

Western Times

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News

Brief

Raj CM surprises morning walkers with unannounced visit

Jaipur, Dec 6 (IANS) Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma surprised morning walkers on Saturday when he arrived unannounced at Jaipur's Jawahar Circle for an early morning walk.

His visit was carried out with minimal security, marking a clear deviation from the usual high-security protocol associated with a Chief Minister's movement. Not only was the security deployment lighter than usual, but even the designated VIP route meant for such movements was not followed. This informal and spontaneous appearance quickly drew public attention. Before taking office, Bhajan Lal Sharma was a regular at Jawahar Circle, where he often interacted with people in a casual setting during morning walks.

EC to organise special camps for sex workers in Kolkata's Sonagachi during SIR exercise

Kolkata, Dec 5 (IANS) The Election Commission will organise a special camp in Sonagachi on December 9 to protect the civil rights of sex workers during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Sources in the Election Commission said on Saturday that the decision to hold a special camp there was taken after Durbar, a voluntary organisation working with sex workers and their children, wrote a letter to the poll panel informing about the serious problems faced by such workers while filling up enumeration forms.

Bishakha Laskar, president of Durbar Women Coordination Committee, said, "We spoke to the District Election Officer (DEO) and Election Registration Officer (ERO) on Friday. They said that three camps will be organised in wards 18 and 26. The officials will check whether any names of sex workers are missing or whether the enumeration form has been filled correctly."

Cong, SP call Humayun Kabir 'BJP's agent', accuse him of fueling division

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir's decision to lay the foundation stone for a Babri Masjid structure in West Bengal's Murshidabad has sparked a major political storm, as Congress and Samajwadi Party accused him of being an "agent of the BJP" and of attempting to divide people by injecting religious issues into politics.

The development comes as December 6, Saturday, marks the 33rd anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition, adding further sensitivity to the matter. Kabir recently announced that he would lay the foundation stone for the Babri Masjid in Murshidabad on December 6, a declaration that immediately drew criticism and was followed by concerns flagged by Raj Bhawan over law and order.

'Terrorism, ideological hostility towards India emanate from Pak Army': EAM

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said that a significant share of India's challenges, including terrorism, stems from the Pakistani Army, asserting that while the threat exists, New Delhi will "deal with it". Speaking to NDTV's CEO and Editor-in-Chief, Rahul Kanwal, at the HT Leadership Summit, the EAM said ideological hostility towards India continues to originate from Pakistan's military establishment.

"When you look at the terrorism, when you look at the training camps, when you look at the sort of policy of a kind of, I would say, almost ideological hostility towards India, where does that come from? It comes from the

army. I can only say that at the end of the day, look at the state of Pakistan and, you know, see the differentials and the capabilities and, frankly, the reputation on either side. I think, look, we should not get over-obsessed and hypenate ourselves with them," EAM Jaishankar said.

Asked about Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir, the minister stated, "Like there are good terrorists and bad terrorists, there are good military leaders and not-so-good ones."

On India's targeted military response, Operation Sindoor, against high-value terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir following the Pahalgam terror attack, EAM Jaishankar explained that India functions

under a unique framework of norms and responsibility. "I think where India is concerned, there are things we do, and there are things we don't. We have rules, we have norms. If we take any step, we are accountable in this country, to the people, to the media, to the civil society. I think it would be unreal to compare ourselves with them, and in many ways, we would be doing ourselves an injustice," he said, when asked if the operation could have been carried out differently. Responding to questions about former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, EAM Jaishankar said her decision to stay in India was shaped by the circumstances under which she arrived.

Hasina fled to India in August last year after her democratically elected government collapsed amid violent unrest that left hundreds dead and thousands injured. She was recently sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal in Dhaka for "crimes against humanity" relating to her administration's harsh suppression of student-led protests.

When asked if she could stay in India "as long as she wants", EAM Jaishankar said, "Well, that's a different issue, isn't it? She came here in a certain circumstance, and I think that circumstance clearly is a factor in what happens to her. But again, that is something in which she has to make up her mind."



LUCKNOW, Samajwadi Party workers protest near Vidhan Bhawan in Lucknow on Saturday, demanding justice for BLOs who died during the Election Commission's SIR process.UNI

Install rooftop solar plants on all government buildings: Haryana CM

Chandigarh, Dec 6 (IANS) Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday directed that all government buildings, like schools, colleges, hospitals and offices, be equipped with rooftop solar systems to accelerate the state's transition towards clean and green energy. The Chief Minister was chairing a high-level review meeting on the Budget announcements of the Power (Energy) sector at the Civil Secretariat here. The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the PM Suryaghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and instructed

officials to expedite rooftop solar installations across households in the state.

He also examined the month-wise achievements under the scheme and emphasised strict monitoring and accountability.

In addition, the Chief Minister directed the creation of solar parks to harness the state's renewable energy potential at scale. He also ordered the removal of old and defunct electricity poles from major state roads and highways to enhance public safety and improve road aesthetics. Haryana Power Gen-

eration Corp Ltd (HPGCL) Chairman Shyamal Misra said 42,486 rooftop solar installations have already been completed as of November 20 in the state. A target has been set to install 222,000 rooftop solar systems by March 31, 2027. He said DISCOMs have also formulated a new scheme, 'Saur Urja Protsahan Yojana', aimed primarily at government employees and regular electricity bill-paying consumers. The scheme has been submitted to the state government for approval and is currently under consideration.

Bihar Police launches citizen service portal app, begins major push toward digital policing

Patna, Dec 6 (IANS) The Bihar Police on Saturday has taken a significant step towards digital transformation with the launch of the Citizen Service Portal app, enabling residents to connect with police services from home and ensuring faster redressal of complaints. Launching the app, Bihar Home Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary said the initiative will bridge the gap between police and the public and strengthen transparency.

"Citizens will now be able to file complaints di-

rectly through their mobile phones, which will then be processed and investigated by the police," he said.

The portal will also provide information on lost and found items, offering substantial convenience to users.

After the launch, Samrat Chaudhary visited the Police Headquarters, where he held a high-level review meeting with the DGP and senior officers.

Detailed discussions were held on law and order, crime control, and enhancing the state's digital policing systems. Officials described the

initiative as a major milestone in the direction of smart policing in Bihar.

Samrat Chaudhary made it clear that the Home Department will not tolerate any laxity in maintaining law and order.

He directed district officials to respond swiftly to crimes, maintain stringent surveillance on criminal activities, and ensure visible policing.

Reiterating his firm stance, he said, "Bihar is not for criminals. Anyone trying to break the law will either have to reform or leave the state."

In the meeting with top

police officials, Chaudhary directed them to develop a robust reporting system against illegal mining, a special mechanism to identify those involved in illegal land deals, a real-time monitoring system to curb land fraud, improved traffic management within three months, and monthly meetings between DMs, SPs, and industrial representatives to address issues faced by entrepreneurs.

He reiterated that the NDA government has implemented a zero-tolerance policy against land, sand, and liquor mafias.



Air passengers waiting at the lounge area for their flight in front of an IndiGo counter in Terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi on Saturday.UNI

HM Shah, Gujarat CM inaugurate Ahmedabad Shopping Festival

Ahmedabad, Dec 6 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, on Saturday, inaugurated the second edition of the Ahmedabad Shopping Festival (ASF) 2025-26, a large-scale retail, lifestyle and entertainment event, jointly organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the state government.

The leaders also flagged off the grand ASF Carnival Parade to mark the official opening of the festival.

State Minister Rushikesh Patel was present on the occasion. Union Minister Shah and Chief Minister Patel visited several stalls at the venue, encouraging artisans and local entrepreneurs by purchasing swadeshi products and making digital payments.

The event also witnessed the presence of Mayor Pratibha Jain, Deputy Mayor Jatin Patel, Standing Committee Chairman Devang Dani, BJP leader Gaurang Prajapati, elected representatives, senior bureaucrats, including State Tax Chief Commissioner Rajeev Topno, Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani and other dignitaries.

Scheduled to run from

December 5, 2025 to January 16, 2026, the festival aims to give a major boost to Ahmedabad's retail and tourism ecosystem, while advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' mission.

Built around the theme 'Swadeshi with Global Appeal', ASF's second edition has generated significant enthusiasm across the city. This year's festival covers six major shopping districts and more than a dozen hotspots -- Sindhu Bhavan Road, CG Road, Nikol Modern Street, Kankaria-Rambaug Road, Vastrapur, Prahladnagar, Science City, the Sabarmati Riverfront, Law Garden, Manek Chowk and leading malls across the city.

These zones will showcase a vibrant blend of shopping, entertainment, food streets and artisan markets.

ASF 2025-26 will feature food festivals, live music shows, cultural performances, comedy and poetry evenings, sports activities, youth zones and family entertainment areas.

Special curated heritage walking tours will be available for citizens and international visitors, while Sindhu Bhavan Road will host a premium Wedding

Shopping Experience Zone for the upcoming wedding season.

More than 8,000 businesses -- including retailers, malls, hotels, restaurants, MSMEs, artisans and major brands -- have partnered with the festival.

To enhance accessibility, officials also launched the official ASF mobile app and web portal, offering exclusive deals, interactive maps, real-time event updates and a special shopper pass, which provides free Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service and Bus Rapid Transit System travel during the festival along with lucky draws and curated offers.

Throughout ASF, shoppers will enjoy discounts ranging from 15 to 35 per cent across participating outlets.

Popular events like Hungrito, Weekend Window, Fun Blast and city-wide cultural programmes are set to create a festive atmosphere across Ahmedabad.

With its fusion of swadeshi pride, retail innovation and modern urban culture, the Ahmedabad Shopping Festival 2025-26 is poised to position the city prominently on the national and global retail map.

--IANS

INDIA Bloc's self-sabotage makes it no match for BJP's discipline: Omar Abdullah

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit in New Delhi on Saturday, delivered a blistering critique of the INDIA bloc, describing it as fractured, indecisive, and incapable of mounting a serious challenge to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. He warned that the alliance, once touted as a united front, is now "on life support," crippled by infighting and a lack of cohesion. Abdullah argued that the Opposition

has squandered opportunities to present itself as a credible alternative, pointing to Bihar as a glaring example of self-sabotage.

"Either we are a bloc, in which decisions should be taken together... Look at the Bihar polls, you pushed one constituent out. Hypothetically, if the JMM were to up and leave, who is to blame?" he asked, laying bare the alliance's inability to hold itself together.

In sharp contrast, Abdullah praised the BJP's relentless work ethic, noting that the party fights

elections "as if its life depends on them." He dismissed allegations of vote theft and claims of electronic voting machine tampering, instead highlighting that manipulation is more likely to occur through redrawing constituencies and altering voter lists.

His remarks underscored the INDIA bloc's tendency to deflect blame rather than confront its own weaknesses.

Turning to Kashmir, Abdullah reiterated that stereotyping Kashmiri Muslims after terror attacks is unjust and dangerous. "Not all Kashmiri Muslims are terrorists; not

all of them support terrorism. In fact, they are a minuscule minority that do," he said, stressing that Kashmiris share the nation's grief when violence strikes, whether in Delhi or Pahalgam.

Yet even as he defended Kashmiris against unfair generalisations, Abdullah's broader message was unflinching: the Opposition cannot hope to counter the BJP's election machine unless it abandons petty squabbles and embraces discipline. His words painted a stark picture of a coalition in drift, unable to match the BJP's organisational might or strategic clarity.

HM Amit Shah inaugurates new income-boosting plants

Ahmedabad, Dec 6 (IANS) Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated several new initiatives aimed at increasing farmers' incomes in an event at Sanadar Dairy in Diyodar Taluka, Banaskantha district in Gujarat on Saturday. During the visit, Minister Shah inspected the Banas Radio Station, the Potato Plant, and the Ice Cream Plant. He also held discussions with members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee and the Board of Directors of Banas Dairy.

Shah highlighted that the cooperative model implemented by Banas Dairy has become a source of inspiration both nationally and internationally.

He praised the late founder, Galbaba, whose vision was realised through the efforts of local farmers. Starting in 1986 with milk collection from just eight village societies, Banas Dairy has grown to a turnover of Rs 24,000 crore, a journey that began with just Rs 400, crediting the dedication of local farmers for this monumental success.

Shah also recalled that decades ago, the Banaskantha region was considered drought-prone with only rain-dependent agriculture. "Through initiatives like Sujalam-Sufalam and the Narmada Canal,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has helped farmers achieve self-reliance. Today, farmers in Banaskantha can cultivate three crops annually, a testament to effective water conservation and the labour of local women, which has transformed the Banas model into a tree of prosperity," he said. Shah added that under the guidance of the Ministry of Cooperation, rural development efforts are underway to further strengthen the dairy's circular economy. Farmers are expected to see a 20 per cent increase in income over the next five years.

Kerala: Actor Dileep's case verdict likely to create political storm ahead of local body polls

Kochi, Dec 6 (IANS) All eyes are on the Kochi trial court listed to deliver its judgment on Monday in the sensational 2017 actress abduction case, where Malayalam superstar Dileep stands as the eighth accused.

