27th Foundation Day of INCOIS

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, celebrated its 27th Foundation Day (3rd February) at its Hyderabad campus on 9th February 2026. Since its establishment, INCOIS has grown into one of the leading institutes in the nation and internationally. The operational services provided by INCOIS, such as the Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warnings, Ocean State Forecasts, Potential Fishing Zone advisories, and Ocean Data Services, are proven to have immense socio-economic benefits for a wide range of stakeholders and enhance the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities.

As per the programme schedule, the 27th Foundation Day celebrations commenced with an invocation followed by the lighting of the lamp.

Though queues are long, and hours grow late,
His grace is vast — for all He'll wait.

Perhaps one day the rules may turn,
And laddus won't wait for wealth to earn.
Till then, the laddus come and go,
And darshan flows, serene and slow.

...: Dr. Peruka Raju :...
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government is placing particular emphasis on Ayurveda, planning to establish three All India Institutes and upgrade Ayurveda pharmacies. This initiative, it's hoped shall benefit the public.

While the reduction in prices for 17 cancer drugs and import cuts on treatments for rare diseases, alongside the promotion of medical tourism, may represent progress, these measures do not sufficiently address the needs of the general population, particularly those in lower-income segments who continue to and marginalised sections, deprived of affordable healthcare?

It is indeed tragic that India's low spending on public health have, over the past two decades or so, has been acknowledged by successive governments, but very little has been done by way of increasing allocation. Even in its 2017, the National Health Policy documents, set a goal of raising government health expenditure from 1.15% to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025. But all this has remained false promises that the present government regulatory mechanisms do little to resolve patient grievances. There is need for more active and independent role of state medical councils, proper data management and transparency in operations of hospitals, both government and private, to help patients' redress their grievances.

Another example appears more appalling. India records one of the highest numbers of deaths globally, yet the country still does not know what most people die of, a gap most pronounced in North

DHURJATI MUKHERJEE

SHORT TAKES

Strategic oil reserves can last 74 days: Puri

NEW DELHI: Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday India's strategic petroleum reserve can last up to 74 days to meet demand caused by any global crisis. "Together, if you look at the reserves in our caverns and what is held by our refineries and floating platforms at our ports and our products, it comes to 74 days," Puri said, adding International Energy Agency stipulates about 90 days of holding as a strategic petroleum reserve.

Sitharaman says Budget did not ignore Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI: Amid the Budget discussion that started in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman called out DMK member P Wilson for his claim that Tamil Nadu was ignored in the Union Budget. She highlighted various initiatives unveiled in the Budget for the poll-bound state and observed that "sweeping statements like these without any basis, linked with the budget which has been presented only eight days ago, is not right at all". Participating in the debate on the Union Budget in the Rajya Sabha, DMK and AIADMK also targeted each other over the announcements and projects for Tamil Nadu.

SC clears order on Thiruparankundram

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday upheld a Madras High Court decision prohibiting animal sacrifice and granting Muslim devotees limited rights to prayers on the Thiruparankundram hills in Tamil Nadu's Madurai. Underlining that the October 2025 order of the high court was balanced, a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P B Varale declined to interfere with it. The apex court was hearing a plea that challenged the high court's order, claiming that it violated the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Cong braces for Oppn no-confidence move against Speaker

NEW DELHI, FEB 9

The Congress on Monday claimed that there "is no space for opposition" in the Lok Sabha and responded to reports that the opposition may move a motion of no confidence against Speaker Om Birla, saying "wait for action".

Congress MP K C Venugopal alleged that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leader are not being allowed to air their views in the Lower House, while the government side can state whatever they want and even make "derogatory remarks" against the opposition member.

Asked about reports that Opposition may move motion of no confidence against speaker Birla, Venugopal said, "You see what is happening in Parliament. You can see in this session, the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, is not being allowed to speak anything in this House." "The government side can speak anything. They can attack anybody, speak derogatory things, even against those who are not alive. The Speaker is making allegations against Congress women MPs. There is no space for opposition in this house at all," Venugopal told reporters in Parliament House complex.

"Whether it is the LoP or other opposition leaders, they are not being allowed to speak. This type of attitude toward the opposition has not been there at any time," he said.

On whether the opposition will seek to move such a motion, Venugopal said "after action you will get to know", and added that the entire opposition is united. "Cannot comment on reports, wait for action," he said.

