



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 Fulhar.

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



He promised new opportunities for youth and farmers, especially in sectors such as food processing, silk and jute, calling them part of Bengal's heritage. He said the central BJP government is already

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.

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.

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.

Bangladeshi Hindus Can Settle In India

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.

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.



Calling on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, the Chief Minister said farmers have long been forced to cross the fence with identity cards and under BSF escort to reach their own fields, fac-

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.

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

(Gns). Delhi's government is rolling out a wide anti-pollution plan that centres on cleaner transport, better waste handling and strict checks on vehicles. Officials link these steps with winter smog, but the aim covers the full year. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta says the administration is working on a "War-level" plan that should cut emissions and improve daily air quality.

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

Gupta, more than 3,600 electric buses are now



Delhi's government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, is implementing a comprehensive anti-pollution plan that includes over 3,600 electric buses on the roads, aiming to reach 7,700 by 2026, alongside new EV mini buses, upgraded charging stations, and waste management initiatives targeting landfill sites by the end of 2026.

only cold months. The administration treats it as a permanent health and economic risk. Delhi is also coordinating with the central government and neighbouring states on linked issues such as crop residue burning and inter-state bus emissions around the National Capital Region.

Delhi Pollution Control and EV buses in Delhi

According to Rekha

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

by offering cheaper and safer travel. The buses are planned with zero tailpipe emissions and modern features. Officials claim better comfort and higher reliability will help persuade commuters to leave personal cars and two-wheelers, cutting a big source of city pollution.

Vehicle Pollution in 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.

Gadkari stresses the need for honest political leaders

(Gns). Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday emphasised the need for honest politicians who work with dedication for the welfare of the poor, farmers, and villages, noting that ample funds are available with the government.

Gadkari addressed a function at Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, where he laid the foundation stones for new road projects and inaugurated others worth thousands of crores of rupees.

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

improving their income.

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

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



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

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

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.

If it is god's will, our man will make it: Uddhav Thackeray makes statement about Mumbai Mayor post

(Gns). Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray said that hopefully somebody from his party might get to be the Mayor of Mumbai, in a surprising and suggestive statement, while addressing his corporators who managed to win on Saturday, despite the Shiv Sena-MNS alliance winning only 71 wards, out of a total 227 wards in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections.

The Uddhav led Shiv Sena won 67 wards in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, while his alliance partner Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) led by his cousin Raj Thackeray won 6 wards,

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

ground. The BJP is a party which remains only on paper. It is not a party that remains on the ground. BJP wants to mortgage Mumbai, and it won polls



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

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

for sale. Our responsibility has increased further. It is our dream to see our man as the Mayor of Mumbai. Let's see, if God has it in his heart, that too will happen," Uddhav Thackeray said while interacting with media persons after he addressed his winning corporators.

Addressing his victorious corporators earlier, Uddhav Thackeray said, "We have a dream that our man must become the Mayor of Mumbai. Let's see, if it is God's Will, even that will happen. We have won a decent number of wards despite the BJP doing its best to wipe us out of existence. They split our party. They took away our name and symbol. Despite all this, we have fought and won".

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गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Subtle Shift

The renewed exchange between India and China over the Shaksgam Valley is not just another round in a long-running territorial argument. It is a reminder that in the high Himalayas, borders are rarely changed by declarations. They are reshaped by roads, tunnels, and supply lines. What appears as routine infrastructure on a map is, in reality, a strategic act. Shaksgam lies in a remote, forbidding landscape north of the Siachen Glacier, but its importance is anything but marginal.

Legally, India's position has been consistent since 1947: the entire former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India, and no third country can alter that status. When Pakistan signed a boundary agreement with China in 1963, ceding this territory, it did so without legal standing. From India's perspective, the deal was invalid then and remains invalid now. For decades, this dispute remained largely diplomatic, buried under layers of history and geography. That has changed. China's steady construction of all-weather roads and related infrastructure in the valley marks a shift from paper claims to physical presence. In territorial politics, concrete often matters more than communiqués. A road is not merely a road; it is an assertion of control and a signal of permanence. What makes the moment especially delicate is the wider context.

