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| NIFTY 50 | BSE SENSEX | Bitcoin INR | NIFTY FINANCIAL SERVICES | NIFTY BANK | \$1 (USD) | €1 (EURO) | Gold (24K) 10gm | Silver (1 Kg) | Petrol/L | Diesel/L | LPG/14.2Kg |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 25,683.30 ▼ -193.55 (-0.75%) | 83,576.24 ▼ -604.72 (-0.72%) | 8,253,616.58 ▲ +69,840.12 (+0.09%) | 27,382.10 ▼ -290.50 (-1.05%) | 59,251.55 ▼ -434.95 (-0.73%) | ₹90.28 ▼ +0.38 (+0.42%) | ₹105.00 ▼ +0.19 (+0.18%) | ₹139,220.00 ▲ +1478.00 (+1.07%) | ₹254,400.00 ▲ +1107.00 (+4.55%) | ₹94.77 | ₹87.67 | ₹853.00 |

Delhi shivers under severe cold, fog disrupts flights as AQI remains 'poor'

New Delhi, January 12 (Reporter)

The overall air quality of the national capital remained in the "poor" category with Air Quality Index (aqi) standing at 298, on Monday morning, as compared to 291 recorded on Sunday. The AQI dipped to "very poor" category in certain parts of the city with Pusa recording the highest AQI at 343. Large parts of the city shivered through Sunday night as cold wave conditions tightened their grip, pushing minimum

temperatures dangerously close to the three-degree mark. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) Ayanagar emerged as the coldest spot in the national capital region, with the mercury dipping to 2.9 degrees Celsius. Palam saw the temperature fall to 3.0 degrees Celsius, one of its coldest readings in recent years. Weather officials indicated that the chill is likely to linger through the day. Safdarjung registered a low of 4.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday night,



tonight. Meanwhile, the Ridge observatory recorded a minimum of 3.7 degrees Celsius, with

daytime temperatures peaking at 18.8 degrees Celsius.

Dense to shallow fog enveloped several parts of the city, leading to reduced visibility and disruptions across key transport corridors. The weather office warned that foggy conditions could affect airports, highways and railway routes within the affected meteorological subdivisions, resulting in difficult driving conditions, slower travel times and an increased risk of road accidents.

The IMD also cautioned that very dense fog could lead to tripping of power lines in some areas. In addition, the prevailing conditions may aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma and bronchitis and cause eye irritation, prompting the department to issue a set of safety and health advisories for the public. Meanwhile, the poor visibility conditions also impacted the flight operations in several parts of the country. As per the reports, IndiGo has cancelled more than 90 flights scheduled for Monday. In an

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CBI to question Actor-Politician Vijay in Karur stampede case in Delhi

New Delhi, January 12 (Bureau)



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will question Tamil film star and politician Vijay in connection with the Karur stampede case on Monday. The actor, who leads the Tamil Nadu party TVK (Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam), is expected to reach CBI headquarters by around 11:30 AM, for questioning. The stampede occurred during a TVK election rally on September 27, killing 41 people and injuring hundreds. The stampede was dubbed as the one of the worst crowd disasters in the state's political history. Tamil Nadu Police claimed that Vijay's delayed arrival at the event was the cause of the stampede, claiming that the prolonged delay led to an uncontrollably large crowd. Inadequate arrangements such as the lack of enough food, drinking water, and sanitary facilities, were also cited by the police as reasons behind the chaos and subsequent stampede. Vijay vehemently denied these accusations, calling them politically motivated and accusing the ruling DMK of planning a smear campaign, a charge the ruling party had refuted. The TVK, also accused the police of making grave mistakes in crowd management at the entry points, leading to stampede and loss of lives. Earlier, BJP national president JP Nadda had sent an 8-member NDA delegation, with Hema Malini MP as convener, and ► Cont. to Page-7

US Tariffs against India can fast-track Swadeshi, Atmnirbhar Bharat campaigns

New Delhi, Jan 12 (Representative)

The threat of imposing a 500 per cent Tariff on India by the US, aimed at paralysing the growing Indian economy, can spur the Swadeshi and Atmnirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat campaigns and, in an inter-dependent world, have a retaliatory impact on the US market as well. The potential 500 per cent tariff on India, part of a proposed US bill, can be interpreted as a virtual trade embargo, making



Indian goods commercially unviable in the US market and could lead to job losses in India.

For the US, it would result in higher prices and supply chain disruptions for businesses that rely on Indian imports.

India has already been subject to a cumulative 50 per cent tariff on most goods since August 2025 because of its Russian oil purchases. But a 500 per cent tariff would represent a punitive measure rather than a standard trade policy tool. A 500 per cent tariff would effectively halt Indian exports to the US, impacting key sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, and

auto ► Cont. to Page-7

Ignite the self, serve the nation: CJI Surya Kant recalls Vivekananda's message

New Delhi, Jan 12 (FN Bureau)

Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant paid rich tributes to Swami Vivekananda, describing him as one of India's greatest visionaries and the country's finest international ambassador of culture and philosophy. While inaugurating a blood donation camp at the Supreme Court premises on Monday, the Chief Justice said that Swami Vivekananda's teachings remain



deeply relevant, especially for the younger generation. The blood donation camp was jointly organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Adhivakta Parishad, Supreme Court Unit, on the occasion of Vivekananda Jayanti. "What a great visionary person Swami Vivekananda was. His teachings are extremely important, especially for the new generation. Each word he spoke was visionary, full of moral and ethical values, and promoted our country's rich heritage and cultural ethos. He was India's greatest international ► Cont. to Page-7

India to host 28th Commonwealth Speakers' Conference; PM Modi to inaugurate, focus on AI and Social Media in Parliaments

New Delhi, Jan 12 (Agency)

India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPC) from January 14 to 16, 2026, marking one of the largest inter-parliamentary gatherings in the country in recent years, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to inaugurate the event at the historic Central Hall of the Sansad Bhawan on January 15. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who will chair the conference, said the meet



will focus on how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and social media are reshaping the functioning of democratic institutions.

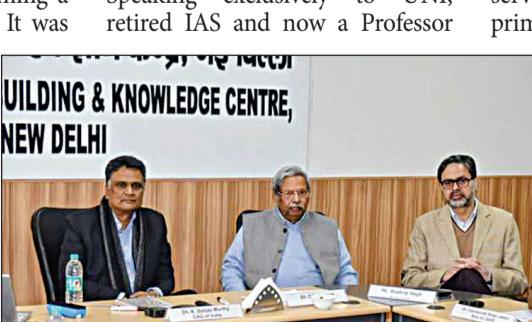
Addressing a press conference on Monday, Birla said that the four-day event, including arrivals and post-conference engagements, would bring together Speakers and Presiding Officers from across the Commonwealth to deliberate on strengthening parliamentary democracy in a rapidly changing global environment. "India is honoured to host the 28th CSPC at a time when ► Cont. to Page-7

Urban development landscape audits be aimed to enable govt provide quality services: CAG

New Delhi, Jan 12 (FN Representative)

The cities in the country are extremely important for many reasons with a crucial one being that the nation has an avowed ambition to become a 30 trillion dollar economy. It was between January 8 and 10, CAG's Regional Capacity Building and Knowledge Centre (RCB&KC), New Delhi, headed by Rajdeep Singh (Director General) conducted a three-day workshop on "Urban Development and Governance," where the concluding session held on Saturday was chaired by the CAG.

Murthy emphasised that learning from the workshop must be implemented in their respective audit domains by the officials concerned who attended the



services to the citizens, contributing towards the nation's growth and the ambition towards becoming a 30 trillion dollar economy. It was

training, in a bid to support the economy's growth.

Speaking exclusively to UNI, retired IAS and now a Professor

growth, the expansion was seen in the manufacturing and the services sectors, and such activities primarily happen in the urban areas. He said that is why the cities in the country are extremely important for many reasons, especially from the perspective of economic growth, as they also cater to the youth for providing jobs in the manufacturing and services sector.

Agarwal has emphasised that the urban areas have to be prepared not only to accommodate the rapid growth, but also to proactively enable the same. He stated that the way to go forward in line with rapid progress is to strike ► Cont. to Page-7

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Merely calling jihad 'Self-struggle' won't Terrorism

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Respect for women's power can make India a Global leader again: Prof Tripathi

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Nutritionist says food sends signals to your body within minutes

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Harvick Desai's century seals Saurashtra win over Uttar Pradesh

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Google launches UCP protocol designed to enable direct purchases with Google search

BSE warns investors about fake deep-fake video misusing CEO's identity

Mumbai (Agency): The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Monday issued a strong warning to investors after a fake deepfake video started circulating on social media and messaging platforms. The video falsely shows BSE Managing Director and CEO Sundararaman Ramamurthy giving stock market tips and investment advice. According to BSE, the video is completely fabricated and created using deepfake technology. "It has come to the notice of BSE Limited that a fraudulent deepfake video is being circulated on social media and messaging platforms, falsely fea-



turing Sundararaman and promises unusually high profits. In the video, viewers are encouraged to join a WhatsApp channel, with false statements such as "assuring that they could become multi-millionaires within a short time." The video contains misleading

and false claims, broadly suggesting stock tips for investments in 2026 with promises of extraordinary or super-normal profits, and urges viewers to join a WhatsApp channel," it added. BSE has clarified that neither Ramamurthy nor any official of the exchange gives stock recommendations or runs WhatsApp, Telegram, or any similar groups. The exchange said that the video is unauthorised, fake, and intended to mislead investors. The stock exchange has advised investors and the general public to ignore such videos, messages, and links. People have been asked to rely only on information shared through BSE's official communication channels and through SEBI-registered intermediaries for any market-related guidance. BSE also said it is taking steps to get the fake content removed from online platforms and will initiate legal action against those involved in creating and spreading the video. The exchange urged investors to stay alert and not fall victim to deepfake scams, stressing that the advisory has been issued in the interest of protecting investors. "BSE is taking necessary steps to have the content removed and to initiate appropriate action against those responsible," the exchange mentioned.

Youth hiring in India to grow by 11 pc by 2026: Report

New Delhi (Agency): Youth hiring in India is projected to grow by 11 per cent by 2026, generating approximately 1.28 crore new jobs, according to a report on Monday. The report by NLB Services showed that IT services will account for around 30-40 per cent, manufacturing around 12 percent, healthcare around 13 per cent, fintech around 20 per cent, logistics around 10.7 per cent, and green energy around 4 per cent of these roles. "As we mark Youth Day on the lines of 'Ignite the Self, Impact the World', India stands at a pivotal inflection point where its demographic dividend can translate into sustained economic acceleration if matched with the right skilling investments," said Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services. "With over 65 per cent of India's population below the age of 35 and an estimated 12 million youth set to enter the workforce by 2026, the urgency to build

future-ready capabilities has never been higher," he added. The report noted that demand for high-impact roles such as AI/ML engineers, data scientists, cybersecurity specialists, cloud architects, digital product managers, and sustainability professionals is expected to outpace supply. It also flagged a significant opportunity gap in AI-skilling programmes, even as workplaces increasingly prioritise AI fluency and advanced digital competencies. Alug said that structured upskilling, skill-aligned recruitment, and outcome-based talent models will be central to ensuring India's youth not only participate in, but actively power, the country's next phase of economic transformation. "The next phase of growth will be driven by skills across AI and machine learning, data science and analytics, cybersecurity, cloud and platform engineering, digital product management, automation, and green technology roles,"

Maruti Suzuki approves Rs 4,960 crore land deal for capacity addition in Gujarat facility

New Delhi (Agency): Maruti Suzuki India Limited, the country's largest car manufacturer, on Monday informed that its board has approved aRs 4,960-crore proposal to acquire land for expansion of its manufacturing capacity in Gujarat. The land acquisition is for the expansion of production capacity at Khoraj Industrial Estate from Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, and "the proposed capacity addition is up to 1 million (10 lakh) units", Maruti Suzuki India said in an exchange filing.

