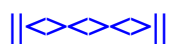
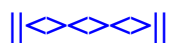


THE HEADLINES:

- Union Cabinet approves continuation of PM Fasal Bima Yojana, extension of subsidy on DAP fertilizers
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserts government's commitment to furthering welfare of farmers
- Central Government launches "One Nation, One Subscription" scheme
- Air India introduces inflight Wi-Fi services on domestic routes



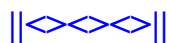
Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26. Briefing media after the Cabinet meeting in New Delhi today, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the overall outlay of the scheme has been increased to 69 thousand 515 crore rupees. He said, under the scheme 88 percent of insured farmers are small and marginal farmers. Mr Vaishnaw added that 57 percent of insured farmers are from OBC, SC, and ST. The He said, in the last eight years, claims of one lakh 70 thousand crore rupees have been given to farmers. Mr Vaishnaw said, the first Cabinet meeting of 2025 was dedicated to farmers.



Union Cabinet has approved the extension of One-time Special Package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizers beyond the Nutrient Based Subsidy at three thousand 500 rupees per Metric tonnes. It has approved the Fertilizers Department's proposal for extension of the Special Package from today till further orders to ensure sustainable availability of DAP at affordable prices to the farmers. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said farmers will continue to get DAP at one thousand 350 rupees per bag of 50 Kilogram, and the extra burden will be borne by the Union Government.

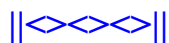


Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that his government is fully committed to furthering the welfare of farmers. Referring to the Union Cabinet's decisions, he said the first Cabinet of 2025 is dedicated to enhancing prosperity for the farmers. Mr. Modi said the country is proud of all its farmers who work hard to feed the nation.

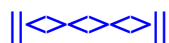


Central Government has launched the "One Nation, One Subscription" scheme starting today. This initiative aims to provide seamless access to a wide range of digital knowledge resources, including research papers, journals, and academic content, under a single subscription platform. The scheme is expected to benefit students, researchers, and institutions across the country. Over 1.8 crore students from Government-funded higher education institutions will have access to research papers, published in top journals across the world. More than 13 thousand 400 international journals covering science, technology, engineering, medicine, mathematics, management, social sciences and humanities are being made available under the first phase of the initiative. Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood said, in the subsequent phases, expansion of access to private higher educational institutions and ultimately to all individuals in the country can be taken up.

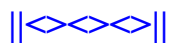
The scheme will also provide central funding support of 150 crore rupees per year for beneficiary authors to publish in selected good-quality Open Access journals.



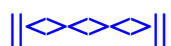
Air India becomes the first airline to offer inflight Wi-Fi Internet connectivity services on domestic flights. In a press release today, the airline said passengers can avail of Wi-Fi Internet connectivity service on domestic routes in Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9 and select Airbus A321neo aircraft. The Tata group-owned airline said, passengers can use Wi-Fi via laptops, tablets, and smartphones with iOS or Android operating systems, to stay connected to the Internet during their flights. It added, the in-flight Wi-Fi will also allow guests to connect multiple devices simultaneously when above 10,000 feet. The Wi-Fi service is complimentary for an introductory period, and will progressively be rolled out on other aircraft in its fleet over time. The move follows an ongoing pilot programme offering wifi services on select international routes.



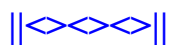
The rates of commercial LPG has been cut by 14 rupees 50 paise. Now the 19-kg cylinder will cost one thousand 804 rupees in Delhi, one thousand 756 rupees in Mumbai, one thousand 911 rupees in Kolkata and one thousand 966 rupees in Chennai. The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at 803 rupees per 14.2-kg cylinder.



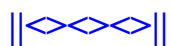
The Ministry of Defence has declared 2025 as the Year of Reforms in order to give impetus to the ongoing and future reforms in the Defence Sector. On the eve of the New Year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a crucial meeting with all Secretaries of the Ministry to review the progress of various key schemes, projects, and reforms. Mr. Singh exuded confidence that the ‘Year of Reforms’ will be a momentous step in the modernisation journey of the Armed Forces, and lay the foundation for unprecedented. Several key areas have been identified for focused intervention throughout 2025. These include boosting defence manufacturing, infrastructure, procurement processes, and integration of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, drones, and cyber warfare capabilities.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended greetings on the occasion of New Year 2025. Taking to X, he expressed hope that the year would bring new opportunities, success, and endless joy to the lives of everyone. Mr Modi wished all citizens wonderful health and prosperity in the new year.



The Maha Kumbh Mela, celebrated as the world’s largest spiritual gathering, is a breathtaking convergence of faith, culture, and ancient tradition. Rooted in Hindu mythology, this sacred festival unfolds four times over twelve years, rotating between four revered cities in India, namely Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj. In 2025, from January 13 to February 26, Prayagraj will once again become the heart of this magnificent celebration. Maha Kumbh 2025 promises to be an unparalleled blend of devotion and innovation. With an estimated 45 crore visitors expected, comprehensive preparations are underway to ensure a safe and enriching experience for all, adopting cutting-edge technology like digital maps and drone surveillance to elevate the event.



In weather update, India Meteorological Department has issued dense fog warnings for Nagaland and its neighbouring states over the coming days. It said, dense fog conditions are very likely to prevail during late night and early morning hours in isolated pockets of the north-east states till the 6th of January.

