

TEHALKA SAMACHAR

VOL : 1 , ISSUE : 170 , RAIGAD, FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2026, PAGE : 8, PRICE : 2/- RS.

PRGI NO. : MHENG/25/A1626

'Will bring it up in Budget session, fight to continue until MGNREGA gets repealed'

Mallikargun Kharge at workers' convention

Meanwhile, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi claimed that the Modi government's objectives are the same in repealing MGNREGA as they were in bringing the "three black farm laws".

New Delhi.(Agency)
Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday promised that the party will fight against the name change of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme (renamed as VG-G RAM G) during the Budget session, which is scheduled to begin on January 28 this year. Speaking during the National MGNREGA Workers' Convention in New Delhi, organised by the Rachnatmak Congress, Kharge said, "Our fight is going to be a long one. Satyagraha or shouting slogans won't help in this fight. Till they don't repeal the new laws and bring MGNREGA back, we will continue our fight." "In the Budget session, we will fight for this issue. This is our promise to you... [The name change] is an attempt to remove Mahatma Gandhi's



name from public memory, weaken Gram Swaraj concept," he said.

'Objectives similar to three black farm laws'

Meanwhile, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi claimed that the Modi government's objectives are the same in repealing MGNREGA as they were in bringing the "three black farm laws", as he urged poor people to unite against the move to bring the VB G RAM G Act, news agency PTI reported. Addressing the Convention, the Congress leader said the concept of MGNREGA was to give rights to the poor. "The thinking was to provide work to those who need it. This scheme was to be run through the third tier of government - Panchayati Raj. The word rights was important. All poor people had the right to work under MGNREGA and PM Modi-BJP wants to finish that concept," Gandhi said. The government also brought in the "three black farm laws" a few years ago, following which farmers were able to halt it by putting pressure "unitedly" on them, the former Congress chief said. "We all put pressure and got the laws repealed. They are doing the same thing with workers that they did with farmers as they brought the three black farm laws," he said in his speech, quoted. Gandhi also alleged that the new law will enable the Centre to decide the work and allocation of funds with BJP-ruled governments always getting precedence. What workers used to get earlier will now be given to contractors and bureaucracy, he added.

Nitin Nabin Rolls Out Bengal Strategy, Targets 15 Years Of Trinamool Rule

Party leaders flagged that despite the state being rich in natural and human resources, per capita income remains among the lowest in the country

New Delhi.(Agency)
Newly appointed Bharatiya Janata Party national president Nitin Nabin has wasted little time in signalling his priorities, convening his first major organisational meeting with West Bengal leaders and election focused workers to chart a detailed roadmap for the upcoming assembly polls. Sources indicate that the meeting was tightly focused on governance failures in the state and on building a constituency wise campaign that directly targets the Trinamool Congress record of the last fifteen years. The strategy discussion placed West Bengal's economic distress at the centre of the BJP's pitch. Party leaders flagged that despite the state being rich in natural and human resources, per capita income remains among the lowest in the country. According to those present, the leadership underlined the need to

communicate this contradiction to voters, projecting it as a direct outcome of what the party describes as policy paralysis and mismanagement under the TMC



government. Health infrastructure emerged as another major concern. BJP leaders cited a near collapse of primary health centres, acute shortage of doctors in government hospitals, lack of medicines and unhygienic conditions. The meeting noted that these issues have

created deep resentment at the grassroots, especially in rural and semi urban areas, and must be highlighted through sustained local campaigns.

The education system was also discussed at length, with the leadership flagging what it termed as a systematic decline in standards and opportunities for students. Women's safety featured prominently, with the party describing West Bengal as increasingly unsafe for women and pointing to a rise in crimes and alleged administrative apathy. Leaders agreed that this issue resonates strongly across demographics and needs to be addressed with sensitivity and consistency. Concerns related to migrant labourers and the challenges they face both within and outside the state were also part of the deliberations. Law and order was described as being in a state of breakdown, with repeated references to what the BJP calls jungle.

Sanjay Raut Says "Chief Ministers Having Picnic In Davos", Devendra Fadnavis' Wife Responds

New Delhi.(Agency)
Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is not in Davos for a picnic, his banker-singer wife Amruta Fadnavis said on Wednesday, responding to remarks by Shiv Sena-UBT MP Sanjay Raut. Fadnavis is in Davos to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting. "I can never understand his (Raut's) language. But I will only say this much that someone who goes for a picnic does not hold conferences and meetings daily from 6 am to 11 pm to bring investment to India and Maharashtra, and boost employment," Amruta told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Mumbai. "So I feel that this statement of his, like all his other statements, is baseless," she said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is in Davos to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting.



Davos conference is ridiculous from an Indian perspective," he added. Asked who will be the mayor of Mumbai, Amruta responded that it will be a Marathi

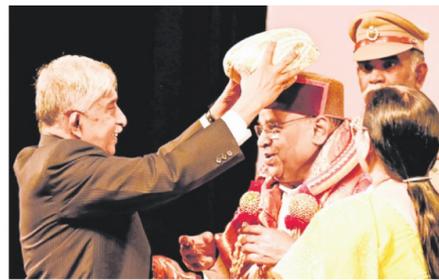
The WEF in Davos is an international forum where people from every country go to talk about their country or to find business opportunities, she said. "Going there, I believe, is the duty of the head of every state in India," Amruta said. Raut had demanded that travel costs of the leaders travelling to Davos be revealed to the public. "Chief ministers from various states in India are having a picnic in Davos," Raut had said. "The

person. Devendra Fadnavis is being credited with the BJP-led Mahayuti combine's success in the recent municipal corporation elections. The BJP emerged as the single largest party with 89 seats in the 227-member BMC.

Karnataka Governor refuses to address joint session over VB-G RAM G

New Delhi .(Agency)
A day after governors of Tamil Nadu and Kerala were at the centre of controversies over their respective addresses to assemblies, Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Wednesday followed suit by refusing to address the joint session of state legislature scheduled for Thursday. Parts of the governor's address to the joint session on Thursday are said to contain certain references to the Centre which has repealed the UPA government's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and replaced it with the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, due to which Governor Gehlot has refused to deliver his address. Gehlot

raised reservations on 11 paragraphs in the speech drafted by the Karnataka cabinet with regard to the NDA repealing MGNREGA. According to sources, since the governor is mandated to address the session as per Article 176(1) of the Constitution, he insists on skipping parts of the speech, using his discretion. They said as parts of the address were against VB-G RAM G, which has become an Act after the Bill was passed in Parliament, it would be unconstitutional to speak against it and he preferred to skip those parts. A high-level delegation led by Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil, including Advocate-General K Shashi Kiran Shetty and CM's legal advisor AS



Ponnanna, rushed to Raj Bhavan and held talks with the governor on Wednesday evening. Speaking to reporters after meeting the governor, Patil said, "It is mandatory for any

governor to address the joint session of legislature as per Article 176(1) of the Constitution. The session, which is scheduled to continue till January 31, was called by the Congress government, especially to debate the repeal of MGNREGA, and is expected to be a stormy one with intense debates and pandemonium. A few days ago, the cabinet decided to wage a legal battle against the VB-G RAM G Act after deciding not to accept it, in line with the Congress' nationwide 'Save MGNREGA' campaign. The ruling Congress plans to pass a resolution during this session against the Union government for repealing MGNREGA, which is expected to be vehemently opposed by the BJP-JDS opposition.

Grand Bhoomipujan Ceremony of "Saburi Heights" Residential Project Held in Khopoli

Khopoli Correspondent: Dinkar Bhujbal
Adding a promising milestone to Khopoli's urban development journey, the Bhoomipujan (ground-breaking) ceremony of the new residential project "Saburi Heights", developed by Shri Rajendra Builders and Developers (Manish Porwal), was successfully conducted on 20 January 2026 in an atmosphere filled with positivity, enthusiasm, and optimism. The auspicious ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of Hon. Mr. Kuldeep Ramdas Shende, Mayor of Khopoli Municipal Council. The event was graced by Deputy Mayor Mr. Vikram Sabale,



Corporator Mr. Anil Sanap, along with several other respected dignitaries and citizens, reflecting strong institutional support and community confidence in the project. Through this Bhoomipujan ceremony, a formal beginning was marked for a new residential development founded on the core values of quality construction, trust, and transparency. "Saburi Heights" has been thoughtfully planned to meet the demands of a modern lifestyle, with a sincere focus on providing safe, convenient, and high-quality residential living. Expressing his views on the occasion, Mayor Mr. Kuldeep

Shende congratulated Shri Rajendra Builders and Developers and stated that such well-planned and credible projects significantly contribute to the planned growth of Khopoli city. He further added, "I sincerely thank Shri Rajendra Builders and Developers (Manish Porwal) for inviting me to this beautiful and inspiring ceremony and extend my heartfelt best wishes for their future endeavors." The "Saburi Heights" project is expected to emerge as a trusted and valuable addition to Khopoli's evolving urban landscape, symbolizing progress, confidence, and sustainable development.

Friend! Nowadays, it's not just animals that are confined, it's leaders too.



Vyas..

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Grand Inauguration of Poonawalla Fincorp Gold Loan's New Branch in Khopoli



Khopoli Correspondent: Dinkar Bhujbal
Marking a meaningful stride toward economic empowerment in Khopoli city, the new branch of Poonawalla Fincorp Gold Loan was inaugurated today in a dignified and enthusiastic ceremony. The inauguration was graciously

performed by Hon. Mayor Mr. Kuldeep Ramdas Shende, adding prestige to the occasion. The event was attended by Corporator Mr. Anil Sanap, Khopoli Shiv Sena Working President Mr. Anil Minde, social worker Mr. Naresh Palande, along with several other distinguished

dignitaries and local citizens. Their presence reflected strong community support and collective optimism for the initiative. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Mr. Kuldeep Shende stated that the newly opened branch would play a pivotal role in strengthening the financial backbone of

Khopoli and surrounding areas. He emphasized that Poonawalla Fincorp's commitment to providing fast, secure, and trustworthy gold loan services is truly commendable. Such initiatives, he noted, enable local citizens, traders, and financially needy sections to access timely

financial support with confidence and dignity. He also expressed his personal happiness at witnessing such a progressive development in the city. The inauguration ceremony concluded with heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Poonawalla Fincorp Gold

Loan team, including the branch manager, staff members, and all those associated with making this venture successful. Initiatives of this nature, it was collectively expressed, will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the sustainable development and economic growth of Khopoli city.

"A Firm Step Towards a Dust-Free Khopoli; Idle Dust Pollution Control Vehicle Back on the Roads"



Khopoli | Dinkar Bhujbal

In a forward-looking move aimed at safeguarding public health and enhancing urban aesthetics, the Khopoli Municipal Council has taken a significant step towards making the city clean and dust-free. Under the proactive leadership of Hon. Mayor Mr. Kuldeep Ramdas Shende and Hon. Deputy Mayor Mr. Vikram Yashwant Sable, the Dust Pollution Control Vehicle, which had remained non-operational for a considerable period due to technical issues, has now been successfully recommissioned. This decisive action has received widespread appreciation across all sections of society.

Recognising the adverse impact of rising dust pollution on citizens' health, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor personally monitored and followed up with the concerned departments to ensure timely repairs and restoration of the vehicle. As a result, the vehicle has now been deployed for regular operations and will function daily as per a planned schedule, covering main roads, internal roads, and narrow lanes across the city.

Target Set to Make Khopoli Clean and Presentable by 26 January

In view of the forthcoming Republic Day, the municipal administration has issued clear directives to ensure that all major roads, bylanes, and internal streets are thoroughly cleaned by 26 January. Alongside city beautification, effective control of dust and air pollution remains the core objective of this special cleanliness drive.

