hydrology and their ecological role reflects a demand for science-led policy rather than checklist governance.

The involvement of the Supreme Court of India adds gravity to the issue. Judicial endorsement confers legitimacy, but it also places a responsibility to ensure that definitions do not unintentionally weaken environmental safeguards. Courts have historically played a crucial role in protecting common natural assets; this moment tests whether that tradition can adapt to subtler, less visible forms of ecological risk. Ultimately, the Aravalli controversy is not just about hills. It is about how India chooses to value landscapes that are ecologically vital but aesthetically modest. Protecting them requires moving beyond height-based formulas toward a functional understanding of nature ~ one that recognises that what looks insignificant today may be indispensable tomorrow.

Recalibrating MGNREGA

(Gns).

The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB-G RAM G), which replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), received the President's assent on Sunday, 21 December, marking the formal transition to a new rural employment framework. The allegation that these changes amount to the "dismantling" of MGNREGA stems from an unwillingness to distinguish sentiment from performance.

Welfare laws do not enjoy moral immunity because of their vintage or

their acronym; they must be assessed by whether they deliver what they promise, at scale, in the conditions that actually obtain rather than those that policymakers nostalgically invoke. The performance and governance gaps in MGNREGA must be studied. The programme's most basic assurance of guaranteed employment had steadily drifted from its statutory intent. Data from the Ministry of Rural Development show that in FY 2024-25 only about 7-8 per cent of registered households completed the full 100 days of work, while average employment per household remained under

Innovation Meets Aspiration: Home Credit India Debuts AI-Generated Film to Kickstart the New Year

26 December 2025: Home Credit India, a leading consumer finance company, today announced the launch of its first AI-powered campaign - #SapnoKaNayaSaal. An extension of its brand thought, #ZindagiHit!, this campaign marks a significant milestone for Home Credit India in innovation by integrating with ARM Worldwide to develop a cinematic film which reflects on the year gone by while ushering in a future full of hope. The film positions the brand as a tech-forward, trusted enabler, ready to support the diverse aspirations of customers nationwide, anytime, anywhere.

The new campaign is LIVE across digital platforms including Home Credit India's social channels such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube & LinkedIn.

The #SapnoKaNayaSaal campaign encourages the spirit of gratitude by acknowl-

edging every big-small achievement of the year gone by, while empowering its customers to turn their New Year resolution into reality by leveraging a range of easy and accessible credit solutions.

Campaign Storyline

The video unfolds at the final minutes of the New Year, capturing real, everyday moments of intersection between dreams and responsibilities. Ravi, a young delivery executive, struggles with a failing scooter; Gaurav, an aspiring entrepreneur, is held back by lack of funds; Aarav faces everyday friction with a cracked phone; and Preeti, a café owner, quietly dreams of renovating her ageing space.

As the clock strikes twelve, the "ping" of timely approvals from Home Credit becomes the turning point in these interconnected stories addressing both immediate needs and long-term aspirations.

GIDC Device Park & VGRC: Fuelling Gujarat's High-Growth Medical Sector

Partnering in Growth: How VGRC Rajkot Will Facilitate Investment in New Medical Device Ecosystem

Gandhinagar, 26 December : The Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) is set to establish a new, sector-specific Medical Device Park at Nagalpar in Rajkot. This initiative aims to create a comprehensive ecosystem for the medical device industry, supporting manufacturing, research, and global export.

New Medical Device park Launch

The GIDC's new Medical Device Park in Nagalpar will be spread across 336 acres. It is designed to be a complete ecosystem, facilitating product development from the initial research stage through testing, manufac-

Relations between India and Bangladesh are entering one of their most fragile phases in decades

(Gns).

Relations between India and Bangladesh are entering one of their most fragile phases in decades, not because of a single diplomatic dispute but due to the dangerous interaction of street violence, political uncertainty, and hardening narratives on both sides of the border. What is unfolding is less a breakdown of policy than a collapse of trust. The immediate spark has been a brutal killing during protests in Bangladesh, an act that has resonated deeply in India because it touches raw concerns about minori-

ty safety. Yet, focusing only on that horror risks missing the larger picture.

Bangladesh is in the middle of a profound political transition following the fall of Sheikh Hasina, and transitions create vacuums. Into that vacuum have stepped radical groups, opportunistic actors and unrestrained street politics that thrives on grievance rather than governance. For India, the instinctive response has been moral outrage mixed with political mobilisation. That is understandable. No democracy can remain unmoved when violence appears to target

machinery in violation of labour norms, and weak recovery of detected fraud. In FY 2024-25 alone, officially recorded financial irregularities were close to Rs 200 crore, while recoveries remained negligible, eroding the credibility of what was conceived as a rights-based safety net. What does the new law change? The VB-G RAM G Act responds to these structural problems by reshaping how rural employment is guaranteed, planned, and financed. The move to norm-based budgeting replaces an open-ended, reactive regime with one that ties allocations to execution capacity.

