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Election Commission Notifies Schedule for Vice-Presidential Election 2025

(Gns). By a Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary today (the 7th of August, 2025), the Election Commission has fixed the following schedule for the Vice-Presidential Election, 2025: - (a) August 21, 2025, as the last date for making nominations;

(b) August 22, 2025, as the date for the scrutiny of nominations;

(c) August 25, 2025, as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures; and

(d) September 09, 2025, as the date on which a poll shall, if necessary, be taken.

The Commission vide separate Notifications issued on the 25th of July, 2025, has appointed Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary-

General, Rajya Sabha, as the Returning Officer for the Vice-Presidential Election, 2025 and Ms. Garima Jain, Joint



Secretary and Shri Vijay Kumar, Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, as the Assistant Returning Officers.

As required under rule 3 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, the Returning Officer has by a Public Notice notified today, the 7th of August, 2025 that:

(i) nomination papers may be delivered by a can-

didate or any one of his proposers or seconders to the undersigned at his office in Room No RS-28, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi or if he is unavoidably absent, to the Assistant Returning Officers, Ms. Garima Jain, Joint Secretary or Shri Vijay Kumar, Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, at the said office between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on any day (other than a public holiday) but not later than the 21st of August, 2025;

(ii) each nomination paper shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the entry relating to the candidate in the electoral roll for the Parliamentary constituency in which the candidate is registered as an elector;

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Graces Kheti Bank's Acknowledgement Ceremony

Gandhinagar, 07 August 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, while addressing the Acknowledgement Ceremony organised by the Gujarat State Co-Operative Agricultural And Rural Development Bank Ltd (Kheti Bank) in Gandhinagar, said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's commitment to inclusive development has given new direction to the cooperative sector. He noted that Gujarat's cooperative banks have set an example for the rest of the country, and Kheti Bank has earned the trust of farmers across the state. The CM congratulated Kheti Bank for maintaining



zero per cent NPA for three consecutive years and commended its efforts to simplify loan procedures, revise land valuations, and introduce policies that make loans easier and faster for farmers.

The CM stated that

Gujarat, which once led the non-cooperation movement during the freedom struggle, is now leading the cooperative movement under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah.

Kharge backs Rahul's 'vote chori' allegations; says time to save country

(Gns). Shortly after Congress MP and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi shared "criminal evidence" to back his claim of rigging in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said the time has come to save democracy and the Constitution.

Launching a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India, Kharge said there was a time when the poll panel of India was praised worldwide.

"Many countries sought training from our Election Commission to conduct impartial elections. When a political party raised questions with the Election

Commission, it would respond or provide clarification within the bounds of constitutional dignity," he



said.

In contrast, the Congress president said, "Today, when someone questions the ECI, instead of responding, it acts like a representative of the ruling party, leveling counter-al-

legations and making base-

less statements without considering the demands of opposition parties."

Backing Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' (vote theft) claim, Kharge said the LoP explained how the Election Commission allowed gross rigging in a single election, and shredded its constitutional duties.

"Today, Mr. @RahulGandhi, after thorough investigation, cited examples from Karnataka's Mahadevapura Assembly Segment, explaining how the Election Commission allowed gross rigging in a single election, shredding its constitutional duties, with 1,00,250 votes stolen," Kharge said.

UP govt launches Atal scholarship for studying abroad, approves 3 new private varsities

(Gns). To promote quality higher education in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has taken historic decisions. It has approved the establishment of three new private universities and launch of a special Atal Bihar Vajpayee scholarship scheme for studying abroad.

The proposals were approved in a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Thursday.

State Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay informed that in the memory of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee,

the UP government is launching the "Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee- Uttar Pradesh State



Government Scholarship Scheme" in collaboration with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom.

This scheme will start from the academic year 2025-26 and will be applicable for the initial three years. Under the scheme,

five meritorious students of the state will be provided full scholarship for one year master's degree in any subject in any recognized university of the United Kingdom. This scholarship will provide academic fee, examination and research fee, monthly allowance for single student's stay and one-time round trip airfare in economy class.

The minister said the estimated total expenditure per student under the scheme will be between £38,048 to £42,076, out of which the Uttar Pradesh government will bear £19,800 i.e. about Rs 23,00,000 and the remaining expenditure will be borne by FCDO UK.



Festival of Nationhood, A Pledge for Cleanliness

Let us hoist the Tricolour and make 79th Independence Day truly memorable

Statewide Celebrations of Har Ghar Tiranga Har Ghar Swachhata

Campaign to be organized from 9th to 15th August, 2025 (Second and Third Phase)

Svatantrata Ka Utsav, Swachhata Ke Sang

“ ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign has become a unique celebration that upholds the glory of Tiranga. ”

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**



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Click a selfie with your Tiranga and share it on harghartiranga.com



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Editorial

Cognitive AI

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a buzzword. It is now a national strategy. From the Prime Minister's Digital India vision to the recently launched Rs 10,372 crore IndiaAI Mission, the Government of India has committed to building sovereign AI capabilities through compute infrastructure, foundational models, data platforms, and upskilling programs. These steps are timely and visionary. But there remains a critical missing layer in our discourse ~ one less about technology and more about transformation.

