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Over 1.4 Cr voters ineligible for documentary proof discrepancies

SC grants EC additional 10 days for initiative corrective steps

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : Incidence of violations, lawlessness against the Election Commission now busy in conducting the drive of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal, the bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justice Dipankar Datta and Joymalya Bagchi asked the state to provide manpower as need-

ed by Election Commission and has directed the DGP to maintain law and order for smooth conduct of the electoral rolls. Over 1.4 Cr voters have been charged with discrepancies proof needing proper documentation. The bench of CJI has directed the EC to display the list of

people in panchayat and block offices and further extended 10 more days for providing documents which could establish their credentials for inclusion in the state electoral rolls. Since the state education board doesn't record the details of birth date in the certificate issue after passing the examination, the election



commission would be required to consider the admit card as an essential documentary proof said Justice Dutta. "Notices are being issued to produce

relevant documents to enable the commission to rectify the existing discrepancies. The electoral registration officers, however, would have to be convinced and satisfied," said Rakesh Dwivedi, Election Commission Counsel. "The requisite hearing must take place same day when the voter submits docu-

ments in response to served notice what so ever for any reason to him by the Election Commission. The names of all voters would be needed to be displayed in the office of panchayat and block officers", said the bench of Supreme Court. In the end, the bench ordered the voters to file their documentary evi-

dences within 10 days from the date of display in the panchayat and block offices. Such initiation would mean the deadline for submission of documents which was earlier Jan 19 since the display of the voter list would consume additional more two days, added the Supreme Court bench.

MAA ka bharosa, Pyar se parosa 'Patanjali' brand desi ghee, shahad, chyawanprash dominate market

Commissione News Service

P'kula: Patanjali cow sudhdesi ghee has gained popularity on account of its fragrant quality, purity and economic rates in tricity markets claimed PK Rao Marketing Manager. He adds saying this pure cow ghee is preferred by those who prioritise natural and organic options. During 2024, the claim of high purity was made in August 2025, sample BKD 2458 was taken for purity test and won clientele applause and wide acceptance. For the quality emer-



gence conventional ayurvedic Bolana procedure is adopted by the dairy engineers. Cow pure milk is manufactured from white butter/curd. The quantum of cow milk is put on mild flame specific span of time until it got melted for ghee. It is widely claimed that cow milk is scared substance,

oftenused in religious rituals besides Aurvedic treatments. Cow ghee must be used before 9 months from date. Milk fat is inherently expensive. Its current exdairy price of Rs 460, -- 470 / is way above Rs 125 -- 130, wholesale range for refined palmolien, soyabean or sunflower.

President European Council, leaders to visit as Republic Day guests, expected to sign trade deal

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : "We share the voluminous capacity and responsibility to protect the rules based on international orders," said Antonio Costa, President of European Council.

The meeting of European leaders would surely cement further ties and amplify existing cooperation. India and the European Union are "very close" to a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), said the government, as both Delhi and Brussels formally announced the EU leadership will travel to India as chief guests for Republic Day and to hold the much-delayed EU-India summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The EU-India BTA talks were originally launched in 2007 and then re-launched in 2022, and negotiations were fast-



tracked in February 2025 during a visit by European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen. While the trade deal will be the focus of the visit, both sides are also expected to upgrade their strategic partnership, first announced in 2004, and adopt the new EU-India strategic agenda which includes cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Both leaders will be accorded a State visit by India, and will witness the Republic Day parade on January 26 and the EI-India summit and a business summit on January 27, 2026.

"Trump's invite for India to join Board of Peace on Gaza," urges ambassador Sergio Gor

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : The latest initiative from US envisages India to join "Board of Peace" resolving global conflicts, shared in a post on X, nevertheless, US's high tariffs of 50 % are excruciating. It was not clear whether India would join the initiative, which will initially focus on Gaza. India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a



request for comment. The invitation to India comes as ties between among the highest in the world. Trump has, otherwise, extended invitations to some 60 countries for the initiative, including India's neighbour Pakistan, whose government said earlier in the day that it would engage in international efforts for peace and security in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza.

Pb State Human Rights Commission demands fire safety status on preparedness from district authorities

Commissione News Service

Mohali : Citing recent outbreak of fire in flat 58-C of Bollywood Green City, Sector 113, Punjab State Human Rights Commission has demanded updated comprehensive, safety status report on all housing societies and high rise building as per the latest updated record maintained by respective fire stations. The flat was seen engulfed in flames and the live minutes had gone viral on social media, expressed agony Mr Jitender Singh Shunty, a member in PSHPC. Several residents of the Green City alleged society had lacked stocking/installation of adequate fire fighting systems and state-of-the-art fire safety equipments. The



Human Rights Commission, however, also pointed out elaborate shortfalls in the alacrity of fire safety preparedness, disaster prevention mechanism and monitoring of building safety optimism. Having taken suo motu concentration on human suffering, case with suo motu affliction was taken up by Human Rights Commission to seek details from Chief Administrator GMADA, the chief of Municipal

Corporation, the Deputy Commissioner, the District Disaster Management authority and the Senior Superintendent of Police. The updated report was required to be submitted for hearing on 27 Jan to the office of Punjab State Human Rights Commission without any undue delay. Jaswant Singh, Sub Divisional Fire Officer said with specific reference to early warning and monitoring systems, disaster management plan, evacuation protocol, routes, signage, refuge areas, emergency communication, public announcement systems have undergone considerable over hauling and efforts are underway to replace old chronic disaster management system.

Despite cow cess in crores, event of 50 cattle deaths turns unpardonable scourge

Commissione News Service

Chandigarh : A comprehensive full scale panel probe into the massive cattle death has been ordered by the Chandigarh Administration at the gaushala centre. The samples of the carcass have been sent for scientific analysis. The report of the analysis would determine the exact cause of demise of



the cattle despite the presence of the deputated staff to rescue the cattle from the severe cold. All log books, registers have been seized by the deput-

ed committee. The detailed report of CCTV footage, DVRs, tenders and allotment documents were called for scrutiny. From fodder supply to medical check, cattle intake, upkeep of cattle shed and disposal of carcasses were inspected to elicit result of quality fodder and compliance with the Standing Operating Procedure, revealed the sources.

22 Cr penalty imposed by DGCA over Indigo against flight disruptions

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : Against massive flight disruptions during December, the steepest fine has been levied by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation besides a bank guarantee of Rs 50 Cr timely complied with. The strict warning implies on senior airline officials CEO, COO. The four member panel ordered removal of Snr Vice President of operation control centre.

Among the key shortcomings, certain malfunctioning of software support system



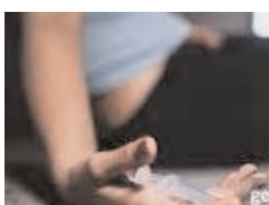
was held accountable besides over optimisation of operation and inadequate regulatory preparedness. The maximisation of crew, aeroplane use was too pointed out, the reason being disgruntledness of pilots and collapse of the smooth working machinery.

Persistent addiction to "Chita" drug devours 6 sons in Ludhiana district

Commissioner News Service

Sherwal : The discovery of 20 years Jasvir Singh's body stood clamouring against growing epidemic drug addiction. The need for relentless war could only bring envisaged liquidation of the ongoing devastation from the soil of Punjab, cried woefully the Shinder Kaur.

She charged administration for releasing the drug mafia who continue the business of drug unstintingly. Although the police has been taking action yet the efforts need to be more intensified, day the community members of the



Sherwal village, where the syndromes of trauma is still afresh in the mind of neighbouring populace. A case of culpable homicide has been registered against two drug sellers including a woman supplying narcotics, said Rajwarinder pal Singh, incharge of police post at Gidder windi.

6 years norm for class 1 admission in Haryana being enforced

Lesser 6 yr age to get Pre primary classes

Commissione News Service

Gurugram : With the 6 year rule set to become compulsory education, parents would be required to plan admission early well in advance leaving no risk of rushing in panic finding for age relaxation in class 1. revealed an govt official. The state govt has formally ended all forms of age relaxation in compliance with the order of Pb & Haryana High Court



and National Education Policy 2020. Haryana govt move would pave the way for amending the rule of Right yo Education, 2011 which allowed children

aged between five and six to be admitted in class one. Such provision repeatedly led to legitimate challenges in every academic session. The Haryana had to bring it's rule in line with the central law, ordered the High Court. The children, however, below the age cutoff will be accommodated in Balvatikas or pre primary classes for shifting to class one the time they complete the prescribed age.

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EDITORIAL ~

India need capital foreign investors to gain supremacy

India is losing more people and attracting a lot less money than it used to. This decade, a net total of 6,75,000 people emigrated each year, up from 3,25,000 in the 2010s. Only Pakistan, Bangladesh and Ukraine have seen a larger exodus while China is haemorrhaging people at the same pace as last decade, 3,00,000 a year. A chunk of this outflow from India is "brain drain", including skilled workers and university students, exactly the talents it needs to compete in advanced fields. Flows of foreign money asks into India have dried up, suggesting outsiders believe that the reported GDP growth rate of over 8% masks underlying weaknesses. Most strikingly, corporate revenue normally grows (or shrinks) with the economy - in any country. But last year corporate revenue growth for listed firms in India decelerated to barely half the GDP growth rate. Rather than take comfort in the headline real GDP figures, which are likely boosted by technical factors related to adjustments for inflation, Indian policymakers would be wise to address some key fault lines. One-third of Silicon US californios Valley's tech workforce is now Indian. Employment growth continues to be weak and concentrated in low-paying sectors like agriculture. Even at the famed Indian Institutes of Technology, 38% of the students now

graduate without a single job offer from a campus recruiter. Many Indians are leaving to find work in the few countries that are still friendly to immigrants, such as UAE and Saudi Arabia, drawn in by the Gulf region's construction boom. A sense of limits is reshaping capital flows as well. For many years India has attracted only modest capital from abroad, thanks in large measure to the lingering licence raj, which can make it prohibitively expensive to acquire land or hire and fire workers. Firms are still twice as likely to cite access to land as an obstacle to doing business in India than in other countries of similar income. Asian economies that have sustained rapid growth-such as China in the past and Vietnam more recently -saw net FDI surge above 4% of GDP during their boom phases. That figure never surpassed 1.5% in India, and it is now just 0.1%, which is one-sixth of the emerging market average. India over the last decade, dropped in the rankings for net FDI/GDP, from 12th to 19th among the 25 largest emerging countries. While the net numbers have been depressed recently by foreigners repatriating past profits, gross flows are low too, with India ranking below most emerging markets last year. India's long-standing reputation as a difficult place to do business, new risks have been holding

back foreign investors including India's deteriorating relations with its neighbours, the tariff battle with US and doubts about its tech potential. China spends more than 2.5% of GDP on R&D, and South Korea spends twice as much. India, meanwhile, never spent near that much, and in recent years its outlays for R&D have slumped to less than 0.7% of GDP. It is no surprise then that India has no serious players in Artificial Intelligence. India needs to attract much more foreign capital because its domestic savings pool is not sufficient to finance strong growth. Unlike many of the East Asian miracle economies, India has a weak manufacturing sector, so it never became an export powerhouse and has run a current-account deficit in all but four of the last 45 years. Among other beneficial side effects of foreign capital - particularly when it comes in the form of direct investment - is that it brings greater access to new technology. India's basic weaknesses point the way forward. Over the past year, govt has pushed significant reforms by streamlining the labour code, simplifying bankruptcy rules, digitising many public services and launching an agency devoted to further cuts in red tape. All of these are steps in the right direction, and the hope is that the reforms will continue and finally spur a pickup in investment.

Hry govt extends farmers' loan waiver scheme till March 2026

Commissioner News Service
PANCHKULA : During a meeting of the all district-level Chief Executive Officers and Managers held at the Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture and Land Development Bank (Land Mortgage Bank) headquarters information was shared by the bank's Chairman, Amar Pal Rana. The Haryana Government has extended the One-Time Loan Waiver Scheme (OTS Scheme 2022) for overdue borrower-members of the Bank until March 31, 2026. Mr Rana informed that under this scheme, overdue interest on the loan accounts of deceased borrowers of the District Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks would be waived in full. If legal heir/heirs of a deceased borrower deposit the entire principal outstanding amount, they would receive 100 per cent



waiver of overdue interest, along with waiver of penal interest and other charges, he said. The bank currently has 17,229 deceased and widow borrower accounts, with dues amounting to Rs 190.70 crore in principal, Rs 246.77 crore in interest and Rs 41.68 crore in penal interest, totalling Rs 479.14 crore. "In addition, under the OTS Scheme 2022, all other overdue borrowers will be eligible for 50 per cent waiver of interest, while penal interest and additional charges will also be waived. The scheme will apply to all categories of loans issued by the bank," Rana said. "As per the scheme, any borrower who, for whatever reason, could

not repay his/her loan and was declared a defaulter by the bank on March 31, 2022, may avail benefits of this settlement," he said. It is noteworthy that the 19 District Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks together have 61,767 borrowers, with total outstanding dues of Rs 1,857.92 crore (Rs 723.55 crore principal, Rs 1,002.91 crore interest and Rs 131.47 crore penal interest). The government extended the OTS Scheme once again to facilitate repayment by these borrowers. Rana said, "The scheme has been extended for a limited period. The beneficiaries should avail its benefits on a 'first come, first served' basis. For availing the scheme and obtaining further information, borrowers may contact any of the 19 District Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks or the 70 branches established at the tehsil

'Sade Bazurg Sada Maan' campaign continues, to cover remaining districts from February 2 to 18

Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : The flagship campaign of "Sade Bazurg Sada Maan" reached Phase II, reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring dignity, care and social security for senior citizens across the state.

The campaign was lauded from from Kalkat Bhawan (Kisan Vikas Chamber) in Mohali, by Dr Baljit Kaur, Punjab Minister for Social Security, Women and Child Development.

"For Phase II of the "Sade Bazurg Sada Maan" campaign, an amount of Rs 786 lakh has been earmarked to hold district-level camps so that essential services can be provided on the doorstep of the elderly," said Dr Baljit Kaur while addressing gathering on the occasion.

"During Phase I, which was launched in 2023, as many as 20,210 senior citizens were registered. The remaining



districts of Punjab will be covered under Phase II from February 2 to February 18," the minister said.

The camps are designed to provide comprehensive care to senior citizens. Facilities include eye check-ups and cataract examinations, ENT and orthopaedic consultations, screening for non-communicable diseases and dementia, as well as homoeopathic and ayurvedic treatment. On-the-spot enrolment for social security pensions, issuance of Senior Citizen Cards and ALIMCO cards is also being done at camps.

HESMA 1974 law extended in Chandigarh by six months

Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : The application of the Haryana Essential Services (Maintenance) Act (HESMA), 1974, in the city has been extended by another six months.

The ban on strikes by employees of Chandigarh Power Distribution Limited (CPDL) will continue, said an official of the UT Administration. Power supply is an essential service and any disruption would directly affect the city's residents. To ensure uninterrupted power supply, HESMA has been imposed, prohibiting CPDL employees from going on strike. Any employee who participates in a strike or similar protest during this period will face legal action, in accordance with a notification issued by the UT Administration.

Since the employees were reportedly planning a large-scale protest on January 30 in support of their demands,



the unequivocal decision was taken to frustrate the designs of the employees union. The HESMA imposed six months back was in force till January 26. Until recently, the Punjab ESMA was applicable in Chandigarh. However, amid ongoing protests against the privatisation of the Electricity Department, the Administration scrapped the Punjab ESMA and invoked the Haryana ESMA, citing its stricter provisions. Officials said that under the earlier rules, only employees directly participating in a strike could face action, but under the Haryana ESMA, even those who plan a strike or provide funds for it could be penalised.

Field survey of properties by NAKSHA team likely to conclude by January 31

Commissioner News Service
CHANDIGARH : At present, about 20 field teams are deployed daily for the survey work and the entire exercise is expected to be completed by January 31. The UT Administration is likely to complete the field survey of nearly 7,000 properties, including commercial and residential, under the NAKSHA (National geospatial knowledge-based land survey of urban habitations) pilot project by January 31. A review meeting of the project was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav where the progress of field survey and ground-truthing activities was assessed. During the meeting, it was informed that in Sectors 2 to 17, there are approximately 7,000 properties, including both residential and commercial



units. Out of these, around 4,500 properties have already been physically visited by the NAKSHA field teams for ground truthing and verification. The DC emphasised the importance of timely completion of the pilot project, which was crucial for creating accurate and reliable property records. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, officials from the Survey of India, representatives of the NIC, MC, National Project Monitoring Unit, Delhi, and MPSEDC, Bhopal.

Strict MC drive launched against property tax defaulters

Commissioner News Service
MOHALI: Sealing notices had been issued under Section 138-C of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976, to repeat defaulting properties, and in appropriate cases a final period of three days has been granted for payment of the entire outstanding property tax said Commissioner Parminder Pal Singh.

A strict enforcement drive against repeat property tax defaulters, particularly major commercial and industrial properties that have failed to deposit the property tax despite repeated notices and adequate opportunities. Parminder Pal further cautioned in the event of failure to clear the dues within this final period, the municipal corporation will proceed to seal the premises without any further intimation, and the owner/occupier shall be personally responsible for any loss or damage to goods, stock or machinery lying inside the sealed property. Jasjit Singh, Joint Commissioner added that after sealing, the municipal corporation was empowered under law to dispose of such properties through public auction to recover outstanding



property tax, along with penalty up to 20 per cent of the tax amount and interest at the rate of 18 per cent with effect from April 1, 2014, till the date of recovery, as admissible under the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976. The present action particularly covers prominent industrial and commercial units located in various phases and sectors of Mohali, details of which have been compiled in the defaulter list prepared by the MC. All property tax payers who are still defaulters have been warned to immediately deposit their arrears along with applicable penalty and interest at the office of the MC within the stipulated time. Any delay or failure to comply will invite coercive measures, including sealing of property, auction for recovery of dues and other legal proceedings as per the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976.

Suo motu cognizance of fire at Mohali society taken by Punjab State Human Rights Commission

Commissioner News Service
MOHALI : A fire had broken out in a flat of the said residential society, which subsequently spread to adjacent flats. Fire engines were rushed to the spot and the blaze was brought under control. The society allegedly lacked adequate fire-safety measures and fire-fighting equipment, raising serious concerns regarding preparedness and compliance with the norms. The Punjab State Human Rights Commission (PSHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a fire incident in a flat at Bollywood Green City, Sector 113 on the Landran-Fatehgarh Sahib road, near Landran Chowk, Mohali, and the apparent



shortcomings in fire-safety measures. The panel has called for detailed reports from Chief Administrator GMADA; Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Mohali; Deputy Commissioner; the District Disaster Management Authority; and the Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police regarding the incident. The reports are to be submitted on the next date of

hearing on January 27 without fail, and must include updated and current status of all residential societies, building complexes, high-rise buildings, and similar structures (existing and under construction) in the district with specific reference to "Early warning and monitoring systems, comprehensive disaster management plans, evacuation protocols, routes, signages, refuge areas and SOPs, emergency communication and public announcement systems". Officials concerned have been directed to appear in person before the commission along with the reports.

4 Mohali immigration firms face cancellation of licences

Commissioner News Service
MOHALI : The district administration has suspended the license of M/s Quick Visa Solution, Phase 7, for consultancy work for a period of three months with immediate effect. The firm had failed to provide information regarding monthly reports, advertisements etc. The Licences of another immigration firms have been cancelled against the violation of the Punjab



Travel Professionals Regulation Act-2012. One licence has been suspended. A notice has been issued to the licensee, giving him 15

days to explain his position as to why his licence should not be cancelled. The administration has cancelled the licences of four firms, which are Global Safe Overseas Firm, Phase 11, M/s Mountain Immigration Firm, Metro Plaza, City Market, Zirakpur; Skyward Visa Firm, Kharar; M/s Sapphire Group Firm, Phase 5, Mohali, for various violations.

Digital banking unit by SBI launched in Panchkula

Commissioner News Service
CANDIGARH : The SBI digital banking unit was inaugurated by Rama Mohan Rao Amara, MD (Retail Business & Operations), SBI, in the presence of Krishan Sharma, chief general manager, SBI, Chandigarh circle, and other dignitaries. A 32 seater bus by the State Bank of India, Chandigarh circle, was donated while launching the digital operations in Sector 26, Panchkula, to Panjab University under its corporate social



responsibility (CSR) initiative. This unit features 24x7 self service facilities and is a specialised, technology-driven branch, established in line with RBI guidelines, with a focus on paperless, secure and customer-friendly digital banking.

It will enable customers to access a wide range of banking services efficiently with minimal cash handling. It will also function as a financial literacy and cyber security awareness centre, helping customers adopt safe digital banking practices. The bus was donated to the Directorate of Sports, PU, to support safe and efficient transportation of student athletes. The CSR initiative was undertaken in the presence of Renu Vignesh, VC, Panjab University.

General housing scheme in Sector 53 to steam off by March

Commissioner News Service
CANDIGARH : After nearly a decade, the Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) has planned to launch the general housing scheme in Sector 53 by March this year. Scrapped several times despite two demand surveys, the CHB will now auction the site for the group housing scheme. During an interaction with mediapersons, UT Chief Secretary H Rajesh Prasad said the site would be auctioned in a fair and transparent manner and any private developer could participate in the auction. Spread over nearly 21 acres



in Sector 53, nearly 11 acres have been earmarked for a general housing scheme for employees of the UT Administration. A demand survey completed in March last year received 7,468 applications for only 372 flats —nearly 20

applicants per unit — indicating a strong demand for CHB housing. Applicants deposited Rs 10,000 for HIG and MIG categories and Rs 5,000 for EWS. The housing scheme in Sector 53 has been derailed several times for nearly a decade. First proposed in 2018, the scheme received just 178 applications for 492 flats, primarily due to high prices — Rs 1.8 crore for a three-bedroom, Rs 1.5 crore for a two-bedroom and Rs 95 lakh for a one-bedroom unit — forcing the CHB to withdraw the scheme.

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Use of ballot papers preferred instead of EVMs in Bengaluru civic polls to be held after May 25

Commissioner News Service BENGALURU : Using ballot papers elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will be held after May 25 instead of EVMs, said GS Sangreshi Karnataka State Election Commissioner on Monday. The zilla and taluk panchayat polls, which are expected later this year, will also be held using ballot papers. "Elections will be held tentatively after May 25, after SSLC (Class 10) and PUC (Class 11 and 12) examinations are over, and before June 30," said Sangreshi. The Supreme Court had



last week asked the Karnataka Government and the state election body to hold Bengaluru local body polls by June 30. The GBA election would be held using ballot papers. "There are two best practices to hold elections. Ballot papers were being used since the beginning, but since 20-30 years ago, EVMs are being used, said the State Election

Commissioner. Use of ballot papers is not barred by law or by the judgements of the Supreme Court," he said, defending the decision to use ballot papers. In September last year, the Congress government in Karnataka had decided to recommend to the State Election Commission (SEC) to hold all the future panchayat and urban local body polls in the state using ballot paper instead of electronic voting machines, claiming erosion of confidence and credibility among the people towards EVMs.

Budget on Feb 1 as scheduled, MP's not to avail holidays, says Speaker

Commissioner News Service NEW DELHI : The Union Budget for 2026-27 will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, as per established practice, dismissing speculation that the date could be changed as it falls on a Sunday, clarified Om Birla the Lok Sabha Speaker on Monday. "MPs are public servants, they are meant to serve the people and therefore there is no Sunday or a holiday for them," Birla said at a press conference when asked whether the Budget would be presented on February 1. He said the Budget Session of Parliament



would commence on January 28 and continue till April 2. The Speaker declined to comment on the issue of impeachment proceedings against Justice Yashwant Varma, stating that as the matter was sub judice, no remarks could be made outside the court. Highlighting technological changes in parliamentary functioning, Birla said that greater emphasis

was being placed on AI-based services in Parliament-related work. He added that by 2027, all speeches and debates would be made available in 22 Indian languages on a real-time basis. Responding to concerns over whether increased reliance on artificial intelligence could lead to reduced human intervention and job losses, Birla said that no permanent appointments had been made in Parliament over the past six years since he assumed office. Instead, he said, existing contractual human resources were being utilised for work, helping save public funds.

India set to capture slot of upper-middle income country by 2030: SBI report

Commissioner News Service NEW DELHI : The World Bank classifies nations as low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income and high-income countries based on their per capita GNI (Gross National Income) in US dollar. India is set to transition to 'upper-middle income' country in next four years in 2030, joining the ranks of China and Indonesia, and become the third largest economy even earlier in 2028, an SBI Research report said on Monday. In 1990, of the total 218 countries classified by the World Bank, 51 belonged to low income, 56 to lower-middle income, 29 to upper-middle income and 39 to high-income categories.



The latest data in 2024 shows only 26 countries as low income, 50 as lower-middle income, 54 as upper-middle income and 87 as high income. The transition clearly shows countries have moved up the income ladder over the years. India took 60 years to transition to lower-middle income in 2007 from low-income country. Its per capita GNI increased from \$90 in 1962 to \$910 in 2007, an annual growth rate of 5.3 per cent, said the report.

Lunar eclipse necessitates Tirumala temple to be shut for over 10 hours on March 3

Commissioner News Service TIRUPATI : The Tirumala temple of Lord Venkateswara will remain closed to devotees from 9 am to 7.30 pm on March 3 owing to a lunar eclipse, the temple administration said on Sunday. The Tirumala temple will reopen for devotees after the completion of 'suddhi', the purificatory rites performed to cleanse the temple after the eclipse, with offline darshan resuming at 8.30 pm. The lunar eclipse is expected to last nearly three-and-a-half hours, from 3.20 pm to 6.47 pm. "TTD said several sevas—including Ashtadala Pada Padmaradhana (worship



of the Lord's feet with eight-petaled lotus flowers), Kalyanotsavam (celestial wedding ceremony), Unjal (swing ceremony), Arjita Brahmotsavam (ceremonial procession) and Sahasra Deepalankara (lamp illumination ceremony)—will be cancelled due to the eclipse," the release said. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has requested devotees to cooperate with the arrangements made in view of the lunar eclipse.

Hindu monk's trial by Bangladeshi court over murder of lawyer

Commissioner News Service DHAKA : Das, a spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on November 25, 2024 for alleged sedition. Das, a former ISKCON leader, was denied bail and jailed by a Chattogram court. The indicted Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das and 38 others in connection with the death of a lawyer in southeastern port city of Chattogram in November 2024 will undergo trial against the murder charges. His arrest sparked protests, with his followers demonstrating in Dhaka and other places the next day. The protest turned violent in Chattogram, where the lawyer was killed on November 26. On Monday, "the court framed charges against Chinmoy under Sections 302 and 109 of the Penal Code and brought charges against 22 others under different sections," a prosecution lawyer told reporters after the indictment



by the Chattogram Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal. Prosecutors said 39 people were accused of the murder of junior government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif while 23, including Das, were in custody to stand the trial in person. The remaining 16 accused are absconding. The court order came after Judge Jahidul Haque of the Chattogram Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal heard both the prosecution and defence lawyers, 14 months after Alif's death. The prosecution objected to the application. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court framed charges against all 39 accused. Prior to this, the judge read out the charges to the accused present in court.

TV and video footage on social media showed Das being escorted to the courtroom by police's elite SWAT unit members with an umbrella over his head while armed police kept sharp vigil as crowds, including a group of lawyers, shouted words like "murderers". Prosecuting lawyer Raihanul Wazed told reporters that it was "a sensitive case" that touched on "communal harmony and national security", but alleged that Das and the 38 other defendants, all his followers were responsible for Alif's death. In 2024, Das' Sammilita Sanatan Jagaran Jote had organised several rallies after the ouster of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina decrying alleged attacks and discrimination against Hindu communities. Hindus make up around eight per cent of the country's 170 million population, as per 2022 data. Das' arrest had caused an issue in the Dhaka-New Delhi ties with India earlier expressing its concern over his detention

Siddaramaiah warns controversial video of senior Karnataka DGP going viral, severe action assured

Commissioner News Service BENGALURU : Responding to the controversy, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "We will get it investigated. I got to know about it in the morning. We will initiate disciplinary action against him. No one is above law, notwithstanding how senior the police officer is." A video purportedly showing Karnataka DGP (Civil Rights Enforcement) K Ramachandra Rao in an alleged compromising position with women went viral on social media on Monday. Rao sought to reject the videos outright, terming them "fabricated and false." Chief Minister Siddaramaiah warned of action if the official was found guilty. The DGP's attempt to clarify his position with Home Minister G Parameashwara did not fructify. The top police officer is the



stepfather of Harshavardhini Ranya alias Ranya Rao, arrested in a gold smuggling case and currently lodged in the Bengaluru Central Jail. Kannada TV news channels too aired the blurred images of women in the video. As the videos went viral, Rao rushed to meet Parameshwara but the meeting did not take place. Speaking to reporters outside the minister's house, he said, "I am also thinking how and when it happened and who has done it. In this era anything can happen. I have no idea about it." When reporters said that this is an old video, he said, "Old means, eight years ago when I was in Belagavi." Asked about his next course

of action, he said he would discuss with his advocate about it. "I am shocked. It is all fabricated, lie. The video is all false. I have no idea about it," Rao said. When reporters asked how this happened, he said, "I will know only if it had happened. I don't know about it." He added that he will explain to the Home Minister that false information is being spread. Karnataka minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said the government will take action if someone has done something wrong. "Being the Woman and Child Development Minister, I can tell you that we will take action mercilessly, irrespective of the seniority he holds," she told reporters. Senior BJP MLA and former Minister S Suresh Kumar slammed the "disgraceful act of the police officer" as "an inexcusable crime".

Trump threatens 200% tariff on French wine

Commissioner News Service Washington : US President Donald Trump seems all out over attacking plan against France. The phenomenon has derided Washington by mocking US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessant' purported justification as to why Trump is fixated on the Arctic territory, part of Denmark. It is obvious in view of 2001.France will decline Trump's invite to join jis 'Board of Peace'. The US proposed Board was originally conceived to over the rebuilding of war torn Gaza, but the Charter doesn't appear to limit it's role to the occupied Palestinian territory. They agree on the issue of Syria but told him, he didn't understand, what



Trump was doing on Greenland ? President Emmanuel Macron' private message said Trump must wait, as he along with other 67 leaders would meet on sidelines of World Economic Forum in Davos, noting he also could invite Ukrainians, Danes and Syrians. President Emmanuel Macron has reportedly confirmed France deploying

personnel to participate in scheduled exercise in Greenland at the request of Denmark, to ensure strengthening of Arctic security, and Unified European Front. In view of optimum preparedness , France is coordinating with Germany and Poland to collaborate and germinate an unified European response in the face of US challenging, formidable temperament.

No amount of intimidation' can change EU nations' France on Greenland

Commissioner News Service London : Emmanuel Macron has hit back at Donald Trump's latest threats to impose tariffs on any country opposing his Greenland takeover, warning that "no amount of intimidation" will persuade European nations to change their course on Greenland. The US president on Saturday announced 10% tariffs on eight European countries from 1 February, with a further 25% tariff from 1 June. Macron's message was echoed by the Swedish prime minister, Ulf Kristersson, who warned the EU would not be "blackmailed" by Trump, and the Norwegian prime minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, who said "threats have no place among allies". In a joint statement, EU leaders said "tariffs would undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward



spiral". EU ambassadors are expected to meet for an emergency session on Sunday. Trump's threats appear to have fired up the EU, which up to now has been loathe to go down a confrontational path, with MEPs threatening to pause the ratification of the US trade deal next week. Manfred Weber, the head of the European People's party, the largest voting bloc in the institute, said they would have to pause the legal rubber stamping process. The tariffs threatened against Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Finland target the countries that have been most vocal in their opposition to Trump's intentions to take over Greenland.