Those gaps were compounded by governance weaknesses. Repeated observations by the Comptroller and Auditor General and social audits documented a pattern of irregularities: inflated muster rolls, payments against non-existent works, unauthorised use of

Through a fast-paced montage, stalled moments transform into fresh starts- Ravi gets his new wheels, Gaurav launches his business, Aarav upgrades his tech, and Preeti renovates her space. The story concludes with a shared moment of hope, proving that with the right support, every resolution is achievable.

Speaking on the new year campaign, Ashish Tiwari, Chief Marketing Officer, Home Credit India, said, "As another year ends, we step into the new year with innovation, gratitude and lots of hope. With #SapnoKaNayaSaal, we wanted to position Home Credit India as the catalyst that transforms year-end gratitude and New Year resolutions into dreams that manifest. By leveraging AI to tell these stories, we reflect on the modern, digital-first journey of our customers. Our simple and customer-friendly financing options ensure that resolu-

turing, and eventually exporting products worldwide.



able water supply system with a proposed capacity of 3.5 million liters per day (MLD). A provision for dedicated Solid Waste Management and a

ensure sustainable operations. Additionally, land has been reserved for a proposed 66 KV substation to provide uninterrupted power supply. To support

Logistics Centre is also planned.



history, culture, and blood ties. But when outrage spills onto the streets, hardens television narratives and turns into symbolic protests at diplomatic premises, it begins to blur the line between principled concern and political signalling. In Dhaka, such scenes are easily repackaged as proof of Indian interference. Bangladesh's

Flipkart deepens role in building India's future-ready skilling ecosystem with NCVET, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Lucknow, 26 December 2025: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has entered into an agreement with the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) to strengthen India's skilling ecosystem and support the government's Skill India Mission with a focus on creating nationally recognised, industry-led pathways for India's fast-growing e-commerce and logistics workforce. The agreement took place at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of senior representatives from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and NCVET. Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Chairperson, NCVET, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside Mr. Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group; Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Gaba, Executive Member, NCVET and Lt. Col. Vikram Singh Bhati, Director, NCVET were present amongst dignitaries.

Established under the aegis of MSDE, NCVET plays a critical role in regulating and ensuring quality across India's vocational education, training, and skilling ecosystem. Its mandate focuses on creating

efficient logistics, a Common Warehouse and



Logistics Centre is also planned.

The development of the Nagalpar Medical Device Park underscores Gujarat's commitment to

Each lapse strengthens extremist elements who portray pluralism, secularism, and even independent journalism as foreign-imposed ideas. The deeper danger lies in the narrative war now taking shape. In Bangladesh, labelling critics as "pro-India" has become a shortcut to dehumanisation. In India, portraying Bangladesh as sliding wholesale into religious extremism ignores the many citizens who are resisting that very trend. Both narratives flatten complex realities and make diplomatic repair harder. Strategically, India cannot afford a destabilised Bangladesh. Its eastern and north-eastern security, trade routes and regional connectivity depend on a stable neighbour. Bangladesh, too, cannot escape geography; hostility with India would compound

its internal stresses rather than resolve them. The way forward lies in restraint and realism.

Street anger must not be allowed to dictate foreign policy. India should lower the rhetorical temperature while maintaining quiet, firm engagement on minority protection and diplomatic security. Bangladesh's interim authorities must act decisively against mob violence, not just rhetorically, to reclaim the state's monopoly over order. Ultimately, a credible elected government in Dhaka offers the best chance to reset ties on institutional, not emotional, foundations. Until then, both sides must remember that neighbours do not get replaced. They either learn to manage turbulence ~ or allow it to define the relationship for years to come.

Flipkart reinforces our ongoing effort to make India's skilling architecture more industry-responsive, credible and outcomes-driven. By aligning training and certification closely with real operational needs, we are strengthening pathways for quality jobs, mobility and long-term career growth."

For trainees, the initiative will offer standardized program delivery, rigorous assessment processes, and prestigious certifications with strong market recognition, both nationally and internationally. These credentials can be securely stored on DigiLocker, with academic credits accumulated and verified through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), further strengthening career mobility and long-term employability. Beyond workforce development, the partnership is expected to enhance Flipkart's role as a responsible industry leader by contributing to national skilling priorities, strengthening government partnerships, and building long-term brand equity rooted in social impact.

Through this collaboration, Flipkart and NCVET aim to bridge critical skill gaps in the e-commerce supply chain, create a pool of certified and job-ready talent, and support India's vision of becoming a globally competitive, future-ready economy.

Merry Christmas To All, Including Dead Terrorists: Trump After Launching Strikes On ISIS In Nigeria

(Gns).
US President Donald Trump on Thursday announced that his army has launched a "deadly" strike against the terror organisation Islamic State in northwest Nigeria.

