



India, Bangladesh must not allow any forces to disrupt relations: Saran

Central Chronicle

Saturday, 20 December 2025, Bhopal | Year 68 | No. 297 | City Edition | Pages 12 | Rs. 5/- | www.centralchronicle.com



Putin signals no compromise on Ukraine at annual press marathon

The wait is over! High-Tech Metro Era begins today

Bhopal: Bhopal is set to achieve a major milestone in urban mobility today, December 19, 2025. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will officially inaugurate the state-of-the-art Bhopal Metro.

Following a ceremony at the Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre, the leaders will flag off the train from Subhash Nagar Station and travel to AIIMS, where they will address the press. Commercial operations for the public will begin this Sunday.

The priority corridor: A new lifeline

The first phase features the "Priority Corridor" of the Orange Line. Spanning approximately 7 km, this elevated stretch connects eight key stations: AIIMS, Alkapuri, DRM Office, Rani Kamalapati, MP Nagar, Board Office Square, Kendriya Vidyalaya, and Subhash Nagar. This Rs 2,225 crore segment is expected to serve

City of lakes becomes city of tracks



3,000 passengers daily, significantly easing traffic on some of the city's busiest routes.

Engineering excellence and connectivity

The total Bhopal Metro project covers 30.8 km, comprising the 16.74 km Orange Line and

the 14.16 km Blue Line.

With an overall estimated cost of Rs 10,033 crore, this eco-friendly transit system is designed to link major commercial and residential hubs, elevating the standard of living for all citizens.

World-class features for commuters

The Bhopal Metro is equipped with Grade-4 signaling and AI-based CCTV surveillance for maximum safety.

- **Accessibility:** High-speed lifts, escalators, wheelchair facilities, and Braille signage for the differently-abled
 - **Sustainability:** Use of solar power and regenerative braking systems to conserve energy
 - **Comfort:** Fully air-conditioned coaches featuring mobile charging points and advanced audio-visual passenger information systems
- This modern transport network stands as a symbol of Bhopal's progress, promising a faster, cleaner, and smarter future.



Diplomacy over tea: Leaders convene as Parliament Adjourns Sine Die

New Delhi: Following the adjournment of the Parliamentary session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla hosted a traditional tea gathering for leaders across the political spectrum. In a rare display of camaraderie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen alongside Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Priyanka Gandhi, Chirag Paswan, and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. The informal meet provided a relaxed atmosphere for lawmakers to engage beyond the heated debates of the House, reinforcing the spirit of parliamentary democracy.

Winter Session ends: Parliament records high productivity, 8 bills passed

New Delhi (UNI)

A total of eight bills were passed by both Houses out of the 10 bills introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, which was adjourned sine die on Friday after 15 sittings spread over 19 days, according to a press release by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

The Ministry stated that the productivity of the Lok Sabha during the session stood at approximately 111 percent, while the Rajya Sabha recorded a productivity of

around 121 percent.

The Winter Session of Parliament 2025 began on December 1.

According to an official statement, significant legislative business was transacted during the sixth session of the 18th Lok Sabha and the 269th session of the Rajya Sabha.

"During the session, 10 Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha, while eight Bills were passed by the Lok Sabha and an equal number cleared by the Rajya Sabha while a total of 8 Bills were passed by

both Houses of Parliament," according to a press release by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

A special discussion marking the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram was held in the Lok Sabha on December 8 and in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, 10, and 11.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the discussion in the Lok Sabha, with 65 members participating in a debate that lasted 11 hours and 32 minutes.

Forty one Maoists cadres surrender

Hyderabad (UNI)

In a major setback to the banned CPI (maoist) organization, 41 underground cadres collectively carrying a bounty of about Rs 1.46 crore, surrendered before the Telangana police here on Friday.

They included six senior functionaries of platoon and divisional committees, besides 22 women operatives.

