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Thank you Thiruvananthapuram! says PM Modi on BJP's 'watershed' moment in Kerala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday thanked the people of Thiruvananthapuram, calling the BJP-led NDA's victory in the local body elections in the state capital as a "watershed moment in Kerala's politics". (Gns).

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"Thank you Thiruvananthapuram! The mandate the BJP-NDA got in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation is a watershed moment in Kerala's politics. The people are certain that the development aspirations of the state can only be addressed by our Party.

Analysts are seeing the NDA victory, the breakthrough in one of the few remaining Left bastions and ending the Left Democratic Front's (LDF) 45-year dominance in Kerala capital, as a major morale booster for the saffron party ahead of 2026 assembly elections; adding a new dimension in the state's bipolar politics dominated by the LDF and the UDF.

"Kerala is fed up of UDF and LDF," PM Modi wrote following the NDA's gains

in Kerala, including in the Tripunithura Municipality. "My gratitude to the people across Kerala who voted for BJP and NDA candidates in the local body polls in the state. Kerala is fed up of UDF and LDF. They see NDA as the only option that can deliver on good governance and build a #VikasitaKeralam with opportunities for all," he said.

Apart from being the capital of the southern state, Thiruvananthapuram is significant as it is the home turf of senior Congress leader and MP Shashi Tharoor, who described the outcome as a day of "amazing results" for Kerala's democracy. Congratulating the UDF for

its overall performance, he acknowledged the BJP's "historic" victory, calling it a notable shift in the Capital's

offer humble congratulations on their significant victory in the city Corporation — a strong showing that marks a

notable shift in the capital's political landscape. I campaigned for a change from 45 years of LDF misrule, but the voters have ultimately rewarded another party that also sought a clear change in governance. That is the beauty of democracy. The people's

verdict must be respected, whether for the UDF overall or for the BJP in my constituency," Tharoor wrote.

Urban Development Year: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel gifts developmental projects worth Rs. 600 crore to the residents of Surat

Inauguration of Rs. 249 crore development works and laying of the foundation stone for works worth Rs. 109.51 crore of Surat Municipal Corporation and SUDA

Chief Minister lays foundation stone for various projects of Urban Ring Development Corporation Ltd. (URDCL) at an estimated cost of Rs 242 crore.

The entire nation along with Gujarat are benefiting from Prime Minister's visionary leadership: All urban residents should adopt cleanliness as a way of life: CM.

Gandhinagar, 13 December 2025: To accelerate urban development across states and enhance facilities for residents, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, as part of the Urban Development Year 2025 celebrations, inaugurated development works worth Rs. 249 crore of the Surat Municipal Corporation and SUDA (Surat Urban Development Authority) and laid the foundation stone for projects worth Rs. 109.51 crore.

UPCAMP is India's first air-shed-based air quality management project, designed as a multi-sectoral program targeting the major sources of air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plains. The project is based on extensive scientific studies conducted by the World Bank in collaboration with reputed institutions such as IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, and the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU). It also utilizes the GAINS model developed by Austria's IIASA.

Subsequently, on December 10, 2025, the World Bank's Board of Directors formally approved the project. The governing body was briefed in detail on the project structure, that updated, time-bound progress on all necessary steps related to project implementation be presented in the next meeting.

Earlier, on November 3, 2025, a successful project negotiation was held in New Delhi between the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), the World Bank, and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Subsequently, on December 10, 2025, the World Bank's Board of Directors formally approved the project. The governing body was briefed in detail on the project structure,

Gujarat, is developing at a rapid pace. Having set a benchmark in cleanliness nationwide, he stressed the importance of making cleanliness a habit for all citizens.

The completion of



Surat's Outer Ring Road will ease traffic congestion and improve facilities for citizens. Emphasising that development now centres on the common citizen in every sector, he noted that there was a time when completing a project worth one lakh faced numerous challenges compared to today where projects worth one crore are being executed with ease.

Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for various projects worth an estimated Rs. 242 crore to be constructed by Urban Ring Development Corporation Ltd. (URDCL) and gifted development projects worth Rs. 600 crore to the residents of Surat in an event held at the convention hall of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that, today, the entire nation along with Gujarat are benefiting under Prime Minister's visionary leadership. Gujarat is progressing alongside the entire country. Surat, like the rest of

Gujarat's coastline has become a gateway to prosperity.

Surat District In-Charge and Finance Minister stated that for 2025-26, the state government has allocated a substantial budget of Rs.

opment plans will be launched rapidly, forming a crucial roadmap for development.

