

Kaushambi SP Office Earns ISO

9001:2015 Certificate

The offices of the Superintendent of Police and the Circle Officer of Sirathu were awarded the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Certificate for meeting international standards and excellent performance.

Key Points

- ❖ The Kaushambi SP office has been recognised for meeting international standards for **administration, surveillance, maintaining law and order, timely redressal of public grievances and prevention and investigation of crime.**
- ❖ The office of **Circle Officer Sirathu** has been recognised for maintaining law and order by **effective use of resources, investigation of Scheduled Caste/Tribe Act, dowry death, corruption and staff grievances** and excellent performance in public hearing.



Sunderban Bird Festival

The 3rd Sundarban Bird Festival was held from January 22nd to 26th, 2025 in West Bengal.

Key Points

- ❖ About 154 species of birds were spotted during the third Sundarban Bird Festival.
- ❖ The festival aims to **promote the conservation of avifauna** in the Sundarbans.
- ❖ The festival is **organized by the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) division of the West Bengal Forest Department.**
- ❖ The festival provides baseline data on the bird species diversity in the Sundarbans. It raises awareness about bird conservation and the importance of preserving their habitats.

Utkarsh Odisha- Make in Odisha

On 28th January 2025, PM Modi inaugurated Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha conclave.

Key Points

- ❖ The **Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 in Bhubaneswar** is the flagship Global Investment Summit.
- ❖ **Hosted:** It is being hosted by the Government of Odisha.
- ❖ **Aim:** It aims to position the state as the **anchor of the Purvodaya vision** as well as a leading investment destination and industrial hub in India.

38th National Games

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 38th National Games in Dehradun.

Key Points

- ❖ The **38th National Games** is being hosted in Uttarakhand and will be held in 11 cities across eight districts of Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14.
- ❖ **States/UTs:** 36 states and one union territory are to participate in the National Games.
- ❖ Over 17 days, competitions for 35 sports disciplines will be held.
- ❖ Among these, medals will be awarded for 33 sports, while two will be exhibition sports.
- ❖ **Yoga and Mallakhamb** have been included in the National Games for the first time.
- ❖ More than 10,000 athletes from across the country will participate in the event.
- ❖ **Theme:** With a focus on sustainability, the theme for the **National Games this year is "Green Games."**



- ❖ **Venue:** A special park, called the **Sports Forest**, is developed near the venue, where more than 10,000 saplings will be planted by athletes and guests. The medals and certificates for the athletes will be made from environmentally friendly and biodegradable materials.

Lala Lajpat Rai

On 28th January 2025, the nation remembered Lala Lajpat Rai on his 160th Birth Anniversary.

Key Points

- ❖ **Early Life:** He was born on **28th January in 1865, at Dhudike** in the then Faridkot district of the Punjab Province of British India.
 - His father Munshi Radha Krishna was a government school teacher and his mother was Gulab Devi. He played a pivotal role in India's Freedom Struggle.
- ❖ He was a prominent member of the famous 'Lal Bal Pal' firebrand trio during the independence movement.
- ❖ **Political Career:** In October 1917, he founded the **Indian Home Rule League of America** in New York. He stayed in the USA from 1917 to 1920.
 - In 1920, after his return from America, **Lajpat Rai was invited to preside over the special session of the Congress in Calcutta**, (now Kolkata).
- ❖ When Gandhi launched the non-cooperation movement in 1920, he plunged into action leading the movement in Punjab.
- ❖ The **Simon Commission visited India in 1929** with the aim to discuss constitutional reforms. The fact that the Commission was composed solely of British delegates greatly angered the Indian leaders. The country erupted in protest and Lala Lajpat Rai was in the forefront of such demonstrations.
- ❖ **Death:** Lala Lajpat Rai died of severe trauma injuries he sustained on his head during a baton charge by police in **October 1928**. The Police did the Lathi charge when Lalaji was leading a peaceful protest march against the all-British Simon Commission in Lahore.
- ❖ He was known as **Punjab Kesari**.

Data from UP Tourism Department

The number of tourists visiting Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a remarkable increase in 2024 according to the latest figures released by the Uttar Pradesh tourism department.

