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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). 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". "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.

Our Party will work towards this vibrant city's growth and boost 'Ease of Living' for the people," he wrote on X following the BJP's breakthrough in the Left Democratic Front-dominated Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation.

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 hometown 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



political landscape.

"I also want to acknowledge the historic performance of the BJP in Thiruvananthapuram, and

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 ulti-

mately 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.

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, 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

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 Project 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.



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.

Due to global warming, rainfall patterns have changed, and therefore, CM urged everyone to plant trees under the "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" initiative to expand green cover. He also called for active participation in water conservation by making optimal use of rainwater.

Chief Minister said that, thanks to the Prime Minister's vision, Kutch has emerged as a top tourism destination. Asia's largest green energy park has been set up at Khavda, and the government is implementing initiatives to enhance ease of living. While the state's coastal areas were once neglected, today

30,000 crore for urban development. The government is also committed to developing new municipal corporations, with budgets provided alongside their formation.

Urbanisation in Gujarat is progressing rapidly. In response, advanced planning for infrastructure and facilities has been undertaken. Surat, situated between Bharuch and Umargam, has become a central hub of development, creating widespread employment opportunities across various sectors and tourism. It is among the fastest-developing cities in the world.

Surat Municipal Corporation Commissioner Smt Shalini Agrawal welcomed everyone and stated that development works worth Rs. 600 crore will help establish infrastructure in new areas of Surat city. The year 2025 is being celebrated as the Urban Development Year. With the mantra of "Earn Well, Live Well," the vision for South Gujarat's development under the six regional devel-

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

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,

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

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.



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

Cauvery, said the Stalin government should take appropriate legal steps so that Tamil Nadu's rights are not frittered away.

In a statement here, he described the Cauvery river as the lifeline of Tamil Nadu and blamed Chief Minister Stalin for the lackadaisical attitude and 'failure' to place a strong legal defence before the Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Supreme Court last time. EPS, also Leader of the Opposition in

the Assembly, alleged that it was habitual for the DMK, whenever the party was in power, to abdicate its responsibility in this matter to protect the family interests of the DMK leadership. That is why it is playing ball to the Congress government in Karnataka,

he added. Tamil Nadu has been consistently opposing the construction of a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu, close to the Tamil Nadu border, where the Cauvery enters into the state, to

impound 67.16 TMC ft of water, to provide drinking water to Bengaluru, and to generate 400 MW of electricity, among others. Tamil Nadu is apprehensive that this would result in water scarcity for the delta region, the rice bowl of the state. Recently, the apex court has given the go-ahead for Karnataka to carry on the Detailed Project Report for a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu, close to the Tamil Nadu border, primarily for the drinking water needs of Bengaluru.

With the DMK and the Congress being part of the INDIA bloc, EPS is attempting to use the Mekedatu issue to create a wedge between them and paint the alliance as anti-Tamil.



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".



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

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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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 naïve.

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 unmitigable 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.

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 Kalaighnar scheme ~ as "Revdi 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 vac-

resale, engaging in what economists term "micro-entrepreneurship". Meanwhile, studies from Tamil Nadu, where the scheme is explicitly framed as an honorarium for unpaid care work, indicate a reduction in domestic crises and marital conflict. Financial security, however

bank into an active political constituency with specific demands. Despite the optimism, we must remain critical.

Cash transfers alone cannot dismantle structural patriarchy. Receiving Rs 1,000 does not reduce the five hours of domestic drudgery, nor is it a substitute for a formal job paying Rs 10,000 or Rs 20,000. If we view cash transfers as the solution rather than a support, we risk ignoring the harder battles for equal pay, safe workplaces, and shared domestic responsibility. Unpaid care work, while recognized, still subsidizes the paid economy by providing free services that would otherwise cost trillions. Ultimately, these transfers are not the full price of freedom, but they are its first instalment. True empowerment will arrive not when a woman goes to the bank to withdraw this money, but when she goes to deposit her own earnings. Until then, recognizing her unpaid labour with cash is a necessary start to a long overdue conversation.

(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 being marginalized or erased.

When it comes to Raja Rammohun Roy, he occupies pride of place, a high

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 Brahma Sabha, later Brahma 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

the practice of Sati, when widows at the time of their spouse's cremation, immolated themselves. Coming back to modern-day accusations of Rammohun Roy being a 'British agent', there is need to know more about what the Raja's mission was in Britain in 1831. This is where Prof Amar Farooqui's recent 'Governors of Empire' opens up vistas of financial skulduggery, and bureaucratic delays by chief functionaries of East India Company.

"Rammohun Roy's presence in London when the Privy Council took up the Dharma Sabha's appeal

(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.