Development projects were launched to digitalise public services, improve water management, enhance cleanliness and public health, and strengthen the city's infrastructure network. In various zones of Surat Municipal Corporation, the Foundation stone was laid for key projects, including water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, drainage lines, health centres, fire stations, vending markets, and box culverts for rainwater drainage.

Under Phase-2 of the Outer Ring Road by Urban Ring Development Corporation Ltd., the Foundation stone was laid for the Sachin-Palsana to Sachin-Kadodara Junction Outer Ring Road project for Rs. 184.20 crore, and for the construction of a flyover on the Surat-Kadodara Road Outer Ring Road for Rs. 57.65 crore.

Under the Surat Urban Development Authority (SUDA), the Foundation stone was laid for various traffic management projects in the city, including four-way junctions, asphalt roads, and road resurfacing under different T.P. schemes.

On this occasion, under the Chief Minister's guidance, Surat Municipal Corporation launched an online payment facility via the WhatsApp chatbot, enabling citizens to access municipal services in a simple, fast, and transparent manner, in line with the objectives of the Government of India's Digital India Mission.

CM Yogi to launch UP Clean Air Management Program in January 2026

(Gns).

The Uttar Pradesh government is continuously taking concrete steps towards making the state cleaner, healthier, and economically stronger.

To address the growing challenge of air pollution, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Program (UPCAMP) in January 2026. The governing body of this project will be chaired by the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, while the Additional Chief Secretary will be nominated as a member.

To effectively tackle the serious issue of air pollution, the UP government is

implementing the UPCAMP project with support from the World Bank.

In this context, the second meeting of the governing body of the UPCAMP authority was recently held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, with senior officials from the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other concerned departments in attendance.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed

financing arrangements, and implementation preparations through the UPCAMP Authority, which has been constituted as a special purpose vehicle.

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EPS criticises K'taka for constituting high-level panel for Mekedatu dam construction, urges Stalin to protect rights over Cauvery

(Gns).

Criticising the Congress government in Karnataka for acting with the sole intention of turning Tamil Nadu into a desert by failing to honour the rights of the lower riparian state over Cauvery waters, the principal opposition AIADMK has urged Chief Minister MK Stalin to take proactive steps to protect the state's legitimate rights.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), reacting to reports that the neighbouring state has constituted a 30-member high-level committee of senior bureaucrats to carry out necessary steps for the construction of the Mekedatu dam at the interstate border across the

lackadaisical attitude and 'failure' to place a strong legal defence before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Supreme Court last time. EPS, also Leader of the Opposition in

Congress derailed governance in Himachal despite massive Central aid, says Nadda

(Gns).

BJP National President J P Nadda has accused the Congress government led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu of derailing governance in Himachal Pradesh, despite massive Central assistance.

Addressing a felicitation rally organized by party workers on his homecoming after the Bihar victory, he said this gathering was not merely a political event, but an occasion to reaffirm the collective resolve for nation-building. The historic and landslide victory in Bihar is a testament to the people's unshakeable faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nadda recalled that dur-

ing the previous assembly elections he had cautioned the people against making the mistake of bringing Congress to power,

the state want Himachal to move forward, whereas Congress politics is limited to "eat, drink and make merry".

convergence between the BJP's vision and the Congress mindset," he contended.

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government in Himachal, he questioned Chief Minister Sukhu on what the Centre has denied to the state. He said the Centre provided Rs 3,789 crore for disaster relief, over Rs 1,000 crore for Smart Cities, funds for Vibrant Village development, medical colleges, AIIMS Bilaspur, a bulk drug park, four-lane highways, and developed Baddi as a pharmaceutical hub — yet the Congress government continues to spread falsehoods.

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because the only path to Himachal's development is a double-engine government. He said the people of

"Congress does not think about the future; it is driven only by the lust for power. Hence, there can be no



हिन्दी



देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Invisible Labor Rewarded

India may have stumbled into one of its most consequential social experiments without fully intending to: paying women simply for being the invisible engine of the household economy. What began as scattered state-level schemes of unconditional cash transfers has, in just a few years, grown into a nationwide phenomenon touching 118 million women. The sums are small, the politics loud, and the implications profound. For decades, unpaid domestic and care work has propped up India's economic life without ever entering its accounting systems. Women spend hours each day cooking, cleaning, caregiving and managing crises ~ labour that sustains families, frees up men for paid work, and substitutes for public services that are missing or inadequate. Yet this work has been treated as natural, expected, and essentially valueless.