But with Kerala set to vote in the two-phased local body elections on December 9 and 11, a growing question is echoing, will the verdict actually be pronounced, or will it be deferred until the polls conclude?

Dileep, one of the Malayalam industry's most bankable stars, spent nearly three months in jail in 2017 before securing bail. The case has since travelled through intense legal scrutiny, public debate, film-industry fissures and allegations of influence and interference. Now, eight years later, the verdict -- whenever delivered -- carries high political voltage. If the judgment goes against Dileep and the actor is convicted, the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Front could immediately claim that the outcome reflects the government's commitment to the rule of law.



Members of the All Guwahati Students' Union (AGSU) stage a demonstration for the 'Save Basistha Abhiyan' during Environment and Climate Awareness Week, in Guwahati on Saturday. UNI

From Editor's Desk



Hotel staff requests for photo, Putin obliges: Russian media

New Delhi/Moscow (IANS) Just before wrapping up his landmark visit to India Friday evening, Russian President Vladimir Putin posed for a photograph with several members of the staff at the hotel he was putting up in New Delhi, Russian media reported.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin couldn't refuse some of the staff at the Indian hotel where he was staying during his two-day state visit to India, and posed for a photo with them," Russia's leading Tass news agency reported citing a video posted by travelling journalist on his Telegram channel where the Russian President is seen getting photographed with staff members of the hotel where he stayed during his two-day State Visit to the Indian capital. "After posing for a group photo with the hotel representatives, the Russian leader responded to their grateful cries with an appropriate response and bid farewell. Those who had received the photo with the Russian president immediately began examining the resulting images on the photographers' cameras," the report added. A State reception was hosted by Indian President Droupadi Murmu in honour of the Russian leader just before the conclusion of his visit.

Earlier in the day, Putin thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the warm and cordial welcome extended to the visiting delegation, stating that he has established a "close working and personal contact" with the Indian PM and together they "constantly monitor" the development of Russian-Indian cooperation in all its strategic areas.

The talks we just concluded with our Indian colleagues, as well as our conversation last night with Mr. Modi in a one-on-one format at his home over dinner — I want to thank you again for this sign of attention — these talks were very useful, and took place in a constructive and friendly atmosphere, in the spirit of the especially privileged partnership between Russia and India," the Russian President stated after holding extensive talks with PM Modi at the Hyderabad House during the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

"I would like to point out that the Prime Minister and I have established close working and personal contact. We met this year in September at the SCO summit, regularly communicate by telephone, and constantly monitor the development of Russian-Indian cooperation in all its strategic areas, as well as the progress of key bilateral projects," he added. In their meeting, both leaders discussed all aspects of India-Russia relations which remain deep-rooted and multifaceted. They also reaffirmed mutual commitment to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia besides also discussing regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Indian Air Force 18 Squadron celebrates Diamond Jubilee at Air Force Station Naliya



Ahmedabad, The Indian Air Force 18 Squadron, also known as 'Flying Bullets', celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 05 December 2025, at Air Force Station Naliya. Formed on 15 April 1965 at Ambala, the Squadron has a rich history of operating various aircraft including Gnat, Ajeet, MiG-27 ML and is currently operating indigenous Tejas Mk1 (FOC) aircraft. The Squadron earned the name 'Defenders of the Valley' for its heroic defence of Srinagar during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, who made the supreme sacrifice during the war, was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC), making 18 Squadron the only PVC Squadron of the Indian Air Force. To commemorate this milestone, a seminar was held at Air Force Station Naliya, followed by air displays by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) and Akashganga. The event was graced by Air Marshal J Chauhan (Retired), the senior most veteran and Air Vice Marshal Subramanian Krishnan, the senior most serving officer. A special cover and Squadron History Book were also released to mark the occasion.

Over 400 IndiGo flights cancelled on 5th day of crisis; Indian Railways steps in to help

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) IndiGo cancelled a total of 405 domestic flights as the significant crisis affecting the airline reached its fifth day on Saturday. However, Indian Railways stepped in to help the harassed passengers by adding extra coaches to its trains to accommodate the rush of people.

With a daily operation of 2,300 flights and a fleet exceeding 400 aircraft, IndiGo's punctuality has drastically declined due to ongoing operational issues that are likely to persist for several more days.

The root of the current crisis primarily lies in an unexpected shortage of pilots due to planning shortcomings, and authorities are closely monitoring the situation.

Scenes of total disarray have occurred at airports nationwide as IndiGo's domestic passengers voiced their frustration over delays and cancellations of their flights.

Amid a sharp rise in passenger demand following widespread IndiGo flight cancellations, the Indian Railways has stepped in and deployed 116 additional coaches across 37 premium trains, covering 114 enhanced trips nationwide.

The Railway Ministry said in a press statement that Southern Railway recorded the highest number

of augmentations, increasing capacity in 18 trains.

"Additional Chair Car and Sleeper Class coaches have been deployed on high-demand routes. These augmentations, implemented from 6 December 2025 onward,



substantially expand accommodation capacity in the southern region," the ministry said.

"Northern Railway (NR) follows with augmentations on eight trains, adding 3AC and Chair Car coach-

es. These measures implemented today onwards enhance availability on heavily travelled northern corridors," it further added.

According to the ministry, Western Railway has strengthened four high-demand trains with the addition of 3AC and 2AC coaches, effective from December 6, to accommodate heavy passenger movement from western states to the national Capital.

Officials also confirmed that East Central Railway has increased capacity on the Rajendra Nagar-New Delhi (12309) service by adding 2AC coaches over five trips scheduled between December 6 and 10, improving connectivity on the crucial Bihar-Delhi route.

East Coast Railway has also augmented the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi services (Trains 20817/20811/20823) by adding 2AC coaches across five trips, enhancing travel options between Odisha and the Capital.

Speaking to IANS, Indian Railway Board Executive Director of In-

formation and Publicity (EDIP) Dilip Kumar said, "Considering the rush of passengers, Indian Railways has decided to add extra coaches to several trains. In addition, plans have been made to operate several special trains. So far, 116 extra coaches are planned to be added to 37 trains, and work is underway accordingly."

Along with these augmentations, four special train services have been introduced to further assist travellers. The Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminal-Gorakhpur Special (05591/05592) will operate four trips between December 7 and 9. The New Delhi-Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan-New Delhi Reserved Vande Bharat Special (02439/02440) will run on December 6, offering fast connectivity to the Jammu region.

To accommodate high demand towards the western sector, the New Delhi-Mumbai Central-New Delhi Reserved Superfast Special (04002/04001) will operate on December 6 and 7.

US Senator flags H-1B abuse, raising questions for Indian tech talent

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) A senior US lawmaker on Friday urged the Trump Administration to intensify federal scrutiny of corporate use of H-1B visas, warning that major American technology firms are laying off domestic workers even as they continue recruiting thousands of foreign professionals — a trend with direct implications for Indian engineers who make up the single largest group of H-1B beneficiaries.

In a letter to Labour Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Joseph Etlow, and Attorney General Pam Bondi, Senator Ruben Gallego said high-skilled immigration must advance economic growth without becoming a channel to "undercut or replace US employees." He argued that the pattern of mass layoffs followed by continued H-1B hiring has raised "important questions" about how large corporations are deploying the programme.

"High-skilled immigration programs, when designed, implemented, and enforced appropriately, spur economic growth that creates good-paying jobs for American workers," Gallego wrote. "At the same time, we must ensure such programs are not used to undercut or replace US employees, especially as the American dream continues to grow further out of reach for young people."

Citing internal data and federal research, Gallego said "large technology corporations have laid off hundreds of thousands of workers." At the same time, "in fiscal year 2025, these same companies were approved to hire over 30,000 foreign H-1B workers." He noted that un-



employment among young American tech workers remains elevated, even as employers continue filing visa petitions for foreign recruits — a contradiction, he said, that deserves urgent review by labour, immigration, and enforcement agencies.

The senator pointed to a sharp decline in the representation of the youngest employees at major U.S. technology firms.

"Employees between the ages of 21 and 25 made up 15 per cent of the workforce in January 2023. By

July 2025, that number had dropped to 6.7 per cent." He said the figures show "there are young American workers eager to be trained for and to fill these roles."

Gallego added that the pressure facing Gen Z extended well beyond the workplace. According to the analysis he cited, "over 13 per cent of unemployed Americans in July were new entrants into the workforce or jobseekers with no prior work experience, who tend to be Gen Z." He said the share was "the highest percentage since 1988," underscoring what he described as a widening gap between young workers' aspirations and the cost of achieving them.

Financial pressures on young Americans, he wrote, have intensified as the "average student borrows over \$30,000" for a bachelor's degree, home prices have "risen 55.7 per cent" since 2020, and childcare costs now exceed rent in 17 states and surpass in-state college tuition in 38.

These trends, he warned, compound anxieties about whether American workers are being side-

lined as companies expand their recruitment of temporary foreign workers.

Reaffirming the stated purpose of the visa, Gallego wrote: "The intent of the H-1B visa program is to grow the economy and supplement the US workforce — not replace it." He said the programme must not enable corporations to hire foreign labour while "simultaneously laying off American workers" with comparable training and qualifications.

Gallego pressed the Administration to explain how it will carry out Project Firewall, the multi-agency enforcement initiative launched in September to strengthen scrutiny of H-1B recruitment practices. Among the questions he posed were how many new investigations the government plans to undertake, whether firms that have dismissed US workers will receive special scrutiny, and how agencies will ensure compliance with rules that require employers to prioritise qualified US candidates before turning to H-1B hires.

He also asked how the Labour Secretary's new requirement to "personally certify the initiation of investigations" will be managed, seeking assurances that the step will not add "red tape," create opportunities for "corruption or pay-to-play," or slow down enforcement actions.

Delhi court to hear money laundering complaint against Robert Vadra

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) A Delhi court is expected to hear on Saturday the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) submissions after the agency named businessman Robert Vadra, son-in-law of former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, as an accused in a money laundering case connected to UK-based defence dealer Sanjay Bhandari.

Last month, the ED filed a prosecution complaint before Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to officials, Vadra's statement under PMLA was recorded in July this year. The federal anti-money laundering agency alleged Robert Vadra's connection with overseas financial transactions and properties connected to Bhandari, who is already facing charges of holding undisclosed assets abroad.

Bhandari, who left India in 2016, has since been declared a fugitive economic offender by a Delhi court. The ED's investigation stems from a series of income-tax raids conducted on Bhandari in 2016, which reportedly uncovered emails and documents pointing to his links with

Vadra and his associates. The ED has previously attached multiple properties in India said to be linked to Vadra or entities associated with him, claiming they represent proceeds of crime generated through Bhandari's offshore dealings.

Meanwhile, in a related matter, the ED has told a Special Court that Vadra received Rs 58 crore as proceeds of crime from a tainted land deal in Gurugram.

Of this, Rs 53 crore was routed through Sky Light Hospitality and another Rs 5 crore through Blue Breeze Trading. The ED said these funds were allegedly utilised by Vadra to acquire immovable properties, make investments, advance loans, and settle liabilities of his group companies.

As part of its investigation, the Central agency provisionally attached 43 immovable properties worth Rs 38.69 crore, identified as direct or value equivalent to proceeds of crime. Properties listed by the agency include land in Bikaner, Rajasthan; units in Good Earth City Centre, Gurugram; units in Bectech Business Tower, Mohali; and residential units in Jay Ambe Township, Ahmedabad.—IANS

If Hindus are attacked, Humayun Kabir, Mamata govt will be responsible: VHP on Babri Masjid plan

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) spokesperson Vinod Bansal stated on Saturday that if Hindus are attacked in West Bengal under the pretext of the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary, then suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be held responsible.

These remarks came as December 6, Saturday, marks the 33rd anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

Kabir had announced that he would lay the foundation stone of Babri Masjid in West Bengal's Murshidabad on December 6 -- a statement that drew widespread criticism -- while disregarding the concerns raised by Raj Bhawan over law and order, resulting in his suspension from the Trinamool.

Reacting to this, the VHP spokesperson took to X and said, "If Hindus are attacked anywhere under the pretext of Babri, Humayun Kabir, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and the state administration will be held responsible."

Recalling the Murshidabad vio-

lence of April, Bansal claimed that Kabir is "plotting a new violence in the name of Babri".

"Not even nine months have passed since the atrocities and deadly attacks on minority Hindus in Bengal's Murshidabad district, yet the local former TMC MLA is plotting new violence in the name of Babri!" he said.

The VHP spokesperson further asserted that Kabir is trying to become the 'Jinnah of Bengal' by wooing the "Jihadi vote bank".

"Humayun Kabir may not have the blood of Babur, but it seems the spirit of that foreign invader has certainly infiltrated him. This same spirit is inspiring this fanatic to build the Babri Masjid, while easily amassing petrodollars and zakat money from home! Furthermore, this fanatic appears to be trying to become the Jinnah of Bengal by courting the Jihadi vote bank," he said.

Bansal said that Kabir is openly "defying" the Supreme Court's decision on the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple case, and is "engaging in cheap politics to incite communal tension in Bengal and the

entire country by inciting his Jihadi group."

