



## IN BRIEF

Lalit Modi apologizes for the viral video: wrote, "I apologize to the Indian government"



**New Delhi, Agency:** Fugitive Lalit Modi apologized to the Indian government on Monday for sharing a video of himself with Vijay Mallya.

Lalit uploaded the video on December 22nd, in which he appeared with fugitive Vijay Mallya. In the video, Lalit referred to himself and Mallya as India's two biggest fugitives. Nine days after the video went viral, Lalit has now apologized for the video.

Mallya has been in the UK since 2016 and was officially declared a fugitive economic offender in 2019. Lalit Modi, meanwhile, has been living in the UK since 2010 and faces serious charges related to tax evasion, money laundering, and the IPL.

**Owaisi condemns lynching of Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh, hopes strong action by Yunus**



**New Delhi, Agency:** AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday condemned the lynching of a Hindu man, Dipu Chandra Das, in Bangladesh and expressed hope that Muhammad Yunus, head of the interim government, would take action against the perpetrators.

He also said Pakistan's ISI and elements from China who are against India are present in Bangladesh, and hence it is important to improve relations with the neighbouring country. So what has happened to Dipu Chandra Das is contrary to the constitutional mandate, and, unfortunately, such a sad incident occurred. Our party condemns any form of lynching, and we hope that the Bangladeshi observer or administrator, Mr Yunus, and his administration will take strong action against such incidents," Owaisi told PTI Videos.

# Shah said – we will drive out infiltrators from the entire country like Assam

Freedom fighter Gopinath forced Nehru to keep Assam in India



**Guwahati, Agency:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Batadrava Redevelopment Project in Nagaon, Assam on Monday. At the event, Shah said, "Himanta Biswa Sarma has freed 100,000 acres of land from Bangladeshi infiltrators. Similarly, we will drive out infiltrators from the entire country."

He further said, "Today I want to remember Gopinath Bordoloi. If it weren't for him, Assam and the entire Northeast would not be part of India today." Shah said that it was Gopinath who forced Jawaharlal Nehru to keep Assam within India.

**227 crore Batadrava project inaugurated:** Union Home Minister Amit

## Highlights of Amit Shah's statement...

- The central government has signed peace agreements with militant groups, 92% of the terms of which have been met. Peace and development have strengthened in Assam.
- Batadrava Than is a center of Neo-Vaishnavism. This site symbolizes Assam's cultural unity and spiritual heritage. The project will promote tourism and culture.
- The central government's efforts are leading to peace, development, and cultural preservation in Assam. The new security system in Guwahati will make the city safer.
- The people of Assam should once again support the BJP. We will rid the entire Assam of infiltrators. Those who consider infiltrators a vote bank can never do this.
- Assam sent Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Rajya Sabha, but he came to Assam only 7 times, out of which 2 times he came only to file his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha.

Shah inaugurated the redeveloped Srimanta Sankardev Avirbhava Kshetra at Batadrava Thana at a cost of Rs 227 crore. This place is the

birthplace of the great Vaishnav saint of Assam, Srimanta Sankardev. Amit Shah was welcomed with traditional Sattriya dance and music.

**Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Urges Industry To Lead On Sustainability**



**New Delhi, Agency:** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said her government is introducing a series of regulatory reforms and easing compliance norms to promote industrial growth in the Capital, while calling on industrial units to take greater responsibility for their social and environmental obligations.

**Call for Industry Participation in Sustainability:** Addressing a ceremony marking the centenary of the Friends Colony Industrial Area, Gupta emphasised that sustainable urban development requires active participation from industry.

She urged industrial units to support initiatives related to sanitation, environmental protection and urban greening, noting that government efforts alone would be insufficient, reported media.

Gupta called on industries to manage local waste responsibly, adopt green building practices, treat and reuse water, install rainwater harvesting systems and explore measures such as mist plants on high-rise buildings.

## Schools in UP up to grade 12 will remain closed until January 1st

45 cities will experience severe cold for the next three days

**New Delhi, Agency:** Uttar Pradesh is experiencing severe cold. On Sunday, 45 districts, including Agra, Gorakhpur, and Kanpur, were engulfed in dense fog. In 18 districts, the fog was so dense that visibility was impossible. Visibility reached zero.

The sun shone in Lucknow. The intense cold left the streets deserted. Dewdrops fell like rain. Roads and floors appeared damp in Gorakhpur and Ballia this morning. The Taj Mahal was hidden in fog in Agra. Meerut was the coldest district, recording a low of 5.9 degrees Celsius. More than 50



trains arrived at Gorakhpur, Jalaun, and Varanasi railway stations with delays ranging from two to ten hours. Four flights were delayed at Gorakhpur airport.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered all schools and colleges in the state, from nursery to 12th grade, to remain closed until January 1.