The quiet flow of 1,000 to 2,500 rupees a month into women's bank accounts ~ for those who meet the basic eligibility filters ~ challenges that assumption in subtle but significant ways. The most striking lesson from the early evidence is not what these transfers do but what they don't do. They do not deter women from seeking paid work, nor do they entrench domestic roles ~ fears often raised in feminist debates. Instead, they provide something Indian women have long been denied: predictable personal income and control over it. Whether spent on groceries, school fees, medicines or emergencies, the money represents agency. In many households, it reduces the friction of asking for cash. In others, it opens space for women to participate more strongly in decision-making. But to assume that a modest monthly deposit can correct deep structural inequities would be naive.

These schemes do not reduce the load of unpaid work, nor do they create opportunities for employment ~ the absence of which continues to push women out of the labour force. They do not, on their own, alter social norms that assign domestic responsibility almost entirely to women. And in many states, they have become an unmistakable tool of political mobilisation, especially in the run-up to elections. Cash deposits timed with polling schedules are not a coincidence; they are a strategy. Yet, dismissing the entire experiment as vote-buying would overlook the genuine shift taking place. Women who control their own money, even a little, report a sense of dignity. Some invest in micro-enterprises. Others manage crises without depending on husbands. A few, for the first time, question politicians directly. These are not trivial gains. The real test now lies in what India chooses to build around this foundation. If the payments continue in their current form ~ automatic once eligibility is established ~ while also being framed as recognising unpaid work and paired with financial literacy and employment pathways, they could catalyse long-overdue change in gender relations. If not, they risk settling into another layer of paternalistic populism. India's cash-transfer moment is still in its early chapters. Whether it matures into empowerment or becomes entrenched as political patronage remains an open question.

VGRC's, District-Level Programme Organised in Jamnagar under the Chairmanship of In-charge Minister Shri Arjunbhai Modhwadia

At the event, MoUs worth Rs. 5,716 crore were signed by nine companies from Jamnagar

Entrepreneurs are creators of wealth and key contributors to the nation's progress: In-charge Minister Shri Arjun Modhwadia

Jamnagar, 13 December 2025 : As part of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, a district-level programme was held at the Leuva Patel Samaj in Jamnagar under the chairmanship of the State Minister for Forest and Environment, Climate Change, Science and Technology, and in-charge Minister of Jamnagar district, Shri Arjun Modhwadia.

During the programme, the District Industries Centre exchanged MoUs worth Rs. 5,716 crore with nine companies, which are expected to generate employment for around 2,100 people. On the occasion, the Minister also handed over the keys of loading vehicles for business use to beneficiaries under the Shri Vajpayee Bankable Yojana.

On this occasion, the Minister Shri Arjun Modhwadia said that Vibrant Gujarat is not just an event, but a reflection of Gujarat's vision for development, self-reliance, and global competitiveness. Launched under the Prime Minister's leadership, the initiative has made Gujarat a preferred destination for global investors. Jamnagar district holds a unique position in Gujarat's industrial landscape. Local entrepreneurs have adopted modern technology, along with technology upgradation and market research, in their businesses. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has played a significant role in giving

on multiple fronts. The dedication and skills of local entrepreneurs have earned Jamnagar the identity of the 'Brass City of India'.

Through upcoming



VGRC in Rajkot, the State Government aims to identify industrial opportunities at the district level, encourage local entrepreneurs, and accelerate employment generation. It offers a valuable platform for MSMEs, startups, women entrepreneurs, and youth. The Government of Gujarat is strengthening the principle of "Ease of Doing Business", and transparent policies, faster approval processes, and modern infrastructure are building strong confidence among investors today. Entrepreneurs are key creators of wealth and major contributors to national progress, especially through job creation. In Jamnagar, thousands of people are employed in oil refineries, bandhani, and brass parts industries. Local entrepreneurs have adopted modern technology, along with technology upgradation and market research, in their businesses. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has played a significant role in giving

Gujarat global recognition. In the coming days, Jamnagar district has strong potential for new industries, technologies, and jobs. In this context,

Jamnagar continues to progress steadily in both sectors.

VGRC reflects the Government of Gujarat's vision, commitment to

In the Engineering, Auto, and Other Industries sector, Shiv Om Brass Industries (₹25 crore), Metlex Extrusion (₹ 6.5 crore), Atlas Metal

Yojana, skilling youth and creating employment opportunities, an overview of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, and information on various schemes implemented by the District Industries Centre.

In this programme, an exhibition of around 25 stalls was organised, including stalls related to brass parts, bandhani, handicrafts, and other sectors. The Minister and other dignitaries visited these stalls and interacted with the participants.

