

GARVI GUJARAT

PRGI No. GUJENG/2014/57876

GARVI GUJARAT

PUBLISHED ENGLISH DAILY FROM AHMEDABAD

Volume.13
Issue:104
Dt. 17-11-2026
Tuesday
Pages-04
Rs.00.50 paisa
AHMEDABAD EDITION

Chhath Puja Concludes with Arghya to the Rising Sun

Special ghat created for 140 inmates in Motihari Jail; prayers offered on the banks of the Potomac River in Washington



New Delhi / Patna, (GNS): The four-day grand festival concluded on Monday morning, the fourth and final day of Chhath Puja, with devotees offering 'Arghya' to the rising sun. Devotees completed their 36-hour waterless fast.

People began arriving at riverbanks and ponds as early as 4:00 AM to offer Arghya. Crowds of devotees gathered at ghats along the Ganga, Yamuna, and other water bodies in Delhi, UP, Bihar, and Jharkhand.

Around 1.25 lakh people were present at Yamuna ghats in Delhi during sunrise. Inmate devotees also celebrated Chhath Puja in Bihar's Motihari Central Jail, where a special ghat was constructed inside the premises, allowing numerous inmates—including 75 women and 62 men—to perform prayers.Chhath Puja was also celebrated with immense devotion abroad. Members of the Purvanchal community celebrated Chhath on the banks of the Potomac River in Washington, USA.

Impact of Expensive Fuel and Electricity: Wholesale Inflation Rises for Third Consecutive Month



New Delhi(GNS): India's wholesale inflation rate rose to 12.29% in October, compared to 11.39% in September, marking an increase of 0.90 percentage points in a single month.

This means goods that cost 100 in the wholesale market in October last year increased to approximately 112.29 this year.

This marks the third consecutive month of increases in wholesale inflation, primarily driven by rising fuel and power prices, whose inflation rate surged from 25.85% in September to 32.84% in October.Food items provided minor relief, with food inflation dipping slightly from 8.66% in September to 8.58% in October. Meanwhile, inflation for other daily necessity goods rose from 8.67% to 9.24%. Retail Inflation Stood at 6.09% in October

India's retail inflation rate rose to 6.09% in October, up from 5.54% in September, an increase of 0.55% in a single month.

October's retail inflation rate crossed the upper tolerance limit of 6% set by the RBI, which mandates maintaining inflation within a target band of 4% to 6%.

Violence Erupts in Sheikh Hasina's Hometown Gopalganj

Dhaka, Agency: Violence erupted on Sunday in Gopalganj, the hometown of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hundreds of protestors set fire to an armored police vehicle and vandalized a police outpost.

Protestors broke through police barricades and took control of several city streets, wielding swords and spears. They also destroyed a monument built to commemorate the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, 2024.

Gopalganj is considered a strong bastion of Sheikh Hasina's party, the Awami League. The violence comes amid announcements by Hasina regarding plans to return to Bangladesh. She has been residing in India since fleeing following the student-led uprising that toppled her government in August 2024.

Life Sentences of 2 Convicts in Bilkis Bano Case Suspended

New Delhi, Agency: The Supreme Court granted bail to two convicts serving life sentences in the Bilkis Bano gangrape and murder case.Suspending their sentences, the Court noted that both men have spent over 17 years in custody, and one of them suffers from a severe physical disability. The Court ordered their release subject to conditions set by the trial court.

"Show Some Respect": SC Slaps Centre Over Relocation of 135-Year-Old Central Secretariat Library



New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court reprimanded the central government on Monday, expressing strong displeasure over its failure to make proper arrangements for Delhi's 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library (CSL).

This historic library houses over 8.5 lakh books, which are being relocated under the new Central Vista project. Expressing dismay over the handling of the library, the Court instructed the government to show respect for the books.

SC Expresses Concern Over the Future of 8.5 Lakh Books

The Court explicitly stated, "If you do not need these books, hand them over to another country that can take care of them." Furthermore, the Supreme Court directed that the books must not be relocated elsewhere until the next hearing.The Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance on October 4 regarding the proposal to relocate Delhi's 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library amid concerns raised over the future of its 8.5 lakh collection.

Library Currently Located in Shastri Bhavan: The library is currently housed in Shastri Bhavan, but the building is slated for demolition under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, necessitating relocation. The Court's intervention followed reports that the new master plan failed to allocate suitable space for the library.



Hallmark Gold Ensures Purity, Not Guarantee

New Delhi(GNS): India's supreme audit institution, the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General), has examined the functioning of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the government body responsible for verifying gold purity. The audit revealed shocking lapses, showing that the BIS is failing to properly monitor the purity of 'hallmarked' gold sold in the market, raising the risk of fraud against ordinary consumers.Under regulations, the BIS is required to visit jeweler shops at least once a year to verify whether they are genuinely selling pure gold.However, over the past five years (starting from 2020-21), the BIS has failed to inspect more than 80% of registered jeweler shops.These questions were raised in the CAG's draft report, which is expected to be tabled in Parliament following final feedback from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.Licenses Issued Without Monitoring: Selling non-hallmarked gold is illegal in 392 districts across the country, leading approximately 2.3 lakh jewelry shops to register with the BIS. In 2024-25, out of 28,865 total license holders, only 5,444 were inspected, meaning nearly 81% of shopkeepers went unchecked.

Neglect of Assaying and Hallmarking Centers (AHCs): The BIS lagged behind its target by about 44% in monitoring AHCs, where jewelry purity is tested and assigned a unique 6-digit Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number.

BIS Defense : Staff Shortages: When questioned by the CAG about these lapses, the BIS cited staff shortages and difficulties in collecting samples from remote areas. However, the CAG rejected this excuse.

