



Mamata Banerjee accuses central agencies of stealing documents

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Russia fires hypersonic missile near Ukraine's EU border

VIKSIT BHARAT YOUNG LEADERS DIALOGUE 2026

09TH-12TH JANUARY | BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI

YOUNG LEADERS to Interact with PM Narendra Modi

Prime Minister's Special Address to Young Leaders

Event Date : 12th January 2026 | Time : 04:00 PM Onwards

Venue : Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Bala Bacchan's daughter among 3 dead in horrific collision

Tragedy in Indore's Ralamandal area



Perna Bachchan **Mansandhu** **Prakhar Kasliwal**

Indore: A high-speed birthday celebration ended in a nightmare early Friday morning when a luxury hatchback rammed into a truck near the Ralamandal area. The collision claimed three lives, including Perna Bachchan (26), daughter of former Home Minister Bala Bachchan, and Prakhar Kasliwal (25), son of Congress spokesperson Anand Kasliwal.

Birthday celebration turns fatal

The accident occurred around 5:15 AM as the group was returning to Indore from a birthday party at a farm in Mhow. According to DCP Krishna Lal Chandani, the vehicle was being driven by Prakhar, who was celebrating his 25th birthday. Police suspect the driver lost control due to high speed and intoxication; an empty liquor bottle was recovered from the mangled remains of the car.

Casualties and investigation

While Perna, Prakhar, and their friend Mansandhu died instantly, a fourth passenger, Anushka Rathi, survived with critical injuries and is battling for life at a private hospital. The impact was so severe that the car was reduced to a heap of metal, requiring emergency teams to extricate the bodies.

The truck driver fled the scene immediately after the crash. Police have registered a case and launched a city-wide manhunt to locate the absconding vehicle. Former Minister Bala Bachchan reached MY Hospital later that morning as the community mourned the loss of the young aspirants.

13 dead as bus plunges into deep gorge in Sirmaur



Sirmaur: A horrific road accident claimed at least 13 lives in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district on Friday after a private bus skidded off the road and plummeted 400 meters into a jagged gorge. The ill-fated "Jeet Coach" was en route from Kupvi in Shimla to Solan when it lost control near Haripurdhur in the Shri Renukaji constituency. Preliminary reports suggest that dense fog and slippery road conditions due to the biting cold caused the driver to lose grip on the treacherous terrain.

Local residents were the first to launch a grueling rescue operation, successfully pulling nearly 30 passengers from the wreckage. While 13 fatalities are confirmed, over a dozen people remain injured, with officials fearing the death toll may rise. Police and emergency teams are currently at the site, navigating the steep slope to ensure all victims are recovered from the crash site.

'Not accurate', says India of US Commerce Secretary Lutnick's comments

New Delhi (UNI)

India on Friday termed as "not accurate" the comments of US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick blaming the collapse of the India-US trade deal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi not personally calling up President Donald Trump to "close" the negotiations.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, answering questions at a briefing, also said that India looks forward to concluding a "mutually beneficial trade deal between two complementary economies".

The spokesperson said: "We have seen the remarks. India and the US were committed to negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with the US as far back as 13 February last year. "Since then, the two sides have held multiple rounds of negotiation to arrive at a balanced and mutually beneficial trade agreement. On several occasions, we have been close to a deal. "The characterisation of these discussions in the reported remarks is not accurate. We remain interested in a mutually beneficial trade



deal between two complementary economies and look forward to concluding it. "Incidentally, Prime Minister and President Trump have also spoken on phone on eight occasions during 2025, covering different aspects of our wide-ranging partnership".

The remarks come as US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick claimed that the trade deal with India collapsed because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not personally call President Donald Trump to "close" the negotiations.

In an interview with the All-In Podcast, Lutnick described a negotiation environment where the administration provided India with a specific deadline of "three

Fridays" to reach an agreement.

Lutnick explained that the administration employs a "staircase" model for trade negotiations where the first country to sign receives the most favourable terms. "First stair gets the best deal," Lutnick said. "You can't get the best deal after the first guy went".

