



Pariksha Pe Charcha Breaks Its Own Guinness Record With 3.8 Crore Registrations

(Gns). Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 registration is nearing the 4 crore mark, with applications open till 11 January. So far, 3,80,44,593 participants have registered on the platform. This includes 3,53,70,189 students, 21,84,595 teachers and 4,89,809 parents, showing strong interest ahead of the annual interaction.

Last year, Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025 created a Guinness World Record with 3.53 crore registrations. Pariksha Pe Charcha has been awarded the Guinness World Record for registering the "Most people on a Citizen Engagement Platform in one month." The current edition is on course to surpass that registered participation level.

Pariksha Pe Charcha

2026 registration is nearing 4 crore, with applications open until January 11; the platform has registered 3,80,44,593 participants, including students, teachers, and parents. The initiative, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to ease exam stress, and the registration process and certificate download are available on innovateindia1.mygov.in.

Category	Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 registrations
Students	3,53,70,189
Teachers	21,84,595
Parents	4,89,809
Total	3,80,44,593

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 registration process and certificate steps

Students, teachers and

parents who want to join Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 must apply online through innovateindia1.mygov.in. After opening the portal, users should click the 'Participate Now' option.



Then the applicant needs to choose the correct category, enter basic details in the form, submit it, and keep a printed copy.

There is also an online

process for downloading the Pariksha Pe Charcha Registration 2026 participation certificate. Applicants have to visit innovateindia1.mygov.in and log in using their regis-

tration details. After logging in, they should complete any pending information, submit the page, view the certificate on the screen, save it, download it, and

print it for future use.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 registration aims and event details

Pariksha Pe Charcha aims to ease exam stress, support effective study habits and promote balance between academics and personal growth. The programme invites participants to submit questions about

examinations and related worries. During the live session, the prime minister addresses these queries, which helps many students, teachers and parents feel more prepared.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students, teachers and parents during the ninth edition of PPC 2026. The exact date

of the programme has not yet been announced. During the session, the prime minister will respond to questions on exam pressure and other concerns. Some of the submitted questions may be selected and featured during the event.

More information about Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026

registration, participation rules and certificates is available on the official portal innovateindia1.mygov.in. With registrations already above 3.80 crore and the deadline fixed for 11 January, interest in the initiative remains high among exam-going students, their teachers and parents across India.

Urban Development Year 2025: Urban Water Resources Increased by 92.97 MLD, with Transmission Systems Expanded by 528.35 KM

Currently Across Gujarat, Daily Water Supply Ensured in 103 Cities; Water Supply Projects Underway Under Various Schemes Across 30 Cities

SCADA System Digitally Monitors Equal Water Distribution and Water Resource Related Services in Major Cities

'Mission Daily Water Supply' Implemented to Ensure Daily Water Supply in All Urban Areas of Gujarat

528.35 KM during Urban Development Year 2025. Initiatives such as 'Mission Daily Water Supply' are being implemented to provide a daily water supply across all urban areas.

schemes and initiatives. In 30 other cities, water supply works are in progress under different schemes. To extend the daily water supply to the remaining 32 urban local bodies, 'Mission

required pressure, pumping stations monitoring to ensure optimal pumping efficiency, valve monitoring, and other operational functions. As a result, losses due to non-revenue water have reduced, and real-time monitoring of water distribution and related services has become possible.

It is worth mentioning that with the implementation of 'Mission Daily Water Supply', along with other water supply-related schemes and initiatives, citizens will receive potable drinking water daily, reducing the need for long-term water storage. The availability of daily drinking water will also lower dependence on alternative water sources. Through structured and planned urban development, the Urban Development Department remains committed to improving the Ease of Living for urban citizens.



Through this program, the State Government supports urban local bodies in carrying out various water supply and sanitation projects. It is worth mentioning that the State Government has declared 2025 as the 'Urban Development Year' to fast-track the development of world-class cities, with a special focus on strengthening infrastructure facilities across urban areas. The Gujarat Government currently provides daily water supply in 103 cities under various

Daily Water Supply' is being implemented, with works planned under the same initiative for various components.

The SCADA system has been successfully implemented in major cities to facilitate digital monitoring of water distribution and other water resource-related services in urban areas. The system helps with leak detection, identification of low-pressure pockets, non-revenue water reduction (NRW), improvement in per capita water supply with the

Congress Leader Sonia Gandhi Admitted To Sir Ganga Ram Hospital In Delhi

(Gns). Congress leader Sonia Gandhi is under medical care at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi after fresh breathing problems. Hospital authorities state that Sonia Gandhi is stable, receiving treatment for respiratory issues, and remains under specialist observation while doctors monitor how Sonia Gandhi responds to medicines.

Sonia Gandhi was taken to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital around 10 pm on Monday, according to officials quoted by PTI. Doctors say Sonia Gandhi is being monitored by a chest physician after reports of respiratory discomfort linked to Sonia Gandhi's existing

condition, bronchial asthma. Sonia Gandhi, a Congress leader, is currently admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi due to respiratory

issues related to bronchial asthma, with doctors indicating her condition is stable and she's responding to treatment. Previously, she has been treated for other health concerns at the same hospital, including stomach issues and an abdominal infection, while also undergoing check-ups in Shimla and the United

States.

According to Dr. Ajay Swaroop, Chairman, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the Congress leader was experiencing respiratory discomfort, and upon medical examination, it was found that her bronchial asthma had been mildly exacerbated due to the combined effects of cold weather and pollution.

A few months earlier, Sonia Gandhi spent a day at the same Delhi hospital due to a stomach complaint. That February visit involved assessment by a gastroenterology specialist, who supervised tests and treatment before Sonia Gandhi was released, following what doctors described as a short observation period for the digestive issue.



Upcoming Census to address planning, resource gaps in Ladakh: L-G

(Gns). Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday emphasised the significance of the upcoming Census, stating that it would resolve critical issues related to planning and resource allocation for the Union Territory.

He stressed that despite Ladakh's limited population being scattered across a vast and challenging geographical expanse, accurate data compilation must be ensured, with a focus on transparency and efficiency, as it will directly determine the region's developmental trajectory and future prospects.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking after inaugurating the office of the Director of Census Operations and Citizen Registration, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, in Leh. He congratulated the people and officials on the

establishment of the Census office after 2019, following the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Gupta noted that the Census, approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks a vital step forward after the 2021 exercise was deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Highlighting the longstanding challenges arising from reliance on outdated 2011 Census data, he said the new exercise would help address key gaps in planning and resource allocation.

Drawing attention to past irregularities and malpractices during Census operations under the erst-

while state of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that the upcoming Census under the new Union Territory framework must set a benchmark.

"This first Census for Ladakh as a Union Territory must be conducted with utmost transparency, reliability and efficiency. There should be no compromise on constitutional

mandates," he asserted. He reiterated the Union Territory administration's full commitment to facilitating a seamless process, describing the Census as a cornerstone of effective governance backed by contemporary data.

