



Family members mourn the death of a truck driver who ended his life due to gambling debts, in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu



Smoke and flame out after a fire broke out at a private wood depot, in Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu

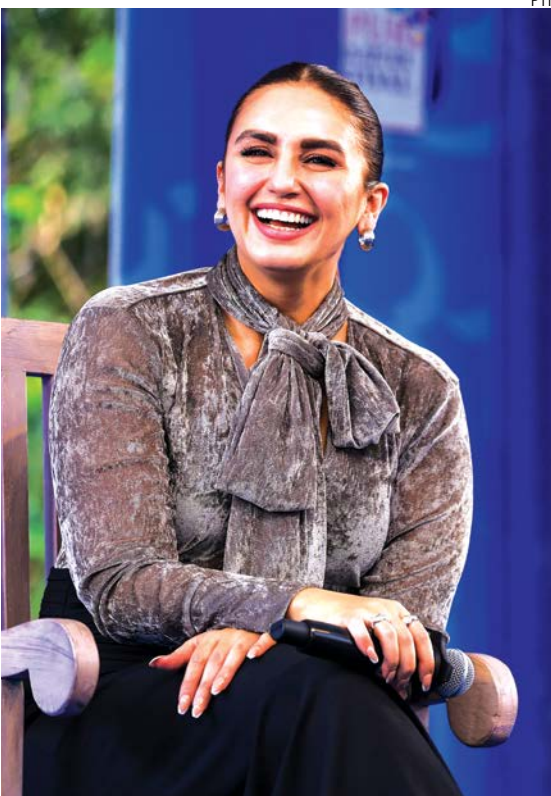


Devotees leave after taking 'snan', holy dip, at Sangam on the eve of 'Basant Panchami' during the ongoing 'Maha Kumbh Mela' festival, in Prayagraj, UP



People fly kites at the annual Basant festival fair at Chheharta on the outskirts of Amritsar, in Punjab

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Bollywood actor Huma Qureshi at a session during the Jaipur Literature Festival, in Jaipur, Rajasthan

One killed in fire at biscuit factory in MP

BEHIND (MP): One person was killed after a fire erupted at a biscuit factory in Madhya Pradesh's Behind district in the early hours of Sunday, an official said. The blaze broke out around 5.30 am at the factory in the Malanpur industrial area, about 60 km from the district headquarters, the official said. Around 80 workers were on the night shift at the unit at the time of the incident, and one of them died of asphyxiation, Gohad Sub Divisional Magistrate Parag Jain told PTI. He said eleven fire tenders, one from the Indian Air Force, were part of the firefighting operation, and 90 per cent of the blaze was put out. The official said a short circuit may have been a possible reason for the blaze. He said the losses may run into crores of rupees, as the blaze has caused massive destruction and engulfed a 100-metre area.

3 labourers die after falling into drain at Kolkata Leather Complex

KOLKATA: Three labourers died after falling into a drain while clearing a manhole at Kolkata Leather Complex in Bantala area in the eastern suburbs of the city on Sunday, police said. One of the labourers tripped and fell into the 20-feet-deep drain while clearing the manhole clogged with effluents from the leather units in the area while two others tried to save him but also fell into the drain, a police officer said. Personnel of the disaster management force and fire brigade retrieved the three bodies after an hour-long search, he said. The three deceased were identified as Farzan Sheikh, Hasi Sheikh and Suman Sardar. It was not immediately known whether the three were wearing masks while working in the manhole. Municipal Affairs Minister Firhad Hakim visited the spot and termed the deaths as unfortunate and tragic.

13 flights delayed at Kolkata airport due to fog

KOLKATA: The arrival and departure of a total of 13 flights were delayed at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Sunday due to poor visibility caused by fog in the eastern metropolis, a senior official said. Airport Director Pravat Ranjan Beuria said that the arrival of at least two flights and the departure of 11 others were delayed due to the fog. He said that low visibility procedures (LVP) were implemented at the airport on Sunday morning due to the fog cover. The ATC declares LVP when visibility falls below 800 metres, after which 'follow-me' vehicles guide aircraft to their stands, a top Airports Authority of India (AAI) official in Kolkata said.