Lutnick noted that while he had negotiated the contracts and "set the whole deal up," the final step required a direct conversation between the two leaders. "I said, 'You gotta have Modi... call the president,'" he recounted. "They were uncomfortable doing it. So Modi didn't call."

India had begun trade talks with the United States in February last year during the visit of PM Modi to Washington.

In August last year, the Trump administration doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50%, the world's highest rate, including 25% as a punitive measure for India's purchases of Russian oil. Lutnick's comments come after President Trump warned this week that tariffs could rise further unless India curbs its Russian oil imports.

MUSTREAD

Jharkhand High Court gets new Chief Justice

Ranchi: The Jharkhand High Court has a new Chief Justice with Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak formally assuming office on Friday. The oath of office was administered by Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar at a ceremonial function held at Lok Bhavan, Ranchi. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Birsa Munda Mandap within Lok Bhavan and was attended by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, judges of the Jharkhand High Court, the Advocate General, the Chairman of the State Bar Council, senior advocates, judicial officers, and ministers of the state government.

Dr. Ambedkar's statue vandalised in Mathura

Mathura: Tension gripped the Raya town of Mathura district on Friday morning after the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was found vandalised by unidentified miscreants. The incident took place near Hathras Road, triggering widespread anger among residents, especially members of the Dalit community and various social organisations. According to preliminary information, the act of vandalism was carried out late Thursday night or in the early hours of Friday.

Amit Shah to launch BJP's Kerala campaign

Thiruvananthapuram: Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah will visit Kerala shortly to formally launch the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections in the state. During his visit, Shah is expected to address a major gathering of party leaders and workers, outline the BJP's political roadmap for Kerala, and review organisational preparedness at the grassroots level.

Sensex
BSE..... 83,576.24 (-604.72)
NSE..... 25,683.30 (-193.55)

Bullion
Gold..... 1,39,310 (24 carat 10gm)
Silver..... 2,49,000 (1kg)
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 90.11

| Weather | | | |
|---------|--------|------|-------|
| Sunrise | Sunset | Day | Night |
| 7.03 | 5.51 | 27.6 | 8.0 |

Budget Session 2026 to begin on January 28: Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi (UNI)

The Budget Session of the Parliament will commence on January 28, and continue till April 2, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced on Friday, setting the stage for the presentation of the union Budget on Feb 1, a Sunday.

In a post on social media platform X, Rijiju said the session has been convened following the President's approval. "On the recommendation of the Government of India, President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved the summoning of both Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session 2026," he said, adding that the session will begin on January 28 and conclude on April 2.



The Economic Survey would be tabled in the Parliament on January 29.

According to the schedule, the Budget Session will be held in two phases.

The first phase will run until February 13, after which Parliament will adjourn for a recess to allow standing committees to scrutinise the demands for grants of various ministries. The second phase will begin on March 9 and continue until April 2.

Rijiju described the session as "a vital step towards meaningful debate and people-centric governance," underlining the government's expectation of productive deliberations during the Budget Session.

Stadiums and helipads for every constituency

Sidhi: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav turned the Sihawal assembly constituency into a hub of development on Friday, announcing a slew of infrastructure projects and welfare schemes during a massive public gathering in Bahri. In a landmark commitment, the CM declared that the state government will construct a dedicated stadium and a helipad in every assembly constituency across Madhya Pradesh to bolster local sports talent and emergency connectivity. Addressing a jubilant crowd, Dr. Yadav emphasized that the Sidhi district would no longer lag in development, unveiling 209 projects worth over Rs 201.64 crore, including the foundation stone laying of several key initiatives.

The Chief Minister's visit brought immediate relief to the local education and administrative sectors. He announced the opening of a full-time Additional Collector's court in Deosar and a new college in Bahri

CM Dr. Mohan Yadav's mega push for Sidhi



starting from the next academic session. Furthermore, science and commerce faculties were approved for the Sihawal College to provide better opportunities for local students. Highlighting his government's focus on women's empowerment, Dr. Yadav noted that under the Ladli Behna Yojana, over Rs 50,000 crore

has been distributed so far. He shared a vision to integrate these beneficiaries into industrial sectors, aiming to raise their monthly income to at least Rs 5,000.