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. From brass parts and bandhani to refineries, petrochemicals, port-based activities, and traditional crafts, the district has continuously advanced

the Minister appealed to local entrepreneurs to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference to be held in Rajkot.

Minister of State for Education Smt. Rivabaa Jadeja said that the bandhani industry is a key part of Jamnagar's cultural identity and has enabled many women to gain employment and become self-reliant. With the GI tag for Jamnagar's bandhani and the dedicated efforts of artisans and entrepreneurs in the brass parts industry, brass components made in Jamnagar are now used by institutions such as ISRO and NASA, which is a matter of pride. The bandhani and brass parts industries together reflect Gujarat's economic strength and cultural richness. While modern industries drive employment and exports, traditional crafts preserve cultural heritage. With government support and the hard work of local artisans,

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 INEXTb, 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. Vinodbhai 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 Dhirajlal 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 Gadhiya, 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 PMFME

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-

daily investments, investors benefit from rupee-cost averaging, which helps overcome short-term market volatility. Even a daily investment of ₹10 encourages disciplined, long-term investing and can contribute to long-term wealth creation. Our goal with the product is to simplify investing and help every Indian participate in the country's growth story."

With the launch of Daily SIPs, PhonePe Wealth reinforces its commitment to democratizing investing and making wealth creation accessible to all. By enabling users to start with micro (small), manageable amounts and providing a flexible, user-friendly investment experience, PhonePe Wealth empowers both first-time and seasoned investors to build wealth over time. This initiative further strengthens the PhonePe platform's goal of promoting financial inclusion across income groups and fostering a culture of disciplined, long-term investing.

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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

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

Emperor and the Raja

(Gns).

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(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.

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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 'Nawanagar 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.

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-

ed cyber defence architecture aligned with the vision of Digital India.

Dr. Bahl underscored that CERT-In issues timely

force of over 6.5 lakh professionals, powering a \$20 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.

Who is Satadru Dutta? Main organiser of Messi's Kolkata event arrested after stadium chaos

(Gns). Satadru Dutta, the promoter and main organiser of Lionel Messi's "G.O.A.T. Tour of India 2025," was arrested on Saturday following chaos that erupted after the Argentine football icon's visit to Kolkata ended in disappointment for fans.

Confirming the arrest, Additional Director General (ADG) Law and Order Jawed Shamim said action had been taken after the situation at Salt Lake Stadium spiralled out of control. He said, "There is normalcy now. The second part is the investigation; the FIR has been lodged, and the chief organiser has been arrested... I'm telling you, they (organisers) are promising they will return (ticket fee to fans). We will see how it can be done."

The Promoter Behind Messi's Visit Satadru Dutta was the



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

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. No AIFF Involvement

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

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-



tecting 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 Alambal roadside at Rs 2.62 crore, and develop-

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.

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

CBDT NUDGEs 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 'NUDGE' 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-



tions and have also claimed bogus refunds. Evidence gathered from enforcement actions indicated that RUPPs many of which were non-filers, non-operational at their registered addresses, and are not engaged in any political activity were being used as conduits for routing funds,

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

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

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.

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



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,

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.

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

said that all measures are being taken to facilitate artisans and to take various crafts from India to the world.

materials that shape daily life. By spotlighting artisans and material innovators from across India, the initiative showcases practices



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

Mismanagement, mayhem mar Messi's Kolkata appearance; CM orders enquiry

(Gns). Kolkata's much-hyped date with Lionel Messi ended in chaos on Saturday as severe crowd mismanagement at the Salt Lake Stadium forced the Argentine football superstar to cut short his appearance, triggering anger, vandalism and a police crackdown inside the venue.

The city's long-awaited tryst with the iconic footballer unravelled quickly when Messi, in India as part of his 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.

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

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.

Growing trend of senior IAS officers opting for VRS in UP raises concerns in administrative circles

(Gns). There appears to be no let-up in the trend of senior IAS officers from the Uttar Pradesh cadre opting for voluntary retirement (VRS) and resignation.

In recent years, nearly a dozen IAS officers have left the service, and this number is expected to increase further in the coming months. Despite this, the state government has not yet issued any clear response to this trend.

The latest case involves Anamika Singh, a 2004 batch IAS officer, who has applied for VRS. A senior official confirmed that her application is under process and clarified that she had not applied for a central deputation.

However, administrative sources say that discontent is growing among several Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS

officers regarding their under-representation at the central level. Officers claim that many proposals for central deputation are not being approved by the state government and that the empanelment process at the Centre is also becoming more difficult.