Elderly couple trampled to death by wild elephants in Odisha

BHAWANIPATNA: An elderly couple was trampled to death by wild elephants in Odisha's Kalahandi district, police said on Sunday. The incident happened in Kadomali village in Lakhbaheli panchayat in Bhawanipatna South forest division on Saturday night, they said. Magun Majhi (70) and his wife Gada Majhi (65) were sleeping in their hut when the wild elephants attacked them, police said. The jumbos first vandalised their hut and then trampled the couple to death. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examinations, police said.

Father, son injured in firing incident in UP

SULTANPUR (UP): A minor dispute in a village under Kadiapur police station limits led to a firing incident on Sunday injuring a young man, police said. While the bullet touched his face and whizzed past him, his father was assaulted with a firearm butt, the police said. Both the victims belonging to Katsari village were taken to the community health centre where they are undergoing treatment. According to officials, Satyendra Mishra (48) had an argument with his neighbour Deepak Mishra over an underground pipeline. The altercation escalated and Deepak allegedly attacked Satyendra with a firearm butt. Seeing this, Satyendra's son Ritik Mishra (24) rushed to intervene, following which Deepak allegedly opened fire.

Quake of magnitude 3.6 hits Bikaner in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: Tremors of magnitude 3.6 were felt in Bikaner, Rajasthan on Sunday afternoon. No loss of life was reported in the quake. According to the meteorological department, an earthquake was felt in Bikaner and some surrounding areas at 12.58 pm on Sunday. According to the website of the National Centre for Seismology (NSC), the epicentre of the earthquake was 10 km below the ground near Bikaner. Its intensity was measured to be 3.6. According to officials, there is no report of any loss of life or property due to the earthquake.

Guj tragedy: 5 dead, 35 injured as pilgrim bus falls into gorge

PTI, DANG (GUJARAT): Five persons were killed and 35 others injured when a private bus carrying pilgrims hailing from Madhya Pradesh fell into a deep gorge in Gujarat's Dang district early Sunday morning, police said.

Among the injured persons, 17 were grievously hurt, they said, adding the victims were on a trip to religious places across various states in the country.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh to the critically injured victims. The accident occurred around 4.15 am when the bus driver lost control over the wheels near Saputara, a hill station, in-charge Superintendent of Police SG Patil said.

He said the bus, carrying 48 pilgrims, broke the crash barrier and plunged 35 feet



Wreckage of a bus is seen after it fell into a gorge, in Dang district, Gujarat

into the gorge.

The passengers started at night for Dwarka in Gujarat from Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

The official said they stopped for tea at Saputara before resuming their journey when the accident occurred 2.5 km from the hill station.

"Five persons died on the spot, and 17 others suffered serious injuries and have

been rushed to a civil hospital at Ahwa. Some others have sustained minor injuries. The rescue operation is nearly over," the official said. The bus driver was among the deceased, including three men and two women, according to police.

Patil said a total of 35 passengers were taken to the nearby community health centres (CHCs) for treat-

ment, and 17 of them were referred to the civil hospital at Ahwa in the district.

The pilgrims, hailing from Madhya Pradesh, had set out on four different buses on December 23, 2024, on a trip to religious places across various states, he said.

Dang Collector Mahesh Patel said the unfortunate incident occurred after one of the four buses carrying the pilgrims fell into the gorge.

"As per the passengers, they had tea and breakfast at Saputara before resuming their journey. The driver likely lost control of the vehicle due to brake failure. Medical staff are working diligently to treat the injured persons," he said.

A team of locals and police personnel conducted the rescue operation. They brought out the passengers from the bus and rushed them to the CHCs for treatment.

PARADE OF PRIDE



Cultural groups take part in Assam Sahitya Sabha cultural rally during the 77th Biennial Assam Sahitya Sabha Pathsala Conference, in Bajali district, Assam

NGT issues notice to Centre on use of invasive fish species for mosquito control



PTI, NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has sought a response from the Centre on two highly-invasive and alien fish species being used as biological agents for controlling mosquitoes.

