



“Some Call It Mother Of All Deals”: EU President Hints Historic India Trade Deal At WEF

(Gns). The European Union and India appear close to sealing a long-awaited free trade agreement, with EU leaders signalling that negotiations have reached a decisive stage.

The European Union and India are nearing a free trade agreement, as stated by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum in Davos; the deal could create a market of 2 billion people, accounting for almost a quarter of global GDP, and is expected to lower tariffs and improve market access.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the proposed deal as potentially

transformative for global trade, even as she acknowledged that some hurdles remain before it can be finalised.

The comments come at a time when both sides are actively seeking to reduce dependence on limited trade partners and strengthen economic ties with fast-growing markets. India, now one of the world's largest economies, has emerged as a central focus of the EU's broader trade diversification strategy.

“Mother of all deals” and scale of the proposed agreement

Addressing global leaders and business executives at Davos, Ursula von der Leyen underlined the scale of the proposed pact and its global impact.

“There is still work to do. But we are on the cusp of a historic trade agreement. Some call it the mother of all deals. One that would create a market of 2 billion people, accounting for almost a quarter of global GDP,” she said during her speech on European Union trade priorities.

If concluded, the agreement would link two of the world's largest consumer markets, combining the EU's economic strength with India's rapid growth and expanding manufacturing base. Officials say the deal could significantly lower tariffs, improve market access, and provide a stable framework for long-term investment between the two sides.

India EU trade talks and why they matter now

India and the European Union formally resumed free trade negotiations in 2022 after talks had stalled



for several years. Since then, multiple negotiation rounds have been held, covering goods, services, investment protection, digital trade, intellectual prop-

erty rights, and sustainability standards.

The renewed momentum is driven by changing global supply chains, geopolitical tensions, and a

For India, improved access to European markets could boost exports in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, and information technology services.

Trade between India and the EU already exceeds €120 billion annually, making the EU one of India's largest trading partners. Officials on both sides believe a comprehensive agreement could push this figure significantly higher over the next decade.

Key challenges still on the table

Despite the optimism, negotiators continue to face sensitive issues. Differences remain over tariff reductions on automobiles, wine and spirits, agri-

cultural products, and government procurement. Environmental and labour standards have also been key discussion points, with the EU pressing for stronger commitments linked to sustainability and climate goals.

Indian negotiators, meanwhile, have sought greater flexibility on issues affecting domestic industries and small businesses, while pushing for easier movement of skilled professionals and service sector access within the EU.

Von der Leyen's remarks suggest that while compromises are still required, political momentum at the highest level could help bridge remaining gaps.

Von der Leyen India visit and next steps

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is expected to visit India early next week, a trip that is likely to focus heavily on trade and economic cooperation. The visit is seen as a signal of the EU's seriousness about pushing negotiations toward a conclusion.

Officials familiar with the discussions say the coming months could be crucial in determining whether the agreement can be finalised within the current political cycle on both sides. If successful, the India EU free trade deal would rank among the largest and most consequential trade agreements signed in recent years, reshaping economic ties across Europe and South Asia.

BJP Names Nitin Nabin As National President: Here's A List Of BJP Presidents

(Gns). Nitin Nabin is a senior BJP leader from Bihar with strong organisational roots in the state. Born in Patna, he is the son of the late Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha, a respected BJP leader and former MLA. Nabin entered active politics after his father's passing and gradually built his own political identity.

He represents the Bankipur Assembly constituency in Patna, and has won the seat four times consecutively — in 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2025. In the most recent Bihar Assembly elections, he secured a victory margin of more than 51,000 votes, further strengthening his

political stature.

Nitin Nabin, a senior BJP leader from Bihar, was appointed as the BJP's national president in 2026, supported by leaders including PM Modi, after serving as a minister in the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government and winning the Bankipur Assembly seat four times.

Within the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar, Nitin Nabin holds important responsibilities as the minister in charge of Road

Construction and Urban Development.

National Role and Growing Influence

Nitin Nabin has played a key role in strengthening the BJP's alliance with JD(U) in Bihar and has been involved in shaping NDA election strategies. He has also served as the BJP's in-charge for Chhattisgarh,



indicating his expanding national influence.

His elevation to the national president position reflects both his political

strength in Bihar and his organisational capabilities.

BJP National President Selection Process

The BJP begins the process of selecting its national president after appointing state presidents across the country. The party announced the election schedule and electoral roll on January 16, 2026, after more than half of the state presidents were selected.

On the nomination day, the BJP received 37 nomination papers, all in support of Nitin Nabin. The nomination was backed by senior leaders including PM Modi, Amit Shah, and Rajnath Singh, reflecting broad consensus within the party.

has completely failed. This government is crushing the rights of the people.

He said that the Samajwadi Party government would be formed in 2027 in UP.

The SP president said to get rid of the unjust rule of the BJP and to end the anarchy of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, a Samajwadi Party government must be formed to restore the democratic rights of the people. All MPs and MLAs have been given responsibility for their respective areas.

Akhilesh Yadav said that a district-level manifesto will be prepared for the assembly elections and it will include the issues of the people.

Akhilesh calls on all party MPs to work day and night to bring back SP regime

(Gns). Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav, warning that the Constitution is in danger under the BJP rule as the ruling party is out to rig the electoral rolls, asked all party MPs to work day and night in their respective parliamentary constituencies. “They have to stand with the people in their joys and sorrows and fight for their issues, he added.

“There is no rule of law under the BJP regime. The RSS has always been unjust to democracy and has betrayed the Constitution. There is a huge difference between the voter lists of the Central and State Election

Commissions. The BJP government is on the path of dishonesty,” he alleged.



A meeting of the Samajwadi Party MPs was held here on Tuesday at the Samajwadi Party's state headquarters here. The meeting was chaired by the party's National

President Akhilesh Yadav.

Akhilesh Yadav said injustice, oppression, and tyranny are at their peak under the BJP government. There is rampant misappropriation and looting of the government budget. All records of corruption have been broken. The BJP has deceived every-

one. Temples are being demolished under the BJP government. More temples have been demolished under the BJP government than during the reign of any king. The BJP government

Dr. Jitendra Singh recommends steel slag-based technology for sustainable road construction in hilly terrains

(Gns). Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Tuesday recommended the use of steel slag-based technology for sustainable road construction, particularly in difficult and hilly terrains, noting that its adoption in the Himalayan states and UTs remains limited and needs to be accelerated through targeted outreach and training.

Addressing an event marking the signing of an agreement between the Technology Development Board (TDB) and Visakhapatnam-based Industry partner “Ramuka Global Eco Work Private Limited” for commercial production of ECOFIX, a ready-to-use pothole repair mix, the Minister said workshops were now being organised to familiarise

state agencies with the technology.

