



Prime Minister Narendra , Netanyahu review India-Israel Strategic Partnership, discuss regional situation

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, during which the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the India-Israel Strategic Partnership and exchanged views on the regional situation.

"Glad to speak with my friend, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and convey New Year greetings to him and the people of Israel. We discussed ways to further strengthen the India-Israel Strategic Partnership in the year ahead," Modi said on X.

He further added that they "exchanged views on the regional situation and reaffirmed our shared resolve to fight terrorism with greater determination."

In a separate post on X, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the conversation focused on strengthening cooperation on national security.

"We discussed the strength of India-Israel relations and how we can unleash the boundless potential of this partnership for the benefit of our peoples," Netanyahu said.

He also hinted at a likely meeting with Modi, saying "I look forward to meeting



Prime Minister Modi in the near future to continue these discussions in person."

Earlier last year, Netanyahu had postponed his India visit following Red Fort bomb blast in Delhi.

The talks between Modi and Netanyahu come amid heightened geopolitical tensions and days after a US operation in Venezuela.

The US launched "Operation Absolute Resolve" in the Venezuelan

capital Caracas last week, capturing its President, Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores.

After the operation, Trump also issued warnings to several other countries, including NATO allies,

Denmark and Greenland. The conversation also came days after Netanyahu hinted that the second

phase of the US-backed Gaza ceasefire plan could begin "very shortly".

Nehru opposed Somnath Temple reconstruction, claims BJP

(Gns).

Upping the ante against Opposition Congress ahead of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, which will also be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP on Wednesday alleged that India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru harboured "deep hostility" over the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple after Independence and accused him of prioritising "appeasement politics" over India's civilisational heritage.

Addressing media persons, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said he held no personal animosity towards Nehru but was against his "terrible and frightening ideology". "Just as PM Narendra Modi is not merely an individual, but an insti-

tution, Jawaharlal Nehru is not just a leader, but a symbol of an ideology, and it is necessary to understand today how terrible and frightening that ideology was for India, and how much it was concealed behind a veil of deception," Trivedi said.

According to the BJP spokesperson, Nehru opposed the reconstruction of the temple and wrote letters to senior leaders, including cabinet ministers, President Rajendra Prasad and Vice-President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, questioning the need for rebuilding the shrine and advising them against attending its inauguration.

He claimed Nehru also wrote to chief ministers, arguing that the reconstruction harmed India's image abroad and also urged the then information and broadcasting minister to limit coverage of the conse-

crated ceremony, describing it as ostentatious.

He also cited the correspondence between Nehru and Pakistan's first prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan, in which Nehru allegedly

dismissed the narrative surrounding the Somnath temple doors as false. Citing the correspondence by diplomat K M Panikkar, Trivedi also alleged that Nehru was more concerned about international reactions, including China's views, than domestic sentiment. While invaders physically looted the temple, Nehru harboured "deep hostility" towards the reconstruction, he said, accusing the former PM of downplaying Hindu symbols to "appease Pakistan rather than defend India's cultural legacy".

The remarks came from the ruling party ahead of PM Modi's visit to the Somnath Temple on January 11 to participate in the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, being held from January 8 to 11.



Somnath Swabhiman Parv - A Symbol of the Nation's Unwavering Self-Respect

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Chair Grand Shaurya Yatra with 108 Horsemen at Somnath Swabhiman Parv
Atmosphere Resonates with 'Har Har Mahadev' Chants by Trained Gujarat Police Cavalry Horsemen

Grand Ashwamedha to Proceed from Veer Hamirsinhji Gohil's Statue to the Assembly Venue

Gandhinagar, 08 January 2026: Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a grand Shaurya Yatra will be held on January 11 as part of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv. In this Shaurya Yatra, 108 horsemen of the Gujarat Police Cavalry will participate in traditional attire. The horse symbolises

power, while Somnath reflects self-respect, together recalling a legacy of sacrifice and bravery. To

have arrived in Somnath. Under the leadership of DIG Shri Rajendrasinh Chudasama, the horsemen



participate in this Shaurya Yatra, horses and riders from 15 districts of the Gujarat Police Cavalry

have been rehearsing in Somnath for the past three days. Today's rehearsal filled the atmosphere with

chants of 'Jai Somnath - Har Har Mahadev'.

The Somnath Mahadev Temple reflects India's self-respect, resilience, and reconstruction. Despite repeated invasions, Somnath rose again and stands firm as a symbol of the nation's unwavering pride. The Somnath Swabhiman Parv seeks to bring this history alive for the present generation. The programme under the Prime Minister's chairmanship at the Somnath Swabhiman Parv will celebrate India's cultural confidence, spiritual heritage, and national pride, spreading Somnath's message of self-respect across the nation.

Shinde slams BJP-Congress alliance against his party as Congress suspends its councillors

"The BJP must explain how such alliances came about. You (the media) should ask the BJP how these alliances get formed. Their leaders may have taken these decisions for power. Senior BJP leaders should take action against this," Shinde told media persons here.

(Gns). Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde lashed out against BJP's alliance with the Congress on Wednesday to defeat his Sena's candidate in the municipal election Mumbai suburb of Ambernath Municipal Council and raised questions about how such unlikely political alliances are formed.

"The BJP must explain how such alliances came about. You (the media) should ask the BJP how these alliances get formed. Their leaders may have taken these decisions for power. Senior BJP leaders should take action against this," Shinde told media persons here.