In a social media post on Truth Social, the US President said that the US was carrying out an attack on terrorists over the alleged killings of Christians.

President Donald Trump announced a deadly US strike against ISIS terrorists in northwest Nigeria, who allegedly targeted Christians, following a warning, while US and Jordanian forces conducted air strikes against ISIS in Syria, attacking over 70 targets.

Merry Christmas To All Including Dead Terrorists Trump After Launching Strikes On ISIS In Nigeria

"Tonight, at my direction as Commander in Chief, the United States launched



a powerful and deadly strike against ISIS Terrorist scum in Northwest Nigeria, who have been targeting and viciously killing, primarily, innocent Christians, at levels not seen for many years, and even centuries! I have previously warned these terrorists that if they

did not stop the slaughtering of Christians, there would be hell to pay, and

tonight, there was," he stated.

"The Department of War executed numerous perfect strikes, as only the United States is capable of doing. Under my leadership, our country will not allow radical Islamic terrorism to prosper. May God bless our military,

and MERRY CHRISTMAS to all, including the dead terrorists, of which there will be many more if their slaughter of Christians continues," Trump added.

As per the US National Counterterrorism Centre, "ISIS-West Africa (ISIS-WA) was formed in 2015 when Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS. The branch, as per the United States, attacks regional military targets and civilian defence forces and frequently attacks government personnel and infrastructure, and Christians."

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) on December 19 said that US and Jordanian forces carried out large-scale air strikes against the Islamic State terror group in Syria. It attacked over 70 ISIS targets with more than 100 precision-guided munitions.

Five Killed as Rescue Helicopter Crashes Near Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania

(Gns).
At least five people were reported dead after a helicopter crashed on Mount Kilimanjaro during a medical rescue mission near Barafu Camp, a staging point for summit attempts, with officials confirming the aircraft went down on Wednesday in a high-altitude zone.

A helicopter crashed on Mount Kilimanjaro near Barafu Camp during a medical rescue mission, resulting in the deaths of five people, including a guide, a doctor, a pilot, and two tourists; the crash occurred between 4,670 and 4,700 metres above sea level.

Initial reports from the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority stated that the helicopter came down in a

remote section of the mountain, between 4,670 and 4,700 metres above sea level, an area widely used by climbers as they prepare for the final push to the peak.

Local outlets

Mwananchi newspaper and East Africa TV reported that the flight had been dispatched to evacuate a person needing urgent medical attention, but instead ended fatally, with Kilimanjaro regional police chief Simon Maigwa stating that the dead included a mountain guide, a doctor, the pilot,



and two foreign tourists whose nationalities were not made public.

Authorities indicated

that the crash site lay close to Barafu Camp, one of the last major overnight stops for trekkers heading towards the summit, underlining the risks linked to flying and operating rescue missions in thin air and unpredictable mountain weather conditions.

Mount Kilimanjaro heli-

copter crash: mountain profile and tourism data

Mount Kilimanjaro rises to almost 6,000 metres, or around 20,000 feet, and draws climbers from many countries, with tourism data suggesting that each year about 50,000 visitors attempt to reach the summit, making the mountain one of Africa's busiest adventure tourism locations.

Officials had not released any findings on the cause of the Mount Kilimanjaro helicopter crash and an investigation was expected to analyse flight operations, weather, altitude effects, and technical factors, with results likely to be watched closely by Tanzania's aviation and mountain tourism sectors.

China Slams Explosive US Report Claiming Plot To Sabotage US-India Ties

(Gns).
China has criticized a recent Pentagon report that accuses Beijing of manipulating reduced border tensions with India to weaken New Delhi's partnership with Washington, while simultaneously strengthening military ties with Pakistan. The report, presented to the U.S. Congress earlier this week, has drawn sharp responses from Chinese officials, who dismissed it as misleading and politically motivated.

At a press briefing in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian condemned the document, saying it "distorts China's defense policy, sows discord between China and other countries, and seeks to justify America's pursuit of military dominance." Lin

emphasized that China firmly rejects the conclusions of the report, which he described as an attempt to provoke confrontation rather than promote stability.

China has criticized a recent Pentagon report accusing Beijing of manipulating border tensions with India to weaken New Delhi's partnership with Washington, while strengthening military ties with Pakistan; the report highlighted China's expanded core interests and nuclear expansion. Chinese officials, including spokesperson Lin Jian, dismissed the report as misleading and politically motivated.



ated.

Echoing this stance, Defence Ministry spokesman Zhang Xiaogang also denounced the Pentagon's findings. He argued that Washington has a habit of issuing such reports annually, interfering in China's internal affairs and misrepresenting its military development.

According to Zhang, the report is filled with "erroneous understandings and geopolitical biases," exaggerating what the U.S. calls the "China threat" in order to mislead the international community. He urged Washington to stop fabricating narratives that

fuel antagonism.

