



## Deputy CM Ajit Pawar dies in plane crash, PM Modi, President and many other leaders express their condolences

(Gns).  
 Mumbai  
 Reuters Emergency personnel and people gathered at the site of a plane crash, in which Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others were killed, in Baramati, Maharashtra, India January 28, 2026.Reuters  
 Videos shared on social media showed the plane's wreckage engulfed in plumes of smoke  
 India's prime minister has led tributes to Ajit Pawar, deputy chief minister of Maharashtra state, who has been killed in a plane crash in the west of the country.  
 Pawar and four others died after the chartered plane they were travelling in crashed at the airport in Baramati - Pawar's constituency - on Wednesday morning.

India's civil aviation minister said visibility was poor at the airport at the time of the crash. The aviation regulator has launched an investigation.  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Pawar's death "shocking and saddening" and praised his service to the people of Maharashtra. His funeral will be held on Thursday morning.  
 Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described his death as "an immeasurable loss" and announced three days of mourning in the state.  
 Pawar was one of Maharashtra's most influential leaders, governing in coalition with India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP). The 66-year-old was affectionately called 'dada', a term for elder brother in the Marathi language, by party workers and the public.  
 Sanjay Raut, from the state's opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) party, said Pawar's death was a "dark day".  
 "Without Dada, the political landscape of Maharashtra is incomplete. He had an open-hearted personality and every party worker admired him," he said.  
 Federal Home Minister Amit Shah, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and others have also paid tribute.  
 Getty Images Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leaders, Sharad Pawar (L), and Supriya Sule (R), are gesturing

before the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc meeting in New Delhi, India, on June 5, 2024. Getty Images  
 In his early years in politics, he focused on the grassroots and built networks with workers' unions and local co-operative banks.  
 He was elected to the Maharashtra legislative assembly from Baramati for

the first time in 1991 and would be re-elected from the same constituency several times, reflecting his strong connection with voters.  
 Pawar also served as the state's deputy chief minister many times and headed key ministries with in different governments, including agriculture and finance.  
 But his last couple of years in politics were marked by turbulence and rebellion as he sought to move away from the shadow of his uncle and pursue his own political ambitions.  
 Obituary: The politician whose death leaves a vacuum in India's richest state  
 In 2019, he made a dramatic move by breaking away from the NCP to join the state's ruling BJP government as the deputy

chief minister. But lacking support from the NCP's cadre, the alliance collapsed and Pawar returned to his party within days.  
 He was made deputy chief minister again when the NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena joined hands to form the government and played a key role in the coalition for the next three years.  
 But tensions within the NCP continued to rise and in 2023, Pawar once again split from the party, this time with a large group of legislators, causing the NCP-Congress-Shiv Sena alliance to collapse. India's Election Commission would later recognise his faction as the official NCP.  
 Pawar then helped form the state's new tri-party coalition government led by the BJP.

He continued to serve as deputy chief minister but shared the post with another politician.  
 In recent months, there were reports about a possible reconciliation between uncle and nephew, but neither of them officially confirmed this.  
 Getty Images Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar/Getty Images  
 Pawar (right) with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis (centre) and the other Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde  
 How did his plane crash?  
 Pawar was reportedly travelling to Baramati to address public meetings related to upcoming local

Prangan at New Town will attract tourists. Jagantah Dham at Digha has attracted tourists across the globe. It has rejuvenated the economic health of Digha and its neighbourhood. We have set up gates near mosques. The Gurdwaras and Jain temples have also been developed."  
 Miss Banerjee said the places of cremation of all the communities have been developed. "Earlier, in the villages there were no proper place to cremate bodies and people left the bodies half burnt. Now, 700 sites have been developed to cremate bodies. The state government has started the Samabyathi scheme where Rs 2,000 is given to poor people to cremate their near and dear ones. The burial grounds have also been upgraded."  
 Miss Banerjee thanked the business community for their constant support to make the state economically strong. "If you face any problem do not hesitate to get in touch with us and we will try to sort out the problem," she assured.



Sharad Pawar (left) and his daughter, Supriya Sule Who was Ajit Pawar? Ajit Pawar was a towering figure in Maharashtra's politics.  
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## PM calls Prez speech 'inspiring', Congress says 'recycled ritual'

(Gns).  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday described President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both the Houses at the commencement of the Budget session of Parliament as "inspiring", while opposition Congress dismissed it as "recycled ritual," and "claims without truth or accountability."  
 Calling the President's address "comprehensive and insightful," the Prime Minister said it reflected India's remarkable development journey in recent times while showing a clear direction for the future.  
 "The emphasis on build-

ing a Viksit Bharat was perfectly captured, reflecting our shared aspiration of building a strong and self-reliant nation. It reaffirmed our collective commitment  
 "In our Parliamentary traditions, this address has a special importance, as it spells out the policy direction and collective resolve that will guide our nation's  
 efforts for farmers, youth, the poor, and the downtrodden. It reaffirmed our collective commitment to further speed up the Reform Express and the emphasis on innovation and good governance," the PM said on 'X'  
 Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, however, wrote it off, saying: "Every year the Union Cabinet clears the President's Address like a recycled ritual, reusing the same set of claims without truth or accountability. The slogan of Viksit Bharat is repeated loudly, yet it carries no clear goals, no timelines and no measurable outcomes.  
 Responding to this demand, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ordered that the entire case be heard in the Special MP-MLA Court in Lucknow.  
 The case was subsequently transferred from Rae Bareilly to the Lucknow court, where a detailed hearing was held.

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## Bengal will be sought after industrial destination in India: Mamata

(Gns).  
 Bengal will be the industrial destination of the country soon because of remarkable infrastructure development and peaceful environment, said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday.  
 She was addressing a gathering of industrialists after she virtually inaugurated the upgraded an electric crematorium at Shiruti in south Kolkata and laid the foundation of an electric crematorium in Doi Ghat.  
 The Chief Minister said: "It is our duty to ensure peace in Bengal. People from different communities live here for generations happily and peacefully. We are going to protect peace and ensure prosperity of Bengal."  
 Miss Banerjee said from 2011 when she took over as the Chief Minister, no industrial strike took place in the state. "Earlier, 72 lakh mandays had been lost due to strikes. We are against strikes and the industrial scenario has improved in Bengal. If you go along the national high-

way from Kolkata to Durgapur you will find how many new industries have come up on both sides of  
 roads and bridges have been set up and this has improved communication by road. Once the bridge at  
 the road. We have cement and steel industry, wagon and coach manufacturing units and IT industry. Once the industrial corridors are built, more industries will come up. Bengal is the gateway to the north east. We have industrial parks and more will come up in future," she said.  
 Miss Banerjee said there has been a marked improvement in infrastructure development. "New

Gangasagar is constructed, visiting the holy place will not be a problem at all," she maintained.  
 She said in the past few years religious places across Bengal have been upgraded. "We have constructed sky walks in Kalighat and Dakshineswar. The idol of Lord Shiva that will be installed at the proposed Mahakal temple in North Bengal will be the tallest in the world. Durga