Linking the initiative to national aspirations, Gupta noted India's pursuit of Viksit Bharat 2047 through

innovations such as Artificial Intelligence and geo-tagged self-enumeration mechanisms, which will allow citizens to submit data online through mobile applications and a dedicated portal.

Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra congratulated the administration on the milestone, highlighting the pioneering digital data collection tools to be used in the upcoming Census and assuring full Union Territory support for its timely execution.

Amit Sharma, Director of Census Operations and Citizen Registration, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, briefed the gathering on the two-phase process—Houselisting and Housing Census (April–September 2026) and Population Enumeration (September 2026 for snow-bound areas).



Yogi Government Sets January 2026 Mega Rojgar Melas, Targets One Lakh Jobs for UP Youth

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh plans to offer one lakh jobs to youth in January 2026 through large-scale placement drives. Five state-level UP rojgar mela jobs events will run in different cities, each targeting nearby districts. Officials expect about 100 companies and nearly 20,000 job seekers at every fair.

Uttar Pradesh plans five rojgar mela job fairs in January 2026, targeting around 20,000 youth per event with about 100 companies each. The programme links vocational training to local employment, building on the Deen

Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana to boost job placements and reduce rural-urban migration.

Switch To Shorts The campaign is led by the Department of Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, which is finalising logistics. Data shared by the state

shows strong previous activity. Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, 1,624 employment fairs have already helped more than 2.26 lakh rural

youth find work. City-wise distribution in UP rojgar mela jobs plan

According to the plan, each UP rojgar mela jobs venue will cover multiple divisions. Lucknow will host candidates from Lucknow, Kanpur, Ayodhya and Bareilly divisions.

Meerut, Saharanpur, Aligarh and Moradabad divisions, creating a western belt focus for recruiters.

Another UP rojgar mela jobs event in Jhansi will receive applicants from Jhansi, Chitrakoot and

Agra divisions. The Gorakhpur fair is set to include youth from Gorakhpur, Basti, Deori and Azamgarh divisions. Varanasi will bring together candidates from Varanasi, Mirzapur and Prayagraj divisions.

Targets and policy goals of UP rojgar mela jobs drive Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Kapil Dev Agarwal, has set clear numerical goals for the UP rojgar mela jobs initiative. Each fair aims to connect around 20,000 youth with employers.



TMC moves SC challenging deletion of 5.8 million names from draft voters list of West Bengal under SIR

(Gns). A day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sounded a warning on the 'Special Intensive Revision' (SIR) carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in West Bengal, her party, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) approached the Supreme Court on Tuesday against the deletion of a number of names from the voter list.

Mamata Banerjee had

said if needed, she would personally appear in the court against the exercise.

Pointing out that a staggering number of 5.8 million names have been excluded in the SIR process, the TMC alleged that no notice has been issued to the aggrieved voters nor any hearing has been granted to them in the matter. Party's Rajya

Sabha MP Derek O'Brien filed the case in the apex court on behalf of the TMC.

Stating that as many as 58 lakh 20 thousand 898 individuals have been removed from the draft voter list published by the ECI in West Bengal on December 16, 2025, the TMC MP lamented that no personal hearings were conducted nor

were any notices sent to the affected voters.

Following the SIR exercise undertaken by the ECI, as many as 7 crore 66 lakh 37 thousand and 529 voters were declared, of which 7 crore 8 lakh 16 thousand 616 decreased. "A detailed SOP issued by the ECI on August 11, 2023 on the removal of names from the voter list contradicts this move."





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प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Peace in Hiding

The renewed talk of peace in Ukraine carries an air of exhaustion rather than optimism. After years of attrition, all sides speak the language of negotiation, yet the distance between words and reality remains vast. What is often described as a handful of “thorny issues” is, in truth, a set of foundational disagreements about territory, security and legitimacy that cannot be smoothed over by diplomatic sequencing alone. At the heart of the impasse lies eastern Ukraine. Control over Donbas is not simply about lines on a map; it is about law, identity, and the precedent set for future borders.

For Kyiv, surrendering territory would mean legitimising conquest and abandoning citizens who still live under bombardment. For Moscow, partial withdrawal would undercut a war narrative that has been legally and politically locked into place. Any formula that postpones this contradiction rather than resolving it risks freezing the conflict without truly ending it. The debate over the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest such plant, reinforces this dilemma. Technical solutions ~ joint management, international oversight, revenue-sharing ~ sound plausible in isolation. But nuclear infrastructure is inseparable from sovereignty and trust. Without confidence in intentions, shared control becomes another battleground rather than a bridge.

The plant's continued shutdown is itself a symbol of paralysis: too dangerous to operate, too valuable to relinquish. External mediation adds urgency but not clarity. US President Donald Trump presents himself as a deal-maker impatient with stalemate, yet speed is a poor substitute for consent. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy cannot accept an agreement that lacks democratic legitimacy or credible security guarantees. Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, appears to calculate that time, attrition, and military pressure may still yield more than compromise. Each actor is constrained by domestic politics, legal commitments and strategic narratives that make retreat costly. The question of trust looms over every proposal. Accusations, denials, and counterclaims continue even as negotiations advance, suggesting that both sides are preparing for failure as much as success. In such an environment, ceasefires are viewed not as confidence-building measures but as tactical pauses. This mutual suspicion ensures that even small concessions are interpreted as weakness rather than goodwill.

Calls for a popular vote in Ukraine expose the final fault line. A referendum could anchor any settlement in public consent, yet organising one requires a degree of stability that the war itself has eroded. Opponents see this as delay; supporters see it as the only way to prevent a peace that collapses under its own illegitimacy. The uncomfortable truth is that peace is being discussed not because the core issues have softened, but because the costs of continuing the war have become unbearable. Until the fundamental clash between territorial ambition and sovereign consent is addressed, negotiations may deliver a pause ~ but not the peace that Ukrainians, Russians and the wider world desperately seek.

Bajaj Broking partners with NSDL to strengthen investor access, awareness, and technological innovation

January 6, 2026: Bajaj Broking, one of India's growing investment platforms, has entered a strategic partnership with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to build a more accessible, secure, and informed investment ecosystem.

The partnership aims to unlock new synergies between both organisations to enhance investor access, drive financial awareness, enable product innovation, and strengthen investor education and protection.

One of the key focus points of this partnership is to bridge the accessibility gap. From smoother onboarding processes to faster account activations and integrated systems, the combined strengths of NSDL and Bajaj Broking will enable investors to start their investment journey with ease anytime, anywhere.

Equally important is the commitment to investor

education and protection. Through a combination of structured financial literacy programs, digital outreach, and campus initiatives, the partnership aims to empower users with the knowledge required to navigate the markets responsibly.

Campaigns such as Bajaj Broking's #OddHaiTohFraudHai will be scaled in collaboration with NSDL to build greater awareness around scam prevention, red flags, and best practices for digital investing safety.

