



PM modi inaugurates 28th conference of speakers and presiding officers of the commonwealth

(Gns). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in the iconic Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Union Ministers; Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Shri Harivansh; Presiding Officers of Parliaments of the Commonwealth countries; Members of Parliament and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

Delivering Welcome Address, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla drew attention to the rapid technological transformations reshaping societies and governance, and observed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media have enhanced

the efficiency and effectiveness of democratic institutions. However, he cautioned that their misuse has also given rise to serious concerns such as misinformation, cybercrime and social polarisation. The Speaker asserted that it is a collective responsibility of legislatures to engage seriously with these challenges and evolve appropriate solutions. He underscored the growing importance of ethical AI and credible, transparent and accountable social media frameworks in safeguarding democratic values.

Expressing confidence, he noted that the Conference would facilitate in-depth deliberations on these critical global issues and lead to concrete policy-oriented outcomes, enabling legislatures to harness technology in an ideal and responsible manner.

Highlighting India's experience, Shri Birla shared that the use of AI and digital technologies is steadily increasing in the Parliament of India and State Legislatures. He noted that legislative institutions are being progressively made paperless and integrated through a unified digital platform, setting new benchmarks in transparency, efficiency and accessibility.

Shri Birla observed that through the collective efforts of Parliament and Government, India has repealed several obsolete and unnecessary laws, enacted new welfare-oriented legislations and framed policies aligned with the aspirations of the people, noting that these initiatives

have accelerated India's progress towards the goal of becoming a developed and self-reliant nation.

Reflecting on India's parliamentary journey of over seven decades, the Hon'ble Speaker underlined that

and have deepened public faith in democracy.

Emphasising the role of Commonwealth parliamentary forums, the Hon'ble Speaker stated that such platforms possess the unique capacity to bring

Extending a warm and heartfelt welcome, the Speaker greeted the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth countries, Ministers of the Government of India, Presiding Officers of State Legislatures, Members of Parliament, and other distinguished delegates and guests attending the Conference. He noted that the presence of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the inaugural ceremony was a matter of great pride and honour for all participants. He observed

that under the Prime Minister's visionary leadership and far-reaching reforms, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing major economy. He further remarked that India's leadership is offering decisive solutions to global challenges, and that the world today looks towards India for direction, stability and inspiration.

Highlighting the significance of the Conference, the Speaker stated that the gathering in the world's largest democracy - often described as the 'Mother of Democracy' - symbolises a shared commitment to strengthening democratic dialogue, cooperation and common values. He emphasized that the CSPOC platform provides a unique opportunity to exchange best practices, innovative ideas and experi-

ences aimed at reinforcing parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth.

Highlighting the agenda of the Conference, Shri Birla mentioned that the Conference, being hosted by the Parliament of India and bringing together Presiding Officers and parliamentary leaders from across the Commonwealth to deliberate on contemporary challenges and best practices in parliamentary democracy, would deliberate on the principles of impartiality and fairness of Presiding Officers, as well as on enhancing public trust and credibility of Parliaments. He emphasised that maintaining the dignity, credibility and prestige of parliamentary institutions in the eyes of the people must remain a paramount priority for all democracies.

Institutional knowledge of humans central to developing accountable AI for Parliaments: Deputy Chairman Shri Harivansh

(Gns). Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha Harivansh highlighted the importance of institutional memory of humans in shaping application of Artificial Intelligence in legislatures.

Harivansh emphasised that if AI is to enter legislatures, it must become accountable, contextual, and trustworthy. He made these remarks at the workshop on the adoption of AI in Parliament at the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in New Delhi. During his addresses he also listed the various digital and AI tools being developed for efficient functioning within the Indian Parliament.

Contextualising the

need for hybrid approach to developing AI he added, "When a human enters a new organisation, they bring with them two essential attributes: skill and knowledge. Skills can be acquired, transferred, or outsourced. Knowledge, however, is contextual and deeply embedded within the institution. Parliamentary knowledge is unique. It is built over

decades through debates, rulings, conventions, and constitutional practices. The same principle applies equally to Artificial

Innovation without restraint carries risk, while restraint without innovation can lead to stagnation." Therefore, Parliament must maintain a careful and deliberate balance between the two, he added.

Elaborating on the practical use cases of AI already underway in Parliament, Harivansh cited the use of models to carry out translation of business documents, analysis of Parliamentary debates and framing of questions across 22 languages. "We have developed a Parliamentary Language Dictionary consisting of approximately 48 thousand terms, which has been integrated into a custom AI model designed exclusively for parliamentary use.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, releases the Gujarati edition of the collected works of Adi Shankaracharya published by the 'Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust' in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

(Gns). Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, released the Gujarati edition of the collected works (Granthavali) of Adi Shankaracharya, published by the 'Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust' in Ahmedabad, Gujarat today. Many dignitaries were present on this occasion.

Addressing the program, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that the availability of Adi Shankaracharya's Gyan Sagar in the Gujarati language is a matter of great joy for the readers of Gujarat. He said that the collected works of Adi Shankaracharya published

in Gujarati language are a great treasure for the youth of Gujarat. Shri Shah said that Gyan Sagar composed by Adi Shankara-charya in Sanskrit has today been made available to Gujarati youth, and in the coming years, when discussions about good literature take place, the effort of 'Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust' will definitely be counted among them.

Shri Amit Shah said that the life of Swami Akhandanand Ji was such that people themselves

added the word 'Bhikshu' to the name of that great person. Bhikshu Akhandanand dedicated his life to the literature of Ayurveda, Sanatan Dharma, and that presents noble thoughts to society. Swami Akhandanand Ji had conceived during his lifetime that the youth of Gujarat should have access to excellent literary works at very affordable prices. He established a large institution and, during his lifetime, published numerous texts, including

Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Ramayana, Yoga Vasishtha, the teachings of Swami Ramtirtha, Ramkathamrit, and books on ethics and moral principles.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the 'Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust' has made available in the Gujarati language many important texts, including Kautilya's Arthashastra. Swami Akhandanand Ji played a very significant role in the collective character-building of Gujarat. He collected various literary materials and made them accessible to the youth in a very simple manner.

BJP treading path of injustice and unrighteousness: Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns). Samajwadi Party's national president Akhilesh Yadav said that the BJP is treading the path of injustice and unrighteousness.

"The BJP government is a failed government. It has not done any work in the public interest. It has ruined the entire system in the state. Health services have been destroyed. Corruption is at its peak in the state. The BJP government has put farmers, youth, and women in distress. Every section of society is troubled by inflation and unemployment," he alleged.

Addressing leaders and workers from various districts of the state at the

Samajwadi Party's state headquarters on Thursday, Akhilesh Yadav said that the BJP practices politics of hatred.

"When the BJP is weak, it becomes even more communal. BJP leaders are 'accusation-mongers'. Their only job is to level accusations against the Samajwadi Party. The BJP is a capitalist party, and it works for the profits of capitalists. It helps capitalists get bank loans. The BJP is a party

that tells lies and makes false promises," he alleged.