Prangan at New Town will attract tourists. Jagantah Dham at Digha has attracted tourists across the globe. It has rejuvenated the economic health of Digha and its neighbourhood. We have set up gates near mosques. The Gurdwaras and Jain temples have also been developed."  
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## Special MP-MLA Court in Lucknow dismisses petition on Rahul Gandhi's alleged British citizenship

(Gns).  
 The Special MP-MLA Court in Lucknow has dismissed a petition filed against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over his alleged British citizenship.  
 Special Judge III (ACJM) Alok Verma delivered the verdict after an eight-day hearing in the alleged British citizenship case. In his order, the special Judge remarked that the petition was an abuse of process of law and the court has no jurisdiction to decide on the nationality or citizenship of any person.  
 The matter pertains to a petition filed by BJP member S Vignesh Shishir seeking registration of an

FIR under serious sections related to Rahul Gandhi's British citizenship.  
 The case has been heard on a day-to-day basis for the past eight days in the Special MP-MLA Court. Petitioner S. Vignesh Shishir personally presented his arguments for over 20 hours. During the hearing, several important Supreme Court decisions, legal precedents, and evidence were discussed in detail.  
 A total of 45 annexures, a sealed envelope, and a 310-page petition were presented before the court. All these documents have been taken on record for final judgment. The court

has reserved its judgment based on all the facts and evidence presented.  
 The petition sought an order for an FIR to be registered against Rahul Gandhi under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, as well as the Official Secrets Act 1923, the Passport Act 1967, and the Foreigners Act 1946. The petitioner

claims that serious legal violations have been committed in the case.  
 According to the petitioner, following the Supreme Court's order, the case was being heard in the MP-MLA court in Rae Bareilly. Citing threats to his life, he demanded that the case be heard impartially in the MP-MLA Court in Lucknow.  
 Responding to this demand, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ordered that the entire case be heard in the Special MP-MLA Court in Lucknow.  
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## Mayawati backs UGC Equity Committees, urges caution against political provocation

(Gns).  
 Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati Wednesday expressed support for the University Grants Commission's (UGC) decision to mandate the formation of "Equity Committees" in government colleges and private universities to address caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions.  
 In a statement posted on X, Mayawati said that opposition to the move by certain sections of the general category, who view the policy as discriminatory or conspiratorial against them, is "completely unjustified." She emphasised that the objective of the Equity Committees is to ensure fairness and social justice in educational spaces, not to target any particular group.  
 However, the BSP chief

also noted that the situation could have been handled better. She said that if the government and  
 At the same time, Mayawati appealed to Dalits and backward classes to remain cautious and  
 restraint among all sections of society to ensure that measures aimed at social equity do not become tools for political polarisation.  
 The UGC has made structural changes and mandated the formation of an Equality Committee in all universities and colleges. Students belonging to SC, ST and OBC communities can now file complaints of caste discrimination before this committee. Earlier, only SC and ST students were eligible to file such complaints, but OBC students have now been included.  
 The rules specify mandatory representation from SC, ST and OBC categories in the committee, but upper-caste representation is not compulsory. This exclusion has become a major point of contention.

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**देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही गर्वी गुजरात हिन्दी चैनल देखिये**

## Editorial

### Trampling the Charter

After months of military build-up, targeted strikes against alleged drug-trafficking vessels in the Caribbean, and escalating diplomatic and economic pressure, U.S. forces on 3 January forcibly abducted Venezuela's sitting President, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, and flew them to the United States to stand trial on charges of narco-terrorism, conspiracy to traffic drugs, and related offences. This extraordinary operation ~ carried out by a state that once championed the post-World War II rule-based international order ~ has ignited fierce global debate.

Washington insists that it merely executed a long-overdue law-enforcement action against an indicted criminal, yet to much of the world, including major powers and regional neighbours alike, this unilateral use of force against a sovereign state tramples the UN Charter and poses a profound challenge to the foundational principles of international law, setting a perilous precedent. The United States has sought to justify the use of force against Venezuela as a legitimate "law enforcement" action to execute long-standing criminal indictments against President Maduro, whom it characterises as illegitimate, on charges of drug-trafficking and narco-terrorism.

Some commentators have gone further, contending that alleged State-sponsored large-scale drug trafficking may itself constitute an "armed attack" capable of triggering the right of self-defence. A separate narrative has also emerged that seeks to legitimise such action as a response to the Maduro government's appalling human rights record ~ including systematic repression, arbitrary detention, and crimes against humanity ~ recasting action as a form of pro-democratic humanitarian intervention. I now examine these claims in turn and explain why none withstands scrutiny under international law.

The attempt to frame the purported capture of Maduro by the United States as a mere "law-enforcement" operation raises a foundational question of international law: does the United States possess jurisdiction to enforce its criminal laws on Venezuelan territory without its consent? International law confines a state's enforcement jurisdiction to its own territory and does not recognise the use of military force to enforce domestic criminal law beyond it. Nearly a century ago, the Permanent Court of International Justice affirmed this principle in the S.S. Lotus case (France v. Turkey, 1927), holding that a state may not exercise its power within the territory of another state without consent or a recognised exception under international law. In other words, unconsented extraterritorial enforcement measures ~ most starkly arrests or abductions on foreign soil ~ constitute a direct assault on territorial integrity and state sovereignty. Even assuming, arguendo, that Maduro were criminally liable under United States law, his apprehension on Venezuelan soil would still require the consent of Venezuela's recognised government. The absence of such consent renders the operation unlawful under international law, irrespective of Maduro's indictment. The self-defence justification is equally problematic. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which constitutes the cornerstone of contemporary jus ad bellum, imposes a near-absolute prohibition on the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, subject only to narrowly circumscribed exceptions: self-defence under Article 51 in response to an 'armed attack' or, under some interpretations of customary law, an imminent armed attack, or enforcement action authorised by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII in situations constituting a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression. Thus, the legality of the U.S. operation largely hinges on whether Venezuela's alleged acts of drug trafficking or narco-terrorism constitute an "armed attack" and, if so, whether the U.S. response satisfied the customary international law requirements of necessity and proportionality governing the use of force in self-defence. Under international law, the attribution of an "armed attack" to a state, the gravity threshold of that attack, and its inherently military character ~ criteria repeatedly emphasised by the International Court of Justice in landmark cases including Nicaragua (1986), Nuclear Weapons, and Oil Platforms (2003) ~ play a key role in determining the right of self-defence. Any attempt to characterise large-scale drug trafficking as an "armed attack" capable of triggering the right of self-defence stretches Article 51 of the UN Charter beyond recognition. The ICJ has consistently held that only an actual armed attack of sufficient gravity, attributable to a state, can give rise to the right of self-defence. In light of state practice, ICJ jurisprudence, and the writings of highly qualified publicists, it is extraordinarily difficult to argue that transnational narcotics trafficking ~ even when state-sponsored and immensely pernicious ~ meets this demanding legal threshold.

