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Youth is empowered
by good governance, Gujarat
becomes the nation's Startup hub

Atal Netrutra
Avirat Vikas



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

Har Ghar Swadeshi
Ghar-Ghar Swadeshi



"Through encouragement of Startups, the government has taken a revolutionary step towards making youth self-reliant." - Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

Mai Chai Wala Hu...: PM Modi In Assam Critiques Congress Over Culture, Tea And Fertiliser Reforms

(Gns).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi used a visit to Assam to sharply criticise the Congress, accusing the party of backing anti-national thinking and blocking key reforms. Modi said the current government in Assam and at the Centre is working to fix problems which, according to Modi, were created by Congress rule.

Modi recalled that several fertiliser plants across India, including those affecting farmers in Assam, had become inactive earlier. He said earlier governments left farmers strug-

gling for urea, forcing long queues. Modi stated that the present administration is trying to revive such units and improve supply so that farmers can work with fewer hurdles.

During a visit to Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticised the Congress party for allegedly supporting anti-national thinking and obstructing reforms; he highlighted actions by his government, including land rights for the tea community and efforts to revive fertiliser plants while accusing the Congress of disrespecting

regional cultural icons and protecting illegal immigrants.

The Prime Minister targeted the Congress over Bharat Ratna for Bhupen Hazarika. Modi said people would remember that when his government decided to honour Bhupen Hazarika with the Bharat Ratna, the Congress objected. He added that the then Congress national president claimed Modi was giving the award to singers and dancers.

Modi directly questioned this stand and stressed its cultural impact. Modi asked,



"Tell me, isn't this an insult to Bhupen Hazarika? Isn't this an insult to our culture?" Modi said such reactions from Congress showed disrespect towards regional icons and traditions that hold deep emo-

tional value in states like Assam.

Modi also raised issues linked to Assam's tea community. He claimed Congress governments did not give land rights to people associated with tea cultivation for many years. Modi argued that Congress leaders focused on vote-bank politics and, according to Modi, did not prioritise ordinary citizens or national interest.

Linking his own background with these themes, Modi again described personal responsibility for tea workers. "I am a tea seller. If I don't do it, who will?" said PM Modi. Modi added that a semiconductor unit set up by his government also faced resistance from Congress. Modi said the government is putting in every effort to correct earlier policy decisions.

CM Fadnavis Congratulates Mahayuti Leaders As BJP+ Gain Momentum In Maharashtra Municipal Council Polls 2025

(Gns).

The ruling Mahayuti alliance is set to dominate the Maharashtra municipal council elections 2025, with early trends showing strong gains across the state. BJP leaders are claiming the party has emerged as the largest force, while allies Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP are also reporting solid performances.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hailed the numbers as proof that voters backed the ruling front's agenda. Fadnavis said the alliance victory means development projects in Maharashtra will move ahead without interruption, and credited the outcome to coordinated efforts from party leaders and workers across different regions.

In the Maharashtra

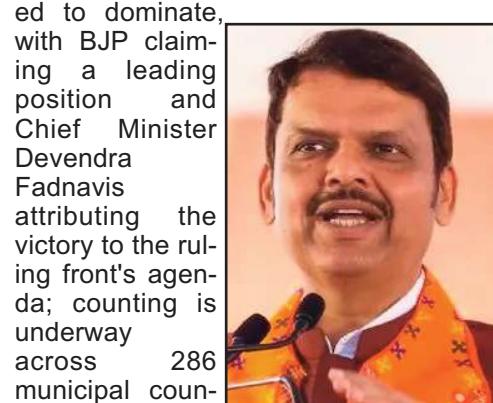
municipal council elections 2025, the Mahayuti alliance, including the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, is projected to dominate, with BJP claiming a leading position and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis attributing the victory to the ruling front's agenda; counting is underway across 286 municipal councils and nagar panchayats.

Shiv Sena BJP leader Keshav Upadhye said the party had taken a clear edge in many districts as counting progressed. Upadhye cited early trends to claim the BJP was ahead in several

parts of the state in the local body elections, even as the official tally was still awaited from authorities.

The state election commission has not yet released the final list of winners for the Maharashtra municipal council elections 2025. Results are being compiled for polls to the posts of president and members in 286 municipal councils and nagar panchayats. The process covers urban bodies spread across all major regions of Maharashtra.

Maharashtra municipal council elections 2025: The process covers urban bodies spread across all major regions of Maharashtra. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde linked the outcome of the Maharashtra municipal council elections 2025 to the next round of civic polls. Shinde said the local body results offered a preview of what could follow in the municipal corporation elections scheduled on January 15, as counting of votes continued on Sunday.



across Gujarat. While promoting entrepreneurship in Gujarat, the

President Murmu Approves VB-G Ram G Bill, Clears Way for Its Implementation

(Gns).

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025, replacing MGNREGA with a new framework for rural employment, increasing guaranteed wage employment to 125

days per household, and focusing on asset creation and climate resilience.

With the President's

approval, the new law comes into force, replacing the long-running MGNREGA framework with a reworked statutory mission focused on liveli-

hood security and inclusive rural growth.

The Bill, which was cleared earlier by Parliament of India, formally replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.