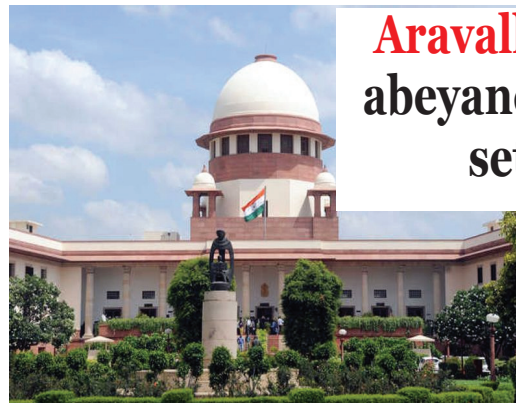
**Mamata Banerjee said, "I am accused of appeasement, but I am secular." People remain silent when I visit a gurdwara, but raise questions about Eid celebrations**

**Kolkata Agency:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday responded to allegations of appeasement. "Many people say I'm appeasing, but I'm secular and believe in all religions," she said in Kolkata. "I love Bengal, I love India. That's our ideology."

The Trinamool Congress chief did not name the accuser, but the opposition BJP has often accused her of appeasing Muslims. Mamata said, "When I go to a gurdwara, you don't say anything, but when I attend an Eid event, you start criticizing me."



**Aravalli row: Supreme Court keeps in abeyance panel's recommendations, to set up new expert committee**



**New Delhi, Agency:** Noting that certain clarifications were needed regarding the definitions of Aravalli Hills it recently approved, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered to keep in abeyance its November 20 order that was based on a committee's recommendations.

A three-judge Special Vacation Bench led by CJI

earlier committee before taking a final decision.

We direct that recommendations of the committee and findings of the Supreme Court thereafter shall remain in abeyance till then," a three-judge Special Vacation Bench led by CJI Surya Kant said, posting the matter for further hearing on January 21,

2026. The Bench noted that there was a need to examine if the definition of the Aravalli Hills and Ranges had created a structural paradox, and if it had inversely broadened the scope of non-Aravalli areas, thereby facilitating the continuation of unregulated mining. The top court had last month approved an elevation-linked definition for classifying landforms as part of the Aravalli range — spanning across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat — for the purpose of mining regulation.

## Is death of 33 BLOs okay? Kapil Sibal takes dig at govt

**New Delhi, Agency:** Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal took a swipe at the government on Monday over the death of booth-level officers in various parts of the country engaged in the SIR exercise, asking whether the presence of one alleged "infiltrator" was not okay, but the death of BLOs was okay. Sibal's remarks came a day after a Booth Level Officer (BLO) was found dead in West Bengal's Bankura district, triggering allegations that work-related pressure linked to the ongoing Special Intensive



Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls may have played a role. "Yet another suicide by a Bengal BLO. Total pan-India: 33. If one alleged 'ghuspetia (infiltrator)', that's not OK, if 33 BLOs die, is that OK?" Sibal said in a post on X.

## INSV Kaundinya recreation of 5th century ship; inspired by painting from Ajanta Caves

**New Delhi, Agency:** Traditionally-built stitched ship INSV Kaundinya, which on Monday embarked on her maiden overseas voyage, from Gujarat to Oman, is a recreation of a fifth-century vessel, and inspired by a painting from the ancient Ajanta Caves.

Named after the legendary mariner Kaundinya, who is believed to have sailed from India to Southeast Asia in ancient times, the ship embodies

India's historic role as a maritime nation.

Its design and construction had posed "unique technical challenges", according to officials.

The Indian Navy had formally inducted and named the vessel as Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya at a ceremonial event held at the Karwar naval base on May 21, in the presence of Union Minister of Culture Singh Shekhawat.

## WESTERN RAILWAY EXTENDS TRIPS OF VARIOUS SPECIAL TRAINS

TRAIN NO.	ORIGINATING STATION & DESTINATION	DAYS OF RUN	EXTENDED UPTO
09215	Gandhigram – Bhavnagar Terminus	Daily	28.02.2026
09216	Bhavnagar Terminus – Gandhigram	Daily	28.02.2026
09211	Gandhigram – Botad	Daily	28.02.2026
09212	Botad – Gandhigram	Daily	28.02.2026
09529	Dhola – Bhavnagar Terminus	Daily	28.02.2026
09530	Bhavnagar Terminus – Dhola	Daily	28.02.2026

For detailed information regarding timings, halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)



**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
www.indianrailways.gov.in  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail)  
Follow us on: [X.com/WesternRail](https://www.x.com/WesternRail)  
Follow us on: [Instagram/WesternRail](https://www.instagram.com/WesternRail)

PLEASE CARRY ORIGINAL ID PROOF FOR ALL RESERVED TICKETS

## WESTERN RAILWAY TO EXTEND TRIPS OF TWO PAIRS OF WEEKLY & BI-WEEKLY SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No.	From	To	Day of Run	Extended Upto
09083	MUMBAI CENTRAL	BHAGAT KI KOTHI	WEDNESDAY	25.02.2026
09084	BHAGAT KI KOTHI	MUMBAI CENTRAL	FRIDAY	27.02.2026
09001	MUMBAI CENTRAL	BHIWANI	TUESDAY & FRIDAY	27.02.2026
09002	BHIWANI	MUMBAI CENTRAL	WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY	28.02.2026

For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

The booking of extended trips of Train Nos. 09083 and 09001 opens from 30.12.2025 at PRS counters & on IRCTC website. The above trains will run as Special Trains on Special Fare.