### "I Didn't Have to Think for a Second Before Saying Yes to Naagin" - TV's Biggest Villain Akashdeep Saigal Joins COLORS' Naagin 7

COLORS' Naagin 7, starring Priyanka Chahar Choudhary in the titular role, is not just stealing the naagmani but also ruling the TRP charts and winning audiences' hearts. The universe is bolder and bigger than ever, and joining the show is powerhouse performer Akashdeep Saigal, who has already made an electrifying entry, wreaking havoc in the Naagin universe. Akashdeep has portrayed several iconic villains who have redefined negative characters on Indian television. Now, after a nine-year hiatus, he makes a spectacular return with COLORS' Naagin 7, ready to unleash unprecedented chaos in the Mahasheshnagin's life.

As Ananta (Priyanka Chahar Choudhary) rises from the ashes of her bloody wedding, trans-



formed into the fearsome Mahasheshnagin seeking revenge for her family's brutal massacre, a new and formidable enemy emerges. Amid this turmoil enters Erul, a villain who threatens to derail Ananta's mission to protect the naagmani and avenge the Suri family. His arrival marks a new chapter of darkness, where the stakes are higher and the battles more deadly than ever.

(Gns). Donald Trump's frustration at not leaving behind a valid legacy is growing as realization dawns that this is his last Presidency. His exasperation at not having been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, which would match the accomplishments of his nemesis, Barack Obama, has become a global joke. However, for him, it remains an obsession. It was on display when the Venezuelan opposition leader, María Machado, gifted him her award and he childishly decided to keep it.

The Nobel Peace Centre responded, "a medal can change owners, but the title of a Nobel peace prize laureate cannot." Such was his irritation at not being nominated for the 2025 Peace prize for his fake claims, despite recommendations from Pakistan and Israel, that he wrote a letter to the Norwegian PM tying his Greenland demand to the Nobel award. He wrote, "I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, but can now think about what is good and proper for the US." Memes on Trump and the Nobel award have flooded social media. It was in Davos that Trump's tone on Greenland mellowed. He ruled out use of force while seeking unlimited access.

His deriding Europe and its leaders continued. Europe, for once, decided to fight back. The EU parliament blocked the US trade deal aimed at reducing tariffs on US imports. For Trump, gaining control over Greenland is ensuring a lasting legacy. Trump, soon after challenging Europe on Greenland, unleashed his next legacy missile, the Board of Peace (BoP). The board was instituted as part of Trump's 20-point Gaza Peace Plan to manage the second phase of the Gaza peace process. However, over a period of time, its concept appears to have grown larger, aimed at creating an organization more powerful than the UN. He invited dozens of countries to join the BoP. Interestingly, the BoP's charter does not include Gaza, the region for which it was originally designed.

Chapter 1 of the charter mentions, "(the BoP) is an international organization that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict." This implies that it would be involved in restoring peace in global conflict zones, challenging the authority of the UN. Article 3.2 of the charter states, "Donald Trump shall serve as inaugural Chairman of the BoP."

## Perpetuating a legacy, never mind the cost

This conveys that even after remitting office, he will continue to serve as chairman, as the charter mentions his name, not position. Any future US President could only serve as a member of the BoP, that too, on the invitation of Trump.

It also states that all nations would serve for three years and their extension would be 'subject to renewal by the Chairman,' implying Trump would retain control. Nations seeking a permanent membership would need to pay USD 1 Billion. The next article, 3.3 states, "The Chairman shall at all times designate a successor for the role of Chairman." Thus Trump would ensure that his nominee would be an individual of his choice, possibly from his family, thereby ensuring that his family retains control. Ensuring he has unquestioned powers, Article 4.1 mentions, "The Executive Board shall be selected by the Chairman and consist of leaders of global stature," implying that heads of state, forming part of the board, would have limited say.

Fearing that rejection by world leaders of the BoP would be an affront to his authority, Trump has begun targeting them by threat of tariffs in case they refuse. The first to face this warning was French President Emmanuel Macron. On hearing that he is unlikely to accept his offer, Trump threatened France with tariffs and mocked Macron in Davos. With almost no western nation or rising power accepting the invite, Trump's frustration is only likely to increase. Representatives from about 20 nations, largely Middle East and a few others, including Pakistan, attended the signing ceremony in Davos. No G7 or European nation accepted the invite nor were they present.

India remains non-committal. France mentioned in its rejection statement, "(BoP) raises major questions, particularly regarding respect for the principles and structure of the UN." Trump displayed that the BoP is his personal fiefdom by withdrawing the invitation to Canada because of PM Mark Carney's powerful speech criticizing the US at Davos. The BoP will give Trump relevance and power even after his Presidential tenure. This is the reason he will pressure nations to join. An egoistic Trump is bound to carry a grudge against those who refuse. On being questioned on whether BoP would replace the UN, Trump mentioned, "Well it might. The UN just hasn't been very helpful." Seeking to be the President who concentrated on national security and US interests,

entry was crafted to be legendary, and I'm incredibly proud of it. I took nine years for myself to recharge and rediscover, and now I'm pouring every ounce of my passion into this role. I'm on my toes every single day, immersing myself in this powerful world. What moves me most is my fans' unwavering love. Even after being off-screen for nine years, they kept me alive through edits, tweets, and constant manifestations for my return. That kind of appreciation is rare and humbling.

I didn't have to think for a second before saying yes to such a popular franchise like Naagin. Erul is not just a villain; he's a force, and I'm thrilled to bring him to life.

Watch Naagin 7 every Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 PM, only on COLORS

Trump began questioning the British decision to hand back the Chagos Island chain to Mauritius.

Under the USD 4.6 billion agreement inked last year, the US and UK would retain control over Diego Garcia, which hosts a major military base.

Interestingly, before the deal was signed, the UK PM discussed it with Trump. Instead of challenging it then, Trump stated, "I think we'll be inclined to go

along with your country (UK)." Marc Rubio, the US foreign secretary, also accepted the agreement. It appears to challenge the



EU for not backing his Greenland demand. Questioning the Chagos deal, Trump mentioned on

social media, "The UK giving away extremely important land is an act of GREAT STUPIDITY, and is another in a very long line of National Security reasons why Greenland has to be acquired."

To defend his U-turn, Trump quoted threats from Russia and China, linking Chagos to Greenland, which is half a world away. Trump's turnaround has forced the UK to stall debate on the agreement in its Parliament. Trump wants to leave behind a legacy as the President who restored domination over the Americas and

gained control over territories essential for US security. In a January 2026 interview to the New York Times on what checks exist on his authority Trump responded, "My own morality. My own mind. It's the only thing that can stop me. I don't need international law." This statement displays the mentality of a desperate leader heading the world's most powerful nation who believes in personal intuition rather than diplomacy, and will stop at nothing to build his legacy even at the cost of ruining global order and global institutions.

## Turmeric in beauty care : Shahnaz Husain

Though it is an essential ingredient in every Indian kitchen, an age-old ingredient, turmeric, has been a staple in traditional beauty regimes. Turmeric gets its skin-enhancing properties mainly from curcumin, an active component that provides glow and lustre to the skin. This easily-available yellow spice is loaded with antioxidants and anti-inflammatory components, which help to brighten the complexion by combating redness and uneven skin tone.