India and China are attempting to stabilise their relationship after years of tension, including confidence-building measures and limited normalisation. Yet even as the surface tone improves, the ground reality is hardening. This contrast reveals a structural contradiction in the relationship. Engagement and competition are unfolding simultaneously, often in the same spaces. China's argument that its projects are purely developmental misses the strategic point. The geography of Shaksgam links Xinjiang, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the approaches to Siachen and Ladakh. Infrastructure here improves military mobility, logistics and coordination. It tightens the China-Pakistan strategic embrace in a region where India already faces complex security challenges. No serious observer can treat this as neutral activity. For India, the issue is not about provoking confrontation. It is about preventing the quiet normalisation of an altered status quo.

In disputed territories, silence can be read as acquiescence. By reiterating its claim and reserving the right to act, New Delhi is signalling that there are limits to accommodation, even in periods of diplomatic thaw. The deeper lesson is that modern border disputes are rarely settled by dramatic moves. They are managed, nudged, and reshaped through incremental changes that accumulate over time. A bridge here, a highway there, and soon a contested space begins to look settled. That is the method, and Shaksgam fits the pattern. In the end, this is not merely a dispute over a valley. It is a test of how quietly and how far facts on the ground can be changed. India's response suggests it understands that in the Himalayas, geography is destiny, and destiny, once altered, is rarely easy to reclaim.

Deliberate Failure

The Seventy-Fourth Constitutional Amendment, enacted in 1992, granted constitutional status to municipalities, requiring States to entrust them with all necessary powers, functions and responsibilities, so that the municipalities could function as effective institutions of local self-government. Pursuant to the Amendment, all States passed their own Municipal Acts, specifying the structure and composition of Urban Local Bodies, their powers and functions, and finances, hoping that democratically elected local bodies would ensure clean and liveable, urban areas.

However, this has not happened, even in metropolises, because of serious deficiencies in implementation. The CAG in its 2024 report titled "Compendium of Performance Audits on the Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992: Landscape across India" studied 393 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across 18 states, catering to 24.1 crore residents. They noticed several shortcomings; for example, only four of the eighteen functions that should have been devolved, had been completely devolved, only 29 per cent of municipal expenditure was on programmatic and developmental work, and on average 37 per cent posts were vacant.

Finances of ULBs were in a sorry state; there was a 42 per cent gap between their resources and expenditure, only 56 per cent of property tax demands had been collected, and ULBs could generate only 32 per cent of their revenue, with 68 per cent being transfers from the Union and State governments – putting them at the mercy of the Government, a situation that was sought to be avoided by the 74th Amendment.

The public has suffered immensely because of the failure of municipalities to discharge their essential functions, with the national capital Delhi being a prime example. Every winter, the air quality index of Delhi deteriorates to 'severe' on most days and occasionally crosses 400 to be classified as 'hazardous.'

The problem was flagged in 1985 when environmentalist M.C Mehta filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court, claiming that existing environmental laws obliged the government to reduce air pollution. Remedial measures ordered by the Supreme Court, like conversion of all government vehicles, buses and autos playing in Delhi to compressed natural gas (CNG) brought down air pollution to acceptable levels. However, newer sources of pollution emerged, and after notification of the National Air Quality Index, under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in 2014, it is seen that AQI touches stratospheric heights every winter.

Delhi is not an outlier; according to Clean Air Fund, a global philanthropic organisation, of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution, 17 are in India. Then, Delhi traffic stops every time it rains for more than one hour. Low-lying areas get flooded; in addition to general inconvenience and losses, every year some unfortunate people die in flooded basements, or after falling in manholes. Here also Delhi is not alone; urban flooding is a recurrent phenomenon in other metropolises also, with floods in Chennai in 2015 and 2021; in Hyderabad in 2020 and 2021; in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad in 2022; and in

Gujarat Takes Another Decisive Step Towards Realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vision of Make in India, Made for the World

Maruti Suzuki India Limited to Develop New Plant at Khoraj with Rs. 35,000 Crore Investment and Annual Capacity of 10 Lakh Cars; Potential employment opportunities for 12,000 people

Investment Letter Hand Over Ceremony held in Gandhinagar between the State Government and Maruti Suzuki India Limited in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and Maruti Suzuki MD Shri Hisashi Takeuchi

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi Attends the Ceremony

Gandhinagar, (Gns). In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Make in India, Made for the World vision, Gujarat, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, has taken another decisive step forward.