Air Force Chief: Armed Forces Face Greater Danger from Insiders



New Delhi(GNS): Air Force Chief Ashutosh Dixit stated that foreign espionage networks are no longer limited to just honey traps. They are attempting to acquire sensitive information related to the Indian defense sector through cyber espionage and other methods. He noted that these methods include luring targets through social media, multi-level marketing, and debt traps. However, the threat of information leaks through insiders remains higher. In 2026, four honey trap cases have come to light, involving two Navy personnel, an Air Force wing commander, and a former serviceman.Ashutosh Dixit shared that several technical and institutional measures have been implemented to deal with such threats. Security arrangements are also being worked on for the government sector, DRDO laboratories, and private defense companies.

Dixit mentioned that an agency is currently operating to advise private defense companies on the secure use of networks and selecting the correct software.

Building Fire in Phuket Thailand, Leaves 11 Dead

Flames spread from a bike store following an explosion at a nearby transformer



Bangkok(GNS)::A fire in a multi-story building on the Thai island of Phuket early Monday morning killed 11 people and injured 17 others. The ground floor of the building operated as a motorcycle rental shop, while upper floors served as residential quarters.

Initial investigations indicate that an electrical transformer nearby exploded shortly before the fire broke out, though police are investigating the exact cause.According to local authorities, the blaze erupted around 2:00 AM, and firefighters brought it under control after about an hour of effort. Initial reports indicated no foreign nationals were among the casualties.

100 Bikes Stored in Shop Accelerated Fire Spread

Phuket Governor Chodnarin Coedsom stated that roughly 100 motorcycles were stored inside the ground-floor shop, alongside fuel, engine oil, plastic goods, and tires. The Governor noted that these flammable materials accelerated the spread of the fire, while thick and toxic smoke heightened dangers for occupants.

Bodies Recovered from Third and Fifth Floors: Authorities reported that occupants rushed towards upper floors to escape the flames; one body was recovered from the third floor, while 10 bodies were found on the fifth floor.

The affected building is located in a town near the popular Patong Beach on Phuket's western coast. Phuket is an island in southern Thailand renowned as a major tourist destination.

Major Breakthrough for Security Forces in Kulgam

Two Terrorists Killed, Including Lashkar's Last Active Commander Latif Bhat



Srinagar(GNS): Security forces achieved a major breakthrough in the Kulgam district of South Kashmir. In an encounter between security forces and terrorists in the Laru area of the district, two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed. The neutralized terrorists are reported to include Latif Bhat, the organization's last active commander in the region.

According to reports, security forces intensified search operations for terrorists following an attack on a CRPF team in Kulgam. Search operations had been underway in the area continuously for six days, during which forces cornered the terrorists, leading to an encounter where both were eliminated.On November 11, 2026, motorcycling terrorists targeted a CRPF naka party in Akhran village, Kulgam. During the assault, the terrorists fired approximately 30 rounds within a span of just 15 seconds.

Three CRPF personnel were critically injured in the sudden ambush. The attackers fled the scene, prompting security forces to seal off the area and launch a manhunt.

Congress Claims Army Fired on Police Mistaking Them for Terrorists

Both were searching in plain clothes in Kashmir; BJP calls it a conspiracy to give terrorists a clean chit



Srinagar(GNS): Following the deaths of two Special Forces officers (SF personnel), Rashpal Kumar and Bobby Chand, in Kishtwar, the Congress party has leveled allegations against the army. J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Hameed Karra stated that both SF personnel had gone hunting in plain clothes, and the Army shot them, mistaking them for terrorists. He demanded an impartial inquiry into the incident.Leader of the Opposition and BJP MLA Sunil Sharma stated that this is a Congress conspiracy to give a clean chit to terrorists.

He added that by labeling martyrs as hunters, their sacrifices and the sentiments of their families are being insulted.

Government Initiates Preparations for Budget 2027-28

Sitharaman holds consultations with economists budget expected to be presented on February 1



New Delhi(GNS): Union Finance Minister Nirmala formally commenced preparations for the Union Budget 2027-28 on Monday, November 16, by chairing the first pre-budget consultation meeting with prominent economists in New Delhi. The primary objective is to gather suggestions and feedback from sector experts ahead of formulating next fiscal year's budget.

The key meeting was attended by the Finance Minister alongside the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, the Chief Economic Advisor, and other senior Ministry of Finance officials.

Objective of Pre-Budget Consultations

Every year ahead of presenting the Union Budget, the central government consults various segments of the economy. Through this annual exercise, the government seeks to evaluate current economic realities and identify priorities and proposals to incorporate into the upcoming budget.

During discussions with economists, experts shared insights on economic challenges, growth rates, inflation, and employment. These recommendations assist the Ministry of Finance in finalizing the budget framework and government policies.

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Liberating Ideas

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

संदर्भ - विज्ञा 25-27/15 निविदा नोटिस दि. 14.11.2026 / Ref: ADVT.NO.26-27/15 TENDER NOTICE Date: 14.11.2026
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British Prince William Plays Street Cricket in Mumbai

Will meet PM Modi on November 18





Mumbai(GNS): Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate Middleton , arrived in Mumbai on Monday for a three-day official visit to India. They were welcomed by Sachin Tendulkar . William and Kate also played street cricket at Mumbai's Ballard Estate.During the match, Sachin Tendulkar fielded while a young girl bowled and bowled Prince William out.

The royal couple will attend the Earthshot Prize ceremony on November 17, following which they will travel to Delhi on November 18 to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.This marks Prince William and Kate's second official visit to India, following their previous tour in April 2016.Earthshot Prize Winners to Receive 11 Crores Each

Prince William launched the Earthshot Prize approximately six years ago to champion individuals and organizations pioneering innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

India is an epic in itself

Hridaynarayan Dixit

The origins of Indian culture predate the birth of history. Scholars and seekers of knowledge from all over the world have been inspired by Indian culture and religion. The symbols and models of this culture are a matter of pride for India. Encouraging news came from the eleventh UNESCO meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on November 5th. At this meeting, the ancient manuscripts of India's epic Mahabharata, Kautilya's Arthashastra, and Kalhad's Rajatarangini were announced to be included in the Memory of the World Asia Register.

Previously, in 2024, Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahridayaloka Lochan were included in this list. Unfortunately, due to political reasons, the atmosphere in the country has become fraught with conflict. There is no celebration of such information that brings joy to India and the Indian mind. All three texts are exceptionally prestigious.