How do we make our institutions, teams, and missions truly AI-native? While India invests heavily in GPUs and large language models, much of our public and private sector still runs on manual work flows, top-down communications, quarterly planning cycles, and disjointed knowledge systems. We are building state-of-the-art AI at the edge ~ but the core, the institutional heart at the centre of our economy and governance, remains legacy systems. This is the real gap: not between having or lacking AI tools, but between using AI superficially and thinking with AI natively. To be AI-native means more than adopting AI. It means redesigning how decisions are made, how knowledge is shared and remembered, how intelligence is embedded into everyday systems, and how human and machine roles evolve collaboratively.

It's the difference between layering AI on top of existing processes, and reimagining the workflow itself with agents, data, and cognition integrated from the ground up. Across the world, countries are not just developing AI ~ they are redesigning their institutions around it. In the United States, the CHIPS and Science Act and the National AI Research Resource are enabling AI integration into public health, education, and national security. Cross-sector consortia are building data-rich policy models to simulate real-world impacts and redesign how government teams operate. China has taken an even more topdown approach.

AI is embedded in smart cities, agricultural planning, digital governance, and social infrastructure. Its focus is not merely on tools, but on deeply reconfiguring how institutions function and coordinate at scale. In both cases, governments are treating AI not as an accessory, but as a foundational redesign opportunity for public and organizational systems. India must chart its own course, drawing on the scale and coordination of China, the openness of the US, and the safeguards of Europe, while addressing the distinct needs of its own teams, structures, and public systems. Our approach must reflect India's linguistic and institutional diversity, its federal dynamics, and the realities of service delivery across geographies.

The rise of models like DeepSeek from China, Mistral from France, and Falcon from the UAE has also given hope that India too can rapidly build its own high-performing open-source AI systems tailored to its unique local needs. Additionally, India stands at a defining moment. With over 100 million new internet users expected by 2027 and the world's largest working-age

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel chairs a One-day Joint Conference of District Development Officers and Directors of District Rural Development Agencies

Gandhinagar, 07 August 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel emphasised the key role of District Development Officers in advancing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047 at the grassroots level.

In this context, he stated that, Prime Minister aims to accelerate rural development by equipping villages with modern amenities to realise the goal of Viksit Bharat.

CM said that the need for youth District Development Officers is to lead with a spirit of service in delivering key welfare schemes—livelihood, housing, healthcare, sanitation—to rural and needy communities.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel was addressing the joint conference of District Development Officers and Directors of District Rural

serving the public interest. In today's technology-driven era, where public awareness and accountability have grown, the CM said officers must ensure timely, development reach every-one. The CM noted that the Viksit Bharat vision can only be achieved through collective effort. He encouraged them to work with renewed



transparent, and efficient delivery of government services—leading with quality and responsiveness to people's needs.

CM stated that Gujarat is financially stable, with sufficient resources allocated for rural and overall development. He urged DDOs to ensure that the benefits of

development's newsletter.

Rural Development Minister Shri Raghavji Patel said that achieving Viksit Bharat through Viksit Gujarat requires focused implementation of key schemes. He noted that initiatives like Catch the Rain, Swachhata Abhiyan, and tree plantation directly impact rural health and the environment. He stressed the timely execution of MGNREGA to ensure employment and support the rural economy. He called for proper upkeep of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) assets and avoiding duplication in sanitation works, urging optimal use of 15th Finance Commission funds. On Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), he reaffirmed the state's commitment to housing for all rural families and announced an additional ₹50,000 per beneficiary in 2025–26 to strengthen the

effort. He said the goal of rural development is to improve the quality of life through essential services, and that District Development Officers play a key role in delivering results under the Chief Minister's leadership.

Chief Secretary Shri Pankaj Joshi outlined that the objective of the conference is to review district-wise implementation of schemes, ensure citizen-centric delivery, and achieve effective outcomes through good governance. He said that the Government of India has introduced the Panchayat Performance Index (PAI) to assess progress on nine thematic areas aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, covering infrastructure, health, education, economic and social indicators, and governance at the panchayat level.

US tariffs a wake-up call for smarter trade

Starting this month, American consumers are shopping for Indian goods, and Indian exporters shipping to the U.S. will feel the sting of a new 25 per cent tariff slapped by the Trump administration. In a move framed as protecting domestic manufacturing, Washington's latest trade salvo imposes up to 25 per cent duties on a range of Indian exports – including 25 per cent on certain textiles and auto components, and 10–15 per cent on categories like generic pharmaceuticals and machinery part. But while headlines focus on diplomatic retaliation and political posturing, the real story here is about consumers, on both sides of the trade wall.

Whether it is a small apparel brand in Gujarat, a turmeric exporter in Erode, or a U.S. importer sourcing affordable generics from Hyderabad, this tariff hike doesn't just punish trade, it punishes choice. Instead of a knee-jerk reaction, India should treat this moment as a strategic wake-up call. The global trading order is shifting fast. Protectionism is making a comeback under the "national interest" banner, but everyday people bear its actual cost. Consumers pay more, get less, and lose access to innovation. Take the example of Indian pharma. The US relies on India for 40 per cent of its affordable and high-quality generic medicines, a lifeline that

keeps drug prices affordable for millions. With a 25 per cent tariff, those prices could spike, leaving American consumers and insurers to pay significantly more for basic medicines.



That's bad business for both sides. Or consider Indian textile SMEs that export cotton garments to U.S. retailers. These businesses already operate on razor-thin profit margins. A 25 per cent tariff could render them uncompetitive overnight, leading to lost orders, layoffs, and reduced production. And American retailers won't

absorb the shock; they'll pass it down to consumers through higher prices. This is the domino effect of protectionism: fewer options, higher prices, and stalled innovation. That's bad news for anyone who cares about affordability and variety, whether buying shoes in Chicago or selling saris in Surat.

