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Lakhpati Didi

Drone Didi



Atal Netrutva
Avirat Vikas

'Lakhpati Didi' and 'Drone Didi' marks a new era of women's empowerment in every village

"In the direction of women's empowerment, Lakhpati Didi will prove to be a decisive factor." - Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Bhupendra Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

Har Ghar Swadeshi
Ghar-Ghar Swadeshi



PM Modi Inaugurates Rs 3,200 Crore Highway Projects In West Bengal, Targets TMC

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated two national highway projects worth Rs 3,200 crore in West Bengal's Nadia district, a move aimed at improving regional connectivity and cutting travel time. The visit also carried political significance ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, with the Prime Minister strongly criticising the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government and urging voters to support the BJP.

Among the projects inaugurated was the 66.7-km four-laning of the Barajaguli-Krishnanagar section of National Highway-34 in Nadia district, along with the four-laning of the 17.6-km

Barasat-Barajaguli section of NH-34 in North 24 Parganas district. Together, these stretches are expected to act as a crucial link between Kolkata and Siliguri.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated two national highway projects worth Rs 3,200 crore in West Bengal's Nadia district, including the four-laning of the Barajaguli-Krishnanagar and Barasat-Barajaguli sections of NH-34, aiming to improve regional connectivity and reduce travel time while also criticizing the TMC government ahead of upcoming elections.

Switch To Shorts PM Modi Inaugurates Rs 3 200 Crore Highway Projects In West Bengal Targets TMC

According to the government, the projects will reduce travel time by around two hours, lower vehicle operating costs and significantly improve connectivity between Kolkata and neighbouring districts of West Bengal, as well as with neighbouring countries. The improved road infrastructure is also expected to boost economic activity and provide momentum to tourism across the region.

Addressing a gathering virtually in Nadia district, Modi launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress, describing the prevailing situation in the state as "maha jungle raj". He alleged that corruption, nepotism and appeasement politics under the ruling dispensation had stalled development in

West Bengal.

Speaking at the Parivartan Sankalpa Sabha, the fourth such meeting in

"hold people to ransom, make them suffer and stop Bengal's progress".

The Prime Minister also



Bengal this year, Modi urged voters to give the BJP an opportunity to form a "double engine government" in the state. He said that while the TMC may oppose him and the BJP, the ruling party could not

accused the Mamata Banerjee-led party of opposing the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to

prevent the identification of infiltrators. Claiming that there was growing public sentiment against the TMC's rule, he said that voices across the state were calling for change, referring to the slogan "Banchte chai, BJP tai" (Need BJP to live).

Modi's visit comes amid heightened political tensions over the SIR exercise in West Bengal. The Trinamool Congress has strongly opposed the revision, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleging that it is being conducted in haste and could lead to the disenfranchisement of a large number of genuine voters, particularly refugee Hindus.

According to the draft electoral rolls published after the enumeration phase, 58,20,899 names have been excluded, reducing the total electorate in the state to 7.08 crore. The Election Commission has flagged around 1.36 crore entries for "logical discrepancies", while nearly 30 lakh voters have been categorised as unmapped.

The exercise has triggered fresh anxiety among the Matua community, a Dalit Hindu group that migrated from Bangladesh over decades due to religious persecution. In recent years, electoral trends have indicated that the BJP has made signifi-

cant inroads among the community by promising formal Indian citizenship.

BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar, who represents the Ranaghat Lok Sabha constituency where Taherpur is located, said fears were being deliberately spread among the Matuas regarding the SIR process. He expressed hope that the Prime Minister's message would help dispel such concerns.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already led anti-SIR rallies in Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts, both of which border Bangladesh and have a sizeable Matua population.

President of india addresses conference on 'timeless wisdom of bharat: pathways of peace and progress' at hyderabad

The confluence of modernity and spirituality is the greatest strength of our civilization: president droupadi murmu

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, addressed the conference on 'Timeless Wisdom of Bharat: Pathways of Peace and Progress', being organised by Brahma Kumaris Shanti Sarovar to mark its 21st Anniversary at Hyderabad today (December 20, 2025).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the global community is undergoing numerous transformations. Along with these changes, we face many serious challenges such as mental health issues, social conflicts, ecological imbalance, and the erosion of human val-

ues. In view of this, the theme of the conference is very relevant. She said that we must remember that material development alone does not bring happiness and peace. Inner stability, emotional intelligence, and a value-based approach are essential.

The President said that India's ancient sage tradition has given us the message of truth, non-violence, and peaceful coexistence. Our spiritual heritage offers solutions to the world's mental, moral, and environmental problems. The confluence of modernity and spirituality is the

greatest strength of our civilization. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the idea of considering the whole world as one family—is the greatest



need for global peace today.

The President said that spirituality acts as a strong foundation for social unity and national progress. When an individual develops mental stability, moral

values, and self-control, his/her behaviour promotes discipline, tolerance, and cooperation in society. People inspired by spiritual consciousness remain aware of their duties and strive to bring about positive change in society. Such individuals also make active contributions to nation-building.

The President was happy to note that for decades, the Brahma Kumaris organization has been spreading universal Indian values to various countries. This organization is strengthening the moral and emotional fabric of society by fostering peace and positivity among people. In this way, it is making a significant contribution to nation-building.

MP CM urges young entrepreneurs to invest in state

(Gns). Emphasising that factories and industrial development not only bring prosperity but also make positive changes in the lives of thousands of families, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Saturday urged new entrepreneurs to move forward with innovation, clear thinking, and social responsibility.

The MP CM invited young entrepreneurs to invest more in the state, saying it offers a favourable environment, resources, and facilities for industrial investment, and that the state government is also committed to providing all possible support to investors.