The partnership will also foster technological innovation, with both teams working closely to co-develop and introduce new features and product experiences tailored to investor needs. Bajaj Broking and NSDL will work together to co-develop new product features, improve investor



interfaces, and introduce cutting-edge digital solutions that cater to the evolving needs of Indian investors. From simplifying account opening and transaction flows to improving real-time insights and seamless multi-asset access, the partnership aims to redefine convenience and accessibility in retail investing through tech-driven enhancements.

Quote from Mr. Vijay Chandok, Managing Director & CEO, NSDL
“NSDL has always played a foundational role in strengthening trust and security within India's capital markets. Our association with Bajaj Broking brings together strong market expertise and a shared commitment to simplifying the investing journey for investors. By leveraging technology and collaboration, we aim to enhance investor awareness,

improve accessibility, and support the next phase of India's investing ecosystem.”

Quote from Manish Jain, Managing Director & CEO, Bajaj Broking
“This partnership with NSDL marks a significant milestone in our mission to make investing safer, simpler, and more accessible for all Indian investors. The trust that both Bajaj and NSDL command in the financial ecosystem creates a strong foundation to deliver secure, transparent, and reliable investment experiences.

By combining our strengths, we aim to empower investors not just with access and awareness, but also with the confidence that comes from being protected. Together, we will drive initiatives that enhance digital education, build scam awareness, and create a safer investing environment grounded in trust.”

lodging, education, professional coaching, and other essential facilities to ensure their all-round development and a progressive career path through hockey.

Highlighting the success of the bank's commitment, PNB's two valued employees and key forward players of Indian Hockey Team - Olympian and Arjuna Awardee duo Shri Abhishek and Shri Sukhjeet Singh recently made India proud at the Asia Cup 2025. Today, players such as Lovepreet Singh, Sanjay, and Inderpal Singh, who emerged from PNB's Hockey Academy are proud members of PNB's Hockey Team.



nurturing 25 players (age 14-17) to help them build successful careers in hockey.

The bank provides holistic support to these young athletes, including

Bottlenecks removed, infrastructure delivered

(Gns). Recognising the critical importance of infrastructure spending to boost GDP, create jobs and have a multiplier impact on the economy, the Central government dramatically increased spending on infrastructure capital expenditure over the last decade – more than quintupling it from around Rs 2 trillion in 2014-15 to Rs 11.1 trillion in 2024-25. Recent trends indicate infrastructure capital spending has been growing at an annual rate of more than 38 per cent, with a clear focus on developing both physical and digital infrastructure networks.

To fully reap the benefits of these large allocations, it is essential that infrastructure projects progress at an efficient pace, without time and cost over-runs. Given their long gestation periods, such projects not only require significant and sustained financing, but also depend on timely clearances related to land acquisition, environmental approvals, and socio-economic considerations. Many of these approvals involve multiple regulatory authorities, local bodies, district-level administration – making coordination and time-bound decision-making critical to successful project execution. To ensure effective coordination and timely clearances for infrastructure projects, the Government of India

On 31 December 2025, the Prime Minister chaired the 50th PRAGATI meeting, during which five critical infrastructure projects with a cumulative investment of Rs 40,000 crore were reviewed in a single sitting. Overall, the PRAGATI mechanism has facilitated the fast-tracking of stalled projects worth a cumulative Rs 85 trillion so far. Drawing on insights from

the PRAGATI experience – particularly the recurring hurdles that delay project completion and often result in cost over-runs – the Government of India launched the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) National Master Plan (NMP) in October 2021. PMGS provides a GIS-based framework for integrated infrastructure planning by bringing together data layers from infrastructure, economic and social sector Ministries, and from the 36 States and UTs in the country.

This digitised, data-based interface enables planners to visualise infrastructure assets, resources, cables and grids, besides other assets holistically – thus scientifically planning infrastructure connectivity in the country. Enabling a convergence approach to planning by providing easy visibility of data, PMGS allows early identification of required clearances at the planning stage itself – thus facilitating a collaborative planning of infrastructure projects and saving months that would otherwise be lost in obtaining approvals.

This transformative planning approach not only enhances speed and efficiency, but also prevents duplication of existing infrastructure assets, ensures

complementarity of assets across various modes of transportation – thereby embedding multimodality into infrastructure planning. As a result, projects are designed to connect India's



growth clusters more effectively to markets, leading to reduced logistics costs. Consequently, infrastructure planning is made more efficient, while also delivering outcomes that enhance logistics performance – supporting both ease of living and ease of doing business.

When the Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline Project was being planned on the PMGS portal for instance, the two major issues identified at planning stage included the clearance required from the Forest Department for a small extent of the spur line, and also pending disbursement of compensation for a length of 83 kms – enabling the planning authorities to easily identify and address these issues before taking up the project for sanction. Similarly, in planning the four-laning of NH from Goa-Karnataka Border to Kundapur section on the GIS-portal, a road

encroachment was identified as a potential issue, due to the visibility of habitations along with data-attributes on ownership of land through which the road had to cross.

While planning the Mumbai Urban Transport Project [MUTP] – Phase 2 on PMGS portal, the Ministry of Railways could view the pending land acquisition of small extents of land that had the potential to delay the project later once it commenced. In this manner, planning agencies are making use of the PMGS mechanism to bring greater efficiency and speed in project planning and execution – on the lines of the principles of PRAGATI. Indian Railways has planned its ambitious energy corridor on PMGS portal, with a dedicated rail network connecting areas of coal production to consumption points at thermal plants and thus ensuring energy security of the country.

Congestion of these routes were identified through the GIS-portal and strengthening of the route for seamless movement of energy material planned. The Gati Shakti National Master Plan also helped plan the green energy corridor between Ladakh and Haryana, enabling transmission of solar energy production in the high-altitude region of Ladakh to the northern plains, navigating topographical chal-

lenges, minimising interference of the transmission lines with forest and wildlife habitats – thus preventing issues that could potentially delay projects. Whether it involves large expressway projects with investments running into thousands of crore rupees, urban logistics initiatives in major cities of Varanasi and Kanpur, or improving connectivity between major ports and their hinterland – the Gati Shakti principles are fostering a 'whole-of-government' approach at the project planning stage.

Enhanced visibility across multiple data-layers is improving planning efficiency, minimising disruption to ecologically sensitive areas, avoiding land acquisition likely to result in litigation, and enabling infrastructure to be planned with future requirements in mind. Building on the success of the PRAGATI mechanism in coordinated review, monitoring and acceleration of infrastructure projects, and with PM Gati Shakti demonstrating a more integrated and planned approach to infrastructure execution, India is now well-positioned to share its learnings at the global level, as part of its economic diplomacy – offering a model for more efficient and coordinated infrastructure planning that is data-driven, coordinated and results in timely implementation.

Russia's information war will succeed

revised.”

