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Earlier, only one family was glorified, today, everyone's contribution is being honoured: PM

(Gns). After inaugurating the Rashtriya Prerna Stha and unveiling the statues of Jan Sangh founder Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in Lucknow, Mr Modi said the BJP's values teach respect for everyone which no one can expect from the Congress or the Samajwadi Party.

In a blistering attack on the Congress party, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled here on Thursday that there was a time when statues of only one family were installed earlier. Contrasting this, he said, today, every prominent figure is honoured. He further said that previously, only one family was glorified, while the BJP has honoured everyone's contribution (to nation-building).

The prime minister made these remark after inaugurating the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal here, unveiling the statues of Jan Sangh founder Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee and offering floral tributes to the leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Modi said, "No one can forget how attempts were made to erase Ambedkar's legacy. The 'royal family' of Delhi tried to erase it. The Samajwadi Party also did the same here, but the BJP did not allow it to be erased," he alleged.

The Prerna Sthal features 65-foot-tall statues of Deendayal Upadhyaya, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Each statue weighs 42 tons.

The Prerna Sthal was built in 65 acres of land at a cost of ₹220 crore.

PM Modi pointed out that Congress rendered the BJP untouchable while the BJP's values teach respect for everyone. Its culture teaches us to respect everyone. Narasimha Rao and Pranab Babu were awarded Bharat Ratna. It is our government that honoured Mulyam Singh Yadav and Tarun Gogoi with national awards. No one can expect such a thing from the Congress or the Samajwadi Party. Under their rule, BJP leaders faced only humiliation.

He said that Uttar Pradesh is benefiting greatly from the BJP's double-engine government. The state is creating its own identity in 21st-century India. "I am fortunate to be

a Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh. The hardworking people of the state are writing a new future. Today, Uttar

Pradesh globally. Places like the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal are also establishing a new identity for Uttar Pradesh. May



Pradesh is being discussed for its development. It is rapidly emerging on the tourism map. The magnificent temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham are establishing a new identity

Uttar Pradesh achieve greater heights in the form of good governance and prosperity. With this hope, congratulations once again for the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal.

Recalling the contribution of Sardar Patel, he said he was the one who integrated the princely states into India. But after independence, he lamented that his work and stature were diminished. "The BJP gave Sardar Saheb the respect he deserved. They built the world's tallest statue of him," he asserted.

He said, "Tribals were not given their due place earlier. Our government built a grand memorial of Lord Bisra Munda. There are many such examples across the country. A memorial to Maharaja Suheldev was built during the BJP government. The meeting place of Nishadraj and Lord Ram was honoured," he claimed.

"Because of this, dynastic politics tends to diminish

the standing of others. This very mindset started the practice of political untouchability in India. The country has had many Prime Ministers, but the contributions of many of them have been overlooked in the museum in Delhi. If you visit Delhi today, the magnificent Prime Minister's Museum welcomes you. Every Prime Minister has been given due respect and support," he said.

The prime minister said that the inspiration and visionary work of these three great men are the foundation of a developed India. "These statues are infusing us with new energy. We must not forget that in India, a tendency to associate every work with a single family flourished.

Previously, only one family was glorified, with statues erected only for them. This was the way it was. The BJP has freed the country from this tendency of being held hostage by one family," he added.

He said that the BJP honoured everyone's contribution. "Today, a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose adorns Delhi's Kartavya Path Path of Duty. Another statue of Netaji stands where he hoisted the tricolor in the Andamans. No one can forget that attempts were made to erase Ambedkar's legacy. Delhi's royal family attempted to erase it. The Samajwadi Party also did the same here. But the BJP did not allow it to be erased," he asserted.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave new direction to Indian politics and governance through decisive leadership: LS Speaker Om Birla

(Gns). Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday paid floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of their birth anniversaries in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

Later, addressing students from schools and colleges in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, Birla reflected on the lasting legacy of these stalwarts in strengthening India's democratic and cultural fabric. He recalled that both the leaders stood for values of inclusivity, national unity, and respect for the nation's

pluralistic ethos.

On this occasion, Birla

House, ensuring that Members of Parliament can



also highlighted Lok Sabha's efforts to bring India's rich linguistic diversity to the forefront by encouraging and facilitating the use of regional languages on the floor of the

express themselves in their native language and thus make debates more representative of the nation's cultural mosaic.

Paying homage to Mahamana Pandit Madan

Mohan Malviya, Birla described him as a unique amalgamation of modern thought and eternal values.

The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) established by Pt. Malviya remains a pillar of India's educational and cultural strength, nurturing generations of students in an environment rooted in Indian values, knowledge traditions and national consciousness, noted Birla.

Speaking on the life and contributions of Former prime minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Birla said he gave a new direction to Indian politics and governance through dignity, dialogue and decisive leadership.