Venugopal's remarks come after a meeting of opposition floor leaders in Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's chamber in Parliament House complex this morning to decide on a joint strategy for the next few days. In an unprecedented development, the Lok Sabha passed the Motion of Thanks on Thursday last without the prime minister's customary reply that was scheduled a day earlier in the face of relentless sloganeering by opposition members.

An anguished Lok Sabha Speaker last Thursday said he had "concrete information" that many Congress members might move towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seat and carry out "some unexpected act" as a result of which he had requested him not to come to the House to reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address.

As the Lower House reassembled at after three adjournments on Thursday, Birla said if this incident had taken place, then this would have left the democratic traditions of the country in "shreds". Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had told reporters in Parliament House complex that day that it was an "absolute lie" that there was any plan to hurt Modi. She also alleged that Prime Minister Modi was "hiding behind" the Speaker.

Lok Sabha adjourned over Rahul speech demand

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Monday amid a stand-off between the government and the opposition over Rahul Gandhi's demand that he be allowed to speak before the discussion on the Union Budget begins.

When the House met at 2 pm after two adjournments, Sandhya Ray, who was in the Chair, asked Congress member Shashi Tharoor to initiate the debate on the Budget. Tharoor told the Chair that Gandhi, being the Leader of Opposition (LoP), should be allowed to raise certain points before he started his speech.

Ray said she had no issues if Gandhi wanted to speak on the Budget and asked him to begin. Gandhi said at a meeting between Speaker Om Birla and some opposition MPs, an agreement was reached that he would be allowed to raise certain points before the Budget discussion, but the Chair was now reneging on its word. Ray said she was not aware of any such agreement and that she could not allow anyone to raise any issue without notice. At this point, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju intervened, saying there was no such agreement and if the LoP wanted to say something about the Speaker, then Birla should also be present in the House to respond.

Rijiju also said other members of the House would speak on the subject and there would be a broader discussion.

With neither side budging from its position, Ray adjourned the House for the day.

The Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned twice earlier, once at 11 am when the business of the day began and again after a few minutes of proceedings at 12 noon.

At 12 noon, when the House reassembled, opposition parties insisted that Gandhi be allowed to speak before the House took up the discussion on the Budget.

As Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, called Tharoor to initiate the debate on the Budget, opposition members dug in their heels and demanded that Gandhi be allowed to speak first.

Tenneti underlined that the discussion was on the Budget and the Congress had given Tharoor's name as its lead speaker.

He said he would need to get clarity on whether the LoP could be allowed to speak. He also asked Gandhi whether he wanted to speak on the Budget. Tharoor, meanwhile, said he yields to the LoP.

As the stalemate continued, Tenneti adjourned the House till 2 pm. After the House was adjourned for the day, Tharoor told reporters in the Parliament House complex that Gandhi wanted to respond to allegations that Congress MPs wanted to carry out an "unexpected act" in the Lok Sabha when the prime minister was to come last week to respond to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's January 28 address to both Houses of Parliament. He said a clarification was required on the part of the LoP.

27th Foundation Day of INCOIS

HYDERABAD, FEB 9

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, celebrated its 27thFoundation Day (3rd February) at its Hyderabad campus on 9thFebruary 2026. Since its establishment, INCOIS has grown into one of the leading institutes in the nation and internationally. The operational services provided by INCOIS, such as the Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warnings, Ocean State Forecasts, Potential Fishing Zone advisories, and Ocean Data Services, are proven to have immense socio-economic benefits for a wide range of stakeholders and enhance the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities.

As per the programme schedule, the 27th Foundation Day celebrations commenced with an invocation followed by the lighting of the lamp. Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director, INCOIS, delivered the welcome address and greeted the dignitaries, invited guests, MoES officials, INCOIS colleagues, and stakeholders. A motion picture highlighting INCOIS's major achievements was presented thereafter. The Guests of Honour included Dr. Nilesh M. Desai, Director, Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO; Dr. Gill Martin, Science Manager, Climate Projections Data Science Group, Met Office, UK; and Ms. Yatinder Prasad, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, MoES. They addressed the gathering.

The Chief Guest, Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, delivered the Chief Guest address. The Foundation Day Talk was then delivered by Dr. Subha Sathyendranath, MBE, Merit Remote Sensing Scientist at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK. The programme also included felicitation of the dignitaries. The event was marked by the launch of three new ocean information services, the exchange of strategic MoUs, the unveiling of a new institutional logo, and the conduct of an international scientific partnership meeting.

