

MISSING WOMEN
The lost daughters of Odisha's border villages
Crime in India report reveals that 1,120 persons were trafficked from the State in 2022, the highest in the country
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Anumula Revanth Reddy's journey to the top post in Telangana
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Bengaluru flexes its cultural muscle with inclusive initiatives
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Kashvee becomes most expensive uncapped player in WPL
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Railways drops medical scheme for employees
CHENNAI
The Indian Railways has withdrawn the Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE), a medical facility benefiting lakhs of serving/retired staff and their family members. » PAGE 8

'T.N. plays pivotal role in India's development'
MAYILADUTHURAI
Tamil Nadu gives a lot of encouragement, knowledge, wisdom, and vision for the development of India, said Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. » PAGE 8

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DOWN TOWN » 8 PAGES
(TABLOID) (IN SELECT AREAS)



Ram temple sets off realty boom

As Ayodhya town gears up for the consecration of the temple, land prices soar to an all-time high, especially in areas around the new structure

Mayank Kumar
AYODHYA

The Stamp and Registration Department is an unlikely place to offer much joy. However, Yogendra Pratap Singh was ecstatic as Ayodhya topped Uttar Pradesh's revenue receipts for November among all the 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, with an increase of 109.19%.

"The major part of revenue comes from land registration in the district, primarily from the Sadar region," said Mr. Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Stamp and Registration Department, Ayodhya.

As the grand Ram temple in the city nears completion, and the consecration ceremony of Lord Ram's idol at the *sanctum sanctorum* scheduled for January 22, the once-sleepy Sadar and areas within a 15-km radius are witnessing a surge in land prices.

"Outside the 3-km radius of the temple, the rate ranges from ₹3,000 to ₹15,000 per square feet; within this radius, even one *biswa* (a term in the Awadh region connoting 1,360 square feet) is gold dust. It may even go up to ₹25,000 per square feet, if available," Vipnesh Pandey, who runs Maa Vainavi Developers in the city, explained.

Before the Supreme Court's November 2019 judgment cleared the way for the



Changing landscape: Before the Supreme Court verdict made way for the temple's construction, land prices in area used to be 15-20% of what it is now, say realtors. ANI

construction of the Ram temple, the price used to be 15-20% of today's rate or even less, said Parsuram Mishra of Shri Balaji Ayodhya Property. "The judgment changed Ayodhya's landscape forever," he remarked.

The Stamp and Registration department figures also show increasing sale deeds.

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BSP suspends MP Danish Ali for 'anti-party activities'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday suspended its Lok Sabha member for Amroha, Kunwar Danish Ali, for "anti-party" activities.

"You have been told verbally many times that you should not make any comment contrary to the party's policies and ideologies, but despite repeated warnings, you have been continuously doing so," reads the letter issued by the party's national general secretary, Satish Chandra Mishra. "In the interest of the party, you are being suspended from the membership of the BSP with immediate effect," it added.

Mr. Ali said the decision was a result of the consistent stand he had taken against the Narendra Modi government's actions, including the expulsion of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra. The BSP, however, did not elaborate on the 'anti-party activity' mentioned in the letter.

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NIA cracks down on IS module in 2 States, arrests 15

Major bust

The NIA said that 15 operatives were arrested for promoting terror-related acts and 'waging war' against the country



- The accused had declared a village of Padgha in rural Thane as a 'liberated zone' and as 'Al Sham', the NIA said
- Raids were carried out in Padgha-Borivali, Thane, Mira Road, Pune, and Bengaluru

■ Unaccounted-for cash, firearms, sharp-edged weapons, incriminating documents and digital devices were seized

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

In a major crackdown on the Islamic State (IS), the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested 15 alleged operatives of the banned organisation during simultaneous raids at 44 locations across Maharashtra and Karnataka.

"Pursuing the path of violent Jihad, Khilafat, ISIS etc., the accused had aimed to disturb the peace and communal harmony of the country and to wage a war against the Government of India... The arrested accused had self-de-

clared the village of Padgha in rural Thane as a 'liberated zone' and as 'Al Sham'. They were motivating impressionable Muslim youth to relocate in Padgha from their place of residence for strengthening the Padgha base," the NIA said in a statement.

Based on the inputs, the NIA teams swooped down on premises linked to suspects in Padgha-Borivali, Thane, Mira Road, Pune, and Bengaluru on Saturday morning, and arrested the accused persons for promoting terror-related acts.

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Stalin announces ₹6,000 each to all flood-hit families

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday announced ₹6,000 each to all families affected by cyclone Michaung. The amount will be distributed through fair price shops.

The Chief Minister, who chaired a meeting attended by his Cabinet colleagues, the Chief Secretary, and other officials, also increased the solatium, to ₹5 lakh from ₹4 lakh, for the kin of those who lost their lives in the floods. Guidelines will be issued soon for identifying the beneficiaries, a government official said.

An official release said a sum of ₹8,000, up from ₹5,000, would be given to those who need to repair their huts damaged in rain.

Crop loss compensation
Mr. Stalin also increased the compensation to ₹17,000 from ₹13,500 per hectare of paddy field where damage to the crops was more than 33%. The compensation for the loss of perennial crops and trees per hectare will be ₹22,500, instead of ₹18,000, and the compensation for loss of dry crops has been increased from ₹7,410 to ₹8,500 per hec-



M.K. Stalin

The solatium for the kin of those who lost their lives in the floods has been increased from ₹4 lakh to ₹5 lakh

are. The amount for loss of cows and buffaloes is ₹37,500, up from ₹30,000. The amount for those who have lost goats and sheep is ₹4,000, up from ₹3,000.

For fishermen, the compensation for fully damaged catamarans, including nets, will be ₹50,000, instead of ₹32,000. For partly damaged boats, the amount has been increased from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000. The maximum grant for fully damaged *vallam*-type boats has been increased to ₹1 lakh from ₹75,000.


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