Kautilya's Arthashastra, written around 340 BC, is the world's oldest economic text. Western scholars and their supporters, who dismiss Indian philosophy and tradition as idealistic, do not see the materialism of the Arthashastra. Kautilya, in his introduction to the Arthashastra, pays homage to Shukracharya and Brihaspati. Shukracharya's views are also mentioned. The content of the Arthashastra is full of realistic philosophy. The Arthashastra is compared to Machiavelli's "The Prince."

The topic of protecting the country from princes is interesting. It is said that the king should keep an eye on the activities of his sons.

They harm the country like crabs. The Arthashastra discusses the treasury, military organization, border expansion, and taxation such as customs. It is remarkable that Kautilya thoroughly considered all the components and objectives of the political system in the Arthashastra 350 years before Christ.

The Mahabharata contains approximately 110,000 verses. Due to its over one hundred thousand verses, it is also known as the Shata Sahasri Samhita.

Editorial

'Super Power' on Earth

Superpower" America's planes were grounded for four and a half hours. Flights were grounded. Around 3,500 aircraft were flying at that time, and they were immediately ordered to land at nearby airports. Approximately 13,000 flights were cancelled. Some put the figure at 9,000. Whatever the case, over 1.5 million air travelers were affected. Chaos erupted at airports. Passengers expressed outrage and anger, and in some cases, officials even faced scuffles. This isn't the first time the United States has faced this aviation crisis; even after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, nearly 4,500 of its most sophisticated, supposedly best, aircraft had to be grounded. Was this simply a failure of the communications system or a major, precise cyberattack? In the United States alone, the digital services of the world-renowned company Microsoft were disrupted for 30 long hours, leaving millions of users in 74 countries stranded. The internet went down, preventing email from being sent. Services were restored by Friday night. Neither President Trump nor his ministers have acknowledged the cyberattack, nor has Microsoft. How and why would a "superpower" admit such an attack? But the obvious question is: how did systems fail on such a massive scale? Why did they go down? If there was no repeat of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, how did so many systems on aircraft and air traffic control (ATC) fail simultaneously? Aviation requires not just one but multiple backup systems..

Transparency in India's Mineral Auction System Increased, Yet Mines Remain Stalled

- Arun Bhaskar Deoras

Before 2015, most non-coal mining leases in India were awarded based on government decisions and the discretion of officials. This system lacked transparency, and different states followed different procedures. To change this, the central government implemented the Mineral (Auction) Rules in 2015, under which mining areas were allocated through open and competitive auctions.

This system has proven to be quite successful. By 2026, more than 720 major mineral blocks in the country will have been auctioned. In the 2025-26 fiscal year alone, a record 212 blocks were awarded, including 22 critical and strategic mineral blocks. This has increased the mineral revenue of states by almost five times compared to before. However, these achievements conceal a serious problem. Of the more than 720 auctioned blocks, only about 101 to 105 mines have actually commenced production.

This means that only 14 to 15 out of every 100 auctioned blocks have been operational. This raises a significant question: Is India's mineral auction system truly successful, or are administrative and legal hurdles on the ground hindering it?

Key obstacles to starting mines:

1. Very small lease area and lack of space for necessary facilities : Many mineral blocks are auctioned in areas insufficient in size for modern mining activities. The lease is limited to the mineral reserves, while additional land is also required to operate a mine.

For example, the Imeliya Gold and Base Metals Project, Katni (Madhya Pradesh) : this block was auctioned for only 6.51 hectares. There are 16 surface mineral indications and 7 internal mineral areas, but almost half of the land is required to store the waste soil and rock extracted for opencast mining.

In such a situation, there isn't enough space left for essential facilities like mineral processing plants, gold and silver extraction units, mining waste storage areas, and machinery repairs. The problem is further exacerbated when promising mineral prospects appear outside the lease boundary, but they cannot be exploited.

2. Discrepancies in land records and Forest Department claims : The biggest problem after the auction is discrepancies in land records. The information provided in the auction documents and the records of the Revenue, Irrigation, or Forest Departments often do not match.

Investors bid on the land assuming it is completely clear, only to later discover that the Forest Department has claims on the land or that additional legal obligations exist.

For example, in the Hiwara Manganese Block: auction documents, 6.90 hectares of land in this block was declared entirely revenue land, with zero forest land.

But when the process of obtaining permission from the Forest Department began, 6.65 hectares of forest land was revealed in the records. This left the lessee with the additional responsibility of carrying out compensatory afforestation on an area of ??approximately 11.20 hectares, which was not mentioned in the auction documents.

In many places, land for which the Gram Panchayat or the District Administration had issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) is later declared by the Forest Department to be within its jurisdiction based on old records. This delays projects for years.

3. Conflict between environmental regulations and geological realities : Environmental protection is crucial, but mining experts say that environmental regulations and actual conditions often do not align.

Forests can be restored and alternative arrangements for wildlife can be created, but mineral deposits cannot be relocated. They exist only where nature has created them.

For example, in the southern region of the Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra,

the boundaries of wildlife corridors around some mineral blocks have been determined based on data that reflects the movement of only a few tigers. Industry insiders say that these limitations often exclude large mineral areas from mining.

Consequently, the environmental clearance process drags on for years, preventing mines from being operational.

4. Excessively high bids and financial pressures: In the current auction system, companies bid as a percentage of the mineral's sale price. Due to increased competition, bids can sometimes become so high that projects become uneconomic.

For example, in the Bhilapar Manganese and Dolomite Block, Pandhurna (Madhya Pradesh),

the winning company offered a final price of 45,295 percent in May 2025. This figure is so high that even after production begins, it may be extremely difficult to maintain the project's cost-paying balance.Experts believe that such unviable bids could lead to project abandonment or financial distress.