Recently, Amod Kumar, a senior IAS officer of the 1995 batch, also resigned. Those who have previously taken VRS include Vikas Gothwal (batch 2003), Vidya Bhushan (2008), G. Srinivasulu (2005), Rajiv Agarwal (1993), Mohammad Mustafa (1995), Rigzin Samphel (2003), Renuka Kumar (1987), and Juthika Patankar (1988). Rakesh Verma and RP Singh have also left the service.

Meanwhile, Abhishek

Singh, a 2011 batch IAS officer, recently resigned. Notably, G. Srinivasulu later withdrew his VRS application and rejoined the service.

According to a senior IAS officer, "Most of the officers who received central deputation in recent months were posted in important locations like Varanasi or Ayodhya. Better coordination with the central government during these postings increased their chances of selection."

Another officer said,



"We regularly apply for central deputation, but the state government doesn't grant permission, citing a shortage in the state cadre. This has stalled our career progression, which is very frustrating."

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh IAS Association, which previously raised cadre-related issues with the government, has not commented on this matter publicly. For the past few years, the association has also been unable to hold its 'Service Week,' which used to be an important platform for officers to voice their concerns.

Senior officers say that during the annual general meeting of the IAS Association held during 'Service Week,' officers used to speak freely, but this is now a thing of the past.

Prabhunath Rai honored many doctors

(Gns). Lucknow: In a felicitation ceremony organized at Medanta Hospital Lucknow under the leadership of Prabhunath Rai, National President of the All India Bhojpuri Society, many doctors were honored.

At the ceremony, Prabhunath Rai, National President of the All India Bhojpuri Society, along with Ved Prakash Rai, National Secretary, and Vijay Yadav, State Secretary, honored Professor Rakesh Kapoor, Director of Medanta Hospital, Dr. Sandeep Kumar Verma, Dr. Ashish



Bansal, Dr. Anurag Verma, Dr. Bharat Sangal, and Dr. Parthasarathi Reddy for their outstanding and remarkable contributions in the field of medicine and social service. They were

presented with bouquets, shawls, and mementos.

On this occasion, Prabhunath Rai, National President of the All India Bhojpuri Society, appealed to all the doctors to organ-

ize medical camps to treat the general public and urged them to dedicate one day every month to provide free service to the common people.

Former Minister Delivers Message of Harmony at Opera Performance at Sanskriti University

Mathura — During a musical theatrical presentation (opera) of a Georgian play at the Santosh Memorial Auditorium of Sanskriti University, the Chief Guest, Meenakshi Lekhi, Former Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India, emphasized that to ensure heritage and development, societies must preserve their roots—only then can they grow stronger. Addressing the youth, she underlined the importance of understanding how the knowledge they acquire can be meaningfully contributed back to society.

Welcoming the students, Ms. Lekhi remarked that they were about to witness an extraordinary experience. She explained that the Georgian opera had been created by renowned director Robert Sturua as a tribute to the legacy of the legendary soprano Maria Callas. She observed that when one looks for differences, differences appear; when one looks for similarities, similarities emerge.

Truth, she said, is singular and universal. Speaking about Georgia, she described it as a beautiful country by the sea with a rich cultural heritage, recalling her visits where she experienced its natural beauty and traditions. Highlighting Robert Sturua's stature in the world of theatre, she noted that the audience was privileged to witness his work. She also praised Sanskriti University as an excellent centre for science and technology education and appreciated the vibrant academic environment of the campus.

Ninety-year-old celebrated Georgian opera and theatre director Robert Sturua, speaking in his distinctive and heartfelt style, said that although he had known much about India earlier, his visit revealed that his understanding had been far too limited. He shared with joy that his granddaughter is soon to

marry a person named Krishna, and that he felt deeply fortunate to be presenting his work in the very land of Krishna's birth. Expressing his delight, he mentioned that he had been constantly sending pictures and stories of India and its people to his granddaughter. During his address, he also openly criticized the BBC for what he described as misleading portrayals of India and Georgia. With simplicity and humility, he concluded by saying that the audience should judge him by watching his play.

The Chancellor of Sanskriti University, Sachin Gupta, lauded Robert Sturua and the entire Georgian artistic team for



their remarkable contribution. He expressed gratitude to Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi for gracing the occasion, acknowledging her significant work for women in Delhi and her distinguished public image. He further stated that the global respect earned by India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with contributions by leaders like Ms. Lekhi, is unparalleled. Encouraging students to fully immerse themselves in the unique experience, he also appreciated the decision of the Shota Rustaveli National Theatre of Georgia to present its opera at Sanskriti University. On the occasion, Darpan Prasher, Chairman of NGO Cultural Diversity for Peaceful Future and recipient of the prestigious Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award, spoke on the vital role of cultural exchange in strengthening mutual understanding and long-term people-to-people relations between India and Georgia.

