



GARVI GUJARAT

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## Can Bangladeshi Hindus Settle In India? What PM Modi Promised Bengal In Malda Amid Targeted Killings, Watch

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a large public rally in Malda, West Bengal, strongly criticised the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government and questioned its record on development, employment and governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a rally in Malda, West Bengal, criticised the TMC government, blaming it for hindering Bengal's progress, and promised development, jobs, and infrastructure projects worth over ₹3,250 crore if the BJP came to power, also mentioning illegal immigration and the Citizenship Amendment Act.

He asked people, "Rokawat kaun hai?" (Who is the obstacle?), blaming

the TMC for holding back Bengal's progress.

PM Modi said that West Bengal has neither seen new factories nor adequate support for farmers. He pointed out that youth from districts like Malda and Murshidabad are forced to migrate to other states in search of work due to the lack of job opportunities at home.

**Farmers, Floods and Allegations of Corruption**

The Prime Minister said farmers in the region are struggling badly, especially mango growers. He claimed many farmers did not even recover their production costs this year because the state government failed to promote industries linked to agriculture, including food processing.

PM Modi also accused

the TMC government of corruption in flood relief work. He said that every year hundreds of homes are washed away due to floods, yet affected families do not receive proper help. Referring to audit findings, he alleged that flood relief money was not given to the people but was diverted through government channels.

He assured the crowd that once a BJP government comes to power in Bengal, strict action will be taken against corruption and permanent flood-control arrangements will be made on rivers like the Ganga, Mahananda and Fulbari.

**BJP Promises Development and Jobs**

PM Modi said he had come to Malda with the promise of fast develop-

ment and to restore Bengal's lost glory. He urged people to vote for the BJP, saying that only a change in government can bring real progress.

**Investing Heavily in These Areas**

**Big Push to Rail and Road Infrastructure**

Before the rally, PM Modi was felicitated ahead

of laying the foundation

stone and inaugurating rail and road projects worth over ₹3,250 crore. He congratulated the people of Bengal for getting the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train and four new Amrit Bharat trains.

He said the new Vande Bharat sleeper train between Howrah and Guwahati would connect important religious centres and improve travel. He added that India is now manufacturing more railway coaches than many developed countries, boosting jobs and self-reliance.

PM Modi said illegal

infiltration is one of the biggest challenges facing Bengal. He claimed that developed countries across the world are taking strict action against illegal immigrants, and Bengal also needs to do the same.

He accused TMC leaders and their local networks of turning infiltrators into voters for political gain, warning that this has disturbed population balance in several areas and led to rising tensions. He promised strict action against illegal infiltration if BJP comes to power.

Bangladeshi Hindus

Can Settle In India

Referring to violence against minorities in neighbouring countries, PM Modi said that people who have come to India to escape religious persecution should not be afraid. He said the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) provides protection and legal rights to such refugees.

He also attacked the TMC over women's safety, citing incidents involving journalists and alleging that law and order has collapsed under the current government. He said only a change in power can ensure justice and safety for women.

## Centre Agrees to Shift Border Fencing After Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's Demand

(Gns).

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday announced a major relief for farmers in Punjab's border belt after the Central Government agreed in principle to shift the Border Security Fence closer to the International Border, a move that will clear the way for unhindered cultivation of thousands of acres of farmland currently trapped beyond the fencing.

Calling on Union Home

Minister Amit Shah in New

Delhi and Delhi Pollution

Control

To handle emissions from existing vehicles, Rekha Gupta states that three new automated centres now test vehicle fitness in Delhi. These centres are meant to remove unfit, high-polluting vehicles from traffic. Delhi has also reached about 9,000 EV charging stations. Power supply capacity for these chargers is being upgraded, and an e-waste park will recycle used EV batteries.

ing daily hardship and uncertainty along the 532 km India Pakistan border where fencing lies deep

bringing Punjab's land back

on the accessible side without compromising national security.

inside Punjab's territory. He said the Home Minister informed him during the meeting that the issue is under active consideration and that the fencing will be shifted towards the border,

Alongside the border issue, CM Bhagwant Singh

Mann also raised a series

of long pending concerns,

including Punjab's objections

to the proposed Seeds Bill 2025, the unre-

solved Sutlej Yamuna Link dispute (SYL), slow movement of foodgrains by the FCI, freezing of Arthia Commission, non payment of Rural Development Fund (RDF) and Mandi Fund, and the dilution of Punjab's role in Chandigarh's administration, seeking prompt and time bound resolution of these matters.