One of the most well-known turmeric benefits for skin is its ability to calm irritation while evening out the skin tone and brightening the complexion.

From acne to stretch marks and psoriasis, turmeric is a miracle ingredient for your skin.

The pre-wedding ceremony - "Haldi", "Tel Baan" or "Manjha", of applying turmeric on the bride and groom's faces is believed to be auspicious and bestows exceptional radiance to the skin.

Turmeric-Infused Moisturiser

Add a pinch of Turmeric to your regular moisturiser. It aids in the reduction of inflammation and the preservation of skin suppleness during the harsh winter months

**Turmeric Face Mask**  
Combine Turmeric, honey, and yoghurt to make a nourishing face mask. Turmeric's antibacterial properties aid in treating acne and blemishes, while honey and yoghurt add moisture and soothe irritated skin.

of fresh aloe vera gel, and apply that paste to your face. Wash off after 15 minutes.

A turmeric face mask will be helpful if you are facing the problem of scars and marks on your skin. Mix one teaspoon of turmeric with half a tea-



**Turmeric Scalp Massage**

Massage Turmeric into your scalp with olive oil. Turmeric's anti-inflammatory properties soothe the scalp, while the oil nourishes the hair, preventing winter dryness

Make a whipped paste of turmeric, honey, and milk to exfoliate dead skin. Apply this paste to your face, neck, hands, and other parts of the body, and you rehydrate your skin simultaneously.

Alternatively, blend a quarter of a teaspoon of turmeric powder into a tablespoon

To remove tan: Add a pinch of turmeric to yoghurt and apply daily on the face. Wash it off after 20 minutes.

Turmeric can also be mixed with Aloe Vera Gel to soothe and moisturise the skin. In fact, it helps to heal sunburn.

As a body pack: Mix besan (gram flour) with yoghurt and a pinch of turmeric into a paste. Apply to the arms and legs three times a week. Wash it off after half an hour.

For facial hair: Apply a paste of turmeric powder and milk, and rub this on the skin with a circular motion. It is said to discourage facial hair over a period of time, but it may leave a slight yellowish colour on the skin.

To minimize stretch-marks: First, apply olive oil and massage it on the areas. Then mix besan, yogurt and turmeric (body pack given above) and apply it on the area. Wash it off after half an hour.

Mix ground almonds with yoghurt and a pinch of turmeric to make a face and body scrub. Apply and rub gently on the skin with small circular movements. Wash off with water.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is popularly called the Herbal Queen of India

## Karan Wahi-Jennifer Winget friendship-to-marriage rumours grow louder, 'Dill Mill Gayye' flashbacks start

(Gns). Jennifer Winget-Karan Wahi wedding: Jennifer Winget has always been in the spotlight for her powerful acting and elegant screen presence. But this time, it's not her next project that has everyone talking. The internet is buzzing with rumours that Jennifer may be ready to start a new chapter in her personal life.

According to media reports, Jennifer Winget might be preparing for her second marriage, nearly 12 years after her first wedding. The name doing the rounds? Popular TV actor and host Karan Wahi.

Also Read: Rashmika Mandanna-Vijay Deverakonda wedding: Actress reacts to engagement and February 26 Udaipur plans

Karan-Jennifer marriage rumours spark curiosity

Several reports claim that Jennifer Winget and Karan Wahi could soon tie

the knot. While gossip has set social media on fire, it's important to note that these are still just rumours. There has been no official confirmation from Jennifer or Karan.

Neither actor has released a statement, com-



mented online, or hinted anything publicly.

Jennifer Winget-Karan Wahi friendship

Jennifer Winget and Karan Wahi share a long history. The two have worked together and are known to be good friends off-screen. Recently, they

were seen together in the web show "Raisinghani vs Raisinghani", where their chemistry caught viewers' attention instantly.

Jennifer Winget's first marriage

Jennifer Winget was earlier married to actor

couple decided to part ways and got divorced. Since then, Jennifer has largely kept her personal life private and focused on her career.

Over the years, Jennifer's name has been linked with actor Tanuj Virwani as well. However, both clarified that they were just good friends, and nothing romantic ever came out of it. Karan was seeing actress Udit Singh.

Karan Wahi, meanwhile, has had a steady career across TV, hosting, and web content. After a break from fiction shows, he returned in 2009 with the Colors TV soap "Mere Ghar Aayi Ek Nanhi Pari" opposite Mugdha Chaphekar.

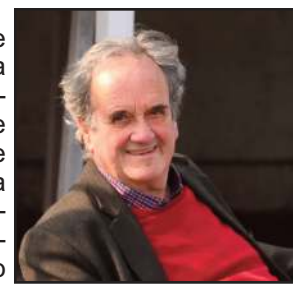
In 2010, he played Dr. Siddhant Modi in "Dill Mill Gayye", a role that earned him massive popularity. Interestingly, the same show that once connected Jennifer Winget with her first husband.

## Mark Tully had the most successful career spanning four decades

The passing of Mark Tully at the age of 90 marks the end of a journalistic life that was unusually long, unusually intimate, and increasingly rare. For more than four decades, India was not merely his professional assignment but the central moral landscape of his work. Few foreign correspondents stayed as long, travelled as widely, or listened as patiently to a country that resists easy explanation. Born in pre-independence Calcutta in 1935, Tully's earliest memories were formed in an India still under colonial

mentality, but restraint. He did not romanticise India, nor did he approach it with the condescension that often shadows foreign reporting. His stories rarely chased spectacle.

Instead, they sought context ~ why institutions failed, how people adapted, and what survived despite dysfunction. He understood that India's chaos was not evidence of collapse, but the price of an unruly democracy trying to hold together. This sensibil-



ity became most evident during moments of national trauma. His reporting during Operation Blue Star and the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination was remembered not for sensationalism, but for its sobriety. At a time when emotions ran high and narratives hardened quickly, he resisted instant judgment.

He reported facts carefully, acknowledged moral complexity, and refused to turn tragedy into theatre. Tully's deeper insight lay in his understanding of power ~ and its distance from ordinary life.

## WR TO INTRODUCE FOUR MORE SUBURBAN TRAIN SERVICES W.E.F. 01st FEBRUARY, 2026

Mumbai, **Total Number of services on Western Railway will be 1410**

Western Railway has decided to introduce four additional 12-car Non-AC suburban train services with effect from 01st February, 2026, with a view to enhancing passenger convenience and strengthening suburban connectivity. With the introduction of these additional services, the total number of suburban services on the Mumbai Suburban section of Western Railway will increase from 1406 to 1410.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Shri

Vineet Abhishek, this augmentation has been made possible following the completion of construction work of the 6th line between Kandivali and Borivali. After the commissioning of 6th line, all Bandra Terminus



and Borivali and Bandra Terminus, resulting in improved operational efficiency. From the 04 services to

bound long distance trains have been shifted to the 5th and 6th line between

will open from 29.01.2026 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.

be introduced, 02 will be in UP direction and 02 in DOWN direction and will run in slow mode. The UP service will be from Bhayandar to Bandra departing at 11:39 hrs and the other will be from Bhayandar to Churchgate departing at 12:14 hrs. Similarly, in the DOWN direction the 2 additional services are from Bandra to Bhayandar departing from Bandra at 04:30 and 13:21 hrs respectively.