The Maoists surrendered along with 24 firearms, 733 live rounds of ammunition of

various calibers and Eight BGL shells, in the presence of Director General of Police B.Shivadhar Reddy. The cadres formally renounced violence and joined the mainstream of the society, the DGP told reporters here.

He said the surrender of weapons has significantly weakened the operational and combat capability of the CPI (maoist) in the region.

Telangana Director General of Police B Shivadhar Reddy

on Friday said 54 Maoists from the state are still underground, including two state committee members and four area committee members.

With this, in 2025 alone, a total of 509 underground CPI (Maoist) cadres including two Central committee members (CCMs), 11 State committee members (SCMs) and three Divisional Committee Secretaries (DVCS) have surrendered underscoring the steady decline of the organization.

MUSTREAD

Dense fog: At least 152 flights cancelled in Delhi

New Delhi: At least 152 flights got cancelled on Friday at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport due to dense fog that affected visibility. Out of the 152 cancellations, 73 were from arrivals, and 79 from the deaprtures, while four of them were international flights, (two arrivals and two departures respectively.) The national capital witnessed dense fog since late last night, which significantly affected visibility. Flight operations had to be conducted under CAT III procedures since 9:00 pm yesterday to ensure safety amid the low-visibility conditions. The fog condition affected flight schedules, with airport authorities confirming that operations continue under CAT III conditions.

Toxic haze chokes

Delhi, AQI stays 'very poor' at 374

New Delhi: The national Capital on Friday continued to breathe foul air, with Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) remaining in the 'very poor' category. At 4 p.m., the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded an AQI of 374, indicating a slight improvement from the morning reading of 387 at 7:05 a.m. However, the air quality had worsened earlier in the day, with the AQI dipping from Thursday's rolling average of 373 on Friday morning, according to CPCB data from the Sameer app. The CPCB classifies air quality as 'moderate' when the AQI is between 101 and 200, 'poor' between 201 and 300, and 'very poor' between 301 and 400.

PLFI militant carrying Rs1 lakh bounty surrenders in Latehar

Latehar: An active member of the PLFI (People's Liberation Front of India) militant outfit, carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh, surrendered with arms and ammunition to the police at the Latehar police headquarters on Friday. The surrendered militant has been identified as Alok Yadav alias Chandrashekhar Kumar Yadav. He laid down his weapons in the presence of Latehar Superintendent of Police Kumar Gaurav, Commandant of SSB 32nd Battalion Rajesh Kumar, Commandant of CRPF 11th Battalion Yadram Bunkar, and Second-in-Command R.C. Mishra. The surrender took place in the presence of his parents, who expressed visible relief at their son's return to the mainstream of society.

Sensex

BSE..... 84,929.36 (+447.55)
NSE..... 25,966.40 (+150.85)

Bullion

Gold..... 1,34,180 (24 carat 10gm)
Silver..... 2,09,000 (1kg)
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 89.66



Weather

Sunrise	Sunset	Day	Night
6:56	5:39	25.5	6.4

Assets of Yuvraj Singh, Sonu Sood and Bollywood Stars attached in betting probe

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has intensified its crackdown on the illicit online gambling industry, provisionally attaching assets worth crores belonging to prominent cricketers and Bollywood celebrities. The

ED swings into action

action is part of a high-profile money laundering investigation linked to the "1&Bet" app.

High-profile names featured in the ED's latest attachment list include former cricketers Yuvraj Singh (Rs 2.5 crore) and Robin Uthappa (Rs 8.26 lakh), alongside actors Urvashi Rautela (Rs 2.02



crore), Sonu Sood (Rs 1 crore), and Neha Sharma (Rs 1.26 crore). Regional stars and politicians, including Mimi Chakraborty and Ankush Hazra, have also seen their properties seized.

The investigation targets the "1&Bet" platform, which

allegedly defrauded investors of hundreds of crores while facilitating large-scale tax evasion. The app allowed users to place bets on thousands of global sporting events, serving as a front for a massive money laundering network.