"The cost of land acquisition, development, and preparatory activities approved by the board is Rs 4,960 crore," it said, adding that the overall investment would be finalised and approved by the board while framing the phases of installation of capacity. The mode of financing would be a combination of internal accruals and external borrowings, Maruti Suzuki India said. "The total existing capacity is around 24 lakh units per annum



in Gurugram, Manesar, production. The production includes vehicles for domestic sales Kharhoda, and Hansalpur, with a capability to produce 26 lakh units per annum. This includes the units produced at erstwhile Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited, which has been amalgamated with the

Development Corporation, and "the proposed capacity addition is up in a calendar year. This is the second consecutive year that Maruti Suzuki India has exceeded 20 lakh units in annual production. The production includes vehicles for domestic sales, exports, and OEM supplies.

Managing director and CEO of Maruti Suzuki, Hisashi Takeuchi, said that a high degree of localisation helped the company achieve such scale while maintaining the global competitiveness of India's automotive ecosystem. Maruti Suzuki India has exported 3.95 lakh vehicles in 2025, its highest ever in any calendar year. This marks a growth of over 21 per cent as compared to 2024. The company with over 40 per cent share of the domestic market in the passenger vehicle segment plans to enhance its manufacturing capacity to 4 million units per annum to meet rising domestic demand and serve international markets.

Seafood exports surge despite US tariffs due to strong resilience and adaptability: Govt



seafood exports to the US. Despite this shock, India's seafood sector showed strong resilience and adaptability.

"Comparison of April-October 2024 (pre-tariff) vs April-October 2025 (post-tariff) data indicate continued growth, with overall seafood exports ris-

ing by 21 per cent in value (Rs 35,107.6 crore to Rs 42,322.3 crore) and 12 per cent in quantity (9.62 lakh MT to 10.73 lakh MT).

Frozen shrimp exports also increased by 17 per cent in value and 6 per cent in volume," according to an official statement. As a result of various schemes and

programs being implemented in the last decade and well thought policies, there have been significant achievements strides in the fisheries sector, said Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Under various schemes and programmes implemented since 2014-15 by the Department of Fisheries, 74.66 lakh employment opportunities (both direct and indirect) have been generated. The country currently exports over 350 seafood products to 130 countries, with aquaculture contributing 62 per cent of export value, India is emerging as a hub for high value, processed seafood. According to the ministry, value-added

exports contributing nearly 11 per cent to the India's export basket has shown a substantial growth of 56 per cent - from Rs 4,863.40 crore to Rs 7,589.93 crore in the past 5 years.

Over the years, there has been a significant upswing in central government investments dedicated to this sector.

The cumulative investments, totalling Rs 38,572 crore, have been approved or announced across various schemes namely Blue Revolution, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY).

Gold, silver prices hit fresh highs amid global uncertainties

Mumbai (Agency): Gold and silver prices touched record highs on Monday as markets reacted to the US Justice Department's escalation of tensions with the Federal Reserve and intensifying protests in Iran that heightened geopolitical risks. MCX gold February futures surged 1.46 per cent to Rs 1,40,838 per 10 grams, while MCX silver March futures rose 3.66 per cent to Rs 2,61,977 per kg. Spot gold price surged 1.45 per cent at USD 4,575.82 an ounce, after hitting a fresh record high of USD 4,601.17 level. Silver prices gained 4.85 per cent to touch USD 83.19, after hitting a record high of USD 83.88. Fed Chair Jerome Powell disclosed that the central bank had received grand jury subpoenas from the Justice Department tied to his June

congressional testimony on renovations at the Fed's headquarters. The development signalled sharp intensification of US President Donald Trump's confrontation with the Fed and renewed concerns about the central bank's independence. The surge to fresh record highs was supported by rising geopolitical risks, increasing political pressure on the US Federal Reserve, and weaker-than-expected US employment data, which strengthened safe-haven demand, said Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd. Meanwhile, deadly demonstrations in Iran amplified safe-haven flows, with markets weighing the chances of political upheaval and its implications for oil supplies. Trump had on Sunday indicated considering options on Iran, comments that added to uncertainty alongside other geopolitical flashpoints. Last week's US jobs report showed weaker-than-expected payroll gains, reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve will deliver further interest rate cuts this year. "Gold has support at Rs 1,34,550-1,32,310 while resistance at Rs 1,41,350-1,43,670. Silver has support at Rs 2,48,810 to 2,44,170 zone while resistance at Rs 2,55,810 to 2,59,470 zone," said analysts. Gold gained over 4 per cent last week, while silver rallied more than 7 per cent. Russia's war in Ukraine, the US capture of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, and Washington's renewed signals over taking control of Greenland also act as tailwinds for rally of precious metals.

Korea's food exports hit record high in 2025

S.Seoul (Agency): South Korea's exports of food and agriculture-related products reached a record high of USD 13.62 billion in 2025, driven by the global popularity of Korean food products, such as "ramyeon" noodles, sauces and fruits, the agriculture ministry said on Monday. Exports in the "K-Food Plus" sector expanded 5.1 percent from a year earlier to the new annual high, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. K-Food Plus is a term coined by the local government to promote exports of Korean food

and agricultural goods, including farm machinery and veterinary medicine, reports Yonhap news agency. In detail, outbound shipments of Korean instant noodle products, also known as "ramyeon," and 11 other products, including sauces, kimchi, ice cream, strawberries and pork. Ramyeon exports hit USD 1.5 billion for the first time and marking the 10th consecutive year of on-year increase. Exports of agriculture industry-related products, such as farm machinery and veterinary medicine, jumped 8 percent on-year to the highest-ever figure of USD 3.22 billion last year, according to the

LG Display vows to address China's rise through OLED cost reduction

Seoul (Agency): LG Display Chief Executive Officer (CEO) JeongChul-dong has vowed to address China's rise in the liquid crystal display (LCD) sector by improving the price competitiveness of its premium organic light-emitting diode (OLED) panels. Jeong made the remark during a meeting with reporters in Las Vegas on Wednesday (U.S. time) on the margins of CES 2026, sharing his views on exhibitions by Chinese technology firms, Yonhap news

agency reported on Monday. "I had the impression that Chinese companies have made significant efforts in terms of resolution and costs for their

OLED panels still stand out compared with LCD counterparts in terms of technology, adding that LG Display will continue efforts to cut costs for OLED products to counter Chinese rivals. The CEO said such efforts will enable LG Display to supply price-competitive OLED panels to clients, helping them roll out affordable premium products amid the rise of budget LCD rivals. While OLED TVs are generally perceived as premium products, their prices have been considered a hurdle for consumers, who often turn to LCD products for more affordable options. The CEO added the company will utilise artificial intelligence (AI) technology to revamp its structure to generate stable profits. The display maker earlier said its accumulated operating profit for the January-September period came to 348.5 billion won (US\$328.8 million), paving the way for a turnaround on an annual basis for the first time since 2021.

Self-reliance in defence key to strategic autonomy: Defence Secretary

Chandigarh, Jan 12 (Representative)

Emphasising that self-reliance in defence is both a national necessity and a strategic imperative, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on January 10 said India stands at a crucial juncture in its defence and industrial evolution. Addressing the Defence Skilling Conclave on Defence, Aerospace and Strategic Sector Skill Development here, he underlined that long-term strategic autonomy can only be achieved through sustained indigenisation of manufacturing, skills and technology. The Defence Secretary said that over the past decade, India's defence ecosystem has undergone a significant transformation under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The sector, he noted, has shifted away from a heavy reliance on imports to a diversified and dynamic framework that involves Defence Public Sector Undertakings, private industry, MSMEs, and a growing start-up



base. Highlighting policy reforms and initiatives aimed at improving the Ease of Doing Business, Singh said these measures have encouraged domestic design and manufacturing across a wide range of platforms. Indigenous production now spans unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors and advanced subsystems, as well as complex platforms such as artillery

platforms such as the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Astra beyond-visual-range missile, Dhanush artillery guns and aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, the Defence Secretary said these projects demonstrate growing coordination between industry, research institutions and a skilled workforce. He stressed that evolving global supply chains and rapid technological change present both challenges and major opportunities for India's defence sector. Singh also drew attention to the importance of human capital, stating that genuine strategic autonomy requires control not only over hardware but also over skills, technology and intellectual property. He referred to ongoing efforts under the Skill India Mission, with national agencies assessing current capabilities and future skill requirements for the defence and aerospace sectors. Referring to the Prime Minister's Skilling and Employment through Technology Upgradation (PM-SETU) programme, he said the initiative aims to bridge gaps

guns, armoured vehicles and missile systems. He added that the issuance of hundreds of industrial licences has deepened private sector participation, while defence exports have seen a sharp rise, reflecting India's expanding footprint in global markets. Citing

between academia, industry and defence research. With substantial financial support planned over five years, the programme focuses on Centres of Excellence, apprenticeships, technology-enabled training and structured pathways for Agniveers and veterans. The Defence Secretary also highlighted Punjab's untapped potential in defence manufacturing, calling for stronger ecosystem linkages, enhanced MSME participation and dedicated skill and testing infrastructure. He said disciplined and technically trained youth emerging from the Agniveers scheme could play a key role in strengthening defence production and allied strategic sectors. The conclave, organised by the Punjab government in collaboration with industry bodies, was attended by senior officials, industry leaders, academics and representatives of the armed forces. Singh said the discussions reaffirmed a shared commitment to building a secure, self-reliant and technologically advanced India, with Punjab and the northern region poised to become important drivers of defence-led growth.

IIT BHU launches 'Akashganga Cloud' in collaboration

Varanasi, Jan 12 (Bureau)

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) BHU on Monday launched 'Akashganga Cloud', a multi-year and visionary cloud research initiative, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS), Synchron, and the IIT (BHU) Alumni Foundation USA. The primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen the cloud computing infrastructure at IIT (BHU) and accelerate advanced research and innovation across various disciplines. The inauguration ceremony was attended by several distinguished guests, including Sudeep John, an IIT (BHU) alumnus and senior leader in the global cloud ecosystem; Faisal Hussain, CEO and Co-founder of Synchron; Prof. Amit Patra, Director of IIT (BHU); Sagar Bhimavarapu, President of the IIT (BHU) Alumni Foundation USA;

Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Dean of Research and Development; Prof. Hiralal Pramanik, Dean of Resources and Alumni Affairs; Prof. Bhaskar Biswas, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, along with faculty members and research scholars from various departments of the institute. During the ceremony, Director Prof. Amit Patra formally launched the 'Akashganga Cloud' web portal. This dedicated digital platform will provide students and faculty members with easy access to advanced cloud-based resources, thereby fostering cutting-edge research and innovation. 'Akashganga Cloud' is a flagship initiative spearheaded by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT (BHU). In his address, Prof. Amit Patra highlighted the vision and significance of this initiative. He said, "Akashganga" name underscores the core philosophy of this initiative—'Akash' symbolizes the boundless possibilities of the cloud, while 'Ganga' represents continuous flow, connectivity, and the constant exchange of knowledge and innovation. This name signifies a comprehensive, interconnected, and dynamic cloud-based research ecosystem." He further added that this strategic collaboration will position IIT (BHU) as a center of excellence in cloud research and innovation, strengthen industry-academia collaboration, and enable the development of next-generation cloud-enabled solutions. The launch of 'Akashganga Cloud' is a significant step in IIT (BHU)'s digital transformation journey. It further reinforces the institute's commitment to global research leadership and technological excellence.

