

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

26<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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President Droupadi Murmu will confer the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas in New Delhi today. The Ministry of Women and Child Development said that this year, 20 children from 18 States and Union Territories have been selected for this honour, who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in diverse fields including Bravery, sports and social service. The Ministry informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also address the children and youth in a national level programme of Veer Bal Diwas. It added that the programme, organized in New Delhi will highlight stories of bravery, resilience, and selfless service. The programme will also witness cultural performances showcasing the country's rich civilisational heritage and the spirit of bravery. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi, will also attend the programme.

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In his first Christmas sermon yesterday, Pope Leo urged Ukraine and Russia to find the courage to hold direct talks to end the war. Speaking at St Peter's square, the first U.S. pope, expressed hope that the fighting would stop and that all sides, with support of international community, find the courage to engage in sincere, direct and respectful dialogue. His plea comes as US-led negotiations on a deal to end the fighting continues. Earlier, during the sermon, Pope Leo decried conditions for Palestinians in Gaza. Leo, who was elected in May this year, said that Jesus was born in a stable to show that God chose to live among people in a weak and temporary place. He said this should make us think about the tents in Gaza, where people are suffering in bad weather.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, for the last 11 years his government has been working hard for the betterment of each and every citizen of the society and giving them benefits of all the schemes without discrimination. He called it true governance and true secularism. The Prime Minister said this yesterday while addressing a public rally in Lucknow after inaugurating Rashtra Prerna Sthal on the occasion of the 101st Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and to honour the legacy of luminaries of independent India.

Prime Minister Modi said, saturation of government schemes is the motto of his government and now crores of poor citizen are gaining benefit from them.

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The Railways has rationalised its passenger fare structure with effect from today, with the objective of balancing affordability for passengers and sustainability of operations. Under the revised fare structure,

there is no change in fares for suburban services and Season Tickets, including both suburban and non-suburban routes. The revised fares are applicable only on tickets booked on or after today. For Ordinary Non-AC (Non-Suburban) services, fares have been rationalised in a graded manner across Second Class Ordinary, Sleeper Class Ordinary, and First-Class Ordinary. In Second Class Ordinary, there is no increase in fare for journeys up to 215 kilometres to ensure that short-distance and daily commuters are not impacted.

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The Indian Army has issued an internal letter on use of social media applications by its personnel, with an emphasis on operational security and responsible online behaviour. Sources in the Indian Army said, Army personnel have been allowed to access Instagram only for the purposes of viewing and monitoring. They clarified that no comments or views are to be communicated on the platform.

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And, In Women's Cricket, third T20 International between India and Sri Lanka will be played at Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram today. The match will start at 7 pm. The hosts have taken 2-0 lead in the five match series. India defeated Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the first game on Sunday and won the second game by seven wickets on Tuesday in Visakhapatnam.

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