Positive Response from Citizens

Residents have warmly welcomed this initiative, expressing confidence that it will significantly reduce dust-related inconvenience and help curb health issues, particularly respiratory ailments. The sustained efforts of the Municipal Council to make Khopoli cleaner, healthier, and more livable have been widely acknowledged, with citizens commending the commitment and administrative efficiency of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in steering this impactful civic initiative.

Raymond Realty, the real estate arm of the iconic Raymond Group, has announced its strategic expansion into Wadala with the launch of its latest premium development, The Crown.

Mumbai, Raymond Realty, the real estate arm of the iconic Raymond Group, has announced its strategic expansion into Wadala with the launch of its latest premium development, The Crown. Positioned as a landmark of stature and legacy, the project is set to redefine central living in Mumbai, offering a rare blend of South Bombay charm and modern infrastructure in one of the city's most rapidly transforming precincts.

The launch of The Crown, held at the Jio World Convention Centre, BKC, marks a significant milestone in Raymond Realty's journey, reinforcing its commitment to creating aspirational spaces that combine timeless design, strategic location, and enduring value. With this development, the company continues to build on its reputation for quality, transparency, and innovation in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Wadala: Mumbai's New Growth Axis
Wadala has emerged as a pivotal node in Mumbai's urban evolution, bridging the gap between the city's traditional business districts and its expanding suburbs. With its proximity to key commercial zones such as Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Lower Parel, and Fort, and its seamless connectivity via rail, metro, and arterial roads, Wadala is increasingly being recognized as a prime destination for both residential and commercial investment.

Raymond Realty's entry into Wadala is a strategic move that aligns with the precinct's transformation into a vibrant, well-connected urban hub. The location benefits from upcoming infrastructure projects including the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), Coastal Road, and metro expansions, which are expected to further enhance accessibility and drive long-term growth.

The Crown: A Statement of Legacy and Luxury

The Crown is envisioned as a development that blends legacy with contemporary living. Drawing inspiration from Raymond's heritage and design



philosophy, the project will offer expansive residences, curated amenities, and thoughtfully designed public spaces that foster community and comfort.

The architecture of The Crown reflects a commitment to elegance, efficiency, and sustainability. With a focus on spatial optimization, natural light, and ventilation, the residences are designed to meet the evolving needs of urban families, professionals, and investors. The project will incorporate green building practices, wellness-centric features, and smart technologies to ensure a future-ready living experience.

Raymond Realty's design ethos emphasizes not just aesthetics but also functionality and long-term value. Every element of The Crown—from its façade to its interiors—has been crafted to evoke a sense of pride and belonging, while maintaining the warmth and intimacy of a home.

Connectivity and Infrastructure Advantage

One of the defining strengths of The Crown is its location within Wadala's emerging infrastructure corridor. The precinct offers direct access to the Eastern Express Highway (EEH), Western Express Highway (WEH), and suburban rail

networks. It is also in close proximity to the upcoming Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train terminal at BKC, positioning it as a strategic gateway to regional and national connectivity.

Planned upgrades such as pedestrian pathways, flyovers, and metro corridors will further enhance mobility and accessibility. In addition, city-level initiatives like the Mithi River rejuvenation and the extension of Maharashtra Nature's Park are expected to add significant green and public realm advantages to the area, making it an attractive proposition for residents seeking a balance between urban convenience and environmental quality.

Market Dynamics and Investment Potential

Mumbai's central districts continue to face acute supply constraints for premium residential spaces, with demand consistently outpacing new launches. Wadala, with its strategic location and infrastructure pipeline, is witnessing rising interest from both end-users and institutional investors.

Raymond Realty's The Crown is expected to attract strong demand, especially from professionals working in BKC, Lower Parel, and South Mumbai, as well as NRIs and HNIs seeking centrally located, high-quality residences.

The project's positioning as a legacy development with modern amenities makes it a compelling choice for long-term capital appreciation and lifestyle enhancement.

Industry analysts note that residential assets in and around Wadala have historically delivered robust returns, with capital value appreciation driven by infrastructure upgrades and institutional investments. The Crown is poised to build on this momentum, offering buyers a rare opportunity to own a piece of Mumbai's evolving skyline.

Raymond Realty: Building Beyond Expectations

Since its inception, Raymond Realty has focused on delivering projects that go beyond conventional real estate offerings. With a foundation built on trust, innovation, and customer-centricity, the company has quickly established itself as a leading developer in the MMR.

The Crown represents Raymond Realty's next chapter—a bold step into central Mumbai that reflects its vision of creating spaces that are not just built but crafted with purpose. The project reinforces the brand's commitment to excellence and its belief in shaping the future of urban living through thoughtful design and strategic development.

Conclusion

With the launch of The Crown, Raymond Realty brings its legacy of craftsmanship and innovation to Wadala, one of Mumbai's most promising urban precincts. The development stands as a testament to the brand's vision of creating landmark spaces that combine heritage, luxury, and connectivity.

As Wadala continues to rise as a central living destination, The Crown is poised to become its definitive address—a throne of elegance, aspiration, and enduring value. Raymond Realty's expansion into this geography marks not just a new project, but a new promise: to go beyond, and to build the future of Mumbai, one landmark at a time.

Labdhi Lifestyle Limited on Wednesday announced the launch of BKC Edge, a premium commercial development at H-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), with a gross development value (GDV) of over ₹1,000 crore, amid sustained demand and acute supply constraints for Grade-A office spaces in India's most sought-after business district.

Mumbai
Labdhi Lifestyle Limited on Wednesday announced the launch of BKC Edge, a premium commercial development at H-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), with a gross development value (GDV) of over ₹1,000 crore, amid sustained demand and acute supply constraints for Grade-A office spaces in India's most sought-after business district.

The project will offer ~2.25 lakh sq. ft. of carpet area and is being launched at a time when BKC continues to operate at near-full occupancy. Industry data indicates that vacancy levels in BKC remain at around 2-3%, among the lowest across Indian commercial micro-markets, while annual leasing absorption has remained consistently strong. Rentals in core BKC have continued to trend upward due to the lack of new supply.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vikas Jain, CEO, Labdhi Lifestyle Limited, said,

"BKC continues to be one of the most resilient and institutionally strong

commercial districts in the country. With BKC Edge, our focus has been on developing a Grade-A commercial asset that aligns with evolving business needs, efficient, well-connected and future-ready. We see this as a long-term commitment to India's commercial real estate ecosystem."

H-Block emerges as BKC's next phase of growth

Located immediately south of core BKC, H-Block forms part of the original BKC planning framework and represents the district's natural southward expansion as G-Block reaches saturation. The location is supported by strong existing and upcoming infrastructure, including proximity to the Eastern Express Highway (EEH), Western Express Highway (WEH), the Aqua Line Metro, and suburban rail connectivity via Sion station. H-Block will also benefit from improved north-south connectivity through the Mumbai Coastal Road network, enabling faster access from South Mumbai and western suburbs. In addition, the precinct is located close



to the upcoming Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail (bullet train) terminal at BKC.

Planned infrastructure upgrades such as the proposed G-H Block pedestrian pathway, G-H Block flyover, and an upcoming metro corridor are expected to further strengthen east-west connectivity. The precinct also benefits from city-level upgrades including the Mithi

River rejuvenation and riverfront development, a large-scale public investment aimed at environmental restoration and flood mitigation, as well as the proposed extension and enhancement of Maharashtra Nature's Park, adding a significant green and public realm advantage to the location.

Project overview
Spread across ~1.25 acres, BKC Edge is designed for large corporates

and SME owners, professionals such as chartered accountants, lawyers, architects and designers, as well as HNIs, NRIs and mid-sized enterprises seeking ownership-led commercial spaces in BKC. The project will comprise 300+ business suites, aligned with contemporary workspace requirements.

With MMRDA having indicated that core BKC is largely sold out with no new land parcels available, demand for quality commercial spaces continues to outstrip supply. Recent large-format transactions including JP Morgan's long-term pre-leasing of over 1.16 lakh sq. ft. for its India headquarters, with commitments extending up to 25 years reinforce BKC's position as the preferred headquarters destination for global institutions and underline the district's long-term demand visibility.

Commercial assets in BKC have historically delivered rental yields in the range of 7-8%, along with capital value appreciation of ~15% per annum over the past 15 years, positioning developments in and around the district

as both operational hubs and long-term capital preservation opportunities.

With BKC Edge, Labdhi Lifestyle Limited continues to strengthen its presence in Mumbai's commercial real estate landscape through developments anchored by strategic location, strong infrastructure and enduring value.

About Labdhi Lifestyle Limited

Labdhi Lifestyle Limited is a first-generation real estate company in Mumbai, founded by visionary professionals in 2015. Labdhi Lifestyle has rapidly grown into one of the most trusted and innovative real estate developers in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). In just 10 years of operations, the company has successfully delivered ~1 million sq. ft., while maintaining an impeccable record of 100% before-time delivery. Driven by innovation, integrity, and excellence, Labdhi Lifestyle Limited continues to shape Mumbai's skyline, offering value-driven real estate solutions that meet the evolving aspirations of today's homebuyers and investors.

NEWS BOX

CCTV traps fully grown leopard inside residential house in Shimla

Shimla. (Agency)
A fully grown leopard was caught on CCTV entering a residential house in Navbahar on the outskirts of Shimla late Wednesday night, triggering panic among residents and once again highlighting the growing threat of human-wildlife conflict in the state capital. According to CCTV footage that has surfaced, the leopard entered the residential building at around 11:23 pm on January 21. The visuals show the animal calmly climbing the staircase and reaching the second floor of the house.
There was no sign of aggression or panic in its movement. After failing to find any prey, the leopard quietly descended the stairs and exited the building.
The house is reportedly owned by Nandini Pathania. At the time of the incident, all members of the family were present inside the house. Fortunately, the leopard did not harm anyone, averting what could have been a major tragedy in the densely populated locality.
This is not the first such incident in Shimla. On earlier occasions, leopards have been caught on CCTV cameras preying on pet dogs in residential areas of the town.
However, residents said this was the first time a leopard was seen entering a multi-storey residential house in the Navbahar area, which is surrounded by forest cover.
The incident has caused fear and anxiety among residents, especially working people who return home late at night. Leopard sightings on roads and streets in Navbahar and nearby localities have become increasingly frequent in recent years, raising serious safety concerns.

Chandigarh -Shimla Heli-Taxi services on Rs 3169 per passenger

Shimla.(Agency)
Tourists could now board Helicopter service to Shimla from Chandigarh for less than a taxi fare, as the state launched Heli-taxi Services on Wednesday, likely to give a major flip to the air connectivity of the hill destinations. The move is aimed at improving accessibility, promoting tourism, and providing faster travel options in the difficult mountainous terrain.
According to official information, the fare for the helicopter service between Chandigarh and Shimla has been fixed at Rs 3,169 per passenger.
The service will operate three days a week—Monday, Friday, and Saturday—providing a time-saving alternative to the long and often congested road journey between the two capitals.
For intra-state connectivity, the fare from Shimla (Sanjoli Helipad) to Kullu-Manali has been set at Rs 3,500 per passenger, while the fare from Shimla to Reckong Peo in tribal Kinnaur district has been fixed at Rs 4,000 per passenger. These services would operate regularly, enhancing connectivity to remote and strategically important regions.
The helicopter services on the Shimla-Kullu and Shimla-Reckong Peo routes are being operated daily, making them especially useful for tourists, government officials, and local residents who otherwise face long travel hours due to challenging road conditions.
In addition, the government is considering expanding heli services to other routes, including Shimla-Dharamshala-Reckong Peo and Shimla-Manali, covering all major helipads in the state.
Proposals in this regard have already been forwarded to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for approval.