Strong market for local products is essential

Dr. Jayanti Lal Bhandari

These indigenous manufacturing units and MSME electronics clusters have successfully met more than 80 per cent of the demand for lighting, decorative lamps and home decor products in India's festive market this year through indigenous production…

Certainly , while the demand for local and domestic festival-related products is steadily increasing in the country's festive market, the demand for festive products imported from China is steadily declining. Amidst this comforting scenario, the biggest challenge is that, in addition to festive products, imports of various industrial and other products from other countries, including China, are steadily increasing.Consequently, while promoting regular demand for indigenous and domestic products, imports must be controlled by increasing demand for various domestic goods, so that the trade deficit can be strategically controlled and progressed. It is noteworthy that, according to data recently released by the Ministry of Commerce on November 13, India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record $39.88 billion in October 2026, the highest level in the last 12 months. This surge in imports is due to rising crude oil imports, increasing imports of various goods, including electronics, and a significant increase in gold purchases. In contrast, this trade deficit was recorded at $30.21 billion in September. India's total merchandise imports increased to a historic high of $89.35 billion in October. However, positive growth was also recorded on the country's export front during this period. Merchandise exports increased to $49.47 billion during the same period, an increase of approximately 45 percent compared to the same period last year. Strong global demand and improved performance of key sectors provided this necessary boost to exports.

It is noteworthy that despite the challenges of inflation, the recent Diwali festive market witnessed a strong surge in sales of local and domestic products. There is no doubt that the Prime Minister's continued call for "Vocal for Local" over the past few years has had a profound and positive impact on consumer behavior. As a result, with each passing festival, Indian markets are witnessing a steady increase in demand and sales of local products, handicrafts, and goods manufactured by micro, small, and medium enterprises. Even at a time when inflationary pressures persist due to global economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, high crude oil prices, and supply chain disruptions, Indian consumers' purchasing enthusiasm remains undiminished. According to the Federation of All India Traders, the country's leading trade organization, record turnover of over ?7 lakh crore was recorded between Navratri and Diwali this year. Furthermore, reports from various top economic institutions indicate that India's total trade turnover during this festive season has registered a significant increase of over 15 percent compared to last year. Undoubtedly, the most heartening aspect of this festive season is the sharp decline in the dominance of Chinese products in Indian markets, and a significant increase in the share of indigenous goods. Recalling the situation a decade ago, cheap, attractive, but poor-quality Chinese goods dominated Diwali markets, accounting for 70 to 80 percent of the market. Whether it was decorative LED lights, plastic gifts, plaster of Paris statues, fireworks, or children's toys, massive imports from China severely marginalized India's traditional artisans, potters, weavers, and small entrepreneurs.

Additionally, the country's precious foreign exchange was drained away every year. Although China still accounts for a significant portion of India's total imports and trade deficit, this significant reduction in imports of festive and consumer goods represents a significant positive socio-economic shift. Indian consumers are now prioritizing purely indigenous, natural, and environmentally friendly products over Chinese goods. This significant shift has resulted in India achieving historic savings of billions of rupees in precious foreign exchange during the festive season. Empowering Indian artisans and "Make in India" This significant economic transformation is not merely the result of emotional appeals, but is a significant contribution to the hard work, innovation, and technological improvements of Indian artisans, weavers, small entrepreneurs, and "Make in India" groups. Over the past few years, the MSME sector has positioned itself as highly competitive in technology, design, quality control, and supply chain innovation. Today's indigenous products are not only highly durable but also fully meet the preferences, aesthetics, and utility of modern consumers. From an economic perspective, when citizens buy local products instead of from foreign companies, their hard-earned money directly benefits small artisans, potters, weavers, handicraftsmen, and women's self-help groups rooted in India, rather than going to foreign markets. This leads to a fair redistribution of wealth and strengthens rural and semi-urban economies from within.

Indeed, over the past decade, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has consistently empowered rural artisans through its visionary initiatives.

Under the Village Industries Development Scheme and the Potter Empowerment Scheme, modern electric wheels and advanced toolkits have been distributed to thousands of potters across the country, significantly increasing their production capacity by 3-4 times. In the financial year 2024-25, KVIC achieved a turnover of ?1.70 lakh crore, which will further exceed ?1.87 lakh crore in 2025-26. The Commission has set an ambitious turnover target of ?2.51 lakh crore for the current financial year.

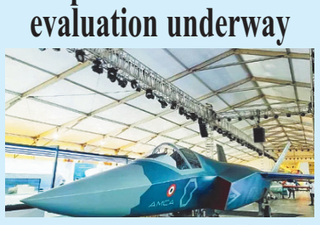
Between 2014-15 and 2025-26, total production of Khadi and Village Industries products has increased by nearly 320 percent and sales by over 400 percent. This promotion of local products is not limited to traditional earthen lamps or handicrafts; it has also set new benchmarks in the field of modern electronics. The planned and effective implementation of the Central Government's Make in India initiative and Production Linked Incentive schemes has led to the establishment of new electronics manufacturing clusters in the country.

These indigenous manufacturing units and MSME electronics clusters have successfully met over 80 percent of India's festive market demand for lighting, decorative lights, and home decor products this year through indigenous production. Decorative lights, for which India once relied heavily on China, are now being manufactured here in India at high quality and very affordable prices. However, concerted efforts are now underway to develop a strong market for local products.

PRGI No. GUJENG/2014/57876 Printed, Published & Owned by AJAYKUMAR RAMANLAL PRAJAPATI and Printed By (1) JIGNESH RASHIKBHAI GAJJAR at Vansh Corporation, A/8, Shayona Golden Estate, Shahibag, Ahmedabad - 380 004
(2) DESAI RAHUL MAHESHBHAI at Bhavani Offset, "Bhatiya Ni Wadi, Opp Kalupur Railway Station, Kalupur, Ahmedabad-380 002. (3) HARDIK MAHESHBHAI DESAI at Bhoomi Offset, "Bhatiya Ni Wadi, Opp Kalupur Railway Station, Kalupur, Ahmedabad-380 002
and Published from TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnagar, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad - 380 005. Editor : ASHVINKUMAR KESHAVLAL RAMI
Rage.Office: TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnagar, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad - 380 005 Gujarat,India. Phone : (O) 9016333307(M),9825333307
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BRIFF NEWS

Big step towards developing AMCA aircraft, 3 companies submit bids evaluation underway



New Delhi, (GNS): Taking a major step towards developing India's fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft, three Indian contenders have submitted their bids before a high-level review committee constituted by the Ministry of Defence.