Yadav said that the path of truth is the path of righteousness.

ple," he said.

He said, "As soon as the assembly elections are announced in Uttar Pradesh, the bulldozer will disappear. The people of UP will send the BJP to a detention center in 2027."

Yadav said, "The Samajwadi Party practices positive politics. It talks about development, jobs, and employment. The SP does not engage in negative politics. Development work was done in the state during the Samajwadi Party government. When the SP government is formed in 2027, work will be done in the interest of farmers, youth, the poor, and women."



IMD will install 50 Automatic Weather Stations each in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Pune in 2026: Jitendra Singh

(Gns). Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh Thursday announced that 50 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) each will be installed in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Pune during 2026 — a total of 200 — marking a decisive step towards strengthening hyper-local, real-time weather forecasting and disaster preparedness, particularly in densely populated urban regions.

The announcement was made during the 151st Foundation Day celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a landmark occasion marking over one and a half centuries of the organisation's dedicated service to the nation.

Addressing senior officers, meteorology experts, and stakeholders, the Minister said a dense net-

work of AWSs will provide granular and high-resolution spatial data, enabling more accurate prediction of sudden downpours, thunderstorms, extreme heat events, and rapid pressure changes.

Highlighting the transformation in India's weather forecasting capabilities, the Minister said forecast accuracy has improved by more than 40 to 50 per cent compared to earlier decades. Cyclone track prediction accuracy has increased by nearly 35 to 40 per cent, while errors in monthly and seasonal forecasts have reduced sharply from around 7.5 per cent to nearly 2.5 per cent. He attributed these improvements to sustained investment, technological freedom, and institutional support over the last

decade.

He emphasised that such data-driven forecasting is critical not only for disaster risk reduction but also for informed decision-making in sectors such as agriculture, aviation, urban planning, and public safety.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the launch of Mission Mausam by Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents a clear declaration of intent and priority by the government towards advanced meteorological science and climate services.

The Minister also high-

lighted India's growing role as a regional leader in meteorological services, noting that India now provides disaster-related weather information and satellite-based support to neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. He said these efforts have strengthened regional cooperation and underscored India's responsibility as a trusted partner in disaster management across South Asia.

Detailing IMD's infrastructure expansion, Dr Jitendra Singh said the number of weather radars has nearly tripled over the past decade, now covering close to 87 per cent of the country's geographical area. He pointed to the expansion of Doppler Weather Radars, solar radiation monitoring networks, aerosol monitoring systems, micro radiometers.

Court rules Atishi video shared by Kapil Mishra and others 'doctored', orders takedown; AAP alleges BJP wanted to instigate Sikhs

(Gns). The Jalandhar court on Thursday ruled that the video of former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi shared by Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra and other BJP leaders was "doctored" and directed social media platforms to

remove it. Following a forensic examination, the court found that the video was fake and asked social media firms to delete all related links from accounts that posted it.

Kapil Mishra had shared a fake video related to Shri

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, which was also shared by other BJP leaders. In the purported video, it was alleged that Atishi had used disrespectful words for Guru Tegh Bahadur.

In its order, the court recorded that "the applicant

(which in this case is the Punjab government itself) believes that the video is doctored."

In the Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra fake video case, neither Kapil Mishra nor any other individual was made a party.

Jio Air Fiber

Jio Tv +

Jio Fiber

Daily Hunt

ebaba TV

Dish Plus

DTH live OTT

Rock TV

Airtel

Amezone Fire

Rocu Tv-US.UK

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

Editorial

Independence Under Threat

The spectacle of a sitting Federal Reserve chair publicly disclosing a criminal investigation into himself is without precedent in modern American governance. Central bankers are designed to be invisible operators ~ technocrats who move interest rates, not headlines. When the head of the world's most influential central bank steps into the political arena to defend the institution's independence, something has gone badly wrong in an America that is seeing more wrong than right in recent times.

At the surface, the dispute revolves around renovation costs and congressional testimony. But to treat this episode as a narrow legal or administrative matter is to miss the deeper structural shift it reveals. This is about power. More specifically, it is about whether monetary authority can still exist beyond the reach of political retaliation in an increasingly personalised political system. For decades, the Federal Reserve's credibility has rested less on law than on convention. Presidents grumbled, markets speculated, but the boundary between elected power and monetary policy largely held. That boundary now looks alarmingly thin. When public pressure over interest rates is followed by legal scrutiny, even if formally justified, the sequence itself sends a message.

It tells future central bankers that policy decisions may carry personal risk. That is not how independent institutions are supposed to function. The danger here is not limited to one individual, Jerome Powell, or one presidency. Once the idea takes root that legal machinery can be deployed against inconvenient officials, the logic becomes transferable. Today he is a central banker. Tomorrow it could be a regulator, a prosecutor, or a judge. Institutions built on restraint cannot survive sustained pressure from leaders who view independence as insubordination. The muted market reaction should not reassure anyone. Financial markets are often slow to price in institutional decay because it unfolds gradually, not explosively. A small rise in safe-haven assets is an early tremor, not the quake. The real risk lies ahead: a Federal Reserve led by officials chosen in a climate of intimidation, where loyalty is valued over judgement.

That would change not just policy outcomes, but the character of the institution itself. Globally, the implications are profound. The Federal Reserve is not merely an American body; it is a pillar of the international financial system. Its credibility anchors currencies, stabilises capital flows, and shapes risk calculations across continents. If that credibility becomes contingent on political favour, uncertainty will spread far beyond American borders. This episode also exposes a deeper contradiction. Political leaders demand accountability from unelected institutions, yet bristle when those institutions refuse to bend.

Accountability, however, is not the same as obedience. Democracies require both responsiveness and restraint. When restraint is treated as defiance, the system begins to tilt. In the end, this is a test not of one man's integrity, but of a country's institutional maturity. Strong systems protect their referees, even when they dislike their calls. Weak systems go after the referee. The United States is now uncomfortably close to finding out which one it is.

The Kashi-Tamil confluence

(Gns). A few days ago, I was in the sacred land of Somnath to be part of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on Somnath, which took place in 1026. People from across the country had come to be part of this moment of remembrance, united by a shared reverence for history, culture and the enduring spirit of the people of India. During the programme, I met a few people who had previously come to Somnath during the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam and had been to Kashi during the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam.

Their words of appreciation for such platforms touched me and so, I thought of sharing a few thoughts on this subject. During one of the Mann Ki Baat programmes, I had said that not learning Tamil is a major regret of my life. Fortunately, over the last few years, our Government has had several opportunities to further popularise Tamil culture across India and to deepen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' A prime example of such an effort is the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam. In our ethos, Sangam or confluence has a special place. Seen in this light, the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam stands out as a truly distinctive initiative, one that celebrates the living unity of India's many traditions while honouring their unique identities.

And what can be a better place than Kashi to host such a Sangamam. The same Kashi, which has remained a civilisational anchor from time immemorial... where, for thousands of years, people from all over have come in search

of knowledge, meaning and Moksha. Kashi's connection with Tamil people and culture is very deep. It is in Kashi that Baba Vishwanath resides, while Tamil Nadu has Rameswaram. Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu is known as



Kashi of the south or Dakshin Kashi. Saint Kumaraguruparar Swamikal forged a lasting link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu through his spirituality, scholarship and institution-building.

Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, one of Tamil Nadu's greatest sons, found in Kashi a space of intellectual growth and spiritual awakening. It was here that his nationalism deepened, his poetry sharpened and his vision of a free, united India took clearer shape. There are several such instances that highlight this close bond. The first edition of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam took place in 2022. I recall attending the inauguration programme. Scholars, artists, students, farmers, writers, professionals and many others from Tamil Nadu travelled to Kashi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

Subsequent editions expanded the scale and depth of this effort. The aim was to keep introducing fresh themes, innovative formats, and deeper

(Gns).

India's shrimp industry – one of the country's most globally competitive export sectors – stands at a defining crossroads today. For years, the United States served as its top and most lucrative export destination, especially for frozen shrimp under HS Code 030617. However, this dependence turned into a vulnerability in August 2025 when the U.S. sharply increased tariffs on Indian shrimp, triggering significant trade distortions that rippled across India's coastal economy. The cumulative duty rose to an unprecedented 58.26 per cent – combining 5.77 per cent countervailing duty, 2.49 per cent anti-dumping duty, a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff, and an additional 25 per cent penalty tariff linked to India's Russian energy purchases.

As the U.S. accounted for over 37 per cent of India's shrimp shipments in 2024, the shock was severe: exporters lost competitiveness overnight, and farm-gate prices crashed by 8-20 per cent. Andhra Pradesh, being the epicentre of shrimp production and export, has been severely affected, followed by Bengal, another crucial

Iran today stands at an uneasy intersection of internal decay and external pressure. The streets are restless, the economy is brittle, and the leadership is visibly unsettled. Yet the Islamic Republic is not collapsing. It is something more complex and, in many ways, more dangerous: a hardened state entering a prolonged phase of instability. The immediate trigger is domestic. Years of inflation, currency erosion and shrinking opportunities have hollowed out daily life for millions. What began as

production centre, which produces nearly 70,000 tonnes of shrimp every year, 85 per cent of which is exported, earning approximately Rs 8,000 crore annually from the export of frozen shrimp, with nearly 80 per cent of the revenue coming from the US. These tariff shocks severely shook these shrimp markets. The episode exposed how dangerously over-concentrated India's shrimp export basket had become, and how a single policy intervention by a dominant partner could destabilise an otherwise high-growth sector.

Recognising the gravity of the crisis, the Government of India moved swiftly to restore stability and create a more "level playing field" for producers. The Export Promotion Mission (2025-2031) places certification and compliance at the centre of India's long-term shrimp strategy. The government is expanding credit support to help farmers and processors upgrade facilities to meet ASC and BAP requirements – standards that are now essential for entry into high-value markets. Investments in modern testing labs, stronger residue monitoring, and digital traceability sys-

economic anger has matured into political resentment. The protests that now surface across cities and social groups are no longer confined to students or activists.

They cut across class, geography, and ideology. This breadth matters. It signals not a single grievance but a systemic loss of faith. The regime's response has followed a familiar script: force, fear and information control. Arrests, internet shutdowns and lethal crackdowns have restored order on the surface but

campus, health awareness camps, digital literacy camps, among other things, were held. The expedition paid homage to King Adi Veera Parakrama Pandiyan, the great Pandya ruler who spread the message of cultural oneness. There were exhibitions at Namo Ghat, academic sessions at Banaras Hindu University, as well as cultural programmes. One of the things that makes me most happy about the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is the participation of thousands of youngsters.

It illustrates the passion among our Yuva Shakti to deepen their connect with our roots. It is a brilliant platform for them to showcase their talent and creativity during the various cultural programmes. In addition to the Sangamam, efforts have been made to make the journey to Kashi memorable for the participants. The Indian Railways operated special trains to take people from Tamil Nadu to Uttar Pradesh. At many railway stations, particularly in Tamil Nadu, they were cheered, and the train journey was marked by melodious songs and conversations. Here, I would also like to appreciate my sisters and brothers of Kashi and Uttar Pradesh for the warmth and hospitality shown to the delegates of the various Kashi-Tamil Sangamams.

Several people opened the doors of their homes for the guests from Tamil Nadu. The local administration worked round the clock to ensure the guests had a seamless experience. As the MP from Varanasi, I could not be prouder! This time, the valedictory function of the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam was held in Rameswaram.

tems are aimed at guaranteeing antibiotic-free, fully trackable supply chains that can withstand rigorous EU checks, as India is gearing up to expand its seafood



exports, particularly shrimp, to Russia, the European Union (EU), and Australia, offering much-needed relief to domestic fisheries struggling under steep US tariff. Upgrading processing plants to global benchmarks ensures consistency, food safety, and smoother clearance in Europe, where compliance failures often result in shipment rejections and market losses.

By strengthening farm biosecurity, enforcing tighter quality controls, and promoting transparent sourcing, these measures help India shift from volume-driven exports to premium, certified products.

solved nothing underneath. Each cycle of repression



lowers the psychological barrier to dissent. Each wave of protests leaves behind a residue of anger and courage that does not disappear when the streets fall quiet. This is how legitimacy erodes – not dramatically, but steadily. External pressure has sharpened the tension. There is open talk of military options by

Additionally, policymakers should need to recognise the need to support other shrimp categories beyond HS 030617 – such as HS 030616, 030635, and

030636 – which currently contribute a minimal share to exports but hold untapped potential and can reduce market concentration risks if strengthened. As India recalibrates its export strategy, global trade patterns offer promising avenues for diversification. Non-U.S. markets have already increased their share from 51 per cent in 5MFY25 to 57 per cent in the same period this year – a significant shift shaped by demand from China, Vietnam, Japan, the EU, the UK, Russia, South Africa, and the Middle East.

China, now India's second-largest market, shows

consistently strong demand for frozen shrimp and has become a stabilising anchor amid U.S. volatility. Japan and South Korea offer premium, stable markets, although they require stringent adherence to quality standards and competition from Vietnam. The European Union and the United Kingdom present a renewed opportunity, especially as India advances trade negotiations that could reduce tariff disadvantages. Russia offers especially attractive openings with tariffs around 3 per cent and a history of high Indian market share. Vietnam serves as a major re-export hub, with Indian shipments doubling for processing and onward sale. Several African nations – notably South Africa – have also emerged as new demand centres, though purchasing power fluctuations require careful market development.

These markets favour value-added items such as breaded, ready-to-cook, seasoned, and vacuum freeze-dried shrimp, offering India an opportunity to diversify its product mix rather than relying predominantly on bulk frozen varieties. Therefore, it is high

time to focus on building structural resilience rather than responding reactively to external shocks. India needs a three-pronged long-term strategy: diversify both export destinations and product profiles; scale up certifications, digital traceability, and biosecurity to meet the high-compliance requirements of key markets; and develop value-added processing capabilities to move up the global seafood value chain.

