



GARVI GUJARAT

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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 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.

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

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

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 mal-practices 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 temporary 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—Householding and Housing Census (April-September 2026) and Population Enumeration (September 2026 for snow-bound areas).

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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.

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



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.

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 hock-

ey. 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

launched the PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) portal in 2015. PRAGATI is a digitized platform for real-time monitoring of big-ticket infrastructure projects, receiving electronic updates from executing agencies, Ministries, States and UTs.

The Prime Minister chairs high-level coordination meetings on a monthly basis ~ selecting projects facing implementation delays, engaging directly with Ministries, States, and other authorities to identify bottlenecks, and issuing clear directions for resolution. PRAGATI thus serves as a mechanism to accelerate pending projects facing time and cost over-runs ~ for instance a metro-rail project delayed for years for want of land clearances from the Municipal authority, or a major gas pipeline project facing land hurdle across multiple states, or projects awaiting a long-awaited environmental clearance, etc.

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 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 interface 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

and added "retaliatory targets have been selected," threatening continuation of conflict. Moscow also announced it would not cancel ongoing discussions; however, "Russia's negotiating position will be

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 attaché'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

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.

The Russian spokesperson mentioned, "This terrorist action is aimed at collapsing the negotiation process," adding, "The diplomatic consequence will be to toughen the negotiating position of the Russian Federation." In all probability, Russia will want to restrict US guarantees for Ukraine and insist on the removal of Zelenskyy. It could also continue with the conflict till it reduces manoeuvring space for Zelenskyy and Europe.

PNB Inaugurates Revamped Hockey Academy in Delhi, Reinforcing Commitment to Sports Development

06 January, 2026: Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's leading public sector bank, today inaugurated its revamped Hockey Academy in Delhi, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to promoting hockey and nurturing sporting talent in the country.

The new academy at Mukherjee Nagar was inaugurated by Shri Ashok Chandra, MD & CEO, PNB along with senior officials of the bank, coach and players of senior Hockey team.

PNB's Hockey Academy



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

ey. The bank provides holistic support to these young athletes, including

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-

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 sub-

urban 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 originate from 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.

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 her to Amitabh Bachchan.

being unable to take a self-portrait, Indian cricketer Hardik

the comment and continued walking towards the vehicle without engaging



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

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 cricketing 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.

Bangladesh Violence: Hindu Trader Murdered, Sixth Minority Killing

(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

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

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



ing the recent killing of Rana Pratap in Jashore district. These incidents, alongside previous attacks, and reports from the Manabbadhikar Shongkruti 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

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



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.

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

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

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.

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

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 mentioned. 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.

Former SIT member says 'VIP' was identified in Ankita Bhandari murder case, but no evidence found

The Chief Minister further added that his government's track record showed that "if someone does something wrong and is found guilty, they will not be spared at any cost—whoever they might be. But the audio has to be verified."

Ankita Bhandari, a 19-year-old receptionist working at a Rishikesh resort owned by Pulkrit Arya, the son of former BJP leader Vinod Arya, was allegedly killed after she refused to render sexual favours to a VIP.

Arya and two other accused were convicted in the case and sentenced to life imprisonment.

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 (PUCC) and direction to fuel retail 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 (PUCC) 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



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"The profits that our peo-

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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 Bedam said in a statement.

Singh Surjewala's son, Aaditya, Bedam said,

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.

here on Monday evening.

Kaithal is the Assembly constituency of AICC general secretary and sitting Rajya Sabha MP Randip Singh Surjewala. He said the MPs —

adding that the three MPs are spending funds outside their state in a bid to safeguard their political careers.

He said the MPs —

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-

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.

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