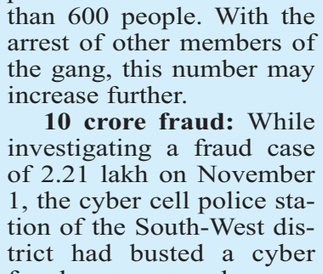
These bids are related to developing prototypes for the 15,000 crore Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program and are currently under evaluation.

Which companies submitted bids: Citing industry sources, a Times of India report stated that these three contenders include a consortium led by L&T (which includes DRDO and Dynamatic), Tata Advanced Systems Limited, and a consortium led by Bharat Forge. All three submitted their respective bids by the October 30 deadline. Among the three, only ... is the sole bidding company.

When were the bids opened?

According to the report, bids were opened on November 1 to select a Development-cum-Production Partner to develop five AMCA prototypes designed by the DRDO laboratory, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). The Bengaluru-based ADA conceptualized this project and will oversee the construction of the five twin-engine AMCA prototypes.

New way of cheating, 41,000 mobile phones used as weapons for greed of 2; Delhi Police unearths 10 crore fraud



New Delhi, (GNS): Gangs cheating people in the name of digital arrest and investments come to light every day. But Delhi Police has busted a gang that was even using ordinary people's mobile phones to send fraudulent messages.

The notable thing is that the owners of the mobiles sending the fraudulent messages were falling into the trap of fraudsters for the greed of 2 and were not even getting a whiff of it.

Police investigation has so far revealed that mobile phones of 41,000 such people were used to cheat more than 600 people. With the arrest of other members of the gang, this number may increase further.

10 crore fraud: While investigating a fraud case of 2.21 lakh on November 1, the cyber cell police station of the South-West district had busted a cyber fraud gang spread across the country. A case of ?10 crore fraud came to light in this.

In this case, police arrested Moti Singh Baghel, Harshpal, Vicky, Vishal Das Vaishnav, and Brijesh from Mumbai, Lucknow, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Punjab. According to sources, police investigation revealed that this gang was using mobile phones of ordinary people itself to send fraudulent messages.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL)

- **(A Government of India Enterprise)**
- **DFCCIL Receives FIDIC Asia-Pacific Project Award-2026 for Rail Engineering Excellence**
- **" Dedicated Freight Corridor project recognised in the 'Large Project Category'**
- **" International recognition for India's engineering capabilities and logistics development**

Noida: India's Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project has received international recognition for its rail engineering excellence and contribution to the country's freight & logistics sector. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been honoured with the prestigious FIDIC Asia-Pacific Project Award 2026 in the "Large Project Category" at the FIDIC Asia-Pacific Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The award recognises DFCCIL's contribution through the development of the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors, modern rail infrastructure, technological & engineering excellence and the role of DFC in strengthening India's logistics ecosystem.

Shri Alok Tiwari,Managing Director, DFCCI, received the prestigious award at the international conference on Monday. He was also accompanied by Shri Pawan Kumar, Executive Director (ED).

Recognition in the 'Large Project Category'

The FIDICaward highlights the scale and engineering excellence of the Dedicated Freight Corridor project. It also recognises the project's modern infrastructure, electrified double-track network, efficient freight movement and contribution to improving India's logistics sector.

The 2,843-km long Dedicated Freight Corridor network has been developed with an investment of Rs 1.24 lakh crore. The corridor has significantly increased India's freight transportation capacity. The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) is 1,337 km from Ludhiana to Sonnagar and the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) stretches 1,506 km from Dadri to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT).

Today, the DFC network seamlessly connects industrial areas, production centres, freight terminals and major ports across the country. They are built to operate longer and heavier freight trains at speeds of up to 100 kmph. Long haul trains with lengths of up to 1,500 metres and double stack container trains are its hallmark.

The project has sped-up goods transportation, reduced transit delays and lowered transportation and storage costs. Better movement of raw materials and finished products is supporting the nation's manufacturing, mining, agriculture and trade.Improved connectivity to the major ports is bolstering exports and imports. Sprouting freight terminals and warehouses along the corridors are creating investments and employment opportunities.

Moving freight trains to dedicated tracks has also reduced pressure on existing Indian Railway routes, helping improve the punctuality and efficiency of passenger train services.

DFCCIL has also adopted the principles of FIDIC's 1999 Yellow Book for its major contracts for it helps ensure clear responsibilities, transparency and effective contract management.

FIDIC& Its Importance

Established in 1913, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) is a global organisation representing national associations of consulting engineers. Its network includes more than 10 lakh engineering professionals and around 40,000 companies across nearly 100 countries.

It promotes quality, integrity and sustainability in infrastructure projects. Its standard contract documents are widely used in major construction projects, including those funded by international development banks. FIDIC Asia Pacific is its regional group, with member associations from more than twenty countries.

The award is an important international recognition of DFCCIL's engineering capabilities and its role in developing modern railway infrastructure and strengthening India's freight transportation system.

A heartwarming initiative Tytles and Feeding India delivered colorful toys into the hands of 20,000 needy children



New Delhi, (GNS): With the objective of adding some memorable moments of happiness to the lives of needy children, Tytles collaborated with Feeding India for a special initiative. Under this, toys were delivered to about 20,000 children across the country.

During this event, several entertaining games and activities, including tug-of-war, were organized for the children.

The children participated in them with great enthusiasm. The most memorable moment of the program came when boxes full of toys were opened in front of the children. Finding colorful, soft toys made the children's faces light up.

Target set : They played with the toys and danced to express their joy. Expanding this initiative, Tytles Director Gaurav Goyal has set a target to reach two lakh children in the next phase.

Union Minister strict regarding pollution in Delhi-NCR Environment Ministry replies to Neha Bora's letter

New Delhi, (GNS): All India Students Association (AISA) President Neha Bora had written a letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on the issue of poor air quality in Delhi and surrounding cities.

