



Amit Shah Reveals Massive 40 Kg IED Triggered Red Fort Area Explosion

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah used the Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025 to disclose that 40 kg of explosive caused the Red Fort area blast in Delhi on November 10, and said investigators recovered three tonnes of additional explosives before detonation, while calling for stronger national databases to tackle organised crime and terrorism.

Shah was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025, organised by the NIA, where top officers from central agencies and state police forces attended as the minister also released the NIA's updated crime manual and unveiled two new national-level databases on terror-

ists and organised criminal networks.

At the Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025 organized by the NIA, Home Minister Amit Shah revealed that 40 kg of explosives caused the Red Fort blast on November 10, while three tonnes were recovered. He emphasized stronger national databases to counter organized crime and terrorism, highlighting the need for cooperation between central agencies and state police, and also mentioned Pahalgam incident related to damaging communal harmony.

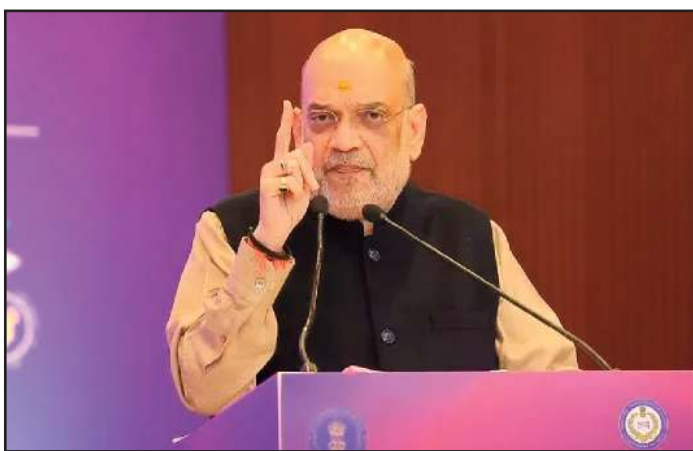
Detailing recent terror cases, Shah said the Pahalgam and Delhi investigations showed how coordinated work could deliver strong results, and praised

Jammu and Kashmir Police, stating, "Pahalgam and Delhi blast cases are not examples of routine policing, but outstanding instances of watertight investigation," while stressing that such probes strengthen confidence in national security systems.

Shah linked the Pahalgam incident to attempts to disturb social order, stating that the attackers behind the Baisaran valley strike wanted to damage communal harmony across the country, and said these motives reinforced the need for better information sharing, stronger databases, and close cooperation between states and central agencies on organised crime and terrorism funding.

The minister shared

specific figures from the Red Fort area case, explaining that 40 kg of explosive was actually



used in the November 10 blast, while agencies seized three tonnes of explosive material in time, and presented the improved NIA databases as key tools to prevent similar

incidents and track organised crime networks supporting such attacks.

Anti-Terrorism

Conference-2025 and organised crime data framework and coordination

Highlighting how organised crime finances terrorism, Shah said, "Organised

crime networks initially operate for the purpose of ransom and extortion, but when their leaders flee abroad and settle there, they automatically come into contact with terrorist organisations and then use the proceeds from ransom and extortion to spread terrorism within the country," according to the official statement.

Shah urged every state to act against such networks using the new databases, saying state police must, under guidance from the NIA and CBI, and with IB support, work to eliminate organised crime in their respective areas, and stressed that the database on terrorists and criminals should become a core element of the government's zero-terror policy.

Calling for a change in information culture, Shah said agencies should move from a 'Need to Know' mindset to a 'Duty to Share' approach, arguing that many central and state bodies have built useful technology systems, yet platforms and data designed in silos remain "like a gun without bullets" if they cannot connect effectively.

Shah said it would be better if all security and crime data could communicate with each other and were created using compatible technology, adding, "For this purpose, the Ministry of Home Affairs, NIA, and IB should hold discussions to develop a seamless national-level framework for technology and data, and should sup-

port the states in strengthening it."

The home minister said director generals of police are expected to implement the database framework fully, described the planned national strategy as a future "360-degree assault on organised crime," and noted that a new standard of coordination now links the DGP Conference, Security Strategy Conference, N-CORD meetings and the Anti-Terrorism Conference, stating, "We cannot view these four pillars in isolation; running through them as a common thread is the Anti-Terrorism Conference," as he underlined that this combined structure supports the wider zero-terror objective.

Nepal's Ambassador Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma pays a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel

Discussion Held on Cooperation in Tourism, Information Technology, Hydro Energy, Manufacturing, and Education Sectors
Nepal's Ambassador Praises Gujarat's Multi-Sectoral Development under the Prime Minister's Guidance

Gandhinagar, 27 December 2025 : The Ambassador of Nepal to India, Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar during his visit to Gujarat for the promotion of Nepal's tourism.

The Ambassador praised the world-class tourism attractions developed in Gujarat under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He

held detailed discussions with the Chief Minister, particularly on cooperation in the sectors of tourism,



information technology, hydro energy, manufacturing, and education.

Chief Minister shared that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Gujarat

leader in emerging sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and global capacity centres, and further explained how Gujarat has become a major attraction for tourists from across the world with destinations such as the Statue of Unity, the White Desert, and spiritual tourism sites including Somnath, Dwarka, and Ambaji.

This meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Principal Secretary of the Industries Department, Ms. Mamta Verma, Industries Commissioner Shri P. Swaroop and members of the Nepal delegation.

BJP's attempt to stoke communal tensions fails, Lord Murugan not on their side: TN Minister

(Gns). Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Minister PK Sekarbabu on Saturday said the Bharatiya Janata Party's attempt to incite communal hatred through the Deepam issue at Thiruparankundram had failed miserably, adding that even Lord Murugan, the presiding deity of the temple, was not on their side.

Addressing the media, Sekarbabu said that despite repeated efforts by the BJP to create communal divisions, their plans had not succeeded. "With Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the helm, no attempt to divide people on communal

lines will succeed. The BJP's effort to politicise the Deepam issue has completely failed. Even Lord Murugan does not seem to be in their favour," he said.

Earlier this month, the BJP and organisations affiliated with the RSS had demanded that the Deepam be lit at a disputed stone pillar located near a dargah atop the Thiruparankundram hill. At the foothills of the same hill stands the renowned Murugan temple. Citing an order of a single judge of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, BJP leaders attempted to proceed to the hilltop to light

the Deepam. However, the police stopped them, citing potential law and order issues.

