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Bollywood actor Aamir Khan poses for pictures during the premiere of the upcoming Marathi film Ilu Ilu 1998, in Mumbai

**15-year-old boy crushed to death by speeding Bolero Jeep in UP's Noida**

**NOIDA:** A 15-year-old boy was crushed to death by a speeding Bolero Jeep near Sector-145 Metro Station here, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Aarush, a resident of Nalgarha village, they said. A person named Somesh lodged a report at the Police Station here last night that his son was walking on the service road near Sector-145 Metro Station during the evening hours when a speeding black Bolero Jeep hit him after which he died on the spot, said Lakshmi Singh, the media in-charge of the Noida Police Commissioner. The victim's father has revealed the registration number of the Bolero Jeep to the police and on this basis the search for the driver is on, he added. A case has been registered and further investigation is on into the matter, police said.

**Nearly 200 stolen phones worth Rs 2 crore recovered, 1 held in Delhi**

**NEW DELHI:** A man has been arrested in Wazirabad area and nearly 200 stolen mobile phones worth approximately Rs 2 crore recovered from his possession, police said on Thursday. Teams of Crime Branch intercepted a shipment of stolen mobile phones in Wazirabad area. The consignment, intended for smuggling to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka was seized and Manish Yadav arrested, they said. The recovered mobile phones include 39 Apple iPhones, 52 Samsung, 45 OnePlus, 12 Google Pixel phones, 28 Oppo devices, and 19 Vivo smartphones. Of these, 18 phones have been linked to FIRs registered across different police stations in the city, while 53 have been matched with lost reports, they said.

**Three Naxalites arrested in Jharkhand**

**CHATRA:** Three Naxalites were arrested in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said on Thursday. Vikas Kumar Yadav (25), Guddu Yadav (25), and Taslim Ansari (19) were arrested from near Dulkri river in the Pratappur police station area on Wednesday, they said. They were all members of the Tiritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC), police said. Superintendent of Police (SP) Vikas Pandey said that arrests were made on the basis of intelligence inputs. Two country-made pistols, a revolver, and five live rounds were seized from their possession, he said.

**Jarange ends fast, claims govt ready to accept several demands**

**JALNA:** Maratha activist Manoj Jarange on Thursday ended his indefinite fast after five days of protest, claiming that government representatives assured him that several of his demands would be accepted. Members of the Maratha community would march to Mumbai if the demands were not fulfilled, he warned. The activist, who has been demanding reservation for the community in government jobs and education, broke his hunger strike at Antarwali Sarati village in Maharashtra's Jalna district in the presence of BJP MLA Suresh Dhas and District Collector Dr Shrikrishna Panchal.

**Many in BJP wish for an alliance with Sena (UBT): Raut**

**MUMBAI:** Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday claimed many leaders from the ruling BJP wish for an alliance with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party. Though no such discussions have taken place within the Sena (UBT), some members of the party might also share the same sentiments, he said. Raut's remarks came after Thackeray's aide and Member of the Legislative Council Milind Narvekar and BJP minister Chandrakant Patil had a few jovial exchanges in the presence of the Sena (UBT) chief at the wedding reception of MLA Parag Alavani's daughter on Wednesday night. BJP's Alavani is a three-time MLA from Vile Parle in suburban Mumbai. A BJP functionary said Thackeray shares cordial relations with Alavani.

**4-year-old boy from Ahmedabad found infected with HMPV; 8th case in Gujarat**

**AHMEDABAD:** A 4-year-old boy from Ahmedabad city has contracted human metapneumovirus, taking the number of HMPV cases in Gujarat to eight, officials said on Thursday. The child from the city's Gota area is currently being treated at a trust-run hospital and his condition is stable, said medical officer Bhavin Solanki of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The boy was admitted to SGVP Hospital on January 28 for a fever and cough. A test conducted on the same day confirmed that he was infected with HMPV, said Solanki, adding that the patient had no history of foreign travel in recent times.