Meanwhile, the Congress party officially announced that it has suspended 12 municipal councillors from Ambernath who had formed local level alliances with the Congress in Ambernath.

The Congress suspended its Ambernath ward president Pradeep Patil, informing him in a letter that his ward unit itself has been dissolved. The letter stated that all corporators elected on the Congress symbol have been suspended from the party for forming an alliance with the BJP in the local body, without informing the party's Maharashtra state leadership.

Maharashtra State Congress Committee President Harshvardhan Sapkal took action against the 12 councillors in Ambernath that they did not provide any information to the party while allying with the BJP.

Shortly thereafter, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told



media persons here that, "Such an alliance should not have been formed in the first place. Discussions were underway with Ajit Pawar-led NCP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in Ambernath, but if local BJP leaders went ahead and formed an alliance with the Congress, this should not have happened. Any

alliance with the Congress in any form is wrong. I will be asking questions to my workers," Fadnavis said.

However, it became known that the BJP also struck a similar alliance with the All India Majlis-e-Muslimeen (AIMIM) and other parties in the Akot Municipal Council in Akola district, which led to more criticism and allegations against the BJP, prompting Fadnavis to step in to break up the alliance between BJP and the AIMIM in Akot Municipal Council, but not before the damage had already been done.

Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and chief party spokesperson Sanjay Raut told media persons, "The BJP has double standards. What happened in Akot and Ambernath shows the frivolous behaviour of the BJP, which can forge an alliance with anyone to grab power".

Yadav said this way the states would be forced to abandon the scheme. Furthermore, the BJP government has also deprived hundreds of Gram Panchayats of their budget by reclassifying them into the 'urban category'.

(Gns). Samajwadi Party National President Akhilesh Yadav has alleged that the BJP government is secretly plotting to gradually eliminate MNREGA by changing its name.

"On one hand, the BJP government is continuously reducing the MNREGA budget while on the other, putting pressure on the states, which are already struggling with empty treasuries, to spend money on it. They (the states, won't be able to arrange the additional budget as they are

not getting their due share in the GST," he pointed out.

Yadav said this way the states would be forced to abandon the scheme. Furthermore, the BJP government has also deprived hundreds of Gram

BJP's real agenda is not to change the name of MNREGA, but to completely abolish it. The party cannot tolerate seeing anyone else prosper besides themselves.

In another statement,



Panchayats of their budget by reclassifying them into the 'urban category'.

He claimed that the

Akhilesh Yadav appealed to his party leaders and workers for full support and complete dedication in the

Bio-bitumen transformative step towards vision of Viksit Bharat 2047: Gadkari

(Gns).

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday highlighted how agricultural waste can be converted into a valuable natural resource.

He noted that bio-bitumen is a transformative step towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. By utilising agro-waste, it reduces pollution caused by crop burning and strengthens the circular economy.

With 15 per cent blending, India can save nearly Rs 4,500 crore in foreign

exchange and substantially reduce its dependence on imported crude oil.

Speaking at CSIR's Technology Transfer Ceremony titled "From Farm Residue to Road: Bio-Bitumen via Pyrolysis," the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways said, "Today marks a historic milestone in India's road infrastruc-

ture, as the nation becomes the first in the

world to commercially produce bio-bitumen."

Gadkari congratulated CSIR and its dedicated sci-



entists, and thanked Union MoS Jitendra Singh for his constant support in achieving this pioneering breakthrough.

He further stated that this innovation will empower farmers, generate rural livelihoods, and boost the rural economy.

Bio-bitumen, Gadkari said, truly reflects the Modi Government's commitment to sustainable development, self-reliance, and environmentally responsible growth, paving the way for a cleaner and greener future.

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Editorial

Might and Right

The capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro by the United States has forced the international community to confront an uncomfortable reality: the widening gap between power and its justification. Mr Maduro's removal did not occur in a political vacuum. His claim to democratic legitimacy was already gravely weakened by the disputed 2024 election, while allegations linking senior figures in the Venezuelan state to transnational drug trafficking are longstanding and widely acknowledged. Even critics of Washington's actions rarely argue that these charges emerged without basis.

The question raised by recent events, therefore, is not whether Mr Maduro was a credible democratic leader, but whether the method used to remove him can be reconciled with the principles that ostensibly govern international conduct. That method matters. The US did not rely on diplomatic isolation, economic pressure, or recognition of an alternative authority. It conducted a direct military operation on foreign soil, seized a sitting head of state, and declared its intention to administer the country until a "safe and proper" transition could be arranged. In doing so, it moved decisively from influence to control. Regime-change operations, overt and covert, are not unprecedented. Powerful states have repeatedly acted beyond the strict confines of international law, particularly when strategic interests were at stake. What distinguishes the Venezuelan episode is not novelty, but its candour.

The intervention was openly claimed, publicly celebrated, and explicitly tied to strategic and economic objectives, including the management of oil infrastructure and reimbursement of costs. This openness sharpens the dilemma rather than resolving it. If legitimacy is conferred through criminal indictments and enforced by superior force, international law risks becoming conditional ~ applied when convenient and suspended when it is not. The argument that Mr Maduro forfeited sovereignty through misconduct may persuade some, but it establishes a principle that cannot be selectively contained. Many governments would reject the idea that their internal failures justify external seizure, however flawed their leadership. For Venezuela, the path ahead remains uncertain.