The solution, however, is not to mirror America's tariff war with one of our own. Rather than retaliating with blanket duties on US imports, India should seize the moment to make its economy more open, competitive, and consumer-friendly. That means lower-

ing our import tariffs, especially on consumer goods where global competition drives better quality and prices. It means signing trade deals that aren't just about political alliances but about securing cheaper medicines, cutting-edge tech, and better value for Indian consumers. It means slashing red tape at customs so Indian exporters can survive, not just U.S. tariffs, but future global disruptions. Most importantly, it means putting consumer welfare at the heart of our trade policy – not treating it as a side effect.

If the cost of a trade war is higher prices, fewer choices, and shrinking markets, the goal of trade

reform must be the opposite: greater access, lower prices, and more freedom to choose. India has long spoken about becoming a global manufacturing hub. However, that ambition will remain half-baked unless we build an economy where producers and consumers benefit from openness, not protectionism. Trump's tariff bombshell is a challenge, but also an opportunity. Instead of playing defense, it is time India went on offense, with policies that protect not just producers, but also the millions of consumers who stand to gain from a freer, fairer global marketplace. (The writer is Indian Policy Fellow, Consumer Choice Center.)

Beauties from 11 countries reached to see Taj Mahal

The beauty of Spain, Mexico, Philippines, India, Nepal, Netherlands, Vietnam, Canada, Cambodia, Cuba and Sri Lanka won the hearts of people

The beauties learned the history, took pictures. All the finalists of Miss Teen Earth were impressed by the beauty of Taj Mahal

Agra: On Thursday, all the finalists of Miss Teen Earth 2025 reached to see the Taj Mahal. These beauties were from Spain, Mexico, Philippines, India, Nepal, Netherlands, Vietnam, Canada, Cambodia, Cuba and Sri Lanka. They saw the beauty of the Taj. During this, thousands of tourists were seen excited to take selfies with them. Miss Teen Earth 2025 finalists along with Miss Teen International 2025 - Divya Wadhwa, Miss Teen Multinational 2025 - Ruchi Jadhav, Miss Teen Universe India 2025 - Niranjana Tiwari, Miss Teen Diva 2025 First Runner Up

- Aarna Chaturvedi along with Miss Universe India owner Nikhil Anand and PR Head Sarvesh Kashyap reached Taj Mahal for darshan. As soon as they entered the main gate of the world's seventh wonder Taj Mahal, everyone exclaimed 'Wow Taj'. Along with this, a crowd of tourists gathered to see them. Fans were also seen taking selfies with them. Their fans surrounded them and were seen trying to capture them in their mobile phones. During this, tight security arrangements were made by the local administration. All the beauties were just staring at the Taj, they jumped with joy on getting the first glimpse and were mesmerized while saying wow Taj, wonderful, amazing. Miss Universe showed interest in knowing the history along with the beauty



of the Taj. She did a lot of photography with the Taj and also discussed the structure of the Taj Mahal

with her guide. She took detailed information about many aspects of the Taj Mahal. All the beauties also took selfies with the Taj Mahal on the video platform. They were completely painted in Indian colors. During the Taj Mahal visit of the beauties from all over the world, they also took information from the tourist guide about the history of the Taj Mahal, the architecture of the Taj Mahal, the inlay work, the precious stones used in the inlay work as well as the

maintenance of the Taj Mahal. Along with this, they also heard the love story of Shahjahan and Mumtaz. Along with Yamuna, they also got information about the real grave of Shahjahan and Mumtaz.

While talking to the media, everyone said in one voice: Every person must see the Taj Mahal once in life. I am amazed after seeing the Taj. I saw the Taj after visiting many countries on my world tour, but I can say with confidence that it is a unique example of amazing artistry and love in the world. Wherever I go, I will definitely tell people about the Taj Mahal.

Miss Universe India owner Nikhil Anand said while talking to the media: Today we are at the most beautiful place in the world. As the finalists said, every person must see the Taj Mahal once in life. Whenever I get a chance, I definitely visit the Taj Mahal, so I am here today.

Home Credit India Getting ready to foray into Loan Against Property Segment, Appoints Neeraj Jain to Lead the Business

August 7, 2025 – Home Credit India, a leading consumer finance company, today announced that its getting ready for strategic expansion into the Loan Against Property (LAP) business segment. To spearhead this, the company has appointed Neeraj Jain as the new Head of Loan Against Property. This move marks a significant step in Home Credit India's mission to diversify its product portfolio into secured products, and deepen its presence in the Indian financial services market.

Neeraj brings over 22 years of rich experience in the financial services industry, with a strong focus on secured lending, operations, and customer experience. Throughout his career, he has held key positions at prestigious organizations

and leading financial institutions. Vivek Singh, CEO of Home Credit India, commented on the appointment, "The launch of our Loan Against Property business is a natural progression of our growth strategy, allowing us to serve a wider range of customer needs. We are delighted to have Neeraj join our team to spearhead this new business vertical. His vast experience and deep expertise in the LAP market will be invaluable as we build this business and expand our footprint."