The Chief Minister was addressing the India Summit 2025 for New Entrepreneurs, organised

by the Young Entrepreneurs Foundation (YEF), in Indore on Saturday.

Dr Yadav asserted that youth power is the foundation of India's future, and the dream of a self-reliant India can be realised through entrepreneurship and innovation. He noted that Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the fastest-growing state in the country.

He pointed out that for the first time, the state government has prioritised the Industry Department directly at the Chief Minister's level to promote industry, ensuring faster decision-making and

stronger investor confidence.

"A new commitment to industry has been made in Madhya Pradesh with a clear policy of 'Enhancing Lives through Industry'. This policy will not only accelerate economic development but also create large-scale employment opportunities for youth," the CM stated.

Dr Yadav informed the delegates that MoUs worth ₹32 lakh crore were signed at the Global Investor Summit held in Bhopal, of which the groundbreaking ceremony for investments worth ₹6 lakh crore has already been held. He further informed that on 25 December, the groundbreaking ceremony/inau-

guration ceremony for investments worth ₹2 lakh crore will be held at a single location, which is historic in itself. This event will be held in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Chief Minister Dr Yadav stated that the state holds immense potential in many sectors. In light of these possibilities, the state government is working with full commitment to develop them.

The CM said that historic achievements have been made in making the state water-rich through the River Linking Campaign. He also highlighted water-sharing arrangements between Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

Ahmedabad receives its first "Make in India" Metro train

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Welcomes Ultra-Modern Metro Train at Titagarh Plant, Kolkata

This metro train features best-in-class fire safety and other security facilities, with the capability to operate as a fully automated, driverless train under Grade of Automation 4 (GOA4)

Gandhinagar, 20 December 2025 : Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel gifted Ahmedabad city its first indigenously (Swadeshi) built 'Make in India' metro train on Saturday.

During a visit to the modern Titagarh Rail Systems plant near Kolkata, the Chief Minister launched the coaches for the Ahmedabad Metro Rail. He stated that this significant step, taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to advance the Make in India initiative and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, is a matter of pride for Gujarat.

This train is being indigenously manufactured under the Make in India initiative at the facility plant of Titagarh Rail Systems Limited. The plant, capable

of producing modern metro and passenger coaches, has been established with advanced technology and

Systems Limited, Kolkata. These trains will meet the additional requirement arising after completion of 21



equipment. The Chief Minister also congratulated the team, noting that the Titagarh plant employs people from various states across the country, thereby embodying the Prime Minister's mantra of "Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat."

The metro train being delivered to Ahmedabad will meet the city's growing demand for metro rail services while further enhancing the convenience of public transportation. Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Limited (GMRCL) has placed an order for 10 trains with Titagarh Rail

km of Phase-2 work and with the remaining sections becoming operational soon.

At present, the Ahmedabad Metro serves more than 1.6 lakh passengers daily and is witnessing an annual growth of 30-40 percent. Chief Minister stated, in the coming days, the metro rail service will be expanded further, with metro operations also planned to commence in Surat. These Make in India trains, constructed with high-quality stainless steel, feature special colours and designs that reflect the culture and traditions of

Ahmedabad.

The Chief Minister stated that the first Make in India metro train accepted for the Ahmedabad Metro Rail will be delivered to Ahmedabad within a few days after final tests and certification from the concerned authorities, following which it will be inducted into passenger service. In addition, the remaining nine trains for Ahmedabad will also be supplied by Titagarh in a phased manner over the next 5-6 months. Aligned with the latest globally applicable international standards, this Make in India train will be a source of pride for Gujarat.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister's visionary leadership is defined by forward-looking planning and a constant focus on the welfare of citizens. Elaborating on the crucial role of infrastructure development in the country's growth under PM guidance, Chief Minister said that in recent years, road construction in the country has taken place at a record-breaking pace.

Codeine syrup racket has spread to PM's constituency: Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns). Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has blamed the BJP government for the alleged spread of fake and toxic codeine-based syrup, which he claimed had reached the Prime Minister's constituency, Varanasi.

Akhilesh Yadav said that the illegal trade of codeine cough syrup is worth thousands of crores of rupees.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, he said the Chief Minister and

those standing with him were lying in a manner that was unimaginable.

"If the government is truly against the mafia, bulldozers should be used on the houses of all those whose pictures are being shown with me. Whether it is 'Kaleen Bhैया' or 'Codeine Bhैया', equal action should be taken against everyone involved in this illegal business," he demanded.

During the press conference, he said, "Regarding the ongoing developments related to codeine, there is a very important issue that the government is hiding. More than 118 FIRs have been registered across 36 districts, and a black market for cough syrup was operating in Uttar Pradesh. Many photographs are being circulated; if we assume these images to be accurate and consider any-

one appearing with me to be a mafia member, then I too have photographs with the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister. I can understand the compulsion," he said.

Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the entire police force is being made to blow whistles to prevent former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur from presenting his case. He also claimed that former MLA Deepak Yadav was sent to jail in a fabricated case.



Editorial

Invisible Crisis

India's roads kill with a predictability that should shame a modern state. Day after day, lives are lost not in dramatic, singular catastrophes but in an unbroken sequence of collisions, rollovers and run-overs that barely register beyond a brief news alert. The true crisis is not only the scale of these deaths, but how thoroughly they have been normalised. When fatalities become routine, accountability dissolves. The numbers alone are staggering. Hundreds die on Indian roads every day, a toll that would trigger national mourning if it occurred through any other means of transport. Yet road deaths rarely provoke sustained outrage or policy urgency.