Subsequently, the temple authorities lit the Deepam at its traditional location near the Uchipillaiyar temple on the hill. Following this, officials concerned are now facing contempt proceedings. The state government has also appealed against the single judge's order, stating that it runs contrary to earlier directions issued by a Division Bench of the High Court.

Responding to BJP leader H. Raja's statement



28.9 million voter names missing in UP SIR; SP claims BJP to suffer major electoral setback

(Gns). The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh has been completed, revealing that the names of nearly 28.9 million voters were either unresponsive or failed to submit their enumeration forms.

The exercise has triggered strong political reactions, with the opposition Samajwadi Party (SP) claiming that the large-scale deletion of voter names would severely impact the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2027 Assembly elections.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav, while targeting the ruling party, said, "The Chief Minister himself claims that 85-90 per cent

of his own voters have been cut. If 85 per cent are removed, it means a loss of around 61,000 votes in each assembly constituency. In such a situation, how can the BJP form a government? It will not even be able to reach double digits. The BJP leadership has dug a pit for itself and fallen into it."

Although there were rumours that the deadline for submitting enumeration forms would be extended for a third time, the Election Commission of India (ECI) did not grant any further

extension.

According to the official schedule, the draft electoral roll will be published on December 31. The period for filing claims and objections will run from December 31, 2025, to January 30, 2026. The disposal of claims and objections will take place between December 31, 2025, and February 21, 2026. The final electoral roll for Uttar Pradesh will be published on February 28, 2026.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep

Rinwa stated on Saturday, "Before the implementation of the SIR, there were a total of 154.4 million registered voters in the state. The first phase of enumeration and digitization was completed on December 26, and so far, 28.9 million voters have been found unresponsive. The final figures and draft list will be released on December 31."

According to official sources, out of the total unresponsive voters, 12.6 million have permanently migrated outside Uttar Pradesh, 4.595 million have passed away, 2.332 million are duplicate entries, 8.42 million are untraceable, and 9.37 million voters did not submit their forms.



Are Pawars Joining Hands For Pune Civic Polls? Talks Collapse After Ajit Offers Only 35 Seats

(Gns). A high-stakes meeting between Ajit Pawar's NCP and his uncle Sharad Pawar's faction of NCP ended in a stalemate, NDTV reported citing sources.

The discussion, centered on the upcoming January 15 civic polls, collapsed over the specifics of seat-sharing. Sources indicate that the younger Pawar offered a deal that was essentially a non-starter for the veteran leader: the Sharad Pawar faction was allocated 35 seats, with the added stipulation that they must campaign under the Ajit-led faction's "clock" symbol.

Ajit Pawar's faction and Sharad Pawar's NCP failed to reach an agreement, leading Sharad Pawar to rejoin the Maha Vikas Aghadi with Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena; the factions may merge, with Ajit Pawar

leading in Maharashtra and Supriya Sule nationally after Sharad Pawar's retirement in 2026.

Sharad Pawar's camp

Aghadi (MVA) fold, initiating discussions with the Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena to finalize a unified front.



rejected these terms and exited the negotiations. This breakdown follows the surprising alliance between cousins Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray (MNS), who have joined forces to capture the lucrative Pune civic body. In response to the failed talks with his nephew, Sharad Pawar returned to the Maha Vikas

Despite the friction in Pune, a more profound realignment appears to be brewing behind closed doors, as per a report in The New Indian Express. Rumours are intensifying regarding a total merger between the two NCP factions. According to insiders, a family consensus is forming that would see Sharad

Pawar retire from active politics following the conclusion of his Rajya Sabha term in April 2026.

Ajit Pawar: Entrusted with the leadership of the party within Maharashtra and state-level governance.

Supriya Sule: Positioned to lead the party's national interests in Delhi, potentially securing a Union Ministry post.

This strategy is viewed by many as a pragmatic way to preserve the Pawar legacy against the rising influence of the BJP in their traditional strongholds of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad. By stepping back, Sharad Pawar can maintain his "secular" credentials while allowing the younger generation to navigate the pragmatic necessity of an alliance with the BJP. However, the prospect of a merger has not been met with universal acclaim. Within the Sharad Pawar camp.

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गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Trial of Will

Ukraine's latest peace proposal marks a subtle but significant shift in how Kyiv is trying to end a war that has long defied clean diplomatic solutions. Rather than framing peace as a binary choice between territorial integrity and continued fighting, the plan advances a more ambiguous idea: de-escalation without surrender. In doing so, it exposes both the limits of compromise and the deeper strategic contest that still defines the conflict.

At the centre of the proposal is the concept of demilitarised or economically neutral zones in eastern Ukraine, particularly in parts of Donbas still under Ukrainian control. This is not an offer to redraw borders or legitimise occupation. Instead, it suggests a managed reduction of military presence, matched on both sides, while retaining Ukrainian administration and policing. The logic is clear. Kyiv is signalling flexibility on how territory is defended, but not on who owns or governs it. Any pullback of forces carries obvious dangers after years of brutal fighting. Yet the alternative ~ an endless war of attrition ~ also carries mounting costs, both human and economic. The proposed zones are less about trust in Moscow and more about creating enforceable mechanisms that make renewed large-scale offensives harder to launch unnoticed.

What gives the plan its sharper edge is the emphasis on security guarantees. Ukraine is no longer seeking vague assurances or symbolic partnerships. It is demanding a framework that mirrors the collective defence logic associated with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, even if formal membership remains unresolved. Combined with a sizable standing military, this reflects Kyiv's core lesson from recent history: peace without deterrence is merely an interlude. The implicit message is that rejection would trigger deeper Western involvement, from heavier arms supplies to harsher sanctions. In this sense, the plan is as much about shaping external incentives as it is about resolving disputes on the ground. From the Kremlin's perspective, the offer is unlikely to be attractive. President Vladimir Putin has consistently framed the war as a question of control, not coexistence. Demilitarised zones that remain under Ukrainian authority undermine the narrative of irreversible territorial gains.

Acceptance would imply limits to Russia's ambitions ~ something Moscow has so far resisted. Yet, the proposal's real audience may not be Russia alone. By insisting on a future referendum, Ukrainian leaders are anchoring any settlement in domestic consent. This reinforces democratic legitimacy at a moment when external actors, including US President Donald Trump, are pressing for rapid conclusions. It also signals to Europe that Ukraine's eventual integration into the European Union is tied to stability, not capitulation. Ultimately, the plan does not promise peace in the immediate sense. What it offers instead is a framework to test intentions. If Russia refuses, the diplomatic burden shifts decisively. If it engages, the war may enter a phase where guns fall silent even as fundamental disagreements persist. Either way, Ukraine is asserting that any end to the conflict must balance realism with resolve ~ and that survival, not exhaustion, now defines its negotiating position.