At the programme, the Managing Director of iNDEXTb, Shri K.C. Sampat, delivered the keynote address. The programme was attended by District Panchayat President Smt. Mayaben Garsar, MLA Shri Divyesh Akbari, Collector Shri Ketan Thakkar, District Development Officer Shri Ankit Pannu, Deputy Mayor Smt. Krishna Sodha, ASP Ms. Pratibha, senior leaders Smt. Bina Kothari and Dr. Vinodhai Bhandari, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries Shri Ramanik Akbari, President of GIDC Phase-2 Association Shri Vishnubhai Pambhar, President of Laghu Udyog Bharati Association Shri Jayesh Sanghani, President of Jamnagar Cooperative Industrial Union Ltd. Association Shri Dhirajal Kariya, President of M.P. Shah Municipal Udyognagar Association Shri Sardarsinh Jadeja, office bearers of various associations, officials, industrialists, and invited guests.

development, and holistic progress. It provides an important platform to showcase the strengths, potential, and local industries of the state's districts at national and international levels. In the program organised in Jamnagar under the VGRC series in the presence of the Ministers, MoUs worth ₹ 5716 crore were signed by a total of 9 companies, which is expected to provide direct and indirect employment to more than two thousand people. In the Wind-Solar Power Hybrid (Renewable Energy) sector, Opwind Energy Private Limited (₹ 3368 crore), Jamnagar Renewables One and Two Private Limited (₹ 1703 crore), and Suzlon Western India Project Limited company (₹ 600 crore) will implement Wind Solar Hybrid Power Projects over the next 3 years, which is likely to create employment for more than 1725 people.

Industries Private Limited (₹ 5 crore), Rembem PGM Limited Industries Private Limited (₹ 5 crore), and Yellow Gold Metal Private Limited company (₹ 3.5 crore) will undertake work in the fields of aluminium extrusion plant, aluminium and copper lugs, E-waste recycling, chemical products, and brass parts, which is expected to provide employment to more than 400 people. All these projects are expected to start in the year 2026.

As part of the entrepreneur success story segment, Shri Ramji Gadhia, President of the Jamnagar Factory Owners Association, and Shri Ashok Domdiya, Microtech Metal Industries shared their experiences in the brass industry. This was followed by expert-led seminars on the Gujarat Startup Ecosystem, SME innovation on the lines of corporate practices, global scenarios and exports, credit linkage, the PMFMF

PhonePe Wealth launches 'Daily SIP' in Mutual Funds with minimum investment of ₹10

Lucknow, 13 dec 2025 : PhonePe Wealth Broking Private Limited (PhonePe Wealth) today announced the launch of its Daily SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) feature in mutual funds, making it possible for users to invest as little as ₹10 per day directly through the PhonePe app. This will empower potential investors to convert their daily savings into investments effortlessly and enable more Indians to build wealth over time.

India's mutual fund industry has been witnessing rapid growth, especially in SIPs. According to Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), monthly SIP inflows surged to over ₹29,000 crore in October 2025 - an annualized growth of more than 30% over the past five years. This growth is also reflected in the steadily rising contributing SIP accounts which stand at 9.45 crore as of October 2025. This shows a strong preference for disciplined investing with investors

making periodic contributions in mutual funds.

To this extent, the launch of Daily SIPs will

mutual funds in categories like equity fund, gold fund, multi-asset funds, designed to meet a variety of invest-

ment needs and risk appetites.

4. Contribution customisation: Potential investors using the PhonePe app have the option to customize their contributions by increasing or decreasing the amount based on their comfort and individual investment goals.

5. Easy to stop: In case, an investor feels that they cannot continue investments for a prolonged period, they have the option to stop their SIPs easily and let the invested money compound.

During the launch, Nilesh D Naik, Head of Investment Products at Share.Market (PhonePe Wealth) said, "With Daily SIPs, we are making investing more habitual for millions of Indians. Through

further enable users to invest as low as ₹10 daily, making mutual fund investments more convenient and affordable for individuals with daily cash flows and savings acting as the first step towards building financial wealth.

Key Features of Daily SIP:

1. Micro (small) investment commitment: With a minimum of ₹10 a day, anyone can begin building wealth through regular contributions.

2. Seamless setup: Start a Daily SIP instantly through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) Autopay on the PhonePe app for smooth, automated daily investments.

3. Diverse fund options: Users can choose from carefully curated

Emperor and the Raja

social and cultural status. In 'The Intellectual Roots of India's Freedom Struggle', written by Prithwindra Mukherjee, Rammohun Roy is the pioneer in the genesis of nationalism in India. Highlighted in every history book is Rammohun Roy's achievement to be the first to bring about a synthesis between religions of the East and West. This was made possible because of his vast knowledge of universal history. His deep reading of Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabian and Persian texts gave him the ability to understand core principles while removing deadwood of the

past. Mukherjee explained, "He restored traditional spiritual teaching of the Vedanta in the new universal faith that he founded. Irrefutable in his arguments, culling support from trustworthy Sanskrit texts, he gave back to Brahmanism its purest monotheistic vision."