Consequent upon the induction of these services, there will be minor changes in the timings of certain existing suburban services. Passengers are requested to take note of the same.

## WESTERN RAILWAY EXTENDS TRIPS OF SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS AND JAIPUR

For the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passengers, Western Railway has extended the trips of special train between Bandra Terminus and Jaipur.

According to a press release issued by Chief

Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, details of the trains is as under:

1. Train No. 09706/09705 Bandra Terminus - Jaipur of Weekly Special Train No. 09706 Bandra

Terminus - Jaipur Special has been extended up to 30th March, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09705 Jaipur - Bandra Terminus Special has been extended up to 29th March, 2026.

The booking for extended trips of Train No. 09706

will open from 29.01.2026 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.

## 'A milestone visit concludes': European Presidents depart from India after successful visit

(Gns).

The President of the European Council, Antonio Costa and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, concluded their landmark three-day state visit to India, which led to 13 significant outcomes aimed at deepening the India-EU strategic partnership, including the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a defence pact under the Security and Defence Partnership.

In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that Costa departed on Wednesday following the visit, and von der Leyen departed yesterday.

The MEA described the

visit as "highly successful", noting the "13 rich outcomes" aimed at deepening the ties between the two nations.

"A milestone visit concludes. President of European Council Antonio Costa departs after a highly successful visit. The President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen departed yesterday evening. The visit resulted in 13 rich outcomes which will enhance the depth and breadth of India-EU strategic partnership," the post read.

The Ministry added that the outcomes will expand European market access for Indian goods and services.

"These outcomes will

enhance market access for our goods and services, create more jobs and opportunities and support the progress of our people," it added.

On Tuesday, India and the EU signed a "milestone" deal, dubbed the "Mother of All Deals", by concluding their negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The deal is one of India's most strategic economic partnerships, designed as a modern, rules-based trade partnership, which responds to contemporary global challenges while enabling deeper market integration between the world's fourth- and second-largest economies.

Both sides also signed a

landmark Security and Defence Partnership, marking the first overarching defence and security framework between the two sides, as leaders from both blocs agreed to significantly deepen cooperation across strategic, regional and global security domains.

With the signing of the deal, India becomes the third Asian country to have such a deal with the EU after Japan and South Korea.

Apart from these, 13 agreements and arrangements were reached during the state visit of the European Presidents covering areas such as trade, security, defence, mobility, clean energy, science, and disaster management.

## President's address devoid of substance, accountability or credible data: CPI's Sandosh Kumar

(Gns).

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has described President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Parliament on Wednesday as a repetition of rhetorical claims of the Narendra Modi government. Commenting on the President's address delivered at the start of the Budget Session of Parliament, CPI Rajya Sabha MP P Sandosh Kumar said that the address was conspicuously devoid of substance, accountability or credible data.

Sandosh Kumar questioned the Modi government's claims on lifting 25 crore people out of poverty. He said the same claim is made every year, yet paradoxically, the government continues to distribute free food grains to nearly 80 crore people.

"If poverty has truly declined on such a massive scale, why are crores of

families still dependent on free rations to survive? What kind of poverty reduction is this, when people are unable to buy even basic food grains from the market?" he asked.

The CPI MP referred to the alleged financial discrimination against opposition-ruled states, particularly Kerala, saying the President's address fails to acknowledge the serious issue. He alleged Kerala has been consistently denied its legitimate financial dues, including GST compensation and central

transfers. Sandosh Kumar, who hails from Kerala, said this

discrimination is an assault on cooperative federalism and violates the states' constitutional rights.

He also took on the government on issues of internal security and the economy, stating that the government indulged in selective narration of its achievements while staying silent on its failures.

He referred to the ethnic violence in Manipur and the Red Fort blast, as well as the continuous devaluation

of the Indian Rupee, rising unemployment, stagnant wages, and growing inequality.

"There is no credible data placed before Parliament on employment generation, income growth, or poverty reduction. Governance by slogans has replaced governance by evidence," he remarked.

The MP also expressed concern over the weakening of the country's international standing, noting that India's long-held position as a voice for peace, non-alignment, and the Global South is being eroded by alignment-driven foreign policy choices and silence on major humanitarian crises.

The CPI MP also reiterated his party's opposition to the new labour codes, which he alleged dilute workers' rights and have been pushed through without meaningful consultation with trade unions.

The CPI MP also reiterated his party's opposition to the new labour codes, which he alleged dilute workers' rights and have been pushed through without meaningful consultation with trade unions.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present another transformative Union Budget on February 1," said Sanjay Tandon. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, supported by strong domestic demand, a resilient services sector, and sustained public investment in infrastructure.

"Structural reforms in taxation, insolvency resolution, digital payments, and financial inclusion have strengthened economic fundamentals and improved ease of doing business, enabling India to become the world's fourth-largest economy," Tandon said in a statement.

He noted that manufacturing is gaining momentum through initiatives such as Make in India and production-linked incentive

schemes, while agriculture and MSMEs continue to receive focused policy support. Tandon also lauded Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for steering the economy through a challenging period since assuming office in 2019.

He said her tenure has been marked by decisive interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Atmanirbhar Bharat packages.

## Arrival of Punjab AAP Government's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in Ahmedabad

**AAP's organization is strong in Gujarat; large public meetings are being held in villages and cities: Bhagwant Mann**

**Gopal Italia's victory in the Visavadar by-election is a major signal: Bhagwant Mann**

**Arvind Kejriwal's education and healthcare model, which has been implemented in Punjab as well, will also be implemented in Gujarat: Bhagwant Mann**

**If questions are being raised on the functioning of SIR, then the Election Commission should come forward and take satisfactory steps: Bhagwant Mann**

**If fake voters continue to be created through SIR, then how will democracy survive?: Bhagwant Mann**

**If any questions are being raised regarding the UGC issue, then satisfactory inspection should be carried out: Bhagwant Mann**

**Punjab has made the highest sacrifices and also made a major contribution during the Green Revolution when there was a food shortage, yet even today Punjab does not have its own capital: Bhagwant Mann**

**May God grant peace to the soul of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar: Bhagwant Mann**

Ahmedabad / Gujarat Punjab AAP government's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann arrived in Ahmedabad this evening. On this occasion, Aam Aadmi Party State President Isudan Gadhvi, MLA Gopal Italia, MLA Chaitar Vasava, State Organization General Secretary Manoj Sorathiya, and State Chief Spokesperson Dr. Karan Barot, along with a large number of Aam Aadmi Party office bearers and workers, gave a warm welcome to Chief Minister



Bhagwant Mann. During this time, while speaking to the media, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann stated that former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ajit Pawar passed away in a tragic accident. We pray to God that the departed soul attains peace, and we pay our condolences to him. At present, our party's organization in Gujarat has been built very strongly. Public meetings are being held village to village, and continuous programs are also being organized in big cities. The people of Gujarat now want change. Based on the environment we have seen so far, it is clear that the people of Gujarat want something new. Congress is hardly visible here anymore. The grand victory of Gopal Italia from Visavadar, that too by a large margin, is a very positive signal for the Aam Aadmi Party, and we will work with even more effort. The healthcare and education model of Arvind

Kejriwal has been successfully implemented in Delhi and Punjab, and in the same way, we will take it to every household in Gujarat as well.