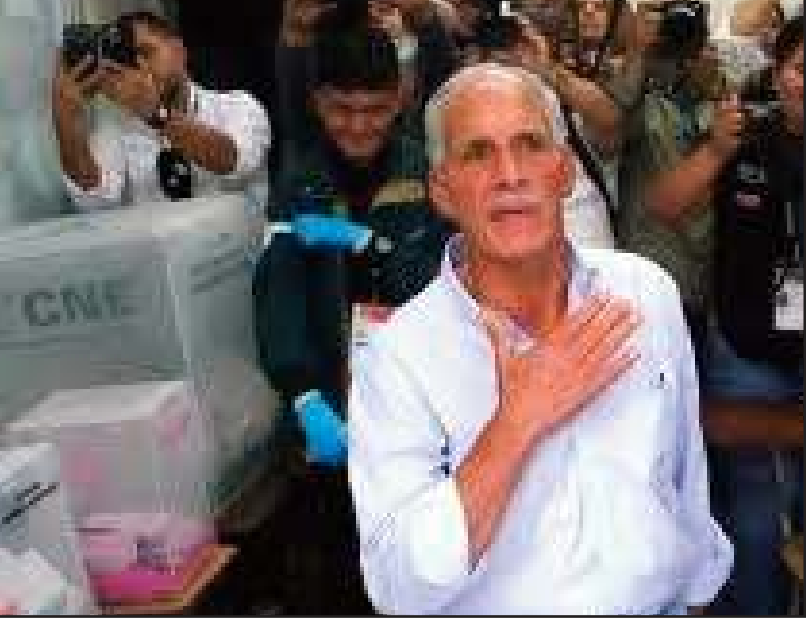
Narrow victory

(Gns).

The razor-thin outcome of Honduras's presidential election reveals less about partisan strength than about the vulnerability of democratic legitimacy under stress. When victory margins fall below a percentage point, elections cease to be simple con-

sive, not incidental. The real danger is not disputed ballots but eroding consent, where citizens accept outcomes reluctantly, convinced rules were bent, and future contests feel pre-terminated rather than genuinely competitive and fair.

What makes this election particularly consequen-



tests of numbers and instead become tests of institutional credibility. In this case, delays, technical failures, and competing claims of interference have transformed a procedural exercise into a national reckoning over trust.

The declared winner, Nasry Asfura, enters office with a formal mandate but a contested moral one. While the vote count eventually produced a result, the process by which it arrived there ~ system crashes, manual recounts of a significant share of ballots, and weeks of uncertainty ~ has left space for doubt. For the runner-up, Salvador Nasralla, rejection of the outcome reflects not just personal grievance but a broader anxiety shared by supporters who view procedural irregularities as deci-

tial is the visibility of external pressure. When powerful foreign actors signal preferences, issue threats, or frame outcomes in advance, they inadvertently weaken the very stability they claim to support. Even if the final tally reflects voter intent, overt intervention reshapes domestic perceptions, turning technical disputes into symbols of sovereignty under strain. In such conditions, calls for calm and acceptance sound hollow unless accompanied by credible assurances of institutional independence. The reaction within Honduras itself highlights this tension. Protests, counter-protests, and sharply worded statements from senior political figures suggest that the election has deepened existing polarisation rather

The year 2025 reached a murderous milestone

On December 10, the year 2025 reached a murderous milestone. In 2024, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) had recorded 126 journalists and media workers killed, the highest number since the CPJ first began keeping records in 1992. In 2025, the figure was matched with three weeks of the year still to go. One nationality, Palestinian, has paid by far the highest price.

Israel-Gaza war began in 2023,” the CPJ reported. What does this mean for audiences' understanding of a world where international affairs are dominated by war, the climate crisis and unpredictable politics? As far back as the early years of the US, and through the European revolutions of the 19th centuries, information and freedom have been

India stands today as an unexpected but undeniable centre of gravity

(Gns).

In a world increasingly fractured by distrust, rivalry, and polarisation, India stands today as an unexpected but undeniable centre of gravity. This rise did not happen by accident; it is the cumulative effect of a decade marked by purposeful leadership, democratic stability, cultural confidence, and a foreign policy that has redefined India's place in world affairs. If the previous centuries belonged to geopolitical might, the coming ones will belong to nations with moral authority ~ and India has emerged as one such nation, powered by an ancient civilisation and a modern, forward-looking State. This decade has been transformative.

India is not merely growing; it is guiding. Not merely rising; it is reassuring. Not merely participating; it is shaping global outcomes. At a time when many

than resolved it. The governing challenge ahead is therefore twofold. First, the incoming administration must demonstrate competence and restraint, signalling that the narrow victory will not translate into winner-takes-all governance. Second, electoral authorities must confront the failures of the process with transparency, not defensiveness, if they are to regain public confidence.

The broader lesson extends beyond Honduras. Democracies today operate in an environment where technology, geopolitics, and information flows intersect in unpredictable ways. Technical glitches are no longer mere administrative hiccups; they can become catalysts for systemic distrust.

Likewise, foreign endorsements, once routine elements of diplomacy, now risk being read as attempts to pre-empt popular will. Ultimately, stability will depend less on legal finality than on political maturity. A narrow win demands humility from the victor and restraint from external partners. It also requires opposition leaders to calibrate dissent carefully, distinguishing between legitimate scrutiny and escalation that could fracture institutions further. Honduras's election is thus not just about who governs next, but about whether democratic processes can still command consent in an era of suspicion. The answer will be shaped in the months ahead, not by rhetoric, but by governance that proves worthy of trust.

generation ago, when the CPJ first began keeping data on journalists' deaths, it was different.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war allowed international business interests ~ the news media often are. But there was plurality where previously there had only been the party line. The 1990s, imperfect though they were as a time of

media organisations freedom to work as never before in the former Soviet bloc. As those countries embraced political change, they encouraged freer media to flourish within their new societies. True, these media were often influenced by political and press freedom, were better than what has followed since. As the media academic and former foreign correspondent Peter Grete has persuasively argued, the aftermath of 9/11 involved state power extending, “into control over information and ideas.