The Russian announcement was made while Trump-Zelenskyy discussions on the US-proposed peace plan were on in Florida. President

Zelenskyy denied that Ukraine launched the attack and termed the accusation as “typical Russian lies.” President Donald Trump meanwhile claimed he had a positive conversation with President Vladimir Putin, just prior to commencement of talks with Zelenskyy. On the drone strike he stated, “I don't like it. It's not good.” Trump did initially accept the Russian version, however, appeared to change his views after a briefing by the CIA, mentioning “it (Russia) is the one standing in the way of peace”. Europe supports Ukraine and hence termed Russian claims as fake.

Prime Minister Modi supported the Russian accusation by tweeting, “Deeply concerned by reports of the targeting of the residence of the President of the Russian Federation. Ongoing diplomatic efforts offer the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving peace.” The Ukrainian foreign ministry responded immediately to PM Modi and other world leaders who criticized the attack by tweeting, “We were disappointed and concerned to see statements expressing concerns regarding the attack that never happened.” Hundreds of pro-Ukrainian handles joined in accusing PM Modi of being selective by not criticizing Russian drone strikes on civilian targets in Ukraine and for backing fake news. Ukraine demanded proof, which Russia initially refused to provide.

The Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov mentioned, “thanks to the well-coordinated work of the air defence system, (all drones) were shot down.” Subsequently, a member of the Russian intelligence directorate handed over evidence of drones involved in the strike to a

member of the US military attache's office. In the fog of war, it is difficult to verify such claims. Both sides are expected to stick to their stands. Ukraine possesses a history of targeting deep



within Russia, sometimes causing civilian casualties, while insisting it only engages military installations. It has been accused of conducting assassinations of senior Russian military personnel and explosions resulting in civilian casualties. Recently Russia accused Kiev of killing 24 New Year revellers in the occupied Kherson region.

In 2023, two Ukrainian drones struck the roof of the Kremlin, however they caused no damage. In June last year, Ukraine launched its audacious Operation Spider Web, wherein 117 drones were smuggled into Russia, concealed beneath retractable roofs of vehicles, transported to locations close to military bases and piloted remotely to hit strategic, nuclear-capable bombers deep inside Russia. Simultaneously, Russia has been targeting Ukrainian government and private buildings alongside critical infrastructure; while claiming it only strikes military installations. It has also struck hospitals and schools. Civilian casualties are reported in each strike.

Moscow occupied Crimea by employing special forces, while terming them locals. Both sides have caused civilian casualties, either intentionally or as collateral damage. The entire episode of the attack on Putin's residence is a classic case of information warfare launched by Russia, which neither side

can prove but can exploit. What adds credence to the Russian claim is that barely a few days ago, Zelenskyy, in his Christmas message, had wished death for Putin. Russia's accusations

hanging on to power without conducting elections. In case Russia escalates, it provides an excuse to prolong negotiations, delay elections and continue garnering funds.

It is to delay accepting Trump's peace plan that after every discussion with the US, Zelenskyy engages in dialogue with his European colleagues, who have an opposing view, hoping they can apply pressure on Trump, which has thus far not worked. Trump appears to have seen through the Ukrainian strategy. Understanding that the Russian threat of continuing operations is real, his only option is to push Ukraine to accept most of his and indirectly Russian demands. Zelenskyy would have limited choice. For Europe, expansion of the war by Russia suits them. After all, they have invested heavily into arming Ukraine and if Trump's peace conditions go through, their funding would be a waste.

For present governments in Europe to justify to their electorate that despite arming Ukraine by cutting down on their own social and developmental projects, Kyiv has been forced to cede territory is difficult. Current European governments would face a backlash in forthcoming elections. However, it is unlikely that Trump would listen to their pleading. While the truth behind the Russian claim nor why it has been raised with such ferocity may never be known, Moscow's threat to expand the conflict in retaliation is real. Currently it is Moscow applying pressure on Trump to find a solution as the cards are in Putin's favour. Zelenskyy will be sacrificed and forced to accept most of Putin's demands. Moscow's information warfare will work to its advantage. 1

There are reports that Russia is already expanding operations to create buffer zones for protection of its own populace. Zelenskyy faces US backlash for corruption and

view, hoping they can apply pressure on Trump, which has thus far not worked. Trump appears to have seen through the Ukrainian strategy. Understanding that the Russian threat of continuing operations is real, his only option is to push Ukraine to accept most of his and indirectly Russian demands. Zelenskyy would have limited choice. For Europe, expansion of the war by Russia suits them. After all, they have invested heavily into arming Ukraine and if Trump's peace conditions go through, their funding would be a waste.

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WR's MAJOR BLOCK IN CONNECTION WITH WORK OF 6th LINE OVER KANDIVALI - BORIVALI SECTION

Mumbai, To carry out the work in connection with the construction of the 6th line between Kandivali and Borivali section, Western Railway has undertaken a block of 30 days from the night of 20th/21st December, 2025, which will continue up to 18th January, 2026. Due to this block, a few Western Railway trains will be affected.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, in connection with the above work a major block will be under-

Bangladesh Violence: Hindu Trader Murdered, Sixth Minority Killing In 18 Days

(Gns). Bangladesh has witnessed yet another brutal killing of a Hindu man, underscoring the alarming rise in targeted violence against the minority community. This marks the sixth fatal attack in just 18 days, intensifying concerns about safety and communal harmony in the country as it heads towards national elections.

On Monday night, Moni Chakraborty, a grocery trader, was attacked by unidentified assailants while running his shop at Charsindur Bazar in Narsingdi district, India Today reported. Witnesses said the attackers struck suddenly at the busy marketplace under Palash upazila. Despite efforts by locals to rush him to hospital, Chakraborty succumbed to his injuries either en route or shortly after admission.

In Bangladesh, Mani Chakraborty, a Hindu grocery trader, was killed in

taken during the night of 07th/08th January, 2026 for the insertion of Point No. 102 on the UP Fast Line at Kandivali. The block will be undertaken on the UP Fast Line from 00:00 hrs to 05:30 hrs and on the DOWN Fast Line from 01:00 hrs to 04:30 hrs. Additionally on 08/09.01.2026 a major block will be taken regarding insertion and dismantling of points at Kandivali on Up fast line from 23:15-3:15 hrs and on Down fast line from 1:00-4:30 hrs.

Due to the above blocks and suspension of the 5th line as well as speed restriction imposed, some subur-

ban services will remain cancelled, while some Mail/Express trains will be regulated enroute.

Short Termination of Trains:

1. Train No. 19426 Nandurbar – Borivali Express, journey commencing on 07th January, 2026 will short terminate at Vasai Road.

2. Train No. 19418 Ahmedabad – Borivali Express, journey commencing on 07th January, 2026 will short terminate at Vasai Road

Short Origination of Trains:

1. Train No. 19417

Borivali – Ahmedabad Express, journey commencing on 07th January, 2026 will short originate from Vasai Road.

2. Train No. 19425 Borivali – Nandurbar Express, journey commencing on 07th January, 2026 will short originate from Vasai Road

The detailed list of trains affected due to the block is furnished in Annexure-I, II, III. Detailed information to this effect is available with the concerned Station Masters. Passengers are requested to take note of the above changes and plan their journey accordingly.