Sharing his vision, Neeraj said, "I am honored and excited to lead Home Credit India's foray into the Loan Against Property



segment. The brand's commitment to financial inclusion and its robust pan-India network promise a tremendous platform for success. I am confident that by leveraging our strong foundation and a customer-centric approach, we can establish Home Credit India as a key player in the LAP market and provide a delightful, safe and trustworthy service to our customers enabling them to make their #ZindagiHit."

A native of Delhi, Neeraj holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from BIMM, Pune. Under his leadership, Home Credit India is poised to offer simple, transparent, and tech-driven

ven LAP solutions, building on its reputation for responsible lending while delivering superior customer experience.

Home Credit India remains deeply committed to its core mission of financially empowering its customers. The introduction of the LAP segment aligns perfectly with this objective, providing a new avenue for individuals and small business owners to unlock the value of their property to meet diverse financial goals, from business expansion to personal needs. The company's customer-centric approach is built on providing trustworthy, transparent, tech-driven and accessible financial solutions, ensuring that even those with limited credit history can responsibly access credit.

Ek Rakhi Desh ke Jawano ke Naam

(Gns). Gandhinagar, 07 August 2025: On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan,

53,000 women from Gujarat's Anganwadis prepared and sent 3.5 lakh rakhis to honour the soldiers guarding the nation's borders. These rakhis, symbolising the sacred sibling bond, were part of a heartfelt tribute to the brave personnel serving far from their families. In Gandhinagar, the "Raksha Sutra Kalash" was presented to the border forces in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel. This unique initiative earned Gujarat a place in the India Book of Records. Representatives of the organisation presented the official certificate and

medal to the Chief Minister in recognition of this collective effort.

Bandhan, observed on the full moon day of Shravan, to honour and thank the



Women and Child Welfare Minister Smt. Bhanuben Babariya, under whose guidance the initiative was carried out, stated that Gujarat's Anganwadi sisters sent rakhis on the occasion of Raksha

soldiers for their service. She also noted that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, our armed forces had successfully carried out Operation Sindoor, protecting the sacred symbol of married women, their

sindoor. Through this gesture, the sisters of Gujarat have blended patriotic spirit with the festival of sibling love. The Raksha Sutra Kalash was received by soldiers from the Indian Army, BSF, CRPF, and NDRF stationed in Gandhinagar.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary to Chief Minister Dr. Vikrant Pandey, Commissioner, Women & Child Development & Secretary to Government Shri Rakesh Shankar, ICDS Commissioner Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh, senior officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department, BSF, CRPF, NDRF personnel, program officers, and Anganwadi workers from the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation.

Sonalika achieves new record breaking performance with 53,772 overall tractor sales in Apr-July'25

After a record performance in Apr-July'25, Sonalika is fully prepared to cater to the festive season's demand and deliver farmer delight through its biggest channel partner network in India.

Lucknow, 07th August 2025: India's No. 1 tractor export brand Sonalika has continued to race ahead in its FY'26 journey and has proudly crossed the 50,000 sales mark in just 4 months. The company has registered a record overall tractor sales of 53,772 units between April–July'25 that reflects the company's innovation and strong values that form the foundation of the brand's continuous growth in the domestic market. Sonalika remains committed to support the farming community to reap a better harvest by providing cutting edge farm mechanisation. Sonalika's World No. 1 tractor plant with robotic operations is equipped to

roll out a heavy duty tractor in 2 minutes. The facility is equipped with advanced processes to

farmers across diverse fields. The company is fully prepared to cater to the forthcoming festive



make almost everything in-house that goes into making of a tractor - powerful yet fuel efficient engines, superior transmissions and advanced hydraulics to cater to the region centric needs of

season's demand and deliver festive delight for farmers through its biggest channel partner network in India.

Sharing his thoughts on the new record performance, Mr. Raman

Mittal, Joint Managing Director, International Tractors Limited, said, "Our heavy duty tractors are driven by purpose and prepared with strength to empower farmers to keep moving ahead with confidence. We are delighted to have surpassed the 50K tractor sales mark in 4 months to reach an overall tractor sales of 53,772 units in Apr-July'25. With promising monsoon predictions till September'25 and bumper rabi harvest, farmers are readily adopting newer solutions for better farm productivity. As India enters its biggest festive season shortly, our world's No. 1 integrated tractor manufacturing plant is ready to address every farmer's unique demand for tractors and our dealerships are well-stocked to ensure timely deliveries for maximum farmer satisfaction."

FIRs Filed After Attacks on YouTubers in Dharmasthala Amid Mass Burial Probe Unrest

(Gns). Authorities confirmed the situation is stable in Dharmasthala following protests erupted at various locations, with some accusing YouTubers of spreading false information and tarnishing the area's image. Others rallied in support of digital media voices. Police used mild force to manage the crowds. Inspector General of Police (Western Range) Amit Singh and SP Arun K visited the sites to oversee the situation.

Following unrest in Dharmasthala linked to the SIT investigation into alleged mass burials, authorities have confirmed that the situation is now stable. Several FIRs have been filed. An official statement clarified that no serious injuries were reported. The incidents involved assaults on YouTubers and damage to their vehicles by individuals claiming allegiance to Dharmasthala.

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Government Enhances MSME Support with Credit Schemes, SRI Fund, And SAMADHAAN Portal

RBI has developed Unified Lending Interface (ULI) for frictionless credit to transform the lending landscape in India by making credit more accessible.