Unlike aviation disasters, which are followed by instant scrutiny and institutional action, road crashes are treated as unfortunate but expected side effects of mobility. This complacency has allowed a slow-moving disaster to entrench itself. On average, India records about 55 road accidents and nearly 20 deaths every hour, translating into over 460 lives lost daily – numbers that expose a continuous national emergency without sustained outrage. Responsibility lies at two levels. The first is infrastructure. Large parts of the road network are unforgiving by design: narrow single-lane highways without medians, poorly marked junctions, unprotected curves and construction zones that appear overnight without warning signage. Straight stretches encourage speeding, while known accident black spots remain uncorrected for years. In such conditions, even a minor lapse can turn fatal. The second layer is human behaviour, enabled by weak systems. Speed limits are ignored because enforcement is inconsistent.

Helmets and seatbelts are treated as optional because penalties are sporadic. Licences are too easily obtained and even more easily renewed, allowing unskilled or medically unfit drivers ~ especially of heavy vehicles ~ to remain on the road. The problem is not the absence of rules but the certainty that they can be broken without consequence. What makes this crisis harder to confront is unreliable data. Official figures lag by years and likely undercount deaths, dulling the sense of immediacy. Without real-time, transparent reporting, dangerous corridors cannot be identified quickly and corrective action is delayed. When the state itself does not fully see the scale of the problem, public pressure weakens. Fixing this does not require heroic solutions.

It requires discipline. High-risk roads must be redesigned with physical dividers, crash barriers and clear signage. Where widening is impossible, safety engineering must compensate. Enforcement needs to prioritise certainty over severity ~ being caught every time matters more than being fined heavily once in a while. Licensing and renewals should test actual driving ability and medical fitness, not just paperwork compliance. Equally important is restoring moral urgency. Daily road deaths should be visible, counted and discussed, not buried in statistical reports. Until every crash is treated as a failure of governance rather than a matter of fate, India's roads will remain lethal. Safe mobility is not a luxury. It is the most basic obligation a state owes its citizens.

Gautam Buddha Inter College Celebrates Annual Day with Grandeur and Colorful Programs

Lucknow: The annual day celebration of Gautam Buddha Inter College, located on Sarojini Nagar Gauri Road, was held this afternoon with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event, marked by slogans like "Vande Mataram," "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," and "Jai Hind," evoked memories of Operation Sindoor and the indomitable courage of Indian soldiers crushing terrorism. The celebration showcased patriotism and the embodiment of unity in diversity.

Earlier, the ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp and garlanding of Lord Gautam Buddha's statue by the chief guest, CRPF DIG



Chittaranjan Mahapatra. On this occasion, the school's Managing Director Somil Kushwaha and Principal Pinky Shukla presented bouquets, shawls, and mementos to the chief

NUCFDC and IIMA Ventures Launch Bharat COOPATHON 2025

20 December 2025: The National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Ltd (NUCFDC), the Umbrella Organisation for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB), in collaboration with IIMA Ventures, has launched Bharat COOPATHON 2025.

The selection-based programme will connect high-potential technology innovators with UCBs to enable the deployment of compliant, scalable and indigenous digital solutions. Start-ups, fintech companies, technologists, product teams and data innovators are invited to submit solutions tailored to the UCB ecosystem.

Bharat COOPATHON 2025 aims to equip UCBs with cost-effective digital solutions to upgrade banking systems, strengthen risk management and modernise operations. Submissions will be evaluated through a transparent, criteria-driven process based on innovation, secu-

urity and regulatory compliance, scalability and deployment feasibility.

The initiative seeks to deepen financial inclusion, strengthen governance standards and build long-term resilience across the



urban cooperative banking sector. A strong emphasis has been placed on cybersecurity frameworks, with a focus on data sovereignty, customer protection and regulatory compliance. The programme also promotes sector-wide standardisation and fosters sustainable partnerships between innovators and banks for both pilot and full-scale implementation.

Speaking about the initiative, Shri Prabhat Chaturvedi, CEO,

Atal Netrutva, Avirat Vikas, Sushasan thi Mahila Sashaktikaran

Lakhpatti Didi and Namo Drone Didi Schemes Make Women Self-Reliant in the State
Number of Lakhpatti Didis in the State Crosses 5.96 Lakh in Two Years, Fulfilling Rural Women's Dreams
Kankuben Earns Over Rs 10 Lakh Annually from Kutch Handicrafts, Expands Sales to Online Platforms

Guided by the Prime Minister, Gujarat Implements Multiple Successful Initiatives for Women Empowerment: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel
Gandhinagar, 20

December 2025 : With a steadfast commitment to empowering citizens through good governance, the state government has remained consistently proactive, launching multiple initiatives to ensure that development reaches even the remotest areas while strengthening women's participation in India's growth journey. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central Government launched the Lakhpatti Didi Yojana in 2023 with the objective of economically empowering 3 crore women by 2027. In Gujarat, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, the scheme has been effectively implemented, resulting in 5.96 lakh women achieving annual incomes exceeding Rs 1 lakh by December 2025 and proudly emerging as Gujarat's Lakhpatti Didis. Chief Minister stated, guid-

ed by the Prime Minister's vision, Gujarat has adopted multiple successful initiatives to strengthen women empowerment. He added that with the effective implementation of the Lakhpatti Didi scheme, the state is well positioned to



enable 10 lakh women to emerge as Lakhpatti Didis in the near future.