Narsingdi district, marking the sixth fatal attack on Hindus in 18 days, follow-



ing the recent killing of Rana Pratap in Jashore district. These incidents, alongside previous attacks, and reports from the Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), highlight increasing violence against minorities as the country is set to hold elections in February under a caretaker administration.

Chakraborty, a resident of Sadharchar Union in Shibpur upazila and son of Madan Thakur, was described by fellow traders

as a quiet, respected businessman with no known disputes. His killing in a

public marketplace has sent shockwaves through the Hindu community, many of whom now say they feel unsafe even while carrying out routine activities such as shopping or running businesses. Community members have demanded swift arrests and strict punishment for the perpetrators, warning that repeated attacks are eroding their sense of security.

Earlier the same evening, another Hindu

man, Rana Pratap, 45, was shot dead in Jashore district. The incident occurred around 5:45 pm at Kopalia Bazar in Manirampur upazila. Eyewitnesses reported that unidentified gunmen opened fire on Pratap, leaving him fatally wounded with multiple bullet injuries. He died on the spot. Police rushed to the scene to restore order, with officer-in-charge Rajiullah Khan confirming that legal procedures, including post-mortem arrangements, were underway. Investigations have begun to identify and apprehend the attackers.

These two killings add to a disturbing series of violent incidents targeting Hindus in recent weeks. Victims include Dipu Chandra Das, a garment factory worker lynched during mob violence; Amrit Mondal, killed amid unrest; and Bajendra Biswas, shot dead in Mymensingh district.

Gunfire Reported Near Caracas Presidential Palace Amid Drone and Aircraft Sounds

(Gns). Heavy gunfire and reports of drones near the Miraflores presidential complex sparked fresh alarm in Caracas, as the country grappled with the aftermath of the US-led operation that resulted in the capture and transfer of President Nicolas Maduro to the United States.

Witnesses told AFP that shots rang out near the Miraflores palace around 8:00 pm local time, while residents across several parts of Caracas described intense firing and unusual aircraft sounds over the city lasting roughly 45 minutes.

Heavy gunfire and reports of drones near the Miraflores presidential complex in Caracas followed the US-led operation that resulted in President

Nicolas Maduro's capture, leading to Delcy Rodriguez's swearing-in as interim President and the declaration of a State of External Commotion. The incident, met with international reactions and impacting Venezuelan policy, coincided with Maduro's legal proceedings in the United States.

A source close to the government said security forces had opened fire after unidentified drones were spotted flying over the presidential complex. While the situation was later contained, officials did not provide details about casualties, structural damage, or the number of drones involved. BNO News reported that heavy gunfire echoed across multiple

neighbourhoods near the palace, with residents also noting brief power cuts during the incident, though authorities offered no immediate explanation.



The gunfire came just days after Delcy Rodriguez was sworn in as interim President, following the US military operation that captured Maduro. He was later flown to New York City, where he appeared before a federal court and pleaded not guilty to several charges. Shortly before the gunfire, the Venezuelan

government issued a decree declaring a State of External Commotion, granting wide powers to the presidency and authorising security forces to act against individuals accused of supporting the US operation. The decree allowed national, state, and municipal police agencies to take action against anyone deemed involved in what the government described as an armed attack by the United States.

The decree, which carries the force of law for an initial 90 days with a possible extension, gives the President near-total control over political, economic, and social matters during crises that threaten national security or state institutions.

Model Forced at 16 to Marry a 30-Year-Old Malaysian Prince Says, "I Did Not Have a Real Choice"

(Gns). More than a decade after fleeing a royal household, Indonesian American model Manohara Odelia has spoken again about the marriage she says was forced upon her as a minor. Model married to Malaysian Prince

guage used to describe her past misrepresents the reality of what she endured.

The marriage, which drew intense attention in Malaysia and Indonesia,



quickly became controversial. Manohara has alleged that while living in Kelantan she was subjected to physical and emotional abuse, placed under strict control, and isolated from her family and the outside world.

She has said she was not allowed to move freely, had only limited contact with her relatives, and was effectively confined within the palace complex.

Recalling that period, she told Indonesia's Detik news outlet, as quoted by ABC News, "Sexual abuse and sexual harassment were like a daily routine for

me." She added, "And he did that every time I did not want to have sexual intercourse." Dramatic escape from royal custody In 2009, a year after the marriage, Manohara managed to flee during a trip with the royal family to Singapore. She escaped from a hotel and returned to Indonesia with the assistance of her mother, local

police and officials from the United States embassy.

Her departure marked the end of her time within the Malaysian royal household and brought her allegations of abuse into the international spotlight.

Rejecting the label of 'ex-wife'

More than 15 years after her escape and divorce, Manohara has again addressed the public narrative around her past. In an Instagram post dated January 5, 2026, she objected strongly to being described as "Mantan Istri," the Indonesian term for "ex-wife."

"For many years, I have repeatedly been referred to in articles and headlines as 'Mantan Istri [blank],'" she wrote. "I am writing to respectfully clarify that this description is inaccurate and misleading."

Without naming the prince, she stated that what happened during her adolescence did not meet.

Fan Abuses Hardik Pandya in Mumbai While Girlfriend Mahieka Sharma Stays by His Side

(Gns). Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been in focus in Mumbai over the past few days for two very different public moments, one involving a viral fan interaction and another marking a prominent social appearance with girlfriend Mahieka Sharma.

A video circulating widely on social media shows Pandya leaving a restaurant in Mumbai on Christmas Eve after a dinner outing with Sharma. Several fans had gathered outside the venue and security personnel were seen managing the crowd as people requested selfies. Pandya stopped for photographs with some admirers before proceeding towards his car. As he was about to leave, an upset fan shouted an abusive remark after

being unable to take a selfie.

Indian cricketer Hardik

the comment and continued walking towards the vehicle without engaging

athletes.

In the days following the viral video, Pandya and Sharma were seen together at the 'United in Triumph' celebration held in Mumbai and organised by the Reliance Foundation. The event brought together leading figures from sport, cinema and business to honour India's recent crick- eting achievements, including World Cup victories across multiple categories.

Pandya arrived at the event with Sharma and the pair posed for photographs on the red carpet. He was dressed in a formal suit, while Sharma opted for an elegant outfit. Inside the venue, Pandya was seen introducing Sharma to veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan as guests mingled during the evening.



Pandya was recently seen in Mumbai, where he interacted with fans and attended the 'United in Triumph' celebration organized by the Reliance Foundation with his girlfriend Mahieka Sharma, also introducing her to Amitabh Bachchan.

Pandya did not react to

the fan. The incident prompted discussion online, with many users pointing out the restraint shown by the cricketer in a situation that could have easily escalated. The clip quickly drew attention, highlighting the constant public exposure faced by high-profile

Ankita Bhandari murder case: Uttarakhand CM alleges conspiracy, calls for verification of 'VIP' audio clip

(Gns). Amid fresh allegations of a 'VIP's involvement in the 2022 Ankita Bhandari murder case, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched to hinder his government's work and asserted that no one would be shielded.