India-Germany trade hits record \$50 billion, leaders push investment, supply chains

Gandhinagar, Jan 12 (Reporter)

India and Germany said on Tuesday that bilateral trade in goods and services "surpassed \$50 billion" in 2024, accounting for "over 25%" of India's total trade with the European Union, as the two countries sought to deepen cooperation across technology, clean energy and global supply chains. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, in a joint statement, said two-way investments were "strong" and had helped "diversify global supply chains", adding that trade had reached a "record high" in 2024 with momentum continuing into 2025. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to "fully realise untapped economic potential", including through SMEs, startups, digitalisation, artificial intelligence and innovation-driven enterprises. Modi invited German companies to "invest and expand" in India, citing "strong economic growth, a business-friendly environment and a highly skilled workforce", while Merz described Germany as an "attractive destination" for Indian

investors. Both sides reiterated support for concluding the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, calling it a "key outcome" of the upcoming EU-India summit that would "inject further momentum" into bilateral economic ties. The leaders welcomed the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent to strengthen economic cooperation through the German-Indian CEO Forum, and said engagement with business leaders would encourage collaboration in areas such as technology, automotives, defence, shipbuilding, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, biotechnology and energy. On technology, the two sides said cooperation was expanding in "critical and emerging technologies", including semiconductors, critical minerals, digitalisation, telecommunications and health, under the Innovation and Technology Partnership Roadmap. The leaders welcomed a new Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership, and noted the opening of a Global Capability Centre by German chipmaker Infineon in India's GIFT City. Progress was also

reported on cooperation in critical minerals, including exploration, processing, recycling and overseas asset development. The leaders said a work plan for the Indo-German Digital Dialogue (2026-27) had been finalised, focusing on internet governance, AI, Industry 4.0 and emerging technologies, and welcomed agreements on telecommunications and extended cooperation under the Indo-German Science and Technology

Centre.

India and Germany said they were advancing Centres of Excellence on Innovation covering battery technology, green transport, digital convergence and healthcare, while also expanding cooperation in bioeconomy, space, and traditional medicine. On climate and energy, the leaders reviewed progress under the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership, noting

that around "5 billion euros" of Germany's "10 billion euro" commitment through 2030 had already been "used or earmarked" for projects including renewable energy, green mobility, hydrogen, urban infrastructure and climate adaptation. They welcomed deeper cooperation on green hydrogen, including alignment between India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and Germany's National Hydrogen Strategy, and noted a "large-scale binding offtake agreement" for Indian-produced green ammonia. On global issues, the leaders reaffirmed support for a "free and open Indo-Pacific", international law and UNCLOS, and announced a new Indo-Pacific consultation mechanism. They also reiterated backing for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). India and Germany called for "urgent reform" of the UN Security Council, expressed concern over the war in Ukraine, welcomed steps towards ending the conflict in Gaza, and reiterated support for a "negotiated two-state solution" in the Middle East.

FDA seizes banned flavoured tobacco worth Rs 9.71 crore in Maharashtra

Nashik, Dec 12 (Reporter)

In Nashik district, a special flying squad of the FDA seized a stock of banned flavoured tobacco and gutkha worth approximately Rs 9.71 crore. Cases have been registered against 11 people under the Food Safety Act in this regard. The seized stock is valued at approximately Rs 9,71,02,365, and cases have been registered against 11 individuals under the Indian Penal Code and the Food Safety Act. The operation was conducted by a special team under the guidance of Nashik Divisional Joint Commissioner (Food) Manish Sanap and Special Squad Head

Yaduraj Dahatonde, along with Assistant Commissioner (Food) Bhandara, and included officers Gajanan Gore, Ashok Ilager, and Food Safety Officers, as well as the Nashik divisional team comprising Vinod Dhawad (Assistant Commissioner Food), Gopal Kasar, and Govind Gaikwad, Food Safety Officers. A case was registered at the Dindori police station following an operation conducted on January 8 at Elitecon International Limited, Talegaon, Dindori. During this operation, a stock of 508 boxes of Kash Premix Shisha containing flavoured tobacco, a banned food product, manufactured by Golden Cryo Private Limited,

Gat No. 395, Padli Deshmukh, Padli Phata, Tal. Igatpuri, was found. Accordingly, on January 10, a joint team of the LCB police and the Wadiware police station inspected the premises of Golden Cryo Private Limited, a cigarette manufacturing company. During the inspection, the police seized approximately 2000 boxes of packed cigarettes, a packing machine (Tipco), 40 rolls of unlabelled silver packaging material, a Hi Pack packing machine, and approximately 200 sacks of raw flavoured tobacco in plastic

packaging. The packing machine (Tipco), along with 40 rolls of unlabelled silver packaging and a Hi Pack packing machine, have been sealed to prevent the manufacturing of prohibited food products, specifically flavoured tobacco. Instructions have been given not to use the machines until further notice, the police informed. The FDA has asked the citizens to share information about sale, production, storage, or transportation of flavoured tobacco, gutkha, or similar prohibited food products on their toll-free number 1800222365. The agency has also warned

vendors against transporting, storing or selling flavoured tobacco, gutkha, or similar prohibited food products.



Naveen Jindal reiterates his commitment for the all-round development of Kaithal

Kaithal, Jan 12 (FN Bureau)

While celebrating Lohri and Makar Sankranti with journalists and media personnel, Naveen Jindal MP has reiterated his commitment to work for the all-round development of Kaithal region. The event was organised in an informal and intimate atmosphere at Hotel Grace in the city. On the occasion, Jindal talked about strengthening relations with the fourth pillar of democracy and also gave the message of unity, harmony and

healthy living. While interacting with the media, Jindal said that journalists are the mirror of the society. Media work to convey the voice of the common people to the government and administration. It has an important role in the society in making the government's welfare schemes accessible to the common people, so that every eligible person can avail the benefits of the schemes. He said that the festivals of Lohri and Makar Sankranti are symbols of new energy. Jindal emphasised on mutual brotherhood and communal



harmony through this event. In an informal conversation amid the celebrations, he reiterated his commitment towards the development of Kaithal and surrounding areas. Jindal said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, continuous work is being done for the development of Kaithal. To generate inclination towards sports among the youth, MP Sports Competition was also organised recently. "We must play some sport or the other, so that our body remains physically and mentally healthy. By playing games we either win or learn. He

called upon the journalists to take out some time in their busy lives and do exercise every day. To stay healthy, take good sleep also," Jindal said. Pradhan Mantri Setu Yojana has been started for skill development among the youth, through which various ITIs will be upgraded. Its objective is to develop skills among the youth and make them self-reliant. Representatives of various media organisations present at the program welcomed this initiative of the MP. Journalists said that such an event becomes a positive medium of communication with public representatives.

he said. At the same time, the Managing Director clarified that apple growers producing less than 100 boxes under MIS have been exempted from submitting land records. This relaxation has been provided to reduce procedural burden on small and marginal farmers and to facilitate quicker settlement of their claims.

He said the revised documentation requirement would not affect genuine growers and that HPMC is committed to ensuring the timely disbursement of MIS payments once the required records are verified. "The corporation is also working to streamline procedures so that payments reach farmers without unnecessary delay," he added. The clarification comes amid concerns raised by growers over

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Barpali, dt.06.01.2026, I, MOHAN AGRAWAL, 56yrs, S/o Late Raghunath Agrawal, At-Barpali (Jagannath Nagar) Po/Tahasil-Barpali, Dist-Bargarh, Odisha declare that on dt.02.01.2026 while I was returning from daily market to my house I have lost my bag containing R.O.R.khata No. 87, Mouza-Barpali along with other papers kept inside the bag. Regarding this I have submitted an FIR before the IIC, Barpali dt 06.01.2026. Hence, this affidavit is to be produced before the concerned Authority as and when required.

Mohan Agrawal
Deponent

SMFG INDIA CREDIT COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Off.: 10th Floor, Office No. 101, 102 & 103, 2 North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Regd. Off.: Corporate Office, 17th Floor, Tower 1, 1st Floor, No. 111, Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai - 600016.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of SMFG India Credit Company Limited, Having its registered office at Commercio IT Park, Tower B, 1st Floor, No. 111, Mount Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai - 600116 and corporate office at 10th Floor, Office No. 101, 102 & 103, 2 North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (S4 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 5 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice as mentioned hereunder calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being also mentioned hereunder within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The following borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned hereunder:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantors & Loan Account Numbers | Demand Notice Date & Amount |
|--|--|---|
| 01 | LAN : 189201311154030 (1) DELANGA MOTORS (2) BIPLAB NARENDR (3) SASMITA SWAIN | Date : 09.01.2025 Rs.81,37,210/- Rupees Eighty One Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Two Hundred & Ten only |
| Description of Immovable Property/Properties Mortgaged | | |
| OWNER OF THE PROPERTY: SRI BIPLAB NARENDR, S/o LATE MANAS MUKAR NARENDR SALE DATE NO. 11552100674 FOR THE YEAR 2021 | | |
| PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: DISTRICT PURI, TEHSIL/SR/P.S.- DELANGA, THANA NO. -56, MOUZA - GOURADEIPUR, HAL MUTATION KHATA NO. 106/107, PLOT NO. NO. 177/337, AREA - AC.0.500 DCML STATUS - STITIN, KISAN - HOMESTEAD (GHARABARI), CORRESPONDENCE TO KHATA NO. 106/46, BOTTED AND BOUNDED BY: EAST- BIPIN BIHARI NARENDR, WEST- REV. PLOT NO. 177 (P), NORTH- BIPIN BIHARI NARENDR, SOUTH- ROAD. | | |
| Date & Type of Possession 09.01.2026 (Physical Possession) | | |
| The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will subject to the charge of SMFG India Credit Company Limited for an amount mentioned herein above and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Place : Puri (Orissa) Date : 13.01.2026 | | |
| Authorised Officer, SMFG India Credit Company Limited | | |

EDITORIAL

Reclaiming ESZ
a vital course
correction

The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC)'s recommendation to withdraw a 2020 notification which diluted the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) is not merely an administrative reversal; it is an ecological necessity. The notification had brought down the total area under the ESZ, from 268.96 sq km to 168.84 sq km, removing protection from about 100 sq km of the buffer zone. By seeking the restoration of the wider ESZ that was proposed in the 2016 draft, the Committee has reaffirmed a basic principle of conservation: buffers exist to protect core ecosystems from precisely the kind of pressures that Bengaluru is now exerting. The BNP, together with three wildlife sanctuaries in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, forms a contiguous forest complex of about 3,000 sq km. It harbours about 100 elephants seasonally and has three corridors that connect the Karadikkal-Madeshwara, Tali-Bilikal, and Bilikal-Jowlagiri ranges. The rollback led to resorts, stone mining, and farmland conversion. What was once a transitional landscape meant to absorb urban shockwaves turned into conflict zones, pitting wildlife against human settlements.

Restoring the buffer zone will, no doubt, be an arduous task. Over the years, several structures have come up in the zone, often with official clearances. Demolitions will inevitably raise humanitarian concerns, particularly for the small landholders who acted in good faith. Yet the tension between compassion and compliance cannot be resolved by ignoring the law. Regularising illegality sets a dangerous precedent and shifts the long-term ecological cost onto society at large, specifically those who bear the brunt of human-wildlife conflict. The CEC report is also likely to place some of the proposed infrastructure projects under scrutiny.

Compensatory afforestation has been offered as a panacea, but it is a poor substitute. Planting trees on degraded land elsewhere, often as monoculture, does not recreate the site-specific ecological functions of Bannerghatta's buffer. Elephant corridors, once lost, cannot be replanted like saplings. Fences, trenches, and other measures funded through compensatory schemes are reactive attempts to confine wildlife after their living space has been taken away. The central panel is right in holding that proximity to urban development cannot justify curtailing ecologically critical areas. Restoring the ESZ will be disruptive, but continued dilution will have irreversible consequences. Karnataka has repeatedly attempted to redraw eco-sensitive boundaries around other forests, and the Bannerghatta case should serve as a clear warning against such short-sighted, regressive interventions. Growth cannot come at the cost of ecological collapse.