In Brahmo Sabha, later

Brahmo Samaj, he institutionalized his vision, his dream of a new world

based on equality, liberty, justice, and brotherhood.

There was a price to be paid too: he was mercilessly attacked when he denounced the social injustices perpetuated by Hindu orthodoxy, notably

(against sati abolition) was a coincidence," explained the Professor. "Rammohun Roy had travelled to England primarily to carry out a task assigned to him by the Mughal Emperor. He had been sent by Akbar Shah as his official envoy to George IV to apprise the British Monarch of the East India Company's breach of faith in not adhering to the commitment it had made in 1765 to render to the imperial treasury the annual peshkash of 26 lakh rupees as the Emperor's share of the revenues of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa," Prof Farooqui pointed out.

The first instalment of freedom

At 5 a.m., a vast segment of India's workforce begins its day. There are no punch-ins, no holidays, no salary slips, and crucially no mention in the nation's GDP figures. This is India's "Care Economy," powered by millions of women who perform unpaid labour tirelessly, day after day. This work, which involves cooking, cleaning, and caring for children and the elderly, is essential for the smooth functioning of households and the economy at large. However, a silent revolution is underway.

The Indian state has begun to recognise this labour, not just with rhetoric, but with hard cash. Currently, India is hosting the world's largest social experiment in unconditional cash transfers. Across some 12 states, nearly 11.8 crore women receive monthly direct benefit transfers (DBT) ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,500. Critics often dismiss these schemes whether it is Maharashtra's Ladli Bahin, Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna, or Tamil Nadu's Kalaignar scheme ~ as "Revolving culture" or political freebies. But to view them solely through the lens of electoral bribery is to miss the profound sociological shift occurring in India's hinterlands.

To understand the impact of Rs 1,000, one must look beyond the privileged perspective of metropolitan India. The Ministry of Statistics reveals a stark reality: the average Indian woman performs 5 hours of unpaid domestic work daily, while Indian men contribute barely 30 minutes. This unequal distribution of labour creates "Time Poverty," preventing women from accessing formal employment and education, leaving them with empty pockets. An empty pocket is not just an eco-

nomic condition; it is a political one within the household. It signifies a lack of decision-making power. In this context, unconditional cash transfers serve as a critical intervention. Unlike schemes in Brazil or Mexico, which often tie funds to conditions like school attendance or vacci-



nation, India's model sends a distinct message: this money is a right, acknowledging a woman's social status independent of her maternal duties.

Data from various states suggests that this liquidity is doing more than just purchasing goods; it is altering the dynamics of relationships. In Maharashtra, a 2025 study revealed a staggering statistic: for 74 per cent of beneficiaries, this scheme provided the first money they could call their own in their entire lives. As one beneficiary noted, she no longer has to "spread her hand" before her husband for Rs 10 worth of turmeric. This shift from dependency to autonomy may not be life-changing in a macroeconomic sense, but it is certainly life-supporting. It makes a woman's share in the household visible. In West Bengal, women are utilizing these small sums as seed capital.

Beneficiaries like Somada Das have used Rs 1,000 to buy clothes for

small, breeds mental peace and confidence. A pervasive patriarchal anxiety suggests that "free money" will discourage women from working. Data from Assam, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu proves the exact opposite. Women are not leaving the labour market; they are using these funds to pay for bus fares to work, to learn new skills, and to negotiate better conditions. The cash does not make them lazy; it enables them.

It provides the financial cushion to say "no" to exploitative conditions, rather than withdrawing from work entirely. It is undeniable that these schemes are politically motivated. In elections from Bihar to Madhya Pradesh, women have emerged as "Queen Makers," a constituency no party can afford to ignore. However, policy experts argue that if the state treasury opens up to women in exchange for votes, it is a net positive for democracy. It transforms women from a silent vote

(Gns).

As the dust of politics settles down on statements made by a state-level senior leader on Raja Rammohun Roy ~ saying that Roy was a 'British agent' who started a vicious cycle of religious conversion ~ it is time to note where the leader had 'slipped up' before he tendered his apology. In today's age social reformers, freedom-fighters are routinely being insulted in public fora, their achievements derided, devalued and their legacies marginalized or erased.

When it comes to Raja

Rammohun Roy, he occupies pride of place, a high past. Mukherjee explained, "He restored traditional spiritual teaching of the Vedanta in the new universal faith that he founded. Irrefutable in his arguments, culling support from trustworthy Sanskrit texts, he gave back to Brahmanism its purest monotheistic vision."