Maruti Suzuki India Limited will establish a new vehicle manufacturing plant at Khoraj on 1,750 acres of land made available by GIDC, with an investment of Rs. 35,000 crore.

In the presence of Chief

Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and Maruti Suzuki Managing Director Shri Hisashi Takeuchi, the Investment Letter Hand Over Ceremony for this plant was held in Gandhinagar. Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, along with Maruti Suzuki's Whole Time Director and Executive Committee Member Shri Sunil Kakkar, were also present on this occasion.

This new Maruti plant will generate potential employment opportunities for more than 12,000 people. Moreover, as a result of this plant, ancillary units and MSME units will also be established in the surrounding areas. This is expected to create more than 7.50 lakh indirect employment opportunities, and with the formation of an integrated cluster, Gujarat's identity as an auto hub will be further strengthened.

Under this project, a total production capacity of 10 lakh cars per year will be developed through four plants, each having an

annual production capacity of 2.5 lakh cars. Maruti Suzuki India Limited plans to commence production at



the first plant from the financial year 2029.

Welcoming the project investment of Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel said that this is not merely a new automobile manufacturing facility, but also an important step towards further strengthening the country's largest and most competitive automobile manufacturing corridor. He highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India-Gujarat-Japan relations

have consistently remained strong. He emphasised that the government will continue its efforts to uphold the

assurance given by Suzuki's CEO during his visit to Japan, when Gujarat was described as a second home. He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Gujarat has become a policy driven state through sustainable policymaking. In addition, Gujarat has also earned a reputation for robust infrastructure and a development approach aligned with the needs of industries.

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi said that since the inception of the Vibrant Summit,

inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Japan has remained both a partner country and a key partner in development. He added that when Maruti Suzuki Motors first came to Gujarat for investment, the proactive support and cooperation extended by the state government will continue in the same spirit under the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel.

Maruti Suzuki Motors MD Shri Hisashi Takeuchi, while appreciating the support extended by the Government of Gujarat, said that Gujarat is emerging as a leader in mobility transformation, from which Maruti Suzuki has also benefited. He added that through a strong partnership with the Government of Gujarat, Maruti Suzuki is keen to actively contribute to the Make in India initiative through its manufacturing units in the state.

Notably, an MoU was signed between the Government of Gujarat and Maruti Suzuki India Limited during the Vibrant Summit

2024 for the construction of this new vehicle facility.

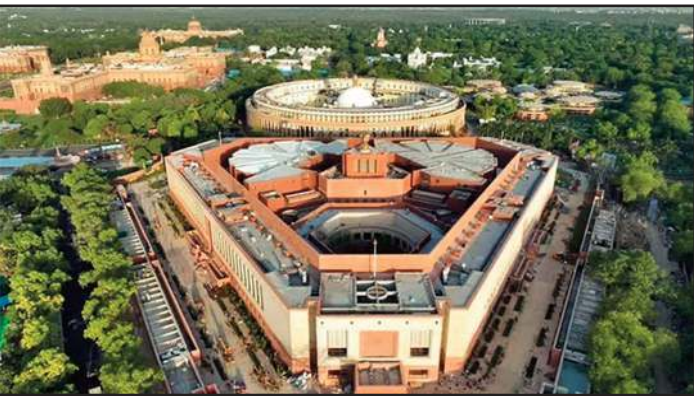
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had invited Suzuki Motors to invest in Gujarat in 2012. In response, Maruti's first plant in Gujarat is operational at Hansalpur. This plant currently produces 7.50 lakh cars per year, and a plan has been made to increase this by 2.50 lakh cars to reach a production of 10 lakh units per year by the 2026-27 financial year.

This ceremony was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Das, Industries and Mines Department Principal Secretary Smt. Mamta Verma, Principal Secretary to the CM Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Industries Commissioner Shri P. Swaroop, Additional Principal Secretary to the CM Dr. Vikrant Pandey, M.D. of GIDC Smt. Praveena D.K, and Maruti Suzuki Motors CFO Arnab Roy, Executive Officer Manjaree Chaudhary, Parikshit Maini, and Jigar Desai.

False Stability

optimistic about recovery.