Global South. Part of India's modern rise comes from the regeneration of its soft power. Yoga is now a global phenomenon celebrated in 180 countries. Ayurveda, Indian cuisine, classical arts, cinema, and philosophy have become cultural ambassadors. But the real soft power revolution is not accidental; it is

and restored faith in humanity. Whether in earthquakes in Nepal, cyclones in Mozambique, tsunamis in the Pacific or, most recently, the devastating floods in Sri Lanka, India was the first responder. This readiness to help is not strategy; it is civilisational duty shaped by the timeless values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ~ the world is one family. The G20 presidency in 2023 was perhaps India's most visible moment on the global stage. India broke deadlocks that even powerful nations failed to resolve, brought the African Union into the G20 as a permanent member, and reframed global development debates around equity and justice. The theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future” was not a slogan; it was a worldview.

Under India's leadership, the G20 became more representative, more humane, and more attuned to the

Sunidhi Chauhan turns COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' into a full-blown concert

When the kitchen already crackles with chaos and comedy, it takes a true powerhouse to raise the temperature even higher and Sunidhi Chauhan does exactly that. COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' transforms into a full-blown concert arena as the star performer graces the set for a special musical episode.

From the moment Sunidhi steps in, the vibe shifts. She reveals that she's not just a guest but a loyal viewer who has followed the show and loved both its first two seasons. But before the applause can settle, the boys on set are already in full flirt mode.

Krushna Abhishek, never one to miss a moment, takes charge and demands a romantic number for television's favourite couple, Tejasswi Prakash and Karan Kundrra. Sunidhi jumps in to belt out “Hey Shona” for TejRan, turning the kitchen into a dreamy, love-soaked zone as smiles widen and hearts melt.

The mood flips just as

They did that by loosening the definitions of what constituted ‘terrorism’ and ‘national security’”. Grete's words were informed by the price he had paid for his own journalism. In late 2013, along with two colleagues, Mohamed Fadel Fahmy and Baher Mohammad, he was detained in Egypt on terrorism charges. He spent 400 days in prison. The charges had resulted from the fact that he had spoken to the Muslim Brotherhood as part of his reporting. “How do you accurately and fairly report on Egypt's ongoing political struggle without talking to everyone involved?” he wrote at the time.

It is not new that governments seek to control media. What is new is that the US is so proudly among them. Jefferson would

probably not like what the current US government is doing, especially its recent policy of restricting access to the Pentagon for reporters who themselves refuse restrictions on their reporting. The words that follow Jefferson's discussion of the relative merits of governments and newspapers are less well remembered: “But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.” Outdated gendered language aside, that, today, is the problem.

For while we have more and more media, we have far less media freedom. In the age of mass media, news organisations have largely controlled the means of distribution. Today, the tech companies take the lead. Not everyone is receiving the “papers”.

civilisation-state that blends antiquity with modernity. Perhaps the most underrated instrument of India's democratic strength is Mann Ki Baat ~ the world's largest mass-line communication experiment.

Over 110 episodes, it has turned communication into a national movement, spotlighting grassroots heroes, ordinary citizens, innovators, environmental champions, and social reformers. It connected the State with society in ways no government programme ever has. Mann Ki Baat is India's democratic heartbeat ~ participatory, people-centric and profoundly inclusive. India today is shining not like a bird in a cage but like a bird that has discovered open skies. It is no longer content with being a moral spectator or a demographic giant; it seeks to be a civilisational leader. In the last decade, the world has witnessed an India that is strong without being threatening, confident without being arrogant, assertive without being aggressive. It speaks softly but with strength; it mediates without imposing; it leads without dominating. In an era where many nations are building walls, India is building bridges.

Bridges between peace and power. Between past and future. Between nationalism and universalism. Between development and dignity. And between responsibility and ambition. As the world searches for stability in uncertain times, India stands tall as a superpower of meaning.

quickly when Krushna calls out the singles, Abhishek, Elvish, and Samarth, asking for a song just for them.

across the floor. And just when you think it can't get bigger, Bharti Singh steps in with her trademark

Jawani,' sending the set into a frenzy, with Bharti enjoying every single beat!

Speaking about witnessing Sunidhi Chauhan live, Tejasswi Prakash shares, “A huge chunk of the upcoming episode was all about us going gaga over Sunidhi's music. Videos of her performances go viral in an instant and we got to see that live! She is not just a singer we've grown up listening to - she's an emotion and a regular on our playlists. Watching her perform songs we love felt like being at a private concert. To experience that magic on our set, while she sings songs that are such a big part of pop culture and our lives, is incredibly special.”

Watch ‘Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment Season 3’ Co-Powered by Envy Perfumes & Catch Masale, Pour Home Air Freshener, LuxInferno, Special Partner Caratlane and Pet Shuddhi, airing every Saturday-Sunday at 9:00 pm only on COLORS!

With a mischievous grin, Sunidhi belts out “Oh Sharabi”, triggering hoots, laughter, and playful drama

demand - one song for her baby girls. Sunidhi launches into a dhamaakedaar version of ‘Sheila Ki

INDIAN RAILWAYS PLANS TO DOUBLE TRAIN CAPACITY IN MAJOR CITIES IN NEXT FIVE YEARS

Mumbai, **Capacity enhancement in six cities of Western Railway WR to boost travel facilities in Mumbai, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Ujjain and Indore**

In view of the rapid and sustained growth in passenger travel demand, Indian Railways has planned to double the capacity of major cities to originate new trains over the next five years. To meet future requirements, existing railway infrastructure will be augmented in a comprehensive and time-bound manner. The works planned to achieve doubling of train handling capacity by 2030 include expansion of terminals with additional platforms, new pit lines, holding and stabling lines, improved shunting arrangements, creation

of new terminals in and around urban areas, development of maintenance infrastructure including mega coaching complexes, and enhancement of sectional capacity through signalling upgradation, traffic facility works, and multi-tracking. A comprehensive plan covering 48 major cities across the country is under consideration, with capacity being increased progressively over the next five years so that benefits



tional capacity through signalling upgradation, traffic facility works, and multi-tracking. A comprehensive plan covering 48 major cities across the country is under consideration, with capacity being increased progressively over the next five years so that benefits

accrue immediately.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Western

manner through terminal expansion, development of maintenance and stabling infrastructure, and improvement of sectional capacity, in line with future traffic requirements.

