



PM Modi Receives UAE President At Delhi Airport, Investment And Regional Issues On Agenda

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday received UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the Delhi airport during the latter's short but significant visit to India, highlighting the growing strategic depth of ties between New Delhi and Abu Dhabi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Delhi on Monday for discussions expected to include regional issues like West Asia tensions and several agreements related to investments, food security, and nuclear cooperation.

The visit comes against the backdrop of

heightened tensions in West Asia, with regional developments expected to figure prominently in the leaders' discussions. Several agreements are also likely to be signed during the high-level engagement.

Officials indicated that the talks may cover the evolving situation in West Asia, including strained Iran-US relations, the ongoing crisis in Gaza and the unresolved conflict in Yemen involving Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

These developments are expected to form a key part of the conversation between the two leaders.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is in India only for a few hours and is scheduled to depart later on Monday. The

meeting between the two leaders was finalised in December 2025 but had to be deferred earlier.

Focus on Investments and Strategic Cooperation

Prime Minister Modi will host the UAE President at his official residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in the evening. During the meeting, both sides are expected to sign agreements related to investments in special economic zones, food security and nuclear cooperation.

The discussions are also expected to reinforce cooperation in areas that have gained momentum in recent years, reflecting the expanding scope of the bilateral partnership.

UAE President's Continued Engagement With India

Continued Engagement

With India

deficit, capital expenditure, and GDP, which affect taxes, prices, jobs, and government spending.

The Union Budget is the government's yearly plan that shows how much money it will earn and how much it plans to spend in a financial year, which runs from April 1 to March 31.

Fiscal deficit means the gap between the government's total income and total spending. If spending is more than income, the government borrows money to cover the gap.

Capital expenditure

refers to money spent on building long-term assets like roads, railways, airports, hospitals, and schools. Nirmala Sitharaman often highlights capex to show investment in growth.

Revenue Expenditure

This is money spent on daily needs of the government such as salaries, pensions, subsidies, and interest payments. It does not create new assets.

GDP is the total value of all goods and services produced in the country. Budget targets like growth rate and deficit are often shown as a percentage of

GDP.

Direct taxes are paid directly by individuals or companies to the government. Examples include income tax and corporate tax.

Indirect taxes are collected on goods and services. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is the most common indirect tax mentioned in budget speeches.

Disinvestment means the government selling its stake in public sector companies to raise money. This is often used to reduce fiscal deficit.

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Economic Partnership Agreement in 2022, which has significantly boosted trade flows and investments.

MEA Highlights Growing Strategic Partnership

The Ministry of External Affairs said the visit builds on a series of recent high-level exchanges, including the visit of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in September 2024 and the visit of UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in April last year.

"It will also enable an exchange of views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, where India and the UAE share a high degree of conver-

gence," the MEA said.

"India and the UAE share warm, close, and multi-faceted relations, underpinned by strong political, cultural, and economic ties," the ministry added, noting that both countries are among each other's top trading and investment partners, supported by CEPA, the local currency settlement system and the bilateral investment treaty.

Budget 2026: Financial Terms One Must Know Ahead Of Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2026-27 Announcement

(Gns).

Every year during the Union Budget presentation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman uses several financial and economic terms that can be confusing for common citizens. Understanding these terms makes it easier to know how the budget affects taxes, prices, jobs, and government spending. Here is a simple explanation of the most commonly used budget terms.

The Union Budget, presented annually by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, outlines the government's financial plans for a fiscal year (April 1 to March 31), detailing income, spending, and key economic terms like fiscal



deficit, capital expenditure, and GDP, which affect taxes, prices, jobs, and government spending.

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the Comprehensive

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New survey data suggests Gujarat politics is shifting towards a direct contest between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party, with Congress losing ground across the state. Figures from the "Pulse of Gujarat 2026" survey, conducted by WeePreside and CIF, show Aam Aadmi Party gaining strong voter support, while Congress experiences another clear decline in its already shrinking base.

A survey by WeePreside and CIF indicates a shift in Gujarat's political landscape, with the Bharatiya Jani

Party leading at 49.5%, Aam Aadmi Party at 24.8%, and Congress at 17.3%, suggesting Aam

Aadmi Party has surpassed Congress as the main challenger, as of the "Pulse of

Gujarat 2026" survey. Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal addressed supporters in Ahmedabad,

stating the party aims to bring about a change in government in 2027.

According to the same survey, the Bharatiya Janata Party still leads statewide with an estimated vote share of about 49.5 percent. However, analysts note that the main challenger is no longer Congress, which appears weakened, but the Aam Aadmi Party, which has expanded rapidly since the last assembly elections and now seems positioned as Gujarat's second pole.

The "Pulse of Gujarat 2026" numbers indicate that the Aam Aadmi Party has reached a projected vote share of 24.8 percent across Gujarat.

India Pushes Back on Tariff Pressure Over Russia Ties, Asks Poland to Take Firm Stand on Terrorism

(Gns).

India on Tuesday conveyed strong reservations to Poland over what it described as selective pressure on New Delhi over its Russia ties amid the Ukraine conflict, while also firmly cautioning Warsaw against any form of support to Pakistan on issues linked to cross-border terrorism.

During talks in New Delhi, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed reservations to Poland regarding selective pressure over its Russia ties amid the Ukraine conflict, and cautioned against supporting Pakistan on cross-border terrorism, referencing a strategic partnership



established in August 2024; the two nations reviewed their Action Plan 2024-28, which focuses on cooperation in trade, investment, and security.