Removing an entrenched ruler does not automatically restore institutions weakened by years of misrule and economic collapse. An interim authority perceived as externally managed risks lacking domestic credibility, however compromised the previous regime may have been. Stability imposed from outside can prove brittle if not followed by a genuinely inclusive political reconstruction led by Venezuelans themselves. For US President Donald Trump, the operation signals a governing philosophy that privileges decisiveness over restraint. Whether such an approach produces durable order or accelerates global volatility remains an open question. Ultimately, the Venezuelan episode is less about the fate of one leader than about the trajectory of the international system itself.

Mr Maduro's fall may be defensible on moral or practical grounds. But the manner of his removal ensures that the debate will not end with his arrest. It instead forces a reckoning with how far the world is willing to drift from rules toward results ~ and what that drift will cost when power shifts and today's justifications are tested against tomorrow's realities.

When Water Kills

The deaths linked to contaminated tap water in Indore are not merely a tragic municipal failure; they expose a deeper contradiction at the heart of India's urban governance.

A child collects water from a pipe in buckets in Indore's Bhagirathpura area, where cases linked to contaminated water have been reported.

The deaths linked to contaminated tap water in Indore are not merely a tragic municipal failure; they expose a deeper contradiction at the heart of India's urban governance. A city celebrated repeatedly for cleanliness has revealed, in the most brutal way possible, how fragile that reputation can be when infrastructure, accountability and public health oversight do not keep pace with accolades.

At the centre of this tragedy is a familiar but deadly lapse: sewage entering drinking water lines due to neglected or poorly maintained pipelines. What makes the incident particularly disturbing is not just the number of lives lost ~ the toll still conflicting between official statements and local accounts ~ but the fact that residents had reportedly complained of foul-smelling, contaminated water weeks before the outbreak escalated. The warning signs were there. They were simply ignored.

Urban India often treats water supply as a logistical issue rather than a public health lifeline. When water smells bad, people adapt. They boil it, filter it, dilute milk, or assume the risk is manageable. That adaptive behaviour, born out of necessity and habit, becomes lethal when contamination reaches a tipping point. In this case, even precautions such as boiling proved tragically insufficient. The outbreak also exposes the limits of India's obsession with rankings and optics. Clean streets, waste segregation

harder questions remain unresolved: why routine water quality monitoring failed, why complaints were not escalated, and why preventive maintenance was allowed to lapse in a densely populated area. This tragedy should

cannot be reduced to annual rankings or awards. It must be measured by resilience ~ the ability to prevent invisible failures before they claim lives. Water safety audits, independent monitoring, transparent reporting, and rapid grievance redressal are not optional add-ons; they are core civic duties. Ultimately, the Indore deaths are a reminder that infrastructure neglect kills quietly and indiscriminately. The victims were not casualties of a natural disaster but of institutional complacency. If this episode ends with symbolic penaties and no systemic reform, it will not remain an isolated tragedy ~ it will be a warning ignored, waiting to repeat itself elsewhere.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Visit Somnath During His Two-Day Gujarat Visit

Somnath Aadi Jyotirling Ushers in a Golden Age Under the Leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

97 Lakh Devotees Visit Somnath Jyotirling Annually; Maha Shivratri 2025 Draws 3.56 Lakh Worshipers

Somnath Becomes a Global Gateway with Four Lane Highway, Sabarmati Veraval Vande Bharat Express, Keshod and Rajkot Airports

The Temple Ranks in India's Top Ten Most Searched Destinations

Light and Sound Show Draws Over 10 Lakh Visitors in the Last Three Years

These words mark the opening of the Dwadasha Jyotirling Stotram, symbolising the primacy of Somnath among India's 12 sacred Jyotirling and its timeless civilisational and spiritual significance. Over the past two decades, Somnath has entered 'A Suvarna Yug' (a golden age) under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who also chairs the Shri Somnath Trust. This modern resurgence is rooted in a rich and turbulent history, for 2026 also marks a millennium since Mahmud of Ghazni's attack in January 1026. A thousand years later, Somnath stands as glorious as ever, thanks to sustained restoration efforts, including the milestone of 75 years since the Temple reopened to devotees on May 11, 1951.

Somnath: Faith, Footfall, and Grandeur

With 1,666 gold-plated kalash at the Shikhar and 14,200 dhwajas reflecting the perseverance, faith, and artistry of three generations, Somnath shines in devotion and grandeur. Nearly 98 lakh pilgrims visited the temple in 2020, and the footfall has remained steady at 92 to 97 lakh annually through 2024. Rituals such as the Bilva Pooja have drawn 13.77 lakh devotees, with Maha Shivratri 2025 alone seeing 3.56 lakh worshippers. Online booking and postal prasad ensure Somnath's sanctity reaches devotees far beyond the temple.

Connectivity That Makes Somnath a Global Gateway

To make the journey to Somnath easier and more comfortable for pilgrims, connectivity has been significantly upgraded. The Jetpur-Somnath four-lane highway, a ₹828 crore project, has drawn over 10 lakh visitors in three years, transforming history into a

nightly spectacle. The 2025 Vande Somnath Kala Mahotsav revived dance traditions dating back 1,500 years, showing that Somnath is as much about rhythm as it is about ritual.