**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
www.indianrailways.gov.in  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail)  
Follow us on: [X.com/WesternRail](https://www.x.com/WesternRail)  
Follow us on: [Instagram/WesternRail](https://www.instagram.com/WesternRail)

PLEASE CARRY ORIGINAL ID PROOF FOR ALL RESERVED TICKETS



# Stop it if you can

**Nirmal Aso**

The country has been more prone to rhetoric than scientific inventions. These rhetoric has changed the nation's behavior, but now, what we hear is what we see. All the theater and artists are now converging on the state legislatures or Parliament, or we've begun relying on elections for entertainment. Looking around, it seems as if the country has just recently attained independence. As soon as the roads

widen, vehicles are parked freely and without fear. Seeing the contribution of street vendors to the nation's independence is so inspiring that we can forget the value of degrees and set up our stalls wherever we find space. The country is becoming so liberated that it's difficult to stop its progress. Blocking public spaces, blocking work files, blocking promotions, grants, or justice is, in essence, the nation's

courage. The nation rejoices in a TV studio debate to witness courage. Where can courageous people be found in the system now, let alone in an FIR or a law book? They're found traversing the country's land on their bikes or four-wheelers. That is why every day the country, expanding its chest and its heart, absorbs all kinds of encroachments. The capital of the country wonders whether in its name, Old Delhi would be more popu-

lar or New Delhi. Noida would be more popular or Gurgaon. Even the progress is stopped many times. The opposition would have been successful in entire Bihar, but elections stopped it. By the way, in this country, the one who stops is greater than the one who moves. Ceasefire was discussed more than the ongoing war, because the one who stops keeps saying that he stopped it. Here the politics of the country is unable to under-

stand whether it has to move or stop each other. The Indian dish Samosa did not become famous just like that, rather our capabilities increased because of it. No matter how many sweets are on a plate, a single samosa spreads so much that you'll belch for a lifetime. Golgappa has been trying to do the same, but it hasn't been able to spread. Previously, those who spread alcohol were alcoholics, but now drug dealers

have spread so much that even governments have become small. Opposition parties, often searching for a big movement to bring down governments, have now started looking for arenas from which the struggle can appear larger. Delhi has numerous arenas, and now the opposition has its eyes on the arenas of every state capital. Just once, they spread their movement and they will win the arena. Two arenas clashed.

## Editorial

### Whose breaths are these deals?

The warriors of the fight were not decided by doctors' strikes or the dismissal of a doctor, but the entire public of the state was hurt every time. It wouldn't be correct to attribute the symptoms of this disease solely to IGMC. The symptoms are found in the public who capitalize on government treatment methods or government benefits. We become sick in search of competent doctors, or the doctors themselves are troubled by the patient count. The cause of the trouble is that the hooliganism in hospitals is fueled by coercion. Nearly three thousand government doctors are absent from hospitals because of strict action taken against their fellow doctors. This story is not so mild that the government wouldn't be strict, nor is it natural to underestimate one side. The medical profession must have demonstrated its strength when a patient was considered an enemy. When a patient is dwarfed by the length of a hospital mat or bed, the medical profession declares its strength above God. It is this strength that the system, even in medical colleges, loses every day, but a doctor is a cabin, not a cage. There is a difference between his capacity and efficiency. This difference becomes a contradiction in medical services. Written messages of duty are not practical because the world is sick. We left the dispensary so that the civil hospital could prove better. We left the civil hospital so that efficiency could be found in the zonal or regional hospital and now the whole of Himachal is counting on medical colleges.

**Encouraging recycling systems for waste and garbage will be an important step toward curbing overexploitation of resources. Emphasis will be placed on curbing air pollution and protecting and reviving ecosystems... Over the past century and a half, since the Industrial Revolution accelerated the pace of development and sparked a race to conquer nature, and machines placed the power of creation in the hands of humans, the definition of development itself has gradually changed.**

