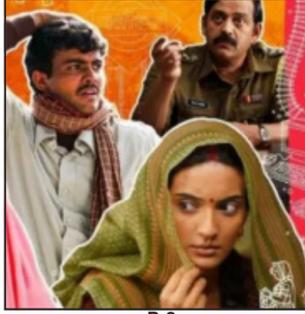


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No survivors found after American Airlines jet collides mid-air with Army helicopter



Washington, 30/1 (photonewstimes): Passenger Plane Crash Near Washington DC's Reagan Airport Live Updates: There are likely no survivors from a crash involving a passenger jet and a US Army helicopter in Washington, officials said Thursday, as recovery teams pulled 28 bodies from the river where both aircraft went down. The American Airlines regional passenger jet with 64 people aboard collided with a US Army Black Hawk helicopter and crashed into the Potomac River near Reagan Washington National Airport earlier on Thursday. Moments after the mid-air collision Wednesday night, President Donald Trump said that he had been briefed on the "terrible accident" and was monitoring the situation.

What do we know so far? The plane was carrying 60 passengers and four crew members when it collided with the Black Hawk helicopter which had three soldiers aboard. All take-offs and landings have been halted at the airport as the rescue operation got underway. Dozens of firefighters are

"engaged in dive operations" on the Potomac River. US Senator Ted Cruz said "We know there are fatalities" from the plane and helicopter collision, although he did not give out any further details about it. The Mayor of Wichita, Kansas, Lily Wu, expressed her community's collective grief and support for the families affected by the American Airlines plane crash that took off from Wichita with 64 passengers and crew on board, stating that the community came together for a prayer event to help those grieving, and officials are waiting to release the names of the victims out of respect for the families. The Trump administration's offer to federal workers, including air traffic controllers, has raised concerns about the already short-staffed air traffic control system. The offer allows workers to resign by February 6 and receive pay without working through September 30. With the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) already facing staffing issues and estimating a need for 3,000 more air traffic controllers to meet industry demands, a significant number of resignations could exacerbate the problem.

IIM Sambalpur signs MoU with State govt to empower women and child welfare

Sambalpur, 30/1 (photonewstimes): IIM Sambalpur, one of the premier management institutes, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) to collaborate on the Subhadra Scholars Program during Utkarsh Odisha Conclave.

This MoU is signed with an objective to drive women's empowerment and improve child and adolescent welfare through evidence-based interventions and strategic support in the state.

With this collaboration, IIM Sambalpur marks a



significant step in support women-led enterprises and financial literacy programs. Moreover, the faculty of the institute will be

responsible to conduct research to evaluate policy along with designing and developing strategic frames for implementing and

executing the sub-scheme by Subhadra.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, stated, "We are proud to join hands with the WCD Department in advancing the objectives of the Subhadra scheme. This initiative aligns with the institution's commitment to fostering sustainable growth and empowering women entrepreneurs in Odisha. By bringing rigorous research and strategic insights, we aim to drive impactful policy interventions that will uplift communities and create long-term socio-economic benefits."

Direct flights between Bhubaneswar and Indore by IndiGo from February 7



Bhubaneswar, 30/1 (photonewstimes): IndiGo airline has announced the launch of direct flights between Bhubaneswar and Indore, enhancing air connectivity between the two cities. The airline will commence operations on this new route from February 7, 2025.

"This new route will significantly benefit religious, leisure, and business travellers by directly connecting two important cultural and economic hubs," the airline said in a statement.

Flight Schedule
Flight 6E 2610: Bhubaneswar to Indore - Services on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, departing at 11:35 AM and arriving in Indore at 1:30 PM.

Flight 6E 2611: Indore to Bhubaneswar - Services on Mondays, Fridays, and Sundays, departing at 7:45 PM and arriving in Bhubaneswar at 9:35 PM.

Additional Service: From February 12, 2025, Flight 6E 2611 will also operate on Wednesdays, departing Indore at 2:00 PM and arriving in Bhubaneswar at 3:50 PM.

Union Fin Min Nirmala Sitharaman will increase PM KISAN to Rs 8k in Union Budget 2025

Bhubaneswar, 30/1 (photonewstimes): February 1 will see a budget for Bharat and India. For which, the budget size of the Union govt may touch the landmark of Rs 50 lakh cr.

The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her seventh consecutive Union Budget in the Lok Sabha will be going to focus on both the rural and urban India to keep the Indian economy wheels keep pace with

the PM Modi's target of becoming third largest economy in the world.

As per data released by ICICI bank report, consumption index showed a tick up in consumption spending in October 2024 on the back of festive demand but has decelerated since then.

See the images below that shows a decline in 2-wheeler and Passenger vehicle sales, besides a slowdown in GST collections hinting big at slowing down of private consumption.

India's first state-owned Automated Testing Station for vehicle fitness inspection launched in State

Bhubaneswar, 30/1 (photonewstimes): In a significant step toward improving road safety and vehicle regulation, the Odisha government has introduced India's first Automated Testing Station (ATS) fully owned and operated by the state.

The facility, established under the jurisdiction of Cuttack RTO, aims to enhance the accuracy and transparency of motor vehicle fitness inspections.