हिन्दी



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

Atal Netrutra, Avirat Vikas : Good Governance Elevates Gujarat's Startup Ecosystem: SSIP 2.0 Policy and i-Hub Emerge as Game Changers

SSIP2.0 Policy: State government extends support to 1,543 startups over last four years

Around 620 startups in the state receive mentoring, incubation and support through i-Hub.

Women Empowerment: WEStart Initiative Supports 196 Women-Led Startups

i-Hub Startups Create 1,400 Jobs; Valuation Crosses More than ₹3,500 Crore

Keepsake Automation Established by Manan Bateriwala with ₹15 Lakh Grant Support from the Government of Gujarat

Gandhinagar, 21 December 2025 : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi firmly believes that innovative ideas, technology-driven solutions, and the energy of young entrepreneurs are the pillars of holistic national development, and startups playing

a pivotal role in building Viksit Bharat @2047. Advancing this vision, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel has strengthened Gujarat's startup ecosystem through initiatives such as the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0), setting a strong benchmark for good governance in entrepreneurship. As a result, Gujarat has emerged as a leading hub of entrepreneurship, securing the top position in the Startup Ranking for the fourth consecutive time. Under the Government of India's Startup India programme, the state has been recognised as the country's Best-Performer State, with around 16,700 startups currently operating

across Gujarat. While promoting entrepreneurship in Gujarat, the Chief Minister stated, "Startups have the power to enable youth to start their own businesses and become a source of employment for others. Gujarat has built an ecosystem in which programmes such as WEStart and the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP) empower women entrepreneurs." Robust

Startup Ecosystem: SSIP 2.0 Provides holistic Mentorship from School to Higher Education To build a strong foundation for innovation among youth, the state government, under the leadership of the Chief Minister, has announced the SSIP 2.0 policy for the five-year period from 2022 to 2027. Under this policy, students from the school level to higher education are provided with appropriate guidance, encouragement, and financial support to nurture their creativity and innovation.

A total allocation of ₹300 crore has been made under SSIP 2.0 for a five-year period, with an annual grant of ₹60 crore. Of this, ₹30 crore is allocated to technical education, ₹12 crore to i-Hub, ₹10 crore to higher education.

Editorial

The Early Signs

Pandemics do not begin with sirens or headlines. They begin with a cough that goes unreported, a fever mistaken for exhaustion, a worker who does not stay home because staying home costs money. The real danger of a future bird flu outbreak lies not in its known lethality, but in how quietly it could establish itself before authorities realise what they are dealing with. Recent scientific modelling by Indian researchers Philip Cherian and Gautam Menon of Ashoka University offers a sobering lesson: when it comes to zoonotic diseases like bird flu, timing matters more than scale.

The difference between two detected human infections and ten is not incremental; it is decisive. Below a certain threshold, outbreaks are containable with focused interventions. Cross that line, and the disease behaves as if no early action was taken at all. This finding should reshape how India thinks about epidemic preparedness. Our public health reflex has often been to respond forcefully once numbers rise. But by then, according to the modelling, the outbreak has already escaped the tight web of households and close contacts and entered the wider population. Lockdowns, mass advisories, and blanket restrictions become necessary precisely because the moment for surgical containment has passed. What makes this relevant for India is the geography of risk. Dense poultry belts, informal labour, crowded housing and limited sick leave create ideal conditions for silent spread. A farm worker or market handler is unlikely to seek testing for flu-like symptoms unless surveillance systems are already alert and accessible.

By the time hospitals notice a pattern, the virus may already be several steps ahead. The research also exposes uncomfortable trade-offs. Quarantine, if imposed too early or too crudely, can increase infection within households. Vaccination helps, but it does not neutralise immediate family-level transmission. Even effective measures can backfire if deployed without precision. This argues for smarter public health, not harsher public health. Crucially, the study suggests that preparedness is not primarily about futuristic vaccines or worst-case scenarios. It is about detection speed, data flow, and decision-making authority in the first few days. Who has the power to shut a market? Who orders household quarantine? How fast can local health workers escalate an unusual cluster without bureaucratic delay? These are governance questions, not medical ones.

There is a temptation to reassure ourselves that an influenza pandemic would be manageable, that antivirals exist and systems are stronger than before. That may be true. But preparedness is not a static achievement; it is a race against exponential spread. Confidence without vigilance is simply another form of delay. The real warning here is not about bird flu alone. It is about how fragile the margin of control can be in any emerging epidemic. When the first ten cases decide the fate of thousands, the cost of hesitation is not measured in weeks, but in lives.

