

# Central Chronicle

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**BSF gallops to victory at 44th All India Police Equestrian Meet**



**J&K end 67-year wait to be crowned Ranji champions; Jay Shah hails historic feat**

## MUSTREAD

### BSE, NSE to remain shut on March 3 on account of Holi

**Mumbai:** The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) have officially announced their holiday schedule for the year 2026. According to the announcement, trading will remain closed on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, on account of Holi, across major exchanges. Both the BSE and the NSE will suspend activity for the entire day on March 3. The equity and equity derivatives segments will not operate during regular hours. Currency derivatives, NDS-RST and tri-party repo segments will also remain shut on March 3. In the commodity derivatives and electronic gold receipts segments, the morning session from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM will remain closed. However, trading in the commodity and electronic gold receipts segments will reopen at 5:00 PM and continue till 11:55 PM on March 3.

### DRDO conducts three successful VSHORADS flight trials at ITR Chandipur

**New Delhi:** Three successive flight trials of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. These tests were carried out to revalidate the capability of VSHORADS missile system in neutralising high-speed threats flying at varying speed, range, and altitude. VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence system designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and development-cum-production partners. The missile system has the capability to meet the needs of all the three branches of the armed forces.

### Former NCERT insider moves SC over passage in another Class 8 book on judiciary

**New Delhi:** In the midst of the Supreme Court's ongoing suo motu proceedings over references to "corruption in the judiciary" in a newly released NCERT textbook, a former NCERT insider has now approached the Court challenging a passage in another Class 8 book referring to a Supreme Court ruling that allegedly projects slum dwellers as encroachers of public land. The fresh petition has been filed by a former Senior Associate Fellow of NCERT, questioning a paragraph in the textbook Social and Political Life - III, prescribed nationwide from 2007 till 2026. The plea flags a sentence stating that "recent judgments tend to view the slum dweller as an encroacher in the city." According to the petitioner, this portrayal presents eviction rulings of the Court in a selective manner and risks branding slum dwellers simply as "encroachers" without explaining the broader constitutional framework within which such decisions are made.

### Delhi Police permitted Kejriwal's rally today

**New Delhi:** Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal will hold a rally at Jantar Mantar in the national capital on March 1, the party's Delhi Unit President Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Saturday. The rally comes after the court discharged Kejriwal and former Delhi minister Manish Sisodia in the Delhi police case. Addressing a press conference here, Bharadwaj said that initially the police had denied permission for the rally, but eventually agreed to it. The AAP leader said, "Tomorrow, Sunday, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal will address a rally at Jantar Mantar."

**Sensex**  
BSE..... 81,287.19 (-961.42)  
NSE..... 25,178.65 (-317.90)

**Bullion**  
Gold..... 1,61,570 (24 carat 10gm)  
Silver..... 2,85,000 (1kg)  
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 91.03

**Weather**

| Sunrise | Sunset | Day  | Night |
|---------|--------|------|-------|
| 6.44    | 6.22   | 32.0 | 15.4  |

# US, Israel strike Iran, 57 girl students killed

**Tehran/New Delhi:** Shattering the fragile peace in the Persian Gulf, the United States and Israel launched massive missile strikes on several Iranian cities, including capital Tehran, early Saturday morning and Iran, in retaliation, attacked American bases in many Gulf countries, including the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Iraq and the United Arab Emirates shut their airspace, and warning sirens rang out in Jordan. In the UAE capital, shrapnel from an attack killed one person, according to state media.



**Iranian Defence Minister Amir Nasirzadeh and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Commander Mohammad Pakpour have been killed in Israeli attacks, citing three sources familiar with the matter. There has been no official confirmation from Tehran regarding the reported deaths. Separately, Israel believes Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei may have been killed in an Israeli strike, according to a report by Channel 12 citing unnamed Israeli sources. The television channel said there are "growing indications" suggesting Khamenei was killed in the attack. However, there has been no official confirmation from Israeli authorities regarding the claim.**

In the early hours of February 28, the United States and Israel launched a massive, coordinated military strike against Iran, targeting multiple cities across the country, including Tehran, Qom, Isfahan, Kermanshah, and Karaj.

Israel has officially designated its campaign "Operation Lion's Roar," while the Pentagon is referring to the American military action as "Operation Epic Fury." The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) codenamed its operation "True Promise-4."

The US said the mission is aimed at eliminating imminent threats and ensuring Iran never possesses a nuclear weapon.

The conflict has expanded into a multi-theatre confrontation, raising fears of a broader Middle Eastern war.

While the number of casualties in the attacks was not known, Israel's Israeli broadcaster N12 said the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Mo-

## Russia denounces US, warns of grave repercussions

Russia on Saturday strongly denounced the US and Israeli military strikes against Iran and warned against "grave repercussions of these ill-conceived" actions for the global non-proliferation regime, whose cornerstone NPT is being "openly disregarded." The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Washington and Tel Aviv had once again embarked on a perilous course that is swiftly pushing the region toward a humanitarian, economic, and potentially even radiological disaster. It called for an immediate return to a political and diplomatic track and said Russia stands ready to assist in advancing peaceful solutions grounded in international law, mutual respect, and a balanced consideration of interests.