The problem is not price stability; it is income fragility.



ty. Wage growth has lagged Government, including the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, pointed out that 5.45 lakh cases of waterborne diseases were recorded in Indore and Bhopal, between 2013 and 2018.

On 29 February 2024, the corporator for the affected area in Indore, had written to the Mayor about water contamination, and just before the tragedy, residents had lodged several complaints about contaminated water, but to no avail. There was no shortage of funds in Indore; Rs 2,450 crore were being spent annually on water supply from the municipal budget, along with several thousand crores, channelled through the Asian Development Bank, AMRUT Scheme, and the Smart City Project. The aftermath of the Indore tragedy has been disappointing. Some junior officials have been suspended, and some senior ones, like the Municipal Commissioner have been transferred.

Authorities such as the Chief Minister and High Court have issued directions to ensure supply of clean water. This is not likely to help, as the roadmap is clearly laid out, and the failure was of implementation. Probably, a proper inquiry could find out what went wrong with a view to prevent such occurrences in future. Coming to reasons for municipal maladministration, for long politicians and government officials have treated municipalities as cash cows. A five-year tenure has been prescribed for urban local governments in Article 243U of the Constitution, which also mandates that elections should be held before the expiry of the five-year tenure.

Since State Governments do not want to lose control over municipalities, they try to delay constitution of Urban Local Bodies by various stratagems, preferring to control ULBs through administrators.

expectations, and productivity gains remain uneven. When incomes do not rise,

lower inflation does not feel like relief; it feels like stagnation. This distinction matters for policy. If low inflation is treated as victory, the instinct will be fiscal restraint and consolidation. That would be a misreading of the moment. India does not face an overheating economy in need of cooling. It faces an underpowered economy in need of ignition. A second layer of the paradox is the growing reliance on administrative measures to manage prices.

Gig workers are recognised, at last, as human

(Gns).

For years, India celebrated the promise of instant convenience. Groceries in ten minutes. Medicines in five. Tea before the kettle cools. These slogans were marketed as triumphs of technology and efficiency – proof that India's start-up economy had arrived. But beneath this celebration lay an uncomfortable truth: every ticking delivery timer was also counting down someone else's safety. The recent decisions by quick-commerce platforms such as Blinkit, followed by pressure mounting on Zomato, Swiggy Instamart, and Zepto, to withdraw explicit "10 -minute deliver y" promises marks a rare but important inflection point in India's gig economy.

It is not just a branding change. It is an acknowledgement – long overdue – that speed-driven algorithms were pushing human beings beyond safe and dignified limits. Quick commerce rests on a single pillar: algorithmic optimisation. Algorithms do not see potholes, traffic signals, sudden rain, broken lifts, or exhausted bodies. They see only distance, time, and conversion rates. When a platform publicly commits to a 10-minute delivery, it is not merely marketing to consumers—it is issuing an unspoken command to riders.

Importing essentials, tweaking duties, imposing export curbs, and adjusting subsidies have become convenient tools.

They work in the short run, but they also mask structural weaknesses. Price control achieved through imports is not the same as stability earned through productivity and income growth. One suppresses symptoms; the other cures causes. The result is an illusion of comfort. Prices behave, fiscal space appears tight, and urgency fades. But demand does not revive on its own. Households remain cautious, small businesses stay constrained, and growth becomes lopsided. The coming Budget is, therefore, a test of diagnosis. If policymakers read low inflation as success, they will undershoot on support. If they read it as a signal of weak demand, they may choose to act.

What is needed is not reckless spending, but pur-

ers. Every delay becomes a penalty. Every red light becomes a financial risk. Every pause becomes a potential downgrade in ratings.