Enhancement of Long Distance Train Capacity in Mumbai region

Western Railway is undertaking significant measures to enhance passenger train handling capacity in the Mumbai region. These include new terminuses, additional lines, new maintenance facilities, platform extensions, and many more.

Western Railway currently handles 44 long distance trains from Mumbai area and with these infrastructure work, Western Railway plans to introduce approx. 65 more long distance trains.

Dr. Jitendra singh, mos, pmo, ppg&p will also inaugurate exhibitions of pension disbursing banks

(Gns). In line with the vision of Hon'ble PM, to enhance the "Ease of Living" for pensioners and family pensioners, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Government of India, has introduced several progressive measures in pension policy and the digitization of pension-related processes. As part of these ongoing efforts, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions shall inaugurate the 58th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop under organised by DoPPW. The workshop is scheduled to be held on 29th December, 2025 at Pune, Maharashtra.

held for the benefit of retiring employees of the Government of India, is a revolutionary step in direction of 'Ease of Living' of

ANUBHAV and Digital Life Certificate etc. will be conducted.

It is expected that 350 retirees, presently posted

Program for the benefit of retired officials. The Department will also be conducting 11th Bankers' Awareness Program for Pension Disbursing Banks.

The objective of these workshops is to spread awareness of the various rules and procedures relevant for Pension Disbursing Banks/Retirees.

An "Exhibition" of Pension Disbursing Baks' will also be set up during the 58th PRC Workshop, wherein multiple Banks will be actively participating. All pensioner related banking services will be made available to the participants. Banks will also guide the retirees on opening of pension account and investment of pension corpus in various schemes suitable to them.



the pensioners. In order to facilitate the smooth transition for the retiring employees, various sessions on Retirement Benefits, CGHS, Investment modes, BHA-ISHYA portal, Integrated Pensioners Portal, Family Pension, CPENGRAMS,

across the State of Maharashtra and due to retire in the next 12 months, will benefit hugely from this Pre-retirement Counselling Workshop. Apart from the above PRC, the Department will conduct a Pensioners' Awareness

Govt Notifies Guidelines for Shipbuilding Assistance, Development Schemes; ₹44,700 Crs Outlay to Boost India's Shipbuilding Capacity

"By strengthening shipbuilding and maritime capabilities, PM Narendra Modi ji has ensured that India's growth is anchored in self-reliance." Sarbananda Sonowal (Gns).

New Delhi, December 27, 2025: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) notified the operational guidelines for two major shipbuilding initiatives—the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)—aimed at strengthening India's domestic shipbuilding capacity and improving global competitiveness. The approved guidelines lay down a transparent and accountable framework for implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of

Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's leadership has given India's shipbuilding sector a decisive policy reset. These guidelines create a stable and transparent framework that will revive domestic shipbuilding, boosting forward

depending on the vessel category. The scheme introduces graded support for small normal, large normal and specialised vessels,



and backward linkage amping 'Make in India' initiative, enable large-scale investment and build world-class capacity, positioning India as a major maritime nation on the path to Viksit Bharat and Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

Under SBFAS, which has a total corpus of ₹24,736 crore, the government will provide financial assistance ranging from 15% to 25% per vessel,

with stage-wise disbursement linked to defined milestones and backed by security instruments. Incentives for series orders are also included.

The scheme provides for the establishment of a National Shipbuilding Mission to ensure coordinated planning and execution of shipbuilding initiatives. It also introduces a Shipbreaking Credit Note,

under which ship owners scrapping vessels at Indian yards will receive a credit equivalent to 40% of the scrap value, linking ship recycling with new ship construction and supporting a circular economy approach. Independent valuation and milestone-based assessments have been made mandatory to strengthen governance and ensure efficient use of public funds.

Over the next decade, SBFAS is expected to support shipbuilding projects worth about ₹96,000 crore, stimulate domestic manufacturing and generate employment across the maritime value chain.

The Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), with a budgetary outlay of ₹19,989 crore, focuses on long-term capacity and capability creation.

Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee meet reinforces stakeholder confidence

Meeting brought together partner Government agencies, including, FSSAI, Plant Quarantine, Drug Controller; trade associations such as the Customs Broker Fraternity, ASSOCHAM, GJEPC; and stakeholders such as custodians, importers, exporters, and departmental officers (Gns).

The Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting was convened by Delhi Customs at the Kalpana Chawla Conference Hall, IGI Airport, under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi Zone.

The meeting brought together partner Government agencies including FSSAI, Plant Quarantine, and the Drug

Controller, alongside trade associations such as the Customs Broker Fraternity, ASSOCHAM, and GJEPC.



Custodians, importers, exporters, and departmental officers also participated, reflecting the broad spectrum of stakeholders engaged in the Customs clearance ecosystem.

During the deliberations, recent policy and digital initiatives introduced by the

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) were highlighted, with particular focus on their implementation.

tive conduct of the meeting was widely appreciated, reinforcing confidence in Customs processes and enhancing coordination across the EXIM community.

The Delhi Customs Zone reaffirmed its commitment to promoting ease of doing business and advancing trade facilitation within the framework of law. It emphasised that the guiding motto of the Zone rests on the principles of Transparency, Accessibility, and Efficiency. These values are not only central to the functioning of Customs but also serve as a foundation for building trust and ensuring that stakeholders feel empowered to engage openly with the administration.

mentation framework within the Delhi Customs Zone. Stakeholders raised key operational issues which were constructively discussed, leading to actionable outcomes that will strengthen facilitation and improve efficiency. The transparent and collabora-

CAQM conducts extensive inspection of MCG-main-tained 125 road stretches in Gurugram on 26.12.2025

(Gns). The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) conducted an extensive inspection drive on 26.12.2025 in Gurugram to review road-cleaning and sweeping operations and upkeep of road stretches maintained by the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG).

The inspection was done as part of its continuous monitoring and enforcement efforts under the statutory framework of the extant Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), with the objective of evaluating on-ground compliance with dust mitigation measures and identifying associated issues such as accumulation of road dust, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW),

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste and instances of open burning.

A total of 17 inspection teams, comprising 15 teams of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) and 02 teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), were directed by the Commission for inspection of 125 road stretches under the jurisdiction of MCG in Gurugram. Geo-tagged and time-stamped photographic documentation was collected by the inspection teams and submitted to the Commission as part of the consolidated inspection report.