"Someone should tell this Mir Baqi, who lacks any understanding of the country's history, justice, Babar's tomb in Afghanistan, was reduced to dust 33 years ago. If Babri must be rebuilt, go and build it there. Meanwhile, the decision on Shri Ram Janmabhoomi has now become the ultimate truth of the world," he added.

Warning of law and order concerns in Bengal, Bansal said, "The venom being spread in the name of Babri against the Hindus of Bengal, already reeling from the terror of Bangladeshi infiltrators and Jihadi fanatics, can easily be understood to have extremely serious consequences on the law and order situation in the state." If the state government truly respects the law, the VHP spokesperson said, it should immediately take strict action to stop the "misdeed of the Mughal-loving MLA". "The faith of millions of Hindus is not a political toy that any crazy MLA can play with to further his Muslim appeasement business," he said.

UP on high alert on Babri Masjid demolition anniversary

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Security has been intensified across Uttar Pradesh ahead of December 6, the anniversary of the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition, with authorities placing Ayodhya and Mathura, two of the most sensitive locations in the state — on the highest alert. Police forces have been instructed to remain vigilant, and multi-layered security arrangements have been activated to prevent any untoward incidents.

In several cities, a high alert has been declared in anticipation of the anniversary and in view of the events that unfolded in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

In Mathura, barricades have been erected around the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi complex and the Shahi Eidgah Mosque, where security personnel have been deployed in large numbers. The entire area has been divided into two zones, four super zones, and eight sectors to enable systematic surveillance. Authorities are monitoring the region using both CCTV networks and drone cameras. Similar heightened security measures have been put in place in Ayodhya as well.

In Vrindavan, the Banke Bihari

Temple, Prem Mandir, and other prominent temples are witnessing tight security. Police teams are conducting checks around these religious sites, screening vehicles and monitoring visitor movement. Personnel from the Agra-Aligarh range have also been stationed in the dis-



trict to support local law enforcement. Units of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) are on standby. In addition, police officers in plain clothes have been posted near major temples and mosques to monitor crowd behaviour and ensure swift response if required.

The security build-up is also influenced by the long-standing dispute surrounding the Shahi Idgah

Mosque in Mathura. The Hindu side claims that the mosque was constructed during the reign of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb after demolishing a temple believed to mark the birthplace of Lord Krishna. The matter is currently being heard by the Supreme Court, adding further sensitivity to the region.

December 6 remains a polarising date, observed as 'Shaurya Diwas' by certain Hindu organisations and as 'Black Day' by several Muslim groups. Because of these contrasting observances, the day requires careful policing and preventive measures to maintain communal harmony. Ayodhya carries the deepest historical memory of December 6, 1992, when the

Babri Masjid was brought down, triggering decades of legal disputes and political movements linked to the site. The Court instructed the Central and Uttar Pradesh governments to form a trust to oversee the construction and administration of a Ram temple, and simultaneously directed that five acres of land in Ayodhya be allotted to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque.

Sreeleela posts pictures with Allu Arjun as she's 'grateful' for 'Kissik' from 'Pushpa 2'

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) As the film "Pushpa: The Rule" completed a year since its release in cinemas, actress Sreeleela celebrated one year of the song "Kissik" from the film with a string of memories featuring Allu Arjun and moments from the sets.



Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Jagapathi Babu, Sunil and Rao Ramesh.

Sreeleela took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of images and videos from the sets of the song. A few even featured Arjun and the director Sukumar.

"1 year of KISSIK #GRATEFUL," she wrote as the caption, along with the track playing as the background score.

It follows Pushpa Raj, a labourer-turned-red sandalwood smuggler, as he faces growing threats from his enemies, including SP Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat. The film set several box office records, grossing over Rs.1,800 crore worldwide, making it

the second highest-grossing film in India, the highest-grossing Indian film of 2024, the second-highest-grossing Telugu film of all time, and the third-highest-grossing Indian film worldwide. Talking about Sreeleela, she will be seen in director Sudha Kongara's eagerly-awaited period film, 'Parasakthi', featuring actor Sivakartheeyan in the lead.

Kapil reveals why he's 'officially become the winner of Indian Idol'

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma crowned a number with renowned singer Shreya Ghoshal celebrated the moment by declaring himself as the "winner of Indian Idol."

Kapil celebrated Shreya Ghoshal's brilliant



liance, affectionately saying, "Indian Idol toh Saalon se chal raha hai, lekin Shreya ji, aap gaye toh noor aa gaya hai."

merising duet on the timeless classic "Tum Aa Gaye Ho, Noor Aa Gaya Hai" from the 1975 film "Aandhi", starring Sanjeev Kumar and Suchitra Sen. The film was directed by Gulzar.

Kapil shared that singing alongside Shreya Ghoshal felt nothing short of a dream-come-true moment for him.

He admitted that the moment had "absolutely made his day," capturing how special the duet was for him. The story is based on a chance meeting of an estranged couple after several years, when wife Aarti Devi, now a leading politician, happens to stay in the hotel run by her husband during an election campaign. The movie promises to bring back the madness, with Kapil's character now caught in an even more colourful, multicultural marital tangle.

Deepika Singh: Being an actor-dancer always helped me

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) Popular television actress Deepika Singh shared how a long-forgotten choreography she once watched online came to her rescue during a rushed shoot sequence and shared that being an actor-dancer always helped her.



Deepika took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself along with her "Mangal Lakshmi" co-star dancing on the title track of the 1999 film "Taal".

For the caption, she wrote in the caption: "Nothing we learn in this world is ever wasted. If it's good, it will serve some good purpose in the future. That happened this day when we were supposed to dance on set on the same(sic)." Revealing why

being an actor-dancer has helped her, Deepika wrote: "Being an Actor Dancer always helped me. Many times on set. "But As I got a chance to dance on "taal" her choreography clicked me. We hardly had 15 minutes to finish this scene @theashiyasharma also followed the same choreography instructed by me." Talking about "Taal",

the film is directed by Subhash Ghai. It stars Anil Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Akshaye Khanna, Amrith Puri and Alok Nath. Deepika is currently seen on the show 'Mangal Lakshmi', which is an official adaptation of Kannada TV series 'Bhagyalakshmi', also stars Sanika Amit, Naman Shaw and Shubham Dipta.

Shah Rukh Khan recalls going bowling in London during the 'DDLJ' shoot

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol were recently in London to unveil the bronze statue of their characters Raj and Simran at Leicester Square, commemorating the 30th year of the iconic film "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge".



During a media interaction in London, SRK recalled a few beloved memories of going bowling at night in London during the 'DDLJ' shoot.

He shared that to shoot a film abroad used to be a different experience back then.

King Khan was heard saying, "It was very exciting at that time to go abroad and shoot, it still is, but you know, those were the initial days when you

went and shot. For me, Dilwale was really the longest-running film shot abroad in Switzerland and in London, so it was really exciting. Post that we have

small areas had been designated for bowling and shopping on the outskirts. It was very exciting, a very exciting time to roam around in London."

Shah Rukh further revealed that as "DDLJ" was being made, they had no idea that the film would become this phenomenon. "I'm very fortunate to have been part of cinema like this and very grateful. I think none of us, to be honest, had any idea DDLJ would become this in people's hearts. I am sure Aditi (Aditya Chopra) and all felt it would be a good film and everybody would like it, but I don't think anyone would have ever imagined what it became and what it stands for," SRK shared.--IANS

Dipika Kakar recalls cancer scare: Wanted to come back fine for Ruhaan

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) Television actress Dipika Kakar has opened up about one of the most vulnerable moments of her life, recalling the day she broke down in fear of a possible cancer diagnosis, and how her only prayer was to return healthy for her son Ruhaan. Dipika along with her husband Shoaib Ibrahim was speaking to actress Rashmi Desai on her podcast Rashmi Ke Dil Se Dil Tak on YouTube, an unscripted celebrity talk show produced by VidUnit. The duo shares how they evolved from co-stars and friends on the Sasural Simar Ka set to life partners and the actress' cancer journey.

Dipika shared: "That was the first time that I sat in the car and I had to give Ruhaan to my mother as he was crying so much because I couldn't feed

him. And I just broke down. At that moment, a prayer came from my heart that if it's cancer, I don't have a complaint. I just want to get better. I know you will make me better. And then we both broke down there."

She said that word itself is very scary for anyone. "I mean, if anyone is told that they have cancer, something breaks inside them. So that's why Shoaib and I did all the crying in that lobby. We both hugged each other and cried there. But after that, we both decided that we wouldn't cry anymore."

Dipika added: "She was like, we both felt that okay. Honestly, I have no complaints about not looking good or gaining weight or whether my hair will fall out. You know, throughout all of this, I always told him that I just want to come back fine and be here for Ruhaan."

Malti Chahar on Pranit More getting emotional during her eviction & their bond in the 'BB' house

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) Malti Chahar has been evicted from the 'Bigg Boss 19' house. Speaking exclusively with IANS post eviction, she opened up about her equation with one of the finalists, Pranit



friends. "You saw us for twenty-four hours. When I wasn't feeling well, he took care of me; when he wasn't well, I cooked for him," she said. She added that she has a lot of common personality traits with Pranit, such as empathy and sense of humour.

"He's empathetic, and I'm empathetic too, so we connected. He has a great sense of humour; I'm funny as well. When two funny people talk, it's always enjoyable. I liked sharing my stories with him; he liked listening, and we laughed together," she added. Malti also went on to explain, "That's all it was — a cute friendship. Nothing more. We never discussed any romantic angle.

More. During her interaction with IANS, Malti was asked, "Viewers felt there was a strong comfort level between you and Pranit. How would you describe your equation with him?" To this, Malti clarified that they are 'simply good

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Sarang team flew Dhruv choppers in aerial acrobatics display

THE INDIAN Air Force's (IAF) Sarang Helicopter Display Team is set to add splendour to the skies with its precision aerial acrobatics in Ankleshwar in Gujarat on December 6 and 7, flying their indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruv. In a statement issued on Friday, the IAF said that the Sarang team, based out of Sulur Air Force Station in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, has arrived in Gujarat with its five modified helicopters to perform the high-skill aerobatic manoeuvres and captivate the crowd with their signature formations of the 'Wine Glass', 'Diamond' and India – a tribute to the spirit of the nation as well as the "heart maneuver."

Ahmedabad: Traffic trouble after Subhash bridge connecting Civil hospital, Gandhinagar, shut for 5 days

Ahmedabad City on Thursday was affected by a massive traffic jam and slow moving traffic in the Shastrinagar and Shahibaug areas, which are located on two ends of Subhash bridge spanning the Sabarmati river. The jam was triggered after the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) shut the bridge down after a detailed inspection. The closure of the bridge coincided with the evening rush hour traffic. The bridge is one of the routes to reach the airport and Ahmedabad Civil Hospital.

Minimum temperature stabilises at 17.1°C in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad: The minimum temperature in Ahmedabad registered at 17.1°C, which is 1.9 degrees higher than the seasonal normal, closely tracking the 17.6°C recorded on Thursday. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, this trend is expected to continue, with the minimum temperature likely hovering around 17°C on Saturday. Conversely, the maximum temperature provided a slightly cooler feel, recording 28.8°C, which is 2.1 degrees lower than the normal maximum. The IMD's state-wide forecast indicates that there will be no major change in minimum temperatures across Gujarat over the next few days, influenced by easterly winds prevailing at the lower atmospheric levels over the region. In terms of cold pockets, Naliya recorded the lowest minimum temperature in the state at 11.6°C. Other chilly spots included Kandla at 13.6°C, Rajkot at 14.2°C, Vadodara at 14.4°C, and Bhuj at 14.6°C.

SIR: 32.5L voters permanently relocated, 17 lakh deceased

Gandhinagar: The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Gujarat, announced significant progress in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The revision has identified a massive number of discrepancies: 32.52 lakh voters were flagged as permanently relocated, and 17.3 lakh voters were identified as deceased, ensuring the integrity of the state's voter data. During the enumeration phase, more than 7 lakh voters were found absent from their registered addresses, and over 3.36 lakh duplicate voters were detected. The CEO's office highlighted that the full digitization of enumeration forms (EFs) has been completed in 21 assembly constituencies, with Dang district leading the state with 94.46% EF digitization.

Y2B Launches Women-Led Growth Initiatives to Strengthen India's Real Estate Ecosystem

Ahmedabad, Yes2Broker, popularly referred to as Y2B, India's first progressive real estate platform, has announced a series of strategic, women-focused initiatives aimed at expanding its statewide reach and accelerating inclusive growth across the real estate landscape. As part of its long-term vision, Y2B is introducing structured programs that bring together incentives, entrepreneurship opportunities, and skill development, positioning the company as a catalyst for greater transparency and modernization in the sector.

A key highlight of the rollout is the #Yes2Her campaign, designed to encourage women-led property ownership. Under this initiative, customers purchasing property in a woman's name will be eligible for an assured cashback of ₹1,00,000. Reinforcing this commitment, Y2B is also launching a nationwide program to onboard women as Channel Partners with the aim of creating one of India's largest women-driven sales and distribution networks in real estate. These efforts are expected to significantly enhance the company's presence across major metros as well as high-potential emerging markets. In addition to the assured cashback, women property owners in India enjoy several government and financial benefits, making this initiative even more rewarding. Many states offer reduced stamp duty rates for women, leading to significant savings during property registration. Women also often qualify for lower home loan interest rates, reducing the overall cost of ownership.