Amitabh Tiwari

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Maharashtra's political landscape is witnessing unprecedented realignments as the state prepares for municipal corporation elections across 29 bodies, a poll that comes four years behind schedule. The most significant of these changes involves the coming together of estranged Thackeray cousins and tentative steps toward reconciliation between the rival Pawar factions.

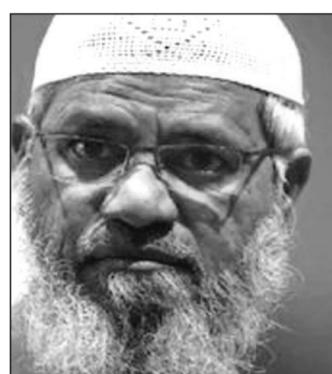
Merely Calling Jihad 'Self-Struggle' Won't Stop Terrorism

Zahack Tanvir

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Every time a terror attack occurs, sections of the Muslim ulema rush to the media to insist, "This is not real jihad. The real jihad is the struggle against one's own self." This narrative is quickly reinforced online. Muslims on social media begin offering explanations that jihad does not mean killing innocents and that such violence has nothing to do with Islam. Rather than confronting the underlying doctrine, these responses function as deflection, not clarification.

At the other end of the spectrum, some preachers advance an entirely different-but equally problematic-framework. Figures such as Zakir Naik divide terrorists into two categories: "good terrorists," who terrorise so-called anti-social elements, and "bad terrorists," who kill innocents. This distinction traces back to the writings of Syed Qutb of the Muslim Brotherhood. What unites these divergent narratives is a shared premise: for every jihadi, the opponent is always defined as an enemy. Any non-Muslim who does not believe in Allah becomes expendable. This logic was articulated explicitly by US-based Mufti Nadeem Wadji in a recent podcast that went viral and raised widespread concern on social media. Some Muslims argue that a "true Muslim" can never be a terrorist. Yet Sunni militants themselves offer elaborate justifications for violence, drawing primarily from the Qur'an and Sunnah. Shiite militants, meanwhile, ground their legitimacy in historical narratives of resistance against oppression from Koofa and Basrah. These parallel justifications expose a deeper problem-not the absence of theology, but the absence of consensus. At the centre of this confusion lies an unresolved question: who defines "oppression"? For Iranian protesters, the Khamenei regime is oppressive. For Iran-backed Hezbollah, Western powers represent oppression. For many Syrian Muslims, Khamenei is



oppressive and the late Qasem Soleimani was a mass murderer; for Shiite Muslims, however, Soleimani was a mujahid-a holy warrior defending the religion of the Masumeen. Such radically divergent moral frameworks, drawn from the same religious tradition, have produced enduring theological and political confusion. This confusion is compounded by the fact that the Qur'an explicitly addresses jihad. It does so without apology or euphemism. The text is direct and unambiguous about when jihad is permitted, when it is forbidden, and even which months prohibit it. Classical Islamic exegesis often presents jihad as a manifestation of divine wrath against non-believers. After the nine signs shown to Pharaoh and the revelation of the Torah, divine punishment was no longer delivered directly. Instead, believers were permitted to fight non-believers and carry out punishment in the name of faith. In the earliest phase of Islam, when the Muslim com-

munity numbered only a few hundred, Muslims faced existential threats and were commanded to engage in defensive jihad to protect their territory. Over time, however, what began as a defensive necessity was elevated into the highest form of worship. When jihad is referenced in the Qur'an, it is overwhelmingly associated with qital-armed combat-not merely spiritual self-discipline. The "inner struggle" narrative has been popularised largely by modern apologetics, particularly to adapt in non-Muslim-majority societies, or by Muslims unwilling to openly address the doctrine of offensive jihad. Within the classical understanding, jihad as qital was treated as an obligation to expand territory and subjugate lands where gods other than the One God were worshipped. This framework was not ambiguous in its objectives. Those who accepted conversion were granted equal status. Those who refused were required to pay jizya and live as dhimmi. Those who rejected both options historically faced execution or expulsion. This was not unique to Islamic empires; it was the prevailing imperial norm in the pre-World War era. Empire-building was the dominant global order. The British expanded their empire while promoting Christianity. Buddhists expanded their influence across Asia. Romans, Greeks, and Persians pursued territorial and ideological expansion as well. Muslims, too, were instructed to expand. Failure to do so often resulted in subjugation or annihilation by competing powers. Notably, Jews and Hindus did not follow this expansionist pattern. Jewish communities remained largely confined to Israel, while Hindu civilisation did not extend beyond the Indus region through religious conquest. At the beginning of the recent spy-thriller Dhurandhar, a verse from the Bhagavad Gita (2:37) is invoked, in which Krishna tells Arjuna that if he dies fighting, he will attain heaven, and if he prevails, he will gain honour on earth. The crucial distinction, however, is that this call to fight is framed explicitly as the defence of one's land, duty, and social order-defending dharma itself. A similar idea appears across Abrahamic traditions, where defending one's land from invasion is often associated with salvation. The divergence lies in what followed: whether this principle remained tied to defence, or evolved into a theological mandate for religious expansion beyond one's borders. Most religious traditions have gradually abandoned expansionist theology. Christianity, for instance, now largely confines its outreach to missionary work through charity, education, and preaching. Muslims-mostly Islamists, by contrast-have not decisively abandoned the idea of establishing a global caliphate. This unresolved ambition lies at the heart of the contemporary problem.



Home state woes

Ramachandra Guha

In recent weeks, the newspapers in my home state, Karnataka, have carried numerous reports about the tussle of power between the state's chief minister and its deputy chief minister. The latter's acolytes claim that when the Congress regained power in May 2023, the party's high command told Siddaramaiah to serve as chief minister for the first two-and-a-half years, whereupon D.K. Shivakumar would take over his job. The followers of Siddaramaiah dispute this, saying that their man will stay in power for a full five years. As that halfway mark approached, and the high command stayed silent, there were a series of breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings where each leader canvassed support for his case among local legislators, heads of caste bodies, etc. This column goes beyond the leadership dispute to examine the performance of the Congress government in Karnataka as a whole. Let us first recall the months before the last assembly election. Then the news reports were dominated by issues such as hijab, halal, love jihad and the like. The Bharatiya Janata Party was in power in the state, and, as ever, sought to win re-election by stoking communal polarisation. Its administrative performance had been overwhelming; knowing this, it hoped that by demonising the state's Muslims, it would somehow recover enough ground among Hindus to win re-election. Fortunately for Karnataka, this strategy failed. The Congress won the election by a substantial majority, and Siddaramaiah was sworn in as chief minister. One undeniable feature of his government's term in office has been a significant lowering of the communal temperature. The state has a large population of Muslims (roughly 13% of the total), as well as a not insignificant number of Christians, and both these communities have, without question, felt more secure since May 2023 than they had been in the months and years prior to that. The Congress was propelled to power in Karnataka by, among other things, its promise of five guarantees: free bus travel to women and girls, cash transfers to women-headed households, additional foodgrains and 200 units of free electricity to each household and, finally, a stipend to educated but unemployed youth. Though no full-scale scholarly studies

of these schemes have been carried out yet, reports by independent observers suggest that they might have enjoyed a modest success in creating a social safety net. These then are the achievements of the Siddaramaiah government in Karnataka; relative communal peace and a targeted welfarism. It is hard, if not impossible, to think of any other positive outcomes of thirty one months of Congress rule in my home state. The signs of administrative indifference and incompetence are particularly visible in the capital, Bengaluru, where the deteriorating conditions of the roads and the ensuing traffic gridlocks have caused much distress to the city's residents. The national and even international press have carried a series of stories of how the city that is the showpiece of India's IT revolution faces stagnation and decay owing to the collapse of its infrastructure. Faced with public outcry, the deputy chief minister - who is also the minister in charge of Bengaluru - has proposed building an underground tunnel to connect the northern part of the city - where the airport is located - with the southern part, where the major software and biotech firms are based. This, it is claimed, will ease the movement of engineers and white-collar workers, while also helping citizens at large. Yet if any government programme deserves the moniker, 'white elephant', it is this one. The leading transport experts in the country work in Bengaluru, at the Indian Institute of Science. They have categorically stated that the deputy CM's scheme is unwise and unworkable, since it is unmindful of the city's complex geology and unduly favours the owners of private automobiles. These experts argue that a far better option to solve the city's transport bottlenecks would be to have a greatly enlarged fleet of buses, whose movement can be co-ordinated with the existing metro system. Strikingly, the deputy CM has declined even to meet with these experts, and plans to go ahead with his utterly ill-conceived tunnel project at vast cost to the public exchequer. Shivakumar's politics is marked by ambition and haste. Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah, once an assured and composed politician, with an authority that comes from having a genuine mass base, now seems preoccupied with retaining his post, and becoming the only chief minister in the state's history to complete two full terms in office.

Tee for Trumpism

Saumitra Dasgupta

President Donald Trump seems to have snookered America's trading partners on and off the golf course. The basic truth in this statement is couched in a flawed sporting metaphor that yokes golf with the pool table. But it is a sign of the uncertain times we live in that policy mavens and commentators need to quickly bone up on the new idiom - the tees and cues - emerging from the Turnberry System, which foreshadows a new world trading order that Trump has started to fashion. The moniker comes from the golf resort that the US president's family owns in Scotland called the Trump Turnberry where he signed a landmark bilateral framework accord with the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, on July 27, 2025. The Turnberry System has all but knocked the rules-based multilateral trading order established by the World Trade Organization into a cocked hat. The Turnberry System rests on four core principles: the use of tariffs as an instrument of coercion to extract significant concessions from trading partners; focus on bilateral deals and steer clear of the babble of multilateral negotiations under the WTO framework; quickly ramp up tariffs if a partner turns mutinous and non-compliant; and seek to rebalance yawning trade deficits by gaining market access for American agriculture, energy, and automotive exports. If the US trade representative, Jamieson Greer, is to be believed, everything has gone swimmingly well for the Trump administration since the signing of the historic accord with the EU last July. He wrote in an Op-Ed in the Financial Times recently: "...the Turnberry Round of global trade negotiations continues at an accelerated pace. In the autumn, he [Trump] concluded trade agreements and frameworks with Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Korea. He finalised an investment agreement with Japan, and more recently announced new framework agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina and Ecuador." The success of Trump's strategy - which is designed to rekindle the process of industrialisation in the US - will depend on how quickly he can ramp up economic growth, pare trade deficits with major partners, raise American wages, and increase the share of manufacturing in the \$30-trillion US economy. Some green shoots of revival are starting to show: the US's annual GDP growth in the third quarter (July-September) has surged to 4.3% - which is the highest in eight quarters since the 4.7% growth in the third quarter of 2023. However, it will be a while before the rationale for Trump's minatory trade policy finds its validation in the other metrics.