India-China Relations and Border Issues

Responding to specific claims about India-China ties, Lin Jian stressed that Beijing approaches its relationship with New Delhi from a "strategic and long-term perspective." He said China remains committed to enhancing communication, building trust, and managing differences responsibly to ensure a stable bilateral relationship. On the sensitive issue of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Lin noted that the border situation is "generally stable" and that communication channels between the two countries remain open. He rejected outside commentary on the matter as "groundless and irresponsible."

AAP MP Calls for Protection of Minorities Amid Reports of Religious Vandalism

(Gns).
Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh (Sanjay Azad SIn) has raised concerns over recent incidents of religious intolerance across India, warning that such acts could damage the country's image internationally.

Singh said India has always been a culturally strong and diverse nation, and its citizens have long taken pride in the nation's pluralistic ethos. However, he alleged that some groups have been interfering in the religious practices and events of other communities, creating unrest and fear.

Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh expressed concerns about

recent religious intolerance incidents in India, citing examples like the



Hanuman Chalisa recitation outside a church, priest assaults, and Santa Claus statue vandalism. He urged authorities to maintain peace, protect all communities, and uphold constitu-

tional rights.

Citing specific incidents, Singh mentioned that in

dalised in multiple locations, highlighting a pattern of harassment against minority communities.

"These acts do not reflect the values of India," Singh said. "What message will this send to the world if people cannot freely celebrate their faith?" he questioned, urging authorities to take strict measures to maintain peace and uphold constitutional rights.

The AAP MP called for immediate action to prevent such incidents from escalating and emphasized that India's strength lies in its unity and respect for diversity. He stressed that the government must ensure the protection of all communities and maintain the secular fabric of the nation.

Who Was Amrit Mandal? Hindu Man Lynched in Bangladesh Days After Dipu Das

(Gns).
Another Hindu man has been lynched in Bangladesh just days after the killing of Dipu Chandra Das, raising fresh concerns over mob violence incidents in the country.

In Rajbari district, Bangladesh, Amrit Mandal, a 29-year-old Hindu man known as Samrat, was allegedly beaten to death by a mob on Wednesday night following extortion accusations; police arrested one associate and recovered firearms, while investigating the incident.

Switch To Shorts

The latest case was reported from Rajbari district, where a 29-year-old Hindu man was allegedly beaten to death by a mob late on Wednesday night following accusations of extortion.

The victim has been identified as Amrit Mandal, also known as Samrat. According to police, the assault took place around 11 pm at Hosaindanga Old Market in Pangsha Upazila.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Debrata Sarkar of the Pangsha Circle confirmed the incident, saying police rushed to the scene after receiving information about the attack. Samrat was found in a critical condition and was immediately taken to the Pangsha Upazila Health Complex.

Police officials said Amrit Mandal was known locally as a group leader operating under the name "Samrat Bahini". He was the son of Akshay Mandal, a resident of Hosaindanga village in Rajbari.

According to Pangsha

Model Police Station officer-in-charge Sheikh Moinul Islam, Mandal had at least two criminal cases registered against him at Pangsha Police Station, including a murder case.

Local residents told The Daily Star that Mandal had allegedly formed a criminal gang and was involved in extortion and other illegal activities for a long period. Reports also claimed that he had remained in hiding in India for a considerable time before recently returning to his village.

As per police and local accounts, the incident was triggered after Mandal allegedly demanded extortion money from a villager identified as Shahidul Islam.

On Wednesday night, Mandal and members of his group reportedly went to Shahidul's house to col-

lect the money. When the occupants raised an alarm shouting "robbers", villagers rushed to the spot.

The situation quickly escalated, and Samrat was allegedly beaten by the gathered locals. His associates managed to flee the scene amid the chaos.

Arrests Made, Probe Underway

Police said one of Mandal's associates Mohammad Selim, was arrested from the area. Two firearms were recovered from his possession during the arrest.

Authorities confirmed that an investigation is underway to identify all those involved in the assault and to reconstruct the sequence of events that led to Mandal's death.

The killing comes close on the heels of Dipu

Angkrish Raghuvanshi Gets Seriously Injured During Vijay Hazare Trophy, Hospitalised

(Gns).
Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 campaign suffered a scare on December 26 when Angkrish Raghuvanshi hurt the neck and shoulder while fielding against Uttarakhand. The 21-year-old picked up the injury near the boundary, raising concern for Mumbai and Indian Premier League followers.

The incident unfolded in the 30th over of Uttarakhand's innings when the batter attempted a slog sweep. Stationed at deep mid-wicket, Angkrish dived forward for a catch but landed awkwardly. The effort failed to produce a wicket and instead left the youngster in clear pain on the ground.

Mumbai's Vijay Hazare

Trophy 2025-26 campaign faced a setback on December 26 when Angkrish Raghuvanshi sustained a neck and shoulder



injury while fielding against Uttarakhand, requiring a CT scan in Jaipur to determine the severity, which could affect Mumbai's remaining fixtures.