Posted On: 07 AUG 2025 6:00PM by PIB Delhi

To improve credit flow and liquidity of MSMEs, a number of measures have been taken by the Government of India. Some of them are:

Under the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) of Ministry of MSME, additional corpus fund of Rs. 9,000 crore was infused into the corpus of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs, to enable an additional credit of Rs. 2.00 lakh crore, at a reduced cost of credit. Further, the guarantee ceiling has been increased from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 10 crore (w.e.f. 01.04.2025) to MSEs, with guarantee coverage up to 90%, for various categories of loan under CGS.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme provides Margin Money subsidy upto

35%, for setting up of new micro enterprises, in the non-farm sector with project cost of Rs. 50 lakh and



Rs. 20 lakh, for Manufacturing and Services enterprises, respectively.

PM Vishwakarma, launched on 17.09.2023 to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople of 18 traditional trades who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme includes provision of loans upto Rs. 3 lakh with interest subvention of 8%.

Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund has been set up to infuse Rs. 50,000 crore as equity funding in those MSMEs, which have the potential and viability to grow and become large units. Under this Fund, there is a provision of Rs.

10,000 crore from the Government of India and Rs. 40,000 crore through Private Equity/Venture

Capital Funds.

To ensure timely payment settlements for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) across the country, Ministry of MSME launched SAMADHAAN Portal on 30.10.2017 for monitoring of the outstanding dues to the MSEs. 161 Micro & Small Enterprises Councils (MSEFCs) have so far been set-up in States/UTs. Ministry of MSME has launched Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal on 27.06.2025 to provide end-to-end digitized resolution of the delayed payment cases.

RBI issued guidelines for setting up and operating

from Sanchari Studio, were reportedly attacked while interviewing Bigg Boss fame Rajat near Pangala Road. Rajat had just visited Sowjanya's family, whose mysterious 2013 death is central to the ongoing SIT probe into alleged mass burials.

Bengaluru-based activist and YouTuber Keerthi Kumar U previously met with SIT officials expressing concerns over alleged leaks in the investigation. He demanded action against those spreading unverified reports. Meanwhile, CPI(M), DYFI, and Digital Media for Democracy condemned the attacks on journalists.

CPI(M) Karnataka secretary K Prakash urged for the immediate arrest of those responsible for these assaults, emphasizing that press freedom must be safeguarded.

the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) to facilitates the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs from corporate and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) through multiple financiers electronically. Five entities are presently operating TReDS. The monetary limit for onboarding on TReDS for Corporates and CPSEs has been reduced to a turnover of Rs. 250 Crore vide Notification dated 07.11.2024.

RBI has developed Unified Lending Interface (ULI) for frictionless credit to transform the lending landscape in India by making credit more accessible by reducing documentation requirements and simplifying the loan application process. ULI eliminates the need for complex, costly integrations with individual data providers enabling lenders to make quicker and better-informed loan decisions, cutting approval times and reducing operational costs.

Telecommunications Commercial Communications Consumers Preference Regulations, 2018 deals with Unsolicited Commercial Communication or spam

(Gns). Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Regulations, viz. Telecommunications Commercial Communications Consumers Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCC-CPR-2018), deals with Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam. TCCCPR-2018 has provisions for:

Registering preferences for commercial communication where a telecom subscriber can opt to block all commercial communications or can selectively block commercial communications as per preference categories and registering complaint against senders of UCC through Mobile App, sending SMS to short code 1909 and calling on 1909.

Blacklisting of registered entities and telemarketers for violation of TCCCPR-2018.

Action against Unregistered Telemarketer (UTM) such as giving a warning, putting them under usage cap or disconnecting in case of repeated violations.

Financial Disincentives (FDs) against the access service providers for failing to curb UCC.

Further, TRAI has amended the TCCCPR-

2018 on 12.02.2025 which has, inter-alia, following provisions:

A customer can now make a complaint about UCC within 7 days of receiving spam as compared to earlier 3-day time limit.

Time limit for taking action by the access providers against the UCC from unregistered senders has been reduced from 30 days to 5 days.

To ensure prompt action against the senders of UCC, the criterion for taking action against them has been revised and made more stringent.



TCCCPR-2018 Regulations mandate every access service providers to work for consumer awareness, inter-alia, including following:

Procedures for registering preferences, registering & revoking of consent.

Making complaints, providing information or reporting UCC.

Informing consumers regarding not to involve in UCC & action in case of violation like disconnection of telecom resources.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

DIGIPIN is Conceptualized to Significantly Improve Location Accuracy

Geotagged Addresses Improve Governance by Providing Accurate Locations for Every Place

(Gns). For easy integration of DIGIPIN across platforms, the detailed technical documentation along with the source code of DIGIPIN has been made open source. Further, the Department has shared the DIGIPIN technical documentation along with source code of DIGIPIN with all relevant Ministries

and State Governments to facilitate integration of DIGIPIN into their existing workflow of services, schemes, and related applications.

DIGIPIN is conceptualized to significantly improve location accuracy and to enable precise identification of places, making every location addressable and strengthening service delivery and planning across

sectors—particularly in remote areas.

Geotagged addresses improve governance by providing accurate locations for every place, ensuring government services reach the right location efficiently. It promotes transparency by facilitating the sharing of exact location of government assets and offices for the benefit of citizen and by facilitating the



process of determining the corresponding jurisdictions for various government departments associated with each address. It also helps in strengthening the grievance redressal and service request handling associated with government services which strengthens accountability.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

Centre amends Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2011 to boost Edible Oil Data Compliance

(Gns). The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, has notified an amendment to the Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2011 (VOPPA Regulation Order, 2011). Originally issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the order was framed following the repeal of earlier regulations by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The amendment seeks

to align the order with institutional changes brought about by the 2014 merger of two key directorates and to strengthen data collection mechanisms in the edible oil sector through the incorporation of provisions under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008.