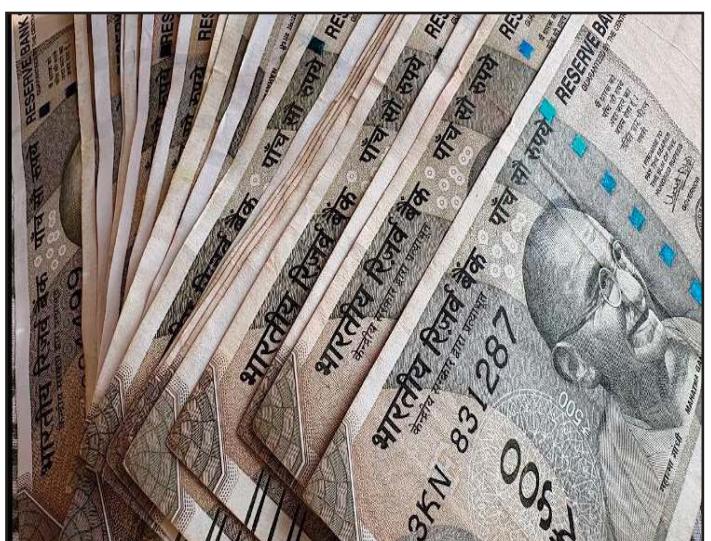
Unequal Gains

India's wealth story is increasingly told through a confusing set of headlines. On the one hand, the country is adding new dollar-millionaires at a brisk pace. On the other, the average Indian adult is not materially better off than a few years ago. This is not a statistical contradiction. It is a warning that inequality has moved from the margins to the centre of India's economic narrative. Recent global wealth data places India among the world's most unequal societies, with wealth concentration now comparable to that of far richer economies.

The comparison is unsettling not because it flatters India, but because inequality in several advanced economies has eased in recent years while it has worsened here. That divergence suggests outcomes are shaped less by inevitability and more by policy design. The most revealing insight lies in the divergence between average and median wealth. Average wealth per adult has declined in real terms, while median wealth has risen modestly. This tells a dual story. A segment of households is experiencing slow, incremental improvement. At the same time, wealth accumulation at the very top is accelerating so rapidly that it overwhelms those gains when averages are calculated. The surge in millionaires, therefore, is not evidence of broad prosperity; it is evidence of polarisation.

This polarisation is reinforced by the way Indians hold wealth. A disproportionately large share is tied up in property rather than financial assets. Property offers security but is illiquid and unevenly valued. Urban land prices surge while rural and semi-urban assets lag, hardening inequality across generations. Financial assets such

as pensions, diversified equity and long-term savings are far better at spreading growth across a population. Their limited reach in India is not merely a financial-sector gap; it is an inequality multiplier. Currency movements and



inflation complicate the picture, but they do not overturn it. Even when measured in local currency and

adjusted for prices, average wealth has struggled to keep pace with the cost of living over the past five years. This means household balance sheets, taken as a whole, have failed to capture the benefits of headline economic expansion.

implies that India is becoming poorer in absolute terms, nor does it deny improvements in consumption or access to services. Wealth does not measure human capital or the full depth of the informal economy. But it does reveal who is building buffers against shocks, and who is not. In an era of climate stress, health emergencies, and job volatility, that distinction matters. The policy lesson is clear. Growth rates alone are no longer an adequate yardstick. India's challenge is to redesign the channels through which growth turns into household wealth: deeper financial inclusion, stronger wage growth at the lower end, and asset-building mechanisms that do not rely almost entirely on rising property values. Without this shift, India may continue to celebrate its new millionaires even as the distance between aspiration and security widens for the rest.

Growth has occurred, but resilience has not been evenly built. None of this

The digital age has transformed recognition and fame into commodities measured in likes, shares, and fleeting moments of virality. What once demanded years of effort in art, sport, or scholarship can now be replaced by seconds of reckless footage. A recent video titled "True Online Love" doing the rounds on social media, epitomizes this disturbing trend: a couple sits under a stationary goods train, hugging and kissing, only to roll away as the train suddenly whistles and moves.

Intended as thrilling entertainment, the act trivializes life and safety, reflecting a growing menace that threatens individuals and society alike. The allure of virality is engineered. Social media platforms reward sensational

content, pushing material that provokes awe, laughter, or outrage. For impressionable youth, this creates a powerful incentive to escalate risk-taking. The developing brain, still learning judgment and impulse control, is particularly vulnerable. The promise of instant celebrity overshadows long-term aspirations and constructive development. Short-term gratification becomes the currency of identity, and dangerous stunts the medium of exchange. Statistics reveal the scale of the crisis. While comprehensive global data is difficult to collect, available studies and reports highlight the tragic consequences of this culture.

Selfie-related deaths: 259 fatalities in 137 incidents globally between 2011-2017, with drowning,

Why aviation crisis caused a meltdown

Every few years, India gets a reminder of just how fragile its aviation ecosystem really is. This time, it took a week-long meltdown at IndiGo, a prominent airline service, hundreds of cancellations, airports reduced to holding zones for luggage, and passengers stranded across the country, to expose a truth policymakers prefer to ignore: when a major chunk of the market is controlled by just two airlines, one company's internal crisis becomes a national emergency. IndiGo's shortage of pilots, triggered by the rollout of long-delayed fatigue-management rules, should have disrupted one airline. Instead, it paralysed India's entire aviation network.

Fares shot up to Rs40,000-80,000, refunds lagged for days, and alternative carriers simply didn't have the capacity to absorb the shock. In a competitive

market, passengers would have options. In India's duopolistic one, they had none. The fatigue rules themselves were not the villain. Pilot exhaustion is a well-documented safety threat globally, and aligning India's Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) with international norms is long overdue. But the transition was mishandled on every side.