The Minister said a two-day workshop on Steel slag technology would be held

Minister, several Himalayan and hill states stand to gain the most from the technology because of shorter working seasons, heavy



next week in Jammu and Kashmir followed by other states and UTs as well, aimed at sensitising engineers and officials from road construction departments about its application and benefits.

According to the

rainfall and frequent road damage, yet awareness on the ground remains uneven.

Tracing the journey of the technology, Dr. Singh said trials had begun around two years ago, starting with pilot projects in places such as Surat in

Gujarat and parts of the Northeast, including Arunachal Pradesh. Since then, steel slag-based road repair solutions have been used to varying extents in states like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

However, he pointed out that many potential users, including senior engineers in some states, were still unaware of its availability, underscoring the need for proactive dissemination by both government agencies and industry partners.

The occasion also marked the formalisation of an agreement enabling the commercial rollout of ‘ECOFIX’, a pothole repair mix developed by the CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) and now being taken to market with TDB support.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will chair the State SWAGAT Online Public Grievance Redressal Programme on Thursday, January 22

Gandhinagar, 20 January 2026: The State SWAGAT online public grievance redressal programme, organised every month in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, will be held for January 2026 on Thursday, January 22.

Inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the SWAGAT online public grievance redressal

programme has been conducted since 2003, under which the State SWAGAT is organised on the fourth Thursday of every month.



Accordingly, Citizens

can submit their representations for this SWAGAT programme in person at the Chief Minister's Public Relations Unit, Swarnim Sankul-2, Gandhinagar, on Thursday, January 22, between 8-00 am and 11-00 am. The Chief Minister will personally attend the State SWAGAT on Thursday afternoon and directly hear the representations of citizens.

Congress challenges PM Modi on “Urban Naxals” label citing contradictions in govt stance

(Gns). The Congress on Tuesday intensified its criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his reference to “urban naxals” with senior party leader Jairam Ramesh questioning whether the term is now being broadly applied to all government critics despite the Union Home Ministry previously disowning it.

In a post on X, Ramesh highlighted a contradiction between the prime minister's recent remarks and the government's official position in Parliament. “The

PM spoke today about the threat from what he called ‘urban naxals’. Yet, on March 11, 2020, the Minister of State for Home Affairs clarified in the Rajya Sabha that the Union Home Ministry does not use the phrase ‘urban naxals’,” Ramesh noted.

Recalling that on April 29, 2024, PM Modi had accused those calling for a caste census and raising con-

cerns about economic inequality of harboring an “urban naxal mindset”, Ramesh questioned, “Will the PM clarify, or does he believe that anyone opposing him is an urban naxal?”

These comments came amid renewed political debate following the prime minister's warning about ideological threats from “urban naxals”, a term often used to describe

alleged sympathizers of left-wing extremism in urban settings.

However, the government has historically maintained a clear distinction between armed left-wing extremism — commonly known as Naxalism or Maoism — and legitimate political dissent. In March 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs formally stated in the Rajya Sabha that it does not officially use “urban naxals,” while acknowledging Maoist efforts to expand influence in cities.



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प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Lingering Darkness

Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi', She has been in detention for two decades, five years of them since the coup that ended Myanmar's brief democratic interlude. Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's physical absence from public life has not diminished her political presence; it has only altered its form. Once the voice of moral resistance, she is now a silent symbol in a country where silence itself has become a weapon. The generals may have erased her image from billboards and broadcast, but they have not erased the memory of what she represented to millions. The contrast with her earlier years of confinement is stark.

Then, she was visible, defiant, and reachable. Today, she is cut off from lawyers, family, and the public, her health unknown, her fate opaque. This isolation mirrors the hardening of Myanmar's political landscape. The military that once flirted with controlled reform has retreated into uncompromising rule, relying on air power, fear, and a staged electoral theatre to claim legitimacy. The space for negotiation that existed a decade ago has collapsed. Equally, the opposition has changed. The young who once gathered for peaceful rallies have taken to the jungles and borderlands, convinced that non-violence is a dead end. In that shift lies a quiet repudiation of Ms Suu Kyi's creed, even as her name still evokes hope. Her decision, while in office, to defend the state against international genocide charges over the Rohingya crisis fractured her global halo and unsettled a generation of activists at home. She is no longer the unblemished icon of the 1990s. She is a complex, contested figure. Yet complexity does not cancel relevance. In a country splintered by ethnicity, ideology, and armed struggle, no other civilian leader carries her recognition or residual authority.

The military understands this, which is why it keeps her locked away. Her release would not end the war, but her continued disappearance ensures that no political bridge exists between the gun and the ballot. Myanmar is trapped between a junta that will not yield and a resistance that will not compromise. From an Indian perspective, the tragedy is also strategic. Instability on our eastern flank feeds refugee flows, arms trafficking, and regional insecurity. New Delhi's cautious engagement with the generals has bought tactical access but no durable influence. A Myanmar without a credible civilian interlocutor is a long-term liability for the neighbourhood.

Whether one admires or criticises her record, Ms Suu Kyi remains the only figure who could, even symbolically, anchor a transition away from perpetual conflict. At eighty, with years lost to prison walls, she may never return to active leadership. But nations do not only move through policies; they move through symbols. Her shadow still stretches across Myanmar's ruined political landscape because there is nothing else to cast one. Until that changes, her imprisonment is not merely a human rights issue. It is the clearest sign that Myanmar's future remains hostage to its past alone.

ASME EFX® India 2026 Concludes, Showcasing Emerging Engineering Talent from Across India

Lucknow, 19 January, 2026 : ASME Foundation India (AFI) concluded EFX® India 2026, its national engineering festival, following three days of immersive learning, innovation, and collaboration. The event brought together 700+ engineering students from 19 states, including Kerala, Odisha, Delhi, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh, for hands-on learning and real-world problem-solving.

EFx India 2026 focused on hands-on learning, interdisciplinary engineering, and industry-aligned problem-solving, offering students exposure to real-world challenges beyond the classroom. The festival facilitated interaction between students, academicians, and industry professionals, reflecting the evolving needs of the engineering ecosystem.

One of the event's key themes was interdisciplinary engineering, highlighted through sessions and challenges integrating emerging technologies with practical application. This included the workshop "Robotics in the Age of AI: Moving from Automation to Autonomy," which focused on the role of artificial intelligence in robotics and autonomous systems and connected conceptually to ASME India's Asia-level conference, the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition® (IMECE India 2026), scheduled for September 2026 in Chennai.

Speaking on the vision behind the initiative, Mr. Madhukar Sharma, President & Director, ASME India Pvt Ltd, said, "For India to truly evolve from a service economy into a global 'Product Nation,' we must move beyond 'Make in India' to 'Design in India.' ASME EFX India 2026 is the platform where this

transformation begins. ASME is empowering a new generation of engineers who possess the multidisciplinary skills and innovation mindset required to solve real-world challenges — from sustainable



mobility to autonomous systems."