DoT additional DGT inspects 5G use case lab at NIT Hamirpur

Hamirpur(HP).(Agency)
Additional Director General of Telecommunications (Addl. DGT) and Joint Advisor Anil Kumar Gupta visited the 5G Use Case Lab at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Hamirpur.
During his visit, he reviewed the lab's utilization, progress, and ongoing activities. Anil Kumar Gupta stated that the objective of the 5G Use Case Labs is to develop proficiency and engagement in 5G technologies among students and the academic community in higher education institutions. He explained that these labs provide undergraduate and postgraduate students with the opportunity to undertake projects in a real-world 5G environment and are also accessible to startups, MSMEs, and other companies in the vicinity of the institution.
He was accompanied by Sandeep Arya, Deputy Director General (Technology), DoT, and Ramesh Kumar, Assistant Director (Technology), DoT. They interacted with faculty members and students and observed the technical infrastructure and academic activities being conducted under the 5G ecosystem at the institute.
Anil Kumar Gupta, Additional Director General of Telecommunications (Addl. DGT) and Joint Advisor, Himachal Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), highlighted that the 5G Use Case Labs, established under a flagship initiative of the Department of Telecommunications, have been set up as innovation hubs in higher education institutions across the country to promote experimentation, testing, and development of 5G-based applications and solutions.

Use social media for better information and work Karava-Police Inspector Sachin Pawar

Rasayani Rakesh Kharade
Social media has many negative effects, including stress on mental health, addiction, lack of focus in studies, loss of sleep, and cyberbullying; it also negatively affects real-life relationships and increases the risk of privacy, leading to bad experiences, ruining one's AYUSH, said Khalapur Senior Police Inspector Sachin Pawar.
There has been an increase in many complaints on social media, due to which crimes like hurting religious sentiments, making defamatory remarks about someone, and opening fake accounts to defame have increased. In addition, since the Zilla

Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections are about to begin, Khalapur Police Inspector Sachin Pawar had organized a meeting of group admins, WhatsApp groups, Instagram, Facebook admins, and village police patils, on which he was guiding by example.
Mental and emotional effects: Spending too much time online can lead to a lack of social connections and feelings of loneliness. Not getting negative comments or likes online can lead to low self-esteem. This can lead to your
There is a change in behavior and lifestyle. Being too involved in social media leads to neglecting real responsibilities, so Security and social threats arise. False

or inflammatory information spreads, which creates misunderstandings in society. For this An appeal was made to limit the use of social media.
Meet real people in real life, Think before posting and check the veracity of the information. Use social media for positive and appropriate things, said Sub-Divisional Police Officer Dr. Vishal Nehul, appealing to people to review the incidents that have taken place at the international level and use social media in a good manner.
The program was introduced by Saponi. Santosh Auti. On this occasion, journalist Arjun Kadam, village police patil, group admin expressed their views.

Meeting of key activists of International Bajrang Dal at Deputy Commissioner regarding Shri Malang Machhindranath Mukti Movement



Rasayani Rakesh Kharade
Akhil Aryavat Sangh, International Bajrang Dal founder and national president Dineshdada Patil met Deputy Commissioner of Police Zone 4 Ulhasnagar Sachin Gore, Shailesh Kale ACP and Sandeep Shivle PI, Ajit Salunkhe and discussed special issues. On this occasion, the organization's chief Daitwan activists Sachin Khule Provincial General Secretary, Sachin Dhule Provincial Organization Minister, Vishal Jaiswal Thane District Minister, Adarsh Surekar-State Vice President, Rakesh Tembe -

District Rural President, Babu Bhoir Raigad District President, Jyoti Javadekar District Durgashakti President, Santosh Thale, Jayesh Patil etc. along with activists from Raigad Thane district were present in the meeting.
Speaking to reporters on this occasion, he said that on the day of Maghi Pournima, on 2nd February 2026, the International Bajrang Dal is organizing a Maha Aarti at Shri Malanggad like Salabad and all Hindus in Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Nashik districts and Maharashtra are appealed to come in thousands for the Maha Aarti of Malanggad to maintain the unity and integrity of Hindus, as Malanggad belongs

to Hindus. These are places of worship and we are fighting like a war under justice, but our culture, our temples, we can be free only because of our presence... Thousands of saints attend and slogans like Ai Bhavani give strength, give Malangda liberation are echoed on all four sides of the fort. The International Bajrang Dal is appealing to Hindus to come to Malanggad Fort in large numbers. The format of the movement is as follows: 4 pm, climbing the fort starts at 7 pm, Maha Aarti at the Samadhi Temple at 9 pm and starting the descent of the fort with palanquin darshan at 12 pm. It has been done by the organization.

BJP candidate Mayur Shelar files nomination, showing strength

Rasayani / Rakesh Kharade
BJP's Mayur Parashuram Shelar filed his nomination papers for Apta Panchayat Samiti constituency in Rasayani area in a show of strength and submitted his nomination papers to the Returning Officer. Under the guidance of former MP Loknete Ramsheth Thakur, the process of filing applications was completed under the leadership of MLA Prashant Thakur,



MLA Mahesh Baldi, District President Avinash Koli, senior leaders J.M. Mhatre, Arunsheth Bhagat etc.
On the strength of the development works done by Mayur Shelar, the citizens had demanded that he should contest the elections again. His fans have prayed to Shri Ganesh for his victory in the Apta Panchayat Samiti elections.

Farewell ceremony of 10th and 12th class students was held under the chairmanship of former MLA Manohar Bhoir



Rasayani Rakesh Kharade
The farewell ceremony of the 10th (SSC) and 12th (HSC) Arts and Science students studying at Swatantryaveer Savarkar Secondary and Junior College, Naveen Sheva, of which Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) party district chief and former MLA Manohar Bhoir is the founder

president, was held on Wednesday, the 21st, under the chairmanship of the founder of the institution, former MLA Manohar Sheth Bhoir. While guiding the students on this occasion, former MLA Manohar Bhoir said that 10th and 12th are the first and second steps of our life, if we succeed here, we will be successful in life later, so stay away from TV, mobile for a few days and study hard

and become meritorious and make the name of ourselves, our teachers, parents and our school great. He wished them all the best. On this occasion, the chief guests were BN Daki, Ganesh Mhatre, Sarpanch Sonal Nilesh Gharat, Center Head Mhatre Sir, Gawand Sir, Amrit Thakur Sir, Principal Santosh Mhatre, while the students expressed their farewell thoughts. The program was moderated by

Prashant Mhatre. The program began with Shri Ganesh Puja, Shri Saraswati Puja and welcome songs, and the students were also given educational gifts by the organization. The program was attended by a large number of Naveen Sheva Gram Sudharana Mandal President Kamalakar Patil, Shailesh Bhoir, Police Patil Manohar Sutar, teachers, non-teaching staff and students.

You have to work hard to succeed in life-Actor Taha Shah Badusha



Rasayani / Rakesh Kharade
To succeed in life, it is necessary to work hard with a calm head, only then will there be a radical change in life and the future will be bright. 'Euphoria' means a feeling of extreme joy, ecstasy, and happiness, where a person feels very excited and happy, said renowned artist Taha Shah Badusha on Thursday afternoon, 22nd, at the campus of Pillai College in Rasaani.

'Paro: The Untold Story of Bride Slavery', a powerful and emotionally moving film, is being released and its promo and the annual literary and cultural program of Pillai College in Rasayani was addressed by Akshat Khaite, founder of Oscar Legal Advisor Company, as the chief guest. Indian film industry celebrity Taha Shah Badusha was there to promote his Oscar shortlisted film Paro.

Actor Taha Shah Badusha will be seen in a bold new role, which will challenge people's perceptions. Pillai College of Chemistry presents new programs every year, and invites eminent artists, writers. On this occasion, Dr. Nivedita Shreyansh, Head of Engineering Department Dr. Jagdish Bakal, Dr. Rinku Shantanu, Amar Mange, Mamta Patil, Amrit Deshpande were present.

Pangi treasury embargo hits welfare payments, orphans left without monthly aid

Chamba.(Agency)
A severe financial squeeze in Himachal Pradesh has begun to directly affect welfare beneficiaries, with the Pangi treasury withholding payments for months, allegedly depriving children of the state of their entitled monthly honorarium under the Chief Minister's flagship Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Scheme.
Raising the issue, BJP MLA Hans Raj stated that the Pangi treasury has not cleared bills related to the Sukh Ashraya Scheme for the past eight to nine months. Under the scheme, children of the state, including orphans, are entitled to a monthly assistance of Rs 4,000. However, due to instructions from the Finance Department restricting the treasury from clearing bills exceeding Rs 10,000, payments have reportedly been stalled, leaving several beneficiaries without support.
Sharing a WhatsApp chat to substantiate his claim, Hans Raj said an orphan from Pangi subdivision informed him that he has not received the monthly assistance for the last eight to nine months, severely impacting his education.

The message reads: "mein eak Orphan hun pichle 8-9 maha sai Rs 4000 nehi mil rahi, padhai kareng mein problem aa rahi hai." The MLA said this reflects the ground reality of how financial controls are hurting the most vulnerable.

Hans Raj further alleged that the state government's welfare narrative under its much-publicised "Vyavastha Parivartan" is collapsing due to a financial crunch, as treasuries are unable to clear even modest welfare bills. He claimed that the embargo is not limited to welfare schemes but is a broader fiscal restriction imposed across the state. According to a treasury officer, the state government has imposed an overall cap, directing that no treasury should clear bills exceeding Rs 4 crore in a single day. This has led to a backlog of payments across departments.

A contractor who is a victim of a such embargo also accused the Finance Department of selectively allowing bill clearances, alleging that only those who obtain prior "tokens" through opaque dealings can get high-value bills cleared.

Changing political skylines of Mumbai

Mumbai has always been important in national politics—even before Independence, and more so in the post-Independence period. Once, the fates of Maharashtra and Gujarat—together, as parts of Bombay State till 1960—were anchored to this port city. Later, Mumbai became central to the demand for a separate linguistic state, as leaders of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement (1956-1960) gave the call for “Mumbai saha Maharashtra” (Maharashtra with Mumbai), despite facing violent police action. Before the new state was carved out on May 1, 1960, the central government even considered making Mumbai a Union Territory or giving it to Gujarat. But Mumbai remained with Maharashtra.

Given this intense formative history linked to identity, the latest Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election can be viewed as a major blow to the Marathi identity of the country's richest municipality. The Shiv Sena's loss of the BMC after almost three decades is seen less as a loss of resources and more as the erosion of a bastion of the ‘Marathi manoo’ (Marathi person). The tussle appears to be over the city's identity, shaped since Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena displaced the Congress in 1997. One has to delve into the city's political economy and spatial distribution to understand how these elections may determine the future of state and national politics. Among the most notable factors is how the city's neoliberal economic model has given an upper hand to the non-Marathi-speaking population—specifically, the Gujarati-Marwari business community. While many of Mumbai's non-Marathi ghettos are swanky, they offer limited mobility for Marathi speakers because of prohibitive costs and relatively low average community incomes. Those who have not yet been forced to migrate to other municipalities within the Greater Mumbai Metropolitan Region remain confined to older buildings and chawls. Recent infrastructural developments—such as the Coastal Road, the Bandra-Kurla Complex connector bridge and the Worli Sea Link—combined with a changing skyline, have altered perceptions of Mumbai. These could be highlighted by the new mayor and corporators to project a Gujarati-centric, if not cosmopolitan, outlook, ultimately blurring the visible markers of Marathi language and culture. In the long run, this will electorally benefit the BJP's urban cadre. Another aspect of the political economy is ‘gentrification’. The groundwork has already been laid for the new BMC to expand this phenomenon. Major projects of the city's development department—including the redevelopment of chawls and other hutments in Worli, Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar and Dharavi—would now be easier to execute. The political gains could be long-lasting, as these ghettos' collective aspirations historically produced voting patterns favouring the Congress, the erstwhile Republican Party of India and the Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh (later called the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi). Gentrification would disrupt this pattern and disperse these voters, giving a natural advantage to monolithic party structures like the BJP's. Electorally, the BJP has been in firm control of the state since the Assembly elections of 2024. The BMC results could further push the city's real estate-driven development agenda. The central government, too, may promote Mumbai along the lines of GIFT City near Ahmedabad, with a view to woo fence-sitting Marathi voters and ensure a more complete electoral consolidation of the state.