The concerns were raised during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's talks with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski in New Delhi, where the two sides reviewed the progress of their strategic partnership and discussed major global and regional developments.

The discussions includ-

ed a review of the Action Plan 2024-28, with both sides exploring ways to expand cooperation in trade, investment, defence, security, clean technologies and digital innovation. The focus, officials said, was on ensuring that the partnership continues to grow in step with shifting global realities.

India flags unfair targeting over Ukraine conflict

Geopolitics, particularly the Ukraine war, featured prominently in the talks. Jaishankar said he had "candidly" conveyed India's position to Sikorski on several occasions in the past, including meetings in New York and Paris, and reiterated the same in New Delhi.

Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Warsaw in August 2024.

The discussions includ-

both at the Centre and in states ruled by the saffron party, say sources.

When that happens may not be certain, but what

seems apparent is that the anointment of Nabin is a part of a set of changes—including reconstitution of

the national organisational team, with a focus on younger leaders and new office-bearers closer to Nabin's age group, they add. "Change is the law of nature and necessary. Some fresh faces and new talent in key positions are important to infuse new energy for the 2029 Lok Sabha polls," they say.

Meanwhile, the new team is expected to prioritise homegrown talent with ideological alignment with the party as well as its ideological fountainhead—the RSS. Some former state chiefs and

leaders from the current team are also in contention, both for organisational roles as well as the Narendra Modi government, where "major changes and new inducts" are likely.

Such chatter usually intensifies around elections or state polls, and both 2026 and 2027 have quite a few scheduled. But what is giving the buzz credibility is the recent BJP developments, indicating a major power shift. "Bihar Minister Nitin Nabin's elevation signals a generational transition in the saffron party's outlook, and one can expect similar changes in the Prime Minister's Council of Ministers," say observers.

Pre-trial detention cannot be treated as punishment: Ex-CJI DY Chandrachud on Umar Khalid case

(Gns).

Former Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Sunday shared frank and wide-ranging reflections on law, democracy, the bail system and the functioning of the judiciary during a session at the Jaipur Literature Festival, offering rare personal and institutional insights drawn from his years on the Bench.

Speaking candidly, Chandrachud said that although he belongs to the Baby Boomer generation, his two daughters are from Generation Z and have special needs. "If I want to remain connected to their lives, I must understand how Gen Z thinks and works," he said, underlining the importance of empathy and adaptation across generations.

Referring to his recent book, he clarified that it is



not a conventional legal text but a compilation of his speeches. As a result, it naturally draws from diverse sources, including judgments of the Indian and American Supreme Courts and the ideas of thinkers such as John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant.

Recalling the landmark judgment decriminalising homosexuality, he said he had drawn inspiration from a line by poet-singer Leonard Cohen, reflecting both the fragility of democracy and the hope that sustains it. "Some judgments are simple, while others require a flourish of thought and sensitivity," he observed.

Responding to a question on the Umar Khalid case, Chandrachud emphasised that he was speaking as

Editorial

Constructed Truce

Phase Two of the Gaza peace plan arrives wrapped in the language of reconstruction and technocracy, but it is built on political fault lines that have defeated far simpler initiatives. The promise is seductive: a ceasefire gives way to demilitarisation, a neutral administration takes charge, and cranes replace drones. For a war-weary region, the vision offers a clean break from cycles of siege and retaliation. Yet the plan's core assumption is that governance can be engineered before legitimacy is earned.

Installing a technocratic committee may streamline aid, restore services, and reassure donors, but it cannot substitute for consent. Gaza is not an empty spreadsheet waiting for rational management; it is a traumatised society with factions, memories, and claims that resist being tidied away. A government without a political horizon risks becoming a caretaker for other people's priorities. The demand for full disarmament is the most brittle pillar. Armed groups have long tied their weapons to unresolved questions of statehood and security. To ask for surrender of arms without a credible pathway to sovereignty is to ask one side to abandon leverage while the other retains control. History suggests that such asymmetry breeds spoilers, not stability.

Even if leaders sign on, enforcement on the ground will be messy and contested. Equally uncertain is the expectation of complete withdrawal. Partial pullbacks and security buffers can coexist with declarations of peace, but they also blur accountability. Who governs, who secures, and who answers when something goes wrong? Ambiguity is a recipe for mutual recrimination, and that is how ceasefires die. The architecture of oversight raises its own questions. When decisions are perceived to be made elsewhere, even competent administrations struggle to command loyalty. Reconstruction that feels imposed will be protected by force, not embraced by communities. Support from regional mediators and cautious assent from rival Palestinian factions are encouraging, but they read more like tactical pauses than strategic conversions.

No party has abandoned its red lines; they have merely stepped around them. That may be enough to start rebuilding schools and clinics, but it is not enough to settle borders, rights, or recognition. None of this is an argument for paralysis. Gaza needs homes, water, power, and jobs now. A technocratic phase can stabilise daily life and reduce suffering. But it should be treated as a bridge, not a destination. Without a parallel political track that addresses sovereignty, security guarantees, and mutual recognition, reconstruction risks becoming a revolving door: build, break, rebuild. Peace is not assembled the way infrastructure is. It grows from bargains that both sides can defend to their own people. Phase Two will be judged not by how quickly the rubble is cleared, but by whether it clears space for a durable political settlement. If it does, the technocrats will have done their quiet work well. If it does not, Gaza will remain governed by plans rather than by peace.