The ATS system, implemented in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, leverages advanced technical expertise to conduct automated fitness tests. Unlike the previous manual assessment system, which was prone to human error and subjectivity, the automated process

ensures impartial and efficient fitness evaluations.

This move is expected to significantly reduce the number of unfit vehicles on the roads, thereby contributing to road safety and accident prevention.

Recognizing the importance of vehicle fitness in maintaining traffic discipline and minimizing accidents, the Odisha government has also announced plans to set up 21 additional ATS centres across the state in the near future.

Automated fitness testing is a crucial measure in modernizing vehicle inspections, ensuring that only roadworthy vehicles receive certification for continued operation. By eliminating manual intervention, the ATS system enhances efficiency, reduces corruption, and strengthens regulatory compliance.

Amit Shah chairs review meeting on implementation of new criminal laws

New Delhi, 30/1 (photonewstimes): Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah chaired a review meeting on the implementation of the three new criminal laws in Gujarat in presence of the Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in New Delhi today.

The meeting reviewed the implementation and present status of various new provisions relating to police, jail, courts, prosecution and forensics in Gujarat. The meeting was attended by Gujarat's Minister of State for Home, Union Home Secretary, Gujarat's Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, the Director General of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), and several senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and the State Government. During the



discussion, Shah said that the essence of the three new criminal laws introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi lies in the provision of delivering justice within three years, from the filing of an FIR till the Supreme Court's verdict in any case. Appreciating the work done so far by the Gujarat government in implementing the new criminal laws, he said

that the Gujarat government should ensure the implementation of the new criminal laws in all commissionerates by April 30, 2025, and across the entire state at the earliest.

He said it should be reviewed monthly by the Chief Minister of Gujarat, fortnightly by the State Home Minister and weekly at the level of Chief Secretary,

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) and Director General of Police. Shah stated that Gujarat has commendably achieved timely filing of charge sheets in over 92 per cent of cases involving sentences of more than 10 years. He emphasized that for the remaining cases, a review should be conducted to ensure the utilization of the provision in the Act that

allows seeking permission from the court.

The Home Minister said that Gujarat has done a commendable job in converting Zero FIRs into 100 per cent regular FIRs. He emphasized the need to establish a system where FIRs can be transferred between two states through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). He also suggested that Gujarat should adopt CCTNS 2.0. Regarding the provision of electronic evidence in the new laws, Shah mentioned that the state's Home and Health Departments should hold meetings to ensure that post-mortem and other medical reports from hospitals are received electronically.

Shah also emphasized the need to establish a system for recording evidence via video conferencing in prisons,

BJP backtracking on promise for 'Special Category Status' for Odisha: BJD MP Sasmit Patra

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, 30/1 (photonewstimes): Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra on Thursday accused the BJP-led central government of failing to deliver on its promise to grant special category status to Odisha, a commitment made in the BJP's 2014 election manifesto.

Patra claimed that despite the BJP being in



power both in Delhi and Odisha, the party had not fulfilled its promise, suggesting that the BJP was "backtracking" on its commitment.

After an all-party meeting ahead of Parliament's budget session, Patra said his party would raise multiple issues, including rising prices and unemployment. He emphasized that BJD chief Naveen Patnaik had instructed party members to push strongly for the special category status during the parliamentary session.

At Least 15 Tents Burnt In Fire At Maha Kumbh, None Hurt Chief Fire Officer

Mahakumbh Nagar, 30/1 (photonewstimes): At least 15 tents were burnt on Thursday after they caught fire near Chamanganj Chowki outside Sector 22 in the Maha Kumbh Mela area with officials saying there was no loss of life. Chief Fire Officer (Kumbh) Pramod Sharma said information about a fire was received this afternoon and

the fire was extinguished immediately. He said due to lack of road, fire engines had difficulty in reaching the spot. However, the fire was completely extinguished and there was no loss of life or injury, he added. Mr Sharma said that according to the SDM, these tents were unauthorised. "Fifteen tents were gutted in this fire. The cause of the fire is being investigated," he said.

Aamir Khan takes son-in-law Nupur Shikhare for a movie date



Aamir Khan was recently papped attending a film screening with his son-in-law Nupur Shikhare in Mumbai. They were accompanied by Nupur's mother during the screening of a Marathi movie. It might be noted here that Mr Perfectionist's son-in-law comes from a Maharashtrian family.

Aamir's daughter, Ira Khan tied the knot with Nupur in a registered marriage 3rd January 2024, in Mumbai's Taj Lands End. The couple got engaged back in September 2022. Nupur had popped the big question in Italy in the same year.

In the meantime, Aamir Khan recently launched the trailer of his son Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor's upcoming romantic entertainer, Loveyapa. Speaking during the Mumbai event, Mr Perfectionist revealed that he considers himself to be a mushy romantic.

The PK actor said, "Actually Main bhot romantic aadmi ho, maa kasam, bhot romantic hu. Bhot funny lagta hai ye bolte huye par aap meri dono biwiyo se puch sakte hai ye baat (I'm very romantic, it may sound funny to you, but please ask both my wives). I am a very mushy romantic person. So, all my favorite films are romantic. I'm a real believer in true love."