**India Gate illuminated to mark World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day**

**NEW DELHI:** India reaffirmed its commitment to eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by illuminating the iconic India Gate on Thursday in vibrant hues of purple and orange on World NTDs Day. This symbolic act is part of a global movement to light up iconic landmarks across the world to raise awareness about NTDs and emphasise the importance of collective action to combat these debilitating diseases. The event was organised by the Union health ministry to highlight India's progress in the fight against NTDs, with a special focus on Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) and Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL). LF, which threatens 404 million people in India, damages

# American Airlines jet collides with Army helicopter, all 67 confirmed dead

**AP, ARLINGTON:** All 64 people aboard an American Airlines jet that collided with an Army helicopter were feared dead in what was likely to be the worst US aviation disaster in almost a quarter century, officials said Thursday. At least 28 bodies were pulled from the icy waters of the Potomac River after the helicopter apparently flew into the path of the jet late Wednesday as it was landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, officials said. The plane carried 60 passengers and four crew. Three soldiers were aboard the helicopter.

"We don't believe there are any survivors," said John Donnelly, the fire chief in the nation's capital. "We are now at the point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation." The plane was found upside-down in three sections in waist-deep water, and first responders were searching an area of the Potomac River as far south as the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, roughly 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) south of the airport, Donnelly said. The helicopter wreckage was also found.

If no one survived, the collision would be the deadliest US air crash since 2009. There was no immediate word on the cause of the collision, but officials said flight conditions were clear as the jet arrived from Wichita, Kansas, with US and Russian figure skaters and others aboard. It was preparing for a routine landing at the time of the collision.

"On final approach into Reagan National, it collided with a military aircraft on an otherwise normal approach," American Airlines CEO Robert Isom said. "At this time, we don't know why the military aircraft came into the path of the ... aircraft."

President Donald Trump was scheduled to talk about the crash later Thursday from the White House. Images from the river showed boats around the partly submerged wing and the mangled wreckage of the plane's fuselage.

Investigators will try to piece together the aircraft's final moments before the col-



Emergency response units search the wreckage of an American Airlines plane on the Potomac River after it crashed on approach to Reagan National Airport

lision, including its contact with air traffic controllers.

"I would just say that everyone who flies in American skies expects that we fly safely," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said. "That when you depart an airport, you get to your destination. That didn't happen last night, and I know that President Trump, his administration, the FAA, the DOT, we will not rest until we have answers for the families and for the flying public. You should be assured that when you fly, you're safe." Reagan Airport was to

reopen at 11 a.m. Thursday, the Federal Aviation Administration announced.

Duffy, just sworn in earlier this week, was asked if he could reassure Americans that the United States still has the safest airspace in the world.

"Can I guarantee the American flying public that the United States has the most safe and secure airspace in the world? And the answer to that is, absolutely yes, we do," he said.

Authorities have early indicators of what went wrong. The night was clear, the



A boat works the scene near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, Virginia

**TRUMP BLAMES 'DIVERSITY' FOR DEADLY WASHINGTON AIRLINER COLLISION**

**AFP, WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump - speaking as the bodies of 67 people were being pulled from Washington's Potomac River - launched an extraordinary political attack Thursday, blaming diversity hires for the mid-air collision between an airliner and a military helicopter. The Republican confirmed the deaths of all those aboard both aircraft, and also cited pilot error on the helicopter in the night time crash. But he chiefly used a press conference to open fire at what he said were left-wing diversity practices under his predecessors Joe Biden and Barack Obama that he said kept out good employees at the Federal Aviation Administration.

plane and helicopter were both in standard flight patterns and there was stand- ard communication between the aircraft and the tower, Duffy said.

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**REPORT IN HC FLAGS MAJOR FLAWS IN TREE TRANSLOCATION**

This could severely damage the roots and further jeopardize the survival of the trees. The report also calls for a comprehensive maintenance plan, including regular watering, soil management, and pest control for at least two years following translocation.

The report also raises concerns about the potential demolition of the temple to facilitate the translocation of the fourth tree, further stressing the lack of proper planning and expertise in the process.

The Conservator of Forests in Panjim has called a meeting for Friday, January 31, with representatives from Doctor Trees, PWD, contractors, and the petitioner to discuss the next steps for the translocation of the banyan tree at Porvorim. However, Fernandes has expressed strong opposition to any further attempts to relocate the remaining banyan tree, citing the failure of the previous translocations.

Meanwhile, four local citizens, including ZP Member Karthik Kudnekar, have written to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, requesting assurance that the banyan tree and the Khapreshwar Devasthan temple will be preserved during the construction of the elevated six-lane corridor in Porvorim. The group has called for the redesign of the elevated corridor to avoid the demolition of the temple and the tree.