The Pawars Are Talking Again, And So Are Thackerays. Here's Why

Amitabh Tiwari

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Maharashtra's political landscape is witnessing unprecedented realignments as the state prepares for municipal corporation elections across 29 bodies, a poll that comes four years behind schedule. The most significant of these changes involves the coming together of estranged Thackeray cousins and tentative steps toward reconciliation between the rival Pawar factions.



which makes up about 20%. The reasoning behind this strategy is straightforward: the united Thackeray front believes it is better positioned to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party than the Congress, hence leaving no option for the Muslim community but to back them. The seat-sharing arrangement reflects the relative strengths of the partners. Shiv Sena (UBT) will contest 165 seats, MNS will

field candidates in 52 constituencies, while the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar faction) will contest just 10 seats as part of this new coalition. At a joint press conference announcing the tie-up, the Thackeray brothers invoked a potent warning to the Marathi Manoos: "batenge to katenge" - divided we fall, united we stand, taking cue from the BJP's slogan in the 2024 state elections. For

Uddhav Thackeray, these municipal elections represent nothing short of an existential battle. Shiv Sena held sway over the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation for nearly three decades, making it not just a political bastion but a symbol of the party's power and reach. The 2022 split that saw Eknath Shinde walk away with a majority of MLAs has left Uddhav's faction at serious risk of losing this crucial stronghold. The battle between the two Shiv Sena factions has produced mixed results so far. In what can be termed Round One, the Lok Sabha elections, Uddhav's faction emerged victorious. However, Round Two - the Vidhan Sabha polls - went to Eknath Shinde's faction. These municipal corporation elections, particularly in Mumbai, represent the decisive Round Three that could

determine which faction truly inherits Balasaheb's mantle. Uddhav has reasons for optimism. Of the 20 seats his party won in the 2024 Vidhan Sabha polls, half came from the Mumbai region corresponding to the BMC. While the party's overall vote share across Maharashtra stood at just 10%, in the Mumbai region it was an impressive 24%. This concentrated support base could prove crucial in municipal elections where local factors often outweigh state-level considerations. The MNS, despite its smaller footprint, also has a significant presence in Mumbai. While it recorded less than 2% vote share statewide in the 2024 state elections, it managed 7% in the Mumbai zone, suggesting that Raj Thackeray's appeal, though diminished, remains relevant in the city where his party was born.

Hacks To Avoid Feeling Cold During Winters

New Delhi (Agency): As a low body fat percentage, are severe cold wave grips becoming more susceptible to Northern India, so does the cold-induced diseases. Indian experience of feeling extremely chilly and shivering. With temperatures in Delhi, Punjab, and Rajasthan plummeting to record lows, the struggle to maintain body heat has become a primary health concern. While reaching for a heavy woollen coat is the instinctive response, staying warm is as much a biological process as it is a physical one. According to recent meteorological data and health advisories, the human body's ability to thermoregulate, to maintain a core temperature of approximately 37 degrees Celsius, can be significantly compromised during prolonged exposure to the Indian winter's damp, biting cold. And the changing weather patterns and stark presence of particulate matter in the air block essential sunlight; people are struggling with the extreme cold. Extremely cold temperatures, especially for the elderly, children, and individuals with



body down. Opt for a snug-fitting synthetic or silk base layer, followed by a woollen middle layer (like a pashmina or merino knit) for insulation. A windproof outer shell for stepping outdoors. This "sandwich" effect traps body heat more efficiently than a single heavy jacket. Harness The Power Of Warming Spices What you eat significantly determines your internal temperature and how cold you feel. Indian clinical studies on "diet-induced thermogenesis" emphasise the role of specific winter spices in maintaining body tempera-

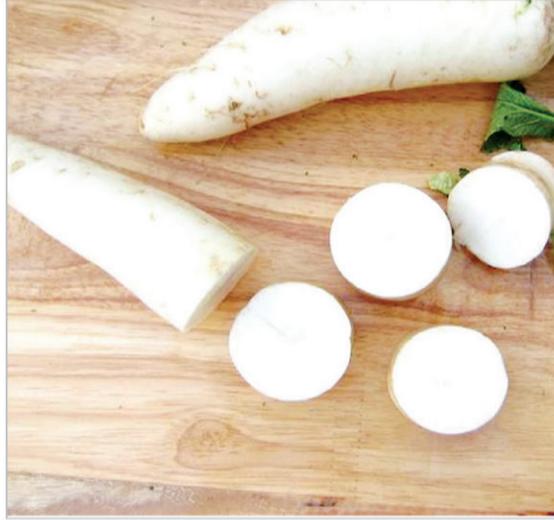
ture. A moderated intake of ingredients like dry ginger (Saunth), black pepper, and cinnamon is not just a flavour enhancer; they can open up narrowed blood vessels due to coldness and improve overall blood flow. Capsaicin, found in green chillies, and gingerol in ginger, stimulate a process where the body burns energy to produce heat. This can be put into daily practice by incorporating a "Masala Chai" or ginger-garlic soup into your evening routine. Furthermore, research from the National Institute of

Nutrition suggests that consuming complex carbohydrates like Bajra (pearl millet) and Makka (corn) provides a slow-release energy source that keeps the body's "internal furnace" burning longer than refined flours. The "Internal Heater" Exercise When we feel cold, shivers can be experienced, which means that a reflex where muscles contract rapidly to generate heat is functioning. Here is how it works: You can mimic this process more effectively through exercises that involve contracting muscles without changing their length. These exercises are known as isometric exercises. If you find yourself shivering at a bus stop or in a cold office, try tensing and releasing your core, glutes, and thighs. Clinical observations suggest that these small, "invisible" muscle contractions can raise core body temperature by several degrees within minutes. Unlike high-intensity cardio, which might cause you to sweat (and eventually feel colder), isometrics gen-

erate heat without the moisture, making them the perfect "internal heater" for sedentary winter days. Prioritise "Core" Protection Over Extremities While people often focus on wearing gloves and heavy socks, the body's biological priority is the torso, which houses the vital organs. When your core temperature drops, the brain triggers "vasoconstriction", pulling warm blood away from your hands and feet to protect the heart and lungs. This is why your fingers often feel like ice, even if you are wearing gloves. You can raise your core body temperature by: By wearing a thermal vest or a sleeveless "Gudri" (quilted vest), you can keep the core warm. Once the brain perceives the core is safe, it will allow warm blood to flow back to the extremities. Indian studies often recommend the "muffler hack", wrapping a scarf around the neck to protect the carotid arteries. Since a significant amount of blood flows through the neck, keeping this

area insulated helps maintain the temperature of the blood reaching the brain. Humidity Control In urban Indian homes, the use of electric blowers and heaters is common. However, these devices strip the air of moisture. Dry air feels colder to the skin than slightly humid air because it accelerates the evaporation of moisture from your pores through a cooling process. Here is how people can regulate the level of humidity in their homes: A simple hack used in many Himalayan households is placing a shallow bowl of water near a heat source or using a humidifier. Maintaining an indoor humidity level of around 40-50 percent allows your skin to retain its natural oils and prevents the "chilled" feeling that comes with dry, cracked skin. Staying hydrated is crucial; blood volume drops when you are dehydrated, making it harder for your heart to pump warm blood to your skin's surface. The "Golden Hour" Sunlight Exposure Despite the fog, catching the midday sun is a biological necessity in winter. Beyond vitamin D, sunlight influences the circadian rhythm and the production of serotonin. Indian studies on seasonal affective disorder (SAD) and metabolic rates show that sunlight exposure helps regulate the thyroid gland, which is the body's primary "thermostat". Here are some ways to get that essential sunlight during winter: Spending 20 minutes in the sun between 11 AM and 1 PM - this is the "Golden Hour" that helps reset your internal clock. The infrared rays from the sun penetrate the skin and warm the tissues directly, providing a deep-seated heat that lasts much longer than the temporary warmth of a space heater. Staying warm during an Indian winter is a holistic balance of smart clothing, metabolic fuel, and environmental awareness. By focusing on your core, utilising warming spices, and understanding the science of layering, you can protect yourself from the adverse effects of the cold wave.

This Common Winter Vegetable May Support Liver Health, Says Nutritionist



New Delhi (Agency): Fatty liver is no longer a rare health concern. With busy routines, processed food, stress, and low physical activity becoming part of daily life, liver health often takes a backseat. Many people don't even realise there's an issue until a routine test points it out. While medical care is important, small food choices made every day can also support liver health in a big way. And sometimes, the simplest foods turn out to be the most effective. One such everyday ingredient is radish. Yes, the humble mooli sitting in your kitchen. No supplements. No fancy detox drinks. Just a vegetable we have known forever. Nutritionist Nmami Agarwal has shared a video on Instagram highlighting how radish can support liver health, especially for those dealing with fatty liver concerns. In the video, she calls radish the "liver's superhero" and breaks down exactly how it helps. Benefits Of Radish For Liver Health:

Helps flush out toxins from the liver

According to Ms Agarwal, radish works as a natural detox helper. "It helps to flush out toxins from the liver, keeping your liver happy and efficient," she explains. This makes it useful for people whose liver is already under stress.

Rich in vitamin C and antioxidants

She also points out that radish is rich in vitamin C and antioxidants. These nutrients help fight free radical damage, which can worsen liver inflammation over time. Nmami described radish as the liver's "quiet bodyguard" for this reason.

Improves bile flow and fat digestion

Another key benefit she mentioned is improved bile flow. Better bile flow helps the body digest fats more efficiently. And when fats are broken down properly, they can support an improved fatty liver profile.

Contains glucosinolates that reduce inflammation

Lastly, radish contains glucosinolates. These compounds help calm inflammation and fight factors that can worsen fatty liver issues. Nmami Agarwal also shares simple ways to include radish in your daily routine. Have radish-infused water early in the day

Drink radish juice in the morning on an empty stomach Add raw radish to salads

Include it as part of regular meals Ms Agarwal also reminds viewers that radish is not a magic cure. Regular intake can support detoxification, inflammation control and fat metabolism, but it works best as part of a balanced lifestyle.

As her caption summed it up well: no fancy detox plans, just a smart, natural food choice. Sometimes, good health really does start with what's already on your plate.

Telangana Issues Notice For Yoga Aids Speedy Opioid Withdrawal Recovery, Improves Anxiety, Sleep



New Delhi (Agency): The Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DGA) issued an advisory to stop the use of Almont-Kid Syrup as it was allegedly found adulterated with Ethylene Glycol (EG). Almont-Kid Syrup is usually prescribed to children for symptoms of allergy such as runny nose, sneezing, itching, swelling, congestion, and watery eyes. It can also help treat asthma and skin allergies. The DCA notice said that it received an alert from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), East Zone, Kolkata, regarding a laboratory report that has declared the syrup (Levocetirizine Dihydrochloride and Montelukast Sodium Syrup) as adulterated. The DCA said, "In light of the above, the public is hereby strongly advised to immediately stop the use of the above syrup, if in possession, and report the same to the nearest Drugs Control Authority without delay." Drugs Inspectors and Assistant Directors across the state have been directed to immediately alert all retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and hospitals to freeze any available stocks of the said product batch and

ensure that the same are not dispensed or sold under any circumstances. Telangana DCA has also urged the public to report possession of the children's syrup and also refrain from using it. Ethylene glycol is a colourless, odourless and relatively nonvolatile liquid, says Science Direct. It has a low freezing and high boiling point and is a commonly used ingredient in antifreeze and deicing solutions. Ethylene Glycol has a sweet taste and may be ingested by children. "Untreated ethylene glycol ingestion can cause significant morbidity and mortality." Ethylene glycol poisoning occurs when someone ingests ethylene glycol. When it is consumed orally, it is completely absorbed and its peak concentrations are reached after 1-2 hours. Within 30 minutes to 12 hours, one might experience symptoms that mimic alcohol intoxication, including euphoria, dizziness, slurred speech, nausea, vomiting, and coordination problems. These might further progress to seizures or coma due to ethylene glycol's direct neurotoxic effects. The next stage, which is in the 12-36 hours, the body metabolises ethylene glycol into toxic acids like glycolic acid. This causes metabolic acidosis, rapid heart rate, hyperventilation, low blood calcium, muscle spasms, and potential heart failure. This can turn

out to be fatal without medical intervention. In the next 36-72 hours, the poisoning might cause kidney damage as oxalate crystals form. This eventually leads to acute renal failure, oliguria, or anuria, along with cerebral oedema and lasting organ impairment. Ethylene glycol poisoning can lead to severe and life-threatening side effects due to the toxic metabolites which damages multiple organs. Here are some of the side effects of ethylene glycol poisoning. Brain and Nervous System Damage: In the early stages, the chemical causes drunkenness, confusion, seizures, and coma due to direct neurotoxicity. Later, it can cause cerebral oedema and encephalopathy due to acid buildup. This can lead to permanent brain injury, stroke-like events, or death if untreated.