He further added that according to him, love evolves with time. Aamir revealed, "As we grow in life, our definition and understanding of love evolves. Jab aap 18 ke hote hai ek alag josh aur emotion hota hai, phir aap samajhte hai, zindagi ko, logon ko, aur apne aap ko. (When you are 18 you feel a different kind of energy and emotion but as you grow old, your understanding of yourself and others evolves)". Moving on, Aamir is presently working on his next, Sitaare Zameen Par. If the reports are to be believed, he shot for the drama in Vadodara, Gujarat. Apart from Aamir, the movie will also see Genelia Deshmukh in a key role. Directed by R. S. Prasanna, the film is the sequel to the 2007 blockbuster, Taare Zameen Par.

Applause Entertainment teams up with Kabir Khan for two films



Filmmaker Kabir Khan has joined hands with content studio Applause Entertainment for two new movies. The films will be co-produced by Applause Entertainment with Khan taking on the role of director for one film and creatively producing both.

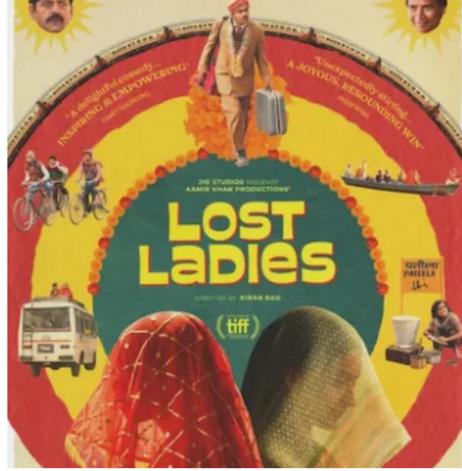
Khan, known for films such as Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Ek Tha Tiger, and 83, said he is thrilled to embark on this creative journey with Applause Entertainment.

"This collaboration with Applause is a natural fit as we both share a passion for stories that resonate with people at their core. The beauty of this partnership lies in the creative freedom it offers," the director said in a statement. Sameer Nair, managing director, Applause Entertainment, said through this partnership they are committed to narrating groundbreaking stories that resonate with people.

"Our partnership with Kabir is fuelled by our mutual love for storytelling. At Applause, our vision is to collaborate with powerful creative voices to tell stories that are unique, distinctive, and popular, and resonate with audiences in meaningful ways," added Nair, known for backing acclaimed series like "Black Warrant" as well as "Scam" and "Criminal Justice" franchises. Key details regarding the genre and star cast of the two movies are yet to be announced.

'Laapataa Ladies' shortlisted at Japan Academy Film Prize 2024

Aamir Khan Productions and Kiran Rao's directorial Laapataa Ladies (Lost Ladies), is making waves internationally as it has been shortlisted for the Best International Film category at the Japan Academy Film Prize 2024. This recognition marks a significant achievement for the film, which is now garnering attention on the global stage. The Best International Film winner will be announced March 14, 2025, during the Japan Academy Film Prize ceremony. A source revealed that out of 204 eligible international films released in Japan in 2024, India's official entry for the 2025 Oscars, Lost Ladies, has been selected as one of the top five international films.



This remarkable achievement places the film alongside global cinematic masterpieces. Lost Ladies now competes with acclaimed works such as Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer, Yorgos Lanthimos Poor Things, Jonathan Glazer's The Zone of Interest, and Alex Garland's Civil

War. Presented by Jio Studios, Laapataa Ladies is directed by Kiran Rao and produced by Aamir Khan and Jyoti Deshpande. The film is produced under the banners of Aamir Khan Productions and Kindling Productions, with the story based on an award-winning script by Biplab



Goswami. The screenplay and dialogues are written by Sneha Desai, with additional dialogues by Divyanidhi Sharma. Last month, Aamir Khan shared his thoughts on the exit of Laapataa Ladies from the Oscar race, saying this is not the end but a step forward. In a statement, the actor said, Laapataa Ladies (Lost

Ladies) did not make it to the Academy Awards shortlist this year, and we are of course disappointed, but equally we are immensely grateful for the incredible support and belief we've received throughout this journey. We at Aamir Khan Productions, Jio Studios, and Kindling Productions, extend our gratitude to the

Academy members and the FFI jury for considering our film." "To be included in this prestigious process alongside some of the finest films from across the world is an honour in itself. Our heartfelt thanks to all the audiences around the world who have expressed their love and support for our film. We congratulate the teams of all the top 15 shortlisted films and wish them the very best in the next stages of the awards. For us, this is not the end but a step forward. We remain committed to bringing more powerful stories to life and sharing them with the world. Thank you for being part of this journey," the statement further read.

Prakash Jha shares update on sequel of Raajneeti, Gangaajal: Work in progress

Prakash Jha returns to acting with Amar Aaj Marega, which premiered at IFFI, Goa. In an exclusive chat he discussed his journey and shared updates on the sequels to Raajneeti and Gangaajal.

The filmmaker shared that Raajneeti 2 and Gangaajal sequel scripts are in progress.