Highlighting the initiative, Ms. Avni Malhotra, Deputy Director, ASME Foundation India, said, "True innovation requires a diversity of hearts and minds. Through ASME Foundation India, we are committed to unlocking that potential in every student. 'Gear Up FEME' is a challenge that proves women belong at the forefront of design engineering."

Recognizing excellence

(Gns). During the 19th century, scientists found that the main constituents of different foods were carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals, and water. At the beginning of the 20th century, some physiologists conducted feeding experiments on mice with synthetic diets prepared by blending pure carbohydrates, fats, proteins, and mineral salts. They observed that animals would not grow on such synthetic diets and the result let scientists draw an inference that natural foods contain unknown sub-

(Gns). The current Iranian regime is facing its strongest test since its ascendancy to power in 1979 with the ongoing protests. Protests have occurred regularly in Iran. 2009 was the Green Movement, 2019 saw civil unrest and 2022-23 saw an uprising on civil liberties following the death of female activist Mahsa Amini in police custody, for violating rules on wearing the hijab. Each protest was crushed brutally with over 500 killed in 2022-23. The cause of current protests is the collapse of the Rial, leading to food inflation crossing 70 per cent and rising unemployment.

Sanctions on oil exports led to a drop in Iran's economy and depleted its foreign exchange reserves. An added impact on the economy was the 12-day war with Israel and the US, resulting in increased taxes. No accurate figures on casualties are available; however, it is believed that over 5,000 have been killed and thousands more injured. The son of the ex-Shah of Iran, Reza Pahlavi, based in exile in the US, has been urging protestors to take over cities and overthrow the current regime. He says that he wants to move Iran towards democracy. There is also no doubt that the

(Gns). As 2026 begins, democracies around the world appear uneasy, defensive, and increasingly fragile. The challenge facing democratic systems today is not limited to electoral outcomes or ideological competition. It runs deeper –

across competitions, EFX® India 2026 celebrated outstanding performances by participating engineering colleges, with several institutions emerging as winners across multiple challenges. Colleges including

Federal Institute of Science And Technology (Kerala), KLS Gogte Institute of Technology (Karnataka), Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (Karnataka), Mar Athanasius College of Engineering (Kerala) and Netaji Subhas University of Technology (Delhi) demonstrated strong technical expertise, innovation, and teamwork, securing top positions in more than one competition. Their achievements highlighted the depth

of engineering talent and the competitive spirit fostered at the festival. One of the event's key highlights was "Gear Up FEME — Where Her Ideas Take Shape," a women-only engineering challenge led by ASME Women in Engineering. The initiative featured a four-hour CAD and simulation challenge that tested participants on creativity, precision, and problem-solving skills under time constraints.

EFx India 2026 also brought together academicians and industry professionals from organisations such as IIT Ropar, Boeing, Giesecke & Devrient, and Siemens Energy India, reinforcing collaboration between academia and industry.

The event was supported by official sponsors GAIL and The Welding Institute (TWI) India, strengthening industry engagement and practical exposure for participating students. Sharing his perspective, Mr. Sanjay Chauhan, Chief General Manager, GAIL (India) Limited, Jaipur, said, "I welcome the opportunity to...

current protests are being fuelled by the US and Israel. For President Donald Trump, the current regime is an anathema.

His dislike has never been hidden. Apart from the fact that the Iranian regime has been supporting terrorist groups against Israel including the Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis and also many in Iraq, alongside the Assad regime in Syria, is that it was in Iran that the US was humiliated. Their Operation Eagle Claw, launched to rescue 53 embassy staff held hostage in April 1980, was an abject failure and remains a blot on US special forces. As protests increased, Trump posted a message on his Truth Social network mentioning, "Iranian Patriots, keep protesting – take over your institutions!!! help is on its way." As the situation worsens, nations, including India, advised their citizens to leave Iran.

Trump enhanced his force levels in West Asia, including moving a carrier-based group within proximity. Iran offered negotiations, which Trump accepted, then withdrew. There were reports that the US military gave options for striking Iran but were unsure whether these would lead to a regime change. In such a scenario, the aim of Trump would not be met.

into the health of institutions, the credibility of governance, and the ability of states to retain public trust while managing rapid social, economic, and technological change. India is often discussed as a special case. But viewing its democratic anxieties in iso-

lation misses the larger picture. What we are witnessing is a global phenomenon.

Across Europe, North America, Asia, and the Global South, liberal democratic assumptions that once appeared settled are being questioned. Anti-migrant politics, cultural majoritarianism, executive

overreach, and declining tolerance for dissent are no longer fringe tendencies. They are becoming mainstream political strategies. The result is a slow but perceptible shift from democratic expansion to democratic defence. For much of the post-war period, the democratic trajectory was clear. Rights would gradually expand, institutions would deepen, and societies would internalise democratic values over time. Structures were expected to shape behaviour.

That assumption now appears inverted. Instead of democratic values strengthening institutions, institutions are increasingly being asked to survive societies that are becoming more polarised, impatient, and susceptible to populist narratives. This reversal is visible not only in emerging

democracies, but also in countries long considered democratic role models. In many places, the political struggle is no longer about securing new rights or entitlements. It is about preventing erosion of existing ones. Workers fight to preserve minimum protections rather than demand

Vitamin D deficiency

stances which are essential for the life and growth of animals. In 1912, these were called "accessory food factors" by Frederick G. Hopkins and Casimir Funk coined the term "vitamine" from "vita" (life) and "amine". The term vitamin originated from "vitamine". Funk has been honored as the "Father of vitamins" on his 140th birthday. The most important lines of observations vis-à-vis investigations which facilitated scientists to focus their attention on the existence of vitamins in foods had been started as early

as the sixteenth century when Capt. James Lancaster observed in 1591 that scurvy in mariners could be cured by lemon juice.

In 1865, Trousseau cured rickets in children using cod liver oil. In 1882, a Japanese naval surgeon, Takaki, showed that beriberi could be prevented by replacing polished rice with wheat bread, vegetables, and milk. So far about 13 different vitamins have been isolated in pure state from natural foods. Almost all of them are essential for human beings. Those could be classified broadly into

Trump therefore called off the strikes at the last minute. The US also moved its personnel away from bases in Qatar and reduced strength in Middle East embassies,



preparing for a retaliation. Trump's official reason for calling off the strikes was that Iran promised to stop execution of protestors. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Israel also convinced Trump not to go ahead with the strikes. They believe that Iran's retaliation could destabilize the region as Tehran is bound to hit back, resulting in collateral damage.