This issue has garnered significant attention following a meeting between Kudnekar and Gadkari in Delhi on December 10, 2024. During the meeting, Gadkari instructed engineers to redesign the span of the elevated corridor to protect both the temple and the banyan tree from demolition.

The next hearing in the High Court regarding the translocation project is scheduled for February 4.

**DAY AFTER KUMBH STAMPEDE, PIL IN SC SEEKS SAFETY MEASURES FOR DEVOTEES**

"A petition ... filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India praying for a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs seeking issuance of specific directions, policies and regulations initiate guidelines and directions to state governments to facilitate the people for Maha Kumbh avoid stampede incidents and to determine and initiate assessment to ensure safety, viability etc for the enforcement of fundamental right of equality and life under Article 21 of the Constitution and to call a status report," the plea said.

It said all States should establish facilitation centres at Prayagraj to provide safety information and assist their respective residents in emergencies.

It also sought installation of signage and announcements in multiple languages to help pilgrims navigate the event with ease.

"All States shall establish in proper manner their facilitation centres at Prayagraj the Maha Kumbh. These centres shall provide and display the basic information regarding the safety measures and guidelines to the persons coming from their states. In emergency these centres shall be ready for any assistance," it said.

The plea said that SMSes and WhatsApp messages be used to disseminate safety protocols to attendees.

There is the need for coordination between the Uttar Pradesh government and other states to ensure the availability of doctors and nurses at the venue, it said.

The plea also sought regulation of VIP movement and said public safety should be given priority over VIP protocols to prevent congestion and ensure smooth crowd movement.

"The VIP movement shall not effect or create danger to the common devotees safety and maximum space for entry and exit of devotees at Maha Kumbh shall be provided," it said.

The PIL also highlights the recent stampede incident that occurred on January 29 at the Maha Kumbh, resulting in the tragic loss of approximately 30 lives and leaving several others injured.

The petitioner has urged the top court to direct the Uttar Pradesh government to submit a status report on the incident and initiate legal action against those responsible for negligence.

The plea cited several past incidents of stampedes at religious gatherings, emphasising the need for proactive safety measures, and said in 1954, over 800 deaths took place due to overcrowding on a narrow bridge at the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.

Given the massive influx of pilgrims from all states, the

petition stresses the need for collective responsibility in ensuring proper crowd management, medical facilities, transportation, and security.

**JUDICIAL COMMISSION TO VISIT SITE TODAY**

"We have taken charge within hours of the announcement as the probe has to be taken up on priority," Kumar told PTI.

Asked about the timeline for the probe, he said, "We have a one-month timeline but all the same, we will try to expedite it."

Asked if the three members will be probing separate aspects, Kumar said, "We will discuss this amongst ourselves. Can't go into detail right now."

Later, the panel members also interacted with the media on Thursday.

"Tomorrow (Friday), we will visit the site to conduct an inspection and analyze the possible causes and circumstances surrounding the incident. We will carefully consider all factors and are required to submit our report within one month," said Kumar.

Two other panel members, Gupta and Singh, were also present during the briefing.

Talking about the probe, Kumar explained, "First, we must examine the causes. The solution will come only after we identify the root cause. Initially, we will focus on understanding the causes, and then we will propose preventive measures for the future."

**15 TENTS GUTTED IN FRESH FIRE**

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.

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.

**ROTTWEILER ATTACK SHAKES ASSAGAO**

The victim's brother, Sunil Salgaonkar, has filed a police complaint, demanding justice for the ordeal.

The police have registered a case against Govekar under Section 291 of BNS (Negligent conduct with respect to animal).

The attack has reignited fears in Bardez, still haunted by the horrifying case when a seven-year-old boy had died after he was attacked by a pitbull at Pequén Peddem, Anjuna. Following a complaint by the victim's father Premanand Kalangutkar, the Anjuna police had arrested the owner of the dog, Abdul Kader Khwaja, for allegedly keeping the ferocious dog unleashed at his residence and causing the death of a minor boy.

**NO SURVIVORS IN PLANE-CHOPPER CRASH, SAYS TRUMP**

"Both aircraft crashed instantly and were immediately submerged into the icy waters of the Potomac. (A) real tragedy. The massive search and rescue mission was under way throughout the night, leveraging every asset at our disposal... The work has now shifted to a recovery mission. Sadly, there are no survivors," US President Donald Trump told reporters at a White House news conference.

Trump said there were nationals from other countries, including Russia, who are being notified.