This regulatory enhancement is designed to benefit both consumers and stakeholders across the edible oil value chain. With improved visibility on domestic production,

imports, and stock levels, the Government will be equipped to undertake

timely policy interventions—such as adjusting import duties or facilitating imports—to correct supply-



Ahmedabad recently witnessed a three-day mega celebration for the 96th birth anniversary of the legendary singer and versatile genius, Kishore Kumar

Ahmedabad recently witnessed a three-day mega celebration for the 96th birth anniversary of the legendary singer and versatile genius, Kishore Kumar, affectionately known as Kishore Da. The event, titled "Har Rang Kishore Da Ke Sang" (Kishore Da in every color), was a collaborative effort between Melody Makers Musical Group and Crock Studio.

Held at a packed mini-auditorium, the celebration featured an official series of 96 songs, followed by audience requests. The highlight was the stunning performance of hit songs by Shivshankar Bundela and Minu Singhvi Motiani, supported by the entire Crock team. The program was masterfully woven together by veteran Manhar Shukla, who shared fascinating anecdotes from Kishore Kumar's life, making the event even more engaging for the full-house audience.



Tiruppur Murder: Tamil Nadu Cops Shot Dead Accused Manikandan In Encounter

(Gns). The Tamil Nadu Police on Wednesday shot dead Manikandan, one of the accused in the murder of Special Sub-Inspector (SSI) Shanmugavel in Tiruppur district. The incident occurred during an encounter when Manikantan allegedly attacked a Sub-Inspector and tried to escape while being taken to retrieve the murder weapon.

Manikandan's father, Murthy, and brother Thangapandian were arrested by police on Wednesday in connection with the case. Manikandan's body is sent to Tiruppur Government Hospital under tight security due to heightened tensions in the area.

Tamil Nadu Police fatally shot Manikandan, an accused in the murder of

SSI Shanmugavel in Tiruppur district, during an encounter near Upparu Dam while retrieving the murder weapon; his father and brother were also arrested. The incident occurred after Shanmugavel was killed with a sickle at a plantation in Sikkanoothu village following a dispute involving Manikandan and his family.



Details of the Encounter

The police took Manikandan to a water stream near Upparu Dam at Chikkanur, close to Gudimangalam. This location was where he allegedly disposed of the sickle used in the crime. While there,

he reportedly attacked an SI named Saravanakumar and attempted to flee, prompting police to open fire.

On Tuesday night, SSI Shanmugavel was killed at a plantation owned by Madathukulam MLA Mahendran in Sikkanoothu village. The altercation began when Manikandan and his family were involved in a dispute under the influence of alcohol. Neighbours alerted authorities through an emergency helpline.

The Murder Incident

Shanmugavel and Constable Azhagu Raja responded to the call around 11 pm while on

patrol duty nearby. Upon arrival, Shanmugavel intervened and arranged for Murthy to be taken to a hospital via ambulance. Enraged by this intervention, Manikandan attacked Shanmugavel with a sickle, killing him instantly. Launch Happen

Following the attack on Shanmugavel, Manikandan and his family allegedly attempted to assault Constable Azhagu Raja and the farm manager. Both managed to escape and alert other police officials about the situation.

The events have created a tense atmosphere in the region as authorities continue their investigation into this tragic incident. The community remains on edge as they await further developments from law enforcement officials regarding this case.

Fort Stewart Georgia Placed On Lockdown Amid Ongoing Active Shooter Situation

(Gns). Fort Stewart in Georgia is currently on lockdown due to an active shooter situation, as confirmed by a police spokesperson. Lt. Col. Angel Tomko from the Fort Stewart Police Department has not disclosed further details. However, the verified Facebook page of Fort Stewart Hunter Army Airfield states, "Casualties have been reported and the situation is ongoing."



The base was secured at 11:04 a.m., with law enforcement present at the scene. Fort Stewart, located approximately 40 miles southwest of Savannah, Georgia, serves as a training and deployment site for active and reserve Army units. It also houses the 3rd Infantry Division.

Fort Stewart in Georgia

is currently on lockdown due to an active shooter situation, with casualties reported and the situation ongoing as confirmed by a police spokesperson; the base, approximately 40 miles southwest of Savannah, is a training and deployment site housing over 10,000 individuals, including the 3rd Infantry Division.

Switch To Shorts

Base Population and

Security Measures

Over 10,000 individuals, including soldiers, their families, and civilian employees of the Army, reside at Fort Stewart. The base's primary function is to train and deploy military personnel while ensuring their safety during such incidents.

The lockdown protocol was swiftly enacted to protect those on-site. The situation remains fluid as

authorities work to resolve it. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Fort Stewart's strategic importance lies in its role in preparing military units for various operations. The presence of the 3rd Infantry Division underscores its significance within the US Army's structure.

The community within Fort Stewart is closely knit, comprising military personnel and their families who rely on each other during challenging times like these. Support systems are in place to assist those affected by the current events.

As developments unfold, maintaining communication with residents and ensuring their safety remains a top priority for base officials and law enforcement agencies involved.