The tribunal was hearing a plea about two fish species -- Gambusia Affinis (Mosquitofish) and Poecilia Reticulata (Guppy) -- being released in water bodies to control mosquitoes in various states.

The states which stored and released Mosquitofish were Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, while Guppy species had been released in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab and Odisha, the plea said.

It said the National Biodiversity Authority declared these two fish species as "invasive and alien" as they adversely impacted the local aquatic ecosystems by causing food

scarcity for the indigenous fish species.

It also referred to the ban imposed on Mosquitofish by countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

The plea referred to a report by the Invasive Species Specialist Group, as per which Mosquitofish was among the 100 world's "worst invasive alien species".

"Issue notice to the respondents for filing their response/reply," a bench comprising National Green Tribunal (NGT) chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said in an order dated January 24.

The respondents in the matter include the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the National Biodiversity Authority, and the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control.

The matter has been posted for further proceedings on May 6.

Gangster Joginder Gyong deported to India from Philippines

PTI, NEW DELHI: Gangster Joginder Gyong facing Interpol Red Notice and wanted in criminal cases in several states was deported from the Philippines to Delhi on Sunday, the CBI said.

Gyong was a key operative of the Kaushal Chaudhary gang and had close ties with designated terrorist Arsh Datta and fugitive gangster Lucky Patial, both associated with the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), police said.

The gangster was wanted by the police forces in Haryana and Delhi. He was handed over to the Delhi Police upon landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here, officials said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) got a Red Notice issued against Gyong from the Interpol on October 25, 2024, which was circulated to all the law enforcement agencies globally for tracking the wanted criminal, a CBI spokesper-

son said in a statement. "On the strength of the Red Notice, Joginder Gyong was deported from the Philippines via Bangkok to Delhi," he said.

"The subject (Gyong) is a gangster wanted by the Haryana Police in the murder of a victim whom he suspected of disclosing the real identity and location of his gangster brother Surrender Gyong to the police. Surrender Gyong was killed in an exchange of fire with the police," the statement said.

Joginder Gyong allegedly planned and murdered the victim in Panipat to avenge the death of his brother, the CBI said. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police said Gyong was apprehended by the Philippines Bureau of Immigration (PBI) from Bacolod City in July last year, acting on India's request for his extradition.

PBI officials identified Gyong as an "Indian-Nepalese national" and a key figure in a separatist terror network, the Delhi Police said.

Porter arrested for raping woman on train at Mumbai's Bandra Terminus

PTI, MUMBAI: A porter has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman on a long-distance train at Mumbai's Bandra Terminus, a police official said on Sunday.

The "middle-aged" woman and her son arrived on Saturday night at Bandra Terminus by an outstation train. After getting down, she entered another train that had pulled into the other side of the platform, the official said.


The other train had no passengers at the time, said the Government Railway Police (GRP) official.

However, a porter was present on the second train and he allegedly raped the woman, the official said, citing the FIR.

The accused fled the scene after alleged-

APPOINTMENTS


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Summary of Post-wise positions notified is as under:

A) For All India Open Recruitment of Experienced Personnel in Non-Executive category:

Post Code	Grade	Name of Post	Total no. of Positions
101 to 123	Gd.-I	Junior Operator	215

* Refer to detailed advertisement for positions reserved for SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/ExSM which is as per Govt. Directives, and other instructions.

B) Special Recruitment Drive [SRD] only for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities [PwBD] in Non-Executive category:

SRD - Posts Reserved only for PwBD			
Post Code	Grade	Name of Post	Total no. of Positions
201 to 204	Gd.-I	Junior Attendant	23
205 to 208	Gd.-III	Junior Business Assistant	08

Important Dates to remember

Activity	Dates
Date of Opening of Online Application (website link: https://iocl.com/latest-job-opening)	03.02.2025 (10.00 Hrs)
Last date of submission of Online Application, Document Upload and Payment of Application Fees	23.02.2025 (23.55 Hrs)
Tentative Month of Computer Based Test (CBT)*	April, 2025
Likely schedule for Publication of Computer Based Test Results (Shortlist for SPPT/CPT) on https://iocl.com/latest-job-opening	April/ May 2025