Regulators announced the rules almost two years ago, then delayed and re-delayed their enforcement, only to push through implementation abruptly, leaving airlines scrambling. IndiGo, famous for tight turnarounds and a "lean-staffing" model, underestimated how many additional pilots it needed. The regulator underestimated how quickly a brittle system can collapse. This combination, poor planning meets a market

depth. When just two airlines, IndiGo and Air India, hold over 90 per cent of market share, the entire system depends on their ability to function flawlessly. No modern industry should operate on this kind of razor's edge. The German aviation sector didn't collapse when Lufthansa suffered

People missed job interviews, medical appointments and weddings. Some reached airports at dawn only to discover their flights cancelled with no

room for five major airlines. That won't happen with

out policy reforms that make market entry easier and ensure a level playing field. IndiGo's crisis wasn't just about fatigue rules or rostering miscalculations. It was a stress test for the entire sector, and the system failed. India's aviation future depends on embracing what every competitive, consumer-friendly market eventually learns: choice is stability. The more players in the sky, the fewer passengers will ever be stranded because one airline miscalculated. If India wants a resilient aviation ecosystem, it must stop firefighting and start enabling competition. The skies need more carriers, more capacity, and more consumer choice. Otherwise, this won't be the last time passengers pay for a crisis they didn't create. (The writer is Indian Policy Associate, Consumer Choice Center.)



Political will can solve inequality

eradication of world hunger, universal education for every child, and an accelerated shift away from fossil fuels had it been equitably distributed.

However, from 2000 to 2024, the top 1 per cent captured 41 per cent of all new global wealth, while the bottom half received only 1 per cent. This trend is not the inevitable outcome of globalisation or technology, as it is often claimed. The report puts this myth to rest with a simple, yet powerful message: inequality is a policy choice, and it is therefore solvable. The need of the hour for governments is to adopt alternative policy approaches that yield more equitable and fair outcomes, which in turn

requires political will. Since the 1980s, many countries have adopted neoliberal policies, assuming that market forces with minimal regulation efficiently allocate resources, but this has only increased inequality.

For example, the choice of tax policies, such as the

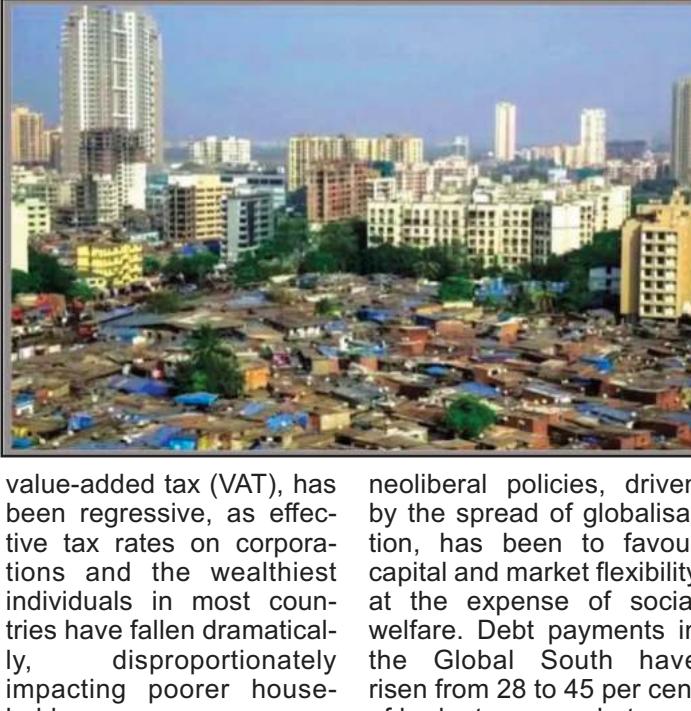
among individuals worldwide has decreased since 2000, mainly due to economic development in China, it remains very high, with a Gini coefficient of 0.61 (the World Bank's definition of 'high inequality' is a Gini coefficient above 0.4).

Moreover, 83 per cent of the countries that make up 90 per cent of the world's population experience high income inequality.

By 2025, 63 per cent of countries, home to 52 per cent of the world's population, will slash public spending by a combined US\$2.55 trillion over five years. Further, one in four people globally face moderate or severe food insecurity, i.e., regularly skipping meals, totalling 2.3 billion people, a number that has increased by 335 million since 2019. These structural inequalities are no accident; they result from globally imbalanced rules, shaped mainly by the North through institutions such as the IMF and the WTO.

The necessary force to reverse the deliberate design of today's inequality is not technical fixes, but political will. This will is the collective commitment by governments to acknowledge the legacy of past policy decisions, actively choose a different set of policies, and implement them to reverse the trend. Towards this end, the report argues that policymakers lack sufficient, reliable information on inequality trends and the impacts of present policies.

Therefore, there is a need for a technical, non-advocacy body that would support governments and multilateral agencies by providing authoritative assessments and analyses of



value-added tax (VAT), has been regressive, as effective tax rates on corporations and the wealthiest individuals in most countries have fallen dramatically, disproportionately impacting poorer households.

Further, with governments enacting policies that deregulated the labour market and restricted trade unions, the power of labour vis-à-vis capital has been reduced, leading to wage stagnation and a smaller share of income for workers. The effects are stark: in constant 2024 dollars, the richest 1 per cent have seen their wealth rise by an average of US\$1.3 m per person, while the bottom 50 per cent have seen their wealth rise by just US\$585 – a 2,655-fold difference.