Somnath: A Swachh Iconic Place

Somnath was crowned a Swachh Iconic Place in 2018, a recognition that reflects the temple's commitment to sustainability and innovation. Waste segregation centres now convert temple flowers into vermicompost, nourishing 1,700 bilva trees across three sacred sites. Under Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi's Mission LIFE initiative, plastic waste is transformed into paver blocks. Around 4,700 plastic-fly ash blocks will be produced monthly, generating income for local women's SHGs and aiming to recycle 125 tons of plastic annually. Six rainwater harvesting wells and a reservoir, restored at ₹62 lakh, treat nearly 30 lakh litres of sewage water each month, feeding afforestation and greening projects, while eight sewage treatment plants, with ₹160 lakh invested in 2019-20, have filtered 20.53 crore litres of water for agriculture and landscape irrigation.

A Miyawaki forest of 7,200 trees, spanning 72,000 square feet, thrives with coconut palms absorbing saline winds and saru trees shielding the forest from harsh sea breezes. An IIT Kanpur study estimates it will absorb around 93,000 kilograms of CO₂ annually after two years. Even the sacred abhishek water is now purified through a nine-layer treatment plant and bottled as Somgangajal, available to devotees for ₹15 with no

profit earned by the trust. By December 2024, over 1.13 lakh families had received this divine blessing. Through these and other initiatives, Somnath is now envisioned as a net-zero temple.

Ranks in India's Top Ten Most Searched Destinations

Somnath now features among India's top ten most searched destinations. Its growing digital footprint mirrors its physical footfall, with social media impressions crossing 1.37 billion in 2025 alone, reflecting the temple's expanding reach among devotees across the world.

Over the past two decades, Somnath has stood as a living example of faith moving with time. It reflects a quiet balance between tradition and progress, where the first Jyotirling continues to be part of everyday life for millions. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Somnath has found renewed direction while staying true to its civilisational roots.

Odisha's struggle with language and religion

(Gns).

As Odisha prepares to celebrate the 90th anniversary of its birth as India's first linguistic province, and the Muslim League's formation approaches its 120th year, a fascinating and often overlooked historical intersection emerges. While the "Odia Movement" and the "Pakistan Movement" might appear to be parallel tracks of history, they were deeply intertwined in a complex struggle over identity, language, and territorial belonging. The journey from 1905 to 1947 in Odisha was not just a quest for a linguistic homeland, but also a crucible where a distinct Muslim communal consciousness evolved, transitioning from elite administrative petitions to the radical separatist fervour that defined the 1946 elections in the state.

At the turn of the 20th century, the political landscape of the Odisha region, then a division of the vast Bengal Presidency, was shaped by a growing linguistic nationalism among the Odia-speaking Hindu population. However, for the Muslim minority, which constituted approximately 2 per cent of the population, the "Odia Movement" for a separate province was viewed with profound scepticism. The elite Muslim leadership of the time, consolidated under the Orissa Mohammedan Association (OMA), perceived the drive for a linguistically unified Odisha as a move toward "Hindu Raj." This early communal consciousness was not initially separatist in a territorial sense but was deeply protective of cultural markers.

Central to this was the linguistic divide; while the Hindu leadership sought to establish Odia as the sole official and educational medium, the OMA and its prominent members, such as the Zamindars of Cuttack, adamantly vouched for Urdu. They argued that Urdu was the indispensable carrier of Islamic heritage, and any

larger Bengali-dominated Eastern province, Odia Muslims were notably sympathetic to the partition. They viewed the creation of a Muslim-majority province in Eastern Bengal as a vital safeguard for their interests. This sentiment was further institutionalised in 1906, when the Muslim Zamindars and aristocrats of Odisha were among the first and most enthusiastic supporters of the foundation of the All-India Muslim League in Dhaka.

By participating in the Dhaka session, the Muslim leadership in Odisha signalled that their political destiny was anchored to

the pan-Indian Muslim identity rather than a regional Odia one. For these leaders, the Odia identity was increasingly perceived as a Hindu identity, one from which they sought a distinct constitutional distance. The administrative reorganisation of 1912, which saw the creation of the province of Bihar and Orissa, placed the Muslims of Odisha in a "double minority" status. They were a minority within the Odisha division and a further minority within the larger Bihar-dominated province. During this period, the OMA intensified its efforts to secure educational and employment safeguards. The politics of this era remained largely petitionary but was marked by a steady hardening of communal lines.

Muslim leaders consistently opposed the creation of a separate Odisha province. Their opposition was rooted in the fear that in a smaller, linguistically homogeneous province, the Hindu majority would hold absolute power. This period saw the OMA leaders perfecting the narrative that Muslims were a "historically significant" community that deserved representation far exceeding their numerical strength, a concept known as "weightage." The linguistic conflict over Urdu versus Odia remained the primary flashpoint. The OMA successfully lobbied for special grants for Makhtabs and Madrasas, insisting that the "secular" curriculum of the British-Odia schools was culturally alien to Muslim children. By the late 1920s, when the Simon Commission visited India, the OMA presented a memorandum that was a precursor to the Two-Nation Theory.

They demanded separate electorates and guaranteed quotas, asserting that the Muslim community's interests could never be safely entrusted to a "joint electorate" dominated by the Hindu majority. The leaders who drafted these petitions were the same individuals who would later facilitate the community's transition toward the Muslim League. With the eventual creation of the separate province of Odisha in 1936, the fears of the Muslim leadership were realised. The 1937 provincial elections, which brought the Indian National

Congress to power, acted as a catalyst for a radical shift in Muslim politics. The perceived marginalisation of Muslim interests by the Congress ministry led to the formal establishment of the Muslim League branch in Cuttack in 1938.