The programme com-

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurates the state's first elevated market yard constructed by Surat APMC

State-of-the-art building with advanced facilities, featuring a two-way ramp allowing heavy vehicles to access the first floor
Chief Minister
*** Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, the use of technology and artificial intelligence is enhancing agricultural production, sustainability, and market access.**
*** Surat APMC, Which Began with an Income of Rs 15,000 in 1951, Emerges as a Symbol of Cooperative Strength**
*** With the mantra of 'Sahakar thi Samruddhi', the State Government is promoting value addition in agriculture.**
Transparent and Modern Systems Ensuring Convenience, Safety, and Fair Returns for Farmers: Agriculture and Cooperation Minister Shri Jitu Vaghani
Elevated Market Yard Constructed as Part of Surat

APMC's Modernisation and Expansion
Inauguration of free primary healthcare centre and seed distribution centre for farmers, traders, and workers visiting the market yard
(Gns).



Gandhinagar, 13 December 2025 : The state's largest and first state-of-the-art elevated market yard, newly constructed by the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Surat

and designed to facilitate the movement of heavy vehicles on the first floor, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel.

Simultaneously, as part of the modernization and expansion of the Surat APMC Market, the Chief Minister also inaugurated a free primary health-care centre and a seed distribution centre for farmers, traders, and workers visiting this ultra-modern elevated market yard.

Appreciating the APMC for developing an elevated structure that ensures the smooth movement of heavy vehicles and large trucks,

with well-planned entry and exit arrangements to prevent congestion for years to come, the Chief Minister said that Surat APMC, which began in 1951 with an income of just Rs 15,000, has today become a symbol of cooperative strength.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, farmers' welfare is being advanced through the effective use of infrastructure and technology. Guided by the mantra of 'Sahakar thi Samruddhi', the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Cooperation has strengthened the cooperative sector and enabled focused efforts to enhance the income and living standards of farmers and animal husbandry farmers.

Chief Secretary reviews gas leak zone, rehab site in Dhanbad; stresses local participation

(Gns). Jharkhand Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar on Saturday visited the gas-affected Kenduadih area and conducted an extensive review of the relief and rehabilitation work. He was accompanied by Home Secretary Vandana Dadel, DGP (I/C) Tadasha Mishra, BCCL CMD Manoj Kumar Agrawal, Deputy Commissioner Aditya Ranjan, SSP and several senior officials. The team inspected the neighbourhoods impacted by the underground gas leak and interacted with residents to understand their concerns.

The Chief Secretary said controlling such incidents is a major challenge because the leakage is driven by natural causes.

He added that experts are studying every development, but villagers who have lived here for decades understand the terrain better than anyone else. He stressed that no solution is possible without their participation. Addressing the crowd through a microphone, he assured families that their safety is the government's foremost priority and that all steps will be taken in coordination with the Centre, BCCL, public representatives and local communities.

Earlier in the day, the high-level team reviewed arrangements at the PB Area Medical Camp set up

by BCCL near Hindi Bhawan. Officials interacted with affected families, examined the facilities and discussed the support made available so far. Dhanbad MLA Raj Sinha, who joined the inspection, said he has raised the matter in the Assembly and submitted a written request to the Chief Minister. He added that while the issue falls under the Centre's



jurisdiction, the state also needs to act decisively for public safety.

The delegation later visited Belgharia Township, where the rehabilitation of affected families is being planned. The Chief Secretary inspected the new buildings, checked available amenities and spoke to officials and residents. He said the state is assessing all possibilities, including relocating families to safer places if required, and that both state and central governments are treating the incident with full seriousness.

Officials said BCCL is working closely with the state government and district administration to manage the crisis and prepare for the rehabilitation of the affected population.

Swami Ramdev, Acharya Prasanna Sagar launch 'One Fast Every Month' to promote healthy living

(Gns). Yoga Rishi Swami Ramdev and Jain saint Antarmana Acharya Prasanna Sagar Maharaj launched the mass movement 'One Fast Every Month' at the two-day 'International Janmangal Convention' that commenced at the Bharat Mandapam on Friday.

The movement aims to promote spiritual growth, physical well-being, and self-discipline among the people. This fasting is set to be observed on the seventh day of every month.

In his address at the conference, Swami Ramdev said that every faith, sect, tradition, religion, ritual, and auspicious occasion equally values and incorporates fasting, which is considered a noble and sacred practice.

"Fasting cleanses the body, mind, and a person's inner self, freeing them from life's attachments while they're alive," he said.