There are two Mumbais within the city. One is the Mumbai of the Marathi working class, with limited resources and smaller housing units; the other is the wealthier Mumbai of the business community. Political competition between the two is determined not only by demographic and spatial factors, but also by the resources these communities command.

Chance for India to bridge the Gulf

UAE President's flying visit to Delhi comes in the backdrop of regional discord

UNITED Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, widely known as MbZ, made a flying visit to New Delhi on Monday. The absence of any prior indication about the visit implies that it concerned the rapidly changing geopolitical scenario in the Gulf and West Asia. The UAE, a coalition of Trucial States formed after the British exit the region in 1971, traditionally followed a status quo-based non-confrontational foreign policy. In 2002, an Indian delegation visited the UAE, when I was the Ambassador, after the terror attack on the Indian Parliament. Then President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, MbZ's father, received the visitors.

When asked about the foreign military presence in the region, the late leader recounted an old Arab tale. A farmer was frequently losing his sheep to wolves. Someone advised him to keep dogs. He did so, only to discover that he had to kill sheep often to feed the dogs. Sheikh Zayed's message was that foreign intervention did not benefit the region. Now MbZ is an English-speaking former air force pilot and the Supreme Commander of the UAE armed forces. He has controlled foreign policy since his father's death in 2004, even when his brother was President. According to his diplomatic adviser, Anwar Gargash, the UAE's priorities are to counter extremism and promote regional security. This underscores its opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood, which is seen as an existential threat. The UAE and Saudi Arabia had resented the ouster of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak by the Arab Spring protesters in 2011, to which then US President Barack Obama had seemingly turned a blind eye. Both countries supported the Egyptian military to subsequently overthrow the Muslim Brotherhood government.

The Gulf and West Asia have been unstable since US President Trump's first term. The confrontation between Qatar and its two powerful neighbours, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, began soon after Trump's visit to Riyadh. Qatar was blockaded (2017-21) for supporting Islamist forces. Trump also abandoned the nuclear deal with Iran, approved by the Permanent-Five plus Germany. The UAE and Saudi Arabia are the two largest economies in West Asia. MbZ helped Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, widely known as MbS, to consolidate power. When Saudi operatives murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey in 2018 on MbS' alleged instructions, it was MbZ who handled the Americans. However, as the Saudis, the custodians of the Two Holy Mosques, consider themselves the apex of the Arab and Muslim world, Saudi-Emirati differences

gradually developed and their geopolitical visions came into conflict. In diplomacy, friendship is transitory while interests are permanent. The UAE broke the regional consensus by signing the Trump-devised Abraham Accords in 2020 and normalising relations with Israel, while the Palestinian issue remained unresolved. It began backing secessionist forces in Yemen, Somalia and Sudan, ostensibly to counter Islamist forces. These three nations lie along the Red Sea, facing Saudi Arabia and the Bab al-Mandab. The UAE's interests converged with those of Israel and the US. President Trump's



second term has exacerbated the regional churn, especially since the June 2025 Israel-US air attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. On September 9, Israel attacked Hamas leaders' facilities in Qatar. MbZ rushed to meet the Saudi Crown Prince after a noticeable gap marked by the absence of communication. On September 15, the GCC met to review the situation. Two days later, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, with a clause mirroring NATO's Article 5, about an attack on one nation being considered as an attack on both. Soon enough, Yemen became a flashpoint. Early on till 2019, the UAE had joined Saudi Arabia in military operations in Yemen, but later preferred to support Yemeni rebel factions; the Saudis continued to back government forces. Reportedly, Israeli intelligence was positioned on UAE-controlled Yemeni island Socotra. While in Africa, Israel recognised Somaliland, a breakaway part of Somalia—the Emiratis are developing a port there. The Saudis retaliated strongly, telling the UAE to withdraw its forces from Yemen and bombing the military equipment sent by UAE. Egypt, the other big Arab power, began to speak in favour of the Saudis—both clearly wanted to restrict Israeli strategic expansion

in the Red Sea region. Essentially, the Saudi and Emirati visions are at odds. The Saudis favour state-to-state engagement to stabilise domestic or regional conflicts. The UAE likes to cultivate dissident and breakout factions, like in Yemen, if it promotes stability and controls supply routes, minerals and energy. So as the Saudis attempted to limit Emirati geopolitical play in the Arab world, MbZ made his first visit to Pakistan as President last month. The UAE Sheikhs and Pakistan have been close for decades, but Pakistan had meanwhile signed a defence deal with the Saudis. The Emiratis were seeking to restore a balance in ties with traditional friends against the backdrop of their exposed closeness to Israel and conflict with Saudis. President Mohamed bin Zayed's trip to India must be seen in this context. PM Modi's government has invested heavily in his outreach to ruling families in the Gulf, especially those in Abu Dhabi. The Indian diaspora in the UAE numbers 3.5 million or 35 per cent of the population. As many as one-third are professionals.

The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination. In 2024-25, Indian exports were \$36.73 billion, while imports touched \$63.64 billion. Despite its small population and the local market, the UAE is the favoured entrepôt for Indian exports to the Gulf, Iran, Central Asia and even Pakistan. The UAE's cumulative FDI in India is \$22.84 billion (2000-25), a mere speck in Abu Dhabi's nearly \$1 trillion sovereign fund. The two signed an economic partnership deal in 2022. Both are members of BRICS and I2U2, a forum that comprises India, Israel, UAE and the US.

Still, the path ahead is not easy. Pathbreaking deals like the 2023 India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which will pass through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, are stymied by the standoff between Iran and Israel-US as well as the Saudis and Emiratis. The competing visions for stability in the Gulf is split between US-Israel-UAE and Saudi Arabia-Egypt-Turkey. Pakistan is playing both sides. In this fragmented world, here is the opportunity for PM Modi to leverage India's traditional warmth with all sides and demonstrate that “Vishwaguru” is more than a phrase. India can start bridging some of the divides, beginning with Modi's substantive relationship with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. With large-scale protests continuing in Iran and the US moving more ships and aircrafts into India's extended neighbourhood, the situation remains fragile. President Mohamed bin Zayed's short visit to India is indicative of the churn in the Gulf and the need for India to be more proactive.

HP govt must take tourists to task for defying advisories

The Tribune Editorial: Tourism cannot be a free pass for rash and incautious conduct, certainly not in the hills.

REPEATED warnings and safety advisories are not having the desired effect as tourists continue to put their lives at great risk in Himachal Pradesh. Despite signposts prohibiting any such reckless activity, many continue to venture close to riverbeds or walk on frozen lakes. Patrolling has been intensified and fines are now being imposed in Lahaul & Spiti district. The authorities must crack the whip with hefty penalties, not token amounts, and mention in bold letters the consequences of indulging in grossly irresponsible behaviour. The death of two tourists in Arunachal Pradesh last week serves as a painful reminder of past tragedies in Himachal. Both drowned as the ice cracked while they were trying to rescue a member of their group who slipped into the frozen Sela Lake. The site has signboards prohibiting stepping onto the lake as the ice may be unstable and unable



to support human weight. Tourism cannot be a free pass

for rash and incautious conduct, certainly not in the hills. Respect for the topography, cultural norms, local sensitivities—each aspect is vital for the host as well as the guest. That's what makes the journey special. Fiddle with it, and the results can be disastrous.

The time has come for the Himachal tourism authorities, the law enforcement agencies and all the stakeholders to spell out in clear terms what is simply not acceptable. A standard quick response mechanism is perhaps the only solution to tackle unruly activities, including hooliganism, that are threatening to disturb a tourism ecosystem that's been carefully nurtured over decades. Weather, road and safety advisories carry enormous weight in the mountains.

The defiance by some, of late, is deeply disturbing. If stringent action is what it takes to instil discipline and enforce order, the state government must not think twice.

Career break a liability or not Psychiatrist says it can be a boon for mental health

Career breaks taken for mental health are increasingly being recognised as a necessary and responsible choice, especially in high-pressure, performance-driven professions. Studies show that neglecting health undermines productivity and overall job performance. Excessive stress, lack of sleep and workout, and poor nutrition take a negative toll on cognitive health, decision-making, and creativity. Over time, these factors can result in burnout, which adversely affects physical and mental health.

In an interaction with TV9 English, Dr. Murali Krishna, Consultant - Psychiatry & Counselling Services, Aster RV Hospital, Bangalore, spoke about the importance of taking a career break when required, and its impact on mental health and long-term goals. When professionals choose to pause their careers, it often reflects self-awareness rather than burnout alone. Such breaks provide space to reset stress responses, restore cognitive clarity, and address emotional fatigue before it escalates into long-term psychological or physical illness.

From a clinical and well-being point of view, taking a break from work can help rebalance mood-regulating hormones, improve sleep patterns, and strengthen coping mechanisms. It also allows individuals to reconnect with personal values, relationships, and interests that they may have been sidelined by professional demands. This reconnection is crucial for sustainable performance and long-term fulfilment.



Importantly, normalising career breaks for mental health helps dismantle the stigma around seeking rest and support. It reinforces the idea that productivity should not come at the cost of well-being. Organisations and industries that acknowledge this reality are more likely to retain healthier, more creative, and emotionally grounded professionals.

How do career breaks impact mental health?

Your Health is Your Foundation: Your health is the foundation upon which everything else in your life is built. Mental and physical health fuel your energy, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. When you prioritise taking care of your body and mind, you become sharper, more focused, and resilient in handling

life's challenges.

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Increased Productivity and Efficiency: Contrary to the belief that longer hours lead to more productivity, studies have shown that people who prioritise their health tend to be more productive. When you take time to recharge, whether through exercise, meditation, or simply resting, you return to your tasks with renewed focus. Burnout leads to mistakes and sluggish work, while a healthy mind and body enhance your performance and help you get more done in less time.

Better Decision-Making and Creativity: A well-rested mind is a clear mind. When you neglect self-care, your cognitive functions decline. This can result in poor decision-making, reduced creativity, and an inability to solve problems effectively. On the other hand, making time for your mental health, whether through therapy, mindfulness practices, or hobbies, allows you to approach challenges with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas.

Work-Life Balance is Essential: Being a workaholic need not always affect other aspects of life. It is imperative strike an ideal balance between the two as it helps one get a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle of life. Ultimately, prioritising mental health through a career pause is not a sign of weakness or loss of ambition. It is a proactive investment in longevity, clarity, and purpose.

NEWS BOX

Bangladesh Launches Campaigns For First Post-Sheikh Hasina Polls

CAPE CANAVERAL. (Agency)
Bangladesh begins official campaigning on Thursday for hugely anticipated general elections next month, the first since the 2024 uprising ended the autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina. The South Asian nation of 170 million people votes on February 12 for 350 lawmakers, ushering in new leadership after prolonged political turmoil following the overthrow of Hasina's government, reshaping domestic and regional power dynamics. It comes against the backdrop of insecurity -- including the murder last month of a student leader of the anti-Hasina protests -- as well as warnings of a "flood" of online disinformation. European Union election observers say the vote will be the "biggest democratic process of 2026". Mass rallies are expected with hundreds of thousands of supporters gathering, as the frontrunners the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, formally launch their campaigns. Sufi Shrine BNP chief and prime ministerial hopeful Tarique Rahman, 60, who returned to Bangladesh in December after 17 years in exile, is due to address a string of rallies starting in the north-eastern city of Sylhet. Rahman assumed formal leadership of the BNP after the death in December of his mother, 80-year-old former prime minister Khaleda Zia. Bangladesh, home to one of the world's largest Muslim-majority populations, has a significant Sufi following, and parties have traditionally launched campaigns in Sylhet, home to the centuries-old shrine of Shah Jalal.