He has no plans to re-release his older films in theatres.

Filmmaker Prakash Jha is all set to tap into his acting skills once again with Amar Aaj Marega. The Rajat Kariya-directed film was recently premiered at the International Film Festival of India, Goa. On the sidelines of the event, Jha spoke exclusively to

India Today Digital, sharing insights into his acting journey and providing updates on the sequels to his popular films Raajneeti and Gangaajal.

Prakash Jha shared that there's a different kind of excitement when promoting his films as an actor. He added that, fortunately, he manages to keep both roles separate. "When I am on set as an actor, my only focus is on performing in front of the camera. I am working for someone else's vision. I never want to complicate things by interfering in a



director's job. I have definitely started enjoying acting and am on the lookout for something that can challenge me and is pivotal to the film. I am reading a few scripts and hope to announce something soon," he shared. With the recent trend of films being re-released in cinemas, we asked the filmmaker if he had any

projects in mind to bring back to theatres. "Actually, no. All my films have been watched multiple times by my audience. I meet people who say they have watched Gangaajal 40-50 times, so I don't really think there's any need to re-release it in theatres again," he mentioned. When asked about the update on the sequel of his films, Prakash Jha said,

"We are working on Raajneeti 2, the script is being written. We are also working on the Gangaajal sequel, work is in progress on its script too. The police-society dynamics always have issues, and that makes for a good film. While we do make films for entertainment, it sometimes does leave an impact on the people, and that's quite a great thing." He also admitted that they are also thinking of making a film on Sunanda Pushkar, which according to him is an 'interesting subject'. Jha also shared that a capsule of new episodes of Ashram will also drop soon. Talking more about the show, the filmmaker said that while they always believed in the show, they never expected

the web series to gain so much popularity. While Ashram 3 gained love, it also garnered protests from different sections of religious groups. Addressing the same, Jha said, "Honestly, it's a constant process. When we say something at home, it sometimes evokes different reactions, and sometimes it's also taken out of context. Similarly, a content piece may not be taken the same way by everyone, and there would be dissent but one needs to keep working on it."

Prabhas's Spirit to release in 2026, producer shares update on Ranbir's Animal Park

Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit is expected to go on floors later this year. Producer Bhushan Kumar shared an update about Spirit's release and Ranbir Kapoor's Animal Park.

Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit will begin in December 2024.

Producer Bhushan Kumar, in a recent interview with Connect Media, shared updates on the release of Spirit and Ranbir Kapoor's much-awaited sequel, Animal Park. Spirit marks Prabhas's 25th film in his career and fans are eagerly waiting to see his collaboration with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga of Arjun Reddy and Animal fame.

In an interview, producer Bhushan Kumar said, "Spirit is a dream combination of Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga. This combination will explode like anything. Prabhas is super excited about Sandeep." When asked about Animal Park, the producer explained, "We will finish Spirit and release it in mid 2026. After Spirit, [Sandeep will spend] six months on writing. He has the idea in mind, and we will start filming in early 2027. That's for sure and



even the actor [Ranbir Kapoor] is locked." Coming to Spirit, the film is expected to be launched in a grand manner in December 2024. Sandeep Reddy Vanga has been involved in music sessions with Harshvardhan Rameshwar. As reported earlier, Prabhas will play the role of a cop in Spirit. Director Sandeep

Reddy Vanga had mentioned previously that the film will be made on a massive budget of Rs 300 crore. He confidently added that it will rake in Rs 150 crore on its opening day. The pre-production work for Spirit is underway. Soon, the makers will announce the cast and crew of Spirit.

No Hera Pheri: Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Akshay Kumar reunite for Kudo event

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended a Kudo Tournament. Sharing posts from the event, the actors clarified that their reunion was not related to the next Hera Pheri installment.

After they shared pictures from the event, rumours were dispelled about Hera Pheri 3.

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024 held in Surat, Gujarat. Sharing pictures from the event, Akshay and Suniel dispelled rumours that their reunion has any connection with the third installment of their popular franchise, Hera Pheri. Sharing a video from the tournament on November 12, Akshay Kumar wrote, "At the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024, two Guinness World Records were shattered, making it a truly memorable day—no "Hera Pheri" involved! (sic)"

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Najmul's confidence won't be impacted by snub in BPL - Salahuddin

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): Mohammad Salahuddin, Bangladesh's assistant coach, feels national skipper Najmul Hossain will not be lacking confidence in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy despite not playing regularly in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League.

Najmul, who is featuring for the defending champions in the ongoing BPL, is unable to make it to the playing XI after registering scores of 0, 9, 4, 41 and 2 in the five games that he has played so far in the tournament. It is unlikely that he will feature any further in the

tournament. Following their win against Dhaka Capitals in their 11th game on Wednesday (January 29), Fortune Barishal skipper Tamim Iqbal insisted that it is unfortunate that he cannot provide Najmul a place in the Playing XI. "I must say it's unfortunate because I could not give him the chances that he deserved, and if you see my team it is difficult to get the combination right. I could not get the combination right in the first few matches," Tamim told reporters. "Against Rangpur, he played a good innings of 41 runs but could not give him a chance due to the



combination. I could not understand where to slot him. There is a right hand-left hand combination and I don't need three left-handed batters playing at the same time. But his attitude towards the team has been fantastic. He is the national captain and one of the best players of the country.