As part of the celebrations, INCOIS launched three new user-focused ocean services: JellyAIIP (Jellyfish Aggregation Information Interactive Portal), SAMUDRA 2.0 Mobile App, and SIVAS (Swell-Surge Inundation Vulnerability Advisory System).

JellyAIIP was introduced as a national interactive web portal for mapping and reporting jellyfish aggregation, swarming, and stranding events along the Indian coast, with geospatial visualization, hotspot analysis, and multilingual first-aid guidance. SAMUDRA 2.0 was released as an upgraded multilingual mobile platform delivering ocean advisories and early warnings to fishermen and maritime users, with expanded services including PFZ, TUNA advisories, and Small Vessel alerts. SIVAS was launched as an operational coastal inundation early warning service for swell-surge events, currently implemented on the Kerala coast, with multilingual forecast bulletins and advance lead-time alerts.

During the programme, Memoranda of Understanding were signed and exchanged between INCOIS and the Space Applications Centre (SAC), the KSCSTE–Institute for Climate Change Studies (ICCS), and the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) to strengthen collaboration in satellite applications, ocean and climate services, research, innovation, and capacity building.

The event also featured the unveiling of the new INCOIS logo, reflecting the organisation's evolving mandate, expanded digital service portfolio, and continued focus on operational ocean science for societal benefit.

The Foundation Day function was held in conjunction with the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) India Annual Review Meeting, which brought together international and national experts working at the interface of weather, climate, and service delivery. The meeting was attended by 23 delegates from the United Kingdom and around 80 delegates from India, along with additional participants joining online. The delegates also witnessed the Foundation Day launches and MoU exchanges.

This event was webcast live at the link https://incois.gov.in/Live.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. T.M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of INCOIS, stated that the launch of JellyAIIP, SAMUDRA 2.0, and SIVAS, along with new collaborations and a new visual identity, reflects INCOIS's continued commitment to transforming advanced ocean science into operational, user-focused digital services. He noted that these initiatives strengthen marine ecosystem monitoring, coastal hazard early warning, and last-mile advisory delivery to fishermen, coastal communities, maritime stakeholders, and the public. He added that INCOIS will continue to expand these services with enhanced real-time capabilities, multilingual outreach, and predictive advisory features to support coastal safety, resilient livelihoods, and the nation's blue economy initiatives.

The Chief Guest, Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, appreciated INCOIS's growing role in operational ocean and coastal services and emphasized the importance of stronger integration between space-based observations and ocean information systems for national development, safety, and sustainability.

Seychelles key to India's Vision MAHASAGAR: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, FEB 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced a Special Economic Package of 175 million dollars for the Seychelles. Addressing the Joint Press Meet after meeting the President of the Seychelles, Dr Patrick Herminie, in New Delhi, Mr Modi said that this package will support Social Housing, E-Mobility, Vocational Training, Health, Defence, and Maritime Security. India and Seychelles have also signed 7 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) across various sectors, including Health, Meteorology, Electronics and Information Technology and Good Governance. The agreements include technical and scientific collaboration between the India Meteorological Department and the Seychelles Meteorological Authority. On the occasion, Mr Modi said that India and Seychelles are connected not just by geography but by history, trust and shared vision for the future. The Prime Minister added that as a maritime neighbour and trusted partner, Seychelles holds a special place in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

The Prime Minister expressed happiness over signing the MoU for the training of the Civil Servants of the Seychelles in India. Mr Modi added that under the MoU for Digital Transformation, India will share its successful experience with the Seychelles in the sector. He noted that in the health sector, India has always been a stable and trusted partner for Seychelles.

Railway Reset: Ashwini Vaishnaw's New Facility Blitz in Guwahati

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates New Passenger Facilities | **flags off Sairang- Silchar Passenger Train Service** | **Rail connectivity between Mizoram and Assam strengthened, while passenger amenities at Guwahati Railway Station are upgraded to enhance travel experience: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**

MALIGAON, 09 FEBRUARY

Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Lalduhoma and Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today inaugurated the New Passenger Facilities at Guwahati Railway Station, Assam and flagged off the Sairang–Silchar New Train Service. The auspicious occasion was also joined by Shri Kamal Purkayastha, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Assam and Shri Parimal Suklabaidya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Shri TBC Lalvenchhunga, Hon'ble MLA, Mizoram and other dignitaries. The initiatives mark an important step towards strengthening rail connectivity and improving passenger amenities across the North-east region.