Maher Is Winning Hearts on COLORS' Seher Hone Ko Hai: Parth Samthaan & Rishita Kothari on Their On-Screen Romance

In a world ruled by power, patriarchy, and survival, love becomes an act of resistance! And COLORS' 'Seher Hone Ko Hai' is proving that love, when rooted in emotional truth, can be the most disruptive force of all. What began as a layered family drama is now steadily unfolding into a gripping love story, with romance emerging as the beating heart of the narrative. At the centre of this shift is a fresh, compelling lead pairing of Parth Samthaan as Mahid and Rishita Kothari as Seher.

This romance clicks because of the sharp contrast between its two leads. Mahid is privilege personified, the heir to a powerful family, shaped by authority and emotional restraint. Seher stands at the other end, driven by hope, courage, and a single dream of becoming a doctor to build a better future. They are opposites in every way, yet destiny begins to stitch them together through moments of emotional honesty. Mahid and Seher's bond builds quietly through stolen glances, hesitant conversations, and silences that speak louder than words. It is this understated, innocent and emotionally charged romance that has struck a chord with audiences, who are rooting for the jodi and have lovingly named them #Maher.

Speaking about the audience's overwhelming response, Parth Samthaan shared, "Mahid is someone who has been raised to lead, not to feel. He comes from immense privilege, but also from a space where emotional vulnerability was never encouraged. That's why his connection with Seher isn't loud; it's instinctive and very internal. With Rishita, there was an immediate comfort and trust, which allowed us to bring to life that emotional



honesty. Many of our most powerful moments aren't about dialogue at all, but about what Mahid and Seher are processing internally. The fact that audiences are noticing those subtle elements and responding so strongly to #Maher tells me that viewers are truly rooting for this romance."

Rishita Kothari added, "Seher brings more moral clarity into Mahid's world - qualities he has always admired but never fully lived by. Through her, Mahid begins to question the power structures around him and even within himself. Their bond softens him; it unsettles him in the best way. That inner shift is what makes their equation layered and transformative. Seher is stepping into her voice for the very first time, and Mahid becomes a space of emotional safety without ever trying to define, control, or rescue her. That kind of support is rare. Working with Parth makes that dynamic very organic because he brings a lot of sensitivity to every scene. Even when we're standing in silence, there's an emotional exchange happening, and I think that's what viewers are responding to."

In the current track Mahid and Seher's wed-

(Gns). Madumar, located in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh, is an ancient village with a huge tank spread over about 100 acres of land. People of this village take pride in relating mythological stories which establish the ancient origins of this village. This tank goes back to the times of the Chandela kings who had ruled in the Bundelkhand region from the 9th to the 14th century.

The Chandela kings are known for the water heritage they left behind in the form of several well-planned and constructed tanks which continue to serve people to this day. The Madumar tank is one such tank which continues to be an important source of irrigation and fisheries, meeting the water needs of many people and animals. Its heritage importance is enhanced by its location close to the famous Jain religious centre of Paparaji, earlier known as Pampapur, which consists of about 108 shrines. Apart from their religious importance, they are noted for their architecture and wall paintings and attract many pilgrims. Their history goes back about 800 years. Another important heritage aspect of this site is that a big and traditional agro-processing centre existed very close to it in the past and its remains can still be seen. Some villagers to whom I spoke said this probably consisted of processing sugar-cane juice to make gur or jaggery.

However, Kamlesh Kurmi, who has been involved in the renovation work of the tank closely, says that this centre is likely to have also included

processing of edible oil (this area is known for several oilseed crops including groundnut, mustard and sesame). The prospects of reviving traditional agro-processing here can be considered from the perspective of livelihood support, making available healthier food products and protecting heritage. This will be welcomed by traditional processors who have been increasingly neglected and marginalized in recent times, although the processing done by them resulted in products with higher nutritional as well as medicinal properties.

While the Madumar tank obviously has great heritage as well as utility value for common people, its cleaning had been neglected for a long time and therefore a lot of silt had accumulated here. In an important recent initiative, a voluntary organization, Srijan, which has initiated development initiatives in this region, took up the work of de-siltation of this tank with the support of the Inter-Globe Foundation. This has helped to clean up the tank and to increase its water receiving and retaining capacity.

This will reduce distress caused by less than expected rain or a drought situation, as well as an excess rain or flood situation. Thus, such initiatives not only protect water sources and increase irrigation, but in addition also help to reduce the adverse impact of erratic or extreme weather situations and disasters and hence are particularly useful in times of climate change. Such efforts are an important component of climate change adaptation. When de-siltation work was taken

up, a lot of fertile silt taken out of the tank became available. Farmers used their own resources to carry this silt to their fields, thereby improving the fertility of their farmland.

During my recent visit,

amount for carrying silt to their fields (about Rs 5 lakh) compared to the amount spent on de-siltation of the tank (Rs. 2.5 lakh).

As the two water bodies have been traditionally considered to be related to each other. If in addition, the traditional food processing is also revived, this can also become a heritage site located close to the famous Jain pilgrimage.