The transition was seamless as the prominent leaders of the OMA, including legal luminaries such as Muhammad Abdus Sobhan Khan (grandfather of the famous Odia actress Aparajita Mohanty), formally joined the League. A major psychological turning point occurred when A.K. Fazlul Huq, the Premier of Bengal, visited Cuttack and delivered a fiery address to the local Muslim community. He urged them to abandon the "nationalist" rhetoric of the Congress and recognise the Muslim League as their sole protector.

This local organisation was eventually affiliated with the All-India Muslim League in February 1940, just weeks before the historic Lahore Resolution was passed. The affiliation transformed the local grievances of Odisha's Muslims into a quest for a separate sovereign homeland. The League's influence grew rapidly in the urban centres of Cuttack, Balasore, and Bhadrak. The argument was no longer just about Urdu or job quotas; it was about the survival of a "distinct nation." The League argued that the "composite nationalism" of the Congress was merely a facade for the establishment of a Brahmin-Karan-dominated social and political order in Odisha. The resignation of the Congress ministry in 1939, following the outbreak of World War II, provided an unexpected opportunity for Muslim League leaders to gain executive experience.

Between 1939 and 1944, a series of Coalition Ministries were formed, primarily involving the United Party and the Muslim League, to fill the political vacuum. Muhammad Abdus Sobhan Khan and Maulvi Latifur Rahman emerged as key figures during this period. Latifur Rahman served as a Minister in the 1941 coalition cabinet led by the Maharaja of Parlakhemundi. During their tenure in these ministries, these leaders focused heavily on provincialising Muslim grievances.



WR Press Release No. 2026/01

Mumbai, 07th January, 2026

WR's MAJOR BLOCK IN CONNECTION WITH WORK OF 6th LINE OVER KANDIVALI – BORIVALI SECTION

To carry out the work in connection with the construction of the 6th line between Kandivali and Borivali section, Western Railway has undertaken a block of 30 days from the night of 20th/21st December, 2025, which will continue up to 18th January, 2026. Due to this block, a few Western Railway trains will be affected.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, in connection with the above work, a major block will be undertaken during the night of 09th/10th January, 2026, for insertion and dismantling of points at Kandivali on the Up Fast line from 23:15 hrs to 03:15 hrs and

on the Down Fast line from 01:00 hrs to 04:30 hrs. Additionally, on 10th/11th January, 2026 a major block will be undertaken for insertion of point 101 on the Down Fast line between Kandivali and Malad stations. The block will be from 01:00 hrs to 06:30 hrs on Up and Down Fast lines and from 01:00 hrs to 04:00 hrs on the Up Slow line.

Due to the above blocks and suspension of the 5th line as well as speed restriction imposed, some suburban services will remain cancelled, while some Mail/Express trains will be affected.

Short Termination of Trains:

1. Train No. 19426 Nandurbar – Borivali Express, journey commencing on 10th January, 2026 will short terminate at Vasai Road.

2. Train No. 19418 Veraval – Bandra Terminus Express, journey commencing on 10th January, 2026 will short terminate at Vasai Road.

Short Origination of Trains:

1. Train No. 19417 Borivali – Ahmedabad Express, journey commencing on 11th January, 2026 will be rescheduled by 30 minutes i.e it will depart at 06.10 hrs.

2. Train No. 19425 Borivali – Nandurbar Express, journey commencing on 11th January, 2026 will short originate from Vasai Road

Rescheduling of Trains:

1. Train No. 12902 Ahmedabad – Dadar Express, journey commencing on 10th January, 2026 will be regulated by 20 minutes enroute stations.

2. Train No. 19218 Veraval – Bandra Terminus Express, journey commencing on 10th January, 2026 will be rescheduled by 45 minutes from Veraval i.e it will depart at 12.35 hrs.

3. Train No 22953 Mumbai Central – Ahmedabad Express, journey commencing on 11th January, 2026 will be rescheduled by 30 minutes i.e it will depart at 06.10 hrs.

4. Train No. 22921 Bandra Terminus – Gorakhpur Express, journey commencing on 11th January, 2026 will be rescheduled by 1 hour i.e it will depart at 06.10 hrs.

The detailed list of suburban trains affected due to the block is furnished in Annexure-I & II. Detailed information to this effect is available with the concerned Station Masters. Passengers are requested to take note of the above changes and plan their journey accordingly.

Sabarimala gold loot: Court rejects former TDB president Padmakumar's bail plea

(Gns).

The Kollam Vigilance Court on Wednesday rejected the bail application of former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) President and CPM leader A Padmakumar in the Sabarimala temple gold heist case, observing that he could not absolve himself of responsibility for the alleged act.

The court denied Padmakumar bail in the case related to the alleged theft of gold from the dwarapalaka idols at the Sabarimala temple. His bail plea in the earlier 'door frame plates' case had already been dismissed by both the Vigilance Court and the High Court.

In his bail plea, Padmakumar argued that the entire Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) bore collective responsibility for the decision to hand over the gold sheets to the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potty.

However, the court observed that Padmakumar, as the board president at the relevant time, could not absolve himself of responsibility for the alleged act.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team (SIT), Padmakumar, who was the TDB president, committed grave official misconduct by deliberately making false entries in official correspondence, which ultimately led to the misappropriation of gold, thereby causing irreparable unlawful financial loss and damage to the Board's reputation.