Kankuben Garva from Kutch earns an annual income of over ₹10 Lakhs

The state government has effectively implemented the Lakhpatti Didi programme at the grassroots level, leading to a transformative impact on women's livelihoods. Kankuben Garva, a resident of Mankuwa village in Bhuj, Kutch, hails from a family traditionally engaged in handicrafts. Through her participation in the Saras Mela, she gained a new platform to showcase Kutch handicraft products, which opened new market opportunities. With support of a Rs 1.5 lakh Community

Investment Fund and a Rs 4 lakh credit cash loan, she established a shop in her village and expanded production by mobilising other women from her self-help group. Today, her products are marketed beyond the state, and she continues to

scale up her enterprise through sales on prominent online platforms such as Amazon. Earning an annual income of over Rs 10 lakh, Kankuben attributes her success significantly to the sustained support provided by the state government under the Livelihood Mission. Bhavanaben gains a new identity through the Namo Drone Didi Yojana. Bhavanaben Bharatkumar Chaudhary, a resident of Varsada village in Kankrej taluka of Banaskantha district, has earned a distinct identity in the region as a Drone Didi. Educated up to the bachelor's level, she is actively engaged in animal husbandry and agriculture.

Selected under the Namo Drone Didi Yojana, she received specialised training in pesticide spraying using drones and is now widely recognised as a Drone Didi across Kankrej taluka. While continuing to live and work in her village,



she is realising her aspirations and motivating other women to become Aatmanirbhar. Under the Namo Drone Didi Yojana, women aged 18 to 60 years with a minimum qualification of Class 10 are eligible to train and work as drone pilots.

Identification of over 10 lakh potential Lakhpatti Didis in Gujarat

At present, trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in the state have identified 10.74 lakh women who have the potential to become Lakhpatti Didis. To systematically capture details of their existing livelihood activities, available resources, expenditure, and income, the Ministry of

Rural Development, Government of India, has developed a Digital Livelihood Register. Based on the data obtained from this Digital Livelihood Register, the identified Lakhpatti Didis are being provided need-based sup-

port, including training, assets, financial assistance, and marketing support. How does the Lakhpatti Didi scheme work? The scheme supports rural women associated with self-help groups in starting income-generating activities so that their annual income exceeds Rs 1 lakh. Women can start business in agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, and other locally relevant sectors. To facilitate this, various government schemes provide support in the form of training, financial assistance, and market linkages, enabling sustained growth in income.

As per the guidelines of the Central Government, income calculation for a

Lakhpatti Didi includes the following details:

* Total annual income from agriculture and allied activities.

* Income from non-farm activities such as manufacturing, trading, and services.

* Income of any family member who is salaried/employed.

* Income earned from farm and non-farm labour work.

* Financial Amounts received through benefits of government schemes.

* Income earned through commissions and honorary salaries (stipends).

Training of over 10,000 Community Resource Persons by 248 Master Trainers

To ensure the successful implementation of the scheme, the Gujarat government has taken several important steps. At the taluka level, 248 Master Trainers have been appointed, who have so far trained more than 10,000 Community Resource Persons(CRP). These CRPs will support women associated with self-help groups. For this entire process, data is regularly updated on the Digital Livelihood Register, which enables effective monitoring and facilitates the provision of training, financial support, and market linkages to women entrepreneurs.

Rationing a Right

hoods. Early rural employment schemes treated work as welfare. Employment was offered when funds and administrative will allowed, often filtered through local hierarchies that mirrored rural inequality itself. The state was a benefactor, not an obligor.

This changed dramatically in the mid-2000s, when Parliament transformed wage employment into a legal entitlement. The rural worker was no longer a supplicant but a claimant, empowered to demand work and, in principle, to hold the administration accountable for failure. That shift carried deep constitutional meaning: it located economic security within the language of rights and anchored delivery in local self-government. The promise of this rights-based model, however, was never only about

income support. It was also about decentralisation. Village institutions were expected to plan works, create durable local assets, and subject implementation to social scrutiny. In theory, wage labour became a tool to strengthen democracy at the grassroots, not merely a line item in the budget.

Over the past decade, this architecture has been reshaped through technology-driven reforms. Direct transfers, biometric authentication, and app-based monitoring narrowed older channels of corruption and weakened entrenched local patronage. These changes undeniably improved financial transparency and reduced discretion at the cutting edge. Yet they also shifted power upwards, embedding control in centralised digital systems and exposing workers to new forms of exclusion through

technical failure, data errors, or administrative deletion. Efficiency improved, but the human margin for error shrank.



The latest proposed redesign of rural employment policy marks a deeper, more consequential turn. While it promises more days of work on paper, it alters the logic of the guarantee itself. Demand-led entitlement gives way to norm-based allocations. States are no longer mere implementers but co-pay-ers, incentivised to manage demand rather than meet it. A built-in seasonal

pause further weakens the idea that work must be available when distress strikes, not when the calendar permits.

A legal guarantee draws its strength from enforceability. Once ceilings, pauses, and fiscal co-responsibility are hardwired into the design, the burden quietly shifts back onto the worker ~ to wait, adjust, or go without. What is presented as decentralisation risks becoming decentralised execution without decentralised power. India's rural employment programme has always been more than a safety net. It is a statement about the relationship between citizen and state. If the guarantee becomes a managed benefit rather than a right that can be demanded, the country risks retreating from a hard-won constitutional commitment.

FundsIndia Appoints Rhishabh Garg as CEO - Digital to Lead the Next Phase of Retail Investing

India – 20-12-2025: FundsIndia, one of India's pioneering digital investment platforms, is pleased to announce the appointment of Rhishabh Garg as Chief Executive Officer – Digital (B2C) Business, reinforcing the company's focus on strengthening and scaling its retail investing franchise. In his new role, Rhishabh Garg will lead FundsIndia's retail business strategy, product innovation, customer experience, and growth initiatives, as the platform continues to simplify investing for millions of Indian households through technology-led, research-backed solutions.