'We Met at the Hotel, He Was Gone by Morning': Nitin Gadkari on the Assassination of Ismail Haniyeh

(Gns). Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has recounted a startling sequence of events that placed him close to one of the Middle East's most high-profile killings in recent years.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recounted meeting Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran hours before his assassination, which occurred around 1:15 am on July 31st, during a visit for Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's inauguration, and involved potential security lapses and conflicting accounts of the attack.

Speaking at a book launch, Gadkari said he met Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh just hours before the latter was assassinated in Tehran, an incident that has since raised serious questions over security lapses and the exact method of the attack.

Gadkari said he had

travelled to Iran on the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Ahead of the ceremony, senior leaders and officials from several countries had gathered informally at a five-star hotel in Tehran.

"All the heads of various nations were present, but one person who wasn't a head of state was Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. I met him. I saw him going to the swearing-in ceremony along with the President and the Chief Justice," Gadkari said while addressing the audience.

According to Gadkari, the shock came a few hours after the ceremony. "After the swearing-in ceremony, I returned to my

hotel, but around 4 am, the Iranian ambassador to India came to me and said we had to leave. I asked what happened and he told me that the Hamas chief



had been assassinated. I was shocked and asked how it happened and he said, 'I don't know yet,' the minister said.

Iranian authorities later confirmed that Haniyeh was killed at around 1:15 am on July 31 while staying in a highly secure military complex under the supervision of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. His bodyguard was also killed in the attack.

Gadkari told the gathering that uncertainty still surrounds the exact circum-

stances of the killing. "Some people say he was killed because of using his mobile phone. Some say it happened in some other way," he said, underlining the lack of clarity even weeks after the incident.

The IRGC has stated that a short-range missile struck the building where Haniyeh was staying. The attack took place while he was in Tehran for President Pezeshkian's inauguration, adding to the sensitivity of the breach.

Mossad link and security lapse claims

Citing a report by The Telegraph, details later emerged suggesting that Israel's intelligence agency Mossad recruited Iranian security personnel to plant explosives inside the building. The report claimed an earlier plan to assassinate Haniyeh during his May visit to Tehran for the funeral of former Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi was called off due to large crowds.

Top Naxal leader Ganesh Uike killed in Kandhamal; HM Shah says Odisha at threshold of becoming completely free from Naxalism

(Gns). In a significant milestone towards Naxal-free Bharat, six Naxalites, including Central Committee Member Ganesh Uike, have been neutralised so far in a major operation in Kandhamal, Odisha.

Reacting to the development, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday termed the killing of six Naxalites, including Central Committee Member Ganesh Uike, another major breakthrough in making Odisha completely free from Naxalism.

In a post on 'X', Home Minister's Office said, "A significant milestone towards Naxal-free Bharat. In a major operation in Kandhamal, Odisha, 6 Naxalites, including Central Committee Member

Ganesh Uike, have been neutralised so far. With this



major breakthrough, Odisha stands at the threshold of becoming completely free from Naxalism. We are resolved to eliminate Naxalism before the 31st of March 2026."

Uike, who carried a bounty of Rs 1.1 crore on

his head and was the chief of the banned outfit in Odisha, was neutralised in

Kandhamal district in the security forces' operation that started on Wednesday night and concluded on Thursday morning. He was a key leader in the banned CPI (Maoist) and carried a long history of orchestrating attacks against security personnel and civilians.

According to officials, the encounter took place during a coordinated anti-Naxal operation launched on specific intelligence

inputs about the presence of armed cadres in the forested region of Kandhamal.

Security forces recovered arms, ammunition, and other materials from the site, indicating the group's involvement in multiple violent incidents in the region.

Odisha, along with parts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Telangana, has historically been affected by Left-Wing Extremism.

However, in recent years, the state has witnessed a steady decline in Naxal-related violence due to sustained operations by central and state security forces, improved intelligence coordination, and focused development initiatives in remote and tribal areas.

Good governance means service, results and responsibility, not authority: Haryana CM

(Gns). Reiterating the Haryana Government's firm commitment to transparent, accountable and citizen-centric administration, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that good governance is the strongest pillar for building a Developed India and a Developed Haryana.

Addressing the state-level Good Governance Day function in Panchkula held on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that the occasion is a reminder of the government's moral and constitutional responsibility towards every citizen.

He said that, as per tradition, Good Governance Day was celebrated as a

festival across the state, not only at the state-level event in Panchkula but also in all 23 districts of Haryana. Ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, officers and citizens from across the state joined the programme through video conferencing, reflecting wide public participation.