In his first reaction after the fresh allegations surfaced, CM Dhami said, "When the paper leak protests began, they were also sparked by an audio clip. This time, another audio clip has led to the current situation. Doesn't this look like a conspiracy to you?"

Dhami said that no one would be spared if evidence was found against them.

The fresh allegations

stem from a purported audio clip released by former BJP MLA Suresh Rathore's wife in December last year.

In a video statement posted on social media, Urmila Sanawar alleged that the VIP in the Ankita Bhandari case was a senior BJP leader. She also played an audio clip, which she claimed was a conversation with her husband.

In the clip, the VIP was identified as a BJP leader named Gattu. It was later speculated that the reference was to BJP national general secretary Dushyant Gautam.

Gautam has denied the allegations and has filed a

defamation case against 11 people, including Sanawar and Congress leader Ganesh Godiyal.

CM Dhami said that the audio clip should first be examined and, if verified, his government was ready to carry out further investigations.

"Now an audio has surfaced in which the names of several people have been men-

tioned. We have said that the audio should be examined, and an SIT has been constituted. The police are trying to speak to the people mentioned in the audio. It will be good if the audio is verified. Once it is verified, we are ready to conduct all kinds of investigations," he said.



HC notice to Odisha govt on 'no fuel without PUC certificate' notification

(Gns).

The Orissa High Court on Tuesday issued a show- cause notice to the state government asking it to submit a compliance affidavit on the enforcement of Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) and direction to retail fuel outlets not to dispense petrol/diesel to vehicles without it.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) had challenged the executive notification issued in this regard by the Chairman, State Transport Authority and sought for the quashing of the notification, which

according to the petition was illegal, contrary to the

Rules, 1989. The sale of petroleum



provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle

products is regulated under Petroleum Law(s) Essential Commodities Act, 1955,

read with the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 and therefore this notification is violating the Fundamental Right of the vehicle owners.

That, there is no provision under any law nor in Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 or under Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that the vehicle not having Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) cannot be dispensed with petrol/diesel by the retail outlets, the petition maintained.

'Will Trump kidnap our PM': Prithviraj Chavan sparks row; BJP hits back



(Gns). Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Tuesday stoked a fresh controversy with his remarks on the US actions in Venezuela as he insinuated whether US President Donald Trump would carry out a similar operation in India and kidnap Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to a news agency after Trump's alleged threat to further increase tariffs on India, "With a 50 per cent tariff, trade is simply not possible. In effect, this amounts to blocking India-US trade, especially exports from India to the United States. Since a direct ban cannot be imposed, tariffs have been used as a tool to stop trade. India will have to

bear this." "The profits that our peo-

ple earlier earned from exports to the US will no

longer be available.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Central Division, Western Railway Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008				
Work - Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division				
AUCTION CATALOGUE NO.		AUCTION START (ALL LOTS)		
MMCT-PnU-25-14		23-01-26 13:00:00		
Sr. No.	LOT NO.	LOCATION / AREA	DAYS	CLOSE DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION
1	PnU-BCT-MMCT-WRL-80-25-1 (Pay and Use-Lounges / Waiting / Retiring / Cloak Rooms)	E-auction for Renovation, Operation, and Maintenance of Retiring Rooms / Dormitories at Mumbai Central (MMCT) station	1826	23-01-26 13:30:00
AUCTION CATALOGUE NO.		AUCTION START (ALL LOTS)		
MMCT-ADVTM25-47		23-01-26 14:00:00		
Sr. No.	LOT NO.	LOCATION / AREA	DAYS	CLOSE DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION
1	MSS-BCT-DDR-STGen-96-26-1 (Misc - Static - Services - Static General)	Development, Operation and Management of the Warehousing Facility (For Parcel Traffic) located at Dadar station adjacent to Boundary wall of	1096	23-01-26 14:30:00
Plat Form No. 05 from Pay and Use to Entry no. 12.				
2	MSS-BCT-BDTS-STGen-91-25-1 (Misc - Static - Services - Static General)	Development, Operation and Management of the Warehousing Facility (For Parcel Traffic) located at Bandra Terminus between north end	1096	23-01-26 14:40:00
Plat Form No. 01 and boundary wall of Coach Care Centre				
3	MSS-BCT-PLG-PrKiosk-53-25-1 (Misc-Static- Services - Promotional Kiosk)	E-auction for contract of commercial advertisement through Promotional Kiosk / Product Display at Palghar (PLG) & Boisar (BOR) stations for a period of Three years.	1096	23-01-26 14:50:00
AUCTION CATALOGUE NO.		AUCTION START (ALL LOTS)		
MMCT-ADVT-25-68		23-01-26 15:00:00		
Sr. No.	LOT NO.	LOCATION / AREA	DAYS	CLOSE DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION
1	ADVT-BCT-ADH-OH-466-26-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement through installation of LCD LED at Andheri Station above Entry/Exit gate, West side, of size 20' X 10'(1), total admeasuring area 200 sq.ft. for a period 5 years	1826	23-01-26 15:30:00
Contact details:- Landline no.-02267644212, Email ID:- acmadvtgbcct@gmail.com				
Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue.				
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: X.com/WesternRly				

Three Raj MPs spending MPLAD funds in Haryana; MoS Home takes exception

(Gns). Rajasthan Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Jawahar Singh Bedam, has taken serious exception to three Rajasthan MPs using their MP-LAD fund in Haryana's Kaithal assembly segment.

"The three Opposition Congress MPs — Rahul Kaswan (Churu), Brijendra Ola (Jhunjhunu), and Sanjana Jatav (Bharatpur) — in their bid to appease the party central leadership, have been sending funds to the neighbouring state of Haryana for spending in the Kaithal assembly segment, at the cost of development in their own respective con-

stituencies," Minister Singh Surjewala's son, Bedam said in a statement Aaditya, Bedam said,



here on Monday evening. Kaithal is the Assembly constituency of AICC general secretary and sitting Rajya Sabha MP Randip adding that the three MPs are spending funds outside their state in a bid to safeguard their political careers. He said the MPs —

Sanjana Jatav (Rs 45 lakh), Brijendra Ola (Rs 25 lakh), and Rahul Kaswan (Rs 50 lakh) — have so far been given Rs 1.20 crore for development works in Kaithal. "This is a total violation of norms and rules governing transactions under the MP-LAD Fund," Bedam said.

According to prevailing rules and regulations, an MP may allocate a maximum of Rs 25 lakh from the total annual grant of Rs 5 crore for work outside their constituency. In case of calamities, this ceiling may be raised up to Rs 1 crore, the minister elaborated.