"We have a Russia contingent, some very talented people, unfortunately, were on that plane, very, very, very sorry about that," he said, adding that the US is in touch with Russia to transfer these bodies to their near and dear ones. "There were a couple of others. We're going to be announcing it in about an hour. We have some very specific information. We're calling the countries. We've spoken to most of them, but there were some other countries represented," Trump said.

"We are one family and today we are all heartbroken we're all searching for answers and say that icy Potomac was a cold, night cold water. We're all overcome with the grief for many who have so tragically perished will no longer be with us together," he said.

"We do not know what led to this crash, but we have some very strong opinions and ideas," said the president as he blamed the previous Obama and the Biden administration for not taking talented people in the FAA.

"I changed the Obama standards from very mediocre at best to extraordinary, you remember that. Only the highest aptitude, have to be the highest intellect and psycho-

logically superior people were allowed to qualify for air traffic controllers," he said.

"And then when I left office and Biden took over, he changed them back to lower than ever before. I put safety first, Obama, Biden and the Democrats put policy first, and they put politics at a level that nobody's ever seen because this was the lowest level. Their policy was horrible, and their politics was even worse," said the president.

Trump said as per his common sense there was an elevation issue with the helicopter that led to the crash.

"There's never going to be a tragedy if you're at a different elevation for whatever reason they were at the same elevation and also from the American Airlines standard. He's along the track that every plane is along. You say what was a helicopter doing in that track. It's very sad, but visually somebody should have been able to see and taken that helicopter out of play and they should have been at a different height," Trump said.

**SMART CITY A 'SCAM', PANJIM HAS BEEN 'ABANDONED': PALEKAR**

"One festival or another is always being organised in the city, but the people are left with no proper infrastructure. It seems like the MLA, Mayor, and even local BJP leaders are missing in action. The city has been abandoned," he said.

The AAP leader also accused the IPSCDL of misleading the High Court by claiming that 95% of the work had been completed. "IPSCDL Managing Director Sanjit Rodrigues needs to explain to the people how much work has actually been completed. Is it 95% or just 5%? This has happened because no one is holding the government accountable," Palekar stated.

He further vowed that AAP's MLAs would raise these issues in the upcoming Assembly session, demanding answers on why the Smart City project was causing more harm than benefit to the people of Panjim. "The Smart City project is leading to nothing but corruption, and it needs to stop," he said.

Palekar also pointed out that the local MLA, Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate, could not evade responsibility for the situation. The AAP has promised to continue its fight for accountability in the project and its impacts on the residents of Panjim.

**GOA BAGS FIRST GOLD IN NATIONAL GAMES**

"My parents were keen that I take up an Indian martial art. I have won five national gold medals in this discipline and am the only Goan participating in Kalaripayattu at the National Games," said the 27-year-old, who is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Yoga.

"I was very keen on being an athlete for the country and hence I took up karate too and have been part of the national team for 7 years. I have participated in 3 Commonwealth games and the Asian games in 2022 which we could not go," Bhuvaneshwari added.

Calling Kalaripayattu "the mother of all martial arts," Bhuvaneshwari emphasised its historical significance. "Kung Fu originated from this art. Buddhist monks who travelled abroad in ancient times spread knowledge of Kalaripayattu, which later evolved into various martial arts worldwide," she said.

With her victory she can expect to receive Rs 3 lakh from the government under a scheme announced ahead of the previous National Games hosted in Goa.

**7 OF 8 LIFTS IN COMA, PONDA HOSPITAL LEAVES PATIENTS IN THE LURCH**

Moreover, Sapre pointed out that the hospital's skin specialist position is also currently vacant, leading to further delays in treatment for major ailments. He called for the upgradation of medical facilities at the SDH, as it serves not only Ponda but also surrounding talukas.

In response to the concerns raised, Dr Jayshree Marcaikar, the Medical Superintendent of Ponda SDH, confirmed that the issue had been reported to the PWD and that repair work for the defunct lifts is in progress. "We have informed the PWD about the situation, and they are working to resolve the issue as soon as possible," Dr. Marcaikar stated.

When contacted, the PWD Assistant Engineer (AE) responsible for maintenance in South Goa assured that all formalities for the lift repairs had been completed. "We are making every effort to conduct the necessary maintenance within the next two days, and the lifts will be operational soon," the AE said, adding that relevant agencies have been contacted to ensure the repairs are carried out promptly.