Project sites of country's first bullet train to be open to young engineers for first-hand experience: Rail Corporation

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, The NHRCL has invited technical institutions in proximity along the alignment of the bullet train in Gujarat and Maharashtra to enroll for the programme for educational visits to the bullet train construction sites. In a first, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) on Friday announced that the ongoing project site of India's first bullet train – Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor – will be open to young engineers to gain first-hand experience and practical exposure. The NHRCL has invited technical institutions in proximity along the alignment of the bullet train in Gujarat and Maharashtra to enroll for the programme for education-



al visits to the bullet train construction sites. The NHRCL said in a statement, "Engineering and technical institutes have been invited to participate in educational visits to Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train construction sites. Under this programme, the young engineers will gain first-hand understanding of the bullet train project's construction methodology, observe ongoing works such as viaduct construction, sta-

tion building, bridge construction, overhead electrification, track works etc. Such exposure will allow them to understand the scale, complexity and precision involved in building India's first bullet train project." The NHRCL said it would organise "guided tours" to the construction sites and interactive sessions with project engineers and site management teams is the core component of this initiative. "These interactions

will enable the engineers to develop a deeper understanding of such large scale infrastructure projects. It will be a unique platform to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical insights... Special emphasis will be given to showcase quality assurance and safety practices being followed at bullet train construction sites," NHRCL said. The institutions showing interest will have to clear the eligibility parameters to be able to visit the site locations available on the NHRCL website in coordination with the high speed rail corporation. Out of the 508 km, 323 km viaduct and 399 km pier work has been completed so far. The route has also seen completion of 17 River bridges, which includes five pre-stressed concrete and nine Steel bridges.

Children's Research University in faces heat over unfilled reserved PhD seats

Ahmedabad: The Scheduled Caste-Scheduled Tribe Federation has submitted a written complaint alleging serious irregularities and violation of reservation norms in the PhD admission process at the state-run Children's Research University. According to the representation, the university failed to follow mandatory reservation policies while allocating seats across various subjects.

The university announced 114 PhD seats in different disciplines. However, after completing the admission process, only 61 candidates were granted admission. The Federation alleges that despite the adequate availability of seats, a disproportionately high number of candidates from the general category were included in the final merit list. Several SC/ST candidates who reached the group discus-

sion and personal interview (GDPI) stage were reportedly denied admission, even though they possessed qualifications comparable to those of selected general-category candidates.

The complaint cites multiple examples. In Sanskrit, seven seats were advertised, but only six candidates were admitted, allegedly leaving the reserved-category seat vacant. In psychology, 18 seats were available, but only nine candidates were admitted. An ST candidate who cleared GDPI was not selected despite nine seats remaining vacant. Similarly, in Gujarati, 11 candidates reached the GDPI round, yet only five were granted admission. While all general-category candidates who reached GDPI were admitted, only four out of 10 reserved-category candidates received seats.

Govt aims to boost cooperatives' share in GDP 3-fold: Shah

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, UNION HOME and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that as part of a "definite strategy", the government is planning to increase the contribution of the cooperative sector by three-fold in comparison to 2023.

Shah was addressing an Earth Summit organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) in Gandhinagar. IMAI is a not-for-profit industry body with more than 700 members, including Indian and multinational corporations and start-ups.

Shah said in Hindi, "On completing 75 years of Independence, 130 crore people of the country had collectively resolved that when 100 years of Independence would be completed, our country will be number one in every sector in the world. And if we want to fulfill this resolve, it cannot be done merely



by figures... The idea of a thoroughly developed India includes welfare of every citizen. And this cannot be done without cooperative, agriculture, animal husbandry and rural development."

"As part of a definite strategy, we have decided that in a few years we will form one cooperative in every (village) panchayat. We will make more than 50 crore active members of cooperatives and increase the cooperative's share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) three-fold in comparison to 2023." Shah also highlighted the importance of rural development, agriculture

and cooperation in the development of the country and how under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the present government has revived it after coming to power in 2014.

He said, "In 1930, Gandhiji had said that if India wants to progress, the idea of India's development cannot be formed while keeping aside villages. Unfortunately, after Independence, within a few years, we forgot this mantra of the Mahatma. Three important elements of rural development – agriculture, animal husbandry and cooperation – were ignored.

Sabarkantha Dist. Collect. Lalit Narayan Singh Sandhu started the celebration of Armed Forces Flag Day by contributing

Himmatnagar, The District Collector's appeal to participate in the Armed Forces Flag Day by contributing to the funds of the Armed Forces Flag Day as part of the celebration of the Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated all over the country to commemorate and honor the courage, bravery, and unique sacrifice of the army personnel. The District Collector started the celebration of the Armed Forces Flag Day by contributing.



The soldiers who protect the motherland make a great sacrifice for the lives in the war with terrorists on the border. The District Collector appealed to the families of such

martyred soldiers, soldiers and ex-servicemen to contribute to the extent possible for the welfare of them and to provide them with financial assistance in times of crisis/illness. It is worth mentioning that the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund is used for various welfare works for the families of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the nation so that they can live their lives with dignity and for the rehabilitation of the service veterans and their families due to physical injuries sustained in military operation (Maganjit vanzara)

Nitin Gadkari gives green signal for two flyovers in Surat's Hazira: BJP MLA

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, Union Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari has given green signal to build two



flyovers at Hazira and Ichhapore in Surat at a cost of Rs 190.69 crore, BJP MLA of Choryasi Sandeep Desai said on Friday.

The flyovers will come up on National Highway 53, which connects Surat to Dhulia in Maharashtra, the MLA said.

The decision was made after Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil and the MLA met Gadkari in New Delhi on Thursday and made a request for the same, Desai said.

"Hazira and Ichhapore areas have manufacturing units of several multinational companies such as L&T, Kribhco, AMNS,

Reliance, GAIL, NTPC and Essar Port and Adani Port. Villages such as Kawas, Mora, Damka, Bhatlaj and Rajgari are located on the same road from Dhulia in Maharashtra to Hazira in Surat, along the NH 53. Employees of these industries as well as the containers carrying goods commute on the same roads, creating traffic snarls in the area," Desai told. The Indian Express. After coming across traffic issues at Kawas Chokdi in Hazira, Desai made a representation to Patil, highlighting the problems faced by local people.

A'bad has won CWG 2030 bid, now prepare for 2036 Olympics: Shah

Gandhinagar: Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah said in Ahmedabad on Friday that even as Ahmedabad has won the bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, the city should ready itself to welcome the 2036 Olympic Games as well.

Speaking at the valedictory function of the Sansad Khelkud Mahotsav for the Gandhinagar LS constituency held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, Shah said, "Gujarat has won the bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030. Residents

of Ahmedabad, prepare yourselves for hosting the 2036 Olympic Games as well". He added, "I completely believe this, that when the Olympic Games are held in the country in 2036, India's medal tally will be among the top five nations." He added that over the next four years, Ahmedabad will be hosting 13 international sporting events, and Gujarat has created the country's biggest "sports movement".

Shah said that the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex has become an international-level sports complex

and over the past decade, many other such sports complexes have come up in the country.

He said that in 2014, the Union govt's sports budget was Rs 800 crore, which increased to Rs 4,000 crore in 2025.

Shah said that five years ago, PM Modi suggested an idea at a meeting of MPs that they should organise sports competitions in their respective constituencies. "Today, that idea is being implemented in 300 LS constituencies and is instrumental in identifying

sporting talent across the country," Shah said.

Earlier in the day, the Union home minister presided over a number of events in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. He inaugurated 'Swadeshotsav 2025' organised by Swarnim Jagaran Manch and Swarnim Bharat Varsh Foundation. He also presided over Swadeshotsav 2025, inaugurated the Ahmedabad Shopping Festival, presided over the Earth Summit organised by NABARD, and inaugurated schools and lakes in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

"We Are Digitally Strengthening India's Villages": Amit Shah says Gandhinagar edition of Earth Summit

Gandhinagar, In a landmark moment for India's cooperative and rural development landscape, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation, Government of India, inaugurated the second edition of the Earth Summit at the Mahatma Mandir Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar. Marking a decisive step toward digitally empowered cooperatives, he launched Sahakar Sarathi Private Limited, a pioneering shared-services technology platform aimed at transforming the rural cooperative banking ecosystem.



Reinforcing the Summit's focus on future-ready rural finance, Shri Shah also released the NABARD-BCG report, 'The Future of Rural Banking, which presents strategic pathways to strengthen rural credit access, enhance service delivery, and boost the institutional efficiency of India's rural banking sector.

Delivering the inaugural address, Shri Shah, who graced the event as Chief Guest, said, "Our rural economy budget has

grown 3.75 times since 2014, a clear reflection of the government's unwavering commitment to India's villages. Cooperatives, Rural Development and Animal Husbandry remain central to our development approach, and NABARD will continue to strengthen them. We are building a future where 50 crore Indians participate in cooperatives and their contribution to the nation's GDP will increase three-fold, making rural India a decisive force in achieving Viksit Bharat.

To strengthen cybersecurity, compliance, and operations, the Minister announced Expert-as-a-Service platforms—CISO Sarathi, Tax Sarathi, CBS Sarathi, and Regulatory Compliance Sarathi—as well as staff training

through Shiksha Sarathi and sector-wide collaboration forums for CTOs and CISOs. Additional services such as bank in migration, AI-driven Cross Sell Sarathi, Campaign Sarathi, and a unified Collections Sarathi call-centre service were also introduced.

Bhupendrabhai Patel, CM of Gujarat and Guest of Honour, highlighted the state's commitment to rural innovation and cooperative-driven progress, stating, "Gujarat is India's growth engine, and it is ready to take lead in rural tech sectors covered by Earth Summit."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shaji K.V., Chairman, NABARD, said, "Sahakar Sarathi is not just a digital platform. It is a new future for our cooperative

banking sector - a future where every PACS, every dairy and agricultural government organization and every rural community will get better technology, better services, and a strong network." Shankarbhaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Shri Jethabhai Ghelabhai Ahir, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Dr Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India; Dr. Anju Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary - Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Cooperation Department, Government of Gujarat; and Mr Ajay Bhai Patel, Chairman, Gujarat StCB joined the dignitaries on the dais during the session.

India Post inaugurated Gujarat's first Gen-Z themed revamped Post Office at IIT Gandhinagar

IIT Gandhinagar becomes Gujarat's first Gen-Z themed Post Office, offering a range of youth-centric services

India Post has taken a major step toward modernization by inaugurating Gujarat's first Gen-Z themed, revamped IIT Gandhinagar Post Office —transformed under a nationwide initiative to connect more closely with Generation Z. This initiative, guided by the vision of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, aims to re-imagine Post Offices as vibrant, student-centric, technology-enabled spaces that truly resonate with young citizens. This transformation is part of a national initiative covering Revamp of 46 existing Post Offices located within educational campuses by 15th of December.

The Gen-Z themed revamped IIT Gandhinagar Post Office was inaugurat-

ed on 5th December, 2025 by the Chief Postmaster General, Gujarat Circle Shri Ganesh V. Sawalesh-warkar, and Director, IIT Gandhinagar Prof. Rajat Moona in the esteemed presence of General Manager (Finance) Dr. Rajeev Kandpal and Postmaster General, North Gujarat Region Shri Krishna Kumar Yadav. To mark the occasion, a Special Cover on "IITGN: First Gen Z Themed Post Office of Gujarat" and a permanent pictorial cancellation of the IIT Gandhinagar Post Office were also released.

On this occasion, Chief Postmaster General Shri Ganesh V. Sawalesh-warkar said that the IIT Gandhinagar Post Office has been designed keeping in mind the needs, creativity, modern outlook, and technological expectations of today's youth. Its look and feel fully reflect Gen-Z vibes and culture. The redesigned has been carried out with the active participation of IIT Students from the IIT Gandhinagar, whose ideas have shaped the murals, interi-

or themes, and promotional material—giving the Post Office a distinct youth-driven identity.

Director IIT Gandhinagar, Prof. Rajat Moona appreciated the Department of Posts for this Gen-Z Post Office initiative and expressed hope that the maximum number of students would benefit from the Department of Posts' services and the modern facilities offered. The "Tree of Life of IITGN" mural, created by IIT Gandhinagar students in Post Office, highlights the rich avian diversity found on the IITGN campus. The artwork features a flourishing tree adorned with the very birds that inhabit the institute's natural surroundings, symbolising IIT Gandhinagar's deep connection with its vibrant ecosystem.

Postmaster General Shri Krishna Kumar Yadav told that modern amenities such as Wi-Fi, cafeteria, a mini-library, Parcels, Gyan Post, Parcel Packaging Services, Philately, Post Office Savings Scheme, Postal Life Insurance, India Post Payments Bank,

Speed Post discounts for Students, QR-based digital payment facilities in Gen Z IIT Post Office makes it more contemporary and accessible. The revamped IIT Gandhinagar Post Office now stands as a symbol of youth empowerment, institutional collaboration, and public-service modernization.