Targeting Middle East oil facilities could damage their carefully built economy and impact global oil prices. Saudi Arabia even prohibited the US from exploiting its air space to target Iran, sending a message of peace to Tehran. The scenario is complicated as

A year of stress for democracies

democracies, but also in countries long considered democratic role models. In many places, the political struggle is no longer about securing new rights or entitlements. It is about preventing erosion of existing ones. Workers fight to preserve minimum protections rather than demand

triggering debates about who counts, how much, and why. These questions strike at democracy's core: political equality. If such processes are conducted transparently and inclusively, they can strengthen institutions.



If perceived as opaque or politically skewed, they risk deepening mistrust—especially in societies already marked by regional, ethnic, or economic disparities. Another defining feature of 2026 is technological acceleration, particularly artificial intelligence. AI is not merely a labour-market disruptor. It is a governance disruptor. It reshapes how narratives are formed, how information circulates, and how power is exercised. Democracies that fail to anticipate AI's social and institutional consequences risk compounding inequality and precarity. The historical pattern is clear: technological change eliminates certain forms of work faster than societies can create new ones. Reskilling alone cannot absorb displacement at the scale AI threatens to produce.

For labour-rich democracies, this poses a political risk. Economic insecurity, when widespread, rarely strengthens democratic commitment. Many countries once celebrated demographic advantage as a guarantee of growth and stability. That optimism is fading. Youthful populations, if not productively engaged, become sources of pressure rather than promise. The global lesson is sobering: demographic dividends are time-bound.

needs to happen would not. We need very small quantities of vitamins, and these come almost exclusively from the foods we eat. But vitamin D is the exception. The few foods that contain it have very low quantities. Instead, unique among vitamins, vitamin D is synthesized from sunlight on our skin. The discovery of Vitamin D in 1922 was due to an effort to address dietary deficiency in children with rickets. Adolf Windaus received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1928 for his work on the sterols and their connection with the vitamin D which is

two classes: (i) Fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E & K), and (ii) Water-soluble vitamins (C and the B-complex: B1,



B2, B3, B5, B6, B7, B9 & B12), each playing vital role in bodily functions. The discovery and isolation of these vitamins occurred primarily during the first half of the 20th century,

Without them, what

national interests are varied. Israel would face the brunt of Iranian hypersonic missiles in retaliation. If Israel responds and there are civilian casualties, the Gaza

peace plan would witness a drop in participation from Muslim nations. If Israel does not, Prime Minister Netanyahu would face a backlash. Any escalation would end Trump's dream of a Nobel Peace Prize. A US air strike can damage Iran's economic assets, adding to anger amongst the public, but may not result in regime change. A nation can survive an economic failure, both Venezuela and Cuba have done so for prolonged durations, as long as the regime has support of the military. The US cannot put boots on the ground as in Venezuela, as Tehran is not on the coast nor can it buy off Iranian military personnel

as it did in Venezuela. Loss of innocent lives in an airstrike can turn the same people its aims to assist against the US. Regime change can only happen when Iranian forces, especially the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps), refuse to fire on protestors. Revolt by the military is what led to failure of regimes. The recent case in Bangladesh and those of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and Gaddafi in Libya in 2011 are examples. The Romanian regime also fell in 1989 for the same reason. It does not appear to be happening in Iran currently. Gulf nations hesitate over a regime change in Iran. They would prefer Iran being isolated rather than become a pro-US regime.

This is for two reasons. The first is that a change by revolution would convey a warning of a second Arab Spring across the Middle East. In addition, if a pro-US government comes to power in Tehran, the importance of Gulf nations to the US would reduce. The second is that currently Iran is under sanctions and its oil exports are extremely low, with China as its main purchaser. This has kept the price of oil around USD 60. Induction of Venezuelan and Iranian oil into the market would bring prices down to approximately USD 40,

impacting nations whose economy is dependent on oil. For both Venezuela and Iran, exports would be essential to re-develop their economies. US oil manufacturers themselves are concerned about Iranian oil entering the market and causing prices to drop. As per inputs, new US shale wells cost USD 60 per barrel while older ones are as low as USD 30-35. The ideal global price for oil for US producers is USD 70 per barrel. If cheap Iranian oil is released with a pro-US government in Tehran, it would upset the market and also US oil exports. Trump may control the same, but after him, things could change. Both Venezuela and Iran are close to Russia and China. For the US, a regime change in Iran implies reduced influence of China and Russia in the region, and an end of cheap oil to China. With Venezuelan oil gone and Iran next, China could face economic difficulties. Both Russia and China can raise concerns but do little. It would also impact China's ability to wage a conflict either against Taiwan or India. Engaging Iran militarily has benefits and also negative impacts. These are what Trump is considering before he makes a decision.

Missed opportunities transform potential into liability. Ageing societies facerising dependency ratios without adequate social security, while younger generations struggle to sustain both themselves and those before them. These stresses feed political discontent, which populist politics eagerly converts into grievance narratives. The most dangerous myth about democracy is that it fails dramatically. In reality, it erodes quietly – through procedural shortcuts, institutional fatigue, and normalised opacity. What democracies need in 2026 is not louder slogans, but quieter discipline : transparency in administration, seriousness in legislation, independence in institutions, and humility in governance. Criticism must be treated as feedback, not hostility. Opposition must be recognised as participation, not obstruction. Rights must be viewed as foundations , not concessions. The real test for democracies in 2026 is not whether they can project strength, but whether they can demonstrate restraint. Not whether they can mobilise majorities, but whether they can protect minorities. Not whether they can win narratives, but whether they can sustain trust. Democracy does not collapse overnight. It weakens when institutions lose credibility faster than societies gain democratic maturity. 2026 will reveal which democracies understand this – and which mistake control for stability.

chemically known as cholecalciferol. It is also referred to as calciferol. There are several forms of Vitamin D, but it mainly exists in two forms ~ vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol) and vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol). These two forms are almost similar in their structures and physiological activities. Therefore, the term "vitamin D" implies vitamin D2 or vitamin D3, or both. Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin produced endogenously when ultraviolet ~ B (UV-B) rays present in sunlight strike the human skin and trigger its synthesis.

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Western railway extends the trips of special train between bandra terminus – jabalpur

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passengers, Western Railway has extended the trips of Train No. 02133/02134 Bandra Terminus – Jabalpur Weekly Special Train. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Train No. 02133 Bandra Terminus – Jabalpur Special & Train No. 02134 Jabalpur – Bandra Terminus Special has been extended till further notice. The booking for extended trips of Train No. 02133 will open from 22.01.2026 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Cancellation on 21st january 2026 due to suspension of exit & entry at kandivali car shed

Mumbai, Due to suspension of exit & entry at Kandivali car shed and speed restrictions imposed on UP & Down fast line between Kandivali and Malad some suburban services will remain cancelled on 21th January, 2026. List of suburban trains affected due to the block is furnished in Annexure–I. Detailed information to this effect is available with the suburban Station Masters. Passengers are requested to take note of the above changes and plan their journey accordingly.