Strengthening production and exports under other HS codes-030616, 030635, and 030636 – will distribute risk and unlock new market opportunities. Finally, aligning aquaculture policies with sustainability, disease management, and global regulatory expectations will ensure a stable supply and higher farmer incomes. The recent turbulence in the U.S. market is a reminder that India's shrimp success story cannot rest on a single pillar. With strategic policy support, diversified markets, and upgraded capabilities, the sector can not only recover but also emerge stronger, more competitive, and more globally integrated in the years ahead.

and a state that no longer persuades. This is a recipe for chronic volatility. The greatest risk is miscalculation. A massacre that provokes external intervention. A regional strike that spirals beyond intent. A leadership transition that exposes elite fractures. In such moments, tightly controlled systems can unravel quickly. History shows that authoritarian states rarely fall when they are strongest. They fall when pressure meets uncertainty. Iran is entering such a zone. It is rattled not ruptured. But the corridor is narrowing. Repression may buy time, but it will not buy legitimacy. Between a society that no longer consents and a world that no longer accommodates, Iran faces a future that is not yet terminal but undeniably unstable.

Rattled regime

the United States and threats of retaliation by

mise is weakness. The more threatened the state feels, the less flexible it becomes. Some observers draw parallels with other fallen regimes like Venezuela's that hollowed out their economies and lost public trust. But Iran is not a personality cult balanced on a single strongman. It is a dense system of institutions, ideology, and security power. It can endure pain. It can absorb isolation. It can suppress revolt. That makes it resilient ~ but not stable. The most likely path ahead is neither reform nor revolution.

It is a grinding middle: periodic protests, recurring crackdowns, worsening economic conditions and rising emigration – a society that no longer believes,

Festive spirit in full glow as COLORS' stars celebrate Lohri and Makar Sankranti

Karan Kundrra from COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' shares, "As a kid, Lohri was simply about having fun - the music, the dancing, the food, and how it brought everyone together. But over the years, I've realised how deeply it is woven into my family's identity and upbringing. Although I couldn't be a part of the Lohri special episode on Laughter Chefs, I absolutely loved watching it. The energy, the colours, and the festive vibe felt like home. What makes this time even more special for me is that I get to celebrate not just Lohri, but Makar Sankranti as well with Tejasswi. She introduced me to how Makar Sankranti is celebrated in her family, and I find it amazing that the same turning point of winter is marked so differently across India. It's endearing that while traditions may vary, the emotions remain the same. I hope there is food on every plate and happiness in every home. Wishing everyone a very happy Lohri and Makar Sankranti!"

Priyanka Chahar Choudhary essaying the titular role in 'Naagin 7', shares, "I am not a Punjabi, but Lohri has always been one of those festivals that felt like a chance to re-do the new year celebrations. During my Udaariyaan days in Chandigarh, we

celebrated Lohri with so much love, the bonfire, and the music, the laughter, and of course, all the delicious food. I remember how the entire vibe would just wrap you in this beautiful sense of togetherness. This year, I'm welcoming Lohri with a new family - the team of Naagin 7. I'm extremely grateful to the viewers for showering so much love on the show and making it India's most loved mytho-fantasy. The year has begun on a wonderful note for me, and I promise to continue giving my best to entertain the audience. Festivals like Lohri make me especially happy because they bring families together, and I pray that all those reunions are full of love. Happy Lohri!"

Ayesha Singh, who plays Mannat in COLORS' 'Mannat Har Khushi Paane Ki', shares, "Every year, I look forward to the bonfire, singing old folk songs, and enjoying gajak and til ladoos with my loved ones on Lohri. It's time to slow down, savour the little joys of life, practise gratitude, and put my socialising cap on - catching up on what's been happening in the lives of the people I care about. This year feels especially exciting because I'll be cel-

ebrating Lohri with the cast of Mannat Har Khushi Paane Ki. As the show moves through important turns in Mannat's journey, marking the festival with my onscreen family adds an extra layer of meaning. I might even get inspired by my character Mannat, who is a chef, and try preparing some Lohri delicacies myself. Here's wishing everyone a very Happy Lohri!"

Rishita Kothari, who essays the role of Seher in COLORS' 'Seher Hone Ko Hai', shares, "I'm grateful to have had an exciting year with Seher Hone Ko Hai garnering love and appreciation from viewers. Amid the show's shoot schedule, I'm going to be celebrating Makar Sankranti, one of my favourite festivals. It instantly takes me back to my childhood, when I would run to the terrace with my family, carrying tilgul ladoos, other snacks, our kites and speakers for music. We would cheer loudly every time our kite stayed afloat in the sky. I clearly remember holding the firki for my dad and encouraging him to cut other people's kites. We were always a team, and those moments brought us so much joy. As we grew

older and life became busier, many of these traditions changed. But no matter what, I still try to make time to meet my friends and extended family in the evening, enjoy lots of homemade food and cherish the little quality time we get together. Festivals like these remind us to pause and stay connected to our loved ones, even in the middle of our hectic lives."

Manasi Salvi, who essays the role of Bhanu in COLORS' 'Mahadev & Sons' shares, "Being a Maharashtrian, Makar Sankranti holds a very special place in my heart. I grew up watching my aai and ajji make fresh Tilgul and Puran Poli early in the morning, while the house was packed with warmth and festive energy. One tradition I have followed since childhood and still do is waking up early on Sankranti and sharing tilgul while saying 'tilgul ghya goad goad bola'. As kids, we would rush to the terrace with our kites and spend hours laughing, competing, and soaking in the winter sun. Even today, no matter how busy my schedule gets, I make it a point to celebrate the festival the traditional way. This year, I plan to take tilgul for my co-stars on the sets of Mahadev & Sons and share a little bit of home and happiness with them."

WR's major block in connection with work of 6th line over kandivali – borivali section

Mumbai, 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 nights of 16th/17th & 17th/18th January, 2026

from 23:15 hrs to 03:15 hrs on the UP fast Line and from 01:00 hrs to 04:30 hrs on DOWN fast line between Borivali and Malad.

Due to the above block and suspension of the 5th line as well as speed restriction imposed, some suburban services will remain cancelled.

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.

Indian army celebrates 78th army day at jaipur

(Gns). The Indian Army celebrated its 78th Army Day at Jaipur, Rajasthan, on 15th January 2026. The parade commenced with a Wreath Laying ceremony at the Prerna Sthal, where General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) paid tribute to the brave soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. Air Vice Marshal M Bandhopadhyay and Commodore P Verma also laid the wreath on behalf of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

This marks the fourth occasion that the Army Day Parade was held outside Delhi, following the decision to bring this event to other parts of the country. It was for the first time that the Parade was conducted outside army cantonment, at the heart of the city at Mahal Road, Jaipur, starting from Akshay Patra Circle and culminating at Bombay Hospital. South Western Command has hosted parade for the first time, after being conducted in Bangalore, Lucknow & Pune since 2023.