On this occasion, Director Postal Services (HQ) Shri Surekh Raghunathan, Sr. Superintendent, Railway Mail Service Shri Piyush Rajak, Senior Superintendent of Gandhinagar Shri Shishir Kumar, Dy. Superintendent Shri M M Prajapati, Shri SK Verma, Assistant Director Shri Varis M. Vahora, Shri Ritul Gandhi, Assistant Superintendent Shri H N Kantar, Shri Bhavin Prajapati, Shri Ronak Shah and Inspector Shri V K Prajapati, Shri Chirag Suthar, Postmaster Shri Suntu Kumar Jaiswal and from IIT Gandhinagar Prof. Abhay Raj Gautam, Prof. Manish Kumar, Prof. Harmeet Singh, Registrar Shri Prem Kumar along with other officials and students were present.

Rights body accuses Pakistan of systematic neglect of Hindu and Sikh heritage

Islamabad, Dec 6 (IANS) A leading minority rights organisation accused Pakistan of deliberate neglect, institutional apathy and decades-long refusal to preserve the religious heritage of the Hindu and Sikh communities - the Pakistani authorities claimed to protect.

According to the Voice of Pakistan Minority (VOPM), 98 per cent of Hindu and Sikh places of worship in Pakistan are either abandoned, locked, illegally occupied or left to rot - a situation the rights group said is not an administrative oversight but an indictment of Pakistan's power structure itself.

Citing a latest finding laid before Pakistan's Parliamentary Committee on Minority Caucus, the rights body stated that out of 1,285 Hindu worship sites and 532 gurdwaras re-

corded on paper, only 37 remain functional.

"What makes this neglect more painful is the pattern of systemic discrimination surrounding it. While temples crumble, school curricula continue to carry hateful or discriminatory content. Minority students receive fewer opportunities, with no equivalent scholarship or quota benefits to those offered to Muslim students. Government job representation remains dismally low, and even senior officials frequently skip caucus meetings where minority issues are meant to be addressed.

The rights body noted the tragic irony of Pakistan proudly showcasing sites such as Kartarpur to the world while hundreds of other temples and gurdwaras across the country lie in ruins.



A ROYAL OWN GOAL?

RICHARD KAY: The Andrew problem is now being perceived as the extreme manifestation of a wider culture of excess and questionable royal entitlement. And it is why the Labour-dominated House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is poised to investigate the terms under which other royals occupy properties owned by the Crown Estate, an official body that has a duty to maximise the value of its £15 billion land and property portfolio for the public purse.

New US National Security Strategy underscores India's Indo-Pacific role: Expert

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) The White House's newly released National Security Strategy (NSS) sends a clear signal of continuity in Washington's long-term approach to India, senior Indo-Pacific analyst Lisa Curtis said Friday, emphasising that the document "highlights India's role in the Indo-Pacific" and reaffirms bipartisan support for closer strategic alignment.

Curtis, a former senior director for South Asia at the US National Security Council and now a leading voice at the Centre for a New American Security (CNAS), said the strategy's multiple references to India indicate strong institutional backing inside the US government.

"It highlights the Quad," she said, noting that the NSS "tells me that, you know, over the long term, the Trump administration recognises the importance of India and its relationship with India."

Curtis described the



NSS as a product of deep interagency consensus. "The national security strategy is developed over a period of time. It requires a lot of thought and coordination among the different government agencies. So it's not something to take lightly. I think it has a lot of meaning, and it should come as a reassurance to India about how the Trump administration views India," she told IANS in an interview.

Curtis linked the positive messaging on India to the broader trajectory of US-India ties despite recent irritants. India's economic and defence links to the US, she argued, continue to carry strategic weight. She noted that Washington's pledge to expand trade with India to "500 billion by 2030" compared with India-Russia trade targets demonstrates the scale and ambition of the bilateral relationship.

At the same time, Curtis pointed to areas of concern, including technology security risks from Russia's outreach to India. She cited reporting that "Russia is trying to use India to create a sovereign system of technology sep-

arate from the West... and that it's trying to integrate into India's cybersecurity and IT networks," warning that this "would not be helpful for India."

She added that "Russia has a very close relationship with China," raising questions about where sensitive Indian technologies might ultimately flow.

Curtis argued that the Indo-Pacific was central to the strategy's framing. India, she said, faces strategic decisions on whether it "is gonna benefit more by cooperating with the US, for instance, in the

The 2025 strategy emphasises competition with China, strengthening alliances, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific—a framework in which India is increasingly regarded as a central partner.

India-US strategic ties have expanded across defence, technology, maritime security, and critical and emerging technologies over the past decade.

Rights body slams trial of Pakistani human rights lawyers as 'weaponisation of law'

Quetta, Dec 6 (IANS) The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), a prominent human rights group, has condemned the trial of Pakistani lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha, alleging they are being targeted for a crime they did not commit, and mentioned that the proceedings reflect yet another instance of Pakistani authorities "weaponising the law" against innocent citizens.

The rights body alleged that legal instruments are being employed "not to uphold justice, but to silence those who dare to speak the truth."

Human rights activist and lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband, Advocate Hadi Ali Chattha, were reportedly indicted by an Islamabad court in October in a case linked to alleged controversial social media posts.

"Advocate Imaan Mazari and advocate Hadi Ali have long been dedicated to the protection of human

rights. Their efforts include advocating justice for victims of blasphemy laws, amplifying the voices of the forcibly disappeared, and challenging unconstitutional practices in military courts as well as broader attempts to erode the rule of law," the BYC stated. "Individuals who critique or question the prevailing system are increasingly subjected to legal persecution," it added. The BYC further noted that its own leaders have been detained for the past nine months without due cause, while Pashun Tahafuz Movement leader Ali Wazir has been incarcerated for two years for an offense he did not commit. "Human rights organizations must urgently intervene to address ongoing violations in Pakistan and to prevent the continued misuse of legal mechanisms as tools of intimidation and coercion against human rights defenders," the BYC asserted.

Iraqi presidency denies knowledge of 'terror' designation of Hezbollah, Houthis

Baghdad, Dec 6 (IANS) The Iraqi presidency denies any knowledge of or approval for the designation of Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi group as terrorist groups subject to asset freezes. In a statement issued by its media office on Friday, the Iraqi presidency clarified that it has not received such decisions, adding that only laws passed by Parliament and presidential decrees are sent to the Presidency for review, approval, and publication, Xinhua news agency reported.

It stressed that it became aware of the inclusion of Houthis and Hezbollah on the list only through social media.

The controversy stemmed from a list, released by the country's Committee for Freezing Terrorists' Assets in the official Gazette on November 17, that included Hezbollah and the Houthi group among entities whose funds would be frozen.

The committee said on Thursday that the listing erroneously included the two groups and would be corrected immediately.

US Supreme Court agrees to decide legality of Trump's order to end birthright citizenship

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) The US Supreme Court agreed to decide the legality of President Donald Trump's executive order that seeks to end birthright citizenship, which has been treated as settled law for more than a century.

After taking office on January 20, Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to halt recognition of citizenship for children born after February 19, if neither parent is a US citizen nor a permanent resident, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Trump administration has argued that the constitution does not grant citizenship to the children of "temporary visitors or illegal aliens," because such parents are supposedly not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States in the constitutional sense.

US, Ukrainian negotiators meet in Miami: Report

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) US and Ukrainian negotiators held the second day of talks in Miami, the US state of Florida, continuing discussions on the US-proposed peace plan for the Ukraine crisis, US and Ukrainian officials said Friday, according to a report from US online media outlet Axios.

The report said that the talks came after a roughly five-hour meeting that ended early Wednesday among US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Xinhua news agency reported.

Witkoff and Kushner met Ukrainian officials for two hours on Thursday evening, and resumed talks on Friday morning. They briefed the Ukrainians in detail about their meeting with Putin and presented new ideas to bridge the gaps between the parties, according to the report.

The Ukrainian delegation in Miami is headed by Rustem Umerov, Ukraine's secretary of National Security and Defence Council, and Andrii Hnatov, chief of the general staff of the Ukrainian armed forces, the report said.



FBI Director Kash Patel is under fire for allegedly yelling at his girlfriend's security detail, demanding they drive home one of her drunk friends.



UN chief welcomes signing of peace deal between DR Congo, Rwanda

Norway proposes major purchase of long-range weapons, additional submarines

Oslo, Dec 6 (IANS) The Norwegian government submitted a comprehensive investment proposal to the parliament, aiming to significantly bolster the country's defence capabilities through the acquisition of long-range precision weapons and additional submarines.

According to the proposal, the government plans to spend 19 billion Norwegian kroner (1.88 billion US dollars) on long-range precision fire for the army. This new capability will allow the Norwegian Armed Forces to hit targets at distances of up to 500 km with high precision. "The Army is the



first in the land defence of Norway in peace, crisis and war," said Norwegian Minister of Defence Tore O. Sandvik in a statement.

He described the acquisition as a "strategically important initiative" that will provide the army with significantly greater striking power, reports Xinhua news agency. "Long-range precision weapons have a deterrent effect because they can hit targets far in-

side an adversary's territory if necessary," he added. In a parallel move to strengthen maritime security, the government also proposed expanding its submarine program. Norway intends to acquire two additional submarines, bringing the total number of new vessels to six. To facilitate this expansion, the government has proposed increasing the cost framework for the submarine project by 46 billion Norwegian kroner. This figure covers the unit price increase, contingency reserves, exchange rate adjustments, and the financing of a second production line in Germany.

UN chief welcomes signing of peace deal between DR Congo, Rwanda

United Nations, Dec 6 (IANS) UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the official signing of a deal for peace and prosperity between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, his spokesperson said.

The UN chief emphasised that the agreement represents a critical step towards restoring trust between the DRC and Rwanda and in advancing efforts for lasting peace in eastern DRC, spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement on Friday (local time). Dujarric said the secretary-general also welcomed the significant progress made under both the Doha and the African Union-led processes, and he urged all parties to honour the commitments they have undertaken, reports Xinhua news agency.

"The Secretary-General reiterates that the United Nations, including the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), stands ready to continue supporting all efforts towards sustainable peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region," he said. On Thursday, the presidents of the DRC and Rwanda signed a peace deal in Washington, aimed at ending the decades-long conflict in eastern DRC. First signed on June 27 by the two countries' foreign ministers, the agreement was confirmed after a series of bilateral and trilateral meetings involving the Congolese, Rwandan, and US presidents.

PM Modi most influential leader in geopolitics, says Mary Millben

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) African American singer and longtime India admirer Mary Millben has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "the most influential and the most important leader right now in geopolitics," praising his handling of this week's New Delhi summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin and urging Washington to reset its approach toward India.

In an interview with IANS, Millben said, PM Modi-Putin engagement reflected a "deep alliance" between the two countries and must be read in the broader context of India's expanding global role. "From the perspective of Prime Minister Modi and President Putin, it was a great meeting," she said, adding that "this is certain-



ly a deep alliance between India and Russia, similar in the context of the deep roots and alliance that the United States shares with India."

Millben said PM Modi handled the meeting with characteristic strategic discipline, particularly on areas such as energy and defence. "The Prime Minister was... diplomatic and strategic with his words," she observed, contrasting that with Putin's stronger focus on oil and defence cooperation.

But, she said, PM Modi's approach was rooted in national interest. "At the end of the day, the Prime Minister is going to do what is best for India... Every leader's going to look at what is strategically best for their country."

She argued that PM Modi's stature has placed him at the centre of today's geopolitical calculations. "The Prime Minister... is right now, to date, the most influential and the most important leader in geopolitics. That's irrefutable," she said. "The Prime Minister has positioned India as the most important leader... in geopolitics," she reiterated. Millben, who maintains close ties with President Donald Trump and his team, delivered unusually sharp criticism of the Trump administration's recent posture towards New Delhi.

Bush fire destroys multiple homes in Australian state of New South Wales

New South Wales, Dec 6 (IANS) New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), the lead combat agency for bush fires in the Australian state of NSW, confirmed that multiple homes have been destroyed by fire, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported on Saturday afternoon.

This confirmation came after a live video from the network news helicopter showed at least six properties destroyed on Nimbin Road, near Koolewong, ABC added.

Koolewong is a suburb on the Central Coast of NSW, about an hour's drive from Sydney CBD. ABC also reported that trains were not running on the Central Coast & Newcastle Line due to a fire near the tracks at Koolewong.

Ten killed as car rams into Christmas crowd in France's Guadeloupe

Guadeloupe, Dec 6 (IANS) A Christmas event in Sainte-Anne in the French overseas region of Guadeloupe turned tragic when a vehicle drove into a gathering preparing for festive celebrations, leaving at least 19 victims, including 10 deaths.

Radio Caraibes Internationale Guadeloupe reported that three of the injured were in serious condition. The incident occurred at Schoelcher

Square, located opposite the town hall and the church, where preparations were underway.

The cause of the incident remains unclear, and authorities have launched an investigation. Further details are awaited.