Water tank collapses in Nagpur: Six workers killed, nine injured



Nagpur (UNI)

Six workers were killed and nine others sustained serious injuries after a water tank collapsed at an industrial site in Butibori MIDC on Friday afternoon, police said.

According to officials, the incident occurred around 11.30 am while workers were conducting quality testing of an under-construction water tank at Avada Company, a solar panel manufacturing unit located in the new MIDC area of Butibori along the Nagpur-Chandrapur highway.

According to police, three persons

died at the time of the incident after getting trapped under the debris, while three others who were rushed to hospital succumbed to their injuries.

The tank collapsed due to a sudden water burst during testing. Water for the project had been supplied from the Rama Dam project in Nagpur and was filled into the tank for use during construction and for subsequent operational phases, said the official. An inquiry committee has been formed to determine the exact cause of the collapse.

The police identified the deceased as Arvind Kumar Thakur (28), resident of Champaaran (Bihar), Ashok Kanchan Patel (42), Pahadpur (Bihar), Ajay Rajeshwar Paswan (26), Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Sudhanshu Kumar Nageshwar Sahani (36), Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Bullet Kumar Indrajit Shaha (30), Mishrauli, Suhani, West Champaran (Bihar), Shamim Ansari (42) Muzaffarpur (Bihar).

Hindu man lynched, body set on fire over alleged blasphemy in Bangladesh

Dhaka/New Delhi (UNI)

In a horrifying incident in Bangladesh, a 30-year-old Hindu man was brutally lynched by a mob on Thursday night for alleged blasphemy in Bhaluka Upazila of Mymensingh. His body was hung from a tree and set on fire, with many among the mob livestreaming the incident. Dipu Chandra Das was a worker at the Pioneer Knit Composite factory in Dubaliapara area of Bhaluka, according to media reports. The attack was reportedly carried out on the accusation of "hurting religious sentiments".

According to reports, the mob got enraged over Dipu Chandra Das for saying that "Bhagavan and Allah are the same one God".

Since the August 5, 2024, ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the formation of the interim government headed by Mohamed Yunus, there have been increasing attacks



on minority Hindus in Bangladesh, as well as on temples and the property of Hindus.

The Indian government has time and again voiced concern over the developments, and asked Dhaka to look after its minorities, with the Yunus government dismissing the claims of minority attacks as exaggerated claims.

Under the Yunus regime, free rein has been given to the Islamists, with frequent attacks on institutions seen as un-Islamic.

The attacks on Thursday night took place amid the mob rampage that overtook Bangladesh following news of the death of Osman Hadi, leader of the right-wing Inqilab Moncho.

Union Budget likely on February 1 despite Sunday; final call awaited

New Delhi (UNI)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to present the union Budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year on February 1, 2026 despite the date falling on a Sunday, highly placed sources on Friday said.

While the February 1 date has become a fixture in the Indian parliamentary calendar since 2017, the union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs noted that a final decision rests with the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (PAC).

The committee is expected to meet soon to chalk out the official schedule and determine if the House will convene on a weekend for the high-profile presentation. Presenting a budget on a Sunday, while rare, is not without historical precedent. The government has previously adjusted parliamentary sittings to accommodate legislative requirements:

On February 28, 1999 former Fi-

nance Minister Yashwant Sinha famously presented the budget on a Sunday. This session was also historic for shifting the presentation time from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m., ending a British colonial-era tradition. Also, weekend presentations have occurred more frequently on Saturdays, notably in 2001, 2004, 2015, and 2016.

The Parliament has a history of convening on Sundays for significant milestones or urgent legislative business. On May 13, 2012, both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha held special Sunday sessions to mark the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of the Indian Parliament.

During the September 2020 Monsoon Session, Parliament functioned through both Saturdays and Sundays to recover time lost to the COVID-19 pandemic—marking a rare instance of a routine session utilizing both weekend days.

