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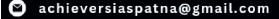
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Nine killed in a rail accident in West Bengal

- Nine persons, two of them railway crew members, were killed on Monday when a goods train collided with train no 13174 Agartala Sealdah Kanchanjunga Express between Rangapani and Chattar Hat station in Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
- Nine persons were grievously injured and 32 sustained minor injuries.
- The accident took place about 10 km from Jalapiguri station at 8:55 AM.
- The goods train hit the stationary Kanchenjunga express from behind on the same track with speed.
- · Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishanw reached the site and took stock of relief work. He announced compensation for the victims.
- West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee also visited the site, and criticised the railway ministry.

How accident happened:

- The loco pilot of the train had the authority to cross all the signals in danger, according to the documents available with the Hindu.
- · Stationmaster of the Rangapani railway station had authority to cross all signals in danger .
- Permit is issued only when there is no obstruction or section is clear. It is not known how clearance was given when the express train had not crossed the section.

Goods loco pilot violated speed curbs : -

• The railway board said on Monday that the goods train violated speed restrictions it had to follow given the "defective "automatic signalling system. The train was speeding after getting clearance to cross all the signals.

Gupta extradited to US for murder plots , please not guilty

- Nikhil Gupta, an Indian National accused by US to be involved in assassination plot of Gurupatwant Singh Pannun was extradited to USA from Czech Republic on Monday.
- The Czech Republic had arrested Mr Gupta last year over allegations by the USA on charges of being involved in a plot to assassinate Gurupatwant Singh Pannun in New York.
- The US government had alleged that Mr Gupta was working under the direction of some Indian government officials. India has denied its involvement in such cases.
- India has said that such acts do not come under its policy.

Doval, Sullivan review iCET cooperation

USA NSA Jake Sullivan is on a two day visit to India.

NSA Ajit Doval chaired the second meeting on Intiatialtve on Critically Emerging Technology (iCET). During the meeting NSA

National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan on Monday chaired the second meeting of the initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

The fact sheet of joint communique said :

- That the two countries understand the commitment to co operate in leading edge innovation .
- Talks on the purchase of MQ 9 B unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) are in the advanced stage of talks .
- Licence manufacturing of General Electric (GE 414) jet engines as well as Stryker infantry vehicle .
- A new partnership over semiconductor was announced: Under this General Atomics and Indian firm 3rdiTech will develop semiconductor design and manufacturing of "precision guided ammunition and other national security focussed electronics platform".
- To On semiconductor the partnership between General Atomics and Indian tech firm 3 Rd I Tech to co develop semiconductor design and manufacturing of "precision guided ammunition and other national security focussed electronics platform ".
- The fact sheet also outlines the steps to be taken to overcome dependency on China .
- iCET United States India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) is a collaborative framework to enhance cooperation in the developing fields of Technology.
- It was announced in 2022 ,by PM Modi and Joe Biden on the sidelines of the QUAD summit .
- It includes areas of space, semiconductor. advanced telecommunication, artificial intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology, and clean energy. The areas included were biotechnology, critical minerals, rare earth minerals, digital connectivity, digital public infrastructure and advanced technology.



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Shah chairs meet to review status of Manipur conflict, 'bridge ethnic divide': Biren not invited

- Union Home minister Amit Shah chaired a high level meeting on Manipur on Monday. CM Biren Singh was not present in the meeting. The meeting was solely restricted to "security officials".
- The "current status" of ethnic conflict and the "way forward" was discussed.
- The home minister sought " to bridge the ethnic divide at the earliest ".
- Manipur is currently under tension after violence in Jiribam. NH37 is the bone of contention.

HAL received request for proposal of 156 light combat helicopters

- HAL has got a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 156 indigenous light combat helicopters (LCH) estimated to cost ₹45,000 crore.
- · LCH Prachand is India's first indigenous attack helicopter.

Congress slams book revision, says NCERT is working as an 'RSS affiliate'.

- NCERT recently revised topics of Babari Masjid Demolition topics .
- The Babri Masjid Demolition and riots after that has not found a place in the book .instead book talks about Ram Janambhoomi movement, Supreme Court verdict and building ot Ram Temple after that.

Rahul keeps Rae Bareli ; Priyanka for Wayanad

- In the recently held Lok Sabha election, Rahul Gandhi won from both Wayanad and Bareilly seats. He had to announce which seat was he going to retain. On Monday it was announced that Rahul Gandhi will retain Bareilly Lok Sabha seat leaving Wayanad for by-
- · Congress on Monday announced that Priyanaka Gandhi Vadra will make debut from Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in by-elections.

"Digi Yatra could be expanded to hotels, rail travel, public places"

- Digi Yatra a check in service at airport based on facial recognition can be implemented at hotels and public places such as historical monuments, says CEO of digi yatra.
- The CEO said that he is in talk with the railway ministry and other stakeholders in this regard .
- Currently about 14 airports in India is linked with Digiyatra.
- Digiyatra was launched in 2022. It uses biometrics such as facial recognition instead of boarding pass to enable paperless movement at various checkpoints at the airport.

Netanyahu dissolves war cabinet after after Grantz exit

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dissolved the influential war cabinet , tasked with steering the war in Gaza .
- The move was expected after the exit of Benny Grantz, a former military chief and one of his coalition
 partners. Mr Netanyahu is now expected to hold a smaller forum with ministers to take sensitive decisions
 on war.
- Benny Grantz had a disagreement with Netanyahu regarding the conduct of war.

In appeal to UK Muslim voters, Tory candidate sites govt actions in Kashmir

 Marco Langthi a conservative politician and current MP, addressed British Pakistani / Kashmiri voters that they should vote for him otherwise rights of Kashmiri would be compromised.

China blamed Philippines for ship collision

- In another event of conflict between China and the Philippines in the South China sea , China has accused the Philippines of the collision of a vessel with a Chinese ship .
- The incident occurred near second Thomas Shoal island . The Philippines vessel was carrying supply materials for Second Thomas Shoal
- · Second Thomas shoal id under Phillipines control .

G 7 statement ' full of arrogance, prejudice and lies', says China

- G7 leaders had warned China against sending weapon components to Russia.
- · China hit back on Monday saying the allegations were "full of arrogance, prejudice and lies ".

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