Heart and Lung Failure: Glycolic acid triggers metabolic acidosis, causing rapid heartbeat, irregular rhythms, extremely high or low blood pressure, and congestive heart failure. This can progress to cardiogenic pulmonary oedema, respiratory failure with deep and rapid breathing, and circulatory collapse. Kidney Damage: Oxalate crystals deposit in renal tubules, which can cause acute tubular necrosis, flank pain, bloody urine, and oliguria/anuria.

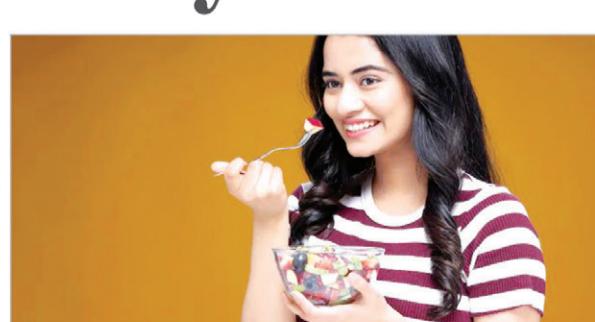
oid use, leading to significant physical, psychological, and social problems, is a significant global public health challenge. In 2022, an estimated 60 million people worldwide used opioids non-medically, yet only 1 in 11 individuals with drug use disorders received treatment. In India, a 2019 national survey indicated a 2.1 per cent prevalence of opioid use. Opioid withdrawal involves sympathetic hyperactivity and reduced parasympathetic tone, which standard pharmacological treatments may not adequately address, contributing to relapse vulnerability. To evaluate yoga as an adjuvant therapy to accelerate opioid withdrawal recovery, the team conducted a randomised clinical trial of 59 male participants (30 yoga and 29 control participants) with opioid use disorder (OUD), characterised by recurrent opiate treatment achieved with withdrawal stabilisation 4.4 times faster than controls. They also showed significant improvements in heart rate variability, anxiety, sleep, and pain measures. "In this randomised clinical trial, adjuvant yoga therapy significantly accelerated opioid withdrawal recovery while addressing autonomic dysregulation. The concurrent physiological, psychological, and symptomatic improvements suggest that yoga may restore core regulatory processes beyond symptom management," said the team in the JAMA Psychiatry. "By targeting parasympathetic restoration, yoga may fill a critical therapeutic gap in standard OUD care, supporting integration into withdrawal protocols as a neurobiologically informed intervention," said Suddala Goutham, from the Department of Integrative Medicine at NIMHANS. Opioid use disorder (OUD), characterised by recurrent opiate

Nutritionist Says Food Sends Signals To Your Body Within Minutes

New Delhi (Agency): ally, but every single day. Food is often reduced to fuel for survival or a momentary indulgence. But beyond calories, taste and weight gain, it influences our body in complex ways. Every bite we take shapes how we feel, function and even age over time. While diet is typically considered a long-term lifestyle choice, its impact may begin much sooner than we realise. Understanding the connection between food and the body explains why what we eat matters not just eventually

Nutritionist Pooja Makhija has shed light on this in her latest Instagram post. In the video, the nutritionist explains, "We've all heard that you are what you eat. But what if I told you that it does not take the food years to change your body, but it does so in just a few minutes?" As per Ms Makhija, eating is not simply feeding your body but also a way of sending instructions. "Within minutes, your hormones will shift, your brain chemistry changes, and your inflammatory genes turn on and off," she states. According to the nutritionist, "One meal is a signal; repeated meals become dysregulated, and insulin resistance becomes real," warns the lifestyle expert. Ms

Makhija further reveals that, contrary to what most people believe - that health is built over decades - our biology tells a different story. How Food Alters The Body Within Minutes To Hours Of Eating Insulin and cortisol signalling Neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine. Inflammatory gene expression (via NF-?B) Immune cell behaviour post-meal In conclusion, Pooja Makhija writes, "A single high-fat or high-sugar meal has been shown to increase inflammatory gene expression and oxidative stress within hours, even in healthy individuals. But one meal doesn't define you. Repetition does. Your body adapts to what it repeatedly hears. That's why nutrition isn't about perfection; it's about patterns. Think of food as information, instructions and signals sent daily. Change the signal consistently and biology follows." So remember, food is more of a biological message than a moral choice. The best part is that you can begin changing the pattern with your very next meal.



turn on and off," she states. According to the nutritionist, "One meal is a signal; repeated meals become dysregulated, and insulin resistance becomes real," warns the lifestyle expert. Ms

Harvik Desai's century seals Saurashtra win over Uttar Pradesh Padikkal's unbeaten 81 powers Karnataka to win in rain-hit QF

Bengaluru, Jan 12 (Reporter)

Harvik Desai's calm authority and flawless temperament under pressure defined Saurashtra's rain-hit quarter-final triumph, as the skipper emerged as the top performer in a 17-run VJD-method victory over Uttar Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite 2025-26 here on Monday. In a high-stakes knockout encounter repeatedly interrupted by rain, Desai stood tall with an unbeaten 100 off 116 balls, anchoring Saurashtra's chase with clarity and assurance. Chasing a challenging target of 311, the wicketkeeper-batter took complete control of the innings, ensuring stability even as changing conditions and interruptions threatened to disrupt momentum. After the early dismissal of Vishvaraj Jadeja, Desai absorbed the pressure and rebuilt the innings with Prerak Mankad, whose fluent 67 injected momentum through the middle overs. The partnership proved decisive, allowing Saurashtra to stay well ahead of the VJD par score when rain returned and



Continued from Page-1

CBI to question Actor-Politician Vijay...

Anurag Thakur, Tejasvi Surya among members, to visit Karur and investigate the incident. Initially, the Madras High Court established a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the events leading up to the tragedy. Later, the Supreme Court took up the case, directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct the investigation under the supervision of a committee led by a former Supreme Court judge. The single-member inquiry commission that the Tamil Nadu government had previously appointed was also overturned by the top court, which determined that the case called for a more unbiased and reliable investigation. Notably, the TVK, Vijay's party, had also demanded an impartial investigation into the incident.

Delhi shivers under severe cold, fog ...

advisory issued on X, the airlines wrote, "Travel Advisory: Low visibility and fog over Chandigarh may impact flight schedules. We are closely monitoring the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly. We request that you stay updated on your flight status via our website or app. Please be assured that our teams are here to assist you at every step and provide full support. We look forward to clearer skies and a swift return to our regular schedule. Thank you for your patience and understanding." Spice Jet too issued an advisory for their flights scheduled for Monday. "Due to expected bad weather (poor visibility) in Delhi (DEL), Amritsar (ATQ), Jaipur (JAI), Leh (IXL), Srinagar (SXR), Jammu (IXJ), Dharamshala (DHM), Varanasi (VNS), Ayodhya (AYJ), Darbhanga (DBR), Patna (PAT), Bagdogra (IXB), Gorakhpur (GOP), Guwahati (GAU), Kolkata (CCU), Shillong (SHL), Shivamogga (RQY), Hyderabad (HYD), Udaipur (UDR), all departures/arrivals and their consequential flights might get affected. Passengers are requested to keep a check on their flight status," the post on X read. Akasa Air also cautioned its guests on weather related uncertainties in a post on X,

US Tariffs against India can fast...

parts. Labour-intensive industries, particularly small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will also be impacted. Weaker exports could affect manufacturing output. Geo-politically, the move would strain the broader India-US strategic partnership, pushing India to further diversify its trade partners and reinforce ties with other groupings. The US move should be a trigger for India to strengthen BRICS and the Russia-India-China (RIC) forum. However, India seems to have taken the announcement of 500 per cent tariff with a pinch of salt and has given a measured response. This is because of many factors, including India's domestic market strength. India's domestic demand provides a significant cushion against external shocks. Strengthening the local and rural economy can effectively mitigate the impact of such tariffs. India has consistently defended the oil trade with Russia in its national interest. Following the imposition of 50 per cent tariffs, India has been actively pursuing trade deals with other partners, such as the EU and Mercosur bloc, and promoting 'Atmnrabharta' (self-reliance) to reduce dependence on the US. The US, too, would face a negative impact. US consumers would face substantial price hikes on everyday products imported from India. US importers would be forced to seek alternative sourcing partners, disrupting existing supply chains and increasing operational costs. US businesses relying on Indian imports would face higher costs, and exporters from other countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh would benefit. There is also possibility of the imposition of retaliatory measures by India, which has the potential to damage the long-term diplomatic and strategic relationship. The India-US strategic relationship is vital for countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific. Overall, the unilateral use of high tariffs undermines multilateral trade arrangements. This is not the first time that the US has tried to pressure India on several issues, including geopolitical alignments, trade and nuclear tests. There have been several instances of pressure, and sanctions by the United States against India between 1965 and the recent tariff warnings. During the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, the US under President Richard Nixon supported Pakistan and sent the nuclear-armed Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal. The US action was seen as a warning to India. In 1974, the US imposed sanctions, including export controls and the suspension of nuclear cooperation, after India's first nuclear test, 'Smiling Buddha' at Pokhran. In 1998, following India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests, President Bill Clinton imposed extensive economic and military sanctions under the Glenn Amendment. These sanctions, which included cutting off most aid and blocking defence technology exports, were the most severe. Even before the recent 500 per cent tariff warnings, trade tensions were going on between the two countries. India's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile system in 2018 raised the possibility of US sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), though an India-specific waiver was eventually approved by the US House in 2022. In 1965, India faced a severe food crisis because of droughts and wars with China in 1962 and Pakistan in 1965. India was

highly dependent on food imports then, particularly wheat from the U.S. under the infamous PL-480 Food for Peace programme. The PL-480 was the then-US President Lyndon Johnson's use of food aid as a geopolitical bargaining chip. Johnson was not happy with India's non-aligned stance and criticism of the US bombing in Vietnam. He delayed PL-480 shipments, creating a food shortage in India and exacerbating the crisis. The US made the food aid conditional on India implementing specific agricultural reforms. The quality of some imported grain was very poor, which, combined with political pressure, was widely perceived as an "insult" to the nation. This "insult" reinforced India's determination to achieve food security and start the Green Revolution. This humiliation served as a major catalyst for India to aggressively pursue the Green Revolution under the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and later Indira Gandhi. Noted agricultural scientist Dr M.S. Swaminathan was given the responsibility for ushering in the Green Revolution, which is bearing fruit even today and turned India into a food-surplus State within a few decades. Following India's nuclear tests in May 1998 (Pokhran-II), the US, under President Bill Clinton, imposed sanctions on India under the Glenn Amendment. The sanctions included the suspension of most US foreign aid, with exceptions for humanitarian assistance and food/agricultural commodities, the termination of all defence sales, military financing, and licenses for the export of items on the US Munitions List. Denial of any U.S. government credits and credit guarantees, or financial assistance from international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF, and prohibiting US banks from extending loans or credit to India were some of the measures taken by the US against India. More than 200 Indian entities, including government research bodies and academic institutions linked to the nuclear programme, were blacklisted.