Mysore Silk Saree Rush in Bengaluru Mirrors iPhone Launch as Shoppers Queue From 4 AM

(Gns). Long queues were seen outside a KSIC (Mysore Silk) showroom in Bengaluru, with shoppers lining up from as early as 4 am to buy Mysore silk sarees priced between Rs 23,000 and Rs 2.5 lakh. The scale of the rush, combined with token-based entry and purchase limits, has prompted social media users to compare the scene to an iPhone launch. Videos circulating online show families and elderly buyers waiting patiently outside the showroom, some scrolling through their phones and others chatting in small groups, all focused on securing an authentic Mysore silk saree from KSIC. Shoppers queued from 4 am outside a KSIC (Mysore Silk) showroom in Bengaluru to buy Mysore silk sarees priced between Rs 23,000 and Rs 2.5 lakh, leading to comparisons with iPhone launches, and prompting token-based entry and purchase limits. Demand for the sarees, made with pure mulberry silk and real gold/silver zari, is high due to their cultural value and the GI tag. Token System and One-Saree Cap Introduced The sudden spike in demand for Mysore silk sarees has pushed KSIC to tighten its sales process. Entry into the Bengaluru showroom has been restricted to token holders, and each individual is allowed to purchase only one saree. The measure is aimed at preventing bulk buying and resale, while ensuring that access remains relatively fair amid heavy foot-fall. The pre-dawn queues have sparked wide discussion on social media. Several users compared the crowd management and limited availability to the excitement around iPhone launches, calling it a rare instance where a traditional textile created tech-style hype. Others questioned whether such restrictions were necessary at a PSU-run brand, while some defended the approach as a way to protect authenticity and prevent market manipulation. The Mysore silk saree rush also triggered nostalgic reactions, with users recalling scarcity-era queues for consumer goods in earlier decades. Critics labelled Mysore silk sarees overpriced and overhyped, arguing that comparable silk sarees are available in neighbouring states. As videos of the queues continue to circulate online, the Bengaluru KSIC showroom remains under pressure, balancing strict sales rules with heavy demand - showing how a heritage product can still generate iPhone-level buzz in a modern urban market.



How Are ICE Agents Recruited, & Who Are They?

(Gns). The number of ICE agents has risen by 120 in the first year of Donald Trump's second term. Once a relatively obscure branch of law enforcement, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have fast become the sharp point of Donald Trump's mass deportation initiative. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has expanded significantly since Donald Trump took office, with agent numbers rising from 10,000 to 22,000, and the agency deported 605,000 people between January 20 and December 10, 2025. ICE altered its recruitment strategy, including shorter training periods, and a \$100 million advertising campaign in 2026, targeting a specific demographic; they have also scrapped age limits. Security (DHS) recruitment drive to sign up what they call "qualified patriotic Americans from across the country." The Trump administration said it deported 605,000 people between January 20 and December 10, 2025, and 1.9 million immigrants had "voluntarily self-deported." Such a significant upscaling of a branch of law enforcement is unusual — and unprecedented in the history of ICE, which was formed in 2002. The Spanish, the language of most of the country's unauthorized immigrants, has also been axed. ICE did not respond to a series of questions from DW on its recruitment. Concerns about the training of agents and the perceived politicization of ICE have grown in the wake of the death of Renee Nicole Good, which has sparked countrywide protests across and lead to the resignation of a dozen federal prosecutors in the state of Minnesota on Wednesday. "ICE does seek candidates who meet specific eligibility and suitability requirements, including citizenship, fitness standards, background investigations and, for some roles, law enforcement training or experience," Melissa Hamilton, an American lawyer and a former police and prison officer, told DW. effort raises questions about screening and the suitability of candidates, of which DHS said there were 220,000 in the last year. Training time cut as numbers rise ICE training has been cut from 16 to eight weeks in the drive. The requirement to learn some



Saina Nehwal Net Worth: India's Badminton Seed Announces Retirement; Know Her Property, Cars, Bank Balance

(Gns). Indian badminton icon Saina Nehwal officially brought an era to an end in January 2026, announcing her retirement from international badminton. At 35, the former world No.1 had been battling a serious knee injury and chronic arthritis for several years, which ultimately forced her to step away from professional competition. With her retirement, attention has now shifted to Saina Nehwal Net Worth in 2026, which reflects not only her on-court success but also her smart financial planning off the court. Saina created history at the 2012 London Olympics, where she won a bronze medal and became a trail-blazer for Indian women's badminton. In 2015, she reached world No.1, becoming the first Indian woman shuttler to achieve the top ranking. Even after stepping away from international competition, her financial portfolio and brand value remain strong. Saina Nehwal Net Worth 2026: Total Wealth and Earnings Breakdown According to recent financial reports and media estimates, Saina Nehwal's net worth in 2026 is estimated between ₹42 crore and ₹50 crore. Although she officially retired from professional badminton in January 2026, her income continues to flow steadily through brand endorsements, investments, and royalty earnings. Her annual income is estimated to be between ₹4.8 crore and ₹5.5 crore, translating to a monthly income of over ₹40 lakh. Saina reportedly charges ₹75 lakh to ₹1 crore per advertisement campaign, Per Advertisement Fee: ₹75 lakh-₹1 crore Brand Endorsements and Business Investments A significant portion of Saina Nehwal Net Worth 2026 comes from long-term brand endorsements. Over the years, she has been associated with major brands such as Yonex, Herbalife, BPCL, Kellogg's, Vaseline, Max Life, and Savlon, earning a reputation as one of India's most trusted sports ambassadors. Beyond endorsements, Saina has also built a strong presence in the business ecosystem. She has made a strategic investment in 'Naarica', a women's health and hygiene-focused startup, and also serves as its brand ambassador. Additionally, she holds stakes in multiple



Will Ranya Rao's Stepfather Ramachandra Rao Be Dismissed? Who Could Be Karnataka's Next DGP?

(Gns). Senior Karnataka police officer K. Ramachandra Rao, Director General of Police (DGP) of the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), has been placed under suspension following the viral circulation of a controversial video purportedly showing him in a compromising position with women inside his office while in uniform. The video, reportedly a compilation of three separate clips stitched together, began circulating widely on social media on Monday, January 19, 2026, prompting swift action from the state government. The suspension, issued on January 19, 2026, comes amid widespread public scrutiny and criticism. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G. Parameashwara described Rao's alleged conduct as "unbecoming of a government servant" and said it caused "significant embarrassment" to the administration. Karnataka's DGP of the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement, K. Ramachandra Rao, was suspended on January 19, 2026, due to a controversial video. He denies the allegations and claims the video is fabricated, while the government considers an interim head for the DCRE and potential successors including Arun Chakravarthy J., Seemant Kumar Singh, and Alok Kumar. In response, Rao denied the allegations, claiming the videos are "fabricated and false" and may have been morphed using AI. He suggested that the footage could date back eight years, during his posting in Belagavi. Rao also stated that he will follow legal advice regarding any further steps. "I am also thinking how and when it happened and who has done it. In this era, anything can happen. I have no idea about it," Rao said. When asked whether the video was old, he responded, "Old means, eight years ago when I was in Belagavi." On his next steps, Rao stated that he would consult with his advocate. "I am shocked. It is all fabricated, lie. The video is all false. I have no idea about it," he added. He also emphasized that he would explain to the Home Minister that false information was being circulated in the public domain.