On the issue of SIR, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that if any political party—whether a national party or a state-level party—has any kind of objection or doubt, then the Election Commission should itself come forward and provide clarification. The Election Commission should not impose conditions like "apologize within 72 hours" or issue pressure-driven instructions, but should conduct a transparent and credible investigation of the entire process and provide satisfactory answers to the public. If fake voters continue to be created through SIR, then how will democracy survive? This is a dangerous situation for democracy. Regarding the UGC issue, he said that the UGC con-

ducts major universities and large-scale examinations. My clear stand is that if there are objections on any issue—whether it concerns educational institutions, the Election Commission, or any other constitutional body—it is its responsibility to provide clarification and satisfaction.

Further, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann stated that when we talk about Punjab, Punjab has been at the forefront among the states that have made the highest sacrifices for the country. When the country needed food grains, Punjab's farmers carried out the Green Revolution and filled the nation's grain reserves. Despite this, Punjab does not have its own capital even today. Chandigarh, which is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, actually rightfully belongs to Punjab. This issue has been raised many times earlier as well. Punjab does not have its own separate High Court. Whereas even the small states of the North-East have their own High Courts. Due to this, case pendency has increased significantly and the system is under heavy burden. In today's time, there should not be any state that does not have its own capital. Chandigarh is Punjab's capital and should remain Punjab's capital.

Aam Aadmi Party Gujarat

## Shankaracharya ends his protest on the 11th day: leaves for Kashi

(Gns).

Ending his 11-day-long protest, Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktshwarananda Maharaj announced his decision to leave the Prayagraj Magh Mela on Wednesday morning.

Shankaracharya's protest for the past 11 days, since January 18, had caused much frustration to the Yogi Adityanath government and created a political controversy.

Opposition political leaders openly supported the saint against the BJP government, while a City Magistrate of Bareilly resigned in support of the Saint and a deputy Sales tax commissioner quit his job in support of the government.

The saint told mediapersons here on Wednesday morning that, "Today, my

heart is so distressed that I am leaving this holy place without even bathing. An event has occurred that we never imagined."

He said, "The authorities had promised him that he would be taken to the Sangam in a palanquin with full respect and bathed in the presence of officials. However, today I am deeply saddened, so leaving this holy place without bathing", adding that "When there is sadness and anger in the heart, even holy water cannot bring peace."

Swami Avimuktshwarananda said that bathing in the Sangam is not just a religious act, but also a spiritual tranquility. He wants to convey to the Sanatani community, the Kumbh Mela Authority, and the Uttar Pradesh government that the fight for justice never ends. He is leaving behind many ques-

tions that still await answers.

He said, "Prayagraj has always been a land of faith and peace. He, too, had come here with devotion, but an incident occurred that he never expected. Because of this, he has to return with great sadness. This incident has also weakened his faith in justice and humanity."

According to the PRO of Shankaracharya, the Saint has left Prayagraj and is on the way to Varanasi, where he will stay for a few days.

On January 18, police stopped the palanquin of Avimuktshwarananda, who was on his way to bathe at the Magh Mela. Disciples protested, leading to a scuffle and accusations of dragging some sadhus by the Shikha (tuft of hair). Following this, Shankaracharya sat on a protest outside the camp.

He has not entered the camp for the past 11 days.

The Mela administration issued two notices in two days demanding proof of his Shankaracharya status, to which Avimuktshwarananda responded.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, without naming him, referred to him as "Kalanemi," further deepening the controversy. In response, Avimuktshwarananda compared Yogi to Kalanemi (name of a demon in Hindu epic) and Aurangzeb.

The Sant Samaj has split into two factions over the Shankaracharya controversy, with all three Shankaracharyas supporting Avimuktshwarananda. Shankaracharya demanded that the administration apologise before he could bathe.

## India, United States pledge to dismantle illegal production, trafficking of illicit drugs

(Gns).

Amid the ongoing strain in bilateral ties over a host of issues, India and the United States held the inaugural meeting of the drug policy working group in Washington, at which the two countries shared commitment to addressing the global drug challenge and fostering a safer and healthier future for them.

The US hosted the inaugural meeting of the US-India Drug Policy Executive Working Group in Washington on January 20. Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) Director Sara Carter opened the meeting by emphasising President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mutual commitment to

strengthening security cooperation and eradicating narco-terrorism.

Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra stated that India accorded the highest priority to addressing the threat posed by narcotics trafficking and the diversion of precursor chemicals, while also balancing effective enforcement with facilitation of legitimate trade.

The Executive Working Group, led by ONDCP's Acting Deputy Director, Debbie Seguin, and the Narcotics Control Bureau's Deputy Director General, Monika Ashish Batra, worked with the US and Indian delegations, respectively, to deliver tangible, measurable outcomes in advancing the critical counter-narcotics partner-

ship, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.

"The drug crisis is now a

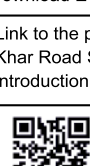
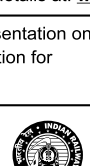
core national security priority," said Director Carter. "This Executive Working Group leverages the bilat-

**NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Mumbai Division has commissioned a newly 200m x 22m Elevated Deck at Khar Road Station. This deck is not just a walkway, it is a strategic connector between Khar West and Bandra East. The Railway Administration intends to appoint a Single Master Licensee to develop, operate, and maintain this vacant space, transforming it into a premium passenger experience hub.

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is issued to gauge market interest and solicit concepts for a Master License. This is NOT a tender or an offer to enter into a contract. The inputs received will help formulate the lot size, reserve price, and special conditions for a future E-Auction under the Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) Policy.

**SCHEDULE & SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Event	Date & Time	Location / Details
Submission Start	12-02-2026 from 11:00 Hrs	Drop Box at Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Department, Mumbai Central.
Submission Deadline	12-02-2026 upto 15:00 Hrs	Sealed Envelope in the earmarked Drop Box.
Website	Download EOI details at: <a href="http://wr.indianrailways.gov.in">wr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>	
Presentation	Link to the presentation on Khar Road Station for introduction.	
QR Code to view the EOI Document	 	

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## Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon Confident of Transformative Union Budget-2026-27 on Feb

(Gns).

Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon on Wednesday expressed hope that the Union Budget 2026-27, which Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is slated to present on February 1, will further strengthen India's growth momentum and accelerate the country's journey towards an inclusive Viksit Bharat by 2047.