**Kulbhushan Upmanyu**

Development began to be seen as abundance rather than a quality life. An endless cycle of abuse of nature began. Only by exploiting nature could goods for abundance be produced, and hence the unlimited exploitation of natural resources began. During the era of colonialism, countries with less mechanical power were occupied by the so-called developed nations, and their resources were ruthlessly destroyed. The way so-called civilized nations oppressed the indigenous peoples of weaker countries, declaring their civilizations uncivilized and destroying them is a despicable history in itself, the remnants of which can be seen in the form of the indigenous peoples of America and Australia. But this modern civilization now seems to be collapsing under its own weight, like Bhasmasur. This civilization has begun to strike at its own roots. Although the development of scientific understanding has led everyone to recognize the wrong direction, science is being misused as a force destructive to nature. The majority of the world's most learned scientists have been engaged in the development of war sci-



ence, because the decision-makers remain carriers of a primitive, cruel mentality, in whose hands machines and science have become weapons of arbitrariness against nature and animal society. Instead of becoming a vehicle for knowledge, happiness, and peace, it has become a vehicle for war and cruelty. In this situation, the Global Outlook 2025 report, presented at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, highlights the abuse of the environment and points the way for human society to reconsider and modify its practices. Climate change, as a response to this abuse of nature, is posing a major threat. The massive ener-

gy needed to sustain mechanization is being generated from fossil fuels. This production process emits large amounts of smoke and toxic gases, which are causing a greenhouse effect and an unprecedented increase in atmospheric temperature. This temperature rise has disrupted the entire climate. In some places, there is excessive rainfall, while in others, there is drought. Glaciers are melting and disappearing, leading to an imminent water crisis. According to the report, greenhouse gas emissions have already caused a 1.5°C increase in temperature, which will reach 1.55°C by 2024. This rapid increase is having a devastating impact

on the climate, which will continue to increase. If temperature rise is not stopped, it will also adversely affect biodiversity, threatening the extinction of 1 million species. 20 to 40 percent of global land is on the verge of becoming infertile, affecting 3 billion people. Extreme climate events are causing significant loss of life and property. Annual economic losses of \$143 billion have been occurring over the past two decades. Health-related economic losses due to air pollution were estimated at \$8.1 trillion in 2019, representing 6.1 percent of the global economy. Nine million deaths were caused by pollution-related causes. Eighty thousand tons of plastic waste is spread, exposing us to harmful chemicals and causing economic losses of \$1.5 trillion annually. Nanoplastic elements are entering the human body and causing health problems. It is estimated that if the temperature rise reaches 2 degrees Celsius by 2040, climate change could cause irreparable destruction of ecosystems, leading to widespread displacement. Economies could collapse, leading to increased unemployment, poverty, and instability.

# India will be an optimistic market in the new year

**Expect a decline in inflation and interest rate cuts in India in 2026 to provide renewed optimism among Indian consumers, and increased purchasing power will play a key role in boosting domestic consumption for the Indian economy. The new year brings renewed hope. This is an auspicious time for the Indian economy... Reports on global consumer markets are currently predicting that India could emerge as the world's most optimistic consumer market in 2026, driven by increased growth, cheap credit, reduced inflation, tax reforms, and increased purchasing power**

**Dr. Jayanti Lal Bhandari**

According to a recent "Global Consumer Radar" report by global consulting firm BCG, Indian consumers are undeterred by the current economic slowdown and geopolitical conflicts, making India the world's most optimistic consumer market. While strong gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2025 led to a steady growth in consumer sentiment in India throughout the year, the country remains one of the most optimistic markets in 2026, with 61 percent of consumers expecting continued good times. It's also significant that, according to data from the Singapore Tourism Board, tourists from India are among Singapore's highest-spending luxury consumers. It is worth noting that in the new year 2026, Indians will see renewed purchasing power due to declining inflation and lower interest rates. Following the recent repo rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy review meeting, the repo rate has now reached 5.25 percent. This review meeting stated that inflation in the country



is currently at a record low of 2.2 percent. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to be 7.3 percent for the current financial year 2025-26. The Indian economy is gaining strong momentum and this trend is expected to continue. Furthermore, the Reserve Bank has committed to injecting 3 lakh crore into the banking system in January 2026 to address the shortage of funds and maintain liquidity for a longer period. Following the Reserve Bank's interest rate cut on December 5th, the benefits of the 25 basis point repo rate cut have already begun to be passed on to various customer segments by banks. In light of the rapidly evolving and encourag-

ing economic outlook, the possibility of a repo rate reduction in March 2026 at the upcoming monetary policy review meeting is emerging. There's no doubt that the expected reduction in inflation in 2026 will strengthen the country's consumer market. Undoubtedly, a key reason for the Reserve Bank's potential further interest rate reduction is its effective control of inflation. A report released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on December 12 stated that retail inflation reached 0.71 percent in November 2025, up from 0.25 percent in October. Despite this increase, retail inflation remained below the RBI's four percent target for the 10th consecutive

month. Furthermore, this is the second consecutive month when it remained below one percent. Previously, retail inflation exceeded one percent, at 1.44 percent, in September. It is also important to note that various research reports are currently suggesting that inflation is expected to decline further in the coming months due to record food grain production and favorable conditions for the agricultural and industrial sectors following a good monsoon. In 2024-25, the country achieved a record production of 357.7 million tonnes of food grains. Various studies and reports on India's economic landscape are highlighting the fact that rural India is providing strength to the economy in the current financial year 2025-26. These reports indicate that rural consumption is growing rapidly. It is no small matter that at a time when inflation has become a cause of economic and social concern in many countries around the world, including the US and Europe, India has become an example for the entire world, with retail inflation consistently below one percent and growth