The Chief Minister said it was a matter of special satisfaction that Good Governance Day was also being celebrated with equal enthusiasm in the newly created district of Hansi,

which officially came into existence just two days ago. He said the formation of the 23rd district was aimed at ensuring that people do not



have to travel long distances for administrative work and that the region witnesses faster and more focused development.

Saini also gave nine Good Governance awards

to various departments for playing an instrumental role in turning the dream of 'Digital Haryana' into reality. These include four flagship schemes and five State Level Awards.

The Chief Minister felicitated officers and employees for simplifying work through the digital medium during government service in various departments. The awardees were honoured during a state-level programme held on Thursday in Panchkula for bringing in digital reforms in their respective departments and for making the delivery of citizen-centric services to the people in a time-bound and hassle-free manner.



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

Editorial

Slow-Crafted

Global recognition has finally caught up with what Lucknow has long known about itself: that its food is not just cuisine, but culture carefully simmered over centuries. The city’s inclusion in an international gastronomic network is being celebrated as a milestone, yet it is better understood as a validation rather than a transformation. Lucknow did not become special because it was recognised; it was recognised because it refused to stop being itself.

At the heart of Lucknow’s food lies an idea almost subversive in the modern age ~ that time matters. The defining techniques of Awadhi cooking demand patience, silence, and restraint. Slow cooking is not a trend here; it is a philosophy shaped by royal kitchens, seasonal rhythms, and domestic rituals. Whether it is a sealed pot left to cook over low heat or a dessert coaxed into being by winter dew, the process is as important as the plate. This culinary ethic also explains why Lucknow’s food has resisted homogenisation. Its most celebrated dishes were not designed for scale or speed. They emerged from courtly experimentation, community traditions, and necessity ~ even famine ~ and were refined through repetition rather than reinvention. The result is a cuisine that values balance over excess, subtlety over spectacle.

Equally important is the social architecture that sustains this food culture. Generational eateries, street vendors, and neighbourhood kitchens form an ecosystem that is deeply local and fiercely guarded. Many of these establishments operate with minimal branding and maximum loyalty. They survive not because they chase novelty, but because they deliver consistency, a taste that reassures people that some things need not change. Yet this very strength is also a vulnerability. As aspirations shift and younger generations move away from labour-intensive culinary crafts, the risk is not that Lucknow’s food will disappear overnight, but that it will be diluted ~ simplified for convenience, stripped of context, or repackaged without its underlying discipline. Recognition alone cannot prevent that. Preservation requires documentation, skill transmission, and economic dignity for those who keep these traditions alive.

For India, Lucknow’s moment matters beyond the city. It challenges the country’s tendency to reduce food heritage to a handful of export-friendly icons. It reminds us that culinary greatness often resides in the ordinary, in breakfast stalls, seasonal sweets and methods that cannot be rushed. It also offers a counterpoint to the idea that global relevance demands uniformity. If the recognition is used wisely, it can shift attention from celebrity kitchens to anonymous hands, from luxury dining rooms to crowded lanes, from novelty to knowledge. That would honour the spirit of Lucknow far more than any plaque or title. In the end, Lucknow’s food tells a larger story about India itself: that depth outlasts fashion, that memory can be a form of resistance, and that some flavours are meant to be earned slowly

Tracks of Tragedy



The deaths of seven elephants on a railway track in Assam are not just a tragic accident; they are a stark reminder of how India continues to underestimate the cost of development imposed on living landscapes. Each such incident is quickly framed as an unfortunate collision between modern transport and wildlife. In reality, it is the outcome of long-standing policy blind spots where infrastructure planning treats forests as obstacles rather than as inhabited, dynamic ecosystems.

Elephants are not strays wandering onto railway lines at random. They follow inherited routes shaped over generations, adjusting constantly to shrinking forests, blocked corridors, and human pressure. When a train hits a herd, it is usually because steel tracks have been laid across paths that existed long before the locomotive. Whether or not a stretch is officially marked as a corridor is often irrelevant to the animals themselves. Assam’s tragedy is painfully familiar to eastern India. Forest divisions in north Bengal, especially in the Doars and Terai regions of West Bengal, have witnessed repeated elephant deaths on railway tracks over the past two decades.

Express trains running through tea gardens and reserve forests have struck lone tuskers and entire

herds alike. Speed restrictions were announced, signboards erected, and awareness drives launched. Yet fatalities continue, suggesting that piecemeal measures have failed to address the structural problem. The core issue is the mismatch between how infrastructure is designed and how wildlife moves. Trains today are faster, heavier, and more frequent than ever before. Emergency braking sounds reassuring, but at high speeds it is little more than a gesture. Once a driver spots elephants on the track, physics has already decided the outcome. What is often missing from the conversation is accountability at the planning stage. Railway alignments, doubling projects, and speed upgrades are routinely cleared with minimal integration of real-time animal movement data. Environmental safeguards are treated as compliance checklists rather than living systems that demand continuous updating. The result is predictable: collisions are mourned, inquiries ordered, and business resumes as usual.