Moreover, growth in advanced economies has been lower under neoliberal regimes than in the post-World War II era. Instead, the world now faces deepening crises: 3.4 billion people live in countries spending more on debt

neoliberal policies, driven by the spread of globalisation, has been to favour capital and market flexibility at the expense of social welfare. Debt payments in the Global South have risen from 28 to 45 per cent of budget revenue between 2019 and 2025, and from 22 to 35 per cent of government spending. Between 1970 and 2023, Global South governments paid US\$3.3 trillion in interest to creditors in the North, while global IP rules cause US\$1 trillion to flow annually from the South to the North in royalties and licensing, and illicit financial flows drain US\$89 billion from Africa each year.

It implies that capital is flowing from the Global North to the Global South. Additionally, unprecedented cuts in aid compound the crisis: the recent US cuts alone may lead to 14 million additional deaths by 2030, with the addition of escalating tariff policies that threaten export-oriented jobs and deepen poverty. Although income inequality

overlays judgment and restraint. Vulgar memes, obscene videos, and abusive comments steadily erode cultural and social values.

Even more disturbing is the casual desecration of deities, the trivialization of religious sentiments, and the AI driven commercial use of sacred symbols for cheap humour or viral traction. In a society that proudly calls itself religious and culturally rooted, such disrespect should trouble our collective conscience. When faith becomes a prop for entertainment and sacred icons are reduced to digital gimmicks, we must ask what kind of personalities and moral frameworks are being shaped. Instead of fostering responsibility, creativity, and constructive engagement, the culture of dangerous dis-

Perilous Spectacle

falls, and transport injuries leading.

• Blackout Challenge: 82 U.S. youth deaths between 1995-2007, at least 20 child deaths globally in 18 months around 2022.

• Tide Pod Challenge: Over 12,000 cases of detergent ingestion in 2017, with symptoms including vomiting and respiratory failure.

• Selfie fatalities since 2008: At least 109 deaths worldwide.

• Professional stunt performers: 80 per cent reported head impact injuries in their careers, despite safety protocols.

• Selfie-related deaths: 259 fatalities in 137 incidents globally between 2011-2017, with drowning,

Karnataka; near-drowning in Rajasthan. These numbers, though incomplete, underscore the tragic consequences of equating risk with importance. India's tragedies illustrate the immediacy of the problem. A 22-year-old engineering student died while filming

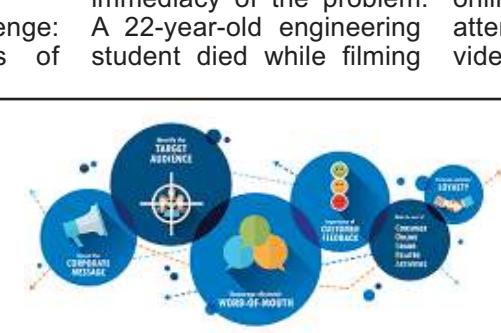
nearby drowning in Rajasthan. These numbers, though incomplete, underscore the tragic consequences of equating risk with importance. India's tragedies illustrate the immediacy of the problem. A 22-year-old engineering student died while filming

bike stunts for social media reels, losing control and sustaining critical neck injuries. Another youth in Surat met a similar fate. In Karnataka, a tractor overturned, killing the performer. A man in Rajasthan

nearly drowned after being swept downstream during a river stunt. Even seemingly harmless acts have turned fatal: a 10-year-old boy suffocated himself with a skipping rope while imitating an online stunt. A famous biker attempting to film a speed video at nearly 300 km/h lost his life in a high-speed crash.

Each case underscores the unpredictable nature of risk when safety is sacrificed for spectacle.

The consequences extend beyond physical harm. Law enforcement agencies have taken strict action against individuals performing dangerous stunts in public places. Police departments issue heavy fines and traffic violation notices. In Faridabad,



Six Lions Saved from Being Hit by a Train Due to Alertness of Bhavnagar Division Loco Pilots

Bhavnagar Railway Division has been making continuous and effective efforts to ensure the safety of lions and other wildlife. As per divisional instructions, loco pilots operating trains are strictly adhering to prescribed speeds and performing their duties with special vigilance. Due to the alertness of the loco pilots of Bhavnagar Division and



Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Bhavnagar Division, Shri Atul Kumar Tripathi, informed that on

Kansiyaneesh section. Immediately thereafter, they safely brought Train No. 52955 Veraval-Junagadh Passenger to a

lions were safely moved away from the railway track. After the situation was found to be normal, permission was granted to the loco pilot to resume the journey, and the train was cautiously dispatched towards its destination.

Upon receiving information about the incident, Divisional Railway Manager Shri Dinesh Verma, Additional

21.12.2025 (Sunday), Loco Pilot Shri Anish Sheikh and Assistant Loco Pilot Shri Farman Hussain spotted six lions on the railway track between kilometer numbers 112/7-112/6 on the Sasangar-

halt by applying the emergency brake.

The loco pilot promptly informed Train Manager (Guard) Shri Vidyanand Kumar. With the assistance of Forest Department tracker Shri Rana Bhai, all the

Divisional Railway Manager Shri Himanshu Sharma, and other officers expressed appreciation for the commendable and sensitive action taken by the loco pilots.