Several Missing After Landslides Hit New Zealand Campground

World. (Agency)
A landslide smashed into a campsite in rain-swept northern New Zealand on Thursday, leaving multiple people missing under tonnes of mud. Mounds of earth buried and crushed a shower block at the campsite, which lies at the foot of extinct volcano Mount Maunganui, video and photo images on local media showed. Voices were briefly heard calling for help from beneath the rubble, witnesses and emergency officials said. "Whilst the land's still moving there, they're in a rescue mission," Assistant Police Commissioner Tim Anderson told reporters at the scene. "I can't be drawn on numbers. What I can say is that it is single figures." The landslide hit several camper vans and the shower block at the camp, which lies on the North Island in an area lashed by heavy overnight rain. Visiting Canadian tourist Dion Siluch, 34, said he was relaxing at the now-evacuated Mount Hot Pools complex by the mountain when it hit. "I was in a massage at that mountain pools and the whole room started shaking," he told AFP.

"When I walked out, there was a caravan in the pool, and there's a mudslide that missed me by about 30 feet," Siluch said. "It was all very confusing. I wasn't sure if someone had driven off the road and into the pool. It took me a while to realise that the mountain had collapsed and had pushed everything into the pool."

'People Screaming'
The tourist said he had seen another landslide about an hour earlier but took little notice. Police later arrived by helicopter and told people to evacuate, Siluch said.

Immigration Officers Have Power To Enter Homes Without Judicial Warrant: US Memo

world. (Agency)
Federal immigration officers are asserting sweeping power to forcibly enter people's homes without a judge's warrant, according to an internal Immigration and Customs Enforcement memo obtained by The Associated Press, marking a sharp reversal of longstanding guidance meant to respect constitutional limits on government searches. The memo authorises ICE officers to use force to enter a residence based solely on a more narrow administrative warrant to arrest someone with a final order of removal, a move that advocates say collides with Fourth Amendment protections and upends years of advice given to immigrant communities.

The shift comes as the Trump administration dramatically expands immigration arrests nationwide, deploying thousands of officers under a mass deportation campaign that is already reshaping enforcement tactics in cities such as Minneapolis.

For years, immigrant advocates, legal aid groups and local governments have urged people not to open their doors to immigration agents unless they are shown a warrant signed by a judge. That guidance is rooted in Supreme Court rulings that generally prohibit law enforcement from entering a home without judicial approval. The ICE directive directly undercuts that advice at a time when arrests are accelerating under the administration's immigration crackdown. The memo itself has not been widely shared within the agency, according to a whistleblower complaint, but its contents have been used to train new ICE officers who are being deployed into cities and towns to implement the president's immigration crackdown. New ICE hires and those still in training are being told to follow the memo's guidance instead of written training materials that actually contradict the memo, according to the whistleblower disclosure. It is unclear how broadly the directive has been applied in immigration enforcement operations. The Associated Press witnessed ICE officers ramming through the front door of the home of a Liberian man, Garrison Gibson, with a deportation order from 2023 in Minneapolis on Jan. 11, wearing heavy tactical gear and with their rifles drawn.

Venezuela's interim president Delcy Rodriguez to visit US

Delcy Rodriguez would be the first sitting Venezuelan president to visit the United States in more than a quarter century -- aside from presidents attending United Nations meetings in New York.

SEOUL. (Agency)
Venezuela's interim president will soon visit the United States, a senior US official said Wednesday, further signaling President Donald Trump's willingness to embrace the oil-rich country's new leader. Delcy Rodriguez would be the first sitting Venezuelan president to visit the United States in more than a quarter century -- aside from presidents attending United Nations meetings in New York. She said Wednesday that she approached any dialogue with the United States "without fear." "We are in a process of dialogue, of working with the United States, without any fear, to confront our differences and difficulties...and to address them through diplomacy," said Rodriguez. The invitation

reflects a head-snapping shift in relations between Washington and Caracas since US Delta Force operatives swooped into Caracas, seized president Nicolas Maduro and spirited him to a US jail to face narco-trafficking charges.

Rodriguez was a former vice president and long-time insider in Venezuela's authoritarian and anti-American government, before changing tack as interim president. She is still the subject of US sanctions, including an asset freeze.

Rodriguez on Wednesday began reorganizing the leadership of the country's military forces, appointing 12 senior officers to regional commands. As a flotilla of US warships remains off the Venezuelan coast, she has allowed the United States to broker the sale of Venezuelan oil, facilitated foreign investment and released dozens of political prisoners. A senior White House official said Rodriguez would visit soon, but no date has been set. All for oil? The last bilateral visit by a sitting Venezuelan president came in the 1990s -- before populist leader Hugo Chavez took power. Since then, successive Venezuelan governments have made a point of thumbing their nose at Washington and building close ties with US foes in



China, Cuba, Iran and Russia. The US trip, which has yet to be confirmed by Venezuelan authorities, could pose problems for Rodriguez inside the government -- where some hardliners still detest what they see as Washington's hemispheric imperialism. Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello and Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez remain powerful forces in the country, and analysts say their support for Rodriguez is not a given. Cabello on his weekly state television program Wednesday night denied reports he had met with US officials ahead of Maduro's ouster. "It's a campaign. They say, 'Diosdado met with the United States'...I haven't met with anyone," he said. Trump has so far appeared happy to

allow Rodriguez and much of the repressive government to remain in power, so long as the United States has access to Venezuelan oil -- the largest proven reserves in the world. Trump hosted Venezuela's exiled opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate Maria Corina Machado at the White House earlier this month. After initially dismissing Machado and her ability to control the country's powerful armed forces and intelligence services, he said Tuesday that he would "love" to have her "involved in some way." Machado's party is widely considered to have won 2024 elections that Washington said were stolen by Maduro. Analysts say Trump's embrace of Rodriguez and avoidance of wholesale regime change can be explained by an unwillingness to repeat mistakes made in the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. "Those kinds of intervention operations -- and the deployment of troops for stabilization -- have always ended very badly," said Benigno Alarcon, a politics expert at the Andres Bello Catholic University in Caracas. Trump's stance has however angered democracy activists who argue that all political prisoners must be freed and granted amnesty.

Kirtida Mekani, Singapore's 'tree lady', dies at 66

World. (Agency)
Kirtida Mekani, who came from Karnataka and became one of Singapore's most influential champions of environmental sustainability, community service and cultural heritage, has passed away after suffering a massive heart at home. She was 66. A recipient of the President's Award for environment work and an inductee of the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2024, Mekani's legacy is woven into the island's green spaces, community gardens, educational institutions and cultural landmarks, reported online tabloid. The sudden passing off "Tree Lady", as she was affectionately called, on January 19 has left a profound void in Singapore's environment, arts, and civic communities. "She shaped quietly yet decisively for more than three decades. Mekani's lifelong love for nature began in childhood on her family's farm in Karnataka. A simple yet transformative moment -- discovering how a "smelly" compost

pit turned into fertile soil -- opened her eyes to nature's regenerative power. That early lesson stayed with her, shaping a philosophy that nature, if



understood and respected, could teach humanity how to live sustainably. When she moved to Singapore with her husband Bharat Mekani in 1990, she was immediately struck by the greenery along the drive from the Changi Airport. That image, she often recalled, planted a seed that would later blossom into one of Singapore's most successful citizen-led environmental initiatives. In 1993, Mekani became the founding executive director of the Singapore

Environment Council, where she spent four years designing and implementing more than 50 environmental protection and education programmes for schools, businesses, and communities. Even after stepping down, she remained deeply involved in grassroots environmental education, mentoring young leaders, and advising organisations. Her proudest achievement was the Plant-A-Tree Programme, launched in 2007 in partnership with Singapore's National Parks Board under the Garden City Fund here. The idea initially faced scepticism, with doubts over whether the public would participate. Mekani persisted -- convinced Singaporeans would respond if given the chance to connect personally with nature. She was right. Since its inception, the programme has seen over 76,000 trees planted, introduced more than 200 native species, and involved over 100,000 participants from all walks of life. It remains one of Singapore's most enduring citizen-driven green initiatives.

After Minneapolis, Democrats confront political vulnerabilities as they battle Trump on immigration

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
Democrats had planned to campaign in the midterm elections on affordability and health care, two issues where Americans are particularly unhappy with President Donald Trump. But the aggressive immigration crackdown in Minnesota, including the killing of Renee Good during a confrontation with federal agents, has scrambled the party's playbook.

Now Democrats are trying to translate visceral outrage into political strategy, even though there's little consensus on how to press forward on issues where the party has recently struggled to earn voters' trust. Some Democrats want to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a proposal that echoes "defund the police" rhetoric from Trump's first term, and impeach administration officials such as

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. Others have taken a different approach, introducing legislation intended to curb alleged abuses by federal agents. But those ideas have been criticized by activists as insufficient, and there is mounting pressure to obstruct funding for deportations. "We're Democrats. I'm sure we're going to have 50 different ideas and 50 different ways to say it," said Chuck Rocha, a party strategist who is advising several House and Senate candidates on immigration this year. If Democrats fail to strike the right balance, they could imperil their efforts to retake control of Congress and statehouses around the country. They could also hamper a chance to rebuild credibility with voters whose dissatisfaction with border enforcement under Democratic

President Joe Biden helped return Trump, a Republican, to the White House. Neera Tanden, president of the Center for American Progress and Biden's former domestic policy adviser, believes the party can thread the needle. "It's not too much to ask that we have a government that can produce a secure border, that can deport people who are not legally here, and that can also respect people's civil and human rights," she told The Associated Press. "This country has done that before, and it can do it again."

Violent scenes force a strong Democratic response
Immigration crackdowns have spread from city to city since Trump took office, but the latest operation in Minnesota has generated some of the most intense controversy.

Trump backs down on Greenland and cancels tariff threat after NATO agrees to future Arctic deal

World. (Agency)
President Donald Trump on Wednesday scrapped the tariffs that he threatened to impose on eight European nations to press for U.S. control over Greenland, pulling a dramatic reversal shortly after insisting he wanted to get the island "including right, title and ownership." In a post on his social media site, Trump said he had agreed with the head of NATO on a "framework of a future deal" on Arctic security, potentially defusing tension that had far-reaching geopolitical implications. He said "additional discussions" on Greenland were being held concerning the Golden Dome missile defense program, a multilayered, \$175 billion system that for the first time will put U.S. weapons in space. Trump offered few details, saying they were still being worked out. But one idea NATO members have discussed as part of a compromise with Trump was that Denmark and the alliance would work with the U.S. to build more U.S. military bases on Greenland. That's according to a European official familiar with the matter but not authorized to comment publicly. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was not immediately clear if that idea was included in the framework Trump announced.

Trump has backed off tariffs before



The president has threatened tariffs before only to back away. In April, after first saying he would slap massive import levies on nations from around the world, which prompted a sharp negative market reaction, Trump eased off. But his change of heart this time came only after he used his speech at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss Alps to focus on Greenland and threatened to upend NATO, an alliance that has been among the globe's most unshakable since the early days of the Cold War. In his address, Trump said he was asking for territory that was "cold and poorly located" and that the U.S. had effectively saved Europe during World War II while declaring of NATO: "It's a very small ask compared to what we have given them for many, many decades."