Replying to Neha Bora's letter, the Environment Ministry has stated that Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav is giving top priority to the problem of air pollution in Delhi-NCR states.

Ministry replies to Neha Bora's letter: Taking cognizance of her email sent on November 12, 2026, the Environment Ministry has clarified that Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav is giving top priority to the problem of air pollution in Delhi-NCR states.



The official reply stated that the Union Minister is continuously monitoring and reviewing the steps being taken by state governments and local authorities for pollution control.

In his high-level meeting held on November 14, 2026, with Delhi-NCR states, he gave clear instructions that pollution control measures should not remain confined merely to papers but should be strictly implemented at the ground level.

Senior officers to be deployed in every city: To effectively enforce pollution control rules, the Union Minister has directed that senior officers of secretary rank be deployed in each city of the Delhi-NCR states.

75% of victims of hit-and-run cases unable to get compensation, reveals report



New Delhi, (GNS): A shocking revelation has come to light regarding government compensation given to victims and their families in accident and hit-and-run cases in the country.

According to a report prepared on the basis of government data, approximately 75 percent of victims and their families eligible for compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act are deprived of this financial assistance.

Revealed in report by management consultancy firm Primus Partners

A report by management consultancy firm Primus Partners reveals that around 70,000 hit-and-run cases come to light every year, in which more than 30,000 people lose their lives and 16,000 people are seriously injured.

Considering all cases according to the compensation rules of the Motor Vehicles Act, the total annual compensation should be around 600 crore. However, in the last four years, less than 300 crore has been disbursed as compensation, indicating a major shortfall in compensation distribution.

Benefit not reaching victims: Under the revised compensation scheme launched by the central government in February 2022, there is a provision to provide assistance of 2 lakh in case of death in a hit-and-run case and 50,000 in case of serious injury.

Report data shows that despite more than 46,000 deaths and serious injuries annually, fewer than 10,000 claims are filed each year.

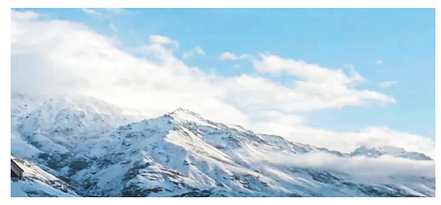
Out of these too, less than 8,000 applicants actually manage to get compensation ann ually. Consequently, even four years after the implementation of the scheme, less than 25 percent of the government's annual liability is reaching the victims.

High peaks covered with white sheet of snow in mountains, impact of cold increases in plains too

New Delhi, (GNS): The high peaks in the mountains have been covered with a white sheet of snow. High-altitude areas in Uttarakhand, including Badrinath, Hemkund Sahib, and Panchachuli, experienced snowfall on Sunday. Himachal witnessed heavy snowfall in Lahaul-Spiti, Rohtang, and Jalori in Kullu, and Sonamarg and Zojila in Kashmir.

The change in weather pattern has increased the chill from the mountains to the plains. The impact of cold is also increasing in North Indian states including Delhi-NCR.

Light drizzle in Dehradun-Mussoorie areas: Meanwhile, snowfall was also recorded in the Vyas, Darma, and Johar valleys of the Kumaon division. Khalia Top in Munsiyari recorded the first snowfall



of this season. Light drizzle occurred in some areas of Dehradun and Mussoorie as well. Meanwhile, light drizzle was recorded in Nainital, Almora, and Bageshwar. Banners and posters put up for the fair in Jauljibi were blown away due to rain and strong winds.

One to two inches of snow fall in Kashmir: About one to two inches of snow fell in Sonamarg, Gurez Valley, and Zojila Pass in Kashmir. The world-famous tourist destination Gulmarg also received light snowfall.

FSSAI strict on misleading claims of food products, fine up to 10 lakh for wrong labeling

Misleading claims and online discrepancies on food products are a common problem

New Delhi, (GNS): It has now become a common thing in India for food packets to claim 100 percent pure fruit juice, real honey, or whole grain biscuits, while exaggerating such claims.

Another situation is the difference between the ingredients mentioned on online grocery platforms and the items delivered at home. With the increasing trend of online grocery shopping, such discrepancies are becoming a serious concern for food safety and consumer protection.

Responsibilities fixed: Under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, certain responsibilities have been fixed for manufacturers, sellers, and e-commerce platforms. But for this, it is necessary to know what misleading labeling is, which authority to contact, and how to preserve the correct evidence.

According to recent FSSAI data, 1,133 licenses were suspended, 52 cancelled, and 314 premises sealed. According to a report by the Times of India, Ashwin Bhadri, National Resource Person of FSSAI, says that the real challenge begins when the inspection team leaves that place. Inspection and punitive action are necessary because it reminds businesses that officials are keeping an eye



on them, but such temporary measures do not address the root causes of repeated rule violations.

Bhadri explains, strict :action is just an incident, while food safety should be a habit. He further stated that suspension means a temporary stoppage of work. The question is what changed inside the business during this time? Was the pest-control contract fixed, or was the kitchen cleaned just for inspection? Was the root cause of the problem found, or were only its symptoms treated?

He says that the violations that are visible often point to deeper problems like raw material sourcing, supplier verification, cleanliness practices, and quality checks during manufacturing.

Parliamentary data for 2025-26 also reflects this shortcoming

Bhadri says, the data tells where the challenge lies. The government told Parliament that in 2025-26, 2,23,808 samples of food items were tested, out of which 40,023 samples were found not conforming to standards—meaning almost one in every five samples was faulty. These figures are provisional. Non-compliance covers many things, ranging from misbranding to actual adulteration. During the same period, convictions occurred in 1,918 cases.

He further states, I would not look at these two figures as a proportion. But together they definitely tell one thing that our system is very good at detecting problems, but not as capable of completely and permanently resolving those problems.

What does Indian law say about misleading food labels?