There is also a human dimension that tends to be overlooked. Train derailments caused by such collisions put passengers and railway staff at risk. Preventing elephant deaths is not only about conservation ethics; it is also about

Statue of Bharat Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Unveiled in Gandhinagar

Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister inaugurate various state government service projects with technology integration to realise the mantra of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhavah’

State Administration Upholds Service Responsibility through Good Governance to Realise Prime Minister’s People-Centric Schemes: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel

Launch of Various AI-Based Digital Initiatives for Citizen Services ::

- * ‘G-SAAR’ portal making government rules, resolutions, and circulars available in one place; an AI repository of over 24,000 digital documents
- * CM Fellow Monitoring Portal
- * AI Integration of SWAGAT Online
- * CM Dashboard Real-Time Performance Measurement System 2.0
- * Launch of Digital Gujarat WhatsApp Chatbot and Secure QR
- * Mission Karmayogi Training Campaign Class
- * Launch of NRG Website and ‘Atal Swantah Sukhaya’ Web Portal
- * MoUs with various institutions for capacity building, education, and research
- * Unveiling of Pumped Hydro Storage Policy, Green Hydrogen Policy, and Integrated Renewable Energy Policy for energy self-reliance
- * Release of Best Practices Collection

Gandhinagar, 25 December 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel launched a series of citizen-centric projects, schemes and policies in Gandhinagar as part of the

Celebration of the 101st birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Good Governance Day

Good Governance Day celebrations, reaffirming the state government’s firm commitment to citizen-oriented administration, in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi and senior ministers.

Under the inspiration of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25th is celebrated across the country as Good Governance Day.

As part of this celebration, Chief Minister inaugurated initiatives aimed at making the services of various state government departments and the Chief Minister’s Office more citizen-centric.

The Chief Minister, along with the Deputy Chief Minister, commenced Good Governance Day by unveiling the statue of Atal Bihariji built at the Ch-3 circle in Gandhinagar.

Referring to the Prime Minister’s emphasis on placing the common citizen and the poor at the core of every scheme, Chief Minister stated that the true success of good governance lies in ensuring that these citizens receive the benefits of services and schemes in a timely and effective manner. He credited Team Gujarat for ensuring pro-people governance by delivering welfare scheme benefits to citizens in line with the mantra of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhavah’ given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister said that the state

government is working with a culture where the celebration of Good Governance Day continues throughout the year, and that technology-enabled grievance redressal mech-

seven principles of good governance. The first principle is participation, meaning participation of the people and their representatives, not only in policy formulation but also in policy

QR Code

New features for securing government documents with secure QR codes were inaugurated. Initially, this initiative will be implemented in the Chief Minister’s

beneficiaries at the hospital level and enable effective and proper monitoring. Using AI and machine learning-based clustering, hospitals will be ranked on the basis of various parameters to monitor efficiency and quality of services of both government and private hospitals, along with rankings and key findings. Additionally, the dashboard will provide analysis of disease patterns based on GIS-enabled beneficiary treatment data and transfer tracking patterns of patients referred to other district hospitals for treatment within the next five days.

The Chief Minister’s Office also launched the AI-integrated SWAGAT 2.0 portal, which will help with real-time monitoring, auto-escalation and AI-based analysis for citizen grievance redressal. In addition to quality resolution of grievances, this portal will identify root causes of complaints. If a similar issue repeatedly arises in a specific sector or area, the artificial intelligence system will inform the state government about which policy needs improvement.

The launch of all these initiatives, aimed at realising the mantra of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’, marks another significant step in the state government’s firm commitment to good governance. Moreover, the implementation of these initiatives will accelerate policy decision-making, improve service delivery and strengthen a citizen-centric approach.

In addition, the Mission Karmayogi training campaign module, unveiling of the NRG website, launch of the Atal Swantah Sukhaya website, three policies of the Energy Department, and MoUs for capacity enhancement with prestigious institutions such as IIMA, IITGn, IRMA, NFSU and BISAG were also signed. Furthermore, the collection of Best Practices and books on the outcomes of the Chintan Shivir were released.

The Chief Minister presented awards to winners of the cleanliness competition organised for state government departments and offices of heads of departments.

The event was also attended by Senior secretaries of the state, heads of departments and karmayogis.



anisms such as SWAGAT Online have enabled effective resolution of long-pending issues of citizens.