Witnesses quoted by RCI said the driver may have suffered a medical emergency while behind the wheel, although the theory has not been officially confirmed.

India, South Korea explore space cooperation, discuss strengthening ties

Seoul, Dec 6 (IANS) Indian Ambassador to South Korea Gourangal Das and Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) Administrator Yoon Youngbin on Saturday explored areas of space cooperation and ways to build business-to-business

(B2B) engagements in both countries.

The Indian envoy and KASA administrator met at the Indian Embassy in Seoul and held talks on enhancing space cooperation between India and South Korea. According to the Embassy, the discussions stemmed from the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The two

sides explored specific areas of space cooperation and ways to build business-to-business (B2B) engagements between the emerging private space sector in both countries.

The Ambassador also congratulated KASA on the successful fourth NURI rocket launch.

The MoU between KASA and ISRO was signed to jointly pursue space projects, utilise science and technology infrastructure, and operate ground stations.

According to KASA,

this agreement is expected to further strengthen strategic partnerships, particularly with the Global South.

On November 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae-myung met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in South Africa, reaffirming their commitment to deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Following their first meeting, PM Modi had said that India and South Korea seek to work together in sectors like com-

merce, investment, technology, green hydrogen, space, shipbuilding and more.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had stated on June 18 that PM Modi and President Lee "reaffirmed their commitment to deepening India-South Korea Special Strategic Partnership by exploring new avenues for cooperation through partnerships in areas of trade and economy, critical and emerging technologies," including "culture and P2P (people-to-people contacts), among others".



Kristi Noem said the expansion would build on a travel ban already announced in June.



Olympic torch relay celebration cauldron for Milan-Cortina 2026 lit in Italy

Rome, Dec 6 (IANS) Italian President Sergio Mattarella lit the torch relay celebration cauldron for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics on Friday in the heart of the country's capital, Rome.

The lighting ceremony took place at Piazza del Quirinale, where Mattarella used the Olympic torch to light the celebration cauldron. International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni attended the event along with other senior officials, reports Xinhua.

In her speech at the ceremony, Coventry said that the flame symbolizes the true spirit of the Olympic Games, which exists to bring people together, to break down walls, to inspire the dreams of future generations, and can only flourish when every athlete is able to participate without discrimination.

I began playing cricket because of my brother, says Deepti Sharma

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) All-rounder Deepti Sharma opened up about the moment that changed her life, the person who first saw her potential and encouraged her to take up cricket - her elder brother.

Playing their third 50-over World Cup final, India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, beat the Laura Wolvaardt-led side to lift the World Cup trophy and to be named the world champions for the first time in the history of the sport in India. With that, the Indian women's cricket team also ended their ICC Trophy drought.

Deepti Sharma, the seasoned off-spinner topped the wickets chart with 22 scalps, emerging as the Women's World Cup 2025 most successful bowler, and also scored 215 runs, including three half-centuries, to emerge as the MVP of the tournament. In the final against South Africa, Deepti scored a fighting 58 and claimed 5-39 in the final to make it possible.

Justin Greaves' unbeaten 202 lead West Indies to epic draw in Christchurch

Christchurch, Dec 6 (IANS) A mammoth effort from Justin Greaves, 202 not, and an unbeaten 58 from Kemar Roach helped West Indies pull off an epic draw against New Zealand in the first Test at Hagley Oval. Earlier, the West Indies created history, achieving the highest fourth-innings score in Test cricket on Saturday.

With a career-high score of 202 not out, batting all-rounder Justin Greaves led the Windies and briefly threatened to have the unachievable mark of 531 chased down. The Barbados right-hander is only the seventh player in Test history to score a double hundred in a match's fourth innings. Pace bowler Kemar Roach (58*), who also recorded his best-ever innings from 86 Test matches, provided him with fitting support. On Day 5, he faced 233 balls on an extremely flat Christchurch pitch during his exhausting 282-minute stint. With 5/78 in the Kiwis' second innings, Roach, 37, became the fourth-oldest player in a Test to register both a five-wicket haul and a half-century in the same game.



VISAKHAPATNAM, Indian fast bowler Arshdeep Singh strikes early and celebrates with teammates after dismissing South African batter Ryan Rickelton during the third ODI match at ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday. UNI

BCCI And Adidas unveil the all-new team India T20 World Cup 2026 Jersey with a first-ever on-ground reveal in Raipur

Mumbai, adidas, the official kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team, in partnership with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), unveiled the all-new Team India T20 World Cup 2026 jersey at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur. In a first-of-its-kind moment, fans inside the stadium became the very first to witness the jersey as a life-size version was dramatically unfurled on the field during the India vs South Africa ODI, turning the reveal into a stadium-wide celebration of Indian cricket.

This landmark reveal reflects the shared ambition of adidas and BCCI to bring fans closer to the game and to make the jersey a powerful symbol of unity between players,

fans, and the nation.

The new jersey blends a modern high-performance silhouette with bold, nostalgic design cues. Drawing inspiration from the iconic striped India jerseys of the 1990s,

contemporary fabrics incorporating adidas' latest CLIMACOOL+ materials wick sweat faster, keeping players cooler for longer. Perforated wide 3-stripe tapes enable ultimate breathability, while strategically

placed mesh holes on both fabric and trims deliver best-in-class air permeability, ensuring optimal ventilation even in the most demanding climates. Vijay Chauhan, GM, adidas India, said: "adidas is committed to delivering world-class performance gear for our cricketers. Every jersey carries the story of the players who wear it, the fans who champion it, and the heritage it represents. Together with BCCI, we are proud to unveil this jersey amidst its biggest believers—Indian cricket fans. We can't wait to see the country wear these colours with pride at the upcoming tournaments, especially the World Cup."

Indian cricketer and adidas athlete Rohit Sharma said: "From cheering as a young fan to lifting trophies for the country, this game has given me memories for a lifetime. Now, as I step into a new chapter, the pride remains the same. This new Team India jersey reminds us that whether you're in the stands or on the field, we all wear the same colours and believe in the same dream for India."



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FIFA awards first-ever peace prize to Trump ahead of World Cup draw

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) FIFA, the global governing body for international football, on Friday named American President Donald Trump as the first winner of the newly-created FIFA Peace Prize, during the draw ceremony for next year's FIFA Men's World Cup to be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Trump proclaimed that "the world is a safer place now" as he received the award at the draw for the 2026 World Cup in Washington, DC. FIFA will be distributing the teams

Gianni Infantino, the Fifa president and one of Trump's closest sporting allies, presented the honour onstage at the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts on Friday, saying Trump had been selected "in recognition of his exceptional and extraordinary actions to promote peace and unity

around the world". Trump, who has been openly campaigning for the Nobel Peace Prize but has not been nominated this year, was heavily favoured to receive the newly created award because of Infantino's support.

The certificate that Infantino handed Trump recognises the U.S. president for his actions to "promote peace and unity around the world." FIFA says the prize is for "individuals who help unite people in peace through unwavering commitment and special actions." "This is what we want from a leader — a leader that cares about the people," Infantino said about Trump, who wore a gold medal around his neck and was presented with a gold trophy with his name on it that depicts hands holding up the world, as it does in the FIFA World Cup.

Scaloni urges focus as Argentina draw 'favourable' group for 2026 title defence

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni insisted his team will stick to the principles that carried them to glory at Qatar 2022 as the world champions assessed their opponents for next year's global tournament. Drawn into Group J alongside Algeria, Austria and debutants Jordan, the Albiceleste were widely seen back home as having received a favourable path — though Scaloni was quick to stress that nothing would be taken lightly.

"We are going to give the maximum and try to do what we did in the last World Cup, which is to give everything we can, not to give a ball up for lost," Scaloni said. The coach entered the draw

ceremony holding the World Cup trophy, a reminder of the standard Argentina will once again be expected to meet.

While the group was met with optimism in Buenos Aires, Scaloni sounded a note of caution, particularly with a tricky knockout path likely to await Argentina. Should they progress, they will face a last-32 clash with a team from Group H — led by tournament heavyweights Spain and Uruguay, along with Saudi Arabia and Cape Verde.

"As in 2022, we say that there is no easy opponent. You have to play the games. If it is then that the group (H), the crossover is difficult. But first we have to get through and then we'll see," Scaloni said.

Business & Technology

PhonePe's Indus Appstore and Motorola India announce Partnership

Mumbai, Indus Appstore, India's homegrown Android app marketplace, announced today that it has entered into a partnership with Motorola. This partnership enables Indus Appstore to be available on Motorola devices in India. It enables wider distribution for Indus Appstore and delivers a personalised app discovery experience to Motorola users in India.

Indus Appstore offers Indian consumers a meaningful alternative in the app ecosystem, designed specifically around user preference and the country's diverse cultural context. The platform is committed to reaching every Indian smartphone user by offering the experience in 12 Indian languages and English, complete with an AI-powered voice search feature that bypasses the need for typing complex vernacular compositions.

Additionally, the video previews feature allows users to visually experience an app's functionality before downloading.

Indus Appstore creates a favourable environment for developers and apps in India with its fair app store policies. It reduces dependency on a single source of distribution and has paved the way for a viable, competitive alternative. This will only empower and enable an increasing number of local developers and catalyze the Indian developer ecosystem to succeed on the global stage.

Priya M Narasimhan, Chief Business Officer, Indus Appstore expressed her excitement on this landmark development saying, "We are delighted to partner with Motorola to offer an extended set of Indians seamless access to the Indus Appstore ex-

perience, reinforcing our commitment to serving the entire breadth of the Indian market. The app store, that truly embodies the Made-in-India spirit, is looking at an inflection point to revolutionise the Indian app economy. The partnership solidifies our effort to offer Indians a meaningful, viable alternative to not just download but discover regionally relevant apps."

Sharing the excitement T M Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola Mobility India said, "At Motorola, we have always prioritized delivering a premium and locally relevant experience to our users in India, and Indus Appstore perfectly fits this vision. By integrating this homegrown platform, we are offering an innovative app discovery medium that enriches our users' experience that is culturally relevant."

Customs tax reforms next big task: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that after income tax and GST reforms, the next focus of the government is the simplification of the customs tax system.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here, the minister said that the government has moved to a "faceless" income tax system online and now, "the same virtues will have to be brought to customs". She further stated that smuggling of illegal goods is still a serious problem. "We have brought down custom duties in the last two years steadily. Customs is the next big assignment," FM Sitharaman noted. On the Indian rupee vs US dollar debate, Sitharaman said that rupee will find its own natural level, after the currently hit an all-time low of 90 against a US dollar

this week. "Rupee and currency exchange rates are sensitive issues. We raised it much better while we were in the opposition. Inflation rate was so high back then, economy was fragile then and when your currency also takes a hit, it is nobody's bright spark," she said. Finance Minister further stated that "Look at the fundamentals of the economy, where we stand, some factors are very important which position India in a very different league. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised its GDP growth forecast of the Indian economy to a robust 7.3 per cent for 2025-26 from 6.8 per cent earlier, on the back of an improved outlook driven by strong agricultural prospects, GST rate cuts continuing to play out, low inflation and strong balance sheets of corporates and banks.

Y2B Launches Women-Led Growth Initiatives to Strengthen India's Real Estate Ecosystem

A h m e d a b a d , Yes2Broker, popularly referred to as Y2B, India's first progressive real estate platform, has announced a series of strategic, women-focused initiatives aimed at expanding its statewide reach and accelerating inclusive growth across the real estate landscape.

As part of its long-term vision, Y2B is introducing structured programs that bring together incentives, entrepreneurship opportunities, and skill development, positioning the company as a catalyst for greater transparency and modernization in the sector.

A key highlight of the rollout is the #Yes2Her campaign, designed to encourage women-led property ownership. Under this initiative, customers purchasing property in a woman's name will be eligible for an assured cash-

back of Rs. 1,00,000. Reinforcing this commitment, Y2B is also launching a nationwide program to onboard women as Channel Partners with the aim of creating one of India's largest women-driven sales and distribution networks in real estate. These efforts are expected to significantly enhance the company's presence across major metros as well as high-potential emerging markets.

Speaking about these forward-looking initiatives, Ms. Rajni Asari, CEO & Co-founder, Y2B, said that the company remains deeply committed to building a progressive ecosystem driven by transparency, professionalism, and equitable opportunities. They emphasized that women are poised to play a transformational role in shaping the future of India's real estate industry, and Y2B is proud to lead efforts that strengthen participation, ownership, and entrepreneurial growth among women.

Adding to this, Ms. Sugandha Sayal, Co-founder, Y2B, highlighted that empowering women

through structured programs like #Yes2Her will not only boost financial independence but also bring fresh leadership and trust into the real estate sector.

To enable success for its expanding partner base, Y2B is introducing industry-aligned training that covers real estate fundamentals, sales and negotiation techniques, market practices, professional certification, and continuous mentorship.

Through these modules, the company aims to create a skilled, consistent, and performance-driven workforce capable of navigating today's competitive and evolving real estate environment. Channel Partners will also gain access to verified property inventory and qualified buyer leads, improving operational efficiency and helping them achieve stronger sales conversions.

Beyond capacity building, Y2B's model also supports financial independence for women by enabling them to establish their own business units and earn brokerage-based income.