# PM Modi launches nationwide HPV vaccination programme for teen girls

**Ajmer:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for girls aged 14 years from Rajasthan's Ajmer. PM Modi said, "Today, I have had the opportunity to launch the HPV vaccine campaign from Ajmer. This campaign will make the girls of this country strong." In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he wrote, "This initiative aims to prevent cervical cancer."



During the campaign, single-shot Gardasil 4, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine that provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18 which cause cervical cancer as well as types 6 and 11, will be administered. The programme will target approximately 1.15 crore girls aged 14 years every year across all States and Union Territories. The vaccine will be provided free of cost at designated Government health facilities.

The campaign will run in mission mode over a three-month period, during which eligible girls can receive the vaccine daily at designated facilities. Thereafter, the vaccine will continue to be available on routine immunization days. Vaccination will be conducted at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Primary Health Centres), Community Health Centres, Sub-District and District Hospitals as well as Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals.

## At least 20 killed after military plane crashes in Bolivia

**El Alto:** At least 20 people have been killed and others injured after a Bolivian air force cargo plane crashed in the western city of El Alto, the country's authorities say.



The incident happened at 18:15 local time (22:15 GMT) on Friday as the plane was arriving at El Alto's airport from the city of Santa Cruz, aviation officials said. It reportedly skidded off the runway and hit nearby vehicles.

The defence ministry later confirmed its C-130 Hercules was involved and that it had been transporting banknotes

to the Central Bank of Bolivia. There were eight people aboard the plane, the air force commander said.

Police fired tear gas to disperse crowds allegedly trying to take the scattered banknotes.

The government-run Bolivian News Agency reported that at least a dozen people were arrested for stealing banknotes.

## Ajit Pawar's death: Probe flags safety gaps at Baramati airfield

**New Delhi:** A month after Ajit Pawar's death in an aircraft crash at Baramati, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has released its preliminary report, flagging low visibility and safety gaps at the airfield.

Former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar died after his aircraft crashed during an emergency landing attempt at Baramati airport. The two pilots and Ajit's two security personnel also died in the crash, which happened as the chartered aircraft was attempting a second emergency landing at Baramati airport.

According to the report, wind conditions were calm at the time of the crash and visibility was recorded at 3 kilometres. Moments before the crash, the pilots were heard

saying, "Oh Shit, Oh Shit," as captured on the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). The CVR sustained thermal damage, and technical assistance from Honeywell, its manufacturer, is being sought to recover the data.

The data from the Solid State Flight Data Recorder (SSFDR) has already been downloaded and is being analysed.

# Kuno's Cheetah dynasty expands with nine new predators

## CM Yadav releases three Botswana big cats into the enclosure

**Sheopur (UNI)**  
Another page of history was etched into the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district on Saturday morning.



Nine new cheetahs arrived in India after a 12-hour flight from Botswana and were helicoptered to Kuno and directly transferred to quarantine enclosures. This brings the total number of cheetahs in the country to 48 from 39.

It has been reported that females now have a slight advantage. Wildlife experts consider this extremely important. They say that an increased female population will reduce territorial conflicts and increase the likelihood of cubs being born.

The new batch includes six females and three males. This is the biggest boost, as males have previously dominated the population in Kuno. However, this batch has shifted the balance. Experts believe this could accelerate breeding in the coming months.

All nine newly arrived cheetahs will be kept in quarantine enclosures for a month. During this time, their health, behavior, and adaptability will be continuously monitored.

After this, the Cheetah Steering Committee will decide which cheetahs should be released into the open wild and which should be kept under observation.

According to reports, the population of cheetahs were transferred by a trained Forest Department team following established protocols.

# Pak fighter jet shot down, says Afghan police; Islamabad denies

**Kabul:** Afghanistan said it downed a Pakistani fighter jet and captured its pilot on Saturday, a claim denied by Islamabad a day after it declared an "open war" with its South Asian neighbour.



The Afghan military and police said the aircraft was shot down in the eastern city of Jalalabad, but Islamabad's Foreign Ministry told AFP that it was "a false claim" and "totally untrue".

Pakistan authorities said that about 331 Afghan Taliban personnel and their allied terrorist groups have been killed so far as the operation against them was going on, it emerged on Saturday

## Pak-Afghan conflict

(February 28, 2026).  
Pakistan Information Minister Attaullah Tarar providing an early update about the losses of the Afghan Taliban said that so far 331 Taliban personnel have been killed and another 500 injured.

He said Pakistan forces completely destroyed 104 military posts, while they captured another 22 border posts during Operation Ghazab lillah. Tarar said that 163 tanks, armoured vehicles have been destroyed, adding that Pakistan also hit 37 locations in the air strikes. Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump has said he gets along with Pakistan very well and that the country is doing "terrifically well" amidst escalating tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.