



PM Modi to inaugurate Sonamarg Tunnel in J&K

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and dedicate the prestigious Sonamarg Tunnel to the nation on 13 January 2025 in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

- ❖ The work on the Tunnel project began in May 2015 and was completed last year.
- ❖ The Sonamarg Tunnel will significantly reduce the travel time to just 20-25 minutes between Gagangeer and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district.
- ❖ The opening of the tunnel will boost domestic and international tourism in Sonamarg while providing all-weather connectivity between Sonamarg and Gagangeer that leads to the approach road towards under construction Zojila tunnel.
- ❖ The tunnel will increase socio-economic development throughout the region including Kargil and Leh districts.

- ❖ The Tunnel is a game-changer for the region, offering more than just a connection between Gagangeer and Sonamarg.

North India celebrates festival of harvest Lohri

The festival of harvest, Lohri will be celebrated on 13 January 2025 in North India, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Chandigarh.

The festival is mostly associated with crop harvesting and happiness.

- ❖ Popcorns, peanuts, Rewari and Gajak are distributed to all neighbours, friends and relatives on the occasion.
- ❖ Lohri marks the end of the long nights of winter and welcomes the longer days of summer, as the Sun begins its journey to the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The most prevalent tradition associated with Lohri is the ritual of lighting bonfires, symbolizing the obliterating forces of evil with good fortune arriving

- ❖ People also perform traditional folk dances around the fires of bonfires and exchange gifts with friends and family.

Kalagram at Mahakumbh showcasing India's rich diverse culture

- ❖ Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated Kalagram this evening at Mahakumbh Nagar in Prayagraj.
- ❖ To showcase India's rich cultural heritage through Craft, Cuisine, and Culture.
- ❖ Over 14,600 artists to perform over 45 days.
- ❖ Promotes unity and devotion as symbolized by Mahakumbh.
- ❖ Opportunity for devotees and tourists to explore India's diverse traditions and heritage.

ISRO successfully brings satellites to 3-meter range under SpaDex

The Indian Space Research Organisation has made significant progress in stabilising its two satellites under the SpaDex programme before docking.

It succeeded in bringing Chaser and Target satellites at 33-meter distances before moving them back to a safer distance.

- ❖ The docking process will be done only after analysing the data.

Satellites moved back and forth before docking.

- ❖ Satellites will function as a single spacecraft.
- ❖ Electrical power transfer between satellites to verify docking success.
- ❖ India will be the fourth country to achieve this feat after the USA, Russia and China.
- ❖ Success of the indigenous Bharatiya Docking System will boost: Development of Bhartiya Antriksh Station and Chandrayaan 4 mission: Landing on the Moon and returning with lunar particles.

India celebrates National Youth Day

- ❖ National Youth Day is celebrated every year on 12th January to honour Swami Vivekananda, a great spiritual leader, philosopher, and thinker.

- ❖ The theme for National Youth Day 2025 is “Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility”.
- ❖ National Youth Day was first celebrated in 1985.

India to host 28th CSPOC in 2026

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has announced India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026.
- ❖ Focus on Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media in parliamentary functions.
- ❖ CSPOC is an international forum that brings together Speakers and Presiding Officers of parliaments from member nations of the Commonwealth.

Devajit Saikia appointed as BCCI Secretary

Former first-class cricketer Devajit Saikia has been announced as the new secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), replacing Jay Shah, who assumed the role of ICC Chairman last year. The announcement was made during the BCCI Special General Meeting (SGM) on 12 January 2025.



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