Ignite the self, serve the nation: CJI...
ambassador of culture and philosophy," the Chief Justice said. Justice Surya Kant was among several national leaders who paid homage to Swami Vivekananda on his 164th birth anniversary, observed across the country as National Youth Day. Leaders from different walks of life, including the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, also paid their respects, recalling Swami Vivekananda's enduring message of character-building, self-belief, and nation-building. A common theme running through the tributes was the emphasis on energising India's youth by drawing inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's ideals and guiding them towards the goal of building a developed and self-reliant nation. The National Youth Day this year was observed with the theme 'Ignite the Self; Impact the World'. The Chief Justice's participation in the event highlighted the judiciary's engagement with national icons and social causes. Justice Surya Kant took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India in November 2025 and has since been actively associated with initiatives that underline constitutional values, social responsibility, and inspiration drawn from India's civilisational heritage.

India to host 28th Commonwealth...

parliaments worldwide are grappling with new challenges and opportunities posed by technology, changing public expectations and concerns relating to the security and well-being of legislators," Birla said. "The focus this year will be on the application of artificial intelligence and social media in parliamentary functioning, while preserving the core democratic values of transparency, accountability and impartiality," Birla said. Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the conference on January 15 at 10:30 AM and deliver the keynote address. Following the inaugural session, the Prime Minister will interact informally with the Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth and autonomous parliaments and participate in a group photograph. Modi had earlier inaugurated the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) hosted by India in October 2023, the last major inter-parliamentary conference held in the country. CSPOC, established in 1969 on the initiative of the then Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, Lucien Lamoureux, is an independent forum that brings together Speakers and Presiding Officers of the 53 national parliaments of Commonwealth countries. While it has no formal affiliation with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Commonwealth Secretariat or the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), its membership mirrors that of the CPA. Canada has provided the secretariat for CSPOC since its inception. The stated aims of the conference are to uphold impartiality and fairness among Presiding Officers, promote understanding of parliamentary democracy in its various forms, and support the development of strong parliamentary institutions. The conference operates on a two-year cycle, with a full membership conference held every alternate year. The decision to host the 28th CSPOC in India was taken during the 25th conference in Ottawa in January 2020, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. The formal handover to India took place at the conclusion of the 27th CSPOC in Kampala, Uganda, in January 2024, when Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh led the Indian parliamentary delegation. As Chairperson of

Bengaluru, Jan 12 (FN Bureau)

calculations began to favour the chasing side. What set Desai apart was not merely the century, but the manner in which it was constructed. He rotated the strike efficiently, punished loose deliveries without taking undue risks and constantly read the match situation, fully aware that rain could intervene at any stage. His innings reflected leadership in its truest sense — measured, responsible and match-aware. Even after Mankad and Sammar Gajjar were dismissed in quick succession, Desai remained unruffled, guiding Chirag Jani and ensuring the chase stayed firmly on track. Jani's brisk unbeaten 40 added impetus, but it was Desai's presence at the crease that gave Saurashtra complete control before play was eventually abandoned. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh had posted a formidable 310 for eight, built around an outstanding unbeaten 88 by Sameer Rizvi and a fluent 88 at the top by Abhishek Goswami.

After the middle order failed to fully capitalise on promising starts, Rizvi absorbed the pressure and took charge of the innings with maturity. Saurashtra's bowlers kept probing throughout, with left-arm pacer Chetan Sakariya providing early breakthroughs and finishing as the most successful bowler with three for 54. Prerak Mankad struck twice in the middle overs to check the scoring, while Ankur Panwar also picked up two wickets despite conceding runs. Dharmendrasinh Jadeja bowled with control and discipline, giving away just 38 runs from his full quota of 10 overs to maintain pressure. Rizvi's role became even more crucial after the dismissal of Goswami, who had laid a solid platform. At 179 for five, Uttar Pradesh were in danger of falling short of a par score, but Rizvi shifted gears seamlessly, guiding the lower order and ensuring the scoring rate never dipped. His unbeaten

88 off 77 balls, laced with 10 boundaries and two sixes, was built on sharp strike rotation early and calculated aggression at the death. He stitched together vital partnerships with Prashant Veer, Vipraj Nigam and Zeeshan Ansari, turning the final phase into a decisive surge that lifted Uttar Pradesh beyond the 300-run mark. Beyond the numbers, Rizvi's composure under pressure and ability to inspire confidence in those around him defined the innings and briefly tilted momentum in UP's favour. However, Desai's mastery of the chase ensured those efforts were neutralised when the VJD calculations came into play. When rain brought a premature end to proceedings at 238 for three in 40.1 overs, Saurashtra were comfortably ahead of the required score, sealing a 17-run victory. While Prerak Mankad was officially named Player of the Match, it was Harvik Desai's century — forged under pressure and guided by sharp game awareness — that stood out as the defining performance of the quarter-final.

Padikkal's unbeaten 81 powers Karnataka to win in rain-hit QF

Bengaluru, Jan 12 (FN Bureau)

Devdutt Padikkal produced a composed and authoritative unbeaten knock to headline Karnataka's 55-run victory over Mumbai via the VJD Method in a rain-affected first quarterfinal of the Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite 2025-26 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1 here on Monday. Padikkal was named Player of the Match for his unbeaten 81 off 95 balls, an innings that ensured Karnataka stayed well ahead of the VJD par score before rain brought an early end to the contest. His knock proved decisive in a high-pressure knockout game, effectively sealing Karnataka's passage forward. Earlier, Karnataka's disciplined bowling effort restricted Mumbai to 254 for 8 after the hosts won the toss and elected to bowl. Mumbai struggled for momentum through the early and middle overs, with wickets falling at regular intervals.

Shams Mulani stood out for Mumbai with a resolute 86 off 91 balls, holding the innings together after early setbacks and guiding his side to a competitive total. For Karnataka, Vidyadhar Patil was the most successful bowler with figures of 3 for 42, while Abhilash Shetty and Vidhwath Kaverappa picked up two wickets each. Vijaykumar Vyshak also chipped in with a wicket, ensuring Mumbai were kept in check despite Mulani's resistance. In reply, Karnataka suffered an early blow when captain Mayank Agarwal was dismissed for 12, leaving the score at 44 for 1. Padikkal then took control of the chase, displaying patience, balance and sharp game awareness. He rotated the strike effectively, found the boundaries when needed and ensured the required rate never posed a challenge. Padikkal forged a

decisive, unbroken 143-run partnership for the second wicket with Karun Nair, who provided solid support with an unbeaten 74 off 80 deliveries. Together, the pair neutralised Mumbai's bowling attack and steadily took Karnataka past the VJD par score. At 187 for 1 in 33 overs, Karnataka were firmly in command when rain interrupted play. With no further play possible, Karnataka were declared winners by 55 runs under the VJD Method. Devdutt Padikkal's innings stood out as the defining performance of the match, underlining his ability to deliver under pressure and anchoring Karnataka's convincing victory in the rain-curtailed quarterfinal.

Scores: Mumbai 254 for 8 in 50 overs
Karnataka 187 for 1 in 33 overs
Result: Karnataka won by 55 runs
(VJD Method) due to rain
Player of the Match: Devdutt Padikkal

weakened the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). "The States, already deeply concerned by the new 60:40 cost-sharing formula in the law that bulldozed away MGNREGA, will certainly be keeping their fingers even more crossed than ever," he said. Ramesh outlined three major economic challenges that, according to him, require urgent attention in the Budget. First, he said, private corporate investment remains "markedly sluggish" despite substantial corporate tax cuts and robust profit margins. Second, he highlighted a sharp decline in household savings, which he argued is constraining the economy's overall investment capacity. Third, he warned that wealth, income and consumption inequalities continue to widen. "The economy faces many challenges. Three stand out," Ramesh said, listing sluggish private investment, falling household savings, and rising inequality as key concerns. He cautioned that headline GDP growth figures alone cannot mask these underlying weaknesses and stressed that job creation at the scale India requires will not be possible without addressing them. "Higher GDP growth rates in actuality, so very essential for vastly expanded job creation, will simply not be sustainable unless these steps are taken now," he said.

US Ambassador-Designate to India...

He also welcomed India's recent development, noting that India joins 'Pax Silica' as its newest member. Gor said, "I've travelled all over the world with President Trump, and I can attest that his friendship with Prime Minister Modi is real." He emphasised that "the United States and India are bound not just by shared interest, but by a relationship anchored at the highest levels. Real friends can disagree, but always resolve their differences in the end." Speaking about his recent conversation with the President, Gor shared, "I spoke with President Trump just yesterday, and I bring his warm wishes to all the people of India, especially his dear friend, the incredible Prime Minister Modi." "The President is quite busy, not only around the world, but also redecorating and renovating Washington, D.C. I shared with him that I had just driven past the beautiful India Gate. The President has embarked on building a ballroom at the White House, but one of the additional projects on his list is building something similar to the 'Arc de Triomphe' in Paris, and no offense to the French, but I think what we have here in Delhi might even surpass that." Gor had earlier described India as a "strategic partner whose trajectory will shape the region and beyond," emphasising that New Delhi shares "more in common with the United States than it does with China." During Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he called India's geographic position, economic rise, and military strength "a cornerstone of regional stability and a critical ally in advancing mutual security and prosperity."

As Donroe doctrine hastens multi-...

Donald Trump invited Pakistan to lunch." (Field Marshall Asim Munir was invited to the White House within a month of the Pahalgam attack in April, 2025, much to India's consternation). Yeo, who is in New Delhi to deliver the C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture organised every year by the India International Centre, said "Trump is fast-forwarding the future (of the global order) ... towards multi-polarism" and as a result both India and China, who "doff their caps" to each other, may well "stabilise their relationship." The former foreign minister, who is also a recipient of India's Padma Bhushan award, pointed out that the US President "thought he could browbeat India" over tariffs, "but India did not accept that". Similarly, in China's case, the tariff threat did not work, as "China played the rare earth card", forcing the US to pull back on its threats. "They have an adult relationship ... I think India and China will now stabilise their relationship. They are both ancient civilisations and each doffs its hat to the other," he remarked, adding that "even though social media goes banana at times, the leadership of India and China have never spoken out against each other." He pointed to the ambivalent stand taken by the US President on China's aggressive drills against Taiwan and said that in the light of that, all concerned nations — "China, Taiwan, Japan and India ... will keep all options open." Yeo, who has always supported a close relationship between India and ASEAN and been viewed as a friend by India's leadership, also said, "It will be best for India to protect itself and concentrate on economic growth. In the end, economic might is greater than (military) force."

ED attaches properties worth...

politicians and bureaucrats, formed a racket to extort money from coal transporters at a rate of Rs. 25 per tonne of coal transported between July 2020 and June 2022. During this period, the syndicate illegally collected approximately Rs. 540 crore. The extorted cash, constituting Proceeds of Crime, was used to bribe government officials and politicians, fund election-related expenses, and acquire movable and immovable assets. So far, properties worth Rs. 273 crore belonging to the accused have been identified and attached. During the investigation, the ED has arrested 11 persons. To date, five Prosecution Complaints against 35 accused have been filed before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA). Further investigation is ongoing.

Jairam Ramesh flags fiscal federalism...

"The 2026-27 Budget will no doubt reflect the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission," Ramesh said in a statement, adding that States are already anxious about the direction of fiscal federalism. He pointed to the controversial 60:40 cost-sharing formula under laws that, he alleged, have weakened the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). "The 2026/27 Budget will no doubt reflect the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission," Ramesh said in a statement, adding that States are already anxious about the direction of fiscal federalism. He pointed to the controversial 60:40 cost-sharing formula under laws that, he alleged, have effectively

Sennheiser Profile Wireless Review

The Only Audio Tool a Content Creator Needs?

Whenever you try to make a video, the aesthetics and the correct level of editing are crucial. However, we tend to overlook the importance of audio.

Great audio not only escalates the quality of the content but makes it more engaging for the audience. Sennheiser's Profile Wireless, a 2.4 GHz all-in-one system, is one such audio solution to address all your audio needs.

Especially if you are a content creator, then this might be your ultimate solution. I've been using it extensively for a while now, so let's find out how Sennheiser didn't just build another wireless mic, but built a comprehensive audio solution.