Suryakumar Yadav Or Any New Captain? India's

T20 World Cup Squad To Be Announced Today

(Gns). Switch To Shorts Suryakumar Yadav Ajit Agarkar

him firmly in the captaincy conversation. Vice-Captaincy



Suryakumar Yadav, Ajit Agarkar

Will India Stick or Switch?

Officially, there is no indication of an immediate captaincy change. However, with the World Cup scheduled in India and Sri Lanka, selectors are aware that this tournament could represent Suryakumar's final outing as India's T20 leader. Any dip in form during the New Zealand series may intensify calls for a transition.

Hardik Pandya stands out as the most viable alternative should selectors decide to act. His match-winning 63 off 25 balls against South Africa in the fifth T20I showcased both leadership presence and finishing ability. While his bowling economy remains a concern, his impact role and experience in pressure situations keep

Uncertain

The vice-captaincy slot, currently held by Shubman Gill, is also under review. Gill's struggles in the shortest format have not gone unnoticed, and insiders suggest the selectors may keep the position open rather than committing to a long-term deputy. Former India batter Aakash Chopra has hinted that Gill could retain his place in the XI, but leadership responsibilities might be reassigned.

Squad Core Largely Settled

Away from leadership chatter, the playing group looks largely settled. Tilak Varma is almost assured of selection after a stellar T20I year, scoring 567 runs at an average of 47.25 and thriving in run chases. Abhishek Sharma's explosive form at the top has also sealed his spot, following a sensational run

India's pace attack is expected to be led by Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh, with Harshit Rana providing depth, while all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube add balance. The team management is also likely to persist with Sanju Samson and Jitesh Sharma as the two wicket-keeping options.

Selection Calls Still Pending

The final spots are being debated between Washington Sundar, Rinku Singh, and Shubman Gill, while Yashasvi Jaiswal remains a strong backup option, particularly if form or conditions demand flexibility.

Road to the World Cup

India have been drawn in Group A with Pakistan, USA, Netherlands, and Namibia, and will open their campaign against the USA on February 7 in Mumbai. The New Zealand T20I series in January is expected to serve as a dress rehearsal - not just for combinations, but possibly for leadership as well.

For now, Suryakumar Yadav remains in charge. But with form, age, and future planning in play, the squad announcement may offer subtle clues on whether India are already preparing for life under a new T20 captain.

Celebration of World Meditation Day at Mahatma Mandir

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel urges turning yoga and meditation into a mass movement for a healthy, balanced society.

First convocation ceremony of yoga coaches and trainers of the Gujarat State Yog Board concludes; Chief Minister presents certificates

A collective meditation session takes place in the presence of Pujya Shree Shivkrupanand Swamiji of Himalayan Samarp

Gandhinagar, 21 December 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel urged transforming the ancient practice of yoga and meditation into a mass movement for a healthy and balanced society.

In this context, CM said that the goal of Viksits Bharat@2047, given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, can be realized only through meditation and yoga, by building society and the nation with peace of mind and a healthy, disease-free lifestyle.

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan participates in World Meditation Day celebrations at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Telangana

Meditation vital for inner peace and social harmony: Vice-President

True development includes emotional and spiritual well-being: Vice-President

India's spiritual traditions guide the world: Vice-President

Vice-President appreciates Daaji's contribution to spreading meditation globally

(Gns).

The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today participated at the World Meditation Day celebrations at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Telangana and highlighted the timeless relevance of meditation in fostering inner peace, emotional well-being and social harmony.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President said that meditation is a universal practice that transcends cultural, geographical and religious boundaries.

He described it as a path to mental clarity, emotional stability and inner transformation, and noted that World Meditation Day provides an opportunity to recognise its growing

and spirit, nurtured by sages and seers. Drawing upon teachings from the Bhagavad Gita and the Tamil spiritual classic Thirumantiram, he emphasised that mastery of the mind through meditation leads to inner harmony, self-realisation and ethical living.

The Vice-President underlined that meditation has a vital role to play in the journey towards Viksits Bharat@2047. He said that national development must encompass not only economic progress but also emotional well-being and spiritual upliftment, and that

meditation in Bharat has long been regarded as an ancient science of the mind

meditation can contribute significantly to building a peaceful, resilient and compassionate society.

Referring to the vision of

Mission LiFE, the Vice-

President said that meditation

nurtures values such as

mindfulness, responsi-

bility and harmony with

nature, which are essential

for sustainable living. He

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Calling upon citizens to

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has a vital role to play in

the journey towards

Viksits Bharat@2047. He

said that national develop-

ment must encompass not

only economic progress but

also emotional well-being and

spiritual upliftment, and that

meditation in Bharat has

long been regarded as an

ancient science of the mind

meditation can contribute

significantly to building a

peaceful, resilient and com-

passionate society.

Referring to the vision of

Mission LiFE, the Vice-

President said that meditation

nurtures values such as

mindfulness, responsi-

bility and harmony with

nature, which are essential

for sustainable living. He

appreciated Kanha Shanti

Vanam for adopting envi-

ronmentally responsible

practices and promoting

holistic well-being.

Calling upon citizens to

integrate meditation into

daily life, Shri Radhakrishnan urged indi-

viduals, families and com-

munities to lead by exam-

ple and encourage future

generations to embrace

practices that promote

mental peace, balance and

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Don't ignore even mild shortness of breath, cautions epidemiologist

(Gns). Renowned Epidemiologist and Advisor to the National Communicable Diseases Control Programme Dr Naresh Purohit, has cautioned against the general tendency to ignore shortness of breath, even mild or occasional breathlessness, specifically during winter chill.