"I am confident that Union

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present another transformative Union Budget on February 1," said Sanjay Tandon. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, supported by strong domestic demand, a resilient services sector, and sustained public investment in infrastructure.

"Structural reforms in taxation, insolvency resolution, digital payments, and financial inclusion have strengthened economic fundamentals and improved ease of doing business, enabling India to become the world's fourth-largest economy," Tandon said in a statement.

He noted that manufacturing is gaining momentum through initiatives such as Make in India and production-linked incentive

schemes, while agriculture and MSMEs continue to receive focused policy support. Tandon also lauded Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for steering the economy through a challenging period since assuming office in 2019.

He said her tenure has been marked by decisive interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Atmanirbhar Bharat packages.

## Odisha aims to establish anchor industries, develop peripheral MSMEs to stop migration of local workforce: CM Majhi

(Gns). Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Wednesday said the state's clear-cut strategy is to establish anchor industries in every region and develop hundreds of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) around them as suppliers, vendors, logistics partners, fabricators, maintenance providers, packaging units, and technology partners.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 25th edition of Enterprise Odisha 2026 at Rourkela, Majhi said, "Such a step will ensure that youths no longer need to migrate for jobs, and opportunities will come to their doorstep."

With a renewed focus on Western Odisha and balanced industrial development across all regions, Odisha is steadily emerging as one of India's most promising destinations for investment, employment, and inclusive growth, Majhi noted.

The event marked the inauguration of 11 industrial projects with an investment of Rs 5,708 crore, generating employment for 4,183 people. This was followed by the groundbreaking of nine projects worth Rs 3,176 crore, expected to create employment for 2,649 people.

During his visit to Rourkela, the Chief

Minister also participated in three key roundtable discussions with the Rourkela Chamber of Commerce, Orissa Sponge Iron

bles, 22 MoUs worth Rs 43,349 crore were signed, which are expected to generate 18,985 jobs, while five investment intents worth Rs 8,677 crore, with an employment potential of 1,442 jobs, were received.

The Chief Minister handed over a letter offering 1,447.927 acres of land at Kamakhyanager, Dhenkanal, to Vedanta Aluminium Ltd. for its proposed 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) aluminium smelter and 4,900 MW Captive Power Plant (CPP) project. The allotment, approved by the 41st High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA), marks a significant milestone in fast-tracking the project towards implementation. The state government looks forward to expeditious next steps to facilitate the timely groundbreaking of the project.

Through these roundta-



Manufacturing Association (OSIMA), and a special interaction with delegations from Ranchi and Raipur. These engagements highlighted the growing RRR Corridor—Raipur—Ranchi—Rourkela, reflecting enhanced regional collaboration and shared growth prospects.

Through these roundta-

## US carrier strike group enters Middle East; Iran issues 'finger on the trigger' warning

(Gns). A US carrier strike group has entered the Middle East, bringing back fears of a fresh conflict in the region where Iran is located.

It has been reported that USS Abraham Lincoln has reached the Middle East region and is currently under the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command, CENTCOM.

CENTCOM said the carrier strike group's deployment in the region is aimed at promoting "regional security and stability", but it comes not long after the US had warned Iran of a response amid the Iranian regime's crackdown on protesters. Thousands reportedly died in the recent anti-regime protests over economic hardship and other

issues. The deployment came amid a warning from Iran's top commander to the US.

avoid any miscalculation". "The Islamic Revolutionary Guards and dear Iran stand more ready



The commander of the powerful Revolutionary Guard Corps said that his forces had their "finger on the trigger" amid a standoff with the US that refuses to die down.

General Mohammad Pakpour is reported to have told the US and Israel "to

than ever, finger on the trigger, to execute the orders and directives of the Commander-in-Chief," Pakpour reportedly said, as per The Associated Press.

Iran's Defence Ministry spokesperson Gen Reza Talei-Nik had issued a similar warning to the two

countries yesterday, stating any attack would "be met with a response that is more painful and more decisive than in the past".

CENTCOM, in its first acknowledgement of the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group, said the aircraft carrier and other vessels were sailing in the Indian Ocean following orders for deployment in the Middle East.

Apart from the aircraft carrier, the strike group comprises three guided missile destroyers: the USS Frank E Petersen, Jr, the USS Spruance, and the USS Michael Murphy. Squadrons of F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, F-35C fighter jets, and MH-60R/S helicopters are part of the strike group.

## Sophie Devine opens up on managing diabetes while thriving as an elite athlete

(Gns). Sophie Devine's match-winning performance for Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League (WPL) once again highlighted her composure under pressure, but behind the all-rounder's on-field impact lies a long and carefully managed personal challenge that has shaped much of her career.

part of my life for over 20 years now, so it's pretty second nature to me. Sometimes I forget I even have it because it's so embedded in my routine," Devine said. "There's a lot of testing involved, and I use a sensor to keep track of my blood glucose levels, which people will often see me swiping. The injections don't really change whether it's a game day, training day or rest day, that part stays the same."

However, match days bring their own set of demands, requiring constant awareness and adaptability. For Devine, managing her condition

alongside the physical and mental intensity of competition is about preparation and understanding her body.

"The big difference on game day is making sure I'm managing things well enough to be able to do my job out there," she explained.

"Sometimes that's straightforward and sometimes diabetes has other ideas, so it's about being prepared and aware of what my body needs in those moments."

A strong support system, Devine says, has been crucial in helping her navigate those challenges. From teammates to coaching staff, having people around who understand her condi-

tion has given her confidence and reassurance on and off the field.

"Having the support of the players and support staff around me makes a huge difference," she said. "Knowing that people are aware and always there to help if I need it gives me a lot of confidence, and I'm really thankful for that."

Devine also reflected on the comfort of sharing similar experiences with other athletes who manage diabetes, describing it as a source of connection and encouragement in a high-performance environment.

"I've been lucky to play alongside other players who understand what it's like," she said. "Having someone who speaks the same language and gets it is really nice."



## NHRC, India's Core Group on Disabilities deliberates upon 'Human rights violations emerging from re-verification and re-assessment of certificates of government employees with disabilities'

Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian citing legal implications suggests scrutiny only to cases of a specific suspicion instead of mass re-verification of all employees with disability. Importance of streamlining the process of issuing disability certificates among other suggestions highlighted in the meeting attended by the NHRC Members, senior officers, Govt representatives and various stakeholders.

NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian. Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi and Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani Members; Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Core Group members, special invitees, other senior officers, government representatives and domain experts participated in the meeting.

Justice Ramasubramanian said that understandably Centre's 15th October 2025 revised advisory and SOP for handling disability verification in government jobs/education is meant for applying prospectively only for the new applicants and not retrospectively to

reassess all existing beneficiaries. He observed that applying the SOP retrospectively for all of them may have legal implications.

Justice Ramasubramanian said that at times, approaching authorities is challenging and only well-connected or educated families can access the system effectively. He urged the participants to suggest measures to protect rights of PwDs and ensure their dignity by addressing systemic gaps in the legal framework and the implementation thereof.