The SIT, in its report to the High Court, said the accused had a wider plan to dismantle other gold-clad items of the temple's sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) and misappropriate the gold.

The report further stated that despite having clear knowledge that the plates were gold-clad in 1998, none of the TDB officials inquired about the gold that was stripped from the plates at Smart Creations."By not effectively supervising the works at Smart Creations, by failing to record the weights of the gold-plated door frame plates, connected plates, and dwarapalaka plates and pillar plates on reinstallation, and by not making prompt entries in the relevant registers, the devaswom officials committed grave official malpractice, which led to the commission of misappropriation," the report said.

The acts and omissions on the part of the TDB officials are tantamount to official misconduct, thereby abetting and aiding Unnikrishnan Potty and others to misappropriate the gold, the SIT said in its report.

which is probing the cases, informed the Kerala High Court on Tuesday that the theft of gold from Sabarimala is part of a larger conspiracy and an organised crime committed by the accused persons.

The SIT also informed the Kerala High Court that former CPM MLA



Omar Abdullah slams protests after NMC withdraws permission for Vaishno Devi Medical College

(Gns).

Reacting to the National Medical Commission (NMC) withdrawing permission for the medical college run by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board here, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said, "In the rest of the country, people fight for the establishment of medical colleges; here, people fought for a medical college to be closed."

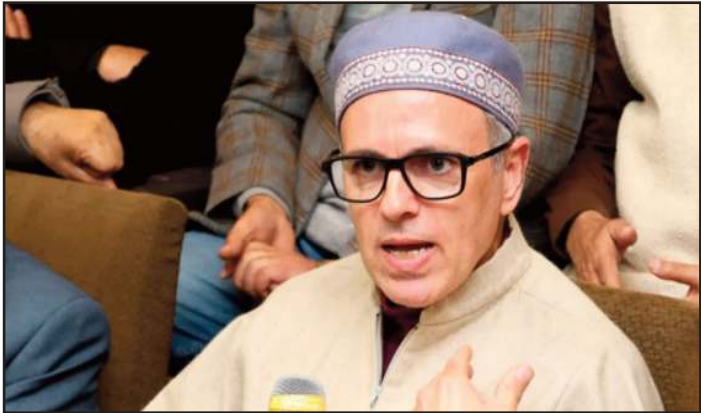
The Chief Minister was reacting to the closure of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) following an agitation against the admission of a majority of Muslim students.

Omar Abdullah said that those who launched the agitation should now burst crackers to celebrate the closure of the institute, thereby destroying the careers of local youth.

The Chief Minister said he has asked Health Minister Sakina Itoo to adjust the affected students in government medical colleges closer to their homes.

He added that students from the Jammu region would have benefited in the coming years as the number of MBBS seats at the college would have gradually increased.

Omar Abdullah had earlier strongly criticised the protests, stating that the students had earned their seats on merit, not as a favour. He pointed out that the university's establishing Act makes no mention of religion-based admissions and that applying such criteria goes against the secular principles of the Constitution.



Congress leader arrested for GST evasion

(Gns).

In a crackdown by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGCI), Hyderabad, Sunil Kumar, the owner and managing director of Orange Tours and Travels, was arrested on charges of collecting GST amounting to Rs 28.24 crore from passengers but failing to deposit it with the government within the stipulated time. A Congress office-bearer, Sunil Kumar, had contested the 2023 Assembly elections from the Balkonda constituency on a party ticket, but lost.

According to DGCI, the travel company had collected GST charges from passengers through ticket sales for the bus service. However, it failed to remit the collected amount to the government within the stipulated three-month period, thereby violating the provisions of the Central GST Act. Today, Sunil Kumar was taken into custody following investigations by the agency. He was produced in court in Nampally today following his arrest.

Sunil Kumar was also the Congress in-charge of the Balkonda constituency. Before contesting the Assembly elections on a Congress ticket, Sunil Kumar had also contested the 2018 elections on a Bahujan Samaj Party ticket. He had been unsuccessful and Orange Cargo Carriers. While Thirumala Cabs was the parent company, Orange Tours and Travels began running bus services between Bengaluru and Hyderabad in 2011.

In a separate case, the managing director of Trillion Lead Factory, N Chethan, was also arrested in a case of fake input tax credit fraud amounting to Rs 22 crore. The Hyderabad unit of the DGCI has begun a major crackdown against cases of GST evasion across the state, and the two were arrested as a part of the intelligence gathering, inter-agency collaboration, and investigations.



Urmila Sanawar, woman behind clip on Ankita Bhandari murder, announces her return to Dehradun

(Gns).

Urmila Sanawar, whose audio and video clips that carried names of BJP leaders in Aknita Bhandari murder case, announced her availability in Dehradun on the same evening when Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami told the media that she was missing.

Sanawar shared this information in a social media post, saying she was ready for a SIT probe and will present evidence to secure justice for Ankita Bhamdari, a 19-year-old girl who was killed at a resort in Rishikesh in 2023.

It is to be noted that Urmila recently released an audio and a video clip of her naming BJP leaders in connection with the Ankita Bhandari murder case. The clips went viral triggering massive public protests demanding disclosure of the name of the "VIP" in the case and a CBI inquiry.