General Upendra Dwivedi, as the Reviewing Officer, took the salute during the spectacular parade. The event at Mahal Road,

Jaipur started with solemn ceremony wherein the Chief of the Army Staff presented Sena Medal (Posthumous) for Gallantry to five Next of Kins of Brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. The Army Day Parade was witnessed by over one lakh cheering spectators, whose enthusiastic participation reflected the strong bond of trust and pride between the Indian Army and the people. The vibrant turnout added immense energy to the celebrations and reaffirmed the nation's unwavering support for its soldiers. The parade demonstrated the Army's use of next generation technology for future battlefield. It underscored the Army's continued focus on leveraging indigenous solutions and staying ahead of global military trends, ensuring its preparedness to protect the nation through technological advancements.

The parade featured over 30 entities participating in an impressive march-past with seven distinguished marching contingents, representing various Regimental Centers, including



MADRAS Regimental Centre, RAJPUT Regimental Centre, Regiment of Artillery, Mixed Scouts Contingent and a NCC Girls Contingent. In a remarkable first, two special contingents participated in the parade, the Bhairav Battalion Contingents from RAJRIF and SIKH LI, symbolising the Indian Army's strategic shift towards modern, agile and lethal warfare capabilities, specifically designed for rapid, high-impact operations along its borders. These contingents reflected Bhairav Battalions as a "lean and mean" force representing India's resolve to "fight smarter and strike faster" in the modern battlefield. A fly-past by Army helicopters such as LCH, ALH, WSI and APACHE aircrafts further enhanced the grandeur of the parade.

The Nepal Army Band was part of the military bands participating in the parade, reflecting the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, mutual trust and shared military traditions between the two armies. Their participation symbolised enduring cultural ties and close cooperation, while underscoring the spirit of

camaraderie and partnership that continues to strengthen India-Nepal defence relations.

The Army Day Parade also witnessed performance by seven Military Bands. The military bands included teams from various regimental centers, including the SIKH Regimental Centre, DOGRA Regimental Centre, MARATHA LI Regimental Centre, BEG Centre, Artillery Regimental Centre, EME Centre and a mixed band of NCC Boys and Girls.

The 78th Army Day Parade also witnessed an impressive array of vehicle mounted contingents, equipment and cutting-edge technologies, showcasing the Indian Army's advancements and preparedness for modern warfare. These formations presented a rare opportunity for the public to witness the advanced weaponry and military technology that empowers the Indian Army in safeguarding the nation. The parade presented a powerful showcase of the Army's modern combat punch and technological edge, featuring heavy armour and mechanised platforms such as T-90 tanks, BMP-2 and Arjun tanks, backed by high-impact firepower including

Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet Flights Disrupted After Iran Shuts Airspace Amid US Tensions

(Gns). Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet flights faced disruption on Thursday after Iran abruptly shut its airspace, triggering delays and cancellations on several international routes amid rising domestic unrest and escalating tensions with the United States.

Iran abruptly closed its airspace on Thursday, leading to flight disruptions for Air India, IndiGo, and SpiceJet, and forcing the rerouting or cancellation of international flights due to safety concerns amid rising tensions and domestic unrest.

The closure has forced airlines to alter flight paths to avoid Iranian airspace, affecting schedules and travel plans for passengers flying across the region. Airlines issue advisories

after Iran airspace closure. Air India informed passengers that flights overflying Iran are being rerouted as a precautionary measure, which could lead to longer travel times. In some cases, services have been cancelled where alternative routing is not feasible.

"Due to the emerging situation in Iran, the subsequent closure of its airspace, and in view of the safety of our passengers, Air India flights overflying the region are now using an alternative routing, which may lead to delays. Some Air India flights where currently rerouting is not possible are being cancelled," the airline said in a post on X.

Air India urged travellers to check their flight status

before leaving for the airport and reiterated that passenger safety remains its highest priority. "Safety of our passengers and



crew remain top priority," the airline added.

IndiGo, SpiceJet report international flight disruptions

IndiGo also confirmed that some of its international services were affected following what it described as a sudden closure of Iranian airspace. The airline said its teams are working to manage the impact on customers.

"Our teams are working diligently to assess the situation and support affected customers by offering the best possible alternatives," IndiGo said.

The carrier expressed regret over the inconvenience caused and highlighted flexible options for impacted passengers. "This development is beyond our control, and we regret the disruption it may have caused to your travel plans. If your flight is impacted, we encourage you to visit our website to explore flexible rebooking options or to claim a refund, as per your preference," it added.

SpiceJet issued a similar travel advisory, confirming that its operations were also impacted due to the airspace shutdown over Iran.

Bangladesh Cricket Board Finance Chief After 'Indian Agent' Remark Triggers Player Revolt

(Gns). The Bangladesh Cricket Board has removed M Nazmul Islam from the key role of Finance Committee Chairman after days of outrage over comments made during the T20 World Cup venue dispute with India, as players' groups increased pressure and one domestic match in the Bangladesh Premier League faced a boycott.

The sacking comes while Bangladesh refuse to tour India for their four T20 World Cup group matches, citing safety worries following Mustafizur Rahman's removal from the IPL on the Board of Control for Cricket in India's instruction, a move described as linked to unspecified "developments all around". The Cricketers Welfare



Bangladesh Cricket Board after publicly demanding that M Nazmul Islam be removed and urging all players to sit out domestic fixtures, a call that led to a Bangladesh Premier League match being boycotted by Bangladesh players in protest at the official's public statements.

During that emergency session, the Bangladesh

Cricket Board leadership agreed that M Nazmul Islam's position had become untenable and confirmed that the President would temporarily manage the Finance Committee. with the announcement seen as a move to calm dressing-room anger while talks with the International Cricket Council continue over the World Cup schedule.

Bangladesh Cricket Board statement on removal from Finance Committee

The Bangladesh Cricket Board detailed the decision in a formal press note that stressed internal procedures and constitutional powers, and underlined that the President acted after reviewing "recent developments" and con-

cerns about the board's public image and working relationship with national players at a sensitive time.

WESTERN RAILWAY			
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT			
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/03/2026 Date 12.01.2026			
S.N.	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	QUANTITY	T.O.D.
21	Welding Simulator with all standard concomitant accessories	12 Nos	16-Mar-26
22	16" brake unit for regenerative brake	125 Nos	02-Mar-26
23	Traction Motor Complete with pinion	4 Nos	23-Feb-26
24	LED Signal Lighting Unit - Shunt	4711 Nos	17-Feb-26
25	LED Signal Lighting Unit For Route Indicator	5521 Nos	13-Feb-26
26	Main Led Signal Lighting - Aspect Yellow	4912 Nos	11-Feb-26
27	Main Led Signal Lighting-aspect Red	3162 Nos	09-Feb-26
28	Main Led Signal Lighting-aspect Green	2265 Nos	09-Feb-26
29	Lead acid batteries, 75 AH	64 Set	06-Feb-26
30	Running Contract of One year for Supply of Elastic Rail Clips (ERC) Mark-V conforming to RDSO drawing No. T-5919	4972365 Nos	05-Feb-26
CORRIGENDUM			
Please read the due date as "26.01.2026" for the tender notice No S-67-2025 dated: 13.11.2025 at Sr.No. 629			
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and wr.indianrailways.gov.in			
1003			
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Ministry of Coal Executes Agreements for Three Commercial Coal Blocks with Damodar Valley Corporation, Advancing India's Energy Security and Employment Goals