Iran offers first government-issued death toll from protest crackdown, one far lower than activists

DUBAI. (Agency)
Iran offered its first government-issued death toll Wednesday following a crackdown on nationwide protests, giving a far lower figure than activists abroad as the country's theocracy tries to reassert control after unrest recalling the chaos surrounding its 1979 Islamic Revolution. State television carried statements by the Interior Ministry and the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, an official body providing services to families of those killed in wars, saying 3,117 people were killed. It added that 2,427 of the dead in the demonstrations that began Dec. 28 were civilians and security forces. It did not elaborate on the rest. Iran's government in the past has undercounted or not reported fatalities from unrest. The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency said the death toll early Thursday was at least 4,902, with many more feared dead. The human rights group has been accurate throughout the years on demonstrations and unrest in Iran, relying on a network of activists inside the

country that confirms all reported fatalities. Other groups similarly have offered higher numbers than the Iranian government tally. The Associated Press has been unable to independently assess the death toll, in part due to authorities cutting access to the internet and blocking international calls into the country. Iran also reportedly has limited journalists' ability locally to report on the aftermath, instead repeatedly airing claims on state television that refer to demonstrators as "rioters" motivated by America and Israel, without offering evidence to support the allegation. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi issued his most-direct threat yet to the United States, warning the Islamic Republic will be "firing back with everything we have if we come under renewed attack." The comments came as Araghchi saw his invitation to the World Economic Forum in Davos rescinded over the killings, and as a U.S. aircraft carrier group moved west toward the Middle East from Asia. U.S.



fighter jets and other equipment appeared to be moving in the Mideast after a major U.S. military deployment in the Caribbean saw troops seize Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro. Protest death toll rises. The death toll exceeds that of any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades, and recalls the chaos surrounding the 1979 revolution that brought the Islamic Republic into being. Although there have been no protests for days, there are fears the toll could increase significantly as information gradually

emerges from a country under a government-imposed shutdown of the internet since Jan. 8. Nearly 26,500 people have also been arrested, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency. Comments from officials have led to fears of some of those detained being put to death in Iran, one of the world's top executioners.

Mass executions and the killing of peaceful protesters have been two red lines laid down by U.S. President Donald Trump in the tensions.

Araghchi makes threat in column
Araghchi made the threat in an opinion article published by The Wall Street Journal. The foreign minister contended "the violent phase of the unrest lasted less than 72 hours" and sought again to blame armed demonstrators for the violence. Videos that made it out of Iran despite an internet shutdown appear to show security forces repeatedly using live fire to target apparently unarmed protesters, something unaddressed by Araghchi.



monastery have been discovered. Towards the west of the village, visitors can see a well preserved portion of the monastery? a long narrow hall surrounded by pillars. There is an image of Mayadevi near the site and an inscription on the back of it refers to 10th century AD.

Padmasambhava Mahavihara Monastery

Amidst the verdant surroundings in Jirang near Chandragiri of Gajapati district, stands the beautiful Padmasambhava Mahavihara monastery, reportedly the largest in eastern India. The colony which houses the monastery is Buddha Vihar (the land of happiness and plenty) and area is popularly known as a mini Tibet in Odisha. It is a part of the Rigon Thubten Mindolling monastery that was part of the Tibetan settlement near Chandragiri. The monastery is named after Acharya Padmasambhava, who was born in Odisha and is believed to have spread Buddhism to Tibet in 7th century. Driving through the roads of Jirang, visitors are welcomed to the Buddha Vihar with Buddhist flags on both sides of the road. Inaugurated by Dalai Lama in 2010, it has been built as per the 'Atanpuri style of Nalanda' and in the assembly hall, a 23-foot-high idol of Lord Buddha along with his two disciples have been installed. On the right side of the Buddha's idol is the 1000-armed, 1000-eyed Avalokiteswar. While on the left, is the large idol of Guru Nangsi Zilnon. The five-storey monastery has its interiors richly decorated with traditional religious paintings of Tibetan culture. The 70-feet-high monastery can house over 200 Lamas. Apparently, Jirang is considered one of the earliest Tibetan resettlement villages in the country; the Tibetans had arrived here on May 1, 1963. Visitors can also experience maize cultivation in the village, which is the main avocation of the Tibetans. Jirang can be approached by road through Berhampur.

Kuruma

Located 10 km south-east of the popular Sun temple in Konark, is the ancient lesser known Buddhist site of Kuruma. It is said that a Buddhist monastery flourished in the area, remnants of which were found during excavations by the State Archaeology wing. In fact, in the pages of history, this monastery has been mentioned by Hiuen Tsang. The origin of the site is dated to be between 8th and 9th century AD.



At the site currently, there is a small temple which houses three Buddhist images? crowned Buddha seated in Bhumisparsha mudra, Padmapani Avalokitesvara and Revanta. These three images are jointly worshipped as 'Yamadharma' by Kuruma villagers. These images were found near a water tank called Dharma Pokhari (tank of Dharma), located at one end of the village, by a school teacher Brajabandhu Dash in the 70s. Later on, the archaeological wing started excavating the site. Historians say the length and width of the monastery is 34 m each and it also houses a shrine chamber, cells for Buddhist monks and a large courtyard, which is in the shape of 'Swastik', denoting tantric Buddhism (Vajrayana or Tantrayana). Visitors can hire taxis from either Puri or Konark to reach Kuruma.

The Buddhist heritage of

Odisha

Even though Lord Buddha had never visited Odisha during his lifetime, the state has a rich heritage of Buddhism. In fact, Odisha is home to more than 200 Buddhist sites, scattered across its length and breadth. Here, Buddhism flourished from the 6th century BC to at least 15th to 16th century AD. After the death of the Buddha, his followers were divided into two sects? 'Hinayana' and 'Mahayana'. The latest Buddhist phase is 'Vajrayana' which is believed to have been originated from Odisha. According to the Buddhist scholars of Odisha Institute of Maritime and South East Asian Studies, Biraja (modern Jajpur) was a sacred land of Buddha Padmaprabha and the cradle of 'Mahayana'. The presence of 'Mahayana' antiquities, stupas and relics in Jajpur district are a testimony to this. Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang visited these Buddhist sites in Odisha in the 7th century and between 8th and 10th century. Buddhism was the religion under the Bhaumakaras clan. The tantric form of 'Mahayana' Buddhism started during this period. One of the most popular Buddhist destinations in Odisha is the Diamond Triangle comprising Ratnagiri, Udayagiri

and Lalitgiri in Jajpur district. There are several places in the state where Buddhism is still practiced today. Here's a look at the sites that would interest travellers on exploring Buddhist heritage of Odisha.

Langudi

Explore the remains of a Buddhist centre of learning that flourished till 11th century at Langudi Hill, located 90 km away from Bhubaneswar. The site is situated in Salipur village of Jajpur district. There are a series of 34 rock-cut Buddhist stupas and several early medieval Buddhist monuments and shrines atop the hill. The most popular of these rock-cut stupas is the 7th century 'Smaudra Mudra' image of Lord Buddha. Historians say the hill also has the remains of Pushpagiri University or Puspagiri Mahavihara, a major Buddhist centre of learning that flourished from 2nd century BC to 10th century AD. Excavations by Odisha Institute of Maritime and South East Asian Studies revealed that the structures found on Langudi Hill are even older and larger than other Buddhist centres of learning like Nalanda and Vikramashila. The remains indicate that it was a centre

of the Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana sects of Buddhism. The northern part of the hill houses the country's oldest Ashoka stupa. Besides images of Buddha in various postures, there are sculptures of Hindu goddesses on the hill. Flowing below the hill is river Kelua, a tributary of river Brahmani. This is a centrally protected site by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Buddhist sites in Balasore and Bhadrak

The districts of Balasore and Bhadrak have a significant number of smaller Buddhist sites. Numerous Buddhist relics, both small and big, lie scattered in Balasore district. There is a museum in Santikanan area which contains images of Khasarpana, Lokeswar, Avalokiteswar, Buddha and Tara. At the 11th century Marichi temple in Ajothya area of Balasore district, the idols of Goddess Durga (Mahayana Goddess Marichi) and Lord Buddha are worshipped together. Besides these main idols, there are other smaller idols related to Tantric cult and Jainism. There is a small Buddhist stupa on the temple premises. Images of Buddha can also be found at Khadipada and Soro. The ideal base to visit these places is through the town of Balasore with the help of a taxi. Surrounded by hills on three sides, lies a quaint village called Kupari in Bhadrak district (67 km away from Balasore), where remains of an old Buddhist temple and a

The wonders of Leh and Ladakh



If you are scouring for a comprehensive guide for the places to visit in Leh and Ladakh, here is some help. Check out Pangong Tso that is the undisputed highlight of the region and everything you wanted to know about it. Choose from the ancient monasteries of Lamayuru and Diskit, drive off to the high and mighty Khardung La Pass, wonder in awe at the first sight of Potala Palace's lookalike - Thiksey Monastery or go searching for the elusive Changpas when you visit Tso Moriri. Head out to the Himalayas for a lifetime's experience, Leh and Ladakh have wonders waiting for you.

Leh Palace

Quite an impressive replica of Lhasa's Potala Palace, the Leh Palace is a major attraction in Leh. A nine storey structure in

dun colour, it was the erstwhile home to the royals of Ladakh, built at the behest of King Sengge Namgyal in the 17th century. The Leh Palace rises up against the backdrop of the lofty Himalayas, looking more like a painter's muse. Built mostly of mud, rocks and wood, it is grand in its simplicity. The palace also houses a rich collection of traditional dresses and crowns, thanka paintings and some impressive traditional ornaments. The best part about Leh Palace is its terrace for you can pore over Leh, Stok Kangri and the Zaskar range from it. This one cannot be missed for it looms high in the skyline of Leh, standing guard over this Himalayan kingdom.

Stok Palace

Stok Palace is the less majestic yet more famous of the palaces in Ladakh. At some 14 km from Leh, it was the once summer palace

of Ladakh's royal family. Built over 200 years ago, Stok Palace houses some rare ancient paintings of Buddhist deities Shakyamuni, Avalokiteshwara, Vajrapani, Tara, Amchi etc. The palace museum also houses some 100 plus volumes of Buddhist teachings and a giant statue of Avalokiteshwara. Some interesting artifacts like the jewel-studded crown of Ladakh's erstwhile queen are also housed in the palace. The palace also has a cafe on its terrace and some rooms open for visitors. Prior booking has to be made in case you wish to stay here. Stok Palace is a major pit-stop if you are eager to hit some impressive treks in the Himalayas around.

Pangong Tso

While no words can be apt enough to describe Pangong Tso, words like 'magic' and 'surreal' can be put to good use here. This astonishing, blue-water body at 14,270 ft is guarded by looming mountains. One of the most stunning lakes of the world, Pangong Tso covers 134 km and touches India and Tibet. Also important as a major wetland, it sees flocks of migratory birds in summers. Visiting it in winters is, of course, an out of this world experience for it is completely frozen at that time. The lake lies in the Changthang region of Ladakh at some 170 km from Leh, and has just one cemented stay facility nearby. Foreign nationals need Inner Line Permit to visit the lake; thus it's advisable to check for visitor's guidelines beforehand.

Lamayuru Monastery

Lamayuru, fondly referred to as the Moon Land, is a major stopover on the Leh-Kargil Road. Hidden in the folds of the mountains of this mystical land is the Lamayuru Monastery. One of the oldest gompas in Ladakh and Spiti, this monastery is perched atop a cliff. Going by the legends, this region was once under a lake that was made to dry up by a holy man. The



main sanctum of the monastery has a cave where Mahasiddha Naropa meditated for years. The entire region is considered sacred owing to the monastery's presence and a visit is believed to liberate people from all their sins. Other than its religious significance, the place looks like a picture postcard that has turned real.