The New Passenger Facilities at Guwahati Railway Station have been developed to enhance the overall travel experience of passengers by providing clean, safe and comfortable resting facilities, including modern lounges and sleeping pods. The facility also ensures dedicated, hygienic and secure amenities for women travellers and contributes to an improved, passenger-friendly station environment in the Northeast.

The Sairang–Silchar Passenger Train will significantly strengthen rail connectivity between Mizoram and Assam. The service will benefit the people of Silchar as well as Mizoram by improving access to education, healthcare, markets and administrative centres. It is expected to boost tourism, facilitate easier movement of goods between the two states, enable the supply of goods manufactured in Mizoram to markets in Silchar and reduce dependence on road transport, particularly in the hilly terrain.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram stated that the launch of the new Sairang–Silchar train service represents a major boost to rail connectivity for Mizoram, offering passengers a reliable, comfortable and affordable travel option. He further noted that the service would promote tourism and local economic activities while improving access to education and advanced medical facilities in Silchar, thereby greatly benefiting students and patients from Mizoram.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, in his address, stated that extensive work is underway to improve connectivity in Assam and the entire Northeast, with several new projects being taken up and many long-pending projects already completed. He noted that over the past 11 years, nearly 1,900 kilometres of new Railway tracks have been constructed across Northeast, marking a transformational phase for rail infrastructure in the region.

The Union Minister highlighted that the train service flagged off today between Silchar and Sairang adds a new dimension to the benefits being extended to the people of Mizoram and Assam. He observed that the extension of Railway connectivity to Sairang had been inaugurated a few months ago by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, followed by the introduction of new train services and that the Government has been receiving positive feedback from citizens regarding improved connectivity to Mizoram.

Shri Vaishnaw further stated that the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister have taken a decision to bring a bullet train corridor up to Siliguri via Varanasi and Patna. He noted that this corridor opens up future possibilities for extending high-speed rail connectivity further towards Guwahati.

Emphasising the long-term vision for the Northeast, the Union Minister stated that multiple Railway projects are underway which will completely transform connectivity in the region. He highlighted proposed new Railway lines from Kokrajhar to Gelephu and from Banarhat to Samtse to strengthen connectivity with Bhutan, and informed that work on the Sevok–Rangpo Railway line is progressing at a fast pace.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw reiterated that the Hon'ble Prime Minister firmly believes in the development of Purvodaya, and in line with this vision, a historic railway budget allocation of Rs.11,486 crore has been provided for the Northeast. He stated that this enhanced allocation is accelerating the execution of several important railway projects and will play a key role in driving economic growth, mobility and integration of the region with the rest of the country.

These projects reflect Ministry of Railways' continued efforts to strengthen rail infrastructure, improve service quality and ensure inclusive regional development in the Northeast. The initiatives are expected to boost mobility, tourism, trade and socio-economic growth while bringing the region closer to the national rail network.

53 migrants dead or missing after boat capsizes off Libya: IOM

TRIPOLI, FEB 9

Fifty-three migrants, including two infants, were dead or missing after their rubber boat capsized off the coast of Libya, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said Monday.

The vessel, which was carrying 55 people, overturned on Friday north of the city of ... her husband in the wreck; the other lost her two children, the IOM said.

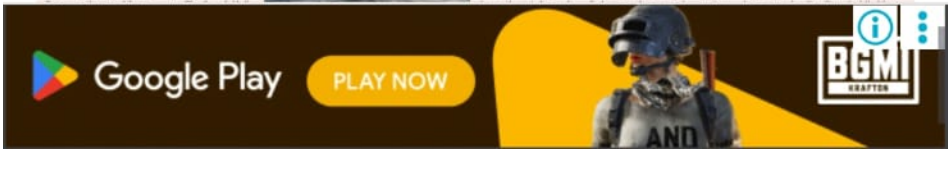
The boat departed from the western city of Al-Zawiya late on February 5. Survivors told the UN migration agency the craft began taking on water and capsized about six hours into the journey. The IOM said its teams provided emergency medical aid to the ... capsized off the coast of Libya, leaving 42 people dead. In a statement, the IOM said Libyan authorities carried out a search and rescue operation on November 8 near the Al Buri Oil Field after the vessel, which had departed from the Libyan coastal city of Zuwara, capsized.