(Gns). In a significant step towards reinforcing India's energy security and accelerating economic growth, the Ministry of Coal has executed Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements (CMDPAs) with Damodar Valley Corporation for three commercial coal blocks—Dhulia North, Mandakini B, and Pirpainti Barahat. These blocks were successfully auctioned under the 13th round of commercial coal mining auctions. The execution of these

agreements represents a significant milestone in India's journey towards self-reliance in the coal sector. All three coal blocks are fully explored and together account for a cumulative Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of 49 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), underscoring their strategic importance in meeting the country's growing energy requirements. The projects are envisaged to generate an estimated annual revenue of Rs. 4,621 crore, while attracting a capital investment of approximately Rs. 7,350 crore, thereby contributing substantially to economic activity and industrial growth. In addition to strengthening energy availability, the development of these coal blocks is expected to deliver significant socio-economic benefits. The three projects are projected to create around 66,248 direct and indirect employment opportunities, fostering livelihood generation and regional development in the coal-bearing areas. The Ministry of Coal remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding domestic coal production through a transparent, competitive, and investor-friendly auction framework. These efforts are aimed at ensuring long-term energy security, stimulating economic growth, and advancing inclusive development in alignment with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



NITI Aayog releases report on "Achieving Efficiencies in MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes"

(Gns). NITI Aayog today released a comprehensive report titled "Achieving Efficiencies in MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes", outlining a strategic roadmap to strengthen the effectiveness of government support for India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The report was launched by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog & Sh B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog.

The report presents a detailed blueprint to improve outcomes for MSMEs by streamlining scheme implementation, strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, and enhancing the delivery of financial, skill, marketing support, innovation and R&D, technology and quality upgradation, and infrastructure development. While these initiatives have played a significant role in MSME growth, overlapping objectives and fragmented implementation across ministries often lead to duplication, inefficiencies, and limited outreach. The report underscores that effective convergence and rationalisation of schemes can simplify access for beneficiaries, ensure better translation of resources into outputs and outcomes, and reduce duplication and confusion, thereby amplifying overall impact.

Framework for Convergence The report recommends a two-pronged approach to convergence, comprising information convergence

undertake corrective measures to improve efficiency, outreach, and impact of MSME schemes.

Need for Convergence The Ministry of MSME currently administers 18



and process convergence. Information convergence focuses on integrating government-generated data at the central and state levels to improve coordination, enable

informed decision-making, and strengthen governance outcomes. Process convergence aims at aligning and unifying schemes to reduce redundancies, streamline operations, and improve service delivery. This includes merging similar schemes, combining common components, and fostering collaboration across ministries and states to create a cohesive MSME support ecosystem.

Key recommendations Centralized Portal for MSMEs: The report proposes an AI-powered centralized digital platform integrating MSME schemes, compliance, finance, and market intelligence. Drawing on global best practices, the portal would

feature information, process, compliance, and market research modules, supported by AI chatbots, dashboards, and mobile access for real-time support to MSMEs.

Convergence of Cluster Development Schemes: Integration of the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) with the Micro and Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP). It proposes a dedicated sub-scheme for traditional industries, a unified governance structure under MSE-CDP, and consolidated funding with earmarked resources to preserve crafts, arts, and endangered traditional industries while improving scale and efficiency.

Convergence of skill development programmes: The report proposes rationalising of skill initiatives into a three-tier structure covering entrepreneurship and business skills, MSME technical skills, and training for rural and women artisans. This approach merges overlapping schemes, improves coordination among institutions, and retains targeted programmes to promote traditional crafts, inclusion.

Guru Gobind Singh's life is an inspiration for all humanity: Acharya Balkrishna

(Gns). Acharya Balkrishna inaugurating the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp at Patanjali University.

On a chilly winter day, Patanjali University campus came alive with prayers, lights, reflection. The Prakash Parv of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji was celebrated along with the Lohri festival bringing together teachers, students, scholars for meaningful cultural and spiritual gathering.

The event was organised under the Shri Guru Gobind Singh Chair and began in a calm and respectful manner. Vice Chancellor Acharya Balkrishna, along with Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Dean Dr. Sadhvi Devpriya, and Dean Dr. Ritvik Sahay, formally opened the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

"A life that teaches

courage and humanity"

Speaking at the event, Acharya Balkrishna described Guru Gobind

matter today.

"He taught people to stand up against injustice without fear," Acharya



Singh Ji as a living example of the "saint-soldier" tradition. He said Guru Gobind Singh's life was not just about history or religion, but about values that still

Balkrishna said. "His message of love for the nation, strong character, and moral courage is for all humanity, not just one community." He added that Guru

Gobind Singh Ji showed how spirituality and bravery can walk together.

"From fear to self-respect"

Professor Dr. Jeet Singh Sandhu, from the Shri Guru Gobind Singh Chair, spoke about the Guru's powerful role in history. He explained how Guru Gobind Singh Ji gave confidence and dignity to the oppressed sections of society.

"By giving them the title 'Singh', he gave them self-respect and courage," Dr. Sandhu said. He called the formation of the Khalsa Panth a historic turning point that encouraged people to follow truth and righteousness without compromise.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
Senior Divisional Commercial - Manager, Mumbai Central Division, Western Railway				
Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008.				
Work - Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division.				
Auction Catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCTADVTMB25-10		30-01-26 14:00:00		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & Time of e-Auction
1	MMS-MobGen-133732-2-26-1 (Misc-Mobile-Services - Mobile General)	Contract for Distribution of Onboard Free Lifestyle Magazine in Train No. 12009/12010 Shatabdi Express, Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad - Mumbai Central, over Mumbai Division, Western Railway.	1096	30-01-26 14:30:00
Auction Catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-ADVT-25-71		30-01-26 15:00:00		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & Time of e-Auction
1	ADVT-BCT-DDR-OSN-443-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Dadar (DDR) station on Foot over bridges (FOBs) for a period of 3 years.	1096	30-01-26 15:30:00
2	ADVT-BCT-CYR-OSN-442-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Charni Road (CYR) station for a period of 3 years.	1096	30-01-26 15:40:00
3	ADVT-BCT-BA-OSN-440- 25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Bandra (BA) station on Foot over bridges (FOBs) for a period of 3 years	1096	30-01-26 15:50:00
4	ADVT-BCT-DDR-OSN-339-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Dadar (DDR) station platforms for a period of 3 years.	1096	30-01-26 16:00:00
Contact details: Landline no.: 02267644212. Email ID: acmadvtgbct@gmail.com Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue.				
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52 Maoist cadres surrender in Chhattisgarh, ₹1.41 crore bounty neutralised

(Gns). In a major breakthrough for Chhattisgarh's counter-insurgency and rehabilitation efforts, 52 Maoist cadres surrendered in the Bijapur district on Thursday, signalling a further weakening of the outlawed organisation in the Bastar region. The surrendered group, 21 women and 31 men, was collectively carrying a reward of ₹1.41 crore, reflecting their operational significance within the Maoist hierarchy.