Raising serious objections to the proposed Seeds Bill 2025, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Punjab is an agrarian state and one of the largest grain producing states of the country, yet the draft Seed Bill does not assure representation of the state as per schedule under the relevant section.

**The Shrinking Of The Pawars: NCP Suffers Unprecedented Civic Poll Defeat Across Maharashtra-But WHY?**

(Gns).

The 2026 Maharashtra municipal corporation elections marked a significant setback for the Pawar family, as neither faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), led by Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar, won control of any major municipal corporation for the first time since 1999. In Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, once NCP strongholds, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) nor the Ajit Pawar-led NCP has succeeded in winning control of even a single major municipal corporation. This

analysts suggest Sharad

Pawar may consider reconcilia-

tion to address the

party's decline.

For the first time in several decades, neither wing of the Nationalist Congress Party-the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) nor the Ajit Pawar-led NCP has succeeded in winning control

Pawar in 1999.

Out of the 29 municipal corporations that went to polls on Thursday, the NCP (SP) failed to win any seats in 14 corporations. The spotlight was firmly on Pune district, traditionally seen as the Pawar family's stronghold, where uncle and nephew joined forces against the BJP. However, the rare show of unity did not translate into electoral success.



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Jio Air Fiber



Jio Tv +



Jio Fiber



Daily Hunt



ebaba Tv



Dish Plus



DTH live OTT



Rock TV



Airtel



Amezone Fire



Roku Tv-US.UK

देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार  
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही  
गर्वी गुजरात हिंदी चेनल देखिये

## CM Rekha Gupta Pitches 'War-Level' Year-Round Fight Against Delhi Pollution With EV Buses and

that Delhi's pollution cannot be seen as a problem of



Gupta, more than 3,600 electric buses are now

active on Delhi's roads, a

first for the city. The government expects this fleet to rise to 7,700 electric buses before the end of 2026. Alongside large buses, 3,330 new electric mini buses are planned for narrow lanes and inner colonies that are difficult for bigger vehicles.

The administration says

these EV buses support a

shift from private vehicles

and they should also become urjadata (energy providers), he said.



improving their income.

"I work 90 per cent for farmers. I have dedicated

my life to ensuring that farmers do not commit suicide and have made it my mission. Our farmers are annadata (food providers),

world's third-largest economy, and the strongest economy in the world. Our country has the strength to achieve this."

He said Indian professionals have carved a niche globally. "Our software engineers dominate across the world," he noted.

"In the US and the UK, six out of ten doctors are Indians. Knowledge is power, strength, and energy — this is our future," he said.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, former chief minister and Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and State Public Works Department Minister Rakesh Singh were also present at the event.

Underlining the government's vision, Gadkari said, "Under the leadership of Modiji, we want to make India vishwaguru, the

which is considered a setback. The Eknath Shinde-led Sena won 28 seats, the Congress won 24 wards, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP won 3 wards and other parties

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through betrayal. Marathmaanoos (people) will forgive this sin. Betrayers can be bought through money, pressure, agencies and tactics, but loyalty is never

won 10 seats. "The BJP may think that they have finished Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena on paper. However, they cannot finish Shiv Sena on the

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He asserted that the country does not have any dearth of funds, but, most importantly, it needs honest political leaders.

The Union Minister said his work was dedicated to the uplift of farmers and

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## Maharashtra Civic Polls: Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, ISLAM Party Surge As Muslim-Majority Wards Set The Tone

(Gns).