"This is not something to ignore, brushing aside as a sign of tiredness or ageing," he remarked.

Dr Purohit, who is also Principal Investigator for the Association of Studies in Respiratory Care, said in a release - "During the winter chill, most people miss shortness of breath and brush it aside as a sign of tiredness or ageing.

Many people assume it is normal to feel breathless

after climbing stairs or walking a short distance, especially during seasonal

diagnosed in many parts of Rajasthan", the Epidemiologist has stated.



changes. However, even mild or occasional breathlessness can be an early sign of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, commonly known as COPD. This condition is far more common than people realise and remains under-

The winter chill also makes people's nasal passages a most suitable abode for respiratory viruses and bacteria, which show the most activation during this season. These microscopic invaders thrive in the low humidity, making

our respiratory tracts a welcoming haven, he elaborated.

Hence, there was a significant surge in patients of sneezing, coughing, and respiratory illness in the region, Dr Purohit stated, quoting health authorities.

"The cold air that we are inhaling sometimes does not get humidified and warmed up enough, and therefore reaches the lungs directly. So cold air reaching the lungs directly can sometimes cause bronchoconstriction and bronchospasm that could result in asthma. That means narrowing of the airways because of cold air being breathed in, resulting in asthma like situation," he explained

Quoting his recent research study in the Indian

IndiGo issues travel advisory as fog disrupts flights over Bengaluru, Amritsar

(Gns). IndiGo on Sunday issued a travel advisory warning passengers about flight disruptions caused by dense fog and low visibility over Bengaluru and Amritsar.

The airline said it is closely monitoring weather conditions and providing full support to ensure safe and smooth travel for its passengers.

In its advisory, IndiGo stated, "Low visibility and fog over #Bangalore and #Amritsar have impacted flight schedules. We're keeping a close watch on the weather and doing our best to get you where you need to be, safely and smoothly."

The advisory urged travellers to stay up to date on their flight status via the airline's official channels. "We request that you stay updated on your flight status bit.ly/3ZWAQXd. Please be assured that our teams are here to assist you at every step and provide full support," the advi-

sory further read. "Here's hoping clearer

airlines before heading to the airport.



skies help us serve you better soon and thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time," it added.

Meanwhile, West Bengal's Bagdogra Airport also reported that flights to and from the city may be affected due to dense fog. Authorities said conditions are expected to improve in the next few hours. Passengers are advised to check flight status with their airline before coming to the airport.

Earlier on Sunday, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) issued an advisory noting that fog conditions in

parts of northern India are affecting visibility and may lead to delays or changes in flight operations at select airports.

Passengers have been advised to check flight updates with their respective airlines through official channels and to allow extra time for travel to airports and completion of necessary formalities.

"Fog conditions in parts of Northern India are affecting visibility and may lead to delays or changes in flight operations at select airports. Passengers are advised to check flight updates with their airlines through official channels and allow extra time for airport travel and formalities," AAI's advisory read.

To assist travellers during adverse weather, AAI has deployed passenger assistance teams at affected airports to provide guidance and on-ground support, ensuring smooth operations and passenger safety amid dense fog conditions.

Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's statue damaged in Kokera

Area police pacifying attracted people

Mathura. On Sunday, unruly elements damaged the Ambedkar statue in village Kokera under Chhata Kotwali. As soon as the information about the incident was received, the Area Officer Umbrella SDM Umbrella Tehsildar and local police reached the spot and took stock. Hundreds of villagers also gathered at the spot and started expressing their anger. Seeing the seriousness of the matter, the police administration has registered a case under relevant sections.

Anger spread in the entire area after the statue of Constitution maker Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was damaged by anarchist elements in village Kakera of

the area. The right hand of the statue installed in Ambedkar Park was broken, about which the villagers

aging the statue, but an attempt was made to disturb social harmony. As soon as information about

lected evidence and assured of action against unknown anarchists.

Deputy District Magistrate Vaibhav Gupta, who reached the spot, said that prima facie it appears to be the handiwork of mischievous elements. The matter is being investigated seriously and the culprits will not be spared at any cost.

He also assured that the new statue will be installed within two days, so that the faith and respect of the villagers can be restored. After the assurance from the administration, the anger of the villagers calmed down to some extent, although there is still resentment in the village regarding the incident.

The police interrogated at the local level and were able to identify the accused

juti

According to police

(Gns). At least 10 people were killed and another 10 injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire in a village on the outskirts of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Emergency services and law enforcement officials responded to the scene, where multiple victims were found with gunshot wounds.

Commenting on the FCI's initiative and the timely and safe arrival of the food grain freight train

in Anantnag, Singh said, "This is a moment of pride for the Railways. This freight train will act as an economic bridge between Punjab and Kashmir. In the coming times, the operation of FCI food grain freight trains by the Railways will play a major role in providing infrastructural support to the economy."