With Najmul set to lead Bangladesh in the upcoming Champions Trophy, there are fears that will be lacking confidence going into the mega-tournament in such a case. Salahuddin, however, begs to differ. "We can't say what will boost or hamper one's confidence. If someone continuously fails here, his

confidence will go down. BPL is T20 cricket and Champions Trophy is 50-over format. We will not go there to play T20 cricket," Salahuddin told Cricbuzz. "If he can take his preparations well amid this, which I have seen him doing, he can gain back the confidence from training. He isn't sitting idly here. He will have a different role to play," he said. "Let me give you another example. Parvez Hossain Emon travelled to the West Indies with the team. He didn't play one single match in the ODIs and the first two T20Is. He was on the bench. He got a chance in the final T20I after being on the bench for a lot of matches, yet he performed. So you can't say that (hampering psychologically). The mental aspect is all about your one's own thinking, no

one else will create that for you. If I think I don't have any confidence, then I have no confidence. If I think I can do it, I can do it. "My job is to look after my boys so that they are mentally fit for the Champions Trophy when they come for it. For that, if we have to talk with them privately, we will do that. If we have to talk in front of others, we will do that too." Apart from Najmul, another topic of discussion has been regarding the future of Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah. There is a belief that the Champions Trophy could be the last major ICC tournament for the veteran duo. Salahuddin, however, feels that they should not be pushed to

make a decision they are still fit enough to play. "It sounds surprising to me if you think they can't keep their fitness up in this modern age. Athletes can keep their fitness for a long time these days. I think it should be completely performance-based. They have the right to play for Bangladesh as long as you perform. "We should leave it to them for how long they want to play. If they think they can play for two more years, then be it. There is nothing to force. It's my personal opinion. But the board and head coach's policy might be different.

Champions League: Manchester City advance to playoff with 3-1 win over Club Brugge

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): Manchester beat Club Brugge to advance to the playoffs of the Champions League 2024-25 while Liverpool and Barcelona were the only teams already guaranteed a place in the top eight and automatic progress to the round of 16 as they stayed first and second. Manchester City came from behind to beat Club Brugge 3-1 and secure their place in the Champions League playoffs, as big guns Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain also won to progress, while AC Milan and Juventus will join them despite both losing on Wednesday. A goal-stacked night of 18 simultaneous kick-offs in the final group matchday of the competition's new format, eventually ended as the traditional format usually ended - with all the big guns still alive. Liverpool and Barcelona were the only teams already guaranteed a place in the top eight and



automatic progress to the round of 16 and they stayed first and second respectively despite Liverpool losing 3-2 to PSV Eindhoven and Barca drawing 2-2 with Atalanta. Joining them are Arsenal, Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen, Aston Villa and Lille, who produced the performance of the night to thrash Feyenoord 6-1. Although they eventually progressed reasonably comfortably, it was anything but for Man City at the Etihad. The 2023 European champions

were exposed just before halftime when Raphael Onyedika brilliantly finished off a Brugge sweeping move. Mateo Kovacic pulled one back for City early in the second half but at that stage they were still heading out of the competition and they needed an own goal by Joel Ordonez to get the lead and then a third by Savinho to relax. PSG, who were in 22nd place and in danger of missing out at kickoff, avoided a nervous night by racing into a 3-0 halftime lead at Stuttgart. Bradley Barcola opened

the scoring and a hat-trick for in-form Ousmane Dembele completed the 4-1 win. It was the same score for Atletico Madrid at Salzburg. The visitors were helped by two goals for Antoine Griezmann. Lautaro Martinez got all three goals for Inter Milan in their 3-0 victory over Monaco, who had Christian Mawissa sent off after 12 minutes, but still made the playoffs. Arsenal came from behind to win 2-1 at Girona and rubber-stamp their third-placed

finish, while Leverkusen also avoided the two-legged play-offs by beating Sparta Prague 2-0 to finish sixth. Lille began the day in 12th but ended in seventh after thumping Feyenoord, who contributed a remarkable three own goals to those scored by Osame Sahraoui, Jonathan David and Remy Cabella. Real Madrid, seeking to extend their record 15 European titles, secured their playoff slot with a 3-0 win over Brest courtesy of two goals from Rodrygo and another by Jude Bellingham. It was a second successive defeat for Brest but their flying start to the campaign proved enough for them to make the playoffs. Aston Villa led Celtic 2-0 with two Morgan Rogers goals inside the first five minutes but two for Adam Idah made it level at halftime. Ollie Watkins, who missed a penalty, then restored the lead and Rogers completed his hat-trick at the death to lift Villa into the top eight.