Reports state that the stretcher and ambulance reached the spot after a noticeable delay, while Angkrish struggled to move

the neck. Medical staff eventually lifted the cricketer onto a stretcher and transported Angkrish to a Jaipur hospital. He has

been sent for a CT scan to assess the damage.

Officials and team members are awaiting the medical report, with updates expected after the scan results. One line summed up the situation around the Angkrish Raghuvanshi injury: "Only time will tell the severity of the injury

after the scans are conducted." The result could influence Mumbai's plans for the remaining Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 fixtures.

Before the injury, Angkrish opened the innings for Mumbai with Rohit Sharma but could not convert the start. Angkrish scored 11 runs from 20 balls, while Rohit Sharma fell for a golden duck. The early setbacks added pressure on Mumbai in this Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 group game.

Angkrish already holds key experience from the Indian Premier League with Kolkata Knight Riders. Across two seasons, Angkrish has featured in 22 matches for KKR, scoring 463 runs and registering two half-centuries.

LeT Terrorist Sighting Sparks Joint Operation in Anantnag

(Gns).
A major alert was sounded in Anantnag district after spotting Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Mohammad Latif, who joined the group in November; similar security drills also occurred in

a joint operation in Anantnag district after spotting Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Mohammad Latif, who joined the group in November; similar security drills also occurred in



Srinagar and Anantnag, focused on protecting infrastructure and residents.

The Anantnag incident followed a wider Jammu and Kashmir security operation carried out three days earlier in Srinagar city. On Tuesday, security forces had already been checking vital installations and sensi-

tive locations in the North Zone of Srinagar. That exercise focused on preventing possible sabotage attempts and tightening existing security cover around important sites.

"Police, in close coordination with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), conducted Area Security/Anti-Sabotage (AST) operations around major vital installations and sensitive locations in the North Zone of Srinagar, with the aim of strengthening preventive security

measures and countering any potential threats," a Srinagar police spokesman said.

Expanded Jammu and Kashmir security operation and search in Anantnag

The spokesman added that the wider drill in Srinagar had clear goals linked to safety planning. "He said the purpose of the joint security exercise is to reinforce the overall security grid, enhance operational preparedness, and ensure the safety and security of critical infrastructure as well as the general public." "During the operation, thorough checking and sanitisation of the identified areas were carried out, along with a comprehensive review of existing security arrangements," the spokesman said. Similar security drills were conducted in some areas of Anantnag district.

China Slams Explosive US Report Claiming Plot To Sabotage US-India Ties

(Gns).
With New Year's Eve approaching, the Hyderabad City Police have announced a stringent 'Zero Drugs Policy' to ensure a safe and drug-free environment for citizens, said the official.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner, V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, chaired a high-level coordination meeting on Friday at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Banjara Hills. During the session, he issued a stern directive to top brass and field officers to maintain a "hawk-eyed" vigil across the city.

According to the Hyderabad police, CP V.C. Sajjanar, the Commissioner, outlined a multi-layered

security plan involving the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), Task Force, Special Branch, and local law enforcement.

The CP V.C. Sajjanar stated that the "Special surveillance teams have been deployed effectively immediately at all pubs, hotels, restaurants, and event venues. The Commissioner ordered continuous monitoring of individuals previously involved in drug-related offences over the last two years. Officials have been tasked with preparing a comprehensive list of known drug peddlers and consumers. Additionally, police will track the details of individuals entering the city for the festivities."

The Hyderabad police



further added that the crackdown isn't limited to public venues; police will also monitor private gatherings at service apartments and hostels to prevent illicit activities.

The City Police have set a mandatory 1:00 AM closing time for all New Year celebrations at pubs, hotels and restaurants.

"Strict action will be taken against violators. Will face immediate cancellation of licenses if found engaging in any illegal activities this year.

" the Commissioner warned.

To manage the influx of revellers, check-posts and barricades will be fortified at major hubs, including Maitrivanam, Necklace Road, Tank Bund.

WESTERN RAILWAY
DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING WORK
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction)
Western Railway, DRM Office, Annex
Building 3rd Floor Do-Bati RATLAM (M.P.)
457-001, invites Tender Notice No. EL-C-RTM-EP-2025-01-T. Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 01 No. 2x25 KV Sub-Sectioning and Paralleling Post at Barawanya for Quadrupling lines and dismantling of existing 2x25 KV Sub Sectioning and Paralleling Post, in connection with the 3rd and 4th line work between Ratlam - Nagda section of Ratlam Division of Western Railway.
Approx Value: ₹ 6,99,26,193/- **Bid Deposit: ₹ 3,50,000/-** **Pre-Bid Conference Date: 02.01.2026 11:00 Online Bidding Start Date: 15.01.2026** **Tender Closing Date: On 29.01.2026 at 15:00** **Website Particulars: www.reps.gov.in** 0931
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Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Inaugurates Kreed Bharati's Akhil Bharatiya Convention in Ahmedabad