This is not managerial oversight; it is algorithmic coercion. Gig workers repeatedly report that even



minor delays reduce incentives, throttle future order allocation, or trigger account suspensions. The pressure is psychological as much as financial. A few seconds can decide whether a worker earns enough for rent, fuel, or a child's school expenses. Speed is no longer a metric—it is survival. India's gig workers occupy a legal grey zone. They are not classified as employees. As a result, minimum wage laws, provident fund contributions, paid leave, medical insurance, and accident compensation largely do not apply. Studies consistently show that many delivery workers put in 10 to 12 hours a day and earn Rs 15,000–20,000 a month – before deducting fuel, vehicle maintenance, and phone costs. In several

poseful spending that restores purchasing power and confidence. That means real wage protection, rural productivity, employment intensive infrastructure, working capital support for small firms, and policies that translate investment into jobs, not just assets. Growth must be felt in pay packets, and not merely in projections. India's challenge today is not controlling prices. It is restoring confidence. An economy cannot be carried forward on suppressed prices alone. Without income expansion, stability becomes brittle and growth becomes hollow. Low inflation should not lull policymakers into comfort. It should push them into action, because when households start spending again on the strength of secure incomes, recovery becomes real. The Budget must, therefore, choose courage over caution and demand over delay.

cities, this falls below statutory minimum wages.

Yet these workers operate in the most hazardous workplace imaginable: Indian roads. They navigate traffic chaos, pollution, heat, and rain – often without adequate safety gear or insurance coverage. When accidents happen, responsibility is routinely disclaimed. The worker, officially, is "independent". This is the paradox of platform capitalism: maximum control without minimum responsibility. The withdrawal of ultra-fast delivery promises exposes three structural flaws. First, logistical fantasy. Indian urban infrastructure is simply incompatible with rigid delivery timelines. No algorithm can neutralise congestion, weather, or human error.

Promising otherwise shifts impossibility onto workers. Second, consumer impatience turned toxic. Hyper-speed marketing has normalised abuse. Riders have faced verbal assault, payment refusals, and even physical violence over delays of a few minutes. When convenience becomes entitlement, empathy erodes. Third, normalised risk transfer. Platforms externalised risk on to the weakest link. Corporate profits scaled upward, while physical danger scaled downward – on to riders.

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

(Gns). In its maiden contest for 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 Sambhajnagar, 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



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

body. ISLAM had contested the elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, a steep decline, winning only three seats. Two of these were secured by the party's city unit president Ejaj 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 Sambhajnagar, Malegaon, Amravati, Nanded, Dhule,

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

DGCA Slaps ₹22.20 Crore Fine At IndiGo After Operational Collapse

(Gns). India's largest airline, IndiGo, has been pulled up sharply by the aviation regulator after its operations collapsed spectacularly in early December 2025, leaving chaos at airports and lakhs of passengers stranded. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) slapped a hefty ₹22.20 crore fine on the carrier, holding it squarely responsible for widespread cancellations and delays caused by what the regulator described as systemic mismanagement and reckless over-optimisation.

Between December 3 and 5 alone, IndiGo cancelled 2,507 flights and delayed another 1,852, disrupting travel plans of more

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.

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.

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 Oceanic 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 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.

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.

TMC MP among two faces 'contempt of parliament' case for protesting against VB-G Ram G Bill in RS

(Gns). Trinamool Congress MP Mamata Bala Thakur and former MP Mausam Noor are facing charges of 'violating privileges' and 'contempt of Parliament' for protesting against the VB-G Ram G Bill in the Rajya Sabha. The case is pending with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Of the two, Mausam Noor has since joined the Congress leaving the TMC.

On Friday, the Secretariat announced that the allegations against the two individuals are under investigation. During the discussion on the VB-G Ram G Bill, BJP MP Lakshmikanth Bajpayee raised concerns over the behaviour of the two individuals.

According to sources from Parliament, members of the saffron camp raised complaints against the duo



for obstructing the proceedings of the upper house during the winter session from December 18 and 19, when the discussions were held on the "Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika 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.

A bulletin from the Rajya Sabha Secretary's office

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

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

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 Aajeevika 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.

Dispute Over Sharing Cigarette And Alcohol Glass Turns Fatal; Brother Pushes Other To Death

(Gns). In Hyderabad's Nacharam area, a 29-year-old man, Leonard Angelo Sayars, was arrested for allegedly killing his stepbrother, Rohan, by pushing him off a terrace after an argument fueled by alcohol consumption on Wednesday night; Rohan died from head injuries.

The incident took place on Wednesday night following a heated confrontation that escalated after alcohol consumption. The victim, identified as Rohan, suffered fatal head injuries after falling from the terrace of his house.