District Magistrate administered oath under Special Intensive Revision Campaign 2026

Mathura. A program regarding the draft publication of the voter list under the special intensive revision campaign 2026 was concluded in the auditorium of BSA College. District Election Officer/District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue/Deputy District Election Officer Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma, Joint Magistrate/Deputy District Magistrate Sadar Abhinav J Jain, District School Inspector Ravindra Kumar and representatives of all political parties were present in the program.

In the program, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh provided 2 copies (hard copy and soft copy) of the draft publication of voter list under the special intensive revision campaign 2026 to the district heads of Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress,

Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party etc. In the programme, representatives of all political parties, officials, teachers and students took the voter oath.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh informed that as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the draft voter list has been published today on January 6, 2026 under the Special Intensive Revision Campaign 2026. Claims and objections will be received from 06 January 2026 to 06 February 2026. Notice stage, decision on calculation forms and disposal of claims and objections will be held from 06 January 2026 to 27 February 2026. The final publication of the voter list of Uttar Pradesh will be done on 06 March

2026. The District Magistrate has requested the representatives of all political parties to complete-



District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh administering oath to representatives of all political parties, officers, teachers and students.

ly collate/study the draft publication of the voter list. He said that claims and objections can be submitted regarding the voter list from January 6, 2026 to February 6, 2026.

The District Magistrate has informed that the voter list will be available for view-

ing at all polling stations between 06 January 2026 and 06 February 2026. You can also avail the above services by downloading the Voter Help Line app in your mobile. The District Magistrate has informed that to register the name in the voter list for the first time, Form-6 should be filled, to get the name removed from the voter list or to lodge an objection on wrong entry, Form-7 should be filled and to correct the discrepancy in the voter's name, address, date of birth, gender or photo, Form-8 should be filled. Representatives of political parties including Munendra Singh Nigam and Prem Prakash from BSP, Virendra Yadav and Pradeep Chaudhary from Samajwadi Party, Aditya Tiwari, Mukesh Dhangar, Manoj Gaur and Vikram Balmiki from Congress were present in the program

Three miscreants who robbed a bullion trader at Mathura Junction arrested, more than two kilos of silver, cash worth thousands recovered

Mathura. Wearing police uniform, miscreants carried out a major robbery of a bullion businessman at Mathura Junction. The miscreants looted silver and cash worth Rs 7.25 lakh from the businessman and also tried to kidnap him, but when they raised an alarm, the accused fled from the spot. As soon as the information was received, the Senior Superintendent of Police formed three teams and started the action. The police arrested three miscreants early on Tuesday and revealed the incident.

According to the information, Yogesh Kumar Saraf, resident of village Gopura of Sadabad police station area of Hathras district, is a businessman. He had gone to Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh on January 4 in connection with silver business. After

selling silver anklets there, he was returning to Mathura by Patakot Express with three kilos 282 grams of raw silver and Rs 75 thousand in cash. On Monday night at around 2.30 am, he came out of gate number three of Mathura Junction and moved towards the auto stand when two people in police uniform standing near the blue Baleno car parked there stopped him. It is alleged that the miscreants abused the businessman and accused him of selling ganja and snatched a bag full of silver and cash. After this, the miscreants who came posing as policemen started forcibly making them sit in the car. Yogesh saw his village acquaintances Rohit and Gopal Krishna sitting in the auditorium of Mathura

Police in the back seat of the car. According to the victim, Rohit was already informed over phone that he was returning to



Accused persons present in police custody and police auditorium

Mathura after selling the silver, after which the entire conspiracy was hatched. On raising noise, the accused fled in a car with silver and cash. On the basis of the victim's complaint, a case was registered against two named and two unidentified uniformed miscreants. On receiving information about the incident, SSP Shlok Kumar formed three police teams. While searching on

the basis of CCTV footage, Kotwali police and SOG team laid siege on Tuesday morning and arrested Rohit son of Harveer Gopal Krishna son of Babulal resident of village Pachawari police station Sadabad Hathras and Narendra son of Shivram Singh resident of Jamunapar Mathura from Mall Godown Road. Police have recovered 2 kg 452 grams of white metal, 60 thousand rupees in cash, two pistols, a black bag and the Baleno car used in the incident from the possession of the accused. The team formed by the SSP includes Inspector-in-charge Vinod Babu Mishra police station Kotwali, Inspector Rakesh Kumar in-charge SOG team, Inspector Sunil Kumar Joshi Police station Kotwali, Inspector Mangeram and other policemen

SP Gramin conducted review seminar with Mission Shakti Kendra in-charge and all women sub-inspectors and women beat police personnel

Mathura. As per the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police Mathura Shlok Kumar, a review seminar was organized by SP Rural Suresh Chandra Rawat in the Police Line Auditorium with all the 22 Mission Shakti Center in-charges of the district and all the female sub-inspectors and female beat police personnel.



ASP Rural Suresh Chandra Rawat addressing the review seminar. Through the same video films, the police personnel

Prolonged incarceration of an undertrial has the effect of punishment: SC

(Gns). The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that prolonged incarceration of an undertrial, without the commencement of trial or reasonable progress therein, has the effect of converting pre-trial detention into a form of punishment. The Court ordered the release on bail of Arvind Dham, former promoter and non-executive chairman of Amtek Auto Ltd (AAL) of the Amtek Group, who is an accused, along with others, in alleged frauds amounting to ₹385.35 crore and ₹289 crore, respectively.

Granting bail to Arvind Dham, a Bench comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice Alok Aradhe said, "The right to speedy trial, enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution, is not eclipsed by the nature of the offence. Prolonged incarceration of an undertrial, without commencement or reasonable progress of trial, cannot be countenanced, as it has the effect of converting pretrial detention into form of punishment."



The judgment was authored by Justice Alok Aradhe. Observing that all economic offences cannot be placed in a single category, the Court noted that such offences may involve a wide range of activities and vary significantly from case to case. Referring to earlier decisions of the apex court, the judgment cautioned against mechanically grouping all economic offences together.

and denying bail solely on that basis.

The judgment reiterated that the right to a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution applies irrespective of the nature of the crime alleged.

It further held that where the state or any prosecuting agency, including the court concerned, lacks the wherewithal to ensure or protect an accused's fundamental right to a speedy trial, the State should not oppose a plea for bail merely on the ground that the alleged offence is serious in nature.

Odisha's mining resources will be exhausted in five years if BJP govt continues giving patronage to mineral loot: BJD

(Gns). The death of two workers in a blast during illegal mining activities in Odisha's Dhenkanal district has brought into sharp focus the virtual daylight loot of mining resources, with the Opposition Biju Janata Dal warning that "all the mineral resources in the state will be exhausted in the next 5 years as the illegal mining goes unabated".

A tragic explosion at a dolomite mine in Gopalpur village of Dhenkanal district claimed the lives of two workers and injured several others. The unlawful mining allegedly continued despite the expiration of its permit and lease, BJD spokesperson and media coordinator Lenin Mohanty said on Monday.