Noida Authority CEO M Lokesh Sacked In Techie's Drowning Case, SIT To Submit Report In 5 Days

(Gns). The Uttar Pradesh government has removed Noida Authority Chief Executive Officer M Lokesh following the death of a 27 year old tech professional who drowned after his car fell into an open, water filled pit in Sector 150. Following the death of 27-year-old Yuvraj Mehta in Sector 150, Noida, after his car fell into a water-filled pit, the Uttar Pradesh government removed Noida Authority CEO M Lokesh and ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by the Additional Director General of Police, Zone Meerut, to investigate the incident. Switch To Shorts The decision comes amid growing criticism over alleged administrative lapses and safety failures in the area, prompting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to order a high level probe into the incident. CEO removed as SIT ordered to investigate Noida tragedy Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has constituted a three member Special Investigation Team to examine the circumstances that led to the death of Yuvraj Mehta. The SIT has been directed to submit its findings within five days. The team will be headed by the Additional Director General of Police, Zone Meerut. The Divisional Commissioner of Meerut and the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department have also been included. Officials said the panel has been asked to complete a time bound inquiry and fix accountability where required. How the accident unfolded on a fog covered road in Sector 150 Yuvraj Mehta, a resident of Tata Eureka Park in Sector 150, was returning home from his office in Gurugram late on January 16. Dense winter fog severely reduced visibility when his Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara veered off the road and plunged into a deep excavation pit filled with water on a vacant plot. The autopsy report later confirmed that the cause of death was asphyxia due to ante mortem drowning, followed by cardiac arrest. Police said the road conditions, poor visibility and possible speeding are being examined as contributing factors. Eyewitness recalls desperate pleas for help before drowning Eyewitnesses present at the scene said Yuvraj fell into the pit due to low visibility and remained trapped despite police reaching the spot. Moninder, who tried to assist, described the ordeal in emotional terms. "For around one hour and forty five minutes, he kept pleading for help, saying, Please save me, save me in any way possible."



“If You Love These Animals, Take Them Home”: Supreme Court Raps Maneka Gandhi Over Stray Dogs

(Gns). The Supreme Court on Tuesday sharply criticised animal activist and former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi over remarks she made during a podcast on the ongoing stray dogs case, flagging both her comments and what it described as her "body language". The court said it had shown restraint despite believing that her statements crossed the line. The Supreme Court criticized Maneka Gandhi's remarks and body language in a podcast concerning the stray dogs case, indicating restraint in not initiating contempt proceedings; the court also discussed responsibility for dog attacks and budgetary allocations for animal welfare. A bench comprising Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice NV Anjaria said it was only due to the court's "magnanimity" that proceedings were not initiated against Gandhi. The judges underlined that the court had been serious, not sarcastic, when it earlier spoke about fixing responsibility on dog feeders in cases of stray dog attacks. Addressing senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, who appeared for Gandhi, the bench said, "A little while ago, you were telling the court we should be circumspect. Did you find out what kind of remarks your client has been making? Your client has committed contempt. We are not taking cognisance of that. That is our magnanimity. Have you heard her podcast? What is her body language? What she says and how she says." The court added, "You made a comment that the court should be circumspect. On the other hand, your client is making all sorts of comments on anybody and anything she likes." Ramachandran declined to comment on the court's observations, stating that the matter was not a contempt hearing. During the exchange, he referred to having appeared for 26/11 terrorist Ajmal Kasab, prompting a pointed response from Justice Nath: "Kasab had not committed contempt." The senior advocate then shifted focus to issues such as rabies control, the availability of vaccines and the need for trained professionals to deal with stray dog attacks. The bench, however, questioned Gandhi's role in policy implementation, saying, "Since your client is an animal rights activist, she was a cabinet minister etc, what are the contributions of your client to the budgetary allocations for implementing these schemes?" Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, argued that sterilisation reduces aggression among stray dogs but claimed that effective sterilisation programmes are missing in most cities.



137 Government Plots Near Hyderabad to Be Auctioned on Feb 7-8: Check How to Apply

(Gns). The Telangana government, through TGRSCL, will auction 137 open residential plots near Hyderabad on February 7 and 8 in Torur, Bahadurpally, and Kurmalguda; bidders must pay an earnest money deposit of Rs 2,00,000. The auctions will take place at Avika Convention, and plots vary in size; these government-owned plots have clear titles and are near key locations like the Outer Ring Road and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. The auction will be conducted by the Telangana Rajiv Swagraha Corporation Limited (TGRSCL) and will include land parcels in Torur, Bahadurpally and Kurmalguda, offering buyers an opportunity to purchase government-owned, clear-title plots in key growth corridors. According to TGRSCL, the auction for plots in Torur will take place on both February 7 and February 8. Plots located in Bahadurpally and Kurmalguda will be auctioned on February 8 only. The Torur layout offers plots ranging from 200 to 500 square yards. In Bahadurpally, the available plots are larger, with sizes ranging from 200 to 1,000 square yards. Kurmalguda will feature comparatively smaller plots measuring between 200 and 300 square yards. For participation in the auction, bidders are required to pay an earnest money deposit of Rs 2,00,000 per plot. The EMD amount is applicable uniformly for plots in Torur, Bahadurpally and Kurmalguda. The deposit is refundable and is intended to confirm the bidder's genuine intent to purchase. TGRSCL stated in its press release that all the plots being auctioned are open government lands. As per information available on the official TGRSCL website, the plots are 100 per cent encumbrance-free and carry a clear title vested with the government corporation. In terms of location advantages, Torur is situated close to the Outer Ring Road and the Adibatla IT corridor. Bahadurpally lies adjacent to the Outer Ring Road, making it attractive for residential and investment purposes. Kurmalguda benefits from proximity to the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Research Centre Imarat and the Outer Ring Road. How and Where to Participate Interested bidders can pay the earnest money deposit through Mee Seva centres or by demand draft drawn in favour of the Managing Director, TGRSCL, payable at Hyderabad.