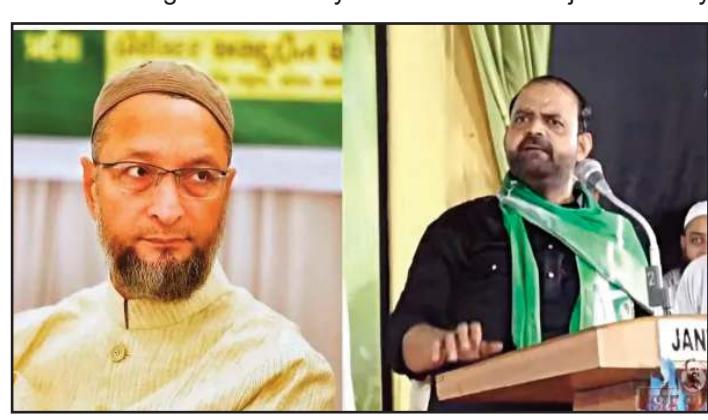
In the Maharashtra municipal corporation elections, ISLAM, led by Asif Shaikh, won 35 seats in Malegaon, ending Congress dominance, while AIMIM expanded its presence, securing seats in cities like Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Amravati, Mumbai, and others. AIMIM also secured its first seat in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, marking a significant milestone.

The results marked the decline of long-standing Congress dominance in Malegaon and highlighted the expanding footprint of AIMIM across several urban centres, even as the BJP performed strongly statewide.

ISLAM Party Breaks Congress Hold in Malegaon

In its maiden contest for the Malegaon Municipal Corporation, the Indian Secular Largest Assembly

body. ISLAM had contested the elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party.



of Maharashtra (ISLAM) party, floated by former NCP MLA Asif Shaikh, delivered a major upset by winning 35 seats. The result effectively ended Congress dominance in the Muslim-majority powerloom town. However, ISLAM fell short of the majority mark of 43 in the 84-seat civic

which secured five seats AIMIM emerged as the second-largest party in Malegaon with 21 seats, a sharp rise from seven seats in the previous polls. The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena won 18 seats, improving its tally by six compared to the last term. The Congress suffered

a steep decline, winning only three seats. Two of these were secured by the party's city unit president Ejai Beg and his wife. The Bharatiya Janata Party managed to win just two seats in the town.

AIMIM Expands Presence Across Maharashtra Cities

Amid the BJP's strong overall showing in Maharashtra's civic polls, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen also recorded notable gains, particularly in Muslim-majority wards across the state. According to AIMIM leader Shareque Naqshbandi, the party won a total of 114 seats statewide.

AIMIM registered strong performances in cities such as Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Malegaon, Amravati, Nanded, Dhule,

ing, frequent tail swaps and dead-heading, leaving virtually no room to recover when disruptions hit. Once delays began, the airline's network unraveled rapidly.

The probe pointed to



deep-rooted problems: flawed software systems, weak regulatory readiness and poor oversight from top management. IndiGo's scheduling model relied heavily on stretched crew duties, aggressive roster-

ing, frequent tail swaps and

dead-heading, leaving virtually no room to recover when disruptions hit. Once

delays began, the airline's

network unraveled rapidly.

DGCA came down hard on IndiGo's leadership. The regulator issued a formal caution to the airline's CEO for weak operational oversight and crisis handling. The Accountable Manager and COO was warned for failing to assess how regulatory changes would impact daily operations. In a rare move, DGCA ordered the removal of the Senior Vice President of the Operations Control Centre from active duties, barring the official from holding any accountable role.

The case has taken a serious turn after the post-mortem report stated that the possibility of sexual violence could not be ruled out.

Police received the post-mortem report on January 15 and confirmed that medical opinion had changed based on the findings. Following this, the hostel owner was arrested, and officials said further legal action will depend on

assaulted and that there was foul play involved in her death.

According to police officials, the autopsy report was officially acknowledged a day after it was received. The Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Sadar-1 Patna, stated that the report did not rule out sexual violence, prompting investigators to re-examine

CCTV footage from the hostel was also cited as not showing any suspicious activity.

However, after reviewing the post-mortem findings, authorities acknowledged the seriousness of the case and moved forward with arrests.

The hostel owner, identified as Manish Kumar Ranjan, was taken into cus-

than three lakh passengers across India and international destinations. Airports were overwhelmed as passengers faced long queues, missed connections and little clarity, exposing glaring cracks in IndiGo's operational backbone.

A high-level DGCA inquiry found that IndiGo's leadership failed to prepare for the Winter Schedule 2025 and the revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms. Instead of building buffers, the airline pushed its crew, aircraft and network to the limit, chasing maximum utilisation at the cost of stability. The regula-

tor concluded that IndiGo had been violating mandatory aviation rules for an extended period, triggering both one-time and daily penalties.