The findings of the inspection revealed that out of the 125 road stretches inspected, 34 stretches

exhibited High Visible Dust levels, 58 stretches showed Moderate Dust, 29 stretches recorded Low Dust intensity, while only 04 stretches were found to have No Visible Dust. A



large number of stretches observed with high visible dust were also found to have significant accumulation of MSW and C&D waste, along with multiple instances of open burning, indicating serious deficiencies in routine road maintenance, waste management and enforcement at the

field level.

Several road stretches across different wards and sectors of Gurugram, including residential colonies, internal roads and arterial stretches, were identified with persistent dust accumulation and waste dumping. The presence of open burning and unmanaged waste on multiple stretches further aggravated the dust conditions, highlighting the need for immediate corrective measures and strengthened supervision by the concerned agency.

The Commission observed that the overall inspection results point towards the need for significant strengthening of on-ground operations by MCG, particularly with respect to regular mechanical sweeping.

ECI Releases Electoral Roll Draft For Assam, 10.5 Lakh Names Deleted

(Gns). The Election Commission of India has released updated electoral rolls for Assam, showing 2,51,09,754 registered voters. During a Special Revision exercise, 10,56,291 names were deleted from the lists. Officials say the overhaul comes with the state expected to vote for the Assembly within the next six months.

The removed entries include voters marked due to death, migration to other places, or duplication across constituencies. The revision also confirms that 93,021 names remain classified as D-voters, or doubtful voters, and these are counted separately. These

figures reflect only confirmed electors, excluding those still under verification.

The Election Commission of India updated Assam's electoral rolls, listing 2,51,09,754 registered voters after deleting 10,56,291 entries and reconfirming 93,021 D-voters in preparation for the upcoming Assembly elections, with officials in Guwahati checking voter lists.

According to the integrated draft rolls released on Saturday, the cleaned-up database aims to reduce errors during the upcoming Assam Assembly

elections. Polling staff have been cross-checking documents and previous lists to ensure that only eligible voters stay on the rolls across the state.



Category	Number of entries
Total registered voters	2,51,09,754
Deleted entries	10,56,291
D-voters (doubtful voters)	93,021

US Air Travel Disrupted: Over 1,100 Flights Cancelled, Nearly 4,000 Delayed

(Gns). US air travel faced widespread disruption on Friday as severe winter weather battered key regions during the peak Christmas travel rush, forcing airlines to cancel more than 1,100 flights and delay thousands more across the country.

Severe winter weather during the Christmas travel period led to widespread disruption in US air travel on Friday, with over 1,100 flights canceled and nearly 4,000 delayed; the Midwest and Northeast were particularly affected, including New York City, which braced for heavy snowfall.

Heavy snowfall warnings, plunging temperatures and deteriorating road conditions combined to create travel chaos, particularly in the Midwest and

the northeastern United States.

Winter storm triggers mass flight cancellations According to data from FlightAware, at least 1,191 flights were cancelled and 3,974 delayed by 1:00 pm US Eastern time on Friday. The sharp rise in disruptions came as airlines scrambled to adjust schedules amid forecasts of heavy snow and freezing conditions that threatened airport operations and passenger safety.

Snowfall warnings across Midwest and Northeast

The National Weather Service said snowfall was expected across the upper Great Lakes region through the day, with the storm system gradually shifting

towards the northeast. In a warning to travellers, the agency said, "Road conditions will be treacherous for



those traveling back from the holiday," underscoring the risks beyond airports as well.

New York City, the nation's largest urban centre, was forecast to receive up to ten inches of snow overnight, with temperatures dropping below freezing and remaining low through the weekend.

Mayor Eric Adams confirmed that a winter storm warning was in place and said municipal crews had been deployed across the city to clear roads and manage emergency conditions.

Airports in New York and Chicago ranked among the worst affected on FlightAware's so called "Misery Map," which tracks real-time delays and cancellations nationwide. New York area airports alone accounted for 785 flight cancellations, highlighting the scale of disruption faced by travellers trying to return home after the holidays. As winter weather continues to move east, airlines have urged passengers to check flight statuses regularly and allow extra time for both air and ground travel.

Zelensky To Meet Trump On Sunday As US President Insists On Final Say Over Peace Plan

(Gns). Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced on Friday that he intends to meet U.S. President Donald Trump in Florida on Sunday, in what could mark a pivotal moment in ongoing efforts to end the war between Russia and Ukraine.



The meeting, reported by CNN, is being framed as part of a broader diplomatic push to finalize a peace plan that has been under negotiation for months. Zelenskyy told reporters that while the encounter could help move discussions closer to a settlement, expectations should remain tempered, as no immediate breakthrough or final agreement is likely.

Instead, the focus will be on resolving as many outstanding issues as possible.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy plans to meet with former U.S. President Donald Trump in Florida to discuss a 20-point peace plan, which is 90% complete, aimed at ending the war between Russia and Ukraine. The meeting's focus will be on securing long-term security guarantees for Ukraine, with territorial disputes and control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant as key unresolved issues. Say Over Peace Plan Central to these talks is a 20-point peace plan jointly developed by U.S. and Ukrainian officials. Zelenskyy revealed that the plan is already 90 per cent

complete, with only a handful of unresolved points remaining.

WESTERN RAILWAY			
Material Management Department			
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/75/2025 Date 24.12.2025			
S.N.	Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.
801	Complete Gear wheel	36 Set	16-Feb-26
802	Modified brush holder revolving ring assembly	348 Nos	09-Feb-26
803	Traction Motor	4 Nos	02-Feb-26
804	Spheri Bloc for Axle Guide & Torque Arm for WAG-9	996 Nos	27-Jan-26
805	Thin walled Electron beam cable with copper conductor 19 core, Size: 2.5 Sq.mm	28000 Mtr	27-Jan-26
806	Rubber Sandwich	613 Set	26-Jan-26
807	Procurement of Bogie Frame complete	23 Nos	26-Jan-26
808	Traction Transformer complete	1 Nos	23-Jan-26
809	Thin walled Electron beam cable with copper conductor single core, Size: 25 Sq.mm, 3000V	32000 Mtr	22-Jan-26
810	Set of Air Brake Cylinder Assembly 8" x 8" for WAP-4 LOCOMOTIVE	395 Set	22-Jan-26
811	Supply, Installation, commissioning and testing for Modification of Fault Indication (Led Indication)	6 Nos	22-Jan-26
812	Gadus S5 V42 P2.5 Grease	2743 KG	22-Jan-26
813	160 KN Air Spring Assembly for Fiat	308 Nos	19-Jan-26
814	Earth Return Brush device	1474 Nos	17-Jan-26
CORRIGENDUM			
Please read the due date as "05.01.2026" for the Tender Notice No: S-67-2025			
Dated: 13.11.2025 at Sr. No. 693			
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.reps.gov.in and wr.indianrailways.gov.in .			
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRailway • Follow us on: X.com/WesternRly			

Eight-year-old Elvis Kushwaha leads grassroots tree plantation drive in Etawah

(Gns). While most children his age spend their time on mobile phones and video games, eight-year-old Elvis Kushwaha from Etawah in Uttar Pradesh is quietly inspiring people to reconnect with nature through tree plantation.

Known locally as a “young environmental guardian”, the Class III student has been motivating people to plant and protect trees, invoking memories of community-led green movements such as the historic Chipko Movement.

Elvis began his journey during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period marked by fear and lockdowns. At a time when people largely remained indoors, he took it upon himself to plant saplings and encourage friends and neighbours to do the same. What started during the pandemic has since grown into a sustained environmental campaign.

So far, he has distributed more than 600 saplings, including guava, jamun, amla, mango and Christmas trees. He urges recipients not only to plant the saplings but also to nurture them. Notably, he saves the money he receives in a small piggy bank and spends it on buying saplings instead of

toys, particularly on his birthday and on World Environment Day. He has

has appreciated Elvis’s environmental awareness and is working to associ-

saplings to devotees at the Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh.



also actively supported the government’s “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative.

Born on September 1, 2017 in Ajit Nagar of Etawah, Elvis draws inspiration from his mother, Pooja Kushwaha, and his maternal grandfather, Ramesh Kushwaha, an avid environmentalist. It was his grandfather who first encouraged him to plant trees at home, sparking his early love for nature.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed. District Forest Officer Vikas Nayak

ate him with plantation programmes run by the forest department.

Elvis has also presented saplings to several prominent personalities, including District Panchayat President Abhishek Yadav, BJP MLA Sarita Bhadoria, educationist Kailash Yadav and renowned badminton player Saina Nehwal. His message has reached beyond Etawah as well, with plantation activities carried out by him at Datia Airport in Madhya Pradesh and the distribution of tulsi

According to Elvis, planting trees is the most effective way to address environmental degradation, as it helps restore ecological balance and ensures a healthier future. His consistent efforts have earned him multiple honours at the Etawah Mahotsav’s Environment Student Parliament.

At a time when climate concerns are growing worldwide, Elvis Kushwaha’s work serves as a reminder that meaningful change can begin at any age.

Robber Malinga who robbed groom's uncle injured in encounter

Mathura. Police station and SWAT team had an encounter with the robbers in Sadar Bazar area. In this encounter, a miscreant was injured by a bullet. He, along with his associates, had looted a bag full of notes and jewelry from the groom's uncle during a wedding procession that had come from Ballabgarh on December 11, while his associates were away.

It is noteworthy that Paramveer Singh had come to Mathura from Ballabgarh in Haryana in the Aurangabad area of

Sadar Bazar police station area with the wedding procession of his son Kapil. After welcoming the procession, he went for Chadhat with his relatives. During this time, he had given a bag full of notes and jewelry to be presented to the bride to his elder brother Gopal Singh. Kapil's wedding procession started in front of a big hotel in the area. The procession proceeded



Sadar Bazar Police and SWAT team at the encounter site

for some distance when uncle along with one of his companions stood a little further ahead. Meanwhile, the friend asked to bring the car and he went to get the car parked on the other side of the road. Meanwhile, two miscreants came on an Apache bike and within a moment they took away the bag in Gopal Singh's hand. The SWAT team, which was trying to uncover the

incident, got information that the incident was carried out by Agra's vicious criminal Akash alias Malinga along with his associates. After this the police started searching for Malinga. Late on Friday night, police received information that the criminals who committed the robbery had come to Mathura. As soon as the information was received, the SWAT team along with Sadar Bazar police station started searching for the miscreants. The police, who were searching for the miscreants, saw two miscreants standing in a deserted area near Clancy Inter College. The miscreants opened fire on the police as soon as they saw them. In response to which the police opened fire. In which a bullet hit the leg of Akash alias Malinga. After which the police arrested Malinga and admitted him to the district hospital for treatment. Police recovered a bike, a gold chain, two rings, a mang tikka and pistol cartridges from Malinga. As soon as the vicious robber Malinga got injured, his accomplice took advantage of the opportunity and fled from the spot. Two dozen cases are registered against Malinga in Agra's Khairagarh, Tajganj, Iradat Nagar, Malpura, Sikandra, Sadar Bazar, Fatehpuri Sikri police station

Shobharam Sharma presented mace to BJP state president

Mathura. As soon as BJP's newly appointed state president and seven-time MP Pankaj Chaudhary entered the limits of Mathura, he was given a grand welcome by senior BJP leader Shobharam and other BJP members.

Senior BJP leader Shobharam Sharma gave a warm welcome at NKpuram near GLA University on Saturday. He presented mace to the state president. Said that with Pankaj Chaudhary becoming the state president, the organization of the party will become stronger. The guidance of the State President is a source of inspiration for the workers and this has given new energy to the



Senior leader Shobharam presenting mace to the state president

organization. During this, with enthusiasm and enthusiasm. BJP workers welcomed him

Roti Bank inaugurated in Govardhan Parikrama Marg,

Indians living in America started arrangement of free food for travelers in Govardhan.

Today, Radheshyam's Roti Bank project near Govind Kund in Anyur Parikrama Marg was inaugurated by District Magistrate Chandra Prakash ji by cutting the ribbon in which Additional District Officer Finance and Revenue Dr. Pankaj Kumar and SDM Govardhan Sushil Gupta, Tehsildar Govardhan and most of the officials of Mathura were present. Other dignitaries also participated, Indians living in America, Prashant Tyagi and Manish Arora, Kavir Arora told that through Roti Bank, free food arrangements have



been made for the pilgrims doing Parikrama in Govardhan Giriraj Ji, and stay here for the pilgrims doing Dandavati Parikrama. There will also

be arrangements for medical treatment, refreshments and food. Dinesh Falahari Maharaj and Mohanshyam Sharma Advocate, the main peti-

tioners of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple case, said that those who opened the Roti Bank in Parikrama Marg have done a very commendable work, we pray to God that God should always keep them engaged in social service and their fame remains the same. Keep spreading in India. This Roti Bank will be arranged by Radheshyam Foundation, Amritsar and Ramshree Charitable Trust, Mathura. On this occasion, mainly Kavita Arora, Govardhan Chairman Manish Lambardar, Acharya Purna Prakash Kaushik, Raghuvar Kaushik, Harimohan Kaushik, Rahul Sharma, Shivam Bhardwaj, Rahul Mukhiya were present

Eco tourism facilities being developed in Kukrail Forest Area of Lucknow to offer close-to-nature experience

(Gns). Tourism activities are being developed in the Kukrail Forest Area located in Lucknow. While the Forest and Tourism Departments are jointly developing the Kukrail Night Safari, the Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Board is simultaneously developing various facilities for tourists in the surrounding areas of the night safari.