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share.market

Combined graduation parade at air force academy

(Gns). The Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) was held at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad on 13 December 2025. It marked the successful culmination of pre-commissioning training of the Flight Cadets of Flying and Ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF). General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was the Reviewing Officer (RO) of the parade and conferred the President's Commission to the graduating Flight Cadets of 216 Course. A total of 244 Flight Cadets, including 215 male and 29 female cadets, graduated on this day.

The CDS was received by Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command and Air



Marshal PK Vohra, Commandant, AFA. The RO was presented with a General Salute by the parade followed by an impressive march past.

On this occasion, six officers from the Indian Navy, eight officers from the Indian Coast Guard and two trainees from Socialist Republic of Vietnam were awarded 'Wings' on successful completion of flying training.

'Brevets' were given to five officers on completing their Navigation training. Proud family members of the graduating officers were present to witness the ceremony.

The highlight of the parade was the 'Commissioning Ceremony' in which the graduating

cadets were commissioned as Flying Officers by the RO. An oath was administered to the graduating officers, where they pledged to safeguard the sovereignty and honour of the country.

The graduation parade was interspersed with a well-coordinated and synchronized flypast by Pilatus PC-7, Hawk, Kiran, and Chetak aircraft. A thrilling display by the Akash Ganga team and Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT) left the audience mesmerised.

In recognition of their

exceptional performance across various training disciplines, the RO awarded Flying Officer Tanishq Aggarwal from the Flying branch with the coveted 'President's Plaque' and the 'Nawanganar Sword of Honour' for standing first in the overall order of merit in the Pilot Course. Flying Officer Saksham Dobriyal was awarded the 'President's Plaque' for standing first in the overall order of merit in Navigation stream. Flying Officer Nitesh Kumar was awarded the 'President's Plaque' for standing first in the overall order of merit in the Ground duty branches.

Addressing the parade, the RO commended the newly commissioned officers for their immaculate turnout, meticulous drill movements and adherence to the highest standards of parade.

CBDT NUDGE taxpayers against the claims of bogus deductions through data-driven approach

Fake donations claims to political parties and trusts Under Tax Scanner

Many taxpayers revise returns after CBDT detection drive; SMS and email alerts sent from 12 December 2025

CBDT had launched 'NUUDGE' campaign to help taxpayers correct returns

(Gns).

Recently, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has acted upon many intermediaries who were involved in filing income tax returns with bogus claims of deductions and exemptions under the Income Tax Act. The exercise revealed that some intermediaries have established network of their agents all over India for filing returns with incorrect claims on commission basis. It was observed that huge amount of bogus claims have been made on

account of donation to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) or Charitable Institutions and reduced their tax obliga-

hawala transactions, cross border remittances and issuing bogus receipts for donations. The CBDT carried out follow up searches



identification of high-risk behaviour patterns, one such risk pattern has been identified for taxpayers who have made claims under section 80GGC or 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The data analytics indicated that many taxpayers are suspected to be indulged in claiming deductions for donation made to suspicious entities or have not provided relevant information to ascertain genuineness of entities. A large number of taxpayers have already revised their Income Tax Returns for current AY that is 2025-26 and have filed updated ITRs for past years.

A targeted NUDGE campaign has been launched as a taxpayer friendly measure, providing them opportunity to update their ITRs and withdraw wrong claims if any.

against some of these RUPPs and Trusts and gathered incriminating evidences in respect of bogus donations by individuals and bogus CSR by companies.

The CBDT has strengthened its data-driven approach to early detection of suspicious claims and

Local Cuisine To Be Served in Vande Bharat Trains and Progressively Introduced in All Trains

Fake Account Crackdown Brings Results: Creation of New User IDs Comes Down to As Low As 5000 From Earlier One Lakh Daily

After Deactivating 3.03 Crores Fake Accounts, 2.70 Crores More Temporarily Suspended Or Identified For Suspension

(Gns).

Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw took a review meeting of the officers at Rail Bhawan today. Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu, Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries was

also present in the meeting. The Union Minister directed officials to provide local cuisine of the region in Vande Bharat trains.

Introducing local cuisine will significantly enhance the passenger experience by offering food that reflects the culture and

tastes of the regions being traversed. This facility will be expanded to all the trains progressively in future.

The Union Minister also noted that crackdown by

Indian Railways on train ticket booking through fake identities is yielding positive results. Following the

this number had touched nearly one lakh new user IDs per day.

These steps have already helped Indian Railways deactivate 3.03 crore fake accounts. Another 2.7 crore user IDs have either been temporarily suspended or identified for suspension based on the suspicious activities they are indulging in.