Coldplay's biggest show in Ahmedabad proud moment for India: ICC chief Jay Shah

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): ICC chairman Jay Shah on Wednesday called Coldplay's record-breaking concert in Ahmedabad a "proud moment for India." 134,000 fans packed Narendra Modi Stadium, marking the biggest show of the English band's career. International Cricket Council (ICC) Chair Jay Shah on Wednesday praised British band Coldplay's record-breaking concert in Ahmedabad, calling it a "proud moment for India." The iconic rock band comprising lead singer Chris Martin, guitarist Jonny Buckland, bassist Guy Berryman, drummer and percussionist Will Champion, and manager Phil Harvey performed in front of a staggering 1.34 lakh attendees, its biggest-ever, during a concert in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Taking to social media, Jay Shah acknowledged the historic occasion, highlighting India's growing reputation as a global entertainment hub. "It's a proud moment for



India as @coldplay recorded their biggest concert with 134000 in attendance. Thanks to the holistic vision of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji that Ahmedabad has now become an epicenter of hosting not only big sporting events, but also entertainment events," Jay Shah wrote on X. It was under Jay Shah's watch that the Motera Stadium was rebuilt as the Narendra Modi Stadium. Shah, who was the BCCI secretary then, played a key role in transforming it into the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, so the pride in his statement was evident. "The incredible show at the #ColdplayAhmedabad is proof that India is capable of pulling out any major event with seamless coordination. Could not be a better occasion than

#RepublicDay as more than 2.5 lakhs visitors came to Ahmedabad, with over 1.70 lakh from outside Gujarat," Shah added. Jay Shah also lauded the Gujarat Cricket Association and Ahmedabad Police for their efficient management and seamless execution. This has surely boosted the state's economy on different fronts," Shah concluded. Coldplay performed five concerts in India as part of their Music of the Spheres World Tour. The British rock band held three shows in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai earlier this month before concluding with two performances in Ahmedabad on January 25 and 26.

Not before time, MI Cape Town are cleared for take-off

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): This time last year, Mumbai Indians Cape Town were one more loss away from crashing out of the running for a place in the SA20 playoffs. That defeat duly came, and they finished in last place - exactly where they had washed up in 2023. At Newlands on Wednesday they reached the knockout stage with two games in hand by way of an emphatic 10-wicket win, with 54 balls to spare, over Sunrisers Eastern Cape. The visitors never recovered from being bowled out for 107 in a match that was completed in two hours and 38 minutes, or at breakneck pace for a modern T20. Or even before the sun had finished setting over Table Mountain. That means Cape Town can't finish lower than second in the standings. Either them or Paarl Royals, who are currently on top, will claim the No.

1 spot. Thus those teams will clash in the first qualifier at St George's Park on Tuesday, when the winners will seal a berth in the final at the Wanderers on February 8. Wednesday's win was Cape Town's fifth in eight games this season, and they have lost just twice. They posted identical records in the first two SA20s: played 10, won three, lost seven. In percentage terms they have been more than twice as successful so far in 2025 than in each of the previous two summers. SEC are moving in the opposite direction. They won both of the first two competitions, but have shambled to five losses in nine games this year. Another loss in their last league match, away to Paarl Royals on Saturday, and they will be eliminated. Even if they will need other results to go their way to stay in the chase. Despite that, SEC's David Bedingham was

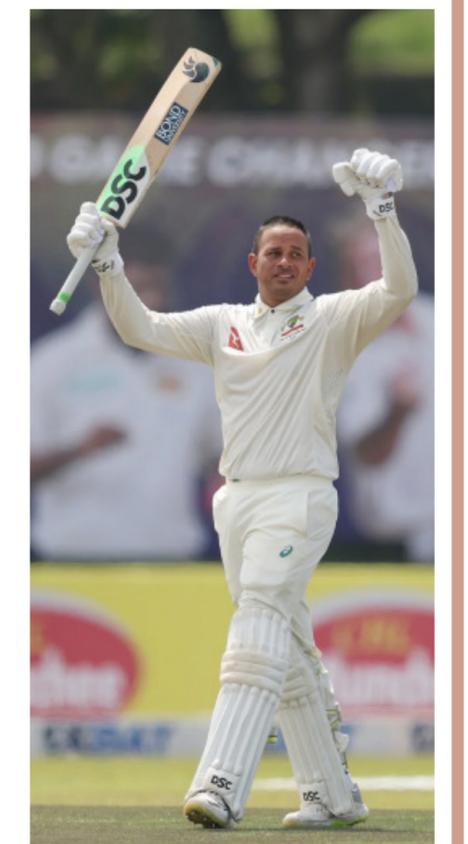


bullish. "We're in third place; I don't think we've done too badly," he told a press conference. "But when we've lost we've lost badly, and that's probably the nature of the game. We'd like to be a lot more consistent. "It's not always the first two [teams in the standings] who win it, so hopefully we can sneak in and win the whole thing again. We're three games away from a final." Before Wednesday's whipping, SEC had lost by 97 runs, and by nine, six, and nine wickets, and with

between eight and 36 balls to spare. But Bedingham is correct. SEC ended in third place in 2023 with only four wins from their 10 games, and went on to claim the title. The bigger question is what has changed at Newlands. Not the head coach, Robin Peterson. But in 2024 Cape Town were captained by Kieron Pollard, who was released last August. The SA20 clashes with the ILT20, where the Trinidadian is playing this year. Rashid Khan, Cape Town's