These responsibilities are governed by three laws: the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

1. Mandatory to state ingredients in correct order

Under Section 23 of the FSSAI Act, the Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations, 2020 lay down basic requirements for food labels.

BRIFF NEWS

Society should brainstorm to create a mechanism for accountability of social media: Ashwini Vaishnav

New Delhi, (GNS): The government today called upon civil society, intellectuals, and operators of digital and social media platforms to deliberate deeply on what framework should be created to make social media content accountable and to create an effective mechanism for redressal of grievances so that social media contributes to strengthening society, rather than weakening and dividing it.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, while addressing a program organized by the Press Council of India on National Press Day at Akashvani Bhavan here, said that no one has clear responsibility for social media today. Platforms practice self-regulation based on their community guidelines and policies, but the question is: is this system sufficient? Is self-regulation alone enough to give voice to citizens, redress grievances, and protect their interests?

Speaking on the topic of "Journalism: Sensation or Responsibility," the Union Minister elaborated on the changing role of media, technological advances, the impact of social media, and the responsibility of journalism. He highlighted the changes in the media field over the past two-three decades and the even greater changes expected in the coming five years.

Postage stamp released in honour of Ram Bux Singh, a pioneer in biogas technology

New Delhi, (GNS): The Department of Posts has released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Ram Bux Singh (1925-2016), a scientist who made pioneering contributions in the field of biogas technology and renewable energy. The stamp was released during a function held in New Delhi on November 13.

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale and Chief Postmaster General of Delhi Circle Colonel Akhilesh Kumar Pandey jointly released the stamp at a function held at the Minister's residence. Other senior dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Ram Bux Singh made significant contributions to the development and dissemination of biogas technology as a sustainable energy solution, especially for rural communities. He inaugurated one of the country's first successful biogas plants in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, in 1957. He then served as the Officer-in-Charge of Asia's first biogas research center in Ajitmal, Uttar Pradesh, for 16 years. He also contributed to renewable energy initiatives in more than 15 countries.

His work was recognized internationally. His work was cited in a 1975 US Senate report and publications such as "Mother Earth News." He also wrote several books on biogas technology. His book, "Biogas Plant: Generating Methane from Organic Wastes," is listed in the US Library of Congress.

His research papers and professional records were added to the National Archives' collection in September 2023. These documents have been digitized through the "Abhilekh Patal" portal.

Indian Railways built freight corridors, will customers transport goods by rail instead of trucks

New Delhi, (GNS): Indian Railways is entering a new era of freight transportation. The Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors are now fully operational, increasing capacity and making the movement of goods faster and more reliable.

Capacity is going to increase further in the future. A proposed East-West corridor will further strengthen connectivity across the country. After facing a lack of investment for decades, rail freight now has the infrastructure needed to compete, but freight traffic cannot be won back from road transport on the basis of infrastructure alone.

Several challenges ahead: According to a Times of India report, the challenge now is not just laying tracks, but convincing customers to choose rail transport over trucks. At first glance, rail



freight appears to be thriving. Goods loading increased from 1,098 million tonnes in FY2015 to 1,617 million tonnes in FY2025, and last financial year it even reached a record 1,670 million tonnes.

Yet, the position of rail in India's logistics system is quite weak compared to these figures. A parliamentary committee recently estimated that the share of rail in national freight transport in FY2025 is only around 27 percent, which is far short of the National Rail Plan's target of 45 percent by 2030.

The problem is not a shortage of goods. Enough goods are produced in India's economy to meet this target. The real trouble is that customers are getting better service from road transport. The pressure of competition is clearly visible even in those commodities where railways have traditionally dominated.

Coal, iron ore, steel, and cement are the mainstay of earnings from railway freight. Among these, coal alone contributes about half of the revenue earned from freight. Despite this, road transport has continuously increased its penetration in many of these sectors. Coal is the clearest example of this.

The share of road transport in raw coal transportation increased from 24.4 percent in FY2021 to 33.8 percent in FY2024, and then slightly decreased to 31.1 percent in FY2025. During the same period, the share of rail transport fell from 53.9 percent to 47.4 percent and later recovered to reach 50.5 percent.

Even though rail transport has regained its position to some extent, road transport has now firmly established itself in one of the most important categories of freight. A similar situation is seen in other sectors as well. Against the production of about 289 million tonnes of iron ore in FY2025, the railways transported about 178 million tonnes. This means the share of rail transport was just over 60 percent.

In the case of steel and cement, these ratios are much lower. Although these figures do not directly reflect modal share (the share of different modes of transport), they point to a big reality that a large part of India's freight transport still happens outside the rail network.

Where is the problem?

According to the report, road transport has rapidly adapted itself to this reality.

level review meeting regarding preparations for the India Biennale, instructions given to all departments



New Delhi,(GNS): A high-level meeting was held on Monday at the Chief Minister's Public Service House, co-chaired by Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, regarding preparations for the India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2026. The meeting reviewed in detail various aspects, department-wise responsibilities, and necessary arrangements for the 108-day event, scheduled to be held in Delhi from December 4 to March 21, 2027. The Union Minister and Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to coordinate and prepare a time-bound action plan and prioritize all arrangements related to the event. The objective of the meeting is to effectively showcase Delhi's historical heritage, contemporary art, architecture, design, and cultural diversity on an international platform through the India Biennale. The Chief Minister stated that the India Biennale 2026 will be a major event aimed at establishing Delhi as an important center for international art and culture. The festival will provide a common platform for global art traditions and contemporary cultural expressions. Like the Venice Biennale, one of the world's most prestigious art events, this event will showcase the diverse facets of India's art, culture, and creativity, but with its own unique Indian identity and cultural heritage. The Chief Minister stated that the India Biennale 2026 will be held in New Delhi for 108 days, from December 4, 2026, to March 21, 2027. It is being billed as one of the country's largest events in the fields of art, architecture, and design. As part of this event, more than 22 historical monuments, museums, art galleries, cultural institutions, and public spaces in Delhi will be developed into a common cultural platform, with the Purana Qila as its central center. Numerous sites, including the Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Safdarjung Tomb, Lodhi Gardens, Mehrauli, Hauz Khas, Agrasen Ki Baoli, National Museum, National Gallery of Modern Art, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and Lalit Kala Akademi, will be part of the event. The central theme of the Biennale, "Tat Tvam Asi," aims to understand and reinvigorate the deep connection between the individual, society, and the world around them. In this era of distractions, this event, based on the idea of reconnecting with each other and our roots, will provide an opportunity for introspection, community engagement, and understanding of cultural heritage through art. The Biennale will have four key dimensions: reflection, rejuvenation, renewal, and resilience. Art exhibitions, art installations, cultural performances, heritage walks, workshops, dialogue programs, and the Student Biennale will be organized.