Design: The standout feature is undoubtedly the multifunction charging bar. This sleek, wand-like bar houses two clip-on transmitters and a two-channel receiver. For a creator on the move, this is a game-changer. Beyond just charging, the bar can be used as a handheld interview microphone by simply docking a transmitter into it and attaching the provided foam windshield. It gives you the 'reporter look' without the bulk of traditional XLR setups.

Setup and Versatility: One of the most impressive aspects of the Profile Wireless is its plug-and-play simplicity. There is no app required. The transmitters come pre-paired to the receiver, which features a crisp OLED touchscreen. Connectivity is universal. Whether you are shooting on a professional mirrorless camera, an iPhone (via the included Lightning or USB-C adapters), or a laptop for a remote briefing, the system adapts instantly. The receiver even includes a gyro-sensor that automatically rotates the display, ensuring you can read your levels regardless of how the unit is mounted.

Performance: The audio quality is classic Sennheiser-transparent, crisp, and remarkably clear. In my tests, the 32-bit float internal recording was a highlight. This technology allows for a massive dynamic range, meaning even if a subject starts shouting or the audio clips, the detail can be recovered in post-production. Additionally, the system features a 'Safety Channel Mode' that records backup audio at a lower volume to prevent clipping.

For creators, signal reliability is paramount. The Profile Wireless offers a range of up to 245 meters (line-of-sight). However, the real 'peace of mind' comes from the 'Backup Recording Mode.' If the wireless link drops due to interference, the transmitters automatically begin recording to their 16GB internal memory--capable of holding up to 30 hours of audio.

Here's what we know about US' PlayStation's concert series

As per The Verge, Sony is all set to come up with PlayStation concerts in the US this autumn. Audiences will get a chance to hear live performances of tracks from franchises like God of War, The Last of Us, Ghost of Tsushima, and Horizon. In addition to music from those big tentpole games (and the setlist better include Ghost of Tsushima's incredible title drop), the concerts will showcase "fan-favorite themes from Bloodborne, Astrobot, Journey, Uncharted, and Helldivers 2, offering a rich and diverse journey through the PlayStation universe.

A live band is expected to play the music while "the latest LED technology and state-of-the-art multi-layered projections" will turn the stage into "a mesmerising visual masterpiece." The PlayStation concert began on April 19 in Dublin and will have its upcoming segment in the US.

Disney+ to Launch Vertical Video Feed to Rival TikTok, YouTube Shorts

Disney+ is all set to introduce support for viewing vertical videos on its platform. The company revealed its plans at its Tech + Data Showcase at CES 2026 in Las Vegas. With the latest move, the streaming platform is looking to attract younger viewers, increase daily user engagement and keep up with competitors. Meanwhile, an executive has reportedly offered more insights about how the vertical video will be delivered on Disney+. The move comes after the launch of "Verts" by the ESPN app last year.

Disney, during the annual Global Tech and Data Showcase, announced that it will add vertical video to the platform in the US this year. The company says the



move "follows the successful launch of Verts on the ESPN app", a vertical video tab that was added in 2025.

Additionally, in an interview with Deadline, Erin Teague, Disney's EVP of product management for Disney Entertainment and ESPN, confirmed that vertical video in the app could include "original short-

form programming, repurposed social clips, refashioned scenes from longer-form episodic or feature titles or a combination."

The aim is to "explore its use in a variety of ways across categories and content types, for a personalised and dynamic feed. That will include expanding across news and enter-

tainment, turning Disney+ into a must-visit daily destination," Erin Teague reportedly said.

"Vertical videos are really great as daily habits, snackable, short, bite-sized experiences," Teague said. She reportedly clarified that Disney isn't using these videos just as teasers for longer content, but rather as a way to enhance the overall experience on Disney+, making it more engaging for daily use. Teague noted that Gen Z and Gen Alpha users expect this kind of content format.

Disney added a new "Vert" tab to the ESPN app in August 2025, which features a personalised feed of video, including news, highlights, viral clips, and analysis.

8 biggest tech trends of 2026: According to CES 2026

CES 2026 is over - and a weary TechRadar team is now back home recovering with their AI emotional support pets. It was another monster of a tech show, and we've already picked the 25 best gadgets we saw at this year's CES. But what about the bigger picture stuff? What tech trends did we see that give us a taste of what we'll see over the next twelve months?

That's what we've summed up for you below. While it doesn't encompass every single tech trend of 2026 (that would be a very long list), CES is traditionally a strong indicator of the ideas and themes that will dominate the rest of the year.

Foldables will go ceaseless: Phones don't traditionally have a big presence at CES these days, but Samsung bucked that trend this year by showing off its ceaseless folding OLED display.

While it was only a tech demo, it was still a big deal. A folding screen that's completely smooth and blemish-free when unfolded has been a holy grail for foldables for the past seven years. Ironically, the rumored iPhone Fold could be the main beneficiary. The rumors suggest Apple could be the first to use this new OLED screen later this year because the panel has been

made by Samsung Display (a separate entity from Samsung). Unfortunately, it's likely to be very expensive, which is why we've argued that, for Android foldable fans, seeing it debut on the iPhone Fold could still be a blessing in disguise.

It will be the year of RGB LED TVs: At CES 2025 last year, it became clear that RGB LED backlighting was the next big thing in TVs - and at this year's show, we got a good glimpse of the sets that are actually going to hit the market. What exactly is this new tech?

The tech giants all have their own names for it, with Samsung and LG both calling the tech 'Micro RGB', and Hisense and TCL going for RGB MiniLED. But the big benefits across the board are a wider range of colors plus improved brightness (or the same brightness as today with lower energy use). You can read our in-depth guide to RGB TVs for the full low-down, but the standout at CES 2026 was Samsung's 130-inch Micro RGB TV. After encountering one at the show, we described it as a beautiful beast of a TV, with the only downside being that it's just a showpiece right now. Still, it features the same

tech as you'll find in Samsung's Micro RGB TV lineup, which will arrive in 55- to 115-inch screen sizes, so start saving.

We'll all get AI emotional support pets: From SwitchBot's KATA Friends to Ecovacs' LilMilo, AI-powered pets were all over CES this year. Most can respond to gestures and petting, follow you about with lifelike eyes, recognize your voice, and some can even tell what kind of mood you're in. AI gives them a personality and enables them to learn as you play with them. While they can definitely be seen as toys - most have the option to purchase natty outfits and accessories, like a souped-up Build-A-Bear - many brands stress that they can have real value as emotional support companions, providing company and comfort for those who perhaps can't have a real pet. We certainly found them surprisingly easy to form a bond with. And while some have Funzo from The Simpsons vibes, we reckon a large number of people will welcome a furry, AI-powered pet into their lives this year.

AI wearables will become your second brain: AI hardware has

been something of a flop so far - remember the Rabbit R1 from CES 2024, or the poor Humane AI Pin? But that didn't stop tech giants from cooking up more contenders at this year's CES, and they all had one thing in common. The big theme was AI wearables that want to be your second brain. For example, the Pebble Index O1, a smart ring that lets you add notes to your calendar, transcribe notes and more. Or the Switchbot AI Mindclip, a little lapel pin (yes, another one) that records and summarizes conversations. This is clearly the direction of travel for AI gadgets in 2026. There were dozens of other examples - from the Lenovo's pendant-housed Qira assistant to Anker's Soundcore Work - and we've separately heard that OpenAI's mysterious ChatGPT gadget could take the form of an AI-powered pen. Will we actually buy these things? That's harder to say, but we certainly won't be short of options this year.

Lawnbots will get LiDAR eyes: Robot lawn mower navigation capabilities have come a long way in the past few years, and the new hot tech making its way to your

Gmail brings AI Overviews, new email writing tools to your inbox



Google is rolling out new Generative AI features to users' Gmail inboxes, allowing them to access AI summaries, a new AI inbox, as well as email writing tools to turn text prompts into more complete messages.

In a blog post shared by the company, Google announced that Gmail users will be able to see AI Overviews for their inbox contents, similar to the way the results summarisation feature works when using Google Search.

AI overviews in Gmail will let users see long conversations as a "concise summary of key points," as well as answer questions, per the company. However, while AI Overview conversation summaries are rolling out for all, only Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers can ask their inbox questions with AI Overviews.

In addition to this, Gmail's AI-powered 'Help Me Write' and 'Suggested Replies' features will be rolled out to all for free, while the 'Proofread' feature is available for Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers. These email features help users draft entire

emails with just text prompts, or improve earlier email drafts.

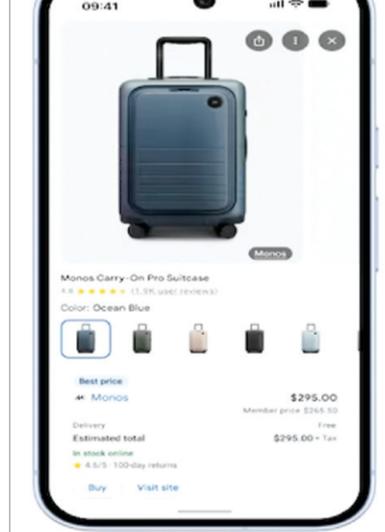
Google noted that many of the improvements and new features were powered by the company's Gemini 3 model.

Furthermore, Google announced a new AI Inbox that trusted users are still testing. The AI Inbox is designed to help users prioritise tasks gleaned through their emails and contacts, while de-prioritising clutter. For example, users can be reminded about paying bills and going to medical appointments, based on the day's needs.

"AI Inbox is like having a personalized briefing, highlighting to-dos and catching you up on what matters. It helps you prioritize, identifying your VIPs based on signals like people you email frequently, those in your contacts list and relationships it can infer from message content. Crucially, this analysis happens securely with the privacy protections you expect from Google, keeping your data under your control," said Google's Product VP for Gmail, Blake Barnes.

The AI Inbox will become available to more people over the coming months.

The new features have started rolling out in English to users in the U.S., for Gmail users as well as Google AI Pro and Ultra subscribers. Global and multi-language rollouts will happen in the coming months, per the company.



Payments Protocol (AP2) and Model Context Protocol (MCP).

As mentioned, Google co-developed the UCP with companies like Shopify, Etsy, Wayfair, Target, and

Walmart, and it's backed by over 20 others, including Visa, Mastercard, Flipkart, and Best Buy.

At launch, UCP will power a new checkout feature in AI Mode in Search and the Gemini app. It will allow users in the US to buy products directly from Google listings using Google Pay, using payment methods and shipping details already saved in Google Wallet. Support for payments through PayPal will be added soon.

Google is eyeing to expand the UCP internationally with more retailers and add more features like loyalty rewards, related product suggestions, and customised shopping experiences. Google is also launching Business Agent, which will work like a virtual sales associate. It will be available first with companies like Lowe's, Michaels, Poshmark, and Reebok. The company has confirmed it is continuing to test ads in AI Mode with a new feature called Direct Offers.

you do there'll be an army of accessories willing to give you a glimpse into your fitness future.

Smart glasses will go truly mainstream: With only a couple of false starts along the way, CES 2026 is where smart glasses seemed to finally go mainstream - as everyone and their aunt had a pair of specs to debut. Expect them to truly take off this year. We covered several in our best smart glasses of CES roundup - with highlights including the Asus ROG Xreal R1 AR with 240Hz refresh rate for gamers, and RayNeo's Project eSIM teasing the first truly phoneless smart glasses.

Intel will mount a major fightback: The past couple of years haven't been great for Intel. While the company has long been the market leader when it comes to processors, it's seen its dominance threatened by Apple ditching its products for its own Arm-based M-series chips, a resurgent AMD getting plenty of critical and commercial acclaim for its rival products, and Qualcomm's Arm-based Snapdragon chips becoming ever more popular in laptops.