From Ancient Times, Sports Are an Integral Part of India's Culture and Lifestyle: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel
* Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel

- Kreed Bharati is an organisation that contributes to nation-building through sports by preserving traditional games
- As part of the Olympic 2036 run-up, the state government is committed to organising around five world-class sporting events in the coming times
- Prime Minister's Vision of Healthy and Fit Citizens for Building Viksit Bharat Realised in Gujarat through Khel Mahakumbh
Players and Volunteers from Across the Country to Participate in Three-Day Krida Bharati Convention
Release of the Krida Jyot souvenir book by the Chief Minister

(Gns).
While inaugurating the

Kreed Bharati's Akhil Bharatiya Convention, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri



Narendra Modi, India has been granted the hosting rights of the Commonwealth Games. On this proud occasion, Ahmedabad has also been selected, due to which the Kreed Bharati convention is being held in Ahmedabad. He stated that this will provide a new direction to the sports sector.

He stated that Prime Minister has emphasised that development should take place in every sphere of life, with sports playing an important role in this

process. In this context, he said that guided by this noble vision, the Prime Minister initiated the Khel Mahakumbh in Gujarat in 2010 to promote a strong sports culture. As a result of the Khel Mahakumbh, enthusiasm for sports has increased even in the rural areas of the state, and participation in the event has

been rising steadily.

The Khel Mahakumbh, which began in 2010 with the participation of 16 lakh people, recorded participation of 72 lakh people in its 2025 edition. Moreover, owing to the success of the Khel Mahakumbh, around 16 talented players from Gujarat have gone on to represent the state and the country in national and international sports events.

Referring to ancient scriptures, the Chief Minister highlighted that sports have been an integral part of India's culture and lifestyle since ancient times, with classical texts emphasising physical training, skill development through the 64 arts, and competitive sporting traditions, reflecting a deep-rooted spirit of sportsmanship in Indian civilisation.

LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta pays homage to Sahibzadas on Veer Bal Diwas

(Gns).
Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Friday visited Gurdwara Pather Sahib on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas to pay homage to the unparalleled courage and supreme sacrifice of Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji, Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh Ji, and Mata Gujri Ji. The Lt Governor bowed in reverence to the extraordinary bravery, unwavering faith, and martyrdom of the Sahibzadas, the revered sons of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Gujri Ji, whose sacrifices remain an eternal testament to courage, devotion to dharma, and righteousness. Gupta emphasised that

Veer Bal Diwas is not merely a date on the calendar

tender age, chose martyrdom over relinquishing



but a profound reminder of the unparalleled courage displayed by Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh Ji, who, despite their

their faith — a sacrifice without parallel in world history.

The Lt Governor stated that under the visionary leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, the nation now collectively observes Veer Bal Diwas every year on 26 December, ensuring that the inspiring legacy of the Sahibzadas and Mata Gujri Ji occupies a rightful place in the national consciousness.

He also urged the youth to draw inspiration from the lives and supreme sacrifice of the Sahibzadas and to uphold the values of courage, truth, righteousness, integrity, and selfless service. He emphasised that their faith and valour serve as a guiding light for young Indians to contribute positively to society and the nation while remaining firmly rooted in India's rich cultural and moral heritage.

Mathura encounter: Cyber criminal worth Rs 25,000 arrested

Mathura. Last night, a joint team of Govardhan Police and SOG arrested cyber criminal Kaif carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 after an encounter. In retaliatory firing, the accused was shot in the leg, after which he was admitted to the hospital.

The arrested accused Kaif, son of Hanni, resident of Devseras (Govardhan), is a vicious cyber criminal. According to the police, this gang used to hide in the forests and fields of Devseras and target people from different states of the country using fake SIM cards. Sometimes the thugs used to break into people's bank accounts by



posing as officials and sometimes by posing as acquaintances. In the previous operations conducted on the instructions of SSP Mathura, many cyber criminals have been sent to jail. But Kaif had dodged the police and gone to other states and was running his

fraud network from there. At around 8:10 pm on Thursday night, SOG and Govardhan police received information that Kaif was coming from Gatholi towards Devseras on an unnumbered bike. The police laid siege near the first bridge of Bombay.

Seeing himself surrounded, Kaif started firing at the police. In retaliatory firing by the police, a bullet hit his leg, due to which he fell and was arrested. Police recovered an unnumbered Splendor motorcycle, one country-made pistol, two live and two spent cartridges from the possession of the accused. Since 2022 till now, many cases have been registered against Kaif in Govardhan police station under serious sections of assault, fraud and IT Act. The police was searching for him since the recent case. Officials said that this campaign against cyber criminals will continue.