As part of FundsIndia's integrated leadership structure, the company operates through three core business verticals, each anchored by established leadership. The Digital (B2C) business will now be led by Rhishabh Garg (CEO – Digital), while the B2B (Partners) vertical will continue under the leadership of Manish Gadhvi (CEO – Partners), and the Private Wealth vertical will remain led by Srinivas Mendu (CEO – Private

Wealth). All three CEOs report to Akshay Sapru, Group CEO, FundsIndia, and work in close alignment to strengthen scale, execution, and long-term growth across the organization.

Rhishabh brings over a decade of experience in digital finance and consumer internet businesses, instilling confidence in his ability to lead FundsIndia's retail growth. His expertise in building and scaling high-impact retail platforms demonstrates his capability to drive strategic success.

Speaking on the new role, Rhishabh Garg, CEO – Digital (Retail), FundsIndia, said, "I am delighted to join FundsIndia at a defining moment in its journey, as retail participation in Indian markets continues to deepen and mature. I truly value the trust placed in me by the leadership, and I look forward to working with a passionate, high-performing team to build on

FundsIndia's strong foundation of research, trust and technology. Together, our focus will be on simplifying investing, elevating customer experience, and enabling millions of Indians to build long-term wealth with clarity and confidence."

With a distinguished career shaped by deep expertise in digital financial services, Rhishabh Garg brings a potent blend of strategic leadership, tech-enabled growth, and customer-first thinking to FundsIndia's retail business. A distinguished alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and the Indian School of Business, Rhishabh has built and led high-impact teams across product, distribution, and growth functions in India's digital financial services ecosystem. Most recently, he served as Head of Term Insurance at PolicyBazaar, where he was responsible for driving growth, enhancing customer engagement,



and shaping product and distribution strategies in one of India's largest digital insurance marketplaces. Throughout his career, Rhishabh has demonstrated a strong ability to build scalable businesses and lead cross-functional teams—from digital insurance and technology-led consumer journeys to large-scale product execution. Before PolicyBazaar, he has also led growth initiatives that brought consumer-centric financial solutions to broader audiences, further underscoring his deep understanding of digital distribution and evolving investor needs.

At FundsIndia, Rhishabh will focus on accelerating retail growth by strengthening digital capabilities, enhancing product journeys, and nurturing high-performing teams aligned with the company's mission to simplify investing and deliver long-term value for investors across India. This appointment reinforces FundsIndia's collective purpose and commitment to empowering Indian investors.

CSR Cannot Be Separated From Environmental Responsibility: Supreme Court

(Gns).

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has held that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is inseparable from corporate environmental responsibility, making it clear that companies cannot claim to be socially responsible while disregarding the environment and other living beings within the ecosystem.

A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar issued a series of directions aimed at protecting the Great Indian Bustard, a critically endangered species facing severe threats from non-renewable power generation activities in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The court observed that corporate actions must recognise the ecological impact of industrial operations, particularly in fragile habitats.

In a ruling, the Supreme Court declared corporate social responsibility inseparable from environmental responsibility, directing companies, particularly non-renewable power generators in Rajasthan and Gujarat, to protect the endangered Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) by allocating CSR funds for conservation and adhering to habitat protection measures, referencing the Companies Act, 2013 and Article 51A(g) of the Constitution.

The bench stated that the definition of "social responsibility" must inherently include environmental responsibility. It emphasised that companies cannot assert social responsibility while ignoring the legitimate claims of the environment and other components of the ecosystem. Referring to Article 51A(g) of the Constitution, the court noted that every citizen has a fundamental duty to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, rivers, lakes and wildlife, and to show compassion towards living creatures.

According to the court, corporations, as legal persons and vital organs of society, share this fundamental duty.

It held that CSR funds represent a tangible expression of this constitutional obligation, adding that allocating CSR funds for environmental protection is not a voluntary charitable act but a fulfilment of a constitutional mandate.



US Targets ISIS Strongholds In Syria Over Killing of 3 Americans; Trump Says 'You'll Be Hit Harder'

(Gns).

The United States has carried out a large-scale military operation in Syria in direct retaliation for the killing of two American soldiers by ISIS militants in Palmyra. President Donald Trump confirmed the strikes on Friday, declaring that the mission was meant to send a clear message: any attack on Americans will be met with overwhelming force.

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth revealed that U.S. forces had commenced Operation Hawkeye Strike, targeting ISIS fighters, weapons depots, and infrastructure across Syria. In a statement posted on X, Hegseth described the mission as "a declaration of vengeance" rather than the start of a new war.

The United States launched Operation Hawkeye Strike in Syria, targeting ISIS in response to the killing of two American soldiers in Palmyra on December 13th; President Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth confirmed the operation, emphasizing retaliation and warning against further attacks, while also noting cooperation with Syria's new government led by President Ahmed al-Sharaa. "Earlier today, U.S. States would "never hesitate and never relent" in defending its people.

Trump's Warning to Terrorists

President Trump echoed the sentiment in a post on Truth Social, warning that ISIS would be hit "harder than they have ever been." He said the two soldiers killed in Syria had been honored in a dignified ceremony earlier this week, and pledged that the U.S. would continue striking ISIS strongholds until the group is destroyed.

Trump also claimed that Syria's new government, led by President Ahmed al-Sharaa after the fall of Bashar al-Assad last year, is cooperating with Washington in the fight against ISIS. He praised Sharaa's leadership.



Imran Khan, Wife Bushra Bibi Sentenced to 17 Years in Toshakhana Corruption Case

(Gns).