Tsemo Fort

This fort cum monastery stands guard over the city of Leh and is a major landmark, visible from everywhere in the city. Built by King Tashi Namgyal, it sees elaborate Buddhist ceremonies in morning and evening. Take the trail leading to the monastery from Leh to witness the interesting rituals. It also houses a three-storey tall statue of Maitreya Buddha, its face made out of solid gold. Also a vantage point for photographers, its terrace gives a bird's eye view of the whole city. Visit it early in the morning to escape the scorching heat, witness the rituals as well as click great shots in the almost golden light that lights it up.

Stok Kangri

Stok Kangri is the highest mountain peak in the Stok range of the Himalayas. At 20,500 ft, it is also the highest trekable summit in India. It has always been a great lure for trekkers from all over the world and is quite popular since it requires

relatively less trekking skills. Ideally done between 6-10 days, it is one of the must have Ladakh experiences. You need to be properly acclimatised to the high altitude conditions before attempting this one. It is advisable to make a summit attempt if you have prior experience of scaling some 14,000 ft peaks. A lot of mental fitness also goes into this one, for weather can take sudden turns on the trek to Stok Kangri. Still, it is a must do if adventure is your calling and you harbour a secret wish to scale a world-famous Indian peak.

Shanti Stupa

Another one for the shutterbugs and the ones interested in culture and Buddhism. A starkly white stupa (chorten) standing tall (4276 m) against a backdrop of the barren brown mountains, the Shanti Stupa is nothing less than fascinating. It was built by monks from Ladakh and Japan in 1983 to mark 2500 years of Buddhism in the region and promote world peace. The stupa houses Buddhist relics, placed here by the 14th Dalai Lama. A popular meditation site, it also has a simple cafe which makes up for the hard 15-minute climb up the stairs. Photographers must mark it in bold on their itinerary, for it's a perfect place to shoot time lapse sequences.

Rubina Dilaik

Thinks Jannat Zubair Is Looking 'Pretty' In Blue Salwar Suit

Jannat Zubair recently shared a series of stunning photos that left fans in awe. The young actress and digital creator looked every bit like Disney's Princess Jasmine in a dazzling aqua blue salwar suit. The outfit featured a minimal lace border along the neck and body, adding a subtle yet elegant touch to her traditional look. Her styling perfectly complemented her graceful and regal aura. Jannat accessorised with matching bangles, antique jhumkas, a statement silver ring, and traditional jutti, enhancing the ethnic charm. She kept her hair casual and opted for minimal makeup, letting her natural beauty shine through. Her poses and flawless styling made the pictures truly eye-catching, quickly turning the post into a favourite among fans. Rubina Dilaik wasted no time before commenting, "Prettyyyy" to her.

Fans Shower Praise

Jannat captioned the post, "Tu hi hai duniya meri Sab maan liya tujhko," which fans responded to with love and admiration. Comments poured in, with fans writing, "Your elegance and confidence make every look perfect," "You are so pretty," and "Tenu suit suit karda." Clearly, her latest style moment was a hit on social media.

Music Video Sparks Rumours

Adding to the buzz, Jannat has been in the spotlight recently for her collaboration with Indian digital creator and music artist Elvish Yadav. Their new music video, Tere Dil Mein, showcased strong on-screen chemistry between the two. Fans were quick to speculate about whether the pair were dating, with comments like, "This love looks real because their bond feels genuine," and "They look like they are truly in love, that's why it feels so natural." The song, sung by Rito Riba, quickly crossed 1.5 million views and became a trending topic on social media. Despite the growing curiosity, neither Jannat nor Elvish has confirmed any real-life relationship, leaving fans to enjoy their performances and style moments.



Tanya Mittal

'Loves' Neelam Giri, Hints At Friendship Revival

Bigg Boss 19 may have ended over a month ago, but the contestants are still making headlines. Tanya Mittal and Neelam Giri, once close friends inside the house, had a public fallout after the show. The tension began when Tanya unfollowed Neelam on social media, hurt by statements Neelam made about her during the

show. But whenever I cried, Neelam was always there for me. She would console me and say, 'You don't know who you are.'"

Neelam Shares Her Side of the Story

Neelam also addressed the issue in an interview with Paras Chhabra. She said that after Tanya's eviction, they met at the finale and spoke properly. "Inside the house, we had made so many plans about meeting and hanging out later, but once outside, things changed. I didn't even have her number, so I was wondering how to get in touch. When I found out Tanya had unfollowed me, I felt really hurt and unfollowed her back," Neelam explained.

Tanya Opens Up About Farhana Bhatt

Apart from Neelam, Tanya also reflected on her strained bond with fellow contestant Farhana Bhatt. She described Farhana as a "negative character" and rejected claims that she befriended Farhana to improve her own image. Tanya said, "Farhana never questioned my status, but she always questioned me as a person. She kept saying I became friends with her to look good. That really hurt me. How would I look good by being friends with a negative character?"

Tanya Responds to Amaal Mallik Allegations

Tanya also addressed allegations from singer Amaal Mallik, who claimed she was running a paid PR campaign against him. Tanya denied the claims, saying, "If I wanted to be associated with Amaal, I would have shared my number and spoken to him. I haven't messaged, called, or tried to meet him. There is no truth in his claims." Even after Bigg Boss 19 wrapped up, friendships, feuds, and controversies among contestants.



show. Recently, Tanya praised Neelam in an interview with Filmy Window, hinting that their friendship may have been restored. She said, "Honestly, woh ladki itni pyaari hai. Mujhe lagta hai uske mummy-papa ne kuch bohot ache karm kiye honge ki unhein itni achi beti hui. From the very first day, the house was against me. Even on weekends, I was constantly



Ayushmann Khurrana And Sara Ali Khan's Action Comedy, Backed by Dharma, In Trouble? Karan Johar Reacts



Yesterday, on January 20, reports came in that Ayushmann Khurrana and Sara Ali Khan's action comedy, backed by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, had landed in some trouble. The report also claimed that the film had been pushed, and that deciding whether it should be released in theatres or on OTT was another roadblock. However, a fresh update on the project states that nothing like that has happened and everything is on track. As per HT City, Karan Johar himself confirmed that there are no roadblocks and everything is going as planned. The portal quoted Johar saying, "This is not true. We have 10 days of shoot left, and we are very much releasing the film theatrically this year." The portal also shared that not only Karan, but the director of the film, Aakash Kaushik, has also confirmed that the film is on track.

Ayushmann Khurrana and Sara Ali Khan In Pati Patni Aur Woh Do

Apart from the action comedy, Ayushmann and Sara will also be sharing screen space in Pati Patni Aur Woh Do. Earlier, the makers of the film dropped the first poster, introducing Ayushmann as Prajapati Pandey and teasing a world filled with love, laughter, and inevitable marital confusion. The official caption read, "Har pati ki hoti hai, apni ek aflatoon duniya... Jo unko bhale hi satati ho, magar hum sabki badha hasati hai! Introducing the world of #PrajapatiPandey starring #AyushmannKhurrana in #PatiPatniAurWohDo. With #SaraAliKhan, #WamiqaGabbi, and #RakulPreetSingh joining the ride, this #MudassarAziz directorial, produced by Bhushan Kumar and Renu Ravi Chopra, and creatively produced by Juno Chopra, brings laughter, love, and chaos this Holi - 4th March 2026."

The Prayagraj Incident During Shoot

Earlier last year, Pati Patni Aur Woh Do made headlines for an unfortunate reason. During a shoot in Prayagraj, a scuffle broke out between locals and members of the film crew. Viral videos captured a crew member being attacked by a local while filming a car sequence. According to News18, there were rumours that even the director might have been assaulted. In one of the viral clips, Ayushmann and Sara were seen engaged in what looked like a heated exchange, which later turned out to be part of a scene for the film. Local police intervened soon after, ensuring the shoot resumed safely.

Nothing Can Stop Kashmera Shah From Posing In Front Of The Camera



Kashmera Shah is having the time of her life on the sets of Laughter Chefs season 3. In the middle of shooting, Shah posed for a few casual clicks. The actress looked playful and bold in tight-fitting bell-bottoms and a half jacket.

Kashmera Shah also briefly interacted with the paparazzi. Laughter Chefs Season 3 features stars like Krushna Abhishek, Debina Bonnerjee, Gurmeet Choudhary, Tejasswi Prakash, and Karan Kundrra, among others.

Kashmera Shah On The Sets Of Laughter Chefs Season 3

In a brief clip uploaded by Filmygyan, the actress almost collided with a man while flaunting her look for the camera. She recovered quickly and posed by leaning against the wall.

In another YouTube video, the 53-year-old interacted with the paparazzi while on the sets of Laughter Chefs season 3. "Kya dekh raha hai? [What are you looking at?]" she asks someone. "Jalte raho, mein chalte rahungi [Keep being jealous of me, I'll keep making progress]," she added.

Kashmera also asked a photographer if she looked slim. She mentioned that she is following a strict diet to maintain her figure.

Kashmera Shah's Weight Loss Journey

Kashmera Shah welcomed twins with husband Krushna Abhishek in 2017. However, a 2018 indoor party made the ex-Bigg Boss contestant realise she needed to lose weight. Kashmera Shah revealed last year that she lost 14 kgs. "I had organised the party, and the theme was an Indian night. I did not fit into any of my Indian clothes," Kashmera told ET Times. At the time, Shah said she asked for help from Krushna's brother Rishaab.

During the COVID pandemic lockdown in 2020, Kashmera made significant changes to her diet. "I started cooking during the lockdown, which I have never done. I started cooking healthy food," she told the outlet. Kashmera said that because of the food she prepared, her husband Krushna also "started losing weight". "I began eating healthy food, smaller portions," she recalled. She was surprised to see that she had gradually "lost 14 kgs". "I can't express in words the happiness that I got when I fit into my old clothes," she had added.

NEWS BOX

Rinku Singh underused by India, should have played 100 T20s by now: Simon Doull

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former pacer Simon Doull said Rinku Singh's T20 opportunities for India have been far too limited, despite his proven match-winning ability. Rinku showcased his finishing brilliance on Wednesday, January 21, scoring an unbeaten 44 off 20 balls, including four fours and three sixes, to help India post 238 for seven and secure a 48-run win over New Zealand in the series opener at Nagpur. Since making his T20I debut in 2023, Rinku has played just 36 matches. He missed out on India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad but earned a spot in the 2026 edition. Doull believes Rinku should have featured in far more T20s by now, highlighting his exceptional power and composure at the death. He described Rinku as one of the best finishers in the game, whose talent India have clearly underutilised. "Rinku Singh is one of the best finishers in the game. We saw him burst onto the scene in the IPL four or five years ago, and I still feel he hasn't played enough T20 cricket for India since then. He should have featured far more and could



easily have played 100 games by now," Doull told Star Sports. "Rinku needs to be backed in that finishing role because he is exceptional at it. Despite his height, he is incredibly powerful, and his ability to get under the ball at the death makes him extremely difficult to bowl to," Doull added.

INDIA DOMINATE KIWIS

India began their five-match T20I series against New Zealand with a commanding 48-run victory. After New Zealand won the toss and elected to bowl, India delivered a spectacular batting performance, posting 238 for seven in 20 overs—one of their highest T20 totals against the Kiwis. Opener Abhishek Sharma was the star, smashing 84 off just 35 balls with eight sixes, setting the tone for India's aggressive innings. He received strong support from Suryakumar Yadav (32), Hardik Pandya (25), and a blistering knock from Rinku Singh, helping India finish on a high.