The two-day conference is held in four phases, where the sessions are aimed at human welfare with a holistic approach, including fasting, meditation, yoga, and swadeshi thinking.

Both the visionary Gurus vowed to give humanity a powerful mantra for 'Janmangal' with the 'One Fast Every Month' movement.

Notably, the campaign has drawn prominent saints, politicians, celebrities, and lakhs of people worldwide.

During his address, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla,

who also attended a session, said that the event is a confluence of spirituality and yoga, and will send across a new message to the country and the world.

"The message will spread starting from Delhi to the nation, and from the nation to the world," he added.

The 'International Janmangal Conference' is super relevant, said Birla, adding that he will also observe a fast once every month.

Prasanna Sagar



Maharaj said that fasting is a divine method to awaken the spiritual energy.

The purpose of fasting is to purify the mind, body, and soul, and it is an important way to make the body better and cleaner, de-stressing the mind, and improving one's life.

During fasting, a person's emotions get balanced, anger decreases, and the brain remains peaceful, and the person's concentration span increases.

"A person distances himself from negativity while fasting, and experiences positivity and balance of thoughts," Maharaj added.

While addressing the convention, Patanjali's Acharya Balkrishna said that it was an honor for him to be in the company of such great saints.

Under the chairmanship of Vishal Singh, Director a one-day workshop was organized for all the district and headquarters officers in the auditorium of the Information Directorate on Saturday

Lucknow: Under the chairmanship of Vishal Singh, Director of Information and Public Relations Department, a one-day workshop was organized for all the district and headquarters officers in the auditorium of the Information Directorate on Saturday. On this occasion, Director Information gave instructions to make the role of the department more effective, ensure uniformity in departmental functioning and to make the public welfare schemes and achievements of the state government reach the public in a more effective and factual manner.

Addressing the workshop, Director Information Shri Vishal Singh said that the Information Department is a strong bridge of trust between the government and the public. The highest priority of the Information

Department is to convey the policies, plans and development works of the government to the public in a simple, clear, factual and timely manner. Also, giving effective and balanced response with facts while continuously monitoring negative and misleading news is an essential need of today's time.

Director Information said that the Information Department needs to further strengthen its energy, confidence and leadership role. All officers should be alert in their respective districts and work with full dedication, impartiality and dedication and effectively present the development works and public welfare schemes of the government to the public. Wide

publicity should be given by using all mediums of publicity and adopting modern technology. Correct information about the development works done by the state government in the districts in the last 08 years should be made available to the people, so that there is no confusion among the people regarding the policies of the government.

Additional Director Arvind Kumar Mishra said in his address that the development works and achieve-

ments being carried out by the state government in the districts should also be publicized through success stories, articles etc. He said that the district offices will be further organized and strengthened, so that there is no inconvenience in working. He also encouraged all the officers and said that all of you should work with full dedication. The common people can get maximum benefits from the government schemes.

In the workshop, Senior Finance and Accounts Officer Sanjay Kumar Singh gave information about the departmental budget and financial provisions and rules. At the end of the program, the workshop was concluded by Assistant Director Shri Chandra Mohan by expressing his gratitude to all the officers present.



Ruskin Bond admitted to hospital in Dehradun; family shares health update

(Gns). Renowned author Ruskin Bond has been admitted to a hospital in Dehradun due to discomfort in his leg. He is currently undergoing treatment under medical supervision.

Bond's family members said that one of Ruskin Bond's legs has weakened, causing difficulty in walking. They added that he is expected to be discharged from the hospital in the next few days.

Born on May 19, 1934, in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, Ruskin Bond is known for his captivating stories. Over several decades, he has written many novels, short stories, essays, and children's books. His writing often reflects the peaceful landscapes of his early years in

the hills.

Bond published his first novel, titled "The Room on the Roof" at the very young age of 17. The novel won

His style of writing is focused on telling stories of life in small towns, feel-good stories with deep meaning hidden between

course, his award-winning debut novel, "The Room on the Roof."

He has written countless heartwarming short stories, including "The Night Train at Deoli," "Time Stops at Shamli," and "Delhi Is Not Far."

His poems and essays, such as "Rain in the Mountains" and "A Book of Simple Living," have also earned him global recognition.

91-year-old Ruskin Bond has charmed readers of all ages with his beloved characters. His writing is simple, nostalgic, and deeply evocative. He has received many awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award, the Padma Bhushan, the John F. Kennedy Prize, and the Padma Shri.



ICONIC AUTHOR RUSKIN BOND HOSPITALISED IN DEHRADUN, UNDERGOES TREATMENT AFTER EXPERIENCING DISCOMFORT IN LEG