India on track to become \$5 trillion economy amid strong financial inclusion: DFS Secretary

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) India is steadily moving towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy, driven by strong fundamentals, infrastructure-led growth and resilient supply chains, M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, has said.

The last decade has been transformative, and initiatives like Jan Dhan and DPI have expanded financial inclusion from 21 percent in 2008 to over 80 percent today, Nagaraju said here at a conference on AI and digital public infrastructure (DPI), according to an official statement.

He was speaking at the event organised by the National Institute for Smart Government (NISG), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Tripura's Directorate of IT,

in which EY was the Knowledge Partner.

S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY said that government, private sector, civil society and academia should collaborate for optimal working of India's technology ecosystem.

Bhuvnesh Kumar, CEO, UIDAI and CEO, NISG highlighted how NISG's model brings together the speed of government decision-making with the efficiency of private-sector procurement and oversight.

According to Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary, NEST Division, Ministry of External Affairs, the IndiaAI Mission aims to create compute capacity, datasets, foundational models, innovation centres and frameworks that reflect India's realities and priorities. A NISG-EY re-

port released at the event highlighted a strong consensus on technology's role in India's progress and how the convergence of AI and India's DPI stack will accelerate economic empowerment, improve governance, and deliver citizen-centric services at scale.

DPI 2.0, supported by AI, will help meet the aspirations of 1.5 billion Indians. This decade offers the opportunity to evolve digital public infrastructure into digital public intelligence, he added.

The conference brought together policymakers, technologists and industry leaders to deliberate on artificial intelligence and DPI strengthening governance and public service delivery to achieve the vision of a developed India by 2047.

Maharashtra Creates World Record With Highest Number of Solar Agricultural Pumps Installed

Mumbai, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) has successfully driven the installation of 45,911 off-grid solar agricultural pumps in just 30 days, as awarded by the Guinness World Records (GWR).

This achievement positions Maharashtra as the fastest-deploying solar agriculture state in India and second only to China globally in the scale and speed of solar pump deployment by a single administrative region.

Shri Lokesh Chandra, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director, MSEDCL, added, "This success has been possible due to efficient scheme design, transparent vendor empanelment, and strict service-level compliance. Every vendor is mandated to

resolve farmer grievances within three days, failing which the matter escalates to MSEDCL for action.

The State has also adopted a policy to release new agricultural connection through off-grid solar pumps, shifting fully to solar-based solutions. Our pump-sizing policy: 3 HP for up to 2.5 acres, 5 HP for up to 5 acres, and 7 HP for larger holdings. This ensures equitable distribution and maximum benefits to small and marginal farmers."

A Giant Leap in Maharashtra's Energy Transition -Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis said, "Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his transformative PM-

KUSUM initiative, Maharashtra has accelerated the shift toward clean, farmer-centric irrigation. In one month, we have installed more than 45,911 solar pumps across the state, making Maharashtra the No.1 state in India for solar agriculture. This achievement ensures irrigation security, improves productivity and farmer incomes and reduces the dependence on conventional energy sources.

This accomplishment reflects MSEDCL's commitment to accelerating India's clean energy transition, improving farmer livelihoods, and supporting sustainable irrigation through the effective implementation of the PM-KUSUM (Component B) and Magel Tyala Saur Krushi Pump Yojana (MTSKPY) schemes.

Samsung tops global foldable phone shipments in Q3: Report

Seoul, Dec 6 (IANS) Samsung Electronics solidified its top position in the global foldable smartphone market in the third quarter this year, industry data showed on Saturday. Samsung accounted for 64 per cent of all global shipments of foldable smartphones in the July-September period, up 8 percentage points from a year ago, according to a report from Counterpoint Research, a market tracker, reports Yonhap news agency. The company further widened its gap with China's Huawei Technologies Co., whose market share remained unchanged from a year ago at 15 percent during the cited period, the report said. Motorola Mobility ranked third with a seven percent market share, fol-

lowed by China's Honor Device at 4 per cent, Vivo Mobile Communications at 4 per cent and Xiaomi at 2 per cent. "Global shipments of foldable smartphones went up 14 percent on-year and climbed to a record quarterly high, led by the popularity of Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold 7 series," the report said. Foldable smartphones accounted for 2.5 percent of all smartphone shipments made in the third quarter this year, according to the report. Meanwhile, the market tracker expected the global foldable smartphone market to grow rapidly next year due to technical developments and increased demand for premium devices amid a potential release of foldable smartphones from Apple Inc. Reports have said that

Apple is working on a foldable phone, with its release to come as early as 2026. Meanwhile, Samsung has showcased its first tri-fold smartphone, which features two folding hinges and a 10-inch display when fully unfolded, as the tech giant doubles down on its folding phone portfolio. The Galaxy Z TriFold comes with a 6.5-inch cover display when folded, similar to its foldable sibling, the Galaxy Z Fold 7, allowing users to adapt the device for different usage situations, Samsung Electronics said. Samsung will release a single version of the Galaxy Z TriFold with 512 gigabytes of storage in black. The price tag is set at 3.59 million won (US\$2,430).—IANS

India's digital public infrastructure bolstering public finance management services: Govt official

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) India's public finance management practices have digital public infrastructure as its cornerstone, which has enabled substantial fiscal savings, allowing more room for growth-enhancing capital expenditure while maintaining fiscal discipline, according to a senior government official. Anuradha Thakur, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, said that setting up a robust implementation mechanism, through public finance management practices, was as important as having an enabling policy environment. She spoke about about some of the building blocks of India's digital public financial management, specifically the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) — India's unified platform for moni-

toring fund flows from the Union Government to states, agencies, and beneficiaries on real-time basis. Speaking at a seminar on sharing India's PFMS experience for Global South here, the Secretary also emphasised the institutional role of the Civil Accounts Organisation in managing the PFMS platform. She mentioned that the integration of PFMS with the Digital Payments and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has ensured that subsidies and welfare benefits reach directly to the population thereby minimising leakages and duplication. These, combined with the digital tools for revenue generation such as e-invoicing, e-way bills and faceless assessments, have widened the tax base and reduced evasion.

These measures combined have strengthened revenue flows and helped improve fiscal balance without increasing tax rates. The Secretary summarised the learnings of India's fiscal consolidation experience, like rules-based fiscal policy builds discipline and credibility; regular, mandatory disclosures reduce information asymmetries aiding efficient decision making; and Federal Coordination Mechanisms Improve Compliance and alignment of fiscal goals between the federal government and its federating units. TCA Kalyani, Controller General of Accounts of India, highlighted India's long-standing ethos of custodial integrity in public finance and the pivotal role of treasury discipline in governance.

Business Brief III

IndiGo crisis: 11 flights resumed from Jammu, seven cancelled from Srinagar

Jammu, Dec 6 (IANS) IndiGo Airlines on Saturday said it has resumed 11 flights from Jammu airport, but cancelled seven flights from Srinagar airport due to disruption caused by pilot rostering issues. Passengers have been stranded at Jammu airport for five days since the nationwide disruption in IndiGo flight operations. Out of its eight scheduled flights, the airline announced the cancellation of seven flights from Srinagar International Airport. "IndiGo was scheduled to operate 36 flights from the Srinagar airport on Saturday, 18 inbound and 18 outbound. However, owing to rostering issues, IndiGo cancelled seven arriving and as many departing flights. In addition, the to-and-fro movement of another flight from a separate airline was also cancelled. While nine restored services will operate as scheduled at Jammu Airport, two flights - connecting Jammu with Mumbai and Hyderabad - will remain suspended for now," officials said at the Jammu airport. It must be recalled that the cancellation and delay of all domestic flights of IndiGo entered the fifth day on Saturday. The issue has affected tens of thousands of passengers who are worried about extended delays and soaring travel costs. On Friday, the airline apologised for the massive crisis, assuring that all cancelled flights will be refunded. The disruptions were primarily caused by a shortage of pilots that was not anticipated due to planning deficiencies, and the authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation. Operating 2,300 flights daily with a fleet of over 400 aircraft, IndiGo has seen its punctuality plummet with the operational disruptions that are expected to continue for many more days.

Indian stock market ends in bullish tone after RBI rate cut

Mumbai, Dec 6 (IANS) Indian equity benchmarks made marginal losses after hitting record highs and three weeks of consecutive gains due to profit booking. However, the market ended the week in a bullish tone after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) delivered a 25 bps rate cut that lifted investor sentiment. Benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex dipped 0.37 and 0.27 per cent during the week to close at 26,186 and 85,712, respectively. Early optimism driven by strong Q2 GDP print and robust auto sales was overshadowed by persistent FII outflows, sharp rupee depreciation, and uncertainty over trade negotiations. Broader indices underperformed, with the Nifty Midcap100 and Smallcap100 down 0.73 per cent and 1.80 per cent, respectively in a week. Sentiment reversed

on Friday after the RBI surprised markets with a 25-bps rate cut, supported by lower inflation forecasts and liquidity measures. Gains during the week were led by auto, IT due to festive demand and favourable currency tailwinds. Banks, Finances, consumer durables, power, chemicals and oil & gas lagged. As long as Nifty sustains above the 26,050-26,000 band, the bullish structure remains valid. Immediate resistance now lies at 26,350-26,500 zone and a break below 26,000 could lead to profit booking, said market experts. With India's economic growth remaining resilient despite tariff pressures and global headwinds, the Indian equity market is well-positioned to benefit if global fund flows begin to rotate back into emerging markets, market watchers said.

RBI's dovish stance leaves room for more rate cuts if growth softens: Report

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 25 bps repo rate cut and its dovish stance creates scope for further easing in FY27 if growth weakens, while ongoing foreign-exchange depreciation could improve export competitiveness, a report has said. The report from HSBC Global Investment Research welcomed the RBI's plans to infuse domestic liquidity in December, saying it could infuse about Rs 1.45 trillion of liquidity. The RBI unveiled plans of Rs 1 trillion of open market operations purchases and a 3-year USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$5 billion. SBC said that its inflation forecasts are about 50 basis points lower than the RBI's — roughly 3.5 per cent for H1FY27.

Export Promotion Mission with Rs 25,060 crore outlay to boost MSME exports

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) The government approved an Export Promotion Mission with a total outlay of Rs 25,060 crore for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31 to consolidate export support and strengthen competitiveness, especially for the MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will implement the mission through a dedicated digital platform from application to approval to disbursement, that replaces multiple fragmented schemes with a single, outcome-based framework for faster, transparent delivery, an official statement said on Saturday. By merging fiscal incentives, financial facilitation, digital governance and regulatory flexibility into a single mission-mode framework, the government has created a powerful platform to enhance India's global trade com-

petitiveness. Two integrated sub-schemes namely, Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha, will operate under the mission. Niryat Protsahan focuses on improving access to affordable trade finance for MSME exporters through interest subvention, export-factoring, deep-tier financing and credit cards for e-commerce exporters. Further, Niryat Disha aims to raise market readiness and competitiveness through support for export quality and compliance, international branding and packaging assistance, participation in trade fairs and buyer-seller meets, export warehousing and logistics, etc. The government also expanded the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE), providing up to Rs 20,000 crore in additional support with 100 per cent government guarantee to member lending

institutions. Further, RBI announced several measures such as moratorium on repayments and extension of export credit tenure to 450 days. The permissible credit period for pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit has been extended to 450 days for credit disbursed up to March 31, 2026, the statement said. For packing credit facilities already availed by exporters before August 31, 2025, where dispatch could not take place, REs may allow liquidation from any legitimate alternate source, including domestic sale proceeds or substitution of export contracts, it noted.

How new labour reforms are empowering India's mine workers

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) The recently introduced Labour Codes have created a holistic framework empowering mine workers with better working hours, health and safety standards, the government said. The mining sector plays a major role in the country's economic development, providing important raw materials, employment opportunities, export promotion, and revenue for the government. While the country has long prioritised strong safeguards to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of mine workers, the new Labour Codes, particularly the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020, and the Social Security (SS) Code, 2020, consolidate and strengthen the earlier provisions. "They create uniform standards across India, simplify compliance, extend social security coverage, increase worker protections, and provide more flexibility in working conditions," said the government in an official statement. "These new Codes introduce transformative reforms to empower mine workers and simultaneously promote ease of doing business in the mining industry. They bring standardisation in the statutory norms for occupational safety, health, and working conditions for mine workers. By addressing long-standing issues, the codes empower workers with better rights and safety while also simplifying regulatory burdens for employers," it added.