According to survivors, the boat left Zuwara on Novem- ...

After drifting for six days, seven were rescued — four from Sudan, two from Nigeria and one from Cameroon. The 42 missing migrants were presumed dead, including 29 from Sudan, eight from Somalia, three from Cameroon and two from Nigeria, the IOM said.

According to data from the IOM's Missing Migrants ... al Unity (GNU), announced that it has targeted several boats used for smuggling illegal migrants in northwestern Libya. According to a post by the state-run Libya National TV on social media platform Facebook, the airstrikes, conducted inside Zuwara Port, about 120 km west of the capital Tripoli, were carried out with precision and without ... area. According to the ministry, the operation was part of ongoing security efforts to combat human trafficking networks and curb the flow of migrants through Libya's coastal areas.

Libya has long been a major transit point for irregular migrants due to its geographic proximity to Europe and its long Mediterranean coast- ...



మూడేళ్లలో ఉపగ్రహాల సంఖ్య

మూడు రెట్లు పెంచుతాం

- 2042 నాటికి చంద్రుడిపైకి మన వ్యోమగాములు
- ఇన్‌కాయిస్ ఆవిర్భావ దినోత్సవంలో ఇస్రో ఛైర్మన్

ఈనాడు, హైదరాబాద్: భారత ఉపగ్రహాల సంఖ్యను వచ్చే మూడు, నాలుగేళ్లలో మూడు రెట్లకు పెంచనున్నట్లు ఇస్రో ఛైర్మన్ వి. నారాయణన్ ప్రకటించారు. భారత జాతీయ మహాసముద్ర సమాచార వ్యవస్థల కేంద్రం(ఇన్‌కాయిస్) 27వ ఆవిర్భావ దినోత్సవం సందర్భంగా హైదరాబాద్‌లోని ఇన్‌కాయిస్‌లో సోమవారం నిర్వహించిన కార్యక్రమంలో ఆయన ముఖ్య అతిథిగా పాల్గొని మాట్లాడారు. "2042 నాటికి మన వ్యోమగాముల్ని చంద్రుడిపైకి పంపి సురక్షితంగా వెనక్కి తీసుకొచ్చేందుకు ఇస్రో ప్రణాళిక రచిస్తోంది. అంతరిక్షంలో సొంతంగా మన స్పేస్‌స్టేషన్ నిర్మాణం దిశగా కార్యాచరణ రూపొందిస్తున్నాం. గత 27 ఏళ్లలో ఇన్‌కాయిస్ దేశీయంగా, అంతర్జాతీయంగా అగ్రగామి సంస్థగా ఎదిగింది. సునామీ, తుపాను హెచ్చరికలు, సముద్ర స్థితి అంచనాలు, సముద్రంలో చేపల లభ్యత ప్రదేశాలు, వాతావరణ మార్పుల గురించి విలువైన సమాచారాన్ని అందిస్తోంది" అని వివరించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా సముద్ర సమాచార సేవలపై ఇన్‌కాయిస్ అభివృద్ధి చేసిన జెల్లీ ఏఐఏపీ, సముద్ర 2.0, శివాస్ యాప్‌లను ప్రారంభించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో ఇస్రో-స్పేస్ అప్లికేషన్ సెంటర్ డైరెక్టర్ నీలేశ్ ఎం. దేశాయ్, ఇంగ్లండ్‌కు చెందిన ప్లైమౌత్ మెరైన్ లాబొరేటరీ శాస్త్రవేత్త శుభా సత్యేంద్రనాథ్, కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వ అదనపు కార్యదర్శి యతీందర్ ప్రసాద్, యూకేకు చెందిన మెట్ ఆఫీస్ శాస్త్రవేత్త గిల్ మార్టిన్, ఇన్‌కాయిస్ డైరెక్టర్ బాలకృష్ణన్ నాయర్ సహా పలువురు శాస్త్రవేత్తలు పాల్గొన్నారు.

ప్రసంగిస్తున్న ఇస్రో ఛైర్మన్ నారాయణన్. చిత్రంలో యతీందర్ ప్రసాద్, శుభా సత్యేంద్రనాథ్, గిల్ మార్టిన్, నీలేశ్ ఎం.దేశాయ్, బాలకృష్ణన్ నాయర్