The surrender was facilitated under the state government's rehabilitation policy 'Puna Margem', which focuses on encouraging armed cadres to renounce violence and rejoin the mainstream. Police officials said the development was the out-



come of sustained pressure by security forces, focused intelligence work, and parallel confidence-building measures under development initiatives such as 'Mera Sundar Gaon' (Niyod Nellanar). According to official figures, the surrendered cadres belonged to the South Sub-Zonal Bureau and included operatives holding key ranks such as DVCM, PPCM, ACM, divisional and bureau members, platoon commanders, militia members and Janatana Sarkar functionaries. Several among them had been involved in ambushes, IED blasts and armed attacks that together claimed the lives of 56 security personnel over the years.

Police data highlight the scale of recent gains in Bijapur district alone. Since January 1, 2024, a total of 824 Maoists have surrendered, 1,126 have been arrested, and 223 killed in encounters, marking a decisive shift in the security landscape of the region.

All surrendered cadres formally expressed faith in the Indian Constitution and

committed themselves to a democratic and non-violent way of life. As part of the rehabilitation process, each individual was provided ₹50,000 as immediate financial assistance, with further benefits to follow as per policy provisions.

Senior officials credited the success to coordinated operations by the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), CoBRA, Bastar Fighters, and CRPF battalions deployed in the area. Bijapur Superintendent of Police Dr Jitendra Kumar Yadav appealed to remaining Maoists to abandon violence, stating that the government's policy is designed to ensure a secure, dignified and sustainable future for those who choose peace.

Sanskriti University and Samtva together will prepare useful teachers

Mathura. An important MoU has been signed between Sanskriti University and Samatva National Teaching Academy (SAMTVA), a wing of Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry. Under this agreement, the teachers have to become such teachers who can do the teaching work in an enjoyable manner and with completeness.

The main objective of this collaboration is to empower teachers to become effective facilitators of integral and joyful learning. As a professionally designed, transformative education certification program for teachers of all dis-

ciplines, Samatva (E.D.Jt.And Sanskriti University will provide a great opportunity to teachers where they can develop through reflective practice, collaboration and a deep understanding of the principles of lifelong learning based on the educational philosophies of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.

Samatva and Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya will train both serving and aspiring teachers by offering various certification programs integrating holistic



ishnu Goyal, Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Society (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand), Dr. Sachin Gupta, Chancellor of Sanskriti University and Dr. Ajit Sabnis, Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Society, Karnataka, displaying the MoU signed between Sanskriti University and Samatva.

educational philosophy with contemporary education in line with the recommendations of the National

Education Policy 2020, NCF and NCERT framework. Through their thoughtfully designed initiatives and courses, they together aim to strengthen the educational fabric by creating teachers who have the vision, skills and commitment for the 360-degree development of the child.

This important MoU was signed during a program by Vishnu Goyal, Chairman of Aurobindo Society (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand), Dr. Sachin Gupta, Chancellor of Sanskriti University and Dr. Ajit Sabnis, Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Society, Karnataka

Vrindavan police caught three vicious snatchers

Police caught after the encounter, weapons and cash recovered

Mathura. Kotwali Vrindavan Police has arrested three accused wanted in snatching incidents in injured condition after an encounter. Three pistols, cartridges, two mobile phones, cash and an unnumbered motorcycle have been recovered from their possession. On the information of the informer, the police team laid siege in Chaitanya Vihar area from Gau Gram intersection towards Dhaurera. Seeing themselves surrounded, the accused opened fire on the police, in



Kotwali Vrindavan Police at the encounter site

response to which all three were injured in the encounter. Police arrested him from the spot and sent him to the district hospital for treatment. Arrested accused Gaurav son of Jagdish resident of Chandrasakhi Mohalla KC

Ghat Vrindavan, Rohit son of Ramesh resident of village Syahara police station Shergarh, Vimal alias Laddu son of Rambabu resident of KC Ghat, Vrindavan have been arrested. The arrested accused had carried out incidents of snatch-

ing purse from a woman in front of Mithila Kunj and snatching purse and mobile from another woman near Yamuna Ji Radhavallabh Temple. Against whom cases were registered. Police action Necessary action has been taken in Vrindavan police station on the basis of arrest and recovery.

In-charge Inspector Sanjay Pandey, Inspector Dharmendra Kumar, Senior Sub Inspector Abhay Sharma, Sub Inspector Kulveer Singh, Sub Inspector Shiv Kumar Sharma, Sub Inspector Arun Kumar etc. were present in the arresting team

Public alienation growing amid governance crisis in J&K: Congress leader Bhalla

(Gns). J&K Pradesh Congress Committee working president Raman Bhalla has said that the absence of responsive and accountable governance in the Union Territory has deepened public alienation and frustration.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with multiple unresolved issues that have collectively eroded their quality of life.

Interacting with locals today, he stated that rising unemployment, shrinking livelihood opportunities, inflation, and deteriorating basic services have placed an unbearable burden on households, particularly in rural, border, and semi-urban areas.

Expressing serious concern over frequent unscheduled power cuts, Bhalla said that erratic electricity supply during the prevailing biting-cold has made daily life extremely difficult. He pointed out that prolonged outages have forced families to endure harsh winter nights without heating, while students struggle to study and small traders suffer business losses. Hospitals, clinics, and essential services



workers. Bhalla further noted that despite repeated assurances and tall claims, there has been no tangible improvement in power infrastructure, transmission capacity, or distribution management. He attributed the situation to poor planning, weak monitoring, and a lack of accountability, which have resulted in avoidable hardship for the public. Senior citizens, children, and chronically ill patients, he said, are paying the highest price for administrative apathy.

Highlighting other pressing public concerns, the JKPC working president drew attention to inade-

quate and irregular water supply, dilapidated road networks, poor drainage systems, and growing sanitation issues.

He also raised an alarm over the delay in addressing public grievances, arbitrary decision-making, and the lack of effective local-level administration. Bhalla said that people feel unheard and helpless as their complaints continue to move from office to office without resolution.

He said unemployment among youth, insecurity among contractual workers, weakening of welfare schemes, and rising cost of living have created deep economic distress across the Union Territory.

He added that farmers are struggling due to high

input costs and lack of market support, while border residents continue to face neglect in terms of infrastructure, healthcare, and education facilities.

Reiterating the Congress party's commitment to public welfare and accountability, Bhalla assured the people that their genuine concerns would be raised forcefully at every appropriate forum.

Restoring trust, dignity, and responsive governance remains the Congress party's foremost priority, and that the voices of the people will not be allowed to go unheard, he added.