The sentencing was pronounced inside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi by special court judge Shahrukh Arjumand, marking a major development in one of the most closely watched legal cases involving the former Pakistan leader.

Court verdict and prison sentence

The court awarded Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi 10 years of rigorous imprisonment each under Section 409 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which deals with criminal breach of trust. An additional seven years of imprisonment was imposed under various provisions of Pakistan's Prevention of Corruption Act.

Apart from the jail term, the court also imposed a fine of ₹10 million on each of the convicts.

which govern the possession and disposal of gifts received by public officials.

The Toshakhana controversy has remained one of the most damaging legal challenges faced by the former prime minister since his removal from office.

Arrests and legal proceedings

Imran Khan was first arrested on 9 May 2023 in connection with corruption charges. He was later taken into custody again in August 2023 specifically in the Toshakhana case. His initial arrest was carried out by the National Accountability Bureau within the premises of the Islamabad High Court.

Since then, Khan has remained behind bars while facing multiple cases across different courts.

International concern over imprisonment

The latest sentencing comes amid growing criticism of the Pakistani government over Khan's treatment in jail. Human rights groups and political supporters have alleged mistreatment, with the United Nations also urging authorities to release Khan from solitary confinement.

The verdict is expected to further intensify political tensions in Pakistan, as Khan continues to command strong support despite his incarceration.



India's Space Triumphs in 2025: A Year of Technology, Collaboration and Vision

(Gns).

The year 2025 will be remembered as a landmark chapter in India's space journey, marked by bold technological demonstrations, deeper global collaboration, and steady progress towards Space Vision 2047. From complex in-orbit docking experiments and indigenous microprocessors to human spaceflight milestones and practical applications in agriculture and disaster management, the Department of Space and ISRO showcased how India's space programme is maturing into a comprehensive, end-to-end ecosystem.

At the heart of 2025's achievements was the successful demonstration of space docking technology through the SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) mission. Launched aboard PSLV-C60 in December 2024, the twin SpaDeX spacecraft achieved a historic milestone on January 16, 2025, by docking successfully in orbit at an altitude of 474 km.

In 2025, India's space program, led by the Department of Space and ISRO, achieved significant milestones including the SpaDeX space docking, CROPS-1 mission for plant biology experiments, and data release from the Aditya-L1 solar observatory, along with infrastructure expansion and advances in human spaceflight and propulsion, solidifying its role in global space endeavors.

Switch To Shorts

India's Space Triumphs in 2025 A Year of Technology Collaboration and Vision



Air India Express Pilot Punches Man, Leaves Him Bleeding; Airlines Removes Pilot From Duty

(Gns).

A SpiceJet passenger has alleged that an off-duty Air India Express pilot assaulted the passenger at Delhi airport's Terminal 1 after a dispute at security. Police said they learnt about the Delhi airport incident from social media and are waiting for a written complaint. Air India Express has removed the pilot from duty.

The airline confirmed the pilot was travelling as a regular passenger when the argument allegedly turned violent. According to sources cited by PTI, the pilot later boarded an IndiGo flight to Bengaluru after the Delhi airport incident. So far, neither the passenger nor the airline has lodged a formal police complaint.

An Air India Express pilot was removed from duty after an alleged assault on passenger Ankit Dewan at Delhi airport's Terminal 1, following a dispute near security; no formal police complaint has been filed, though Dewan shared the incident on social media.

Air India Express issued a statement expressing regret over the Delhi airport incident and said the airline "strongly condemns any form of unacceptable behaviour". The airline stated that the pilot has been taken off official duties with immediate effect while further action is pursued. The statement added that the airline empathised with the distress caused to the passenger and family.

The complainant, identified as Ankit Dewan, shared a detailed account of the Delhi airport incident on X. Dewan named Air India Express pilot Virender Sejwal and said Dewan was travelling with family, including a four-month-old baby in a stroller. Dewan wrote that airport personnel directed the family towards a priority security lane.

Queue dispute and Delhi airport incident timeline

Dewan claimed the special lane was used both by airport staff and passengers needing assistance. Dewan alleged some airline employees, including the pilot, moved ahead in the queue. When Dewan objected, a heated argument started. Dewan further alleged the pilot used abusive language and then physically assaulted Dewan near the security checkpoint.

According to Dewan, the Delhi airport incident left visible injuries that required medical attention. Dewan said the confrontation happened in front of family members. Dewan stated that the seven-year-old daughter saw the altercation and appeared shaken. Dewan also said the clash ruined the beginning of a planned holiday and raised doubts about crew members managing anger.

Dewan criticised Delhi airport management, linking the Delhi airport incident to poor crowd handling. Dewan alleged that mixing airline staff with passengers carrying infants at the same access point caused confusion. Dewan suggested clearer segregation of lanes for employees and vulnerable passengers could have prevented tension building at the security area.

Dewan also alleged that several people pressured Dewan to sign a statement promising not to pursue the Delhi airport incident further. Dewan claimed refusing might have meant missing the flight and losing costly holiday bookings. Dewan wrote that there is uncertainty about whether any justice will follow once the trip ends and a complaint is filed.



Suryakumar Yadav Or Any New Captain? India's T20 World Cup Squad To Be Announced Today

(Gns).

As India get set to announce their squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, the spotlight is firmly on leadership rather than personnel alone. While the selection committee meets in Mumbai on Saturday, an undercurrent of debate surrounds captain Suryakumar Yadav and whether the upcoming global tournament could usher in a change at the top.

Despite India's remarkable run in T20 cricket - eight straight series wins and 14 successive unbeaten questions persist over form. Now 35, the Indian skipper has endured a prolonged lean patch, stretching over a year, managing modest returns across more than 20 T20Is. Yet, the BCCI appears reluctant to disrupt stability so close to a home World Cup.