He Could Be Sacked: HM G Parameshwara Warns Karnataka DGP Over 'Sleaze Video' Scandal

(Gns). In a stern reaction to the scandal rocking the state's police force, Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwara told reporters on Tuesday that the government would not hesitate to take the ultimate disciplinary step against DGP K. Ramachandra Rao. Addressing the media outside his residence, the Minister confirmed that while suspension was the immediate response to the viral "sleaze videos," the senior officer could face permanent dismissal depending on the investigation's outcome. Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwara stated that DGP K. Ramachandra Rao could face dismissal following the circulation of alleged sleaze videos and

audio clips, which led to his suspension; the officer denies the allegations, claiming they are AI-generated and fabricated, and are a smear campaign. "We have acted without any hesitation, regardless of his seniority. Such incidents are a matter of shame, not just for the police department but for the entire government," Parameshwara stated. The suspension of the 1993-batch IPS officer, who serves as the Director General of the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), follows a series of damaging allegations: The Viral Clips: Three stitched videos allegedly show Rao in his official chamber, in uniform, engaging in intimate acts with multiple women.

Audio Evidence: Leaked audio clips have also surfaced, purportedly featuring romantic telephonic conversations between the offi-



cer and an unidentified woman. Violation of Rules: The government cited a prima facie violation of Rule 3 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, describing his behavior as "obscene" and "unbecoming of a government servant." DGP Ramachandra Rao has rejected the videos as "completely false and fabri-

cated," suggesting they were created using AI to malign his career. He attempted to meet with Minister Parameshwara on Monday to explain his side, but the Minister reportedly avoided the meeting to maintain the integrity of the upcoming probe. Rao hinted that the footage might be manipulated from his time posted in Belagavi eight years ago, claiming it is a calculated "hit-job" aimed at his reputation just months before his scheduled retirement in July. The scandal has reignited interest in a previous controversy involving Rao's stepdaughter, Ranya Rao. She was arrested in March 2025 for allegedly smuggling gold worth over ₹12 crore from Dubai.

Refinery celebrated 45th Refinery Day with great enthusiasm, Chairman of Indian Oil participated

Mathura. Mathura Refinery celebrated its 45th Refinery Day with enthusiasm and excitement, marking another important milestone in its glorious journey. IndianOil Chairman AS Sahni came especially for the Refinery Day program. In his short visit, Shri Sahni planted trees in Nagar Chaupal, Refinery Nagar and congratulated the refinery workers on Refinery Day and praised all the refinery workers for their excellent performance and also inspired them for good work in the future.

Later, the program organized at the refinery was led by Refinery Chief and Executive Director Mukul Aggarwal and hoisted the refinery flag. On this occasion, Anil Kumar, CGM (HR), V. Suresh, CGM (TS & HSE), Sudhanshu Kumar,

CGM (M&C, ES & Inspection), H.S. Rukhiyar, CGM (T), Harish Pahal, Joint Secretary (ID), Fateh Singh, Treasurer

Refinery Chief and Executive Director Mukul Aggarwal administered the oath of dedication to service to all the refinery work-



IndianOil Chairman A S Sahni, Refinery Chief and Executive Director Mukul Aggarwal celebrating the 45th Refinery Day.

(Employees Union), D.S. Chahar, Secretary, Ashish Dahiya, CEC (Officers Association) and a large number of refinery workers were present. During the program,

ers. Anil Kumar welcomed the guests and highlighted the glorious legacy of Mathura Refinery over four and a half decades. The congratulatory messages of Chairman IndianOil and

Director (Refineries) were read out by V. Suresh and Sudhanshu Kumar respectively. Presentation on refinery performance for the year 2025 was given by Imran Ali Khan, DGM (TS). Addressing the gathering, Shri Aggarwal congratulated all the refinery employees and said that the success of the refinery is the result of the hard work and dedication of its past and present employees. He described 2025 as a historic year, setting new records and standards, and expressed confidence of continued excellence in the future. The program included virtual inauguration of new initiatives, motivational addresses by Harish Pahal and Ashish Dahiya and D.C. Verma, GM (EMS, MS, L&D) also included a vote of thanks.

Divisional Commissioner and Vice President of Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad reviewed Holi/Rangotsav 2026

Mathura. In connection with Rangotsav 2026, Vice President of Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad Shailja Kant Mishra and Divisional Commissioner Shailendra Kumar Singh took a review meeting of all the departments in the inspection building auditorium of the Public Works Department located in Nagar Panchayat Barsana of Tehsil Govardhan.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Jag Pravesh, Chief Executive Officer Suraj Patel, Vice President Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority Laxmi N, Chief Development Officer Manish Meena, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma, Additional District Magistrate Administration Amresh were present in the meeting. Kumar, SP Traffic Manoj Kumar Yadav, SP Rural Suresh Chandra Prakash, Deputy District

Magistrate Govardhan Prajakta Tripathi and officials of various departments were present.

A review meeting was held regarding the preparations for the upcoming Holi / Rangotsav 2026 and the world famous Laddu Holi (24 January 2026) and Lathmar Holi (25 January 2026) held in Barsana.

In the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer of Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad informed that the arrangements for construction of stages, decorations, entry gates, selfie points etc. and live telecast etc. related to organizing cultural programs in the fair area are being made by the Tourism Department and Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad. This will be done by establishing coordination. He told that Laddu Holi will be held at Shri Radharani Temple on 24 January 2026.

Two-day cultural programs will be organized at Radha Bihari Inter College. Under Rangotsav 2026, entry gates will be established at various



places in Mathura district, in which 05 in Barsana, 04 in Nandgaon, 02 in Rawal, 02 in Gokul, 02 in Baldev, 02 in Phalain, 01 in Mahavan and 05 in Mathura, a total of 23 gates will be made. Under Rangotsav 2026, 25 small stages will be built to organize cultural programs at various important places in Barsana, Nandgaon, Phalain and Mathura districts. Under Rangotsav

2026, 12 selfie points will be established at various important places in Mathura district. Lighting/electrical decoration work will be done on various major temples of Mathura district, which include Ghazipur Temple, Sanket Temple, Shri Radharani Temple Rawal, Nandkila Nandbhavan Gokul, Shri Prahlad Temple (Prahlad Kund) Village Phalain, Holi Darwaza (Holigate) Mathura, Vishram Ghat Mathura, Thakur Shri Dauji Temple Baldev and Nand Bhavan, Chaurasi Khambha Temple Mahavan are included. Facade lighting work will be done in Shri Radharani Temple Barsana and Shri Nand Temple Nandgaon. In the meeting, Chief Executive Officer Suraj Patel informed that last year Barsana was divided into 7 zones and 18 sectors. Last year, 56 parking spaces and 94 barriers were built. Health centers at 10 places, 05 two-wheeler ambulances and control room at Community Health Center Barsana were made.