The Union Minister and the Minister of State directed officials to ensure that the ticketing system is reformed to a level where all travellers are able to book tickets easily through a real and genuine user ID.

introduction of a stringent system to establish user identity and detect fake IDs, about 5,000 new user IDs are now being added daily on the IRCTC website.

Before the latest reforms, the Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurates 'Crafted for the Future', highlighting India's rich craft traditions and their relevance to sustainable, contemporary living

(Gns). Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated the "Crafted for the Future" exhibition at the National Craft Museum, New Delhi today. An initiative by the office of DC Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, the exhibition highlights India's rich craft traditions and their relevance to sustainable, contemporary living.

The inauguration took place in the presence of Ms. Amrit Raj, DC Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles along with Ms. Radhika Kaul Batra, Chief of Staff, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, India; Ms. Padmavati Dwivedi, Ecological Restorer; and Swami Prem Parivartan (Peepal Baba), Founder, Give Me Trees Trust.

Inaugurating the exhibition Shri Giriraj Singh said that the youth today is understanding the traditional craft and are presenting contemporary products that are relevant to global audiences. Shri Giriraj Singh

designed to immerse them in the origins, processes, and contemporary potential of India's material cultures. The exhibition includes

Immersive installations exploring the journeys of everyday materials.

Curated craft marketplace featuring artisans and collectives working with local, regenerative materials

Daily film screenings, demonstrations, and conversations on material origins and craft processes

Hands-on workshops led by artisans, designers, and practitioners across ceramics, embroidery, wool, bamboo, natural dyes, food traditions, and more (registration required for workshops)

The event encourages public engagement with material origins and craft-led ecological knowledge systems, fostering a deeper understanding of how sustainable futures can be shaped through conscious relationships with materials and makers.

Crafted for the Future, the 10-day exhibition is part of the National Handicrafts Week. It will remain open to the public until 21 December 2025, with free entry for all visitors. Crafted for the Future, the third edition of the broader Weave the Future series, places a renewed emphasis on everyday material culture the intrinsic connection between communities, their environments, and the

grounded in ecological balance, regional identity, and deep material intelligence.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Amrit Raj, DC Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, said that keeping India's craft wisdom alive is not about preserving memory, it is about recognising craft as a living, breathing force shaping our tomorrow.

Visitors to 'Crafted for the Future' can experience a range of programmes

at the Sree Bhumi Sporting Club in Lake Town, depicting him holding the FIFA World Cup trophy. Completed in just 40 days, the installation drew widespread admiration across Kolkata.

Mamata orders judicial committee

As the chaos unfolded, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who was on her way to the stadium, directed her driver to turn back upon receiving news of the violence. Shortly thereafter, she announced the formation of a judicial committee to probe the mismanagement that led to the disorder.

"I am deeply disturbed and shocked by the mismanagement witnessed today at Salt Lake Stadium. I was on my way to the stadium to attend the event along with thousands of sports lovers and fans who had gathered to catch a glimpse of their favourite footballer, Lionel Messi.

CERT-In hosts visiting foreign journalists for an interaction on India's cybersecurity framework

(Gns). The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), conducted a cybersecurity familiarization visit and interactive session for visiting journalists from Europe, America and Central Asian countries on 12 December 2025.

The session was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Bahl, Director General, CERT-In and Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) at MeitY, New Delhi. Shri Krishan Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MeitY, offered welcome remarks to the delegation and highlighted various initiative of the ministry, including the India AI Impact Summit.

Dr. Bahl highlighted the role and responsibilities of CERT-In in cyber security, crisis management, vulnerability assessment, infor-

mation sharing, and coordinated response to cyber incidents, empanelment of auditors, specialized training programmes in India.

Through CERT-In's research collaborations, public-private partnerships, and participation in international forums, CERT-In is building a robust and trust-

alerts and tailored advices to organizations and citizens against emerging threats, ensuring proactive protection without causing unnecessary panic. Dr. Bahl also underscored India's rapid emergence as a global cybersecurity hub, driven by more than 400 startups and a skilled work-

force of over 6.5 lakh professionals, powering a \$2 billion cybersecurity industry. He noted that these innovators are building advanced solutions for threat detection, cyber forensics, and AI-based monitoring systems, reinforcing India's commitment to a secure and resilient digital ecosystem.

Emphasizing the evolving threat landscape, Dr. Bahl observed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) acts as a double-edged sword—enabling both defenders and adversaries. He elaborated on how CERT-In leverages AI-driven analytics and automation to detect, prevent, and respond to cyber incidents in real time, while also developing countermeasures against malicious AI-enabled attacks.

as Rodrigo de Paul and Luis Suárez were expected to be part of the tour, saying Messi's arrival would help create a "positive footballing ecosystem" in India.