On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi stated that when a citizen approaches the government with a grievance, they should not be required to make repeated visits and the issue should be resolved comprehensively in a single instance. To achieve this, the state government is leveraging modern technology. He added that alongside technological adoption, a positive and responsive attitude of karmayogis towards citizens is equally essential, and the state government is steadily progressing in this direction. He added that under the leadership of Chief Minister, the state government has taken several important decisions in the Revenue Department, which can be termed eye-openers for the entire country. Citing the Pradhan Mantri Muft Bijli Yojna as an excellent example of good governance, he said that through this scheme, citizens can generate electricity with self-respect and use it themselves. In terms of beneficiaries, Gujarat’s contribution is more than 25 percent of the national total.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Shri M. K. Das stated that Gujarat is a state that has remained committed to good governance since its inception. Today also, under the leadership of Chief Minister, Gujarat continues to move forward on the path of good governance. The United Nations has described

implementation. The second principle is the rule of law, which is the foundational principle of democracy. In Gujarat, policy formulation and implementation are being carried out with adherence to the rule of law. The third principle is transparency, and today transparency is being demonstrated at every level in Gujarat. The fourth principle is accountability. The Government of Gujarat is highly accountable to the citizens of the state. During any disaster situation, the government stands by citizens, resolves their problems, and provides quality services up to the last person. He further added that the fifth principle is responsiveness. During natural or man-made disasters, the Government of Gujarat continuously strives to address citizens’ problems by treating them as its own. The sixth principle is equity and inclusiveness. The Government of Gujarat provides quality services to every citizen on the basis of equality, without any discrimination. The seventh principle is effectiveness and efficiency, meaning the functioning of the government must be efficient. Today, under the leadership of the Chief Minister, this principle is being fully realised.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister launched innovative AI-based initiatives of the Chief Minister’s Office, in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Agriculture Minister Shri Jitu Vaghani, Energy Minister Shri Rushikesh Patel and Minister of State Shri Kaushik Vekariya.

24,000 government documents have been digitised and converted into an AI repository. This portal will aid faster and more accurate decision-making.

A technology-based monitoring system, the CM Fellow Monitoring Portal, was also launched to make the functioning, progress and evaluation of the Chief Minister Fellowship Programme accessible to citizens.

Under the CM Dashboard, a system has been created to evaluate key functions of 17 municipal corporations and 06 regional commissioners, similar to the evaluation of Collectors and DDOs by the state government.

To enable real-time evaluation and ranking of the performance of District Collectors, DDOs, municipal corporations and regional commissioners, the Real-Time Performance Measurement System 2.0 (RTPMS 2.0) has been launched. Initiated as part of the Urban Development Year, this initiative will help evaluate the development of cities.

Chief Minister also inaugurated the News Analysis 2.0 portal. This integrated system will facilitate automated AI-based analysis of daily news, subject-wise classification and swift action.

For AI and machine learning-based evaluation of hospital performance and quality monitoring under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, PMJAY Hospital Performance Analytics has been launched. This portal will be useful to ensure timely treatment to PMJAY-MA

ly for elephants have shown promise in limited pilots. What is lacking is the willingness to deploy these at scale and to enforce speed controls rigorously, even when they inconvenience tight rail schedules. The lesson from Assam and north Bengal is clear. So long as forests are viewed as empty spaces waiting to be crossed, elephants will keep paying with their lives. Development need not be anti-nature, but it must accept one basic truth: in landscapes shared with wildlife, the burden of adaptation lies with humans, not with the animals that were there first

public safety and economic prudence. India does not lack solutions. Technologies such as thermal sensors, motion detectors, and AI-based alert systems already exist. Underpasses and overpasses designed specifical-

(Gns).

While India celebrates former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth anniversary as Good Governance Day, it is worth noting that 2025 has witnessed some of the Modi government’s most decisive, big-ticket governance reforms. These reforms only reinforce the Prime Minister’s commitment to raise the governance bar and expedite India’s 2047 goals. Good Governance Day, marked every December 25 since 2014, honours the legacy of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, one of India’s most revered leaders and a founding figure of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Vajpayee, born in 1924, exemplified principles of accountability, transparency, and inclusive growth during his tenure as Prime Minister from 1998 to 2004. His administration pioneered initiatives like the Golden Quadrilateral highway project and telecom reforms, setting a benchmark for efficient governance. The same ethos of

India) by 2047. Critics argued some changes diluted worker rights or increased government oversight, but proponents hailed them as decisive steps to correct historical wrongs, formalize informal economy from external shocks. A decoding of some of these reforms only underscores their importance in the country’s journey ahead. One of the most contentious yet corrective reforms of 2025 was the Waqf (Amendment) Act, passed in April, which overhauled the Waqf Act of 1995 and its 2013 amendments.