Today is the 15th day of the road safety campaign, giving priority to effective control of road accidents and public safety

ARTO Enforcement Rajesh Rajput conducted an intensive checking campaign against passenger vehicles on Yamuna Expressway, in which ARTO Enforcement Rajesh Rajput has instructed all bus and taxi vehicle owners to never operate the vehicle without first aid box and fire extinguisher on the expressway. Do not park the vehicle under any circumstances. Park the vehicle at the designated parking spot

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel participates in the celebrations of the Makar Sankranti festival in Ahmedabad

CM celebrates the Uttarayan festival by flying kites along with the residents of Vadigam

Gandhinagar, 14 January 2026: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel celebrated the festival of Makar Sankranti with residents at Vadigam in the historic Dariapur area of Ahmedabad.

On this occasion, CM extended Makar Sankranti greetings to all citizens of the state and conveyed his wishes for happiness, peace, and prosperity.

Expressing the belief that just as kites soar to great heights in the sky, Gujarat should also achieve new heights of development, the Chief Minister enjoyed the festivities by flying kites at

Mulji Parekh ni Pole in them and encouraged their enthusiasm. The opportunity to

among the residents created remarkable enthusiasm. Residents of the pole welcomed the Chief Minister with cheers and warm greetings from their terraces. CM greeted

Along with the Chief Minister, Ahmedabad MP Shri Dinesh Makwana, Dariapur MLA Shri Kaushik Jain, local councillors, and other political leaders were present on

enjoy kite flying with the Chief Minister made the Makar Sankranti celebrations a memorable experience for the people and kite enthusiasts present.



From Lucknow University Student Union to BJP Politics: Pradeep Singh's journey

Pradeep Singh, who made his mark in the politics of Lucknow University Students Union, showed leadership, organization and struggle in his youth. As an active leader of the student union, he raised the problems of the students prominently and played a vocal role on issues related to education, facilities and rights.

During student politics, Pradeep Singh earned the trust of the youth by working with communication, coordination and discipline. This experience later became a strong foundation for his political journey. He was recognized in the university campus as a leader who believed in positive and constructive politics along with the interests

of the students. Coming out of the politics of Lucknow University Pradeep Singh played an active role in the organizational structure of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Today, as a dedicated leader of BJP, he is working as a bridge between the organization and the workers. His journey from student union to active politics shows that strong leadership often begins with student politics, which later paves the way for service to society and



the nation. BJP leader Pradeep Singh Babbu (Lucknow) met the Honorable State President of Bharatiya Janata Party Shri Pankaj Choudhary in Lucknow and sent his hearty greetings for the Makar Sankranti festival. On this occasion, he expressed his gratitude to the State President for continuously strengthening the organization and encouraging the workers. Organizational issues were also discussed during the meeting. Pradeep Singh Babbu said that

under the guidance of Shri Pankaj Choudhary ji, the party is expanding in the state and the morale of the workers is continuously increasing, due to which the public welfare policies of BJP are reaching the last person of the society.

State President Shri Pankaj Choudhary, while wishing Makar Sankranti, called upon the workers to remain continuously active with dedication towards the organization. He said that the party is further strengthening public trust due to the hard work and unity of the workers.

The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere and brought the message of further strengthening the organizational energy.

Live-in relationship cannot override valid marriage: Chhattisgarh HC

(Gns). In a landmark ruling that reaffirms the primacy of statutory marriage under Indian law, the Chhattisgarh High Court has held that a live-in relationship or even a man's acceptance of children cannot confer legal status when a woman's first marriage remains valid and undissolved. The court ruled that marital and inheritance rights flow strictly from law, not from long personal associations or mutual consent.

A Division Bench of Justice Rajani Dubey and Justice A.K. Prasad dismissed a petition filed by a woman and her two daughters who sought to be declared the lawful wife

and legal heirs of a Bilaspur-based businessman. Upholding the Family Court's verdict, the Bench refused to recognise the claimed relationship, underscoring that legal status cannot be created in violation of statutory provisions.

The case stemmed from a claim that the woman, married in 1960, later entered into a ceremonial marriage with another man in 1971 and lived with him as his wife. The daughters asserted that they were born from this relationship and were acknowledged as his children throughout his lifetime. The courts, however, found no evidence that the woman's first marriage had ever been legally dis-

solved through divorce, annulment, or proof of the first husband's death.

The High Court noted that Sections 5 and 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, render a second marriage void if a prior marriage subsists. It further relied on Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act, which creates a strong presumption that children born during the continuance of a valid marriage are deemed to be the offspring of the lawful husband, unless non-access is conclusively proved through medical and legal evidence.

Official records, including Aadhaar and other government documents, were also cited by the Bench, as they consistently recorded

the first husband as the father of the daughters. The court made it clear that a later acknowledgment by another man, even one recorded before a court, cannot override statutory presumptions or rewrite succession laws.

Dismissing the appeal, the High Court observed that the dispute was closely tied to property claims and reiterated that "legal relationships and inheritance cannot be fashioned through personal arrangements or statements that run contrary to law." The ruling brings finality to the case, denying the petitioners any marital or succession rights over the respondent's estate.

Rafale fighter jet deal: Around 80% of 114 aircraft may be built in India as talks focus on localisation

(Gns). The proposed Rafale deal includes plans to shift parts of manufacturing from France to India. | Photo: IANS

India's proposed plan to acquire 114 Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force could mark a major shift in defence manufacturing, with nearly 80 per cent of the aircraft slated to be built in India.

The discussions, still ongoing, also involve moving parts of the manufacturing ecosystem from France to India. Government sources told ANI that the focus is firmly on increasing local content and strengthening long-term operational readiness.

At the centre of the talks is a proposal to establish a Maintenance, Repair and

Overhaul (MRO) facility in India. Officials believe this would significantly improve serviceability and reduce dependence on overseas support.

Local manufacturing, exports and MRO hub under discussion

Sources said cost negotiations are still underway. The French side's pricing proposal factors in an annual inflation-linked increase of about four per cent.

With a large share of components and systems likely to be manufactured locally, officials see scope for Dassault Aviation to use Indian facilities for export orders as well. India could also emerge as an MRO hub for Rafale and other Dassault aircraft operated by countries in the region.

Sources added that the Rafale has been found best suited to meet current Indian Air Force require-



ments. Its serviceability is estimated at around 90 per cent, significantly higher than that of other frontline fighters, including the American F-35.

The Indian Air Force has been advocating the acquisition of 114 Rafale jets for years, ever since the aircraft was selected through a multi-vendor tender process.

The force is currently facing a steady decline in fighter squadrons. Delays in indigenous programmes have compounded the challenge, with setbacks linked to engine availability and the integration of foreign systems into the LCA Mark 1A aircraft.

Strategic pressures are also mounting. With active fronts involving Pakistan and China, and Bangladesh emerging as a fresh security concern, officials say the IAF's fighter squadron requirement is now exceeding the long-accepted benchmark of 42 squadrons.



only. In this sequence, passenger tax officer Ms. Pooja Singh launched an enforcement and awareness campaign.

Joint teams issued 297

challans against those ignoring traffic rules and to prevent night accidents, action was taken to install reflective tape in heavy vehicles