On December 25, three FIRs were registered against Urmila Sanawar in Haridwar and Dehradun. After this, the controversial clips were taken by the police for forensic examination, as stated by the chief minister. Apart from this, an SIT led by SP City Haridwar was formed to investigate the matter. However, after the FIRs were lodged, Sanawar went underground for several days while the police were on the lookout for her. At the same time, Urmila sent a letter to SSP Dehradun, claiming threat to her life.

Being underground for nearly 10 days, she came up with a social media post announcing that she was back in Dehradun on Tuesday. She wrote she would get justice for Ankita with complete evidence and was prepared to face SIT investigation. She stated that the evidence provided by her must not be tampered with.

It is significant to note that Urmila, who claims to be the wife of former BJP MLA Suresh Rathore, returned to Dehradun with renowned right-wing leader Swami Darshan Bharti who heads Uttarakhand Raksha Abhiyan. Bharti stated that Urmila Sanawar had feared for her life. She returned to Dehradun only after she was assured security by the government and the police.

Following an assurance from Uttarakhand Police spokesperson SK Meena, who assured her that no untoward incident would be allowed to happen to her. Following this assurance, Urmila arrived in Dehradun to appear before the SIT along with Bharti and reached out to the SIT for recording her statements in the evening. Bharti said he remained in constant contact with police officials regarding this matter.



EPS's Delhi visit sparks buzz amid AIADMK-BJP seat-sharing 'issues'

(Gns).

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami's (EPS) visit to Delhi on Wednesday triggered political buzz amid reportedly strained seat-sharing negotiations between the two NDA allies — the AIADMK and the BJP — ahead of the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Coming on the same day that EPS announced an alliance with the Anbumani Ramadoss-led Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), the Delhi visit assumed added significance.

Terming the tie-up with the PMK a "natural alliance" aimed at unseating the ruling DMK's "anti-people" regime, EPS said the coalition had been strengthened further. "The AIADMK and the BJP have already come together. With the PMK now joining the alliance, it has become stronger. This is a natural and victory-oriented alliance formed to defeat the DMK's anti-people government. More parties are likely to join us soon," EPS was quoted as saying.

The invitation to Delhi was reportedly at the "behest" of the Central BJP leadership, though, according to AIADMK leaders in Tamil Nadu, EPS was keen on submitting a detailed dossier on alleged corruption involving the M.K. Stalin-led DMK government to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek his intervention.

EPS's Delhi discussions with Shah and other senior BJP leaders come close on the heels of the Union Home Minister's recent two-day visit to Tamil Nadu. Interestingly, while Shah attended party events in the state, EPS did not meet him during that visit, sparking speculations. Though Shah did meet senior AIADMK leaders like S.P. Velumani.

Sources indicate that the BJP leadership has been pressing for more seats than EPS is willing to concede. His not meeting Shah during his Tamil Nadu visit left several alliance-related issues unresolved, overall signifying a level of dissatisfaction on both sides. However, AIADMK leaders maintain that EPS's Delhi visit was planned independently.



Seven women among 26 Maoists surrender in Sukma as their ranks crumble in south Chhattisgarh

(Gns).

In a significant boost to anti-Maoist operations in south Bastar, as many as 26 Maoists, including seven women, laid down their arms in the Sukma district on Wednesday, underscoring the steady disintegration of the outlawed organisation's operational structure in Chhattisgarh. The surrendered cadres were carrying a cumulative reward of ₹64 lakh and were allegedly involved in a series of deadly attacks across Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states that claimed the lives of at least 56 security personnel.

Officials said the surrender was the outcome of sustained intelligence-led outreach by multiple battalions of the Central Armed Police Forces, including CRPF units and CoBRA commandos, along with the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Chhattisgarh Police. Continuous engagement, coupled with pressure from intensified operations in core Maoist areas, eventually persuaded the cadres to abandon the armed movement.

Among the most prominent surrenderees is Lali alias Muchaki Aite, a Muria tribal woman who held the rank of deputy commander and carried a bounty of ₹10 lakh. Active since 2005, she was associated with CYPCM Platoon No. 2 and was involved in at least eight major incidents.



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गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

UP govt cancels Assistant Professor exam after STF uncovers rigging

(Gns). The Uttar Pradesh government has cancelled the Assistant Professor examination held in April 2025 by the UP Public Service Commission due to irregularities.

Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh, while gathering intelligence on cheating syndicates, received inputs regarding irregularities, malpractice, and illegal extortion linked to the Assistant Professor examination held under Advertisement No. 51 by the Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission, Prayagraj, in April 2025.

Taking cognizance of the gravity of the matter, the Chief Minister ordered a confidential inquiry.

Acting on credible inputs, the STF on April 20, 2025, arrested three accused, Mehboob Ali, Commission was asked to resign, as the prime accused, Mehboob Ali, involved in preparing fake question papers for the Assistant Professor examination conducted on April 16 and 17, 2025, and defrauding candidates through illegal means. The arrests were made on charges of examination rigging and extortion.

In this regard, the UP STF registered a case (FIR No. 144/25, Sections 112, 308(5), 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023) at Vibhuthikhand Police Station, Lucknow.

To ensure the impartiality and confidentiality of the probe, the then Chairperson of the

Further investigation, including analysis of mobile data of the accused and associated candidates, along with inputs from informants, led to the identification of additional suspects.

Accordingly, the Commission was requested to provide data related to the suspected candidates. Cross-verification of this data confirmed that the sanctity of the examination had been compromised.

In view of these developments, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered the cancellation of the Assistant Professor examination.

The Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission has been directed to conduct the examination afresh at the earliest, ensuring complete fairness, transparency, and integrity.



"Donald Trump should face the same legal action as a terrorist" – Vishwatma

Govardhana (Baksa), 7 January : Mr. Vishwatma, Founder of the Mission for Global Change and author of dozens of books on international political systems, stated that if a person levies an accusation against someone and then goes to that person's home and forcibly takes them away, it is not an arrest but an abduction. Therefore, the conduct of the current President of the United States, Donald Trump, towards the President of Venezuela is not an arrest, but an act of terrorism. Hence, the international court should issue an arrest warrant against Trump, and he should be awarded the same punishment that is given to a terrorist.

Mr. Vishwatma was addressing a Renaissance Assembly held in auditorium of Bodo Sahitya Sabha situated at Govardhana in Baksa district. He said that if the people of the world take this incident lightly, the Third World War will not be preventable.

Mr. Vishwatma said that last year he had sent a proposal to 193 countries to establish the rule of law at the global level. The proposal suggested upgrading the United Nations and transforming it into a "United National Government. (UNG)" He stated that he had met the Minister of State for External Affairs of India and requested the creation of a new ministry for this purpose. In the proposal, this ministry has been named the "Ministry of Peace."

Mr. Vishwatma further said that he had also offered to take full responsibility if India were to lead the creation of a new world order. However, due to the negligence of officials, this proposal has been lying in cold storage at the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India for the past one year.

The author of the book "Reinventing Democracy" on the democratic World Order, Mr. Vishwatma, said treaty and grant a share of sovereignty to the International Court of Justice functioning at The Hague. He further stated that the President of Venezuela should be freed from the clutches of Donald Trump and handed over to the International Court of Justice.

The founder of the Mission for Global Change said that for this court to function effectively, laws are required. To formulate these laws, there is an urgent need for a World Parliament. Likewise, to implement the orders of the International Court of Justice, there is an immediate need for a "United National Government, (UNG)" that is, a World Government. He said that just as the rule of law is necessary within a country, the same is equally necessary at the global level. Only then can judicial participation in peace and prosperity be ensured across the world.



Redevelopment works at Badrinath shrine suspended in view of biting cold

(Gns). Biting cold in the Badrinath shrine area has forced the ongoing redevelopment works to stop for the rest of the winter. As the temperatures plunged to minus 10 degrees Celsius, unable to bear the chill, workers have returned to the lower areas.

According to officials, the work can resume only in March once the cold subsides.

Construction works at the Badrinath Shrine were allowed to continue even after annual closure of the temple portals after Diwali. More than 50 workers were allowed to stay on for the Badrinath shrine master plan development project as there was no snowfall till a few days ago. The Master Plan implementing agency of the state government drop in temperature has now made it difficult to continue works for riverfront, degrees Celsius. This has forced the workers to leave the Badrinath suburb and come down to Joshimath and other low lying places.

According to the local administration, persistent overcast has intensified the cold even during the afternoons for the past few days. This has forced the project implementing and masterplan executing agency to halt all construction works at the shrine.

"Cold in Badrinath Dham has reached a point where it is no longer possible to continue work. Operations have been suspended till March, and further decisions will be made after assessing the conditions in coming days" said Manral.

went ahead with the construction but with continuous decline in temperatures has forced the officials to stop the work.

Joshimath Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Executive Engineer Yogesh Manral informed that the building construction and other projects the continuously falling temperatures have made it difficult to work.

According to Manral, these days temperatures at the shrine area are touching as low as -8 to -10



Chhonzin Angmo Becomes the Only Visually Impaired Woman to Conquer Everest, Elbrus, and Kilimanjaro

January 7, 2025: Chhonzin Angmo, Union Bank of India Employee, and a visually impaired mountaineer has successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres), the highest peak in Africa. Already a world record holder as the only visually impaired woman to have conquered Mount Everest and Mount Elbrus, Angmo has now added the "Roof of Africa" to her historic list of achievements. Union Bank of India Congratulates her for the proud achievement.

The summit was reached under extreme and unpredictable weather conditions, further amplifying the significance of the climb. Though Mount Kilimanjaro is often seen as a trekking mountain, the climb proved difficult during this expedition. While ascending through the Lemosho Route, the team faced heavy snow, very cold temperatures and poor visibility. In spite of these challenges, Angmo showed great strength and focus to reach the summit.

Union Bank of India supported the expedition by extending complete financial support to Chhonzin Angmo. The climb was technically supported by Boots & Crampons, a leading mountaineering and expedition company. The expertise of the guides combined with Angmo's grit, determination & extensive mountaineering experience ensured a safe and successful summit despite the treacherous conditions.

Hailing from the rugged terrain of Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, Angmo has emerged as a global inspiration for the differently abled community. With each expedition, she continues to challenge stereotypes and redefine the meaning of "vision," proving that it is not limited to sight but rooted in courage, perseverance and an unyielding belief in oneself.

With her successful Kilimanjaro summit, Angmo reinforces a powerful message to the world: limitations exist only when one stops believing.



સોમનાથ સ્વાભિમાન પર્વ

અટૂટ આસ્થા કે 1000 વર્ષ

2026 marks 1000 years since the first attack on Somnath took place. Despite repeated attacks subsequently, Somnath stands tall!

– Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

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"The Somnath Swabhiman Parv is a roaring declaration of the eternal and Sanatan victory of creation over destruction."

– Shri Harsh Sanghavi (Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat)