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India to shortly capture slot of 3rd largest economy amid global uncertainty : President

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : India is the world's fastest growing major economy during the tension afflicted world. In the backdrop of geopolitical differences slowing global growth, Droupadi

Murmu, the President on Sunday voiced India's economic momentum remains strong, invigorated by reforms, infrastructure investment and a renewed focus on self-reliance.

"We are moving towards achieving our goal of becoming the world's third-largest economy in the very near future." India's principles of 'swadeshi' and self-reliance would contin-



ue to be evolving channels of growth. "By investing in the creation of world-class infrastructure, we are unprecedentedly rebuilding our economic strength at a much larger scale. In this

journey of shaping our economic destiny, aatmanirbharata (self-reliance) and swadeshi are our guiding principles," said the President. India's nearly \$4 trillion economy, despite

challenges due to high US tariffs and other geopolitical headwinds, is expected to grow 7.4% in fiscal year 2026 (FY26) in real terms, according to the first advance estimates released by the

ministry of statistics and programme implementation on 7 January. The economy grew at 6.5% in FY25 and 9.2% in FY24 and would, continue to germinate undoubtedly in uniform order .

Hike in Environmental Compensation Cess must : CAQM

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : Supreme Court is not inclined to accept any objection to the protracted measures evolved by various agencies, IITs, academia, research institutes, scientists, NGOs. The stakeholders would be required to

submit their plans to implement the directives issued by the bench of Apex Court, headed by Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Justice Vipu M Pancholi. The debate was joined by Snr Advocate Aparajita



Singh and Amicus Curiae. The panel informed

the Apex bench that the industrial carbon smoke including thermal power were responsible for intensifying air pollution. Biomass burning disseminate toxic smoke, must be held accountable and environment compensation cess be charged

for keeping the environment clear of inimical gases. during winter loaded 17.23 % pollutants in the air, reported the CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management). Non revision of Environmental Compensation had

encouraged vomercial vehicles to pass through Delhi instead of taking the eastern and western peripheral expressway which entail them to take a longer route and payment of higher tolls. The Commission for Air Quality Management submit-

ted a list of short and long term counter measures including a mechanism to decongest traffic jams at toll plazas. The additional solicitor general Aishwariya Bhati said these measures were formulated by CAQM after extensive discussions with expert

bodies including IITs, academia, research institutes and NGOs. A wholesome govt approach by the state government, statutory authorities, all ministries concerned and other agencies function in a coordinated manner.

Trump warns Iran for getting wipedout, Iran hits back after Trump's warning

Commissione News Service

Washington : "Iran is unfazed by hostile rhetoric from Washington and is prepared for any outcome" the Indian representative of Iran's Supreme Leader said on Friday.

He was responding to remarks by US President Donald Trump that Iran could be "wiped off the face of the earth" if anything were to happen to him. "This statement is not new, we are also ready for every thing "said Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi, Representative in India of Iran's Hakeem



amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran, including US criticism of Iran's handling of nationwide protests and warnings of severe retaliation over alleged threats. Trump on Tuesday warned that continued assassination threats by Iranian leaders would result in Iran being

"blown up."saidvTrump . "Anything ever happens, we're going to blow the whole — the whole country's going to get blown up." Trump has also floated the possibility of military strikes against Iran and called for an end to the 37-year rule of Iran's Supreme Leader, saying it was "time to look for new leadership in Iran. Ilahi said the remarks came amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran, including US criticism of Iran's handling of nationwide protests and warnings of severe retaliation over alleged threats.

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 exdairya price of Rs 460, -- 470 / is way above Rs 125 - -130, wholesale range for refined palmolien , soyabean or sunflower.

Chd Univ to organise country' s first AI impact summit 2026

Commissioner News Service

CHANDIGARH : The country 's first AI impact summit 2026 would be organised in New Delhi by Chandigarh University from 19 Feb to 21 Feb 2026 with an aim to arm the youth innovators which could augment the sense of creativity and influence the technology based ideology.

The inauguration of the Atos Solutions and System Pvt Ltd event would be pioneered by CEO Umar Ali Sekh and the



Rajya Sabha MP cum Chancellor Satnam Singh Sandhu who would accompany the Atos Solutions and Systems Pvt Limited .

The company would specialise in digital transformation, cloud service and cyber security besides web site maintenance and multi media presentations.

Show zero tolerance to world terrorists -- S Jaishankar to Spanish counterpart

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : There arose the need against growing all forms of terrorism in its all forms and manifestations seen over the world , said S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister who was hosting his Spanish Counterpart Jose Manuel Albares for a bilateral meeting. Both the leaders emphasised the necessity for strengthening international cooperation to combat the growing false sense of terrorism .

It was high time now the world must display zero tolerance towards zero tolerance. The world order was



seen going through a profound change. It becomes more imperative than ever before for nations to collaborate on shared challenges . The entire gamut of India and Spain relationship was reviewed by the foreign ministries taking the trade, investment, defence and security perspectives besides tourism.

Trespassers vandalise at Indian embassy in Croatia

Commissioner News Service

Zagreb : "We have initiated dialogues with Croatian authorities strongly against the onslaught carried out by certain members of terrorist group Sikh for Justice at Zagreb," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson at Ministry of External Affairs. Under the Vienna Convention, diplomatic premises are inviolable and must be protected against any perpetrated harm. These alleged perpetrators must be taken to task against their reprehensible and illegitimate action " said spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs.



At times, such vehement activities speak of their growing detestable character and poorly crafted motives and call for accountable strict actions they tried to replace tricolour with "Khalistan Flag "Hence law enforcement authorities are required to move and keep strict vigil over their landscape of free movement.

Industry job oriented course to surface : Vice Chancellor

Commissioner News Service

Chandigarh : Outbeating the traditional flagship with gratuitous demand of certain Bachelor degree courses, the welcome degree courses in Artificial Intelligence and machine learning, Data Science and Cyber Security would be called for to meet the ever riding demand for absorption of unemployees' striking strength.

A total 11 colleges affiliated to Punjab University have been enlightened for its timely infrastructural readiness . Dr Ajay Sharma,



Principal opined saying the demand of industrial sector must be met as the courses are job oriented. No sooner we get directives and syllabus , we would finalise our resources, faculty and

infrastructure. Certain govt aided colleges too will start after familiarising the management with basics of these courses The subject matter of these innovative courses would be forwarded to the Director of Higher Education relating to govt colleges. The convened admission committee would decide about the centralised or non. centralised modus operandi before the new academic session start its paraphernalia, said Renu Vig , the Vice Chancellor of Punjab University.

Chemistry professor made incharge-head of English department ?

Commissione News Service

Ahmedabad : Mr Kokilaben Parmar, the faculty member in chemistry department was appointed head of English department after the retirement of Adesh Pal from the post of incharge of the said department.

Another professor Hetal Patel as aggrieved filed a case with education tribunal that stayed the appointment on Oct 10, 2025.

Ms Parmar challenged the stay on grounds that she was



not heard by the tribunal. The university also challenged the order of the Tribunal saying that issue in the application was not a service matter hence beyond its jurisdiction.

Justice Nirjar in the high court questioned the University as to how a chemistry professor could address academic concerns of English literature. The university however replied that Parmar role was restricted to administrative decisions. The university came with a draft order of new appointment of Tapal Chakrabarty to function as, a Head of the English department citing rule of appointment and seniority.

Amid US tariff, EU, India settle for historic trade deal

Commissione News Service

New Delhi : Ram Sekhar at Ram Lila Maidan was optimistic saying a deal between the European Union, the world's single largest market, and India, the world's fastest growing major economy, will revive his gems and jewelry business. He lost a quarter of his earnings last year, after US President Donald Trump imposed 50% tariffs on his country. "We have suffered massive losses since the tariffs, people in the US were our major clients," he told DW. "And we hope that a deal with the Europeans will help us, and everybody." Mohit Bharadwaj , Electronic dealer ,in Luxmi



Nagar intends to allow him to expand his trade and find new markets. While the US has said the high tariffs are meant to dissuade India from buying Russian crude oil, it appears the EU has adopted a different approach to lure India away from Moscow's orbit — more trade and stronger defense ties. At a high stakes summit in

New Delhi this week, the EU and India are expected to finalize a free trade agreement and sign a new security and defense partnership, the third such agreement between the EU and an Asian country after Japan and South Korea. "Despite longstanding arguments in favor of a closer partnership, including shared competition with China and trade incentives for both parties, it was Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Trump's punitive tariffs that have brought momentum to the relationship," said Praveen Donthi, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group based in Delhi.

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EDITORIAL ~

Need to address chronically ill system sans doctors

A spurt of deaths and injuries from contaminated drugs from Ayushman entity, from patients being subjected to gratuitous treatment, underlines how agencies tasked to regulate healthcare are in shambles. The private sector in particular is running lawless - while accounting for an estimated 80% of medical services. Govt failure to fill vacancies and make timely appointments has resulted in National Medical Commission, the apex regulator for doctors, functioning with near-empty autonomous boards-that are supposed to be dealing with UG and PG medical education, medical registration, and medical college assessment. Commission's attempt to update Indian Medical Registry's a gigantic failure. Last year, several cases of fake or inadequately qualified doctors having caused deaths and injuries came to light yet nothing has moved on mending the gaps. Despite a govt-appointed committee having concluded doctors were guilty of being bribed by pharma companies, NMC is yet to act against them. Worse, NMC continues to reject all appeals filed by patients or their families, claiming that only doctors have the right to appeal before it. CBI last year found that several medical colleges had arranged fake patients and

ghost faculty ahead of inspections, tipped off by insiders. Where inspectors were in doubt, approval was acquired with hefty bribes. Medical students are an unseen spot for NMC. It hasn't addressed either the ragging or suicide crisis for years together. It has also failed to ensure MBBS interns and PG medical trainees are paid stipend by all colleges. It has ignored trainee doctors' demand to regulate duty hours. It has even failed to fix a doctor-patient ratio, which would ensure better care for patients and prevent exploitation of doctors. Serious hospital fraud in the Ayushman scheme came to light in 2025. Fake bills against fake Ayushman cards, Ayushman patients forced to pay out-of-pocket. Some hospitals were removed from the panel, but patients were not adequately compensated. The most horrific of these frauds was deaths caused by unnecessary angioplasty by doctors in a Gujarat hospital. With no mechanism to prevent such abuse, the scheme has become a Rs 5L bait on every Ayushman beneficiary's head. The sector's worth is estimated at ?1.5L cr, most of it spent from patients' pockets. The Clinical Establishments Act sets down manpower and infrastructure requirements for labs

but even registration is not strictly followed. SC had ordered all lab reports must be signed by pathologists. But, with more than 1L labs and just about 5,000 pathologists, most labs are run by unqualified manpower who use scanned signatures of pathologists. India also has no policy to regulate online health service aggregators, even as their services expand rapidly. Recent cough syrup deaths didn't happen out of the blue. Hundreds of such deaths in India and overseas have been reported since 2019. But data on who's been inspected, by whom, and what the inspections showed remain hidden from public scrutiny. Lists on central drug regulator's website of substandard drug samples show that several companies are repeat offenders. Yet, there is no info on what action was taken against such companies. This is the state of regulation even as hundreds of public health facilities are being handed over to private entities, to start medical colleges in the name of PPP. Accreditation by Hospitals and National Accreditation Board for Hos Healthcare Providers is voluntary and it covers barely 2% of hospitals with more than 50 beds. And Clinical Establishments Act 2010 was adopted by just 19 states and all UTs barring Delhi.

Datesheet of CBSE Class 10, 12 released, exams to begin on Feb 17, 2026

CHD/NEW DELHI : In accordance with the revised datesheet, Class 10 exams will conclude on March 10, while Class 12 exams will end on April 9, 2026. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday announced the final schedule for the Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations, which will commence on February 17, 2026. The final timetable replaces the tentative version released last month and includes several modifications, such as the addition of an extra examination day for Class 10. CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam



Bhardwaj said that the schedule was prepared with students' convenience in mind. "A sufficient gap has been provided between major subjects for both classes. The dates of entrance examinations for Class 12 students have also been considered, ensuring that board exams finish well in advance," he said. "This will help students manage their time effectively for both board and

entrance exams." The board has also made subject-specific changes from the earlier draft. For Class 10, the revised dates affect subjects such as Data Science, French, Punjabi, Bengali, Tamil, Security, and Automotive. For Class 12, changes have been made to the exam schedule for Business Studies, Administration, Psychology, and Accountancy.

Punjab Sakhi Shakti carnival to start from Jan 30 for 10 days

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : The carnival event at Sector 88 will feature daily star singer nights, vibrant cultural performances, exhibitions, food courts, amusement activities and various programmes showcasing Punjab's rich cultural heritage along with the strength, talent and creativity of women. The official poster of Mohali Carnival 2026 - Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela, a grand event dedicated to women empowerment and the celebration of Punjabi the carnival will be organised from January 30 to February 8, spanning 10 days, and will remain open from 11 am to 10 pm every day at the SARAS Mela Ground,



Sector 88, Mohali. Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal said, "Such events play a significant role in promoting women empowerment, preserving Punjabi culture, and providing a dynamic platform for artistes and women entrepreneurs." District Development and Panchayat Officer (DDPO) Parambeer Kaur was also present on the occasion.

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, MC, National Project Monitoring Unit, Delhi, and MPSEDC, Bhopal.

'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 campign was lauched 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.

Patiala Heritage festival, crafts mela to vibrate from next month

Commissioner News Service

PATIALA : The mela, where the decades-old Patiala royalty, culture and hospitality will be on display, is being organised by the state Department of Cultural Affairs and Tourism, along with the district administration. To commemorate the 263 years of existence of the Patiala City, a Patiala Heritage Festival and Crafts Mela will be held at different locations. While the heritage festival will be held from February 12 to 22, the craft mela will be organised from February 2 to March 2. DC Preeti Yadav said



preparations were almost complete and the legacy and culture of the city would be brought to fore at the event. A dog show, a flower and food festival, dance performances and music renditions would mark the festival. Prominent shows would include military literary fest, a pop show, aeromodelling events,

dog show, plays, poetry darbar, food and flower show, nature and environment walk events, classical music and cultural evening shows. More than 125 artisans will put up their stalls displaying metalwork, traditional jewellery, textiles and pottery products during the crafts mela at Sheesh Mahal. During the festival, light will also be shed on Sheesh Mahal, which was built by Bhupinder Singh. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rural Development) Damanjit Singh Mann will be the nodal officer for the event.

New villages under Mohali Municipal Corporation under focus

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : Under the watch of GMADA, major issues related to water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage, ponds and STPs in various villages and colonies were reviewed. Time-bound decisions were taken to ensure completion of works before formal handover and onset of the monsoon season. A review meeting by the Mohali administration, GMADA, the Municipal Corporation (MC) was held to assess the issues/problems of the civic infrastructure in the newly included areas in the extended limits of the civic body. The meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Parminder Pal Singh, officials of the engineer wing of the MC,



GMADA, and Water Supply and Sewerage Board. During the meeting the waterlogging issues in Green Enclave were addressed through a dedicated project funded by GMADA, the tenders for which had already been floated by the Municipal Corporation. Cleaning of rainwater drains at Ballomajra and provision of two-three feet diameter pipe at Patiala Ki Rao, estimated cost of which was Rs 30 lakh, were

discussed. During the meeting senior officials were informed that the STP at TDI were functioning satisfactorily. Directions were given to officials concerned for conducting a survey as well as clean and desilt ponds and sewer lines under the Amrit Yojana in villages including Balongi, Landran, Nanu Majra, Sambalki, Mauli Baidwan, Kambali, Lakhnaur and Bilali. Stormwater management issues in Gateway City and TDI City were reviewed, and GMADA was directed to submit a comprehensive plan. Officials were asked to urgently address infrastructure concerns in Phase 11, including street lighting and road works.

Enrolment for health insurance begins with aadhar, voter card

Commissioner News Service

MOHALI : Every family will be provided with health insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh per year. Any member of the card-holding family admitted to a government or a listed private hospital can receive medical treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh for free. Aadhaar card of all family members and a voter card of adults are required to register. The registration for health



MUKH MANTRI SEHAT BIMA YO insurance cards under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Bima Yojana has begun at the Common Service Centres set up at various locations around the city and at District Hospital, Phase-6, Mohali.

Under the scheme, launched recently by the Punjab Government, a health card is to be made for every resident of the state. The resident will receive the health insurance card within a few days of successful registration. Top multi-specialty hospital chains of the state such as Fortis and Max will not be part of the empanelled hospitals under the scheme.

General housing scheme in Sec 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.

The Commissioner

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South Korean tariff on autos
pharma hiked to 25% over stalled
trade deal

Commissioner News Service
Washington : Announcing the move on Truth Social, US president Donald Trump said, "Because the Korean Legislature hasn't enacted our Historic Trade Agreement, which is their prerogative, I am hereby increasing South Korean TARIFFS on Autos, Lumber, Pharma, and all other Reciprocal TARIFFS, from 15% to 25%." It remains unclear whether the revised tariff rates have already come into force. US President Donald Trump on Monday (local time) announced an increase in tariffs on a wide range of South Korean goods, raising them to 25 per cent from the previous 15 per cent. The decision comes as South Korea remains one of the United States' leading sources of imported goods, exporting USD 132 billion worth of products to the US in 2024, according to Commerce Department data. Major shipments

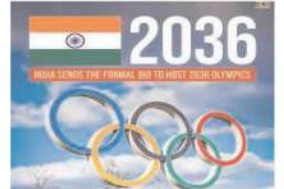


include automobiles and auto parts, along with semiconductors and electronics, sectors that could now face higher prices due to the increased duties. The tariff hike marks a reversal from a trade agreement announced in July, when Trump said the US would apply a uniform 15 per cent tariff on goods imported from South Korea, a rate that was 10 percentage points below what he had earlier threatened. As part of that agreement, Trump also said South Korea had agreed to "give to the United States \$350 Billion Dollars for

Investments owned and controlled by the United States, and selected by myself, as President." Trump's latest move follows at least three earlier tariff warnings by his administration that were not implemented, including a proposed 10 per cent levy on Canada after Ontario's anti-tariff World Series advertisement, potential tariffs on European nations over Greenland, and a 100 per cent duty on Canada that was floated on Saturday. The escalation also comes amid legal scrutiny of Trump's trade powers. The US Supreme Court heard arguments in November in a challenge to tariffs imposed by Trump without congressional approval, with several justices questioning whether he had the authority to introduce such measures unilaterally. The court has not yet delivered a ruling in the matter.

BJP's commitment to make
Thiruvananthapuram 2036 Olympics
venue generate political uproar

Commissioner News Service
Thiruvananthapuram : BJP Kerala unit urge it would request the Centre to include the city as one of the venues for the 2036 Games. In its manifesto for the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation election. BJP's local body election manifesto promise to develop the state capital into a co-host city for the 2036 Olympics triggered a political row, with leaders of both LDF and UDF on Monday calling it a fake claim. The International Olympic Committee is yet to announce the host for the 2036 edition of the world's biggest sporting event. However, there have been reports that India is bidding for the Games with Ahmedabad as its proposed main host city. Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty accused BJP of deceiving the people of Thiruvananthapuram. "When the Union Government has bid for the



Olympics in Gujarat, how can BJP here claim that Thiruvananthapuram will be a venue?" He further said as part of the bidding process, BJP is planning for the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, he claimed. He asked whether BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar considered the people of Thiruvananthapuram "fools". "The proposal submitted to the Olympic body has no mention of Thiruvananthapuram. This is a trick because BJP has nothing to say about development," he said. Senior Congress leader K Muraliedharan also hit out at BJP on its election manifesto,

saying that, fearing defeat, the party had begun making "fake promises". "They know they would not even become the main opposition party this time. Hence, such claims," he said. State Revenue Minister K Rajan echoed a similar view, stating that the host for the 2036 Olympics had yet to be announced, but BJP claimed the event would be held in Thiruvananthapuram. Reacting to the criticism, Chandrasekhar said that other political parties would realise the proposal later. "They do not understand how it will happen. We will teach them after we get the opportunity to govern," he said. BJP is currently the main opposition in the CPI(M)-governed Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. The local body election in the state will be held in two phases on December 9 and 11.

President Murmu confers
Ashoka Chakra on Shubhanshu
Shukla space hero

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla in June last year, became the second Indian to have gone to space and the first to visit the ISS as part of the historic Axiom-4 mission. His 18-day space odyssey came 41 years after cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma flew aboard the Russian Soyuz-11 space mission. President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred India's highest peacetime gallantry award, Ashoka Chakra, on Shukla, who created history by becoming the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS). The President presented the award to Shukla at the Republic Day celebrations at the Kartavya Path, the centrepiece boulevard of the national capital. As a fighter pilot, Shukla has an impressive record of 2,000 hours of flight experience across various aircraft, including the Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29,



Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier, and An-32. Shukla served as pilot for the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) to the International Space Station and left an indelible mark on India's remarkable advancements in human space exploration. As a fighter pilot, Shukla has an impressive record of 2,000 hours of flight experience across various aircraft, including the Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier, and An-32. Shukla served as pilot for the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) to the International Space Station and left an indelible mark on India's remarkable advancements in human space exploration.

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.

Bhagwant Mann slams
Centre over MGNREGA,
pending rural funds

Commissioner News Service
HOSHARPUR : Punjab Chief Minister Mr Bhagwant Mann addressed a gathering here after hoisting the national tricolour during a function on the occasion of Republic Day. He gave a warning to those who are trying to disturb peace in the state with their nefarious designs. The CM said that his government is committed to maintaining amity and mutual brotherhood at any cost. Punjab has to fight even to get its rights, said Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday as he slammed the Centre over the issue of MGNREGA and pending rural development funds. Mann said that his government will make all-out efforts to get Chandigarh as Punjab's own capital. At present, Union Territory Chandigarh is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. Mann also listed several initiatives, including free electricity and government jobs for youths and campaigns against drugs and gangsters, carried out by his government.



He said Punjab is known as the food bowl and the sword arm of the nation. "For the country's progress, we (Punjab) suffered damage to its natural resources. Our underground water got depleted, and our rivers' water also got polluted," he said. "I am pained to say that despite making maximum sacrifices, injustice and highhandedness have continuously been done to our state. Punjab has to fight even today to get its own rights, and it is knocking on the doors of courts," he added. He alleged that a conspiracy was hatched to end Punjab's right over the Bhakra Beas Management Board, "which we did not allow to be successful."

Mann added that the Centre has not only changed the name of the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme but its entire structure as well. "Because of which, the livelihoods of scheduled caste workers, women and landless families have come into danger," he said. The Chief Minister said at present, 19.85 lakh people are registered as MGNREGA workers in Punjab and out of which 12.65 lakh belong to the SC families. He said his government is committed to raising the voice of Punjab's rights. "In this regard, we are fighting and raising our voice for Punjab's rights, be it through the Vidhan Sabha or any other way," Mann said. He also pointed towards the non-release of RDF funds to the state. "Our RDF funds have been stopped. The Constitution mentions the rights of all states and their fundamental rights. Even then, we have to struggle to get our rights," he said.

Customs overhaul, TDS rationalisation
among key expectations : Union Budget
2026-27

Commissioner News Service
NEW DELHI : Union Budget is likely to outline the path of targeting of debt-to-GDP ratio as India's fiscal management focus shifts from managing deficit to lowering of debt. For individuals, who last year got a big relief in terms of Income Tax exemption limit hike to Rs 12 lakh and later GST rate cuts, are still hoping for some relief in standard deduction. Union Budget 2026-27: Customs overhaul, TDS rationalisation will be among key expectations. With the new and simplified Income Tax Act, 2025, coming into effect from April 1, the industry expects the Budget to outline transition provisions, rules and FAQ for better understanding. Some incentives, like hike in standard deduction, to further encourage



individuals to shift to new income tax regime which offers low tax rates but no exemptions, from the old regime with plethora of exemptions and deductions. Rationalisation of TDS categories into fewer rates, slabs. Overhaul of customs regime may include fewer rates, amnesty scheme to unlock Rs 1.53 lakh crore stuck in disputes, and procedural simplification to boost ease of doing business. Focus on reducing debt-to-GDP ratio from the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Higher allocation for defence expenditure in view of rising geopolitical tensions. Outlay for Viksit Bharat -- Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme under which cost will be shared between the Centre and states in 60:40 ratio. Provision for 8th Pay Commission which will be expected to be implemented from January 1, 2026. Devolution of taxes to the states in line with the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission. Incentive for MSMEs, and tariff sensitive sectors, like gems and jewellery, readymade garments and leather. Funding for exploration and processing of critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt and rare earth magnets.

Patanjali products advertisement featuring various items like Kesh Kanti Reetha, Shikakai, Anti-Dandruff, Coconut Hair Wash, Hair Conditioner, Protein, 20% EXTRA, Divya Dant Manjan, and Dant Kanti. The background is green with the Patanjali logo and the text 'Prakriti ka Ashirwad'.

Greenland leaders rebuke Trump, as no more trust held

Commissioner News Service

Nuuk / Copenhagen : The proposal to buy the Greenland island by the US President Donald Trump was met by scourge of heinous blitz. The controversial proposal by Trump directly resulted into the cancellation of his



scheduled visit to Denmark. This diplomatic fallout underlined the negative welcome to his framed strategic designs. The brutal attack by the Greenland leaders included designating him faithless "dog", in view of advancing steps of the US President.

Protocol messed up ? Congress fumes over Rahul Gandhi's 3rd Row R-Day seat

Commissioner News Service

NEW DELHI : Leaders of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, attended the Republic Day parade function at Delhi's Kartavya Path . However, their seats in the third row have provided the Congress with fresh ammunition to attack the Centre. The party alleges the seating is a breach of protocol and has also dug out a photo from 2014 to bolster its case.

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala was scathing in his criticism of the government. "Does such treatment of the leader of the opposition in the country meet the standards of any decorum, tradition, and protocol? This only reveals the frustration of a government plagued by an inferiority complex," he said in a post on X.



Congress MP Manickam Tagore alleged that it was "intentionally done by the BJP" to "insult" Rahul Gandhi. Sharing a photo from 2014, he pointed to the seating of LK Advani, asking: "Look at where LK Advani ji was seated then. Why this protocol mess-up now? Is it because Modi and Shah want to insult Kharge ji and Rahul ji?"

LK Advani was neither the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha nor the Lok Sabha in 2014. However, Arun Jaitley, also seen in the front row in the archival photo, was the LoP in the Rajya Sabha. Sushma Swaraj served as the LoP in the Lok Sabha at that time.

Trump's only superfans join 'Board Of Peace' signing purpose

Commissioner News Service

Davos : A voice off-stage boomed, "Please welcome the chairman of the Board of Peace!" and Donald Trump entered the same hall in Davos where he addressed the world's elite just a day earlier. But it was a rather different collection of characters who showed up in the conclave of sycophants.

Among those summoned were the iconoclastic Javier Milei, the ever-smiling Trump superfan, and a clutch of leaders that in this might-is-right world order can be more comfortably called strongmen. There was Prabowo Subianto, a former military general, and Viktor Orban, who over decades has turned Hungary into an illiberal state and bete noire inside the European Union.

The clapping from the audience was tepid at best. The mood subdued.

Safe to say, Trump felt right at



home as he stared down at the attendees, just shy of 20. Among the faces peering up, waiting to be called two by two to sign the charter, were a smattering of diplomatic representatives from Middle East kingdoms and former Soviet satellites, perhaps most gallingly Belarus, whose long-serving president is popularly known as "Europe's last dictator."

As he took center stage, on one side sat the president of Azerbaijan. On the other side, the prime minister of Armenia. Peace between these two nations is just one of the eight wars that Trump claims to have

ended. The list of invitations for this ceremony was long but the more notable list was the excuses made to avoid the event altogether. There were few Europeans present. And one was Orban, who made the pilgrimage to Davos especially and exclusively for the US leader. He despises the World Economic Forum and what it represents and was seen here only once before, in a distant 2000, before his drift to authoritarianism. In reality, the most influential leaders from the biggest economies either left town or canceled plans to attend the World Economic Forum. Few want to come outright and say they disapprove, because doing so would incur Trump's wrath. His berating of France's Emmanuel Macron who publicly snubbed the event would justify those fears.

Disclose civil aviation rules for compensating flyers affected by cancellation of flights- High Court

Commissione News Service

New Delhi : " A penalty of Rs 22 Cr was slapped on the IndiGo airline for its failure to adhere to the new flight roster norms ", said the counsel representing civil aviation .

The compensation, however, was preferred in money not in the form of vouchers, said in a PIL by Advocate Akhil Rana, Advocate Utkarsh Sharma in Delhi High Court seeking direction to centre to provide support and refunds



to affected passengers by the cancellations of flights. "

The time period for the validity of vouchers was 12 months , which was reasonable", asserted the court. The IndiGo was noted

to be offering voucher of Rs 10 ,000 to each passenger and a web site already had been set up to enable them to claim their compensation. The court directed why the flyers were required to claim their compensation which was already known to airline . The airline was instructed to file an affidavit to that effect within 2 weeks. The bench was headed by Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia.

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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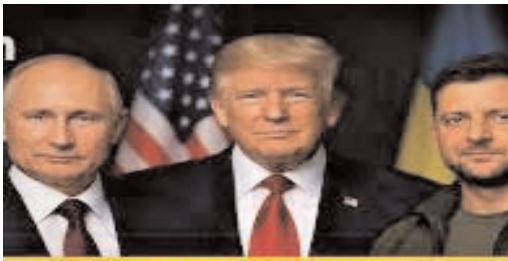
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Trilateral talks of Russia, Ukraine, America find territorial capture of Donbas stumbling block

Commissioner News Service

Abu Dhabi: First day of trilateral talks on Russia-Ukraine war ended in UAE sans any positive culmination

The first round of trilateral talks involving US, Russian, and Ukrainian negotiators in Abu Dhabi have concluded, the Ukrainian presidency has said, with a new round of discussions scheduled for Saturday. The Russian Defence Ministry said on Telegram that its forces captured the village of Symynivka, situated about 47km (29 miles) northeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.



President Putin's demand that Ukraine surrender the 20 percent it still holds of the Donetsk region of the Donbas — about 5,000sq km (1,900 sq miles) — has proven a major stumbling block to a breakthrough deal. Zelenskyy refuses to give up land that Russia has not been able to capture in four years of grinding, attritional warfare. Kremlin spokesperson

Dmitry Peskov said on Friday ? that Russia's insistence on Ukraine yielding all of Donbas was "a very important condition". Donetsk is one of four Ukrainian regions ?that Moscow said in 2022 it was annexing after referendums rejected by Kyiv and Western nations as bogus. Most countries recognise Donetsk as part of Ukraine

Boeing 787 carried multiple technical faults : US Aviation Safety Group

Commissioner News Service

Washington : Air India Boeing 787 plane crash in Ahmedabad occurred on June 12, 2025 due to multiple technical lapses through out the service life that FAS submitted to US senate that on 12 Jan 2026 .

A US-based aviation safety campaign group alleged that the Air India Boeing 787 aircraft that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, suffered from multiple technical problems throughout its service life, and that safety issues linked to the aircraft type are being downplayed globally.

The Foundation for Aviation Safety (?) submitted a presentation dated January 12, 2026, to the US Senate, according to people aware of the matter. According to the group, these records suggest the aircraft, registered VT-ANB, experienced system failures from its very first day in service with Air India. FAS alleged the problems stemmed from what it described as a "wide and confusing" mix of engineering, manufacturing, quality and maintenance shortcomings. The issues cited include electronic and software faults, repeated tripping of circuit breakers, wiring damage, short circuits, loss of electrical power and overheating of power system components.



When asked about the claims by FAS, a Boeing spokesperson said, "We will defer to India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), in adherence with the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization protocol known as Annex 13." Commenting on the preliminary report released by AAIB, the foundation claimed the findings appeared to suggest pilot error, particularly with regard to fuel control switches. FAS claimed Boeing's 787 programme was more than three years behind schedule and ran billions of dollars over budget. It said it analysed over 2,000 aircraft systems failure reports related to the 787, covering about 18% of the global fleet of 1,235 aircraft, and argued this represented "just the tip of the iceberg".

Trump cancels tariff threat over Greenland, says NATO agreed to 'framework' of future Arctic deal



territory that was "cold and poorly located." He said the U.S. had effectively saved Europe during World War II and even declared of NATO: "It's a very small ask compared to what we have given them for many, many decades." "We probably won't get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force, where we would be frankly unstoppable. But I won't do that, OK?" Mr. Trump said, later adding, "I don't have to" and "I don't want to use force."

Mr. Trump often tries to increase pressure on the other side when he believes it can lead to a favourable deal, and he seemed happy to do so ahead of the forum in Davos. The implications of his remarks were enormous, potentially rupturing an alliance that has held firm since the dawn of the Cold War and seemed among the globe's most unshakable pacts. NATO was founded by leading European nations, the U.S. and Canada to form a bloc to counter the Soviet Union. Its other members have been steadfast in saying Greenland is not for sale and cannot be wrested from Denmark, meaning Mr. Trump's comments could yet mark the beginning of a larger geopolitical standoff.

Efficient airlines needed to fill in vacant slots of IndiGo

Commissioner News Service

New Delhi : Already surrendered slots should not remain unutilised where capacity can be added. The preference would be given to airlines which can demonstrate capacity in the form of additional aircraft, pilots, cabin crew, ground support equipment and maintenance engineer's and not ordinarily a reshuffle of existing flights.



Airlines would have to share operational preparedness failing assigned slots would be cancelled and reassigned to deserving applicants.

By 10 % cut was levied on IndiGo flights after its schedule collapsed in first week of that month and same are supposed to remain in place. Led by Joint Secretary Rubina Ali, the coordinating committee held a meeting on Jan 13, where the process and rules for redistributing of slots were decided.

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.

RS Virk gathers land slide victory for President post in golf club polls

Commissioner News Service

Chandigarh : Major Rajinder Singh Virk (Retd) on his victory as President expressed gratitude towards his supporters and reiterated his resolve in serving the golf club . He said the mandate given to his team would be cherished and help us in carrying the legacy forward of my predecessors. Mr Virk won the contest by a large margin of 304 votes. Out of a total 1800 registered voters, 1254 voters used their franchise, marking 70% of total ballots cast on the club on Sunday. Mr Virk polled 775 votes and defeated vomgottsnly his oppo-



nent Capt Mohan Bir Singh (Retd) by 304 votes. Eight ballots were ,however, declared invalid. The counting for the election of the 11 member executive Committee was scheduled to commence on Monday. The campaign for winning the polls was carried over with assurance of "accountability ,credibility and overall transparency. " said a supporter of Maj Virk(Retd) .

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