NHRC, India Member, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi said that children born with disabilities must receive proper medical care and accurate certification to ensure access to legal benefits.

Therefore, instead of mass verification, the scrutiny should be limited to cases where there is a specific suspicion. He said that there are strong laws to protect the rights of PwDs, but their implementation remains a concern. There may be instances wherein some deserving persons with disabilities (PwDs) do not get

the benefits of schemes. It may also not be denied that there could be instances of misuse of beneficiary legislation.

Justice Ramasubramanian said that at times, approaching authorities is challenging and only well-connected or educated families can access the system effectively. He urged the participants to suggest measures to protect rights of PwDs and ensure their dignity by addressing systemic gaps in the legal framework and the implementation thereof.

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## Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D), Govt engages with Champion Fish Farmers to strengthen sectoral growth.

(Gns). Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Union Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D), Government of India, convened an interaction meeting with Champion Fish Farmers from across the country on 28th January 2026 through video conference to engage with them on their experiences in adopting scientific and modern aquaculture practices. A total of 59 champion farmers had joined including Padmashri awardee along with representatives from Rajya Sabha, Department of Fisheries, Govt, ICAR, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and State fisheries

department had also joined. The Government has extended comprehensive support to the fisheries and aquaculture sector through a range of schemes and initiatives such as Blue Revolution Scheme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Saha Yojana (PMMKSSY) aimed at improving infrastructure, access to finance, technology adoption, and capacity building. Champion Fish Farmers represent the success of government interventions in the fisheries sector and

are recognized as Brand Ambassadors of fish farming. Through proactive adoption of advanced technologies such as RAS and Biofloc and by establishing key infrastructure they demonstrate scalable and sustainable models of aquaculture. Their leadership, peer

learning and field-level engagement plays a crucial role in encouraging wider adoption of best practices, strengthening value chains and mentoring emerging farmers, while their feedback and experiences provide valuable inputs for shaping future policy and driving sectoral transformation.

During the meeting, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary

(Fisheries), MoFAH&D, Govt, expressed happiness at the proactive participation and active interaction of all the Champion Fish Farmers. The significant contribution to upscaling the fisheries and aquaculture sector was appreciated and their role in adopting and demonstrating scientific practices was acknowledged. He encouraged the Champion Fish Farmers to motivate and guide other farmers and to actively contribute to capacity building at the grassroots level. It was also assured that the Government, in collaboration with State Governments and ICAR institutions, would continue to extend necessary support to further strengthen the sector.



## Government Rationalises Regulatory Framework to Accelerate Setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants

Robust Safeguards and Stringent Environmental Oversight to Strengthen Infrastructure for Control, Abatement and Reduction of Industrial Pollution

(Gns). In a significant step towards strengthening pollution control infrastructure and promoting sustainable industrial growth, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has rationalised the regulatory framework governing Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs). The reform is aimed at expediting the establishment of CETPs across industrial clusters, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and regulatory oversight remain uncompromised.

CETPs are collective pollution abatement facilities that treat industrial

effluents generated by clusters of industries, particularly small and medium enterprises that may face technical or financial constraints in setting up individual treatment systems.

These facilities are designed to mitigate pollution by enabling centralised treatment, scientific management, and effective monitoring of industrial effluents, and are not themselves sources of pollution. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has classified CETPs as Essential Environmental Services under the Blue Category of Industries which need to be promoted for environmental protection.

At present, the number and capacity of CETPs in the country are significantly below what is required to manage effluents generat-

ed by expanding industrial clusters. Delays in setting up CETPs have the unintended consequence of untreated or inadequately treated effluents entering the environment.

Following detailed examination by the Ministry's Expert Committees, it was observed that CETPs are already subject to comprehensive regulation under existing pollution control laws, including Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO), periodic inspections, continuous online monitoring and statutory reporting requirements. In this context, the requirement of prior Environmental Clearance was found to be duplicative, adding procedural complexity with avoidable delays.

The Ministry has, there-

fore, exempted CETPs from the requirement of prior Environmental Clearance subject to implementation of environmental safeguards, and adherence to the Uniform Consent Guidelines as well as to the Environmental (Protection) Rules governing the standards for CETP and its management and operations which came into force on 1st September, 2025. The reform seeks to enable faster creation of CETPs, thereby strengthening compliance and improving environmental outcomes.

Strengthened Safeguards through Decentralised Regulation Under the revised framework, CETPs will continue to be stringently regulated by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) under

## Presidential Address at Commencement of Budget Session Highlights Strengthening of Public Healthcare System

(Gns). The Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in her ceremonial Address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of the Budget Session, outlined the Government's overarching vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and highlighted the Government's sustained focus on strengthening the public healthcare system and improving health outcomes for all citizens.

The Address emphasized that health and well-being are a critical pillar of human capital development and national progress, underscoring the importance of ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services, particularly for the poor, vulnerable, and underserved sections of society.

The Presidential Address underscored health as a key pillar of inclusive national development and reflected the sig-



nificant progress made under flagship health initiatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The President noted that free medical treatment has been provided to over 11 crore people under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana since inception, expanding access to secondary and tertiary healthcare. In the

last year alone, around 2.5 crore poor and vulnerable citizens availed free medical treatment under government health schemes.

Highlighting targeted interventions for senior citizens, the Address noted that nearly 1 crore Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards have been issued over the past one and a half years, enabling approximately 8 lakh senior and elderly citizens to receive free healthcare services.

The President also emphasised the strengthening of primary healthcare infrastructure across the country, with 1.80 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs currently operational nationwide. These centres are ensuring last-mile delivery of comprehensive primary healthcare services, particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas.

Reflecting the Government's mission-mode approach towards disease prevention and public health management, the Address highlighted that under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, over 6.5 crore people have been screened, particularly in remote, rural and tribal regions, enabling early detection and effective prevention of the disease. Sustained efforts have also

## India ready to play larger global role in AI-led climate action, says Science Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

(Gns). NEW DELHI, January 28 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, today said that India is ready to play a larger global role in Artificial Intelligence (AI) -led climate action.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the "Technology and Innovation Conclave 2.0", organised by "Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology" (APCTT) and DSIR, at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi, on Wednesday, the Minister hastened to add, Artificial Intelligence must be deployed alongside human judgement, institutional cooperation and global

partnerships if it is to effectively address climate change and build resilience against extreme weather events.

Speaking at the Technology and Innovation Conclave 2.0, jointly organised by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) Govt of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said climate change was "too serious a subject to be left to one

nation alone" and could not be mitigated unless countries worked together across borders. The conclave, themed "AI for Climate Action and Resilience", opened with the introduction of innovators and startups, followed

by a high-level inaugural session that brought together senior Indian officials and United Nations representatives, reflecting the growing convergence between national science priorities and global climate action. Speakers highlighted the role of technology, international cooperation and innovation ecosystems in responding to climate challenges faced by vulnerable regions.

As part of the programme, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the exhibition of innovations, walked through the displays and interacted with young innovators from participating member states. He later presented awards to winners of a hackathon focused on AI-driven solutions.