As part of this initiative, the Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Board is developing several amenities including a children's park, play stations, bamboo round huts, nature walk trails, an open gym, and a cafeteria. In addition, parking and toilet facilities are also being constructed to ensure greater convenience for visitors.

In line with the vision of Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath to promote tourism activities in the state capital, the Kukrail Night Safari is being developed as a major attraction.

informed here on Saturday that “the board is developing tourism facilities in the Kukrail Forest Area at a cost of ₹2 crore. These

be installed for children. Keeping environmental conservation as a priority, bamboo round huts are being constructed to allow tourists to enjoy nature in an eco-friendly manner.

Along with this, nature walk trails are also being developed, enabling visitors to experience the natural surroundings of the Kukrail River up close, including trees, plants, and birds.

To further enhance tourist convenience, a cafeteria, toilets, and parking facilities are also being constructed within the forest area.

The Additional Director stated, “construction work has already begun and will be completed soon. Tourists visiting the Kukrail Forest Area in the initial months of the new year will be able to benefit from these facilities”.



Alongside this, the Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Board is focusing on enhancing facilities for tourists visiting the crocodile, gharial, and turtle sanctuaries located within the Kukrail Forest Area.

Additional Director of the Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Board, Pushp Kumar,

facilities will provide a pleasant and enriching experience for visitors to the sanctuaries and the night safari”.

He further stated, under this initiative, a children's park and play stations are being developed where adventure games, swings, and an open gym will also

“No New Mining” in Aravallis, assures Rajasthan CM Sharma

(Gns). Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma reassured that not even a single new mining lease would be granted to any one in the Aravallis, reaffirming his government's full commitment to protecting and conserving the oldest mountain range of India.

Presiding over a high-level joint review meeting of the officers of the Environment, Forests, Mining and the Police Departments, Sharma said, “Any activity, including illegal mining, that might harm Aravallis, ecology, environment, fauna or flora to even slightest extent, would not be tolerated or allowed.”

The chief minister had directed officials to carry out a joint campaign by

joint teams of all the concerned departments for

3200 hectares in 15 Aravallis districts of the

peak height of less than 100-mtr.



curbing and preventing bid of illegal mining or other prohibited and harmful activities along the entire mountain range in the state. The state government has also prepared a Green Development

Project of Rs 250 crore that would work on the massive afforestation (plantation) in

state.

Despite categorically repeated assurances from the Chief Minister Sharma, NGOs and activists and leaders of non BJP opposition parties were apprehensive in the aftermath of the November 20 Supreme Court verdict that allowed mining in mountains with

Bihar Deputy CM warns revenue officials: No tolerance for land mafia or disorder

(Gns). Amid a rising number of land-related disputes in Bihar, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has sent a strong message to officials of the Revenue and Land Reforms Department, stating that disorder of any kind will not be tolerated.

Sinha, who also holds charge of the Revenue and Land Reforms Department, has directed officers to ensure the timely resolution of land-related cases. He has also warned officials against entertaining land mafias.

His actions have created a stir within the department.

Amid fears of disciplinary action, the association

of Circle Officers has written to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, seeking his intervention. However, Vijay Sinha responded firmly, stating that he will not give in to any pressure.

During interactions with the media, Sinha has repeatedly said that warnings to land mafias and land brokers have failed to produce results, and that the time has now come for strict action. Circle Officers have been instructed to take direct legal action against land mafias, brokers, and mid-

dlemen involved in land-related matters.

He said, “All Circle Officers and other officials have been instructed to



take serious note of those who use fake documents to commit fraud and deliberately turn legitimate land into disputed property. Once proper information is obtained, cases must be registered against such

individuals.”

“If Circle Officers fail to act against such mafias, the department will take action against those officers,” he added.

To ensure the timely disposal of land-related cases, the Revenue and Land Reforms Department has been organising camps in various districts, some of which have been attended by Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha.

During a recent camp in Purnia, several victims presented their land-related grievances before the minister. After hearing the complaints, Sinha issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials on the spot

Young women recruited to protect Forests and Wildlife in Odisha

(Gns). The Odisha Forest Department has inducted all-women patrol squads to safeguard wildlife and forest areas in and around the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary under the Hirakud Wildlife Division, an official said on Saturday.

For the first time, five women units have been inducted into the Enforcement Squad. The members of these teams mostly belong to tribal communities. They were selected for the enforcement unit due to their strong commitment to wildlife and forest protection, fearless attitude, and aspiration to lead a meaningful life in service of nature, said Ms. Anshu Pragnan Das, Divisional Forest Officer, Hirakud Wildlife Division (Debrigarh Sanctuary).

Since childhood, these young women have spent much of their lives in and

around the forests and have witnessed increasing

Debrigarh along with former Army personnel

importance of foot patrolling and effective monitoring techniques, she added.



human pressure on the sanctuary, rising cases of wildlife electrocution by villagers attempting to protect crops, and growing cross-border wildlife trafficking between Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

The recruits underwent three months of rigorous physical training starting in October, conducted by women frontline staff of

deployed in the sanctuary.

Their training included daily 5 to 7 kilometre runs, daytime patrolling inside forest areas, night patrolling along the sanctuary boundaries, and hands-on sessions in using camera traps, mobile patrolling applications, live wire detectors, and pressure impression pads. They were also trained in the

The women have also been trained in wildlife safety measures, including how to respond during animal encounters, operate VHF and walkie-talkie communication systems, and navigate dense forest areas. They were sensitized to the importance of core zones and inviolate spaces within protected areas.

Two of the recruits, Nabanita Rout and Aliva Kalo, are expert swimmers and have also received training in cruise driving. They are scheduled to undergo advanced cruise navigation training at Chandabali in Bhadrak district, as recommended by the Hirakud authorities.

From 1 January 2026, the women will complete their training and begin