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from DHAVALKUMAR GIRISHCHAND DAVE to new name DHAVALKUMAR GIRISHCHANDRA DAVE Add. 24, Akshardham Homes, S.P.Ring Road, Vastral, Ahmedabad-382418 3729

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from BINITA CHANDRAKISHOR MEHTA to new name BINITABEN SANDIPBHAI DAVE Add. D-2/501, Sanand Green Residency-2, Sanand, Ahmedabad-382110 3729A

Govt working with full urgency to restore normalcy: MoS Mohol on IndiGo fiasco

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Even as IndiGo continued to face operational disruptions for the fifth consecutive day on Saturday, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Mridul Mohol stated that the government is working with full urgency to restore normalcy. The airline cancelled a total of 405 domestic flights amid the ongoing crisis, primarily due to an unexpected pilot shortage caused by planning shortcomings. Taking to social

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from MAKRANI MUSTUPHAKHAN AJIMKHAN to new name MAKRANI MUSTUPHAKHAN AJIMKHAN Add. 01, Marzan Banglow, Vijapur Road, Behind Arsh Banglow, Po. Savgadh, Ta. Himatnagar, Dist. Sabarkantha-383220 3734

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from NIKULKUMAR JAYANTIBHAI TANK to new name NIKUL JAYANTIBHAI TANK Add. A-102, Vrajidham-2 Sarkhej Ahmedabad 3730

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from PATEL ASHABHEN AMRUTAL R to new name PATEL ASHABEN KETANKUMAR Add. B-302, Pavan Residency, Nr. Bhadaj Gam Bhadaj, Ahmedabad-380060 3729B

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION E-AUCTION FOR LEASING OUT PARCEL SPACE E-Auction for leasing out Parcel Space in passenger carrying trains originating over Ahmedabad Division has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website. The details are furnished as under Type of Contract: Parcel

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from ARYAN DILIP BISWAS to new name ARYAN DILIPBHAI BISWAS Add. 103, Karnavati Skylane, New Maninagar Ramol, Ahmedabad 3731

WESTERN RAILWAY AHMEDABAD DIVISION ELECTRICAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF STANDARD POWER SUPPLY SOCKETS E-TENDER-NOTICE No. Sr. DEE/ADI/38(25-26) Date: 05.12.2025 Tender No. EL-50-1-ADI-T-46-2025-26 Name of work: Electrical work in connection with provision of standard power supply sockets at Track Machine Sidings over the Ahmedabad Division. Estimated cost: ₹ 1,54,91,311/- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,27,500/- Date and time of submission: Not later than 15:00 Hrs. of 31.12.2025 Date and time of opening: 31.12.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. Address of the office: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chamunda bridge; Opp: G.C.S. hospital, Naroda road, Amdapura, Ahmedabad-382345. Website details: www.ireps.gov.in ADI 222 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

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GUJARAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION The tender for the work at Sr.no. 1 to 2 are invited by office of the Superintending Engineer, GIDC, Ahmedabad through Online and Offline. The Tender for Online work is to be uploaded on web site https://tender.nprocure.com. The last date for online submission of tender is 22-12-2025. The Detailed tender notice for the Online works can be seen from the Office Notice Board as well as web site www.gidc.gov.in, and https://tender.nprocure.com Any amendments, updates regarding these bids will be published in the web site only. Superintending Engineer GIDC Ahmedabad. INF/ABD/1492/2025

GUJARAT Urban Development Company Limited (Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking) Karmayogi Bhavan, Block No.1, B1 Wing, Ground Floor, Sector-10/A, Gandhinagar. Telefax : 079-23246126, 27.28; CIN:U75140GJ1998SG036051 Email:contact-gudc@gujarat.gov.in Website : www.gudc.gujarat.gov.in E-Tendering Notice Ref.No.GUDC/PROJECT/AMRUT/SJMMSVY/RANAVAV WSS UGD-II & STP Gujar Urban Development Company Ltd. invites online tenders by e-tendering for Ranavav WSS Under Amrut 2.0, UGD-II & STP Under SJMMSVY: Rs.57.46 Cr (4th Invitation) on EPC basis. Tender will be uploaded shortly on the website https://tender.nprocure.com. All subsequent information, notification, changes and amendments would be posted only on the aforesaid website. INF/2006/2025-26

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from PATEL MUSTAQALI VALIBHAI to new name PATEL MUSTAKBHAI VALIBHAI Add. B/9 Firoz Villa 2 Bh Yasmin Society Sonal Road Vejalpur Juhapura-380055 3732A

WESTERN RAILWAY AHMEDABAD DIVISION ELECTRICAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF STANDARD POWER SUPPLY SOCKETS E-TENDER-NOTICE No. Sr. DEE/ADI/38(25-26) Date: 05.12.2025 Tender No. EL-50-1-ADI-T-46-2025-26 Name of work: Electrical work in connection with provision of standard power supply sockets at Track Machine Sidings over the Ahmedabad Division. Estimated cost: ₹ 1,54,91,311/- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,27,500/- Date and time of submission: Not later than 15:00 Hrs. of 31.12.2025 Date and time of opening: 31.12.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. Address of the office: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chamunda bridge; Opp: G.C.S. hospital, Naroda road, Amdapura, Ahmedabad-382345. Website details: www.ireps.gov.in ADI 222 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

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PADRA MUNICIPALITY Corrigendum E-TENDERING Padra Municipality, Padra, Dist.Vadodra, Invites on line tender from SJMMSVY grant year: 2025-26 for Providing, supplying & fixing Drainage line in various area at Padra etc. which estimated cost is Rs.69,90,856/- from web site of http://tender.nprocure.com Contractor submitting relevant document of the bid evaluation criteria as per tender only on-line. There is som change in Last of on line tender submission : 09/12/2025, Last date of submitting the tender fee/EMD in favour of chief officer, Padra municipality from nationalized bank which send by RPAD/speed post only: 11/12/2025 at Padra Municipality, Padra, Tender opening date: 12/12/2025 at 12:00 pm. The right to approve/reject any tender is reserved. INF/VAD-1125-25-26 By order of Padra Municipality

A.Y. Dadabhai Technical Institute, Kosamba (Managed by The Surattee Sunni Vohra Muslim Education Society, Surat) Affiliated to Gujarat Technological University and Approved by AICTE RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION Applications are invited for the following posts:

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from SNEHARSHKUMAR VISHNUBHAI HARIJUAN to new name DAVE SNEHARSHKUMAR VISHNUBHAI Add. H No.1123, Opposite Pranami Mandir, Bharoda, Umreth, Anand-388210 3733

WESTERN RAILWAY AHMEDABAD DIVISION ELECTRICAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF STANDARD POWER SUPPLY SOCKETS E-TENDER-NOTICE No. Sr. DEE/ADI/38(25-26) Date: 05.12.2025 Tender No. EL-50-1-ADI-T-46-2025-26 Name of work: Electrical work in connection with provision of standard power supply sockets at Track Machine Sidings over the Ahmedabad Division. Estimated cost: ₹ 1,54,91,311/- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,27,500/- Date and time of submission: Not later than 15:00 Hrs. of 31.12.2025 Date and time of opening: 31.12.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. Address of the office: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chamunda bridge; Opp: G.C.S. hospital, Naroda road, Amdapura, Ahmedabad-382345. Website details: www.ireps.gov.in ADI 222 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from SNEHARSHKUMAR VISHNUBHAI HARIJUAN to new name DAVE SNEHARSHKUMAR VISHNUBHAI Add. H No.1123, Opposite Pranami Mandir, Bharoda, Umreth, Anand-388210 3733

Ankleshwar Nagarpalika Ankleshwar Tender Notice Ankleshwar Nagarpalika invite Online Tender for the below mention work. Online Tender available till 17/12/2025 till 18.00 hrs. Physical document should reach on or before 22/12/2025 to Ankleshwar Nagarpalika office by RPAD/Speed post. Tender download from www.nprocure.com and www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in

A.Y. Dadabhai Technical Institute, Kosamba (Managed by The Surattee Sunni Vohra Muslim Education Society, Surat) Affiliated to Gujarat Technological University and Approved by AICTE RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION Applications are invited for the following posts:

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from PATEL NASIMBANU MUSTAQALI to new name PATEL NASIMBANU MUSTAKBHAI Add. B/9 Firoz Villa Vibhag 2 B/H Yasmin Society Sonal Road Vejalpur Juhapura-380055 3732

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જાહેરાત પ્રાદેશિક ક્રમિશ્નર, નગરપાલિકાઓની કચેરી, વડોદરા જોન પ્રાદેશિક ક્રમિશ્નર, નગરપાલિકાઓની કચેરી, વડોદરા જોન હેટળની નીચે મુજબની જગ્યાઓ પર કરાર આધારિત ૧૧ માસ માટે ફિક્સ પગારથી ભરવાની થાય છે.

News in a Nutshell

OPS backtracks on new party plan, fuels fresh speculation on AIADMK merger

Chennai, Dec 6 (IANS) In a significant political reversal, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam (OPS) denied ever announcing the launch of a new political party...

Five killed as car collides with truck in MP's Chhatrapur

Khajuraho, Dec 6 (IANS) Five people were killed after their car collided head-on with a heavily-loaded truck on the road connecting Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) and Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) on Saturday.

CM Yogi pledges protection for Ambedkar, others social reformers' statues on Mahaparivran Diwas

Lucknow, Dec 6 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his Mahaparivran Diwas and announced measures to protect statues of the social reformers across the state.



Members of the All Guwahati Students' Union (AGSU) stage a demonstration for the 'Save Basistha Abhiyan' during Environment and Climate Awareness Week, in Guwahati on Saturday. UNI

PM -Putin talks reflect India's balancing act: Lisa

Washington, Dec 6 (IANS) India's decision to "roll out the red carpet for President Vladimir Putin" during the New Delhi summit this week reflects a calibrated effort to balance ties with Moscow and Washington...

she cautioned, has implications far beyond the bilateral relationship. Russia has a very close relationship with China. So, any on advanced technology with Russia could certainly mean China also gaining access to Indian technology.

Weekly 'Organic Bazaar' organised in MP's Neemuch, consumers praise novel initiative

Bhopal, Dec 6 (IANS) An organic food 'bazaar' (market) was organised in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district recently, which saw a large gathering of food producers as well as consumers...

SIR in Bengal: Over 99 pc enumeration forms digitised, nearly 55 lakh excludable voters

Kolkata, Dec 6 (IANS) Almost 99 per cent of enumeration forms have been digitised during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal, and the number of excludable voters stands at nearly 55 lakh.

Wrong message gone across state: JD(U) on Bihar LoP's absence from Winter Session

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Reacting to Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav's absence from the ongoing Winter Session, JD(U) MP Rampriti Mandal on Saturday said that his absence is sending a wrong message to the people of Bihar.

One killed, five injured in Trinamool factional clash in Birbhum

Kolkata, Dec 6 (IANS) A Trinamool Congress leader was killed, and five others were seriously injured in a violent clash between two factions of the ruling party in West Bengal's Birbhum district, police said on Saturday.

hum Zilla Parishad president Faizul Haque alias Kajal Sheikh. The injured were taken to Mangalkot Block Hospital in East Burdwan district. The body of the deceased Trinamool leader has been taken to Mangalkot Sub-divisional Hospital for post-mortem examination.

May his ideals keep lighting path to Viksit Bharat: PM Modi pays tributes to Dr Ambedkar

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his death anniversary, known as Mahaparivran Diwas, on Saturday, praising his visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to constitutionalism.

tion and advocating for the rights of Dalits and other marginalised communities. Dr Ambedkar passed away on December 6, 1956, and was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 1990.



Member of Parliament Manoj Tiwari flag off the Auto rally awareness on the issue of counterfeiting and smuggling at FICCI, Federation House, in New Delhi on Saturday. UNI

B.R. Ambedkar's timeless legacy of equality, justice and human dignity strengthens my resolve to defend Constitution: LoP

New Delhi, Dec 6 (IANS) Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday paid humble tributes to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on his death anniversary, observed as Mahaparivran Diwas.

"His timeless legacy of equality, justice and human dignity strengthens my resolve to defend the Constitution and inspires our collective struggle for a more inclusive, compassionate India," LoP Gandhi said.

Statewide protests in TN today over Karthiga Deepam issue

Chennai, Dec 6 (IANS) The Hindu Munnani announced statewide protests across Tamil Nadu on Sunday, alleging religious discrimination and "deliberate obstruction" of Hindu traditions.

Tensions escalated further when police intervened to prevent activists from reaching the hilltop, arguing that the government is preparing to file an appeal challenging the High Court's order.

Cold wave intensifies in Rajasthan, Fatehpur coldest at 2.3 degrees Celsius

Jaipur, Dec 6 (IANS) Icy winds sweeping in from northern India have intensified winter conditions across Rajasthan, causing temperatures to drop sharply and triggering a severe cold wave.

Five killed as two cars collide in TN's Ramanathapuram

Chennai, Dec 6 (IANS) Five people were killed and seven others injured on Saturday after two cars collided near Keelakarai in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district.

Kerala HC gives relief to Cong MLA Mamkootathil from arrest till Dec 15

Kochi, Dec 6 (IANS) In a significant interim relief for beleaguered Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, the Kerala High Court on Saturday directed that he shall not be arrested until December 15, even as the legislator continues to evade police despite mounting pressure from both law enforcement and his own party.

questioning Mamkootathil's anticipatory bail plea in the alleged rape case registered against him. The development came a day after the Thiruvananthapuram Principal Sessions Court rejected his bail request, observing that custodial interrogation was necessary for a fair and effective investigation.



MUMBAI, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with Governor Acharya Devvrat, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde pay floral tribute to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on his 69th death anniversary at Dadar on Saturday. UNI