steadily increasing. Consequently, the sharp decline in inflation in India has facilitated access to affordable loans, which will accelerate the growth of the consumer market. It is also important to note that various national and international reports on India's development are stating that as the economy is growing due to reduced taxes and inflation, and India's credit rating is improving, the consumer market will remain optimistic due to the increased credit rating and growth rate. Recently, S&P Global Ratings projected India's economy to grow at 6.5 percent in the current fiscal year 2025-26 and 6.7 percent in the next fiscal year 2026-27. The rating agency stated that major government decisions, such as tax cuts and monetary policy easing, will boost consumption-led growth, accelerating the economy. Rating agency S&P stated, "Lower GST rates will boost middle-class consumption, and income tax cuts and interest rate reductions will lead to a new scenario of consumption growth over investment in fiscal year 2026-27."



# Three-day Winter Theatre Festival blends satire, folk, social conflict

**New Delhi,Agency:** The National School of Drama's Winter Theatre Festival drew to a resonant close on Sunday at the NCUI Auditorium, South Delhi, with "Mai Ri Main Kase Kahun", a poignant musical narrative that explored the emotional landscapes of women negotiating desire, duty and deeply entrenched social bound

Inspired by Vijaydan Detha's celebrated short story Duvidha, the production unfolded as an intimate meditation on inner conflict, using folk idioms and restrained storytelling to portray the unspoken struggles of a woman caught between personal longing and patriarchal expectations. Through minimalist staging, evocative music and measured silences, the play foregrounded how women's choices - emotional, psychological and social - remain constrained despite

claims of progress.

Music served as the emotional spine of the production, with live singing and traditional instruments such as harmonium and sarangi weaving seamlessly into the narrative. The ensemble-driven structure and choral arrangements lent a rhythmic, almost meditative quality to the performance, allowing the audience to absorb not just the story but its emotional aftershocks.

The festival's final evening encapsulated the broader artistic vision of the festival to present theatre that is socially rooted yet artistically daring. Organised with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and Delhi Tourism, the three-day festival marked NSD's first Winter Theatre Festival in South Delhi, drawing enthusiastic audiences and reaffirming theatre's role as a mirror



to society.

Earlier in the festival, audiences were treated to "Taj Mahal Ka Tender", a sharp political satire directed by Chitrnanjan Tripathi and written by Ajay Shukla on the opening day on Friday. The play reimagined the construction of the Taj Mahal through the lens of modern bureaucracy, with Emperor Shah Jahan navigating a maze of files, tenders and red tape. Blending

the life of a man torn between personal passion and social responsibility. Through the protagonist's deep bond with music — particularly tabla and harmonium — the narrative traced the quiet erosion of individuality in the face of societal expectations. The performance stood out for its emotional restraint, live folk music and evocative staging, capturing the loneliness and dignity of a man who chooses art as both refuge and resistance.

Across three days, the Winter Theatre Festival emerged as a compelling celebration of storytelling that bridged tradition and contemporary concerns. With its blend of satire, folk expression and emotional depth, the festival reaffirmed theatre's enduring power to provoke thought, evoke empathy and reflect the complexities of human experience.

## Three convicted in 2021 murder case

**New Delhi,Agency:** A Delhi court convicted three men for the brutal stabbing of a man near a public toilet in Kirti Nagar in 2021, holding that the prosecution had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt. Additional Sessions Judge Nipun Awasthi convicted Mohammed Salam, Sahil and Sameer under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

The court observed that the prosecution's evidence was "unimpeached" and supported by medical and forensic findings. The judge noted that the postmortem clearly established that the 13 injuries suffered by the victim, Deva, were sufficient to cause his death.

# Unnao rape victim urges CM to provide security BJP pays tributes to Jaitley on birth anniv

**New Delhi,Agency:** Women activists, students and members of the civil society held a protest at the Jantar Mantar on Sunday against the suspension of former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar's life sentence in the 2017 Unnao rape case.

Women's groups and student organisations joined the survivor and her family at the protest site, demanding justice, security and accountability. The protesters alleged that the move undermined faith in the justice system.

Addressing the gathering, the victim said her family continues to live in constant fear. "I am requesting the Chief Minister to provide us security. These people are powerful. Please save your daughter," she said, adding that her husband



band had lost his job and the family had been left without support.

The survivor's mother said "We were beaten, our relatives were attacked, and false cases were registered against us. I request the government not to release him," she said, adding that they still had faith in the judiciary and hoped justice would prevail.

Activists from the All-

India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA) and the All-India Students' Association (AISA) also joined the protest, alleging that the case exposed the deep nexus between political power and the criminal justice system.