Gautam Gambhir reacts to Tharoor's PM Modi post, says pitted against his own team

New Delhi. (Agency)

India head coach Gautam Gambhir created a stir on social media on Thursday, January 22, with his latest tweet. After India's first T20I win against New Zealand in Nagpur, Gambhir reacted to a tweet praising him, but his response hinted that he does not enjoy complete authority over the Indian team, setting off widespread discussion online. The tweet he responded to was posted by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who had earlier shared that he met his old friend Gautam Gambhir in Nagpur and held



a frank conversation with the India head coach about the team. Tharoor spoke warmly of Gambhir, describing his role as the second-toughest job in India, behind only that of the Prime Minister, praise that inadvertently led to Gambhir's controversial reply. In Nagpur, enjoyed a good & frank discussion with my old friend Gautam Gambhir, the man with the hardest job in India after the PM's! He is being second-guessed by millions daily but stays calm and walks on undaunted. A word of appreciation for his quiet determination and able leadership. Wishing him all success. Tharoor wrote a day ahead of the opening T20I of the series. Gambhir reacted to the tweet late on Thursday night and hit back at critics who have called him out over the Indian team's transition phase. Gambhir said that, contrary to popular belief, he does not have "unlimited authority" over the Indian team and that clarity would emerge once the dust settles. He kept his remark ambiguous, without making anything explicit. "When the dust settles, truth and logic about a coach's supposedly 'unlimited authority' will become clear. Till then I'm amused at being pitted against my own who are the very best!" Gambhir wrote on Twitter.

No Gill, all thrill: India's hyper aggression returns right before T20 World Cup

IND vs NZ, 1st T20I: India showcased fearless, aggressive batting to pile up 238 against New Zealand in the T20I series opener in Nagpur. With Shubman Gill out of the side, India returned to their belligerent best, each batter playing without fear of failure, while Rinku Singh provided the cushion in the lower middle order.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gonna be a cracker of a series," tweeted Rajasthan Royals batter Riyan Parag when his former captain Sanju Samson walked out to bat against New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series. The mood at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur matched the tweet. Spectators settled into their seats earlier than usual. Nobody wanted to miss a ball when Samson and Abhishek Sharma were at the crease, and nobody did. The beginning of the innings lived up to the anticipation. After seeing off a few deliveries, Abhishek Sharma

launched Jacob Duffy straight down the ground for six. Samson, fully aware that the partnership demanded immediate intent, followed it up by pulling Kyle Jamieson for two boundaries in the second over. Samson's stay, however, was brief. Still in the second over, Jamieson dismissed him with a well-disguised slower ball that Samson chipped to short midwicket. The crowd barely had time to process the dismissal before Ishan Kishan walked out. Away from the team for over two years, Kishan showed no interest in easing himself back in. Instead of taking time to settle, he struck two of his first three balls for four. That burst did not last long either. Misjudging the pace of the ball in the third over, Kishan chipped a catch to cover. India were two down inside three overs.

Six months ago, this would have triggered a familiar response. An anchor would dig in. The innings would slow. Damage control would take over.

But this is not India. Not any more. And certainly not the India that opens with Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill. THE GILL PROBLEM INDIA HAD

Let's talk about the Gill problem India had. Thrust into the top of the order of the T20I side, Gill struggled to adapt to the tempo of a team that had grown accustomed to driving in sixth gear. Was it Gill's fault? Not really.



India had split an opening pair featuring two batters striking at 190 and 180. Gill played 15 T20Is since the start of the Asia Cup and managed 291 runs at an average of 24.25 and a strike rate of 137.26. Gill is undoubtedly one of the finest young batters going around, but asking him to do something that does not naturally come to him was a failure of the team management and the selectors. What it also did was eat into a finisher's role, as India were forced to play their wicketkeeper in

middle order. Fortunately, the decision-makers were brave enough to abort the plan just before the T20 World Cup and restore Samson and Abhishek at the top.

With that, Rinku Singh, one of the finest finishers in the game, also got his chance in the lower middle order. Rinku provides the assurance to top-order batters that they can go for the kill without worrying about the length of the batting line-up.

ABHISHEK LEADS THE CARNAGE

And it was evident in the way each and every batter played on Wednesday in Nagpur.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav walked in, danced down a couple of steps to Jacob Duffy, and caressed the ball through the covers for four. It was not just a boundary. It was a statement of intent.

That freedom allowed Abhishek Sharma to fully unleash himself. He rained hell on the New Zealand bowlers, dealing almost exclusively in sixes and racing to 84 off just 35 balls. Around him, the tempo never dipped. Suryakumar chipped in with 32 at a strike rate of 145. Hardik Pandya followed with 25 at 156. Later, Rinku Singh walked in and finished with 44 not out at a strike rate north of 220.

Decoding RCB's bold moves: Turning weakness into winning weapons in WPL 2026

New Delhi. (Agency)

When Royal Challengers Bengaluru walked onto the field against Mumbai Indians in their WPL 2026 opener, the cracks in their batting lineup were impossible to ignore. Nadine de Klerk's late heroics salvaged the innings, but the absence of Ellyse Perry, arguably RCB's most accomplished batter, had left a glaring void. Radha Yadav, with a modest top score of 27 in the WPL, came in at No. 5, and the middle-to-lower order looked perilously fragile. The signs were clear: this batting line-up could be exposed at any moment. Fast-forward through a series of high-pressure games, and RCB have done something remarkable—they've transformed vulnerability into strength. The batting, once a glaring worry, now fires in perfect rhythm with a lethal bowling attack. Young talents have risen in crunch moments, unexpected contributions have shifted momentum, and the team has gelled into a balanced, fearless unit. Sitting unbeaten atop the points table, RCB now epitomises resilience, firepower, and composure—a squad that turned early doubts into dominance, making them one of the most formidable sides in WPL 2026.

GAUTAMI BOLSTERS RCB

After their first game, RCB knew they had a glaring weakness in their batting. The solution was bold—and it paid off spectacularly. The team handed young Gautami Naik her maiden WPL cap, a move



that has already turned heads.

Gautami's introduction wasn't without nerves; her first outing ended in single digits. But the second time at the crease became history. She etched her name in the record books as the first uncapped Indian to score a fifty in the WPL. That night, Gautami was nothing short of sensational, blasting 73 off 55 deliveries against the Gujarat Giants, laced with seven crisp fours and a towering six. Her brilliance propelled RCB to a commanding 61-run victory, earning her the Player of the Match award

and solidifying her place in a lineup that had looked fragile just days before. The story is also one of connections and preparation. Gautami had previously shared the field with RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana while representing Ratnagiri Jets in the Maharashtra Premier League—a mentorship and familiarity that may have given her the confidence to shine on such a big stage. With this fearless display, Gautami didn't just fill a gap; she transformed it into one of RCB's most potent weapons.

RADHA ADDS MORE POWER

If RCB's batting resurgence needed a defining moment, Radha Yadav delivered it in emphatic and unexpected fashion.

Primarily known for her crafty left-arm spin, Radha had rarely been seen as a batter capable of shaping an innings. Big scores and rescue acts were not part of the script—until now. Walking in with RCB struggling at 43 for four against the Giants in Navi Mumbai, the pressure was firmly on Richa Ghosh and Nadine de Klerk to steady the ship. Radha, at best, was expected to support. Instead, she seized control. With calm intent and growing confidence, she began rotating strike, punishing loose balls, and slowly wresting momentum away from the opposition.

IND vs NZ: Arshdeep Singh unfazed by Playing XI pressure, enjoying one game at a time

CHRISTCHURCH. (Agency)

India's preparations for the upcoming T20 World Cup began on a commanding note in Nagpur, and amid the dominant series-opening win over New Zealand, Arshdeep Singh made it clear that selection pressure is the last thing on his mind. The left-arm pacer stressed that his focus remains firmly on enjoying the game and delivering whenever the team management calls upon him. Speaking after India's 48-run victory in the first T20I, Arshdeep underlined that he does not concern himself with uncertainties surrounding the Playing XI. Addressing the media at the post-match press conference, the 26-year-old said his approach has been to stay prepared at all times and control only what lies within his reach. "I try to be ready all the time. Whenever the team gives me a chance, I try to be ready and give my best. Few things are not in my hands, and I try to enjoy every game," Arshdeep said, summing up his mindset amid frequent selection



debates. The left-arm pacer also offered a light-hearted take on the challenge of bowling on flat batting surfaces, a recurring theme in modern T20 cricket. Reflecting on conditions in Nagpur, Arshdeep quipped, "First of all, I take God's name. Wicket flat lag rahi hai bhagwanji, aaj thoda bacha lena (the wicket is looking flat God, please save me today)."

Arshdeep's on and off role in team India

Arshdeep's comments come against the backdrop of an on-and-off role across India's white-ball formats. While he has enjoyed a relatively more consistent run in T20Is, his place in the ODI setup has often been uncertain, fuelling discussions among fans and critics alike.

Lizelle Lee fined for Code of Conduct breach in WPL

Lee admitted to a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 of the Code of Conduct, which relates to the abuse of cricket equipment during the match.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Capitals wicketkeeper-batter Lizelle Lee was on Wednesday (January 21, 2026) fined 10% of her match fees and handed one demerit point for breaching the WPL Code of Conduct during their match against Mumbai Indians.

"Lee admitted to a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 of the Code of Conduct, which relates to the abuse of cricket equipment during the match. For Level 1 breaches, the

match referee's decision is final and binding," a WPL release stated. The incident occurred during the 11th over



of Delhi's chase of 155 when their inform batter Lee was adjudged stumped for 46 after a lengthy third-umpire review.

Television replays showed Lee's bat momentarily lifted off the crease as wicketkeeper Rahila Firdous whipped the

balls off, leading to her dismissal four runs short of what would have been her third half-century of the season.

Visibly unhappy with the decision, Lee kept her reaction guarded later at the presentation ceremony, saying: "Look, it was a great take from the keeper. But that's all I've got to say about that."

Delhi Capitals, however, had the last laugh as skipper Jemimah Rodrigues returned to form with a fluent 37-ball 51 not out to anchor the 155-run chase, guiding her side to a seven-wicket win.

The victory kept Delhi Capitals firmly in contention for a playoff berth, with four teams now locked on four points, while former champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru continue to top the table.

Tendulkar salutes Saina Nehwal: You carried Indian badminton to the world stage

Sachin Tendulkar heaped praise on Saina Nehwal's illustrious career and contributions to badminton after the Indian ace announced her retirement from the sport recently. Nehwal is a former World No. 1 in the sport.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sachin Tendulkar wrote a heartfelt message to Saina Nehwal after the former World No. 1 announced that she had retired from badminton. Nehwal announced recently on a podcast that she will not be making a return

to court after having last played in 2023 at the Singapore Open.

The Indian ace said that her chronic issues were the reason behind her retirement and she didn't feel she could keep up with the rigours of the sport anymore. Tendulkar took to X and posted a lengthy message for the former World No. 1, saying that her career is proof that greatness is built one day at a time with patience and consistency. The Indian cricket legend said that Nehwal carried Indian badminton to the world stage and was able to change the course of the sport in the country. Tendulkar concluded his message by thanking Nehwal for her contributions. "Dear Saina, your career is proof that greatness is built one day at a time, with patience, courage, and consistency. You carried Indian badminton to the world stage and showed that belief, when matched with preparation, can change the course of a sport."



"Beyond the medals lies your greatest achievement. Inspiring young athletes across the country to believe that global success is possible. Every sporting journey evolves, and while one phase ends, another begins. One where your experience, perspective, and love for the game will continue to guide many. Thank you for everything you've given to Indian sport.

Your influence will be felt for generations," said Tendulkar on X.

WHY DID NEHWAL NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT

Nehwal opened on why she didn't publicly announce retirement as she felt people would have assumed it by then. "I didn't think it was such a big matter to announce my retirement. I just felt my time was up because I couldn't push much, that my knee is not able to push like before," she said. You train eight to nine hours to be the best in the world, now my knee was giving up in one or two hours. It was swelling and it became very tough to push after that. So I thought it's enough. I can't push it anymore," she added. Nehwal last played at the Singapore Open 2023 and went on to miss the Paris Olympics as well.