captain in 2023, missed last year's tournament with a back injury. He has returned to the leadership this year, but that doesn't explain much considering he presided over his team's lacklustre performance in the inaugural competition. Similarly, while Ryan Rickelton has been productive this season with 237 runs in a campaign limited to five innings because of a tweaked hamstring and Covid, he was even better last year - when his 530 runs in 10

innings made him the competition's leading scorer. Rassie van der Dussen is the second-highest runs scorer this year, with Rickelton fifth. Next is Reeza Hendricks in 19th place. Trent Boult is playing in his first SA20, and has claimed 14th spot on both the wicket-taking and economy rate charts for the Capetonians. Kagiso Rabada is also 14th in wickets terms, and 18th in the economy rate stakes. You need to go a dozen bowlers down the list to find Cape Town's leading wicket-taker, Rashid Khan, who has struck seven times. George Linde has the seventh-best economy rate, but Cape Town's next most miserly bowler is Boult. But what Cape Town lack in star performers they more than make up for as a unit. Is that what has made the difference this year?



Usman Khawaja celebrates his First double-century in Test Cricket.



Devotional activities in Sadhu Shivir during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. (Pic: PIB)

Ahead Of Polls, Police At Bhagwant Mann's Delhi Home. AAP Cries Foul

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): A Delhi Police team showed up at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's residence in the city Thursday evening, to investigate "a complaint of money distribution (before next week's election in the national capital)", prompting an outcry, and claims of a "raid", from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party.

Visuals from outside Kapurthala House - near Connaught Place in central Delhi - showed half-a-dozen uniformed security personnel, with assault rifles, stationed outside the main gate.

Shortly afterwards the Returning Officer for the New Delhi constituency, OP Pandey, told reporters the poll panel had received a complaint - on its cVIGIL mobile app - about money distribution. "We have to dispose of the complaint within 100 minutes. Our team had come (but) was not allowed to enter. I have come to request them to let us enter... with a cameraperson." Responding on X, Mr Mann accused the Delhi Police and Election Commission of "defaming Punjabis at the



behest of the BJP". "Today, an Election Commission team with Delhi Police came to raid my house... Kapurthala House in Delhi. BJP people are openly distributing money in Delhi, but Delhi Police and Election Commission are not seeing anything. No action is being taken on all this."

The exact nature of the complaint is not known at this time, but there are reports that indicate it stems from last night's seizure of a car parked outside Punjab Bhavan on Copernicus Marg.

"Justice Will Prevail": Infosys Co-Founder Kris Gopalakrishnan On Case Against Him And Others

Bengaluru, (photonewstimes): Infosys co-founder and IISc Council Chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan said on Thursday that he has full faith in the judiciary and trust that justice will prevail after a case was filed against him and 17 others by the former Indian Institute of Science (IISc) professor under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

In response to the ongoing legal proceedings and court hearing, Kris Gopalakrishnan said on January 29, the Karnataka High Court stayed all further investigation and proceedings under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against him and others. "As the matter is before the court, I will not comment further. I have full faith in the judiciary and trust that justice will prevail," said Gopalakrishnan.

He added that he is also deeply pained as the law meant to protect the marginalised communities has been misused to make false allegations against him.

"I have always believed in fairness, justice, and treating everyone with respect, regardless of their background. I am deeply saddened that a law meant to protect marginalised communities has been misused to make false allegations against me," he said. He added that he has been associated with IISc as Chairman of the Council since 2022, while

the alleged incidents date back to 2014.

He added that IISc has clear policies for fair and transparent investigations, which are within the purview of the executive management.

Infosys co-founder and IISc Council Chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan, along with 17 faculty members, was booked under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act following allegations by a former professor regarding incidents from 2010 to 2020. The matter is under proceedings of the Karnataka High Court.

The FIR was filed by the Sadashivanagar police following directions from the 71st City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru. The complaint was lodged by D. Sanna Durgappa, a former professor at the Centre for Sustainable Technologies, IISc.

The case has been filed against the Infosys Co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, Govindan Rangarajan, Sridhan Warrior, Anil Kumar, Namrata Gundaiah, Nirmala, Sandhya Vishwanath, Dishika

Chakravarthy, Hari K.V.S., Dasappa, Balam P., Balachandra P., Hemalatha Mhisi, Anjali A. Karande, Chattopadhyaya K., Pradeep S. Sawkar, Abhilash Raju, and Manoharan, all of whom are associated with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The police have invoked Sections 3(8), 3(14), 3(1)(2), 3(x), 2(1), and 2(11) of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

In his petition, Sanna Durgappa alleged that he was falsely implicated in a fabricated honey trap case, which led to his dismissal from IISc in 2014. He further claimed that the accused conspired to commit atrocities against him and insulted him based on his caste from 2008 to 2025.

Durgappa claimed that IISc's Director had agreed to reinstate him, but this promise has not been fulfilled to date. He also alleged that the accused caused irreversible damage to his reputation, making it impossible for him to secure employment elsewhere in the country. The complainant alleged further harassment, including threats from "hired rowdies" when he sought justice.