The blasting permit for the quarry expired on

September 30, 2025, while its lease expired on December 31, 2025. Dhenkanal Collector Ashish Elohim Patil also confirmed that the mining licence had

"I am deeply saddened to learn that workers lost their lives due to a rockfall following an explosion in a stone quarry in Dhenkanal. I convey my deepest con-



expired on December 31, 2025. The BJD alleged that illegal mining operations continued despite the expiry, claiming they were carried out with government patronage.

The Leader of the Opposition, Naveen Patnaik, posted on the social media site 'X', saying,

dolences to the family members, along with prayers for the eternal peace of the departed souls. Let appropriate investigations be conducted into the circumstances under which this incident occurred and the state of the workers' safety measures, let the government

direct its attention towards immediately expediting rescue operations."

In the past, the Deputy Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly wrote a letter to the Chief Minister urging and end to mineral looting in the state, while the MP from Balasore also wrote to the Chief Minister to stop illegal sand mining in the Subarnarekha River.

Despite all these efforts, the BJP government has not taken any action, which shows that mining loot is going on all over Odisha at the instigation of the government. As a result, the revenue collection from major minerals has fallen from Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 34,000 crore.

Similarly, the revenue collection from minor minerals has fallen from Rs 14,085 crore to Rs 6,000 crore.

PESA rules in Jharkhand: Empowerment promise or administrative control?

(Gns).

The notification of rules under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 in Jharkhand, nearly three decades after the Central law came into force, has triggered a sharp political and constitutional debate over tribal self-governance, administrative control and the real authority of Gram Sabhas in Fifth Schedule areas.

The state government has projected the move as a long-pending corrective step to empower tribal communities through legally recognised Gram Sabhas. Opposition parties and sections of tribal leadership, however, argue that while the rules have finally been notified, their content raises serious questions

about whether the spirit of PESA has been preserved or diluted.

PESA was enacted to extend constitutional decentralisation to

population and extensive Fifth Schedule regions, remained without notified rules for years, drawing criticism from rights groups and repeated judicial scrutiny.



Critics, including former chief ministers Arjun Munda and Champai Soren, have accused the government of diluting the constitutional

Scheduled Areas by recognising traditional tribal institutions and granting Gram Sabhas decisive powers over land, forests, minor minerals, local dispute resolution and development decisions. Jharkhand, despite its significant tribal

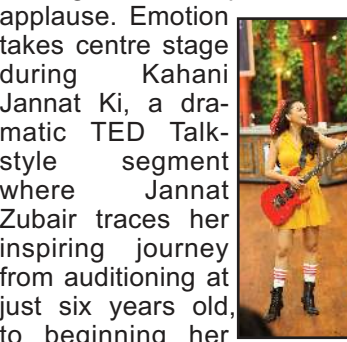
primacy of the Gram Sabha. They contend that the rules vest substantial authority with the district administration, particularly the Deputy Commissioner, including recognition of traditional village boundaries and routing of Gram Sabha resolu-

Get ready to savour campus masti & Mathura's cuisine on COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'

COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' turns up the volume on chaos and nostalgia this weekend as the kitchen switches from full-on college masti to rich Mathura flavours. Humour becomes the main syllabus as the set gets a youthful makeover with the canteen vibes and corridor chaos. Kashmeera Shah takes charge as the dramatic college trustee, while Gen Z energy floods in with Eisha Singh, Isha Malviya, and Jannat Zubair playing the spirited students, bringing sass, sparkle, and plenty of campus chaos. Providing the perfect contrast to all the glam are Abhishek Kumar and Samarth Jurel, channeling full backbencher energy as the hilarious "canteen-wale dadas," in pyjamas, shorts, and snacks slung around their necks.

One of the episode's most crackling moments is when Krushna Abhishek recreates Kashmeera and Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi's

iconic Saiyaara entry - this time adding a delightful twist by bringing Chef Harpal's wife into the act, leaving the set in splits and applause. Emotion takes centre stage during Kahani Jannat Ki, a dramatic TED Talk-style segment where Jannat Zubair traces her inspiring journey from auditioning at just six years old, to beginning her acting career on COLORS at the age of ten with Phulwa and steadily growing into the star she is today.



The tempo picks right back up as Kashmeera shares inside stories from her bond with Krushna—revealing the origin of his pet nickname and openly declaring him the most romantic man, much to Krushna's mock pride and the audience's delight. Bharti Singh ensures the nostalgia meter hit full throttle when she pulls out

old, unseen pictures of Chef Harpal, Gurmeet Choudhary, Debina Bonnerjee, Aly Goni, Kashmeera, and herself.

What follows is relentless leg-pulling, with Gurmeet's photo becoming the ultimate trigger for uncontrollable teasing and laughter. Adding to the fun, a young woman from the audience is invited to rate the vibes of all the men on the show, resulting in cheeky reactions. Meanwhile, Isha Malviya who has long fondly called Elvish Yadav "Ellu" continues the tradition, with the duo once again becoming easy targets for light-hearted leg-pulling.

The episode's culinary soul lies in its Mathura-themed Purani Khao Gully vs Nayi Khao Gully face-off, with Team Kaanta representing the old-world flavours and Team Churri embodying the new-age

street food wave. Real street food vendors join as audience members, infusing the challenge with authentic desi energy. The excitement rises with the arrival of Mathura's legendary kachori king, Roop Kishor Chaturvedi, who treats everyone to the city's iconic kachoris, instantly transporting the kitchen to Mathura ki galian. Amid the cheer and chaos, emotions quietly shine when Abhishek Kumar's parents make a surprise appearance, adding warmth and heart to the episode. From heartfelt journeys and nostalgic throwbacks to street food battles and campus-style comedy, this weekend serves laughter piping hot. 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!

Omar Abdullah inaugurates integrated Skiing course at Gulmarg and Sonamarg

(Gns). Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inaugurated the Integrated Skiing Course at the iconic tourist destinations of Gulmarg and Sonamarg in Kashmir.

The skiing programme will be conducted in two batches comprising 32 and 25 trainees, respectively. The basic skiing course has a duration of 14 days and is aimed at trainees in the age group of 12 to 18 years.

The Chief Minister also unveiled the 2026 calendars of the Tourism Department and the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation. The calendars highlight prominent tourist destinations and tourism-related infrastruc-

ture across Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that such initiatives would con-

ural beauty and its evolving tourism infrastructure," he remarked.



tribute significantly to the promotion and wider publicity of the region's tourism potential.

"These calendars are not merely annual publications; they are visual narratives of Jammu and Kashmir's nat-

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the official website of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. The portal has been designed to publicise tourism events and destinations, maintain

digital archives, and provide comprehensive information related to tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The website also integrates useful links to Jammu Tourism, JKTDC, the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation and other allied organisations, offering all relevant information on a single platform.

Emphasising the importance of a strong digital presence, the Chief Minister said that a modern and dynamic online platform is crucial for effective outreach. "The new Tourism Kashmir website will be informative and will serve as a comprehensive, single-window platform for tourists and stakeholders alike," he said.