India's selection committee will meet in Mumbai to announce the squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with focus on captaincy, currently held by Suryakumar Yadav, whose form is under scrutiny, also, Hardik Pandya and Shubman Gill are in consideration. India's Group A includes Pakistan, USA, Netherlands, and Namibia, with their first match against the USA on February 7 in Mumbai.



Suryakumar's personal Cup.

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Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Bhupendra Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

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FREE ENTRY

National Commission for Minorities has played a pivotal role in ensuring the protection, welfare, and empowerment of religious minorities

(Gns). National Commission for Minorities celebrated the Minorities Day on December 18th 2025. The community leaders from six minority communities – Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrian (Parsi) spoke on the occasion.

The Guest Speaker Dr. Michael V. Williams of Mount Carmel School reminded the gathering why Minority Day matters, underlining the Christian community's long and quiet contribution to nation-building through education and healthcare—institutions that serve far beyond denominational boundaries.

Md. Tauhid Alam of Jamia Hamdardset minority welfare within the broader framework of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Vikas, and emphasized that governance today is all

about inclusion. Prof. Harbans Singh of Khalsa College drew message from Gurubani to explain



how coexistence and collective prosperity are not slogans but lived traditions.

Acharya Yeshi Phuntsok and Dr. Indu Jain spoke candidly about the challenges faced by Buddhist and Jain communities, seeking responsive redres-

sal from the National Commission for Minorities. Veteran Parsi leader Shri Marazban Nariman

from minority communities participated actively in the event. During the open session, several queries were raised, covering issues ranging from Minority Certificates to the implementation of various government schemes. The interaction reflected strong engagement and a shared commitment to addressing concerns through dialogue.

Creating an Inclusive Society

Ms Alka Upadhyaya,Secretary, NCM, elaborated on the government schemes aimed at uplifting minority communities. She stated that minority communities have made invaluable contributions to the nation's rich social, cultural, and economic fabric. National Commission for Minorities has been working tirelessly to build an inclusive and equitable society.

Yogi government will give a gift to the people of Braj in the new year, a grand auditorium is being built with Rs 42 crores.

A huge auditorium with a capacity of 1000 persons built between Mathura-Vrindavan 90 percent construction work completed, finishing and interior decoration work going on war footing.

Mathura. Yogi government is bringing a wonderful gift for the people of Braj and the artists here in the new year. A state-of-the-art auditorium is being constructed near the 100-bed hospital between Mathura and Vrindavan to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Braj and provide it a modern global platform. This auditorium, being built at a cost of approximately Rs 4215.60 lakh, will become a new center for the preservation of art, music and traditional genres of Braj. It should be noted that the religious and cultural centers of Uttar Pradesh are being modernized by the Yogi government. Mathura-Devotees coming to Vrindavan will now not only visit the temples, but will also be able to experience

the vibrant arts of Braj in this grand centre.

New flight to the art and culture of Braj
Braj region is famous all

inspire the young generation to join it.

1000 capacity grand amphitheater
Yogi government is



picture of grand auditorium

over the world for its unique arts like Rasleela, Charkula dance and Dhrupad singing. The main vision of Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad is not only to keep these arts alive, but to present them to the world in a modern form. Through this auditorium, local artists will get a grand platform to showcase their talent, which will preserve the ancient culture of Braj and

spending more than Rs 42 crore on this project. The capacity of the main auditorium is 1000 persons, where big cultural programs and conferences can be organised. Along with this, a grand amphitheater has also been built for traditional festivals and performances under the open sky, which will provide a new experience to the festivals of Braj.

District Magistrate and SSP listened to the problems of common people, resolved three on the spot

District Magistrate and SSP listening to the problems
Mathura. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar listened carefully to the problems of the common people in Tehsil Sadar on the occasion of Total Solution Day/Tehsil Day. The District Magistrate directed the concerned officers for prompt and quality disposal of the received applications as per the rules. The District Magistrate instructed all the departmental officers to provide detailed information about the departmental schemes to the general public/complainants coming on Tehsil Day. The District Magistrate said that it is our priority that the schemes run by the government reach the eligible beneficiaries. The District Magistrate gave strict instructions to the officers

to inspect the complaints received on the Samadhan

appointed. Justice should be given to the concerned



Divas on the spot and to take the regional public problems seriously and resolve them in a quality manner and provide relief to the affected people. He said that solving public problems is of paramount importance for all of us. No complainant should leave Tehsil Day or any office dis-

as per rules on the basis of transparency. Deputy District Magistrate Magistrate Sadar/Joint Magistrate. Abhinav J Jain has informed that 33 complaints were received in Tehsil Sadar, out of which prompt disposal of 3 complaints was ensured. Other complaints were forwarded

by the District Magistrate to the concerned officers and instructions were given to resolve them in a timely manner. Deputy District Magistrate Govardhan Prajakta Tripathi has informed that 41 complaints were received in Tehsil Govardhan, out of which 04 complaints have been disposed of quickly. Deputy District Magistrate Chhata Vaibhav Gupta has informed that 38 complaints were received in Tehsil Chhata, out of which 03 complaints were resolved on the spot. Deputy District Magistrate Mant Ritu Sirohi has informed that 39 complaints have been received in Tehsil Mant. Deputy District Magistrate Mahavan Kanchan has informed that 20 complaints were received in Tehsil Mahavan, out of which 02 complaints were resolved on the spot

Muslim women burn effigy of Bangladesh Adviser Yunus, call him a Pakistani puppet

(Gns). Angered by the lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh, Muslim women, under the joint auspices of Vishal Bharat Sansthan and Muslim Mahila Foundation, took out a protest march on Saturday from Subhash Bhavan in Lamhi to Premchand Smriti Dwar.