Key Points

- ❖ As per the latest figures by UP Tourism department, in 2024, nearly 17 crore more visitors visited UP compared to the previous year (2023).
- ❖ **The state recorded a total of 64.9 crore tourists in 2024, up from 48.01 crore in 2023. It is a growth of 16.89 crore.**
- ❖ **Foreign Tourists:** Foreign tourism also saw a notable rise, with approximately 23 lakh foreign visitors flocking to the state in 2024. The number of foreign tourists grew by 6.67 lakh, from 16.01 lakh in 2023 to 22.69 lakh in 2024.
- ❖ **Destinations:** Ayodhya welcomed over 1.64 crore pilgrims in 2024, up from 57.57 lakh in 2023, marking a significant rise of 1.06 crore.
- ❖ Varanasi attracted over 1.1 crore tourists, an increase of more than 82 lakh from the previous year. Mathura saw a rise of over 1.2 crore visitors, and Prayagraj recorded an increase of 5.91 lakh tourists.
- ❖ **Agra emerged as the top destination for foreign tourists**, with 14.66 lakh international visitors in 2024. Other notable foreign tourist hotspots included Varanasi (3.09 lakh), Kushinagar (2.51 lakh), Mathura (1.36 lakh), and Ayodhya (26,048).

Person In News- Appointments

M. Mohan

- ❖ He has been appointed as the **director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre** in **Thiruvananthapuram** by **ISRO**.
- ❖ Mr. Mohan, who is currently Director (Projects) at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), succeeds V. Narayanan as the LPSC director. ISRO issued his appointment order on January 25.



Person In News- Sports

Jasprit Bumrah

- ❖ He has become the **first Indian pacer to be named as the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024**.
- ❖ Bumrah outclassed competition from Joe Root, Travis Head and Kamindu Mendis to become the sixth Indian named the best cricketer of the year in the Test format.



Person In News- Obituary

Dr KM Cherian

- ❖ He was India's preeminent cardiac surgeon who **performed India's first coronary bypass surgery**. He died in Bengaluru on January 25, 2025.
- ❖ A few days ago his **biography Just an Instrument** was launched virtually at the Kerala Literary Fest.

- ❖ He had also set up **Frontier Lifeline Hospital** in Chennai and **Frontier Mediville**.



Reports/Indexes

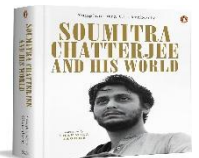
Payment System Report

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has published the **Payment System Report, December 2024**.
- ❖ The report analyses the **trends in payment transactions carried out using various payment systems** in India during the last five calendar years up to CY-2024.
- ❖ It also covers important developments in the payment ecosystem and provides an in-depth analysis of UPI.
- ❖ Henceforth, the **Report will be published on the RBI website on a half yearly basis**.

Books In News

Soumitra Chatterjee and His World

- ❖ It is an autobiography by journalist **Sanghamitra Chakraborty**.
- ❖ It explores the life and legacy of the renowned actor.
- ❖ Chatterjee, best known for his collaboration with Satyajit Ray, **starred in 14 of Ray's films, including Apur Sansar and Sonar Kella**.



Sports

Hockey India League

- ❖ **Odisha Warriors** became the **first-time champions** of the **Women's Hockey India League (HIL)**.

- ❖ Rutuja Dadaso Pisal was the star of the show.
- ❖ To secure the title they defeated **Soorma Hockey Club** in the final.



Miscellaneous

- ❖ Doordarshan has been honoured with the award in the **Electronic Media category for its comprehensive campaign on Voter Awareness and Education**.
 - Doordarshan has been recognised for its coverage, including the “**Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv**” series during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.
- ❖ Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the **Handloom Conclave ‘Manthan’ in New Delhi on the 28th of January**. The conclave aims to serve as a platform for various stakeholders to share best practices, innovations, and strategies for growth in the handloom sector.

- ❖ India’s captain **Rohit Sharma**, pacers **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Arshdeep Singh**, and all-rounder **Hardik Pandya** were named in the ICC Men’s T20I Team of the Year 2024. The team included as many as four Indians and one player each from England, Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a plan on Monday to inject an additional **Rs 1.1 lakh crore into the banking system through various measures**, including open market purchase auctions of Government securities and a variable rate repo auction.
- ❖ The **Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, on 27th January 2025, cleared the bill, accepting 14 amendments after detailed discussions spanning six months. The JPC chairman was chaired by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal.

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