The 1995 Act had granted Waqf Boards unchecked powers to declare properties as Waqf, often leading to arbitrary claims on government, private, and even non-Muslim lands. The 2013 amendments exacer-



bated this by introducing “Waqf by user” – a provision allowing properties to be deemed Waqf based on historical usage, without formal documentation, enabling illegal land grabs estimated to affect millions of acres. The 2025 Act rectifies these wrongs by abolishing “Waqf by user,” ensuring only properties with valid deeds or explicit dedication can be classified as Waqf, thus preventing retrospective claims on government lands. This formalization paves the way for transparent management, including digitization of records and inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf Councils for broader oversight.

By ending unchecked encroachments, the reform safeguards heritage while promoting socio-economic utilization of Waqf assets, potentially unlocking value for community welfare and

reducing litigation. Implemented nationwide from 21 November 2025, the four new Labour Codes – on Wages, Social Security, Industrial Relations, and Occupational Safety – consolidated 29 previous laws into a streamlined framework of four comprehensive labour codes, marking a historic overhaul. These codes enhance social security by mandating Provident Fund (PF), Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), insurance, and gratuity for all workers, including those in unorganized sectors. A boon for gig and platform workers, the Social Security Code requires aggregators to contribute to a welfare fund, providing first-time coverage like accident benefits and pensions.

To boost women’s workforce participation, provisions include extended maternity leave, creche facilities, and flexible work hours, addressing barriers that have kept female labour force participation

below 40 per cent. Uniform minimum wages across industries and simplified compliance (reducing forms from hundreds to a few) make it easier for businesses to hire, potentially creating millions of jobs while protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation. The codes’ focus on inclusivity positions them as a catalyst for a more equitable labour market. Enacted in December 2025, the VB-G RAM G Bill replaced the 2005 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a modernized framework aligned with India’s 2047 development goals. MGNREGA’s 100-day guarantee often suffered from delays, corruption, and limited focus on asset creation; the new Bill expands it to 125 days of wage employment per household, introduces Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards for seamless access, and raises administrative spending to 9 per cent for better tech-driven monitoring.

The drive focused on assessment of accumulation of visible road dust and non-ground operations of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs), along with identification of instances of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) accumulation, and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste accumulation and cases of open burning.

A total of 15 teams of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for

Aravalli storm—Day after ban on new mining leases, Centre, Congress trade accusations

(Gns). A day after the Centre's written assurance on long-term protection of the Aravalli ecosystem, the political and environmental controversy surrounding India's oldest mountain range showed no signs of abating. On Thursday, a sharp war of words broke out between Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, with both accusing each other of "misleading and misinforming" the people on the ecologically sensitive range.

The Environment Ministry had on Wednesday announced a ban on the grant of new mining leases and stricter safeguards for existing mines across the Aravallis, stretching from Gujarat to Delhi. However, this failed to buy peace with the Congress and environmentalists again, referring to the contentious new definition of the Aravallis based on a 100-metre elevation threshold and a Forest Survey of India (FSI) study, which Yadav says does not exist.

Citing the purported FSI study, Ramesh said only a small fraction of the Aravallis lies above 100 metres. Yadav rejected the claim, saying: "No FSI study has been conducted,

making the claims you are referring to. But I know the reason you are spreading these lies despite FSI issu-



ing a categorical denial." Yadav accused the former environment minister of spreading "misinformation" and former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot of "plundering" the hills. "You and your coterie are rattled because we have imposed a total ban on mining in the Aravallis from Gujarat to Delhi," Yadav said, alleging large-scale damage to the Aravallis under previous Congress regimes.

This followed Ramesh again accusing the Union minister of "misleading and misinforming" the public and challenging him to direct the FSI to conduct a formal, transparent study mapping the varying elevations of the hills across 15 districts of Rajasthan and to release the raw data. "The FSI is now under additional charge of the min-

istry's ADG and will say whatever the minister wants it to say. FSI's internal assessment warned the

ministry. Is such an assessment being denied? The raw data is very much with FSI," Ramesh said. By the end of the day, it was evident that the Centre's Wednesday assurances had failed to put an end to either the politics or the long-standing trust deficit surrounding the Aravallis, which have been at the centre of decades of litigation over mining, urbanisation and illegal activities. The range plays a critical role in preventing desertification and sustaining groundwater in north-west India and is also believed to contain deposits of critical minerals such as graphite, lithium and rare earth elements, adding to concerns about future commercial exploitation.

The Bhopender Yadav-led ministry had on

Wednesday reiterated that the ban on new mining leases would apply uniformly across the entire Aravalli range to preserve the ancient geological ridge and curb illegal mining, which Ramesh described as a "bogus attempt at damage control." Arguing that the Centre's "pious proclamations" would not reassure environmentalists or the public as long as the "dangerous" redefinition of the Aravallis remained in place, he pointed out that the 100-metre criterion had earlier been rejected by the FSI, the Supreme Court-mandated Central Empowered Committee, and the court's amicus curiae.