He stated that the woman involved in the alleged



Israel says it carried out ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen connected to Iran

Jerusalem, (photonewstimes) : The Israeli military said Sunday it has carried out a ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen involved in Iranian networks. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Israel has carried out airstrikes in Syria multiple times over the past year, targeting members of Lebanon's Hezbollah and officials from Iran, the close ally of both Hezbollah and Syria. But it has not previously made public any ground forays into Syria. The Israeli military said the seizure was part of a special operation "that took place in recent months," though it did not say exactly when it occurred. Syria did not immediately confirm the announcement, but a pro-government Syrian radio station, Sham FM, reported Sunday that Israeli force carried out a "kidnapping operation" over the summer targeting a man in the south of the country. The disclosure of the raid comes as Israel has waged an escalated campaign of bombardment in Lebanon for the past six weeks, as well as a ground invasion along the countries' shared border, vowing to cripple Hezbollah. On Saturday, an Israeli military official said naval forces carried out a raid in a northern Lebanese town, seizing a man they called a senior Hezbollah operative.

Man Earns Rs 40,000 By Selling 'Datun' At Maha Kumbh Mela

Lucknow, (photonewstimes): A man has earned Rs 40,000 in a week at the Maha Kumbh mela in Prayagraj with zero investment. He sells datun -- teeth-cleaning twig -- to the devotees and has credited his girlfriend for the creative approach to earning money at the religious gathering. The man, in a blue jacket holding a bunch of datun in his right hand, exudes simplicity and affection, explaining his business idea in a video now going viral on social media. He says, he came to the Maha Kumbh Mela to earn some money and has so far made Rs 40,000.

Pakistan shuts primary schools for a week in Lahore due to dangerous air quality

Lahore, (photonewstimes): Dangerously poor air quality on Monday forced Pakistani authorities in the cultural capital of Lahore to close primary schools for a week, government officials said, after the air-quality index hit a record high over the weekend.

The measures in Lahore were part of a larger effort to protect children from respiratory-related and other diseases in the city of 14 million people. The government said everyone in Lahore was required to wear a face mask. Fifty percent of employees must also work from home as part of a "green lockdown" in the city, the government said, adding that barbecuing food without filters was banned and



motorized rickshaws restricted. Wedding halls must close at 10 p.m. and artificial rain is likely to be used to combat the pollution. The air-quality

index in Lahore exceeded 1,000 over the weekend, a record high in Pakistan.

Toxic gray smog has sickened tens of thousands of people,

mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the air quality started worsening in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province

bordering India.

The government has also banned construction work in certain areas and fined owners of smoke-emitting vehicles. Schools will remain closed for a week because of the pollution, according to a government notification.

The concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air approached 450, considered hazardous, the Punjab Environment Protection Department said.

Lahore was once known as a city of gardens, which were ubiquitous during the Mughal era from the 16th to 19th centuries. But rapid urbanization and surging population growth have left little room for greenery.

Meta to pay \$25M to settle Trump lawsuit over account suspension after 2021 US Capitol riot

WASHINGTON, (photonewstimes): Meta has agreed to pay \$25 million to settle a lawsuit filed by US President Donald Trump against the company after it suspended his accounts following the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, according to three people familiar with the matter. It's the latest instance of a large corporation settling litigation with the president, who has threatened retribution on his critics and rivals, and comes as Meta and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, have joined other large technology companies in trying to ingratiate themselves with the new Trump

administration.

The people familiar with the matter spoke on the condition of anonymity Wednesday to discuss the agreement. Two of the people said terms of the agreement include \$22 million going to the nonprofit that will become Trump's future presidential library. The balance will go to legal fees and other litigants, they said. The Wall Street Journal was first to report on the settlement.

Zuckerberg visited Trump in November at his private Florida club to try to mend fences with the incoming president, something other technology, business and

government officials have done as well. At the dinner, Trump brought up the litigation and suggested they try to resolve it, kick-starting two months of negotiations between the parties, the people said.

Meta also made a \$1 million donation to Trump's inaugural committee, and Zuckerberg was among several billionaires granted prime seating during Trump's swearing-in last week in the Capitol Rotunda, along with Google's Sundar Pichai, Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, who now owns the platform X, formerly known as Twitter. Before Trump's inauguration, Meta announced it was dropping fact-checking

on its platform—a longtime priority of Trump and his allies. Trump filed the lawsuit months after his first term ended, calling the action by the social media companies "illegal, shameful censorship of the American people."

Twitter, Facebook and Google are all private companies, and users must agree to their terms of service to use their products. Under Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, social media platforms are allowed to moderate their services by removing posts that, for instance, are obscene or violate the services' own standards, so long as they are acting in "good

faith." The law also generally exempts internet companies from liability for the material that users post. But Trump and some other politicians have long argued that X, Facebook and other social media platforms have abused that protection and should lose their immunity—or at least have it curtailed. The Meta settlement comes after ABC News agreed last month to pay \$15 million toward Trump's presidential library to settle a defamation lawsuit over anchor George Stephanopoulos' inaccurate on-air assertion that the president-elect had been found civilly liable for raping writer E. Jean Carroll.