A Hindu man was beaten to death by a mob in Bangladesh in the name of religion, and his body was set ablaze. Following the march, an effigy of Bangladesh Adviser Mohammad Yunus was burned.

organised under the joint auspices of Vishal Bharat Sansthan and Muslim Mahila Foundation to boost the morale of the remaining Hindus in Bangladesh and to draw the world's attention to the open killings of Hindus.

During the march, slogans were openly chanted: "Expel Bangladeshis infiltrators, imprison their supporters; Mohammad Yunus is a murderer, stop all aid to Bangladesh; providing any kind of help to Bangladesh is like feeding milk to a

snake, Yunus is a puppet of Pakistan."



Bangladesh is now in the hands of fundamentalists who attack Hindus in the name of religion at the slightest provocation. But after the global silence, it has now been decided that these fundamentalists should be expelled from every country. Indian

Muslims should take the lead.

Dr. Najma Parveen said that a front has now been opened against religious fanatics, murderers, ignorant jihadis, and fundamentalist mullahs. For a long time, they have been frightening Muslims in the name of Allah and instigating wars in the name of jihad. Now the time has come for Muslims to grab these fundamentalist mullahs by the collar and drive them out of the sacred land of India.

Dr. Rajiv Shriguruj, National President of Vishal Bharat Sansthan, said that Mohammad Yunus.

Obesity Cannot Be Treated with Shortcuts; Curb Misinformation, Use Weight-Reducing Drugs Judiciously: Dr Jitendra Singh

(Gns). Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, today said that weight reducing or anti-obesity drugs, currently available, ought to be used very judiciously.

The Minister, who is himself a noted Diabetologist and Professor of Medicine, said that obesity is a complex, chronic and relapsing disorder, and not merely a cosmetic or lifestyle concern, calling for a whole-of-society approach to effectively combat what has emerged as one of India's most pressing public health challenges.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 2-day "Asia Oceania Conference on Obesity" (AOCO), attended by some of the leading experts in the field including Dr Kyoung Kon Kim(Gns). Dr Volkan Yumuk, Dr Mahendra Narwaria, Dr B.M. Makkar, Dr Banshi Saboo

and others, the Minister said the very fact that doctors, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders were coming together under one roof reflected the grow-

ing a worrying rise in Non-Communicable Diseases, which are linked to obesity in one way or another, and which account for nearly 63 per cent of overall mortality.



ing seriousness of the obesity epidemic in India. Drawing an analogy, he remarked that just as economics is too serious a subject to be left to an economist alone, obesity is too serious a subject to be left to a physician or epidemiologist alone, as it has deep social, cultural, and environmental roots.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that India is witness-

He pointed out that conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and certain cancers are linked to obesity, including central or visceral obesity, which is particularly prevalent among Indians and poses independent health risks even beyond overall body weight.

Referring to the leadership of Narendra Modi, the Minister said it is unprece-

Former Maha CM Chavan questions PM's ties with Steve Bannon and Jeffrey Epstein

(Gns). Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, who was approached by Steve Bannon, the former adviser to President Donald Trump, in order to get in touch with PM Modi.

Talking to media persons at a press conference in Satara on Saturday, Chavan said, "Epstein was an Israeli spy. Many rich Americans used to approach him. Modi came into contact with Epstein in 2014. Trump's former adviser Steve Bannon had approached Jeffrey Epstein because he wanted to meet Modi. What was Modi's relationship with Steve Bannon? The name of Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, who used to be the then Indian ambassador to the United States, has also been mentioned in Epstein's email. The government must clarify such connections."

"The Epstein files contain almost 30 years of data, which includes huge

amounts of electronic evidence like emails, letters, photographs, video recordings, and audio recordings. All this evidence was presented in the cases against Epstein. All this evidence is now with the US Department of Justice. The Attorney General works under the authority of President Trump and the current Attorney General was appointed by President Trump as the Attorney General six months ago. All these documents are in his possession," Chavan said.

Prithviraj Chavan said that this case has been going on since 1995-96, and its information gradually came to light in the US in 2005 and 2010. "Epstein lured minor girls and sexually exploited them and sold their bodies to high-ranking bigwigs, due to which many girls filed criminal cases against him. Epstein died in a high-security prison in New York in August 2019. There is still no clear answer about

whether Epstein committed suicide by hanging himself or was murdered," Chavan said.

"The case became so



high profile that it became impossible for lawmakers from both parties in the United States (to save President Trump) to suppress it, because voters threatened that if this case is suppressed, they will face the consequences in the next election. This atmosphere forced lawmakers from both parties (Republicans and Democrats) to release all documents, photos, and videos related to Epstein, collectively known as the Epstein Files," Chavan said.

It may be recalled that a few days ago, former Maharashtra CM Prithviraj Chavan had stated on December 1, 2025, that if

dented in the Indian context for a Prime Minister to repeatedly speak about obesity and lifestyle-related diseases from national platforms. He highlighted that the Prime Minister's emphasis on small, sustainable changes in food habits and daily routines reflects a clear recognition of obesity as a national priority, closely aligned with initiatives such as FIT India, Khelo India and the broader vision of preventive healthcare.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that since 2014, health has moved to the centre of national policymaking, with the government focusing on prevention, affordability, and early intervention. He cited Ayushman Bharat, mass screening programmes and India's growing global leadership in preventive healthcare, including the development of indigenous vaccines. as examples of this shift. He also highlighted the government's emphasis on integrating traditional systems of medicine through a dedicated Ministry of AYUSH.

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