In a statement, AISA said the protest was a reminder that "justice cannot be compromised for political convenience" and

urged the Supreme Court to intervene to ensure the safety of the survivor and her family.

JNUSU president Aditi, who took part in the demonstration, accused the government of shielding perpetrators of sexual violence. "From Hathras to Unnao, we see the same pattern, rapists being protected while survivors are silenced, threatened and attacked," she said, demanding the immediate cancellation of Sengar's bail.

JNUSU Joint Secretary Danish also criticised the authorities, stating that survivors are forced to struggle endlessly for justice while those in power remain untouched.

**New Delhi,Agency:** Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday paid floral tributes to late Arun Jaitley, former Union Finance Minister and senior BJP leader, on his 73rd birth anniversary at the Arun Jaitley Park in Delhi.

The tribute ceremony was led by BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister Jitendra Singh, BJP National General Secretary BL Santhosh, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, MPs Kamaljeet Sehrawat and Bansuri Swaraj, Delhi Government Minister Ashish Sood, MLAs Satish Upadhyay and Anil Sharma, former MP Ramesh Bidhuri and several



other senior leaders and party workers.

The programme was organised by the Arun Jaitley Foundation and attended by members of the Jaitley family, including his wife Sangeeta Jaitley and daughter Sonali Jaitley Bakshi.

Paying tribute to the leader, Rajnath Singh said, "Arun Jaitley was not only an eloquent parliamentarian and capable leader but also a trusted friend who consistently encouraged and inspired his colleagues.

# Seven Nigerian nationals held for overstaying BJP leaders tune in to PM's 'Mann Ki Baat'

**New Delhi,Agency:** In a major crackdown under "Operation Clean Sweep", the Anti-Narcotics Cell of Dwarka District apprehended seven Nigerian nationals who were found residing illegally in the national capital without valid documents.

The action was carried out in the Uttam Nagar area as part of intensified efforts to curb drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Acting on a tip-off, teams of the Anti-Narcotics Cell conducted a targeted operation on December 24. During the drive, seven foreign nationals were detained for overstaying in India without valid visas. The operation was carried out under the supervision of DCP Dwarka Ankit Singh and led by Inspector Subhash Chand, in-charge of the Anti-Narcotics Cell.

The arrested individuals were



identified as Chidi Pascal Anyigbo, Felix Ekeoma, Solomon Chidimma Odo, Chibueze Innocent Chukwu, Chinedu Kingsley Ogbu, Solomon Chidera Achulo and Chinedu Daniel Okechukwu. Following their apprehension, the accused were medically examined and produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which ordered their deportation. They have been sent to a detention centre pending further legal formalities.

**New Delhi,Agency:** Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday joined party workers and citizens across the Capital to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 129th episode of "Mann Ki Baat", with the programme being heard collectively at thousands of locations across Delhi.

BJP national executive president Nitin Nabin, along with Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and MP Bansuri Swaraj, listened to the programme at Rajendra Nagar. Party leaders and workers gathered in large numbers, reflecting widespread public engagement with the Prime Minister's monthly radio address.

Rajan Tiwari, state con-



vener of "Mann Ki Baat", party workers across 7,622 polling booth areas across the city listened to the Prime Minister's address along with citizens.

Addressing the media, Virendra Sachdeva said the last episode of "Mann Ki Baat" in 2025 focused on

president Virendra Babbar, MLAs Umang Bajaj and Harish Khurana, BJP national co-media convener Sanjay Mayukh, national spokesperson RP Singh, senior leader Moolchand Chawla, councillor Aarti Chawla and state convener Rajan Tiwari, among others.

Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, along with Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, listened to the programme at Mansarovar Park, Shahdara. MP Manoj Tiwari joined university staff and students at Delhi University, while MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat participated in a listening session with party workers in Dwarka.

## Cong marks foundation day

**New Delhi,Agency:** The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) on Sunday marked the 140th foundation day of the Indian National Congress with a ceremony at the Delhi Congress Office, where party leaders reiterated their commitment to the ideals of social justice, equality and inclusive development. DPCC president Devender Yadav unfurled the party flag and led the singing of 'Vande Mataram' along with Seva Dal workers. Earlier in the day, he attended the programme at Indira Bhawan, where Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge unfurled the national flag in the presence of Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in the Lok



Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Yadav said the Congress must reconnect with the people by following the party's core ideology, guid-

ance and policy framework to ensure social justice, equality and rights for all sections of society. He emphasised the critical role played by youth in shaping the future of the nation.

Highlighting the legacy of the Congress, Yadav said the party has played a historic role in shaping modern India under leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Azad and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

He alleged that the present BJP-led government was attempting to distort history and undermine constitutional values, while the Congress remained committed to protecting democracy, secularism and social harmony.