In October, Dutta had clarified that the event was organised independently and had no involvement from the All India Football Federation (AIFF). "This is a private event. AIFF is a big organisation and runs according to its own policies. I am tying up in my private capacity," he had said.

The AIFF has also issued a statement reiterating that the Kolkata event was organised by a private PR agency and that the federation had no role in the planning or execution of the programme.

He also highlighted that other Argentine stars such

as Rodrigo de Paul and Luis Suárez were expected to be part of the tour, saying Messi's arrival would help create a "positive footballing ecosystem" in India.

after 14 years... It's also good for the fans, an opportunity to see Messi. We don't think he'll come back again...Football's connection to India is growing again. Never before have so many sponsors come to Indian football..."

He also highlighted that other Argentine stars such

chief architect behind Messi's much-anticipated visit to Kolkata, which was part of a privately organised tour. In earlier statements, Dutta had expressed excitement over the event, calling it a historic moment for Indian football.

Dutta had said ahead of

the visit, "There's a great atmosphere of joy that Messi is coming to India

for the GOAT Tour, was forced to cut short his lap of honour at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan after an uncontrollable surge in the crowd. Plastic bottles were thrown, tempers flared, and security officials hurried him off the pitch within minutes, denying thousands of fans the glimpse they had waited hours, and paid heavily for.

Congratulating the Department of Tourism and JKCCC for timely completion of these ambitious projects, Omar Abdullah appreciated their professionalism and coordinated efforts.

Many spectators, including those who had purchased premium tickets, complained that they never

managed to see Messi at all, neither directly nor on the stadium's giant screens. A heavy security cordon, coupled with politicians and dignitaries occupying prime viewing areas, further restricted visibility and fuelled resentment in the stands.

As frustration spilled over, the situation inside the stadium deteriorated rapidly. Banners were vandalised, seats damaged, and chairs hurled onto the ground, prompting police to resort to a massive lathi charge and deploy the Rapid Action Force (RAF) to restore order. According to angry supporters outside the venue, Messi remained on the field for only a few minutes before being ushered away amid the chaos.

The backlash soon

flooded social media, with fans slamming organisers for what they described as "shambolic planning" and "complete mismanagement."

"We paid thousands just to watch politicians take selfies while Messi disappeared in minutes," one fan wrote on X.

"This is not crowd trouble, this is organiser failure," posted another.

Several supporters noted that such incidents were becoming a familiar pattern at marquee events."

"Every big sporting event follows the same script. When will we finally learn?" read one widely shared post.

Ironically, the unrest overshadowed an otherwise celebratory day for Messi's fans in the city.

Earlier, the football legend had virtually unveiled a towering 70-foot iron statue

CM Omar Abdullah dedicates Asia's longest ski drag lift in Gulmarg

(Gns). Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday dedicated a series of major tourism infrastructure projects worth over Rs 17 crore to the public at Gulmarg and its adjoining areas, marking a significant milestone in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's position as a premier global winter tourism destination.

The chief minister inaugurated Asia's longest ski drag lift, measuring 726 metres, at Kongdoori at a cost of Rs 3.65 crore. He also inaugurated conservation works of a water body at Kongdoori, completed at a cost of ₹0.90 crore. At Apharwat, he inaugurated the rotating conference hall, constructed by JKCCC at a cost of ₹0.86 crore, adding a unique attraction to Gulmarg's high-altitude tourism infrastructure.

The chief minister laid the foundation stone for

fencing of the Gulmarg Golf Course, a project worth Rs 4.77 crore, aimed at pro-

tection and enhancing one of the region's iconic tourism assets. Through online inaugurations and foundation ceremonies, he also dedicated several important projects, including the office building of the Gulmarg Development Authority at a cost of Rs 0.82 crore, reconstruction of Hut No. 2 costing Rs 0.64 crore, construction of

the Devri path along the Almabali roadside at Rs 2.62 crore, and develop-

ment of a dedicated car parking facility with an estimated cost of Rs 2.78 crore.

In addition, Abdullah

inaugurated the Integrated Skiing & Adventure Tourism Centre at Gulmarg and launched integrated ski training courses to strengthen professional winter sports training facilities. These projects have been execut-

ed by the Gulmarg Development Authority and the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC).

Speaking on the occasion, he said Gulmarg remains the crown jewel of Jammu & Kashmir's tourism landscape and that sustained investment in modern, high-quality infrastructure is essential to unlocking its full potential. "These initiatives are not just infrastructure additions but strategic investments that will create year-round tourism opportunities, generate employment for local youth and elevate Gulmarg to international standards," the chief minister said.

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