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## FAA Warns Airlines On Central, South American Flights of Potential Military Actions

(Gns). The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a series of flight advisories on Friday, warning airlines to exercise caution in the airspace over Mexico, Central America and parts of South America due to potential "military activities."

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) warned airlines to exercise caution over Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America due to potential military activities, citing possible interference with global navigation systems; the advisory is effective for 60 days. This follows heightened regional tensions and President Trump's suggestion of military strikes in Mexico, while

Mexican authorities state there are no operational implications.

"The FAA issued flight advisory notices to Airmen for specified areas of Mexico, Central America, Panama, Bogota, Guayaquil and Mazatlan Oceans. Flight Regions, and in airspace within the eastern Pacific Ocean," an FAA spokesperson said, adding that the advisory is effective for 60 days beginning on Friday.

The warnings cite possible interference with global navigation satellite systems that could cause a "potentially hazardous situation."

The development

comes amid heightened regional tensions following a US military operation in early January that resulted in the kidnapping of Venezuelan President

US President Donald Trump has also suggested possible military strikes against drug cartel targets in Mexico.

"We are going to start now hitting land, with regard to the cartels. The cartels are running Mexico," Trump told Fox News last week.

Meanwhile, Mexican authorities said the FAA advisory has no operational implications for Mexico and imposes no restrictions on the country's airlines or operators.

Officials added that there is no impact on civil aviation in Mexico and no changes to operating conditions in national airspace.



Nicolas Maduro and his wife on narco-terrorism charges.

Following the Venezuela operation, hundreds of flights by major airlines throughout the Caribbean

were canceled after the FAA curbed flights in the region.

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for obstructing the proceedings of the upper house during the winter session from December 18 and 19, when the discussions were

has indicated that the matter has been referred to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha under Rule 203 of the Rules of Procedure and

the very beginning. On December 18, amidst intense protests from the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a strong attack on Congress, the 'Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025' Bill was passed through a voice vote. The Opposition claims that even as the legislation increases the number of working days for labourers, it does not fulfil the objectives of 'Mahatma Gandhi NREGA'.

Subsequently, in protest against this Bill, Trinamool Congress members of the Rajya Sabha, including Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, and Sagarika Ghosh, staged an overnight sit-in demonstration on the stairs of the 'Samvidhan Sadan', which was earlier the Parliament of India in Delhi, amidst the biting cold.

The Modi government has passed the VB-G Ram G Bill to replace the Congress era 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act'. The Opposition has been opposing the Bill from

Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), and he has been requested to verify and investigate the allegations and present a report.

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A bullet from the Rajya Sabha Secretary's office

held on the 'Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025'. Furthermore, they reportedly used unparliamentary language and descended into the well of the house, shouting and even reaching the table of the Speaker and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

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## Haryana CM digitally releases over Rs 858 crore under key welfare schemes

(Gns). In a significant step towards inclusive and people-centric governance, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday digitally released substantial financial assistance under multiple flagship welfare schemes, reinforcing the government's commitment to women empowerment, agricultural sustainability and household welfare. A sum of Rs 858 crore was released under key welfare schemes, including Rs 659 crore for farmers under five agriculture-related schemes.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Saini said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these initiatives reflect a holistic development approach aimed at strengthening social security and improving the quality of life of citizens across the state.

Reaffirming that farmers remain at the core of government policies, the Chief Minister said sustained efforts are being made to

make agriculture a profitable and future-ready sector so that farmers' children remain connected to farming. Acting on the principle of supporting farmers at every stage — from seed to market — the government

crore was given as incentives to 31,605 farmers adopting Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR). Under the Mera Pani — Meri Virasat scheme for the Kharif season 2025–26, Rs 15.75 crore was provided to

ment, an amount of Rs 181 crore was directly transferred into the bank accounts of 8,63,918 eligible women beneficiaries. With Saturday's release, a total of Rs 441 crore has been disbursed so far in three instalments to eligible girls and women under the scheme.

The Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi mobile application, launched on September 25, 2025, on the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji, has seen encouraging participation, with 9,98,650 women applying through the app by December 31, 2025, out of which 8,63,918 were found eligible, Saini shared.

Saini further shared that to ensure wider inclusion, the scope of the scheme has been expanded from January 2026.

Earlier, only families with an annual income of up to Rs 1 lakh were eligible; this threshold has now been increased to Rs 1.80 lakh, enabling more daughters and sisters to benefit.

on Saturday released a total of Rs 659 crore as grants and incentives under the five agriculture-related schemes, he said.

A total of Rs 461.75 crore was disbursed as incentives to 5,54,405 farmers who did not burn crop residue under the Crop Residue Management Scheme. Rs 85.10 crore was provided as a subsidy for 9,885 crop residue management machines distributed to farmers. Rs 75.54

farmers. Additionally, Rs 20 crore was given as price difference compensation to 4,073 farmers engaged in potato and cauliflower cultivation under the Bhavantar Bhrapai Yojana.

The Chief Minister shared that as part of its focused efforts on women empowerment, the government released the third instalment of the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana. Under this instal-

## Chancellor of Culture University, Dr.

## Sachin received Hansraj Ratan Award

Mathura. Chancellor of Sanskriti University, Dr. during a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi Sachin Gupta has been honored with the Mahatma Hansraj Ratan Award. Prominent personalities from across the country participated in this function held on Youth Day.

On the occasion of National Youth Day, in the national conference organized by Hansraj College at Vigyan Bhawan, the resolution of developed India and the youth program, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described youth as the biggest strength of the country and said that youth is not only the hope of the future, but is the real strength of developed India in the present itself. In the concluding session of the program, while interacting directly with the youth, he

emphasized on leadership, confidence and responsibility.

The Chief Minister said that the time of college and university is the most decisive period of life, where personality, leadership ability and self-reliant thinking are formed. While sharing his experiences related to student politics, he said that educational institutions are not just centers for awarding degrees, but also laboratories of leadership that give direction to the country.

During the ceremony Dr Sachin Gupta was honored with the Mahatma Hansraj Ratan Samman by Delhi Assembly Speaker

Vijendra Gupta for his excellent work in the field of

A photograph showing Dr. Sachin Gupta receiving a patuka (a traditional Indian cloth) from Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijendra Gupta. They are both smiling and holding the award certificate.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijendra Gupta honoring Dr. Sachin Gupta with a patuka on Youth Day at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.

education. On this occasion Dr Sachin Gupta said that it is a moment of great pride and gratitude for me to be honored by Hansraj College, Delhi University among the renowned personalities of the country. Standing among teachers, scholars and change-makers, I realized that education

remains one of the most powerful forces for change today. Every honor is not an outcome, but a firm promise to continue working towards excellence, ethical leadership and inclusive progress in education. I am grateful for this honour, and deeply inspired to pursue the vision of empowering young minds with values, knowledge and purpose.

Because true recognition lies not in the award, but in the responsibility it represents.

Union Minister of Science and Technology (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh, former Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and many academicians and a large number of students were present in the program

education. On this occasion Dr Sachin Gupta said that it is a moment of great pride and gratitude for me to be honored by Hansraj College, Delhi University among the renowned personalities of the country. Standing among teachers, scholars and change-makers, I realized that education

## Complete Solution Day in Tehsil Sadar, District Magistrate heard complaints

Mathura. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh heard the complaints of the complainants on the occasion of Total Solution Day organized in Tehsil Sadar. The District Magistrate directed the concerned officers for prompt and quality disposal of the received applications as per the rules. The District Magistrate instructed all the departmental officers to provide detailed information about the departmental schemes to the general public/complainants coming on Tehsil Day.

The District Magistrate said that it is our priority that the schemes run by the government reach the eligible beneficiaries. The

District Magistrate gave strict instructions to the officers to inspect the complaints received on the Samadhan Divas on the spot and to take the regional public problems seriously and resolve them in a quality manner and provide relief to the affected people. He said that solving public problems is of paramount importance for all of us. No complainant should leave Tehsil

Day or any office disappointed. Justice should be given to the concerned as per rules on the basis of transparency.