## Cops intensify vigil ahead of New Year Eve

**New Delhi,Agency:** With New Year's Eve approaching, the Delhi Traffic Police have stepped up enforcement across the Capital to ensure road safety and curb violations, particularly drunken driving. As part of a special drive conducted on Saturday, intensified checks were carried out at multiple locations, resulting in thousands of challans being issued for traffic violations.

The police said 226 motorists were booked for drunken driving during the special enforcement drive. In addition, action was taken in 86 cases of dangerous driving, 2,194 instances of riding without helmets, 266 cases of triple riding, 1,941 cases of wrong-side driving, and 45 instances involving tinted glass. Using OSVD and RLVD camera systems, they also issued 13,833 e-challans for speeding and 5,394 for red-light violations.

Senior officials said additional personnel have been deployed across the city, with special focus on vulnerable points, party hotspots, major intersections and arterial roads.





# Jammu Division Commercial Department Employees Honoured with PCCM Award for Outstanding Contribution to Passenger Service and Revenue

**Jammu:**The employees of the Commercial Department of Jammu Division, Northern Railway, were honoured today with the “Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) Award – 2025” in recognition of their outstanding performance. The awards were conferred on 29 December 2025 at the General Manager’s Office, Baroda House, New Delhi, by the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Northern Railway. The honour reflects the awardees’ dedication, commitment, and exemplary performance in the discharge of their duties.

This annual award is presented to Commercial Department employees who

demonstrate exceptional devotion to duty, innovation, and professionalism. Notably, this is the first time since the formation of Jammu Division in 2025 that employees of its Commercial Department have received the PCCM Award. The awardees have made remarkable contributions in areas such as passenger services, freight operations, ticket checking, and other commercial activities during the course of their duties.

Details of the awardees are as follows: (1) Manzoor Ahmad (Chief Commercial Clerk), Anantnag; (2) Prince Sharma (CCTC), Budgam; (3) Vijay Kumar (CCTC), Katra; (4) Vanshika R. Saxena (Chief Commercial Clerk), Katra; (5) Nitin



Patwal (CCTC), Jammu; (6) Naresh Singh (CCTC), Jammu; (7) Devanshu sambyal (CCTC), Samba; (8) Monika Kumari (TTI), Pathank Speaking on the occasion, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shri Uchit Singhal stated, “The PCCM Award received by the employees of the Jammu Division Commercial Department is a testament to their hard work and sense of duty. Their excellence not only reflects in their own work but also sets a new benchmark for their colleagues. On behalf of the Railways and myself, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees and hope that they continue to work with the same enthusiasm and dedication in the future.”

## Cash, luxury cars and more: ED seizes assets linked to UAE-based wanted criminal in Delhi, Haryana raids

**New Delhi, Agency:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it had seized five luxury cars, bank lockers, cash worth ₹17 lakh, digital devices, documents and other data linked to Inderjit Singh Yadav, a wanted criminal now reportedly based in the United Arab Emirates, and his associates.

Inderjit had developed and operated a website facilitating loan settlements between corporate houses and private financiers.

Inderjit had developed and operated a website facilitating loan settlements between corporate houses and private financiers.

The seizures came after a large-scale operation con-



ducted on December 26-27 at 10 locations across Delhi, Gurugram, and Rohtak. The searches were part of an ongoing money laundering investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, involving Inderjit, his

accomplices, Apollo Green Energy Ltd, and other associated entities, ANI reported. Inderjit had developed and operated a website facilitating loan settlements between corporate houses and private financiers. Investigators also found

that several movable and immovable assets had been acquired in the names of Inderjit and his family members using proceeds from crime.

The probe follows 15 FIRs and multiple chargesheets filed by Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police under the Arms Act, 1959, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The complaints allege that Inderjit, who owns Gem Records Entertainment Pvt Ltd (operating as ‘Gems Tunes’), has been involved in serious criminal activities, including murder, extortion, coercive loan settlements, fraud, illegal land grabbing, and other violent offences.

## Punjab's horticulture sector to be encouraged Farmers to get up to 40% subsidy on new gardens

**Chandigarh:**Punjab Horticulture Minister Mr. Mohinder Bhagat today said that the Punjab Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, is actively promoting crop diversification by encouraging farmers to adopt horticulture through attractive subsidy schemes.

The Minister informed that under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM), farmers can avail upto 40 percent subsidy for planting new orchards as well as for other horticulture activities. He said the initiative aims to reduce dependence on the traditional wheat-paddy cycle, conserve groundwater and enhance farmers’ income through high-value crops.

Explaining the application process, the Horticulture Minister said that interested farmers can apply for the subsidy through their respective District Horticulture Offices. Farmers



may also seek guidance from departmental field staff, who will assist them in preparing applications, fulfilling eligibility conditions and completing required formalities.

Mr. Bhagat emphasised that the Mann Government is fully committed to ensuring that the benefits of all farmer-centric schemes reach the farmers at grassroots level in a transparent and timely manner.