Information from 65 portals of the Ministry of Culture will now be available on a single AI platform, chat bot launched

New Delhi,(GNS):p The Union Ministry of Culture on Monday launched an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered semantic search and knowledge discovery platform to facilitate citizens' access to the country's vast and diverse cultural heritage. This will now provide information from approximately 65 digital platforms related to the Ministry of Culture's archives, manuscripts, museums, monuments, intangible cultural heritage, various art forms, conservation, commemorative events, and major national campaigns on a single search engine.

Culture Ministry Secretary Vivek Aggarwal stated that this platform will be available on the Ministry's main digital platform, http://culture.gov.in, and includes a chat bot. This search engine will be available in 22 Indian languages ??and anyone can use it, with no registration required.

He explained that much of the Ministry's information related to the country's heritage and culture



was scattered across various systems, making it difficult for citizens to find and use.

For example, this search engine can also access detailed information and data on the databases available on Gyan Bharatam, the Abhilekh portal, and the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar.

Through the new platform, citizens will now be able to access reliable information on India's heritage across all the Ministry's digital websites through a single intelligent interface, powered by AI technology. It features natural language processing, AI-generated summaries, source references, multilingual translation, retrieval-augmented generation, knowledge graphs, and search that goes beyond keywords and is user-aware and context-aware.

Agarwal explained that the platform is built on an open-source foundation model and is LLM-agnostic, allowing for the easy integration of Indian sovereign AI models and new technologies in the future. A key feature of this platform is that queries can be made in 22 Indian languages. Each statement will be accompanied by a numbered citation, which will open on the relevant ministry's page, allowing for a single click to verify the answer.

This platform will only pull information from the ministry's own portal, not the open internet. Where information is lacking, it will provide clear information instead of guesswork. Agarwal stated that this initiative will make access to India's cultural heritage democratic, transparent, and easy.

Ashwini Vaishnav flags off new daily train Kanpur Express between Delhi and Kanpur

New Delhi, (GNS): Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Monday flagged off the new daily train "Kanpur Express" between Kanpur Central and Anand Vihar Terminal via video conferencing. Member of Parliament Ramesh Awasthi also flagged off the train at a function held in Kanpur on the occasion. The new train service will strengthen rail connectivity between Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Region (NCR) and provide passengers with an additional travel option between Kanpur and Delhi.

According to information released by the Railways, this 428-kilometer train will have 22 modern LHB coaches. The train will connect several major industrial and commercial centers along its route, including Phaphund, Etawah, Tundla, Hathras, Aligarh, Khurja, Dadri, and Ghaziabad.

This train will benefit the industrial areas of Auraiya, the Pata plant of NTPC and GAIL, the agricultural sector of Etawah, and the glass industry of Firozabad. Furthermore, the asafoetida processing, brass, and agro-based industries of Hathras, the lock industry of Aligarh, and the Aligarh Muslim University, and the ceramic and pottery industries of Khurja will also receive improved rail connectivity. The train will connect the industrial and freight hub of Dadri and Ghaziabad, a major industrial city in the NCR, and reach Anand Vihar Terminal. This will provide convenient travel options for businessmen, students, workers, and other travelers between Kanpur and Delhi. On this occasion, Vaishnav congratulated the people of Kanpur on the launch of the new train service. He said that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also congratulated the people of Kanpur on this new rail service. Referring to upcoming rail projects in Kanpur, the Railway Minister said that the construction of a 16-kilometer-long elevated rail track between Anwarganj and Mandhana will provide a permanent solution to the decades-old problem of traffic jams at railway crossings.

Self-enumeration for the second phase of the census begins, details can be submitted online until November 30

New Delhi, (GNS): As part of the second phase of Census 2027, self-enumeration began on Monday in the non-snow areas of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, and Uttarakhand. Residents of these states and regions will be able to register their family and personal details online through the official portal until November 30. Following this, census workers will conduct door-to-door population enumeration from December 1 to January 4, 2027.

According to official information, after the door-to-door enumeration, a revision round will be conducted from January 5 to 9, 2027. The reference date for the census for these states and regions has been set as midnight (00:00) on January 5, 2027.

To participate in the self-enumeration, residents can log in to the official portal se.census.gov.in using their mobile numbers. For this, it is preferable to use the mobile number registered during the first phase. The portal will require you to answer 40 notified questions related to family and personal details. Upon successful submission of information, a unique Self-Enumeration Identification Number (SE ID) will be issued, which will need to be provided to the census worker visiting the home.

Census workers will also visit households that have opted for self-enumeration as scheduled during the census. For families that have not completed self-enumeration online, census workers will record their details door-to-door. Thus, despite the availability of self-enumeration, the door-to-door enumeration process will continue in all allocated areas. The census in the remaining states and union territories will be conducted from January 25 to February 28, 2027. This will be followed by a revision phase from March 1 to 5, 2027. The self-enumeration facility will be available in these states and union territories from January 10 to 24, 2027. The reference date for this census has been set as midnight of March 1, 2027.

Houselisting and Housing Enumeration (HLO) under the first phase of Census 2027 has been completed in all 35 states and union territories of the country except Manipur. For the first time in the country, the census process is being conducted digitally. Self-enumeration has been introduced as an additional feature. This secure and user-friendly web-based system is available in 16 Indian languages. Under the Census Act, 1948, all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes and development planning. People have been appealed to actively participate in this national endeavor and cooperate with census workers.