Deputy District Magistrate/Joint Magistrate

Abhinav J. Jain has informed that during the

Mant Ritu Sirohi informed that 34 complaints were received in Mant tehsil and 04 complaints were resolved on the spot. Deputy District Magistrate Govardhan Prajapati said that 26 complaints were received in Govardhan tehsil, out of which 03 were resolved on the spot. Deputy District Magistrate Mahavan Kanchan has informed that 18 complaints were received on Tehsil Day and 02 were resolved on the spot. Deputy District Magistrate Chhatta Vaibhav Gupta informed that 17 complaints were received in Chhatta tehsil, out of which 01 complaint was resolved on the spot.

Sampaorna Samadhan Diwas, a total of 50 complaints were received in Tehsil Sadar, out of which 04 complaints were resolved on the spot. Deputy District Magistrate

A photograph showing Dr. Chandra Prakash Singh, District Magistrate, listening attentively to a complainant. He is seated at a desk with other officials in the background.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh listening to the problems of the complainants

started. Be it Radharani temple of Barsana or any other temple, Holi will start from this day. He himself gives darshan in the form of

this, there will be Laddus Holi in Radharani temple. Holi preparations will intensify from January 23. Holi of Braj is unique. Unique because the colors of Holi here sparkle with the unique love of Radha and Krishna. Basant Panchami is the festival when the fun of Holi begins. On Basant Panchami, Holi sticks are buried in temples. This is a sign that the joy of Holi has



File photo of Lathmar Holi

adorable Huriyari. Thakur Banke Bihari will shower blessings on his devotees by applying gulal on their

## Daily Metro Passenger Count Rises Fourfold in Three Years; from 35,000 to 1.5 Lakh

Over 11.50 Crore People  
Travelled by Metro Between  
October 2022 and December  
2025  
Metro Service Extended up to  
Mahatma Mandir,  
Inaugurated by Prime  
Minister Shri Narendra Modi  
on January 11

Gandhinagar, 17 January 2026: The Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro service has emerged as a reliable, safe and efficient mode of public transport. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the metro service up to Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, part of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Phase 2, on January 11. This extension has further strengthened connectivity between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, making travel more convenient for citizens.

zents while also helping Mandir and for students reduce travel costs.

Thousands of Employees, Students and Daily Commuters Will Benefit

There is now direct metro connectivity from Mahatma Mandir Metro Station to Gandhinagar Railway Station. The metro now provides easy access to major tourist destinations such as Akshardham Temple and Dandi Kutir. This expansion will benefit thousands of employees, students and daily commuters. Daily travel will become easier for visitors attending national and global-level programs at Mahatma



Over 11.50 Crore People Travelled by Metro From October 2022 to December 2025

Over the last three years, the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro has offered a simple, affordable and reliable travel option for citizens. Between October 2022 and

December 2025, more than 11.50 crore passengers travelled by metro. In 2023, an average of 12 to 27 lakh people used the metro each month. In 2024, this number rose to around 27 to 35 lakh passengers per month. In 2025, over 44 lakh passengers travelled by metro, reflecting the growing trust in the service.

During 2 Day Coldplay Concert, 4.11 Lakh Passengers Preferred Metro, Making a Record

Last year, thousands of people relied on the metro during major events like IPL matches and the Coldplay concert at Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad. For events such as IPL, international cricket matches, and Rath Yatra, monthly passenger numbers rose from 1.6 to 2.1 lakh.

## Opposition frustrated by defeat; democracy and Constitution under threat in West Bengal: Sudhanshu Trivedi

(Gns).

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi launched a scathing attack on the opposition and the INDIA bloc, stating that the BJP has demonstrated its strong presence in several elections held after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP's victory in the Maharashtra municipal elections clearly shows that the opposition is frustrated and bewildered by its continuous defeats.

Sudhanshu Trivedi made these remarks while addressing reporters in Lucknow.

He alleged that the attitude of the governments associated with the INDIA bloc is anti-democratic.

Referring to West Bengal, he said that after the death of a Booth Level Officer (BLO), his wife has made serious allegations.

BLOs are being forced to work under government pressure, which is extreme-

ly worrying.