MDoNER Sanctions Mangoldoi-Mazikuchi Road Project Worth Rs. 45.31 Crore

(Gns). In a bid to boost road infrastructure in the Northeast region, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) approved a project for construction of Mangoldoi - Mazikuchi road from KM 11+000 to KM 26+200, in Assam, having a length of 15 kms costing Rs.45.31 crore on Wednesday (6 August, 2025).

The project will be implemented under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) - Roads. The key features of the

project include: The Road will be the direct link between the Darrang District Hq of



Mangaldoi and Udalguri District Subdivision Hq Bhergaon. It will reduce the distance between Mangaldoi

and Bhergaon by 7.2 kilometers. It will improve accessibility to 7 educational insti-

tutions including Deomorno College. The road will improve connectivity to the important tourist places of

Pathurighat Krishak Shahid Memorial and Khotora Satra, Historical Lakhimpur Pukhuri, Ramgaon Pukhuri etc.

It's noteworthy that NESIDS (Roads) is a pivotal component of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), designed to enhance infrastructure in India's North Eastern Region. Fully funded by the Government of India, NESIDS is meticulously monitored and supervised by MDoNER in collaboration with the respective state governments.

Police administration and district administration, giving the District Magistrate version in the District Administration, Inset among the crowd gathered in the District Hospital Emergency on fire

Mathura. An elderly man and his daughter -in -law, who were enraged by measuring the land without order, set fire to Petrol under suspicious circumstances, due to which both have been sent for Agra treatment in a serious injured state. On receiving information about this serious incident, District Magistrate SSP CDO and other officials reached the district hospital. District Magistrate CP Singh, taking immediate action, has suspended Kanungo, Lekhpal of Jant area while suspension action is being taken against Naib Tehsildar. The case will be investigated by Additional

District Officer Finance Pankaj Verma. There is a land of Khadsari Cooperative Society in village Khushpura near village



The elderly and son Vadhu, who is angry with the land measure, set fire, Kanungo-lekhpal suspended

resin under police station Jant. Satyabhan, an elderly 80 -year -old from Meerut on that land, has been living in a hut with his daughter -in -law's family for a long time. For a long time

to vacate this land, the applications have been received by the administration officials on Tehsil Day. One side has been behaving in the behavior of

Penalty for a long time to vacate the occupation from the said land. He set up Naib Tehsildar Anmol Garg Kanungo Rajendra Rana and Lekhpal Kapil Upadhyay. The three rev-

enue workers reached the spot and threatened the family living in the hut, the elderly Satyabhan opposed it. The family members of the victim say that the said revenue personnel set fire to petrol and some people say that they themselves put petrol on themselves, so that she started burning, then her daughter -in -law Lalitesh came to save her. Both the injured have been referred to Agra Hospital. It is said that both sides are from the same community.

The District Magistrate said that whatever other employees or senior officials will be involved in the incident, action will also be taken on them

Sadar Tehsil Joint Magistrate/SDM Sadar Abhinav J. Jain taking action

athura. District Magistrate CP Singh is very strict about illegal mining in the district. In the meeting of the officials, he had instructed that illegal mining in the district will not be acceptable under any circumstances. In this sequence, Sadar Tehsil Joint Magistrate/SDM Sadar Abhinav J. Jain has arrested five dumps from the Delhi-Agra highway refinery area for illegal mining. All these trains have



Mathura: Five trucks of illegal mining were sewed been seized in the refinery police station. It is said that

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

(Gns). Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) since 25.06.2015 with an aim to provide all weather pucca houses with basic civic amenities to eligible urban beneficiaries across the country. Based on the learnings from the experiences of implementation of PMAY-U, MoHUA has revamped the scheme and launched PMAY-U 2.0 'Housing for All' Mission with effect from 01.09.2024 for implementation in urban areas across the country to construct, purchase and rent a house by 1 crore additional eligible beneficiaries at affordable cost in next five years. PMAY-U 2.0 is implemented through four verticals i.e., Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) and Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS).

Grant (TIG) @₹1,000 per sqm up to 30 sqm carpet area per dwelling unit is provisioned for AHP Projects using innovative construction technologies notified by MoHUA through GHTC/PACS by



BMTPC/CPWD. Additionally, States/UT Government also have to provide TIG for AHP projects from their own resources in proportion to the Central TIG. TIG is applicable only for projects using innovative and alternate technologies and should be completed within 18-24 months in all respect, after getting all statutory approvals.

Under AHP vertical of PMAY-U 2.0, a total of 21,017 houses in 8 projects have been sanctioned by the Ministry on 18.06.2025 only in the State of Maharashtra, using alternate technology. These projects are eligible for availing TIG of ₹90.64 crore (Central Share - ₹60.44 crore & State TIG ₹30.22 crore). The TIG will be released based on the compliance submitted by the State, as per the scheme guidelines. So far,

no TIG has been released to the State of Maharashtra. No such proposal from Andhra Pradesh has been received so far by the Ministry.

Earlier in PMAY-U, 2.68 lakh houses have been

sanctioned involving innovative Monolithic Construction Technology in Andhra Pradesh under AHP vertical, but no TIG was provisioned for AHP projects in earlier guidelines of PMAY-U.