## Infrastructure will be upgraded at 10 stations of Northern Railway, preparations to double the capacity by 2030

**New Delhi, Agency:** To meet ever-increasing passenger demand, Indian Railways plans to double train capacity in major cities over the next five years. As part of this initiative, 10 major railway stations on Northern Railway have been identified for infrastructure upgrades.

According to the Railways, Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jammu, Haridwar, and Bareilly have been identified for infrastructure upgrades.

The Railways aims to double train handling capacity by 2030. Capacity will be increased in a phased manner over the next five years.

For this, works have been divided into immediate, short-term, and long-term categories. Under the plan, additional plat-

forms, stabling lines, pit lines, and shunting facilities will be developed at existing terminals. New terminals will also be identified and constructed in urban areas and maintenance facilities such as mega coaching complexes will also be developed.

Rail connectivity across the country will be strengthened: Ashwini Vaishnav Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that these works will reduce congestion, improve train operations and strengthen rail connectivity across the country.

Work is underway to construct an additional pit line, four new platforms and seven stabling lines at Jammu Tawi station, while yard remodeling at Bareilly Junction will facilitate the operation of 24-coach trains

## Vajpayee’s ideals remembered during ‘Atal Samman Samaroh’ in Janakpuri

**New Delhi, Agency:** Atal Samman Samaroh’ was organised in the C2A Block of the Janakpuri Assembly constituency to commemorate the life, ideals and legacy of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The programme witnessed participation from a number of residents across the Janakpuri Assembly area.

Addressing the gathering, Janakpuri MLA and Education Minister, Ashish Sood, paid rich tributes to the former PM and highlighted his enduring influence on Indian democracy and governance. He said, “Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not a leader of any one political party or generation, but a shared legacy of the entire nation. His personality symbolised firmness of thought, sensitivity and unwavering dedication to the nation.” He further recalled that during his tenure, Vajpayee strengthened democracy, successfully led a coalition government of 28 parties with



balance, introduced a new paradigm of good governance and elevated India’s stature on the global stage.

Highlighting Vajpayee’s far-reaching vision, Sood noted that his contributions continued to guide the nation. He pointed out that Vajpayee’s leadership was reflected in sectors ranging from roads, communication and infrastructure to nuclear self-reliance

and India’s quest for global respect.

During the programme, individuals who rendered exemplary service and outstanding contributions in various fields of society were honoured. The initiative aimed to reinforce the core values championed by Vajpayee. Sood also underlined the significance of Good Governance Day, observed on Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth anniversary. He said,

“The birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee is observed as ‘Good Governance Day’, as under his leadership the country experienced a governance system rooted in transparency and free from corruption.”

Referring to urban infrastructure, Sood stated that the Delhi Metro was also a result of Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s visionary thinking, carried forward in collaboration with the then Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana.

## Parent uproar , fee reform, kids well-being made headlines

**New Delhi, Agency:** The year 2025 Looking back: was one of reform for Delhi’s education sector, but the year also exposed the gaps in the system. The sector saw major reforms such as the Fee Regulation Bill to curb arbitrary fee hikes by private schools in the Capital and strengthen transparency in the system, but there were also incidents that brought student safety concerns to the fore. The death by suicide of a Class X student from St Columba’s School, who alleged harassment by teachers, came as a shock for parents

The most consequential education development of 2025 was related to private schools. The Delhi School Education (Transparency in

Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act, 2025, passed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly, fundamentally altered how private unaided schools determine and revise their fee.

The law was enacted against the backdrop of long-standing complaints by parents over steep and arbitrary fee hikes. For the first time, all private schools in the national capital were brought under a statutory framework mandating transparency, disclosure and justification for fee fixation.

A key feature of the Act is the creation of a three-tier regulatory mechanism: School Level Fee Regulation Committees (SLFRCs), District Level Fee Regulation



Committees (DLFRCs) and an appellate authority. These bodies include parent representatives, ensuring stakeholder participation in decisions that directly affect students’ families.

Under the new system, private schools are required to submit audited financial details and explain

the rationale for any proposed increase in fee. Arbitrary hikes without approval would attract penalties, marking a decisive departure from the earlier complaint-based approach.

The end of the year saw Delhi’s Directorate of Education issue detailed implementation guidelines and directions for all private schools to constitute SLFRCs within a specified timeline, signalling the government’s intent to focus on enforcement.

In November, a 16-year-old Class X student at St Columba’s School died by suicide. The case drew significant national attention due to allegations of systemic mental harassment by school staff. On the

day of his death, he was allegedly publicly humiliated and mocked by teachers after he fell during a dance rehearsal.

Witnesses claimed a teacher had told him, “Cry as much as you want, it won’t affect us,” in the presence of the school principal. The police recovered a note in his school bag naming four teachers—including a headmistress—blaming them for relentless “torture” and “humiliation”. He also requested that his organs be donated. The incident sparked massive protests at Jantar Mantar and outside the school premises by parents, alumni and students demanding justice and stricter mental health protocols in schools.