Former Prime Minister of India Atal ji remembered in Sanskriti University

Mathura. The birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was celebrated as Good Governance Day by the Sanskriti Student Council in the auditorium of Sanskriti University. Speech and poetry competition was organized on this occasion. Through their poems and speeches, students explained in detail the good governance, national unity and democratic values established by Atal ji.

At the beginning of the program, lamps were lit and flowers were offered in front of the portrait of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In the program, Dean of Student Welfare Department, DrDS Tomar, former Prime Minister Late. Throwing light on Atal ji's life in detail, he said that Atal ji was one of the most popular politicians, even the opposition

always respected him. Due to his unique personality, he always remained everyone's favorite in the house. He said that Good Governance Day is celebrated every year in India on 25th December as the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by promoting awareness among the Indian people. Keeping in mind the principle of good governance, the Government of India has declared Good Governance Day as a working day for the government.

During the elocation

competition, students remembered Atal ji as a



Winners of the speech and poetry competition held at Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya with their medals.

visionary leader, former Prime Minister and a well-known poet. Student speakers said that Atal ji's thoughts are inspiring generations. The students showcased their skills by actively participating in the competitions and presented their views through powerful speeches and soulful poems reflecting the ideology of Atal ji and his contribution towards the nation.

On this occasion, police station in-charge Kamlesh Singh, present in the program, while addressing the students, stressed the importance of discipline, law enforcement and responsible citizenship. Also recited poetry. University's Public Relations Officer Kishan Chaturvedi was present as the judge of the competitions.

In the speech competition, Yash Srivastava got the first prize, student Ojasvi got the second prize and student Vanshika got the third prize. In the poetry competition, Neha stood first, Prince Raj Kaushik stood second and Vinayak stood third. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the winners were felicitated and encouraged for their excellence. Chhavi Sharma conducted the program smoothly

'Restrain SL from imposing a Unitary State and depriving Tamils of autonomy': PMK president Anbumani's plea to PM

(Gns).
With the Sri Lankan government of Anura Kumara Disasanayake attempting to change the Constitution of the island nation into a unitary state, Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president and former Union Minister Anbumani on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restrain Colombo, as this would deprive the ethnic minority Tamils of self-governance and meaningful autonomy.

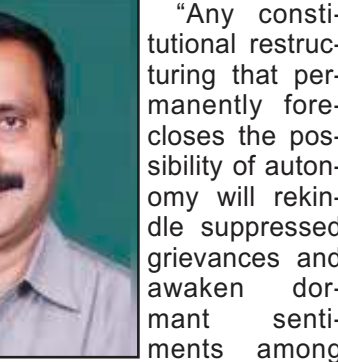
In a letter to the Prime Minister, he said the developments in Sri Lanka, particularly the continued and systematic efforts to deny any political power and self-governance to the Tamil people, are fundamentally contrary to the

values India has consistently championed across the world.

"The root cause of Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict lies in the systematic denial of political power to the Tamil national community, who once played a decisive role in the governance of the island, and were compelled to resist when subjected

to domination and marginalisation. The present attempt by the Sinhala majoritarian forces appears to be driven by the mistaken belief that the defeat of the LTTE has eliminated the Tamil aspi-

ration for self-rule. While the LTTE may not exist, the cause that gave rise to the Tamil freedom struggle remains unresolved," said the letter.



"Any constitutional restructuring that permanently forecloses the possibility of autonomy will rekindle suppressed grievances and awaken dormant sentiments among

Eelam Tamils. Such a development would be deeply destabilising and detrimental to Sri Lanka's future. India cannot remain a passive spectator to this unfolding situation," he said.

Tamils have faced sustained discrimination on ethnic and linguistic lines since the island nation attained Independence in 1948, and 30 per cent of officials were Tamils, he pointed out, which had drastically changed after the Sinhala only Act in 1956, marking the institutionalised discrimination, reducing Tamils as second class citizens. While the 1987 Indo-Lanka Accord provided provincial autonomy, which has been undone by the 13th Amendment.

Anbumani requested the PM to advise Colombo to undertake Constitutional reforms that guarantee a federal system that grants self-rule to the Tamils.

Kushwaha snaps at media amid rumours of rift within RLM

(Gns).
Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief and Rajya Sabha member Upendra Kushwaha appeared visibly upset on Friday as discussions intensified in Bihar's political circles over the future of the RLM in recent days.

The speculation gained further momentum when three of the four Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) MLAs, Madhav Anand, Rameshwar Mahato, and Alok Singh, skipped a 'Litti Chokha' party hosted at Kushwaha's Patna residence. Instead, the three legislators travelled to New Delhi, where they met BJP National Working President Nitin Nabin on Wednesday.

During a media interaction on Friday, Kushwaha dismissed the issue and avoided entertaining questions related to it. However, when the matter was repeatedly raised, he countered with a question, saying, "Who told you that they didn't come to the Litti Party?"