Shergarh police caught six vicious cyber fraudsters

Mathura. Shergarh police station has arrested 6 vicious accused of cyber fraud. These arrests were made as part of the anti-crime operation being conducted by Senior Superintendent of Police, Mathura. Additional Superintendent of Police Rural Mathura and Area Officer Chhata Bhushan Verma gave information in this regard. The police team under the leadership of Inspector-in-charge Shergarh police station Pradeep Kumar took action on the information of the informer. The accused were caught from outside a house next to ITI College on January 20, 2026. The arrested accused have

been identified as Shahzad son of Rehmat (resident of village Vishambhara), Sabir



son of Umeda (resident of Village Vishambhara), Alios

son of Nawaz Khan (resident of Bona Nagla Visambhara), Sahid son of

Umar (resident of Bona Nagla) and Hanip son of Usman (resident of Bona Nagla). Police have recovered 6 mobile phones, 17 SIM cards, 14 Aadhar cards and Rs 2060 in cash from their possession. Apart from this, three pistols and three cartridges were also seized. During the operation, two other accused managed to escape taking advantage of the darkness. On examination of the recovered mobile phones, a total of 6 complaints were found registered. Necessary legal action has been taken against all the arrested accused and they have been sent to jail

'Two shores can never meet': AIMIM chief Owaisi rules out alliance with BJP in Mumbai's mayor elections

(Gns). After registering a strong performance in the Maharashtra municipal elections, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi today dismissed the speculations about forming an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the BMC mayor election, saying that "the two shores of the sea can never meet."

He mentioned a recent incident in Akot wherein corporators from his party were trying to join hands with the BJP. He clarified that the corporators claimed they were unaware that the group they had allied with was associated with the BJP. According to Owaisi, they were immediately asked to submit a letter to the Municipal

Commissioner and withdraw their support. He asserted that strict action will be taken against

Shinde, or Aijt Pawar—if they go with them, the party will take action against them," he said.



any member of the AIMIM party if they attempt to align with rival political parties. "It was found out that when the BJP leader's son was accommodated through co-option, Imtiaz Jaleel suspended them from the party. Whoever it may be—BJP, Eknath

Exuding confidence over the party's performance in the state of Maharashtra, Owaisi highlighted that today more than 200 corporators across municipal councils and municipal corporations in the state are from the AIMIM party.

"This time, we have won 125 seats. In the municipal elections held about a month ago, nearly 85 of our candidates were victorious. If you look at municipal councils and municipal corporations together, we now have over 200 corporators who have won," he said. The party secured eight seats in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls as well, registering AIMIM's first-ever entry into the civic body of India's financial capital. He lauded his party members for working consistently at the grassroots level for years, and achieving a substantial rise in the number of seats in the 2026 civic body elections in Maharashtra from 81 seats in the 2017 municipal elections.

Lok sabha speaker shri om birla reiterates the need to set standards in the functioning of legislative institutions

New Delhi/Lucknow; January 20, 2026: The second day of the ongoing 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) at Lucknow concluded with deliberations on three key themes – (1) Leveraging technology for transparent, efficient and citizen-centric legislative processes; (2) Capacity building of legislators to enhance efficiency and strengthen democratic governance; and (3) Accountability of Legislatures towards the people.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, attended the plenary deliberations. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, moderated the discussions. Addressing the sessions, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla commended the efforts of Shri

Satish Mahana, Hon'ble Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, for integrating best practices adopted by legislatures across the country into the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Shri Birla also appreciated Shri Mahana's initiative in recognising the educational qualifications and professional experiences of Members of the Legislative Assembly and utilising them constructively.

Recalling the major deliberations of previous AIPOCs, Shri Birla emphasised the need for healthy competition among State Legislatures on parameters such as excellence, innovation and use of technology. Referring to the discus-

sions held during the AIPOC at Dehradun in 2019, he reiterated his long-standing views on improving the efficiency



and functioning of State Legislatures. He informed that a Committee has been constituted in this regard, which is examining issues related to standardisation of practices and procedures of legislative bodies in India.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh highlighted the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhanc-

ing the efficiency of legislatures and also outlined the various steps required to make this technology appropriate and reliable. Underscoring the practical use of AI in Parliament and various modes of its implementation, he stressed the need for greater coordination between Parliament and State Legislatures so that institutional knowledge of legislatures can be effectively utilised by both Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

Tomorrow, January 21, 2026, will be the third and final day of the Conference. On this occasion, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla will deliver the valedictory address. The closing ceremony will also be attended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, who will address the Conference.

Govt amends Central Motor Vehicles Rules

(Gns). To strengthen compliance towards user fee payment at the toll plazas on National Highways, the Union government has notified the 'Central Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026', introducing key changes to the 'Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989'.

"These amendments are aimed at improving user fee compliance, enhancing efficiency of Electronic Toll Collection and discouraging user fee evasion on National Highways," Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said on Tuesday.

Under the amended rules, a new definition of 'unpaid user fee' has been introduced and it refers to the user fee payable for the use of a National Highway section, where Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) sys-

tem has recorded the vehicle's passage, but the applicable fee has not been received in accordance with the National Highways Act, 1956.

The amendments link the clearance of unpaid National Highway user fee with vehicle-related services. As per the provisions, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for transfer of ownership or transfer of a vehicle from one state to another will not be granted until any unpaid user fee is cleared.

In addition, renewal or generation of a Certificate of Fitness for vehicles will not be permitted unless

outstanding user fee dues have been paid. For commercial vehicles seeking a National Permit, the amended rules make it mandatory that the vehicle must not have any unpaid user fee. Corresponding changes have also been made to 'Form 28' which now requires applicants to disclose whether any demand for an unpaid user fee at a toll plaza is pending against the vehicle, along with relevant details.

Promoting digital



TN Speaker refutes Governor's charge of repeated switching off his mike in the House

(Gns). Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker M Appavu on Tuesday denied the charge levelled by the Lok Bhavan that the Governor's mike was repeatedly switched off in the House.

This was the first among the 13 reasons cited by the Lok Bhavan for Governor RN Ravi to stage a walkout from the Assembly. Denying this at an interaction with the media, Appavu said, "When the Speaker addresses the House, the mike of all those in the House will be silenced. It is a convention. I just told him to perform his duty."

"The Governor is not a politician to criticise the government. He is free to do so by joining a political party after vacating the Lok

Bhavan," he said, adding that he was invited to the

from the BJP, and AIADMK in a walkout soon after the



House to deliver the address, prepared by the state government.

Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, who led his party colleagues and those

Governor walk out, wondered how the chief minister could have come with a prepared text for moving a resolution condemning RN Ravi for his boycott of the House. "How did the chief

minister know in advance that the Governor would not read out the address and come prepared with a text for a resolution. It is a predetermined one to target the Governor. Further, no other interpolation should be made in the Governor's address. But, the chief minister's remarks have also been entered into the record along with that. This is a violation of established norms," he said.

Also, the clarification from the Lok Bhavan on the Governor's conduct in the House was also posted on 'X' within a short while of Ravi's walkout, which has raised questions as to whether that too was a predetermined one.