In due course of time, as natural farming progresses with vegetable and fruit gardens, these healthy food products can also be marketed here, combining heritage protection with the enhancement of livelihood opportunities. Srijan is also looking at water heritage protection in a wider context. As Rakesh Kumar, who has been closely involved in these efforts says, ultimately all water bodies and water channels are inter-related and linked to the protection of the important and sacred rivers of the region like the Ken and the Betwa and their various tributaries. Hence the water-related work of the organization extends to many water channels and rivulets, combining a perspective of livelihood improvement, conserving water and heritage protection. In a water channel near village Maughat, for instance, the focus is more on digging ditches called dohas that will help the water to be conserved for a longer period during the dry season.

Here the check dam constructed earlier had proved to be useful but then someone stole the gates and these could not be replaced for a long time. As a result, the entire structure fell into disuse. Recently Srijan arranged a modest budget to install the gates and take up other renovation work. The result is that not only are about 25 farmers able to irrigate their fields, but the water table in the three settlements of Mohanpura, Dhaijrai and Hajuringar is going up. Similar efforts to improve damaged structures, particularly check dams, have given good results in villages like Markhera, Ramnagar and Banpura.

Stolen Childhoods

This in turn will be helpful in Srijan's efforts to spread ecologically protective natural farming practices among farmers. Such efforts which are still in the initial stage also include the spread of small orchards and multi-layer vegetable gardens. The participative nature of these efforts is evident from the fact that farmers are estimated to have spent nearly twice the

we had a nice group discussion with villagers under the shade of a peepal tree, sitting on a chabutra or raised platform. Srijan members were discussing plans of taking up tree planting work here. It was decided that only indigenous species will be selected and in addition some flowers will also be grown. This work will be extended to the nearby Garora tank

(Gns).

India's juvenile justice system was conceived as a moral contract with its children: even when they stumble, the state will not abandon them. In practice, that promise is fraying. Across districts, the machinery meant to protect and reform young offenders is uneven, understaffed and often invisible. The consequence is not merely delay or inconvenience; it is the quiet erosion of childhood itself. When boards fail to sit, when age checks are skipped, when oversight visits never happen, children slide into adult processes by default. They are handcuffed to procedures designed for hardened criminals and warehoused in spaces that teach survival, not responsibility.

The law imagines a continuum of care ~ police sensitisation, legal aid, observation homes, counselling, education, skill building. What many children experience instead is a vacuum where no one owns the outcome. This vacuum is filled by violence, hierarchy, and fear. Overcrowded institu-

tions reproduce street power structures, and the youngest learn quickly whom to appease. Idleness replaces schooling; television replaces therapy. In such conditions, reform is a slogan, not a pathway. The system's failure becomes the child's identity. Part of the problem is bureaucratic neglect. Data is scattered, benches are incomplete,

longer seen. India's social realities make this indifference especially dangerous. Many children in conflict with the law come from homes fractured by addiction, poverty, migration, and abuse. They are shaped by scarcity and exposed early to violence. To treat their actions without addressing their context is to guarantee repetition.

inspections are cursory. But an equally corrosive issue is attitude. A resigned belief that some children are "beyond help" seeps into policing, prosecution and even defence. Once that belief takes root, process replaces purpose.

Files move, hearings happen, but the child is no

Accountability and empathy are not opposites; in juvenile justice, they are partners. The good news is that alternatives exist and they work. Where institutions invest in counselling, behavioural programmes, education and vocational training, outcomes change. When young people are

Department of Justice, threatening a criminal indictment relating to his testimony to the Senate banking committee about the US\$2.5 billion renovations to the Fed's historic office buildings. Trump has denied any involvement in the investigation. But Powell released a strong

statement in defence of himself.

He said the reference to the building works was a "pretext" and that the real issue was "whether the Fed will be able to continue to set interest rates based on evidence and economic conditions – or whether monetary policy will be directed by political pressure or intimidation." Last Tuesday, more than a dozen of the world's lead-

ing central bankers put out a statement of support: "We stand in full solidarity with the Federal Reserve System and its Chair Jerome H Powell. The independence of central banks is a cornerstone of price, financial and economic stability in the interest of the citizens that we



serve. It is therefore critical to preserve that independence, with full respect for the rule of law and democratic accountability."

Another statement of support came from leading US economists – including all the living past chairs of the Fed.

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ers to get irrigation water but in addition it is helpful for animals and birds to quench their thirst. A gabion-wall structure has also been constructed to conserve water and already one can see more birds collecting near the water conservation site. This work too is taken up along with promotion of natural farming, and vegetable and fruit gardens in the village. In some other places it has been seen that several benefits can accrue from repair and renovation of existing structures that have been damaged due to various factors. I visited one such site in Mamau village. Here the check dam constructed earlier had proved to be useful but then then someone stole the gates and these could not be replaced for a long time. As a result, the entire structure fell into disuse. Recently Srijan arranged a modest budget to install the gates and take up other renovation work. The result is that not only are about 25 farmers able to irrigate their fields, but the water table in the three settlements of Mohanpura, Dhaijrai and Hajuringar is going up. Similar efforts to improve damaged structures, particularly check dams, have given good results in villages like Markhera, Ramnagar and Banpura.