Fierce gunbattle with terrorists traces 7 soldiers injured In J&K

Commissioner News Service Srinagar: Seven soldiers were injured while engaging terrorists holed up in harsh terrain in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar, revealed the sources . The soldiers were carrying out an operation in Kishtwar's Chatroo when they were shot at by terrorists, said the sources adding they retaliated in force and ensured the evacuation of the injured troops to a hospital. The operation, which the Indian Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps has named 'Operation Trashy-I', began



around noon. In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said the security forces came in contact with the terrorists in the general area Sonnar, northeast of Chatroo, during a deliberate search operation conducted as part of ongoing joint counter-terror

exercises along with Jammu and Kashmir Police. A group of two to three foreign terrorists allegedly belonging to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), fired indiscriminately and also lobbed a few grenades in an attempt to break the cordon. The troops retaliated and reinforcements from the army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the police were rushed to further tighten the cordon. There was intermittent firing between the two sides for some time, the officials said.

Mayor post would be decided on Jan 29, by raising hands in election process

Commissioner News Service Chandigarh : Nishant Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, the prescribed authority for conducting the elections declared on Friday that the poll for new Mayor would be held on 29 Jan 2026. The name of Dr Ramneek Singh Bedi ,councillor, not a candidate for the post of Mayor, was designated as Presiding authority for the meeting scheduled to be held on 29 Jan 2026.



The election would be held by showing hands, in accordance with the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act 1976 and Chandigarh MC regulations 1996. Election for the post of Mayor, Senior

Deputy Mayor, and Deputy Mayor would be held as per the existing policy of the C h a n d i g a r h Administration. The prescribed authority for holding the polls on the administrative,proce dural,logistical , s e c u r i t y arrangement was briefed by senior officers of the M u n i c i p a l Corporation to ensure smooth, lawful and orderly conduct of the election.

Bullet train to run on tracks from 15 August 2027 - Railway Minister

Commissioner News Service New Delhi : The maiden "Bullet " train equipped with 16 coaches 11 of AC-3, 4 of AC-2, 1 of AC-1. A total of 823 travellers would be able to board the envisaged train, disclosed Mr Ashwani Vaishnav, the Railway minister on Friday. In systematic schedule



of planned phases, first would run from Surat to Bilimora, followed by other Vaapi - Surat, Vaapi Ahmedabad.

Thane Ahmabad.In the last run Mumbai to Ahmabad would be covered, commented the minister.

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Synthetic milk dominates market unchecked by health authority

We over 70% of populace digest daily the pulverised synthetic milk which comprises a definite quantity of detergent, urea, caustic soda, sodium hydroxide and fats, cautioned the otherday, Dr Harsh Vardhan, former Union Minister for Science & Technology. In accordance with Food Safety & Standard Authority of India, the quality of milk in question doesn't conform to the parameters laid by the stipulated law.The excess water added to the milk may destroy the intake of nutritious specific values,which are immensely harmful. The unnatural milk also comprises certain quantity of insecticides and metal which are destructive to human health. One day, skimmed milk sample of 548, only 577 were found to be carrying ample quantity of glucose. It has been noticed while storing, packaging, certain quantity of detergent particles enter the openly placed quantity of bare milk.The demand for the genuine quality milk is not being met hence the glut of synthetic milk would continue to rein in the prevailing market.

Artificial imitation of natural milk remains harmful to human health. Its excessive use inflict very serious damage on human body causing swelling in the eyes and many other complication in the liver and kidney. The journey of synthetic milk, now a days, has been heading from urban area to rural populace to acclimatise to their propensities. Our nation has been notoriously becoming famous, leaving concentration away from genuine natural milk. Now fait accompli, we are tolerating assortment by of chemicals, urea, by compulsion as the occupation of genuine dairy farming has been going in very lackadaisical race even government controlled units are losing curiosity in natural milk. What a catastrophic approach, but against whom? remains puzzling.

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"Free Trade Pact to Be Mother of All Deals" -- Piyush Goyal

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : The Commerce & Industry Ministry is looking at creating a segment for startups under the Rs 25000 Cr Export Promotion Mission, said Piyush Goyal, the minister for Commerce and industries. Free trade agreement between India and EU, where negotiations are in the final phase, will be the "mother of all deals" signed by the country so



far. I have successfully executed 7 deals so far. These are all with the developed economies. This would be the mother of all. I have successfully negotiated

FTAs with UAE, Australia, the four nation European Free Trade Association, the UK, Oman, New Zealand, Mauritius, during his stint as Commerce and industry minister.

US wants Greenland to safeguard "National Security "

Commissioner News Service

Washington : US President Donald Trump had earlier too flagged his choicest "Greenland " as he needed to secure his country through the aide of Greenland. Now, he has threatened to lay tariffs on countries opposing US claim on Greenland perhaps showing self interest is best interest. "I may put a tariff on countries if they don't go along with Greenland, because we need Greenland for national security," Bloomberg quoted Trump as saying at a White House event on healthcare. Trump has insisted, for months now, that the US should control Greenland, a self-governing territory which is part of the kingdom of Denmark. However, while the White House has confirmed that "all options are on the table" regarding the US taking over the territory, this is the first time that Trump has threatened tariffs over nations not backing the proposal. This comes a day after European countries sent small numbers of military troops to Greenland, even as



Denmark said it was pressing on with plans to establish "larger and more permanent" NATO presence. The display of support towards the territory was also meant to help Denmark prepare military exercises, and followed a meeting of officials from the US, Denmark and Greenland. On Friday, a group of US senators and representatives met lawmakers in the Danish parliament, with protests against Trump's plans due across Denmark due to Saturday, according to Bloomberg. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen has also been attending meetings in Washington with members of the US Congress for a week now, on the heels of talks with US Vice President J D Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