He said that the Constitution is under threat in West Bengal and the

Party, saying that the SP got only one seat in Maharashtra, while Owaisi's party secured four seats. He questioned SP president Akhilesh Yadav whether the INDIA bloc actually exists. The attempt to mislead the public in the name of the INDIA bloc should now stop, he added.

Sudhanshu Trivedi said that Akhilesh Yadav himself is confused regarding the electoral rolls. Sometimes he talks about votes being removed, and sometimes about them being added. This contradictory attitude is proving costly for him, he added.

He questioned whether Akhilesh Yadav would like to learn any lessons from Tejashwi Yadav's experience. The BJP spokesperson said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is continuously progressing and emerging as a developed state.

## Andaman and Nicobar Islands can emerge as major hub of India's Blue Economy initiatives: Dr. Jitendra Singh

(Gns).

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands can emerge as a major hub of India's Blue Economy initiatives, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, on Saturday.

Dr. Singh said while he was on a visit to the Atal Centre for Ocean Science and Technology for Islands (ACOSTI) to launch and review key marine technology initiatives aimed at strengthening the Blue Economy and livelihoods in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The event was held at Atal Centre for Ocean

media is also not being allowed to function independently. Trivedi compared this situation to the period of Mulayam Singh Yadav's government in Uttar Pradesh, saying that a similar situation prevailed then.

He also questioned the INDIA bloc, asking whether BLOs (Booth Level Officers) are being deliberately

The BJP spokesperson said that in their frustration over defeat, the opposition is trying to manipulate the Constitution. The INDIA bloc is constantly disintegrating, and the reality is that it is not a formal alliance, but merely a "paper alliance."

He targeted the main opposition party in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi

holders, and said, "With sustained engagement with the region and conveyed confidence that these efforts will yield long-term scientific, environmental, and socio-economic benefits for the islands.

Addressing scientists, officials and stakeholders on the occasion, the Minister said India's future economic value addition will increasingly come from untapped marine resources as the country moves rapidly towards becoming one of the world's top economies.

He highlighted that the Government's strong focus on the Blue Economy reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that India cannot develop in iso-



at Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair).

Dr. Singh expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm and dedication of scientists and local stake-

holders, and said, "With sustained engagement with the region and conveyed confidence that these efforts will yield long-term scientific, environmental, and socio-economic benefits for the islands.

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment

## Why Loan Against Property Is India's Financial Game-Changer?

By Neeraj Jain, Head, Loan Against Property, Home Credit India

The dream of homeownership has always been the ultimate finish line for every Indian, rooted deeply in our cultural aspiration of "Roti-Kapda-Makaan." For generations, a house was seen as a sanctuary of emotional and financial security—an asset to be protected and eventually passed down. However, we are now witnessing a profound evolution in this mindset. Today's consumer no longer views their home as a static "dead" asset; they see it as a dynamic engine for financial leverage. This shift has placed Loan Against Property (LAP) at the center of India's modern lending ecosystem. Lenders,

including NBFCs, are strategically diversifying into non-housing secured products to balance portfolios, which has strengthened the position of LAP within the broader lending ecosystem.

In FY25, property-linked loans, comprising home loans and LAP, formed the largest share of disbursements. Within this segment, large-ticket loans above one crore rupees accounted for 21% of total volumes, signaling a definitive preference for secured borrowing. The notable rise in home loan volumes and values, which grew by 10% and

15%, respectively, during FY25, further reinforces the expansion of property-backed credit.

A Market Expanding on Firm Fundamentals

Recent data indicate the depth and scale of this transformation. India's LAP market reached USD 758 billion in 2024 and is projected to grow to USD 2,369 billion by 2033, with a compound annual growth rate of 13.5% between 2025 and 2033. This is not merely a metro phenomenon. The engine of this growth is increasingly powered by Tier 2 to Tier 4 cities, where MSME

activity has accelerated and formal credit penetration has widened.

A Multi-Purpose Instrument for Households

Loan Against Property (LAP) is an increasingly preferred financing solution for Indian households seeking to meet large and long-term financial requirements by leveraging the value of their owned residential or commercial property. Designed to address diverse needs, LAP is commonly used for purposes such as overseas education, healthcare expenses, business or personal debt consolidation, weddings, and major home improvements, where traditional unsecured loans may be insufficient.