taught to understand their actions, manage impulses and imagine a future, they choose differently. These are not miracles; they are the predictable results of sustained care. Reform, then, is less about rewriting laws and more about making the existing ones real. It requires fully staffed boards, mandatory timelines, transparent data, and independent inspections with teeth. It requires training police to identify minors correctly and lawyers to argue for care, not convenience. It requires budgets that value counsellors and teachers as much as walls and locks. Above all, it requires political will. Children do not vote, and young offenders are easy to ignore. But every year a child is misclassified, mis-housed or forgotten, society compounds a small crime into a lifelong disadvantage. The price is paid later in broken livelihoods and repeat offences. India must choose a system that heals, not hardens, because every child reclaimed today saves families, communities, and the future from

A more recent example comes from Turkey. In the early 2020s, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan leaned on the country's central bank to cut interest rates. The result was very high inflation, eventually followed by very high interest rates to try to get inflation back under control. What will happen if Trump is able to appoint a compliant Fed chair, and other board members, and if they actually lower the short-term interest rates they control to 1 per cent? Expected inflation would rise. This would lead to higher long-term interest rates. If Trump gets his way, US voters may face a greater affordability problem in the run-up to the mid-term elections in November. This could then be followed by a recession, as interest rates need to rise markedly to get inflation back down. And as over a dozen global central bank leaders have just warned us, what happens in the US matters worldwide.

Bundelkhand's water heritage being saved



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This is helpful for farm-

Central bankers from around the world have issued a joint statement of support for US Federal

(Gns). Central bankers from around the world have issued a joint statement of support for US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, as he faces a criminal probe on top of mounting pressure from US President Donald Trump to resign early. It is very unusual for the world's central bank governors to issue such a statement. But these are very unusual times. The reason so many senior central bankers – from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, the United Kingdom and other countries, as well as the central banks' club the Bank for International Settlements – have spoken up is simple. US interest rate decisions have an impact around the world. They don't want a dangerous precedent set. Over the course of my career as an economist, much of it at the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Bank for International Settlements, I

have seen independent central banks become the global norm in recent decades. Allowing central banks to set interest rates to achieve inflation targets has avoided a repeat of the sustained high inflation which broke out in the 1970s. Returning the setting of monetary policy to a politician, especially one as unpredictable as Trump, is an unwelcome prospect. Trump has repeatedly attacked the US Federal Reserve (known as the Fed) over many years. He has expressed his desire to remove Powell before his term as chair runs out in May.

But legislation says the president can only fire the Fed chair "for cause", not on a whim. This is generally taken to mean some illegal act. The Supreme Court is currently hearing a case about whether the president has the power to remove another Fed board member, Lisa Cook. And this week, Powell revealed he had been served with a subpoena by the US

Department of Justice, threatening a criminal indictment relating to his testimony to the Senate banking committee about the US\$2.5 billion renovations to the Fed's historic office buildings. Trump has denied any involvement in the investigation. But Powell released a strong

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Another statement of support came from leading US economists – including all the living past chairs of the Fed.

This included the legendary central bank "maestro" Alan Greenspan, appointed by Ronald Reagan and reappointed

ers to get irrigation water but in addition it is helpful for animals and birds to quench their thirst. A gabion-wall structure has also been constructed to conserve water and already one can see more birds collecting near the water conservation site.

This work too is taken up along with promotion of natural farming, and vegetable and fruit gardens in the village. In some other places it has been seen that several benefits can accrue from repair and renovation of existing structures that have been damaged due to various factors. I visited one such site in Mamau village.

Here the check dam constructed earlier had proved to be useful but then then someone stole the gates and these could not be replaced for a long time. As a result, the entire structure fell into disuse.

Recently Srijan arranged a modest budget to install the gates and take up other renovation work. The result is that not only are about 25 farmers able to irrigate their fields, but the water table in the three settlements of Mohanpura, Dhaijrai and Hajuringar is going up. Similar efforts to improve damaged structures, particularly check dams, have given good results in villages like Markhera, Ramnagar and Banpura.

This is helpful for farm-

Central bankers from around the world have issued a joint statement of support for US Federal

Major kavach safety works proposed on western railway under the vision of hon'ble minister of railways shri ashwini vaishnaw

Mumbai, In line with the strong focus on rail safety and adoption of advanced technologies under the leadership of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, two important itemised works for implementation of the KAVACH train collision avoidance system under the Indian Railways' Umbrella Work 2024-25 will be carried out on Western Railway.

The proposal, which is under consideration, involves a total outlay of

₹483.65 crore and includes the following works:

Provision of KAVACH on the Udhna-Jalgao Section (307 Route Kilometres)

Proposed at a cost of ₹109.83 crore, this work aims to enhance operational safety on this vital section through the deployment of the indigenous KAVACH safety system. Modification, Upgradation and Programming of 436 Locomotives on Western Railway

A provision of ₹373.82 crore has been proposed for carrying out necessary modification, upgradation and programming of 436 existing locomotives to ensure effective and seamless functioning of the KAVACH system.

These works form part of the larger umbrella project titled "Provision of KAVACH with communication backbone of Long-Term Evolution (LTE) on balance routes of Indian Railways (Umbrella Work 2024-25)", approved under the Works,

Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme 2024-25 at a total cost of ₹27,693 crore (PH-33). Under this umbrella, a sub-umbrella allocation of ₹2,800 crore has been approved for Western Railway.