Highlighting the advantages, he further added that it takes less time for the movement of goods and food grains compared to road transport, and this initiative will also reduce traffic congestion on the busy National Highway 44. Rail transport facilitates better and more efficient supply

in Anantnag, Singh said,

"This is a moment of pride for the Railways. This freight train will act as an economic bridge between Punjab and Kashmir. In the coming times, the operation of FCI food grain freight trains by the Railways will play a major role in providing infrastructural support to the economy."

ing took place at the KwaNokolo Tavern in the Tambo section of Bekkersdal in West Rand.

Mathe said that in addition to those targeted at the tavern, some of the victims were shot at random while they were on the street by unidentified gunmen.

Authorities have launched a full-scale investigation into the incident.

Gauteng Acting Police Commissioner Fred Kekana said, "We are still busy obtaining statements. Our national crime and management team has arrived."

He added that multiple specialised units had been deployed to the scene. "The provincial crime scene management team has arrived, and a team from the local criminal record centre is here, so is our serious crime investigating team, crime intelligence, and the provincial crime detective team is on scene," he said.

Police said the motive behind the attack remains unclear, and the suspect has not yet been identified.

There have been multiple mass shootings in the country in last few years. This shooting act marks the second such incident reported in South Africa this month. On 06 December, twelve people were killed after gunmen opened fire at a hostel in Pretoria.



the incident was received, the police and administration came into action. On information, area officer Bhushan Verma, Kotwali in-charge Kamlesh Singh reached the spot with heavy police force Dr. Bhim Rao Redkar. The officials controlled the situation by talking to the villagers and appealed to maintain peace. The police inspected the incident site and col-

lected evidence and assured of action against unknown anarchists. Deputy District Magistrate Vaibhav Gupta, who reached the spot, said that prima facie it appears to be the handiwork of mischievous elements. The matter is being investigated seriously and the culprits will not be spared at any cost. He also assured that the new statue will be installed within two days, so that the faith and respect of the villagers can be restored. After the assurance from the administration, the anger of the villagers calmed down to some extent, although there is still resentment in the village regarding the incident.

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he met the players of both

the batting and bowling

teams after tossing the toss. The Cabinet Minister said that he organizes this tournament every year in memory of his father. He urged the players to play cricket with the spirit of the game. This cricket tournament will start from 21st December and continue till 4th January. At the conclusion, prizes will be awarded to the winning and runner-up teams. After the inauguration, the Cabinet Minister himself started the match by playing ball

Case: Law enforcement agencies have arrested ten

Details of the arrested Those arrested by RAB among minority rights groups.

Rijiju to offer Chadar at Ajmer Dargah Sharif on behalf of PM Modi

(Gns).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent a ceremonial Chadar to be laid on the sacred tomb of Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chisti during the 814th annual Urs at the Dargah Sharif in Ajmer on Monday.

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju will offer the velvet Chadar at the shrine of Garib Nawaz on behalf of the Prime Minister. The Prime

Minister has already handed over the chadar to the

Union Minister at a brief ceremony in New Delhi.



Walayar mob lynching: Chhattisgarh native's family demands

Rs 25 lakh compensation; says will not accept body

(Gns).

The family of a Chhattisgarh native, who was beaten to death in Kerala's Palakkad district, on suspicion of theft, has demanded that a case under the SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act and sections related to mob lynching be filed in the murder.

The family of Ram Narayan Bhaiyer has also demanded compensation of Rs. 25 lakh. They said the body will not be taken over until the demand is met. The family clarified they will remain in Kerala until their demand is met.

The brutal murder that took place on Wednesday evening shocked the state. Ram Narayan was detained and beaten by a

mob on the charge of theft at Walayar in Palakkad.

Ram Narayan collapsed and vomited blood after

violence he had faced. The post-mortem confirmed that Ram Narayan, 31, was brutally beaten in a mob attack at Walayar. He had more than 80 injuries across his body, including severe wounds to his head. Doctors noted extensive internal bleeding and concluded that he died due to assault and blood loss from head injuries.

Dr Hitesh Shankar, who conducted the post-mortem, told the media, "There is no part of the body without injuries." He said the assault was cruel and carried out from different sides, adding that it was clearly a mob attack and that the victim was beaten like an animal.

police said that although he was intoxicated, there was no evidence that he had stolen anything.

The autopsy report revealed the extent of the

being beaten and later died.

The Walayar police have taken 15 people, natives of Mathalikadu, Attappallam, into custody in the incident. The arrest of five people

police said that although he was intoxicated, there was no evidence that he had stolen anything.

The autopsy report revealed the extent of the

First FCI grain-laden goods train from Punjab arrives at Anantnag in Kashmir

The first-ever Food

Corporation of India (FCI)

food grain freight train, consisting of 21 wagons, successfully arrived at the Anantnag (Kashmir) Goods Terminal from Ajitwala Goods Shed in the Firozpur Division in Punjab on Sunday.

This marks a historic day for the people of the Kashmir Valley, as the Railways and the Food Corporation of India have jointly initiated this food grain freight train service to Kashmir. This is a significant step towards strengthening the food supply chain and promoting economic development in the future.

Senior Divisional Manager, Commercial Manager,

Uchit Singh said.

The grain-laden freight train reached Kashmir from

will reach Kashmir directly by rail from various parts of the country. This will direct-



Punjab without any hindrance and in a much shorter time compared to road transport.

Similarly, in the future, grains and other food items

ly benefit local traders and the general public.

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