For the farming community, the CM promised continued support through the Kisan Samman Nidhi and additional bonuses on the procurement of wheat and millets like Kodo-Kutki. He projected a massive expansion of irrigation, aiming to cover one crore hectares within five years via river-linking projects. On the healthcare front, he touted the state's free air ambulance service for the poor and the 'Rahveer Yojana,' which rewards citizens who assist road accident victims with Rs 25,000. This visit, marked by traditional tribal 'Shaila' and 'Gudum' dances, sets the stage for a state-wide public welfare campaign (Jan Kalyan Abhiyan) scheduled from January 12 to March 31.

Trump signals bold military 'Land Strike' against Mexican drug cartels

Washington: In a dramatic escalation of his administration's war on drugs, U.S. President Donald Trump has announced plans for a targeted "land strike" within Mexico. During a recent interview, Trump asserted that the United States is shifting its focus from maritime successes to dismantling terrestrial smuggling routes. Arguing that drug cartels effectively "rule" Mexico, the President emphasized that direct ground action is now necessary to halt the flow of narcotics across the southern border.

This aggressive stance comes despite Mexico's recent claims of a 40% reduction in homicides—a figure presented to demonstrate its internal control. However, the Trump ad-



ministration remains skeptical, previously accusing Venezuela's ousted leader Nicolás Maduro of similar complicity in shielding cartels. By threatening a land strike, Trump is signaling a move toward a more interventionist policy, prioritizing U.S. national security over traditional

diplomatic borders to cripple the logistics of international drug trafficking once and for all.

Denmark issues "Shoot First" warning over Trump's Greenland threats

Tensions between NATO allies have reached a breaking point as Denmark issued a defiant "shoot first, talk later" directive following President Donald Trump's renewed threats to seize Greenland. The Danish Defense Ministry confirmed that under a standing 1952 military rule, troops stationed in the Arctic territory are authorized to open fire on invading foreign forces immediately, without awaiting political clearance or formal orders.

Didi vs ED: High drama reshapes Bengal's political landscape ahead of 2026

By Pravesh Kumar Mishra

New Delhi: The political temperature in West Bengal has reached a boiling point following an unprecedented confrontation between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). What began as a money-laundering probe into a coal pilferage scam has rapidly transformed into a high-stakes street war, shifting the trajectory of the 2026 Assembly election campaign.

The drama peaked on January 8, when the Chief Minister made a surprise intervention during ED

raids at the offices of political consultancy firm I-PAC and the residence of its chief, Pratik Jain.

In a move that has stunned political observers, Banerjee allegedly disrupted the searches, physically removing "sensitive party documents," hard drives, and laptops. While the ED has moved the Calcutta High Court seeking a CBI probe into her "obstruction of justice," the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has retaliated by filing multiple FIRs against ED and CRPF officials for alleged theft and intimidation.

For the TMC, this confrontation

has provided a "political booster shot." By framing the raids as a direct assault on "Bengal's Pride" (Bangla Nijer Meyekei Chay), Mamata has successfully pivoted the narrative from corruption allegations to a battle for state identity. Her revived slogan of 'Maa Mati Manush' aims to mobilize public sentiment against what she calls the "vendetta politics" of the BJP-led Centre.

On the other hand, the BJP is treading cautiously. While the party has condemned the Chief Minister's conduct as "unconstitutional" and

"mafia-like," its strategists are wary of the battle turning into an emotional binary. The BJP is now working to steer the discourse back to governance and corruption, attempting to dismantle the TMC's narrative of victimhood by highlighting legal evidence of financial irregularities. As Kolkata remains gripped by protests and court battles, this "ED vs Didi" showdown has officially fired the opening salvo for the 2026 electoral war, leaving the electorate polarized and the political future of the state hanging in a delicate balance.

122 new trains, 86 extensions and 549 speed-ups announced

New Delhi: In a major push to improve connectivity and travel efficiency, Indian Railways under the Timetable of Trains (TAG) 2026 has rolled out a series of network upgrades, including the introduction of new trains, extension of existing services, increased frequencies, conversion of select trains to Superfast category, and faster running times across multiple railway zones.

In the Central Railway (CR) zone alone, four new trains have been introduced, six services extended, and 30 trains sped up.