The Technology Sub-Mission (TSM) set up under PMAY-U continues to guide and facilitate States/UTs and other stakeholders in adoption of modern, innovative and green technologies and alternate building material for faster and quality construction of houses. It is further extended as Technology & Innovation Sub-Mission (TISM) under PMAY-U 2.0 to support innovative design and construction practices and projects. Under TSM, Global Housing Technology Challenge - India (GHTC-India) was conducted to identify and mainstream globally best available proven construction tech-

nologies including prefabricated technology that are rapid, sustainable, green and disaster resilient. Under GHTC-India, a basket of 54 innovative proven construction technologies shortlisted from across the globe were grouped into six distinct categories as per the different geo-climatic regions for further adoption by States/UTs, including Andhra Pradesh which are available at www.ghtc-india.gov.in.

The innovative technologies used in these projects are those shortlisted under GHTC-India through Technical Assessment Committee and which are proven and time tested. Further, as per PMAY-U 2.0 guidelines, there is provision to ensure quality of construction under BLC/AHP/ARH verticals of the Mission through Third Party Quality Monitoring Agencies (TPQMA) selected by States/UTs. TPQM Agencies are required to visit the project site and to advise State/UT and Urban Local Bodies on quality related issues.

Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been set up to continuously appraise, evaluate and monitor the performance and scalability of such identified innovative technologies in the country. The BMTPC is mandated to construct pilot demonstration housing projects.

Preservation and Promotion of India's Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage

(Gns). There are 3685 centrally protected monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the country. Conservation, preservation and maintenance of these centrally protected monuments/sites is a continuous process and is taken up as per the requirement and availability of resources subject to the Rules and terms of National Policy for Conservation, 2014.

Government of India has set up 7 Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarter at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaypur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis. The major activities/programmes conducted during the last three years are Rashtriya Sanskrit Mahotsavs, Kashi Tamil Sangamam, Vande Bharatam, Madhavpur Ghed Fair, Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam, Vividhhta ka Amrit Mahotsav, Bhartiya Kala Mahotsav etc.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

(IGNCA), as an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, has undertaken



several initiatives in the past three years for the preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Key activities include: Digitization and conservation of manuscripts, rare books, and archival materials under the National Manuscripts Mission (NMM).

Documentation and promotion of folk and tribal arts through research projects and publications.

Execution of Bharat Pavilion at World Expo, Dubai and ongoing work for World Expo, Osaka 2025 to showcase India's cultural heritage.

Implementation of the National Mission for Cultural Mapping (NMCM) involving cultural asset mapping of artists, art forms, and heritage practices in respect of

4.5 lakhs villages of India. The Janapada Sampada Division continues extensive fieldwork and audio-visual

documentation of vanishing traditions, rituals, performing arts, and oral histories.

Scientific treatment and preservation is taken up as and when required by adopting key steps such as chemical treatment, consolidation, biocidal and hydrophobic treatment for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. ASI takes all necessary measures to protect and preserve the protected heritage sites from the growing pressures of urbanization under the provisions contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules framed thereunder.

The Government announced Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI) on

01/02/2023 for digitations of estampages. In this project so far 27429 estampages have been digitized by ASI. IGNCA has made significant progress in digitization under the National Manuscripts Mission and its own archival projects:

Over 5.5 crore folios of manuscripts have been documented across India.

Digital Library and Kalasampada portal of IGNCA provide online access to thousands of manuscripts, rare books, audio-visual materials, photographs, and ethnographic collections.

IGNCA's Cultural Informatics Lab is actively working on metadata generation, OCR, and archival management.

The National Archives of India (NAI) holds approximately 34 crore pages of public records. Out of these, around 12 crore pages have been digitized and made available on the Abhilekh Portal.

ASI conducts 'World Heritage Week' and 'World Heritage Day' celebration every year and undertakes Heritage Walks and various cultural awareness programs in co-ordination with other government and non-governmental agencies to engage youth.

Truck collided in tractor trolley, three kavadis died, CM expressed condolences

Mathura. A horrific accident occurred on the Jaipur Bareilly bypass near village Nagla Siria in the police station Jamunapar area. Here the truck hit the tractor-trolley. There were kavadis in this tractor-trolley. Three kanwadis died in the accident. The condition of another is also said to be critical. At the same time, the Chief Minister has expressed condolences to the bereaved families of the deceased on this accident.

Sonu son Munna Lal, Bhim son Horiram, Bhupendra son Devi Singh, Babli son Ramkishan tractor-trolley were going on Jaipur Bareilly bypass from Ramghat to Danka Kawad from Ramghat and were going from Mathura to Mathura at around 3:30 pm



Damaged tractor on bypass

on Thursday. Suddenly, the driver broke the railing and hit the tractor-trolley, breaking the railing. There was a scream after the accident. Sonu was seriously injured in this horrific accident. At the same time, Bhima, Bhupendra and Babli died on the spot. On receiving the information of the acci-

dent, Jamunapar police station in -charge Ajay Kishore and SP City Rajiv Kumar reached the spot with the police team. The injured were immediately sent to the hospital and the bodies of the dead were sent for postmortem. SP City Rajiv Kumar said that preliminary investigation

has revealed that he became uncontrollable due to the truck tire burst and collided with the tractor. The dead are being identified and their families have been informed. The treatment of the injured continues in the hospital. The police has started further legal proceedings. At the same time, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognizance of the road accident in Mathura district. The Chief Minister has expressed condolences to the bereaved families of the dead. The Chief Minister has immediately instructed the district administration officials for their proper treatment by reaching the hospital. Along with this, the injured have also wished for early recovery.

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