Environmental groups echoed the concerns, arguing that court orders had already laid down clear protections, and reiterated demands that the entire Aravalli landscape across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi be declared a Critical Ecological Zone. Government officials, meanwhile, said the ministry had directed the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to identify additional zones across the Aravallis where mining should be prohibited beyond already restricted areas.

District Magistrate inspected the Large Cow Protection Centre, provided cow service

Mathura. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh inspected the Large Cow Conservation Center located in village Paintha of Tehsil Govardhan. The District Magistrate observed various arrangements made for the cows in the cowshed in view of winter/cold. The District Magistrate took stock of green fodder, chaff, straw, bran, water, cleanliness, shed etc. The District Magistrate directed to install CCTV cameras in the entire Gaushala premises. The District Magistrate fed jaggery to the cows and inspected the cow shed closely. The District Magistrate gave



District Magistrate doing cow service

instructions to cover the sheds of cow sheds with tarpaulin in view of the cold. He said that straw, chaff or tree leaves should be spread on the floor/ground so that the cows do not feel cold. Place sacks on the

doors and windows of the cowshed to prevent the entry of cold air. The District Magistrate directed that bonfires should be lit at regular intervals so that the cows can get warmth. The District Magistrate instructed the Chief Veterinary Officer to ensure ear tagging of all the cows. Get your cows checked regularly and take special care of those who fall ill during the cold season. Deputy District Magistrate Govardhan Prajakta Tripathi, Chief Veterinary Officer Narendra Narayan Shukla, Tehsildar Govardhan Sushil Gupta, concerned village head and village secretary were present during the inspection

Excise and police seized illegal liquor from Yamuna Expressway, two smugglers arrested

Mathura. Liquor smuggling has increased on New Year. In view of this, vigilance has been increased on highways and expressways. Two liquor smugglers have been arrested in a joint action of Mant police station and Excise Department. 600 bottles of illegal English liquor and vehicles used in liquor smuggling have been recovered from their possession. On Thursday, Sagar son of Kaptan Singh resident of village



Accused caught by Mant police and excise team

Lohakhurd police station of Jaswant resident of village Lohakhurd police station Sadar district Jhajjar. Haryana and Sahil son

Haryana were arrested from Yamuna Expressway Milestone 95.300 with 600 bottles of illegal English liquor and the vehicle used in liquor smuggling with registration UP 32 KN 4748. Excise Inspector Bhim Kumar Tiwari, SI Bhuvanesh Kumar Dixit police station Mant, SI Arvind Kumar police station Mant etc. were included in the team that took the action. A police station case has been registered against the accused

Bag full of money and documents found safe due to TTE's intelligence

The train was going from Ahmedabad to Bhuj, the bag was left behind. TTE Shakeel Ahmed of the train going from Ahmedabad to Bhuj, setting an example of humanity, returned the bag full of money and important documents to the passenger. This passenger's bag was accidentally left in the train. On Friday, the hand bag of Prince Rathod, who was traveling on seat number 24 of B-4 coach of train (No. 09037) going from Ahmedabad to Bhuj, was left in the train. When he got down at Gandhidham station, he came to know about



this. He immediately called railway help and informed about the incident. Rail help immediately took cognizance of this and informed TTE Shakeel Ahmed on duty in the train. Without any delay, he reached the

'Will reach Parliament with my father Brij Bhushan after next elections,' says Karan Bhushan Singh

BJP MP from the Kaiserganj Lok Sabha seat Karan Bhushan Singh has surprised everyone by stating that he would go to Parliament with his father after the next Lok Sabha elections. Karan Bhushan is the younger son of former BJP MP Braj Bhushan Saran Singh, who was the former president of the Wrestling Federation of

India. Karan was addressing the media after awarding the winners of the MP Sports Festival at the Jagdamba Sharan Singh Institute in the Kaiserganj Lok Sabha constituency on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, he claimed that he and his father would contest the next Lok Sabha elections from different constituencies and will reach Parliament together. Responding sharply to a question about Bangladesh,



he said his blood boils at the atrocities and brutality being committed on Hindus there. Furthermore, the MP said while governments are continuously holding talks to control the deteriorating situation in Bangladesh, all citizens should also come forward to oppose such barbaric incidents.

Congress in talks with Vanchit Aghadi and Uddhaval Sena for alliance in civic polls, says Sapkal

(Gns). Maharashtra Congress president Harashwardhan Sapkal told media persons on Thursday that talks have begun with the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena to form an alliance for the forthcoming municipal corporation elections, including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). "Discussions are underway with Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi and the INDIA bloc. Local Congress leaders have been instructed accordingly. Apart from this, no proposal has been received from any party for an alliance. If such a proposal is received, it will be considered," Sapkal said.