How the Incident Unfolded

According to the police, Rohan was on the terrace

with his friend Xavier Rolith, where they were flying kites and drinking

existing tension between the two due to past disagreements. While drinking,



alcohol. Around 9.30 pm, the accused, Leonard Angelo Sayars, who is Rohan's stepbrother, arrived at the house after being called.

Police said there was

an argument broke out between them over sharing glasses and cigarettes. What began as a verbal exchange soon turned violent.

By around 11 pm, the

fight escalated into a physical assault. Police stated that Leonard allegedly grabbed Rohan, pinned him against a wall and then pushed him off the terrace.

Victim Dies During Treatment, Accused Arrested

Rohan was rushed to a nearby private hospital in a critical condition. However, doctors declared him dead during treatment due to severe head injuries.

Police registered a case of murder and arrested the accused shortly after the incident. Officials said they are continuing the investigation to reconstruct the sequence of events and determine the role of alcohol and earlier disputes.

Injury Marks, Poison, Sexual Violence: Minor NEET Aspirant's Death Probe Intensifies After the Post-Mortem

(Gns). A 17-year-old girl preparing for the NEET exam died in Patna on January 11, 2026, after being found unconscious in her hostel room, with a post-mortem report now suggesting possible sexual violence. The hostel owner, Manish Kumar Ranjan, has been arrested, and the police investigation, which involves reviewing the victim's mobile search history and urine test results, is ongoing with legal actions based on evidence.

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

evidence collected during the ongoing investigation.

The girl's family has maintained from the beginning that she was sexually

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-

tody and produced before a court.

Police Findings and Medical Details

Police officials revealed that the girl's mobile phone search history included queries related to poison. Her urine test reportedly showed the presence of sleeping pills. City Superintendent of Police Parichay Kumar said that earlier medical inputs suggested pill consumption, but final action would be based on the post-mortem report.

The incident came to light on January 9, when police were informed that the girl had been found unconscious in her hostel room. She was first taken to a local clinic and later referred for advanced treatment. Her family admitted her to another hospital, where she remained under care from January 6 to January 10.

CSPOC delegates captivated by Jaipur's royal heritage at Amer, City Palace and Hawa Mahal

(Gns). A parliamentary delegation attending the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) arrived in Jaipur on Saturday morning for a sightseeing visit. Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani welcomed the foreign delegates at the airport and extended traditional royal Rajasthani hospitality to them.

Assembly Principal Secretary Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Principal Secretary (GAD) Navin Jain, and Jaipur Collector Dr Jitendra Soni were present on the occasion.

Speaker Devnani said, "We intend to use the opportunity of this post-Delhi CSPOC sightseeing trip to provide these parliamentarians with glimpses of the

history, legacy, heritage, art, and culture of our glorious past. This rich legacy has been preserved and con-

Mahal, and the vast Jaleb Chowk. They were also spellbound by the royal City Palace and the historic



served at various monumental sites with immense tourism potential."

The delegation, comprising 120 members from 40 nations, was enthralled by the grandeur, sculptures, and artworks, and learned about the glorious history of Amer Palace, Sheesh

Hawa Mahal. Deputy Chief Minister and Princess of the erstwhile Jaipur royal state, Diya Kumari, welcomed the foreign guests at the City Palace. Elaborate arrangements were made to ensure a memorable visit to the historic sites. To give

the visitors a closer experience, suitable arrangements were also made for their night halt at selected tourist locations.

In addition to visiting tourist attractions, the visiting parliamentarians also toured the Constitution Club of Rajasthan, located near the Assembly buildings. Speaker Devnani hosted a ceremonial dinner for the delegates at the Constitution Club on Saturday evening.

Governor Haribhau Bagade, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Tika Ram Jolly, and several other dignitaries also attended the event. The delegation is scheduled to depart from Jaipur on Sunday morning.

UP health dept gears up for TB-free India

(Gns). The State TB Forum held a meeting here on Saturday to make the TB-Free India campaign more effective in Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting was chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health, Uttar Pradesh, Amit Kumar Ghosh.