Soon after, Kushwaha lost his temper and lashed out at the media, alleging that journalists have no real questions and therefore raise unnecessary issues.

Earlier this month, Bihar's political corridors were abuzz following a fiery social media post by RLM MLA Rameshwar Mahto. His Facebook post was widely perceived as a direct attack on Kushwaha for overlooking his party's MLAs while elevating his son, Deepak Prakash, despite him not being a member of either House, to a ministerial berth under

the RLM quota. Although Mahto did not name Kushwaha in his post, it was widely seen as a response to the RLM chief's remarks defending his family-centric decision.



Soon after the formation of the Bihar government, Kushwaha had said that "the decision was essential and unavoidable for preserving the party's existence and future."

The speculation intensified further after photographs of the three RLM MLAs meeting BJP National Executive President Nitin Nabin were shared on social media. Leaders from both the opposition and ruling parties seized upon the issue, suggesting that Kushwaha's own MLAs

were dissatisfied with his leadership and exploring alternatives.

Political analysts noted that the smiling appearance of the MLAs in the photographs with Nitin Nabin gave the impression that a significant political development might be brewing behind the scenes, potentially leading to a split in the party.

Analysts also believe that by appointing his son as minister, Upendra Kushwaha may have repeated the mistake he made earlier in the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), when veteran leader Nagmani was sidelined. Nagmani had accused Kushwaha of selling an election ticket for a large sum of money, and the differences eventually led to the RLSP's merger with the Janata Dal (United) in March 2021.

Nigerian supplier arrested by ANTF from Delhi in heroin smuggling case

Mathura/Agra. Uttar Pradesh Police's Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has achieved a major success against drug trafficking and busted an internationally active heroin smuggling gang. The ANTF Operational Unit of Agra Zone has arrested a Nigerian citizen from Delhi in this case, who was supplying heroin in many districts including Mathura. Let it be known that this entire case started on 8 October 2025 from Naujheel police station area of Mathura. During checking near Bajna Cut by Naujheel police, two suspicious youths Waqar and Faizal were caught with about one kilogram of heroin.

Interrogation and further investigation of the arrested accused was handed over to ANTF Agra Zone. During investigation, the accused revealed that heroin was supplied to them by a Nigerian national, who was operating the entire network while living in Delhi.

Was. The ANTF team identified the main supplier based on technical surveillance, mobile data analysis and other physical evidence. The main accused was identified as Ike Prince (41), son of Ike Chukku, resident of Lagos (Nigeria). The accused was currently



Foreign smuggler in the custody of Naujheel Police and Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)

living in Fatehpur Beri, Asola area of Delhi.

On December 25, the team of ANTF Agra Zone arrested him from Delhi. The investigation also revealed that the accused Nigerian national was living in India illegally. He neither

had a valid passport nor visa. For this reason, along with action under the NDPS Act, legal action is also being taken against him under the Foreigners Act.

Havendra Mishra team in-charge in Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) team, U.N. Gaurav Sharma ANTF Operational Unit Agra Zone Agra. Mr. Sudhir Kumar ANTF Operational Unit Agra Zone Agra. Honorable Ajit Singh ANTF Operational Unit Agra Zone Agra. Constable Wasim Akram ANTF Operational Unit Agra Zone Agra. Private Limited Driver Mukesh Chandra ANTF Operational Unit Agra Zone Agra etc. were included.

J&K reservation standoff: Ruhullah's protest threat as NC cites cabinet nod

(Gns).
The simmering row over job reservation in Jammu and Kashmir is once again threatening to spill onto the streets on Saturday, with the ruling National Conference (NC) MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's ultimatum of a sit-in protest outside the Chief Minister's residence if the issue is not resolved.

Hours before the MP's protest against his own party's government, the NC leadership sought to reassure protesters, insisting that the government had already acted on its poll promises.

Chief spokesman of NC and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said on Friday that "The cabinet has already decided on the reservation based on what we had promised in our poll manifesto. The rationalisation of the reservation was important, and the file has been sent to the Raj

Bhavan for approval. People should approach Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to

youth, Ruhullah, in a post on X, wrote, "I have neither forgotten nor left the stu-



approve the reservation policy file early," he added.

Striking an emotional chord with protesting students and unemployed

dents alone. I urge the government once again to talk to the students and apprise them of the measures and decisions taken to resolve

this issue. If that does not happen till Saturday, I will not leave our youth and students helpless. I will walk with them and sit with them on this coming Sunday at the same place as we did last year on 23rd December to make them heard".

The warning has revived memories of last year's unprecedented protest on 23 December, when Ruhullah, along with unemployed youth and leaders from across the political spectrum, staged a sit-in outside the official residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The protest was also supported by the opposition PDP, whose MLA Waheed Para also joined Ruhullah's sit-in. Kashmir's chief cleric, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, supported the protest for the rationalisation of reservations.