Responding to a question, Sapkal said, "I am not a part of the alliance discussions for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), but All India Congress Committee

Secretary U B Venkatesh is holding talks with the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi." The Maharashtra Congress

of various District Congress Committees. Ticket distribution has also been discussed, keeping in mind



president was speaking at a state selection committee meeting held at Tilak Bhavan in Dadar West on Thursday to discuss the names of candidates for the municipal corporation elections. Sapkal further said, "Today, a State Selection Board meeting was held for 28 municipal corporations. An important stage has been passed at the party level today by keeping in mind the recommendations

the requirements of social engineering." "The Congress party had left the decision to form any alliance to its local leadership. Many people want an alliance between the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi and the Congress. In this regard, good communication and sincere efforts are being made by the leaders of both sides," Sapkal said. The state selection committee meeting of the Congress party at Tilak

Sanjay Raut slams Fadnavis, questions what he has done for the Marathi people

(Gns). Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and chief party spokesperson lashed out against senior BJP leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday.

Responding to BJP's criticism about Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) founder Raj Thackeray coming together to form an alliance to contest the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election, Sanjay Raut said, "You (Fadnavis) became Chief Minister only because you were with the Thackerays earlier. What have you done for the Marathi people?"

"Selling Mumbai to Gautam Adani is not a great service to the Marathi people. Is selling the entire Mumbai to a friend of Modi like Adani or feeding it to him any service done to the Marathi people? You have got a stomach ache after the Thackerays came

together. We will not let Maharashtra be divided.

(Eknath Shinde) of this state nor any of his col-



We will never allow Mumbai to be separated from Maharashtra. Are you comparing Amit Shah with Raj Thackeray? You should not teach us at all."

"What has the BJP and Devendra Fadnavis done for the Marathi people? Except for one Gopinathrao Munde, no one else has ever spoken about an undivided Maharashtra or raised their voice against the injustice being done to the Marathi people in the Belgaum-Karwar border issue. Neither has the current Deputy Chief Minister

leagues raised their voice against the injustice being done to the Marathi people," Sanjay Raut said.

Responding to BJP's criticism that the Thackeray cousins have come together merely for the sake of political power, Sanjay Raut said, "Devendra Fadnavis, don't teach us. You have committed the sin of breaking Shiv Sena, which is the political organisation of the Marathi people. Maharashtra will not forgive you and will take revenge for this in the Brihanmumbai Municipal

Corporation (BMC) election".

"BJP leader and Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said that we will create a separate Vidarbha by breaking up Maharashtra. As the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, was it not the duty of Fadnavis to ask Bawankule for an explanation? Never forget that you (Fadnavis) are the Chief Minister of Maharashtra because of Balasaheb Thackeray. Otherwise, you would have had to divide Maharashtra into pieces in order to become Chief Minister on one small piece of the state," Sanjay Raut said. "Purely, for your political ambition and greed for power, you broke up Shiv Sena, which is the representative of the Marathi people. You broke up the political organisation of the Marathi people created by Balasaheb Thackeray and gave it to a scoundrel (Eknath Shinde) by misusing the Election Commission.

Akhilesh Yadav launches sharp attack on UP Deputy CM, says reprimand is inevitable

(Gns). A day earlier in the Legislative Council, while discussing the Bihar assembly elections, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya had said that during a meeting with Akhilesh Yadav at the airport, he had mentioned offering him sweets. He said, "I told him, 'Eat them now, or you can eat them on November 14.'"

Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav has launched a scathing attack on Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and claimed that his reprimand is now inevitable.

He alleged that the Deputy Chief Minister is speaking falsehoods on one hand, and on the other

hand, he is talking about distributing sweets (laddoos) on November 14,



which is 'Nehru Jayanti'. "If he talks about going against the line followed by those in Delhi, will he get any sweets from there?" he posted on his social media post on Thursday.

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discussing the Bihar assembly elections, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya had said that during a meeting with Akhilesh Yadav at the airport, he had mentioned offering him sweets. He said, "I told him, 'Eat them now, or you can eat them on November 14.'"

Taking a dig on his social media account, Akhilesh Yadav said that "this poor fellow will keep distributing sweets for others and will remain satisfied with the crumbs he gets... Now even the last remaining hope is gone; the reason he used to get some importance has also been taken away by someone

else."

He said, "Where will this poor fellow go... No one is asking about him here, no one is asking about him there, and in his own constituency, his base has already crumbled. Nowadays, he is surviving on 'mercy postings', and it remains to be seen how long that will last because now that he has been pushed further back in the line, what importance is left for him?"

Akhilesh Yadav said that this is what happens to those who ignore their own people. "Let's assume this was a mistake, but there is still a chance; if someone who has gone astray in the morning returns home in the evening, he is not considered lost," he said.