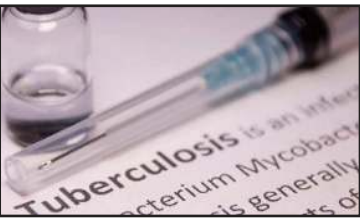
During the meeting, a detailed review of the progress of the TB-Free India campaign was conducted. The Additional Chief Secretary stated that coordinated efforts with all departments are essential to make the state TB-free. He emphasised that TB elimination is not the responsibility of the Health Department alone, but requires multi-departmental participation and collective efforts.

He directed that timely

testing of all suspected TB patients must be ensured and that identified patients should be provided with complete and quality medical facilities without any delay.

Keeping in mind the prevention of TB infection, instructions were issued to make regular TB screening mandatory for employees working in the hotel and hospitality sector in all cities. It was also agreed to ensure regular TB screening of students studying in all government and private medical colleges in the state. Directions were also given to conduct mandatory TB screening of kitchen staff working in district hospitals and medical colleges, so that any possibility of infection can be prevented in time.

Secretary also directed that meetings of the State TB Forum and District TB Forums should be held regularly every month, and



that the action-taken reports of the District TB Forums must be mandatorily uploaded each month on the concerned portal. He laid special emphasis on continuous monitoring of compliance with decisions taken in previous meetings.

It was also agreed in the meeting to further strengthen the participation of TB Champions, enabling them to raise awareness through their experiences and dis-

pel social misconceptions related to TB. Special emphasis was also laid on the effective use of social media platforms for wider publicity of TB elimination programmes.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Amit Kumar Ghosh, stated that the Government of Uttar Pradesh is fully committed to achieving the goal of a TB-Free India, and with the cooperation of all concerned departments, institutions, and development partners, the state will be made TB-free at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary, Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department, Shri Dharendra Sachan; Director General of Medical and Health Services,

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



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

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

13,500 farmers. Additionally, Rs 20 crore was given as price difference compensation to 4,073 farmers engaged in potato and cauliflower cultivation under the Bhavantar Bharpai 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-

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.

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 DrSachin Gupta was honored with the Mahatma Hansraj Ratan Samman by Delhi Assembly Speaker

Vijendra Gupta for his excellent work in the field of



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

education. On this occasion DrSachin 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 educa-

tion 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

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



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

Sampoorna 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

Mant Ritu Sirohi informed that 34 complaints were received in Mant tehsil and 04 complaints were resolved on the spot. Deputy District Magistrate Govardhan Prajakta Tripathi 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 Chhata Vaibhav Gupta informed that 17 complaints were received in Chhata tehsil, out of which 01 complaint was resolved on the spot.

Forty days of Braj Holi will start from Basant Panchami.

Basant Panchami on 23 January, Lathamar Holi on 25 February in Barsana, Lathamar Holi on 26 February in Nandgaon.

Mathura. The colors of Holi remain bright for one or two days in the entire country, but Kanha's Braj is unique. The joy of Holi continues here for forty days. Basant Panchami is on 23rd January, from this day the joy of Holi will spread all over Braj. Holi sticks will be buried in temples and then Holi celebrations will take place.

The famous Holi of Barsana is this time on 25th February. Just a day before

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

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

adorable Huriyare. Thakur Banke Bihari will shower blessings on his devotees by applying gugal on their



File photo of Lathmar Holi

cheeks and tying a bundle of gugal around their waist on the day of Basant Panchami. Here, gugal will be blown as a representative of Sevayat Thakur ji. On the other hand, preparations have also intensified for the world famous Lathmar Holi in Barsana. This time Lathmar Holi will be on 25th February. A day before this, Laddus Holi will be celebrated in Radharani temple of Barsana. राधाश्री मंदिर की रीसोवर समिति के सदस्य सुशील गोस्वामी कहते हैं कि नवरात्र में 26 फरवरी को लड्डू होली होगी। Preparations have been intensified in this regard. जब ही इसे लेकर पशानिक तैयारियां भी शुरू हो जाएंगी।

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 citi-

zens while also helping 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

Mandir and for students studying at Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya.



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

ately pressured in West Bengal and whether the state government will take responsibility for this.



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 deliber-

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

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 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

Science and Technology for Islands, a unit of National Institute of Ocean Technology, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences,

holders, and said, "With institutional collaboration, including potential involvement of CSIR and biotechnology research centres,



at Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair).

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

the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can emerge as a major hub of India's Blue Economy initiatives."

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment

to 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-

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..