European Union would activate anti coercion instrument against high tariffing by US

Commissioner News Service

Paris : The EU's powerful anti coercion instrument would be used if the United States goes with high rising tariffing on European countries amid the standoff over Greenland, as the officials reveal over the evolving temperament of the French President Emmanuel Macron. The tool of EU's trade " bazooka allows the block to curb imports of ports if goods and services or restrict access to its single



market in response to economic coercion. A total of 8 European countries were targeted by US against their support rendered to Greenland. Trump had announced a 10 % tariff on goods from

countries as Germany, France, Denmark, UK, Norway, Netherlands, and Finland would take place from Feb 01, further rising to 25 % in June, until deal reaches for complete purchase of Greenland. Macron has described the tariff threat as unacceptable. the deal has been challenged silently by all the European members against the brutal attack over the sovereignty of the European member, remarked Mr Macron.

EU, UK refuse to accept blackmail by US

Tension grows between NATO and United States

Commissioner News Service

London : Against imposing blackmail tactics by US in order to wrest control of Greenland, the EU, UK have pronounced they would not accept any blackmail tactics since Trump administration was "completely wrong" in imposing of 10 percent tariff on several member countries



including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the UK, Netherlands, and

Finland. Calling an emergency meeting of ambassadors from the EU's 27 countries on Sunday, the bloc warned of a "dangerous downward spiral" in wake of Trump's threats. It also said a division among allies — US and majority EU member countries are part of NATO — will benefit China and Russia.

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India endorses EU agenda, calls it very positive

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : Besides chairing the 16th" India - EU summit along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the duo presidents of European Council and European Commission Antonio Costa and Ursula Leyen respectively would be chief guests in Republic Day celebrations. The European leaders will adopt a Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda for 2026 -30. It may be underlined here last year 27 nation bloc had released the innovative strategic agenda since it aligns with our large national interests. Wider negotiations for the landmark Free Trade Agreement would continue ahead of the summit with



both sides focused on oroning out differences over contentious issues like CBAM(EU's carbon border tax) and Brussel 's insistence on having a commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change which both countries are signatory to enshrined in the agreement. Urgent compromise solution would be likely on CBAM, the Paris treaty will also find a mention by both sides in the Free Trade Agreement, though not in s manner that would "strait -jacket" India.

Fluoride contaminants in groundwater, a threat to public health

Commissioner News service

DeraBassi : Fluoride habitation carrying water contaminants with the fast depletion of ground water and distant access to safe drinking water has been evolving a serious concern with the ministry of Jal Shakti. As public health his been the intimate concern of Punjab Pollution Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, steps must be initiated to eradicate flow of untreated sewage, effluents into the ground water.

The community water purification plants need to be augmented. The control over expansion of fluorsis need to be endemic, sources revealed. The accessibility to safe drinking water has been eloping with the discharge of untreated chemicals, effluents into the ground water; and depletion not halting for a cause. The multiplying cases of cancer are not being contained duo to the surge in bacterial growth. Pathogens like bacteria and viruses are being experienced as a very common hazard with the rural public life. Afflicted several health issues might be arthritis, infertility, hypertension, neurotoxicity and increased risk of skeletal cancer, reveals an official.

Additionally prolonged exposure can damage organs like liver, kidneys, lungs and testis. Water contamination has been posing immediate and chronic health threats, needs seriouses contemplation, medication and panacea.

'WHO IS WHO' AT SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)

HELPLINE DISTT SAS NAGAR

Municipal Corporation : 1800137007

SDM : 0172-2219580

Fire Brigade : 101, 0172-2225902

Electricity Complaint : 9646115973 (Online)

Police Control Room : 100, 0172-2210357, 58

DSP Office : 0172-2272003, 0172-2272045

SSP Office : 0172-2219211, 212, 2219356, 2219357 (M) 9115516066

PUDA Office : 0172-2215308, 10, 11

Punjab School Education Board : 3047444

Industrial Area : 0172-2250910

Police Station Ph-1, 0172-2272850, Ph-II, 9115516027, 9115516015

Police Station Mataur : 9115516020

Police Station Suhana : 9115516029

Police Station Balaugi : 9115516040

Police Station Zirakpur: (M) 95929 16063

COMPLAINT CENTERS

Water Supply : 18001802468

Mohali Division Electricity Complaint Number : 9646115973

COMPLAINTS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Street Light : 0172-5044907, Sanitation Branch : 0172-5044907

Birth and Death : 0172-5044902,

Engineering Branch : 0172-5044909, 5044907 (O)

OTHER HELPLINE

WOMEN - 1091 & CHILDREN - 1098

VIGILANCE HELPLINE - 1800-1800-1000

0172-2231669, 0172-2216142

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Civil Hospital Phase-6, Mohali

Multi Specialists Government Hospital Phone 0172-2225464

Cheema Medical Complex Phase 4, Multi Speciality, Child

Specialist 3101030 Ambulance, Mobile 9815400070

PUDA OFFICE - 0172-2215308

PASSENGERS SERVICE

Punjab Roadways : 0172-2704023

CTU : 0172-2704005

PRTC : 0172-2704128

Haryana Roadways : 0172-2704014,

Himachal Roadways : 0172-2704015

Railway : 0172-2641656

Airport : 0172-2654832

FUNERAL PHONE : 9914855855

GRAVEYARD : 9888970033, 0172-2236403