The proposed initiatives reflect Indian Railways' continued commitment to strengthening rail safety infrastructure and accelerating the implementation of modern safety systems, in line with the vision and guidance of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Works, under the

Western railway commissions 6th line between kandivali and borivali

Mumbai, Western Railway has achieved a major infrastructure milestone with the successful commissioning of the 3.210 kilometre long 6th Line between Kandivali and Borivali in the Mumbai suburban section, following the successful inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (Western Circle) on 18th January, 2026.

According to a press release issued by Shri Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (Western Circle), Shri E. Srinivas conducted a detailed inspection of the newly constructed 6th Line section between Kandivali and Borivali, followed by speed trials, after which the section was authorised for regular train operations.

The Kandivali-Borivali section forms the concluding segment of Phase-I of the project between

Bandra Terminus and Borivali. The earlier sections between Khar Road-Goregaon and Goregaon-Kandivali were commissioned in November 2023 and October 2024 respectively.

Commissioner of Railway Safety (Western Circle) Shri E. Srinivas and senior Western Railway officials conducting on-track inspection and technical review of the 6th Line between Kandivali and Borivali.

The final stretch was completed within a tightly planned 30-day execution window from 18th December 2025 to 17th January 2026, reflecting meticulous planning, round-the-clock execution and seamless coordination across various departments of Western Railway.

The commissioning involved large-scale track realignment, bridge

strengthening, modern signalling integration, electrification works, land acquisition, etc. Most of the work was undertaken during night blocks period to ensure minimal incon-

maintenance blocks and peak traffic periods, improving service reliability and passenger convenience across the Mumbai suburban network.

The completion of this critical infrastructure link within a compressed time-frame stands as a strong example of Western Railway's engineering capability, project management discipline and commitment to passenger-centric development. The project will directly contribute to smoother train operations, and a better travel experience for millions of daily commuters.

Western Railway remains steadfast in its commitment to continuous infrastructure augmentation, adoption of modern safety technologies and delivery of reliable, efficient and passenger-centric rail services, reinforcing its role as the lifeline of Mumbai's urban mobility network.

Who Is Nitin Nabin? BJP's New National Executive President And His Political Journey, Assets, And Influence

(Gns).

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has made an important organisational change by appointing senior leader and Bihar minister Nitin Nabin as its new National Executive President. The appointment came into effect on December 14, 2025. Political observers see this move as a key part of the party's long-term strategy.

Nitin Nabin was appointed as the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) National Executive President on December 14, 2025, becoming the youngest leader to hold the position;

he has assets valued at ₹3.1 crore, and has been elected as MLA from Bankipur, Bihar, for four consecutive terms.

With this decision, Nitin Nabin has become the

youngest leader to hold the post. His strong grassroots connect, administrative experience, and long association with the party are believed to have played a major role in his elevation. Along with his political rise, many are also curious about his financial background.

How Much Wealth Does Nitin Nabin Own?

According to the affidavit submitted by Nitin Nabin to the Election Commission, his total assets are valued at around ₹3.1 crore. These include movable and immovable properties declared in official records.

The documents also

mention that he has liabilities of approximately ₹56.7

lakh. Despite this, his overall financial position is considered stable. His declared assets and liabilities are in line with disclosures made by several senior politicians.

Bankipur: A Stronghold and Family Legacy

Nitin Nabin has been elected as an MLA from the Bankipur Assembly constituency in Bihar for the fourth consecutive term. The seat holds special significance, as it was earlier represented by his father, late Naveen Kishore

Years of Organisational Work Behind His Rise

Nitin Nabin's rise within the BJP is the result of years of dedicated organisational work. During his time with the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), he actively participated in several major national-level movements.

by use of such models include submission of application from anywhere through online mode, reduced paperwork and branch visits, instant in-principle sanctions through digital mode, seamless processing of credit proposals, end to end straight through process (STP), reduced turnaround time (TAT), Credit decision based on objective data/

Transactional behaviour and credit history and integration of credit guarantee schemes like CGTMSE.

Andaman, Nicobar Islands' biodiversity crucial for environmental and economic security: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Calls Andaman & Nicobar a 'Living Laboratory of Biodiversity'. During Visit to Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Sri Vijaya Puram

Island Biodiversity Critical for Climate Resilience; ZSI's Five Decades of Research Strengthen India's Biodiversity Knowledge Base: Dr Jitendra Singh

Strengthening Scientific Institutions Like ZSI Key to India's Blue Economy Vision and Environmental Goals: Dr Jitendra Singh

Posted On: 19 JAN 2026 12:15PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that Andaman & Nicobar Islands' biodiversity is crucial for environmental and

economic security. The Minister was highlighting the strategic importance of island biodiversity, during his visit to the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Sri Vijaya Puram.

Addressing scientists and officials, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Andaman & Nicobar Islands represent a "living laboratory of biodiversity", where cutting

edge science must go hand in hand with conservation and sustainable livelihoods. He noted that institutions like ZSI play a critical role in generating authentic scientific data that guides national policies on biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and ocean-based economic growth.

During the visit, the Minister was received by Dr C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-F and Officer-in-Charge, who

briefed him on the mandate of the Regional Centre, its ongoing research programmes, and its pivotal contribution to documenting, conserving, and monitoring

the unique faunal diversity of the islands. The briefing highlighted ZSI's work in taxonomy, molecular systematics, DNA barcoding, biodiversity assessment, and capacity building.

Established in 1977, the Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre of ZSI has completed five decades of sustained scientific service. It has emerged as a nodal institution for tropical island biodiversity research, hav-

ing completed nearly 90 research programmes across multiple faunal groups. Scientists of the Centre have published 85 books and over 850 research papers in reputed national and international journals, significantly enriching India's biodiversity knowledge base.

Dr Jitendra Singh also visited the ZSI Museum, one of the prominent tourist and educational destinations in the islands, which houses around 3,500 specimens representing 22 faunal groups.

He was apprised of the museum's role in public outreach, awareness generation and education, with annual footfall ranging between 75,000 and 1,00,000 visitors, including students, researchers and tourists.

The Minister showed keen interest in the curated reference collections, type specimens and exhibits showcasing endemic, endangered.

ers and entrepreneurs will help the Department in framing appropriate policy interventions and measures to ensure the sustained growth of the fisheries sector.

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has undertaken several initiatives to deepen shrimp markets. Despite the imposition of a 58 percent tariff by the United States, the sector has demonstrated resilience, registering a 21 percent growth in export value and a 12 percent increase in export quantity during April-October 2025.

ICAR-CIBA plays a significant role in shrimp feed development and is implementing two major PMMSY-funded projects aimed at advancing scientific aquaculture and improving resource use efficiency.

The Secretary interacted with ICAR-CIBA scientists and inspected several research facilities, including finfish, crustacean, ornamental fish, and crab units, as well as the feed mill. The visit provided firsthand

exposure to the diverse research, development, and innovation activities being undertaken in the field of brackishwater aquaculture. The visit of the Union

Fisheries Secretary holds particular significance for the shrimp sector, as shrimp is India's leading seafood export commodity, accounting for nearly 70 percent of the country's total seafood exports to about 130 countries. Insights gained from direct interactions with farm-

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Centre of excellence for regulatory affairs in the power sector launched at IIT Delhi

Power Minister inaugurates the Centre; says it will play a key role in supporting informed and forward-looking regulation

(Gns.)

Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power, Government of India, today inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector at IIT Delhi.

The Centre jointly established by IIT Delhi, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and Grid Controller of India Ltd. (Grid India), marks an important step towards strengthening India's regulatory capacity in a rapidly evolving power sector characterised by growing electricity demand, large-scale renewable energy integration, expanding power markets, and increasing use of digital technologies.

The Centre of Excellence is envisaged as a national-level hub for reg-

ulatory research, capacity building, advisory support and knowledge dissemination. By locating the Centre

opment to strengthen institutional capabilities and promote effective knowledge management and dissemina-

and research becomes essential. This Centre of Excellence at IIT Delhi will play a key role in supporting informed and forward-looking regulation, he said.

The work of the Centre of Excellence will directly support policy and regulatory decision-making by addressing the power sector trilemma of affordability, sustainability, and efficiency. It will strengthen institutional capacity within distribution utilities and regulatory commissions, and equip regulators and policymakers with robust analytical tools and India-wide system models to evaluate regulatory proposals through the lens of consumer welfare, system reliability, and investment signals. At the economy-wide level, the Centre will inform power sector reforms at a critical juncture, as solar and wind energy become mainstream and fundamentally reshape power system planning, operations.

While inaugurating the Centre at IIT Delhi today, Shri Manohar Lal said that as India moves towards clean energy, competitive markets and consumer-centric reforms, strong regulation backed by knowledge

nation. It will undertake cutting-edge research with access to global academic and policy networks, while also providing advisory and consultancy support to regulators and other power sector stakeholders.

The Centre will work closely with CERC and Grid India to identify key regulatory and sectoral challenges, support capacity building and human resource devel-

daughter was asked, she was scared. Then she told that she told that Ajay alias Marua from the same village has been doing wrong things with her for the last several months when her father's

parentsWhen Ajay went to alias Marua, he said, take two to four thousand rupees and get the daughter's stomach cleaned. When he tried to say something else, he threatened to kill me, threatened to run away from here, in this case a complaint was filed in Farah police station, police registered a case against the accused. After this the police conducted medical examination of the girl. In this it was confirmed that she had been raped. Here, Kishori confirmed the above men-

tioned things in her statements.

On Monday, Special

Judge POCSO Act Judge Santosh Kumar Tripathi, while hearing the case, booked the accused Ajay alias Marua in session case number 1582/2023 for the offense of Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code equivalent to Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act 2012 of the

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and a fine of Rs 50,000 has been imposed on the client. If he does not pay the fine, he will have to undergo additional imprisonment of one year. Convict Marua has been punished under section 506 with 2 years rigorous imprisonment and the accused with fine of Rs 5000. Under Section 4 of the POCSO Act 2012, he was sentenced to life imprisonment (for the remaining natural life span) and a fine of Rs 50,000. In case of non-payment of fine, the accused will undergo additional simple imprisonment. The amount of penalty will be given to the victim. The period spent by the accused in jail will be adjusted in this sentence. All sentences will run concurrently.

He said, "Today is a big day in Indian politics, but it is the biggest day for Bihar. This moment is historic for us. Since he is a resident of Patna, it makes us even happier."

Expressing confidence, Saraogi said that Nitin Nabin, who is very popular among party workers, will prove to be a strong and capable National President.

He said that the BJP is a party that follows a strong

organisational structure and a democratic process. This election process reflects the BJP's tradition where, through hard work and dedication, any worker can reach the highest position.

He added that in dynamic politics, only family members are chosen, whereas in the BJP, every worker is considered a part of the BJP family.

He said, "The BJP is not a party of any one caste, but a party that functions like a family. This moment is a major example of the BJP's internal democratic system and its policy of

promoting its workers. A dedicated party worker becoming the National President is a matter of

assumed the post of MLA from the Patna West constituency in the by-election held that year. He has continued to win from this seat consecutively since then.

In 2016, he was appointed State President of the BJP Yuva Morcha. His active participation and influence within the organization continued to grow steadily. He has served as an MLA for five times and held ministerial positions three times. After the BJP's

impressive performance in the 2025 Assembly elections, he was given the responsibility of BJP's National Working President, which is now being converted into the full-time post of National President.

Cheating of crores of rupees from jewelers exposed, two vicious thugs caught

Mathura. Police station Kotwali has achieved great success by arresting two vicious accused of an organized gang who were involved in digital fraud with jewelers and purchasing gold and silver. Three mobile phones and fake Aadhaar card have been recovered from the possession of the arrested accused.

On the information of the informer, the police team under the leadership of Inspector-in-charge Vinod Babu Mishra arrested the accused Lavish and Mani Singh from near Goods Warehouse Road. Both the accused were living in Ludhiana, Punjab while their original residence is in Uttar Pradesh. According to the police, the

accused purchased gold coins and jewelry worth lakhs of rupees from jewelers by making fake transactions through UPI means like Google Pay, Phone Pay and Paytm, after which the bank accounts of the concerned jewelers were

seized. Section 111(4)/338/336(3)/340(2) of BNS has been increased in the case after fake Aadhaar cards were found from the accused during investigation. Police is busy searching for other gang members. Both the accused, who were caught by the Kotwali police, have revealed the shocking method of digital fraud dur-

ing interrogation. According to the police, both of them are members of an organized gang who used to steal mobile phones during the day and remove the SIM from the stolen phone and insert it in another phone. After this, UPI apps like Paytm, Phone-Pay and Google-Pay were activated by asking for OTP. Then a mem-

ber of the gang would go to the market with an active phone and make transactions by purchasing gold and silver from jewelers' shops. The accused used fake Aadhaar cards to hide their identities. On December 24, 2025, the accused had come to Vrindavan-Mathura area and purchased gold coins and jewelry worth lakhs of rupees from different jewelers. The fraud came to light when the bank accounts of the jewelers were suddenly seized. Police say that this gang may be active in other districts of the state also. Intensive investigation of the case is going on and other accused will be arrested soon.

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This information was provided by Manish Kumar, Director of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Lucknow, here on Monday.

He said that these radars are being installed in Lucknow, Azamgarh, Jhansi, Aligarh, and Varanasi. Four of these radars are being installed by the Uttar Pradesh government, while one radar in Varanasi is being installed by the IMD. This will ensure overlapping coverage in the radar network and significantly increase the accuracy of weather forecasts.

According to Manish Kumar, these advanced

radars are capable of tracking the reflectivity and three-dimensional structure of clouds, which will further

improve the capacity for 'nowcasting' or short-term weather forecasting.

Along with this, 2,450 automatic weather stations and 2,000 automatic rain gauge stations are being established at the block level across the state. This

will create a robust block-level weather network throughout Uttar Pradesh.

He also informed that

there is a proposal to install wind profiler radar meters in Lucknow and Varanasi. The site selection and tendering process have been completed, and these radars will become operational in the next one year, making daily weather moni-

toring more effective.

In addition, under IMD's

'Mission Mausam' scheme, state-of-the-art observation systems will be established in Bareilly, Deoria, and Prayagraj, which will be operational in the next one and a half years. These systems will assist in surface, remote sensing, and upper atmospheric observations, strengthening forecasting accuracy and disaster management capabilities.

Senior scientist Mohammad Danish of IMD Lucknow said that the shift from traditional systems to digital systems will provide real-time data, more frequent updates, and high-quality weather data. This will make it possible to issue accurate weather warnings in a timely manner. Overall, these initiatives are expected to significantly strengthen weather forecasting, disaster management, and public safety in Uttar Pradesh.

Several serious cases including Gangster Act, Attempt to Murder (307 IPC) and Arms Act have been registered against him in the past in Hathras district, which exposes his criminal tendencies. This entire action was carried out under the leadership of Kosikalan Police Station Inspector Rajkamal Singh and Sub Inspector Rajneesh Nain. This quick and effective action of the police has created panic among the cow smugglers, while the regional people have appreciated the promptness of the police

and research becomes essential. This Centre of Excellence at IIT Delhi will play a key role in supporting informed and forward-looking regulation, he said.

The work of the Centre of

Expo. Both the recovered cows have been safely rescued from the spot and sent to Durvasa Rishi Cowshala. Police investigation has revealed that the criminal history of accused Anil Kumar is very serious.

According to the police, on the night of January 18, on the information of an informer, this action was taken by laying siege near the culvert on the road leading from Kamar to

Bichhor. The arrested accused have been identified as Raju, son of Chhotalal Virendra Kumar, son of Rakesh Kumar and Anil Kumar, son of Krishna Gopal. All three accused are said to be residents of Barhan police station area of Agra district. Legal action is being taken against the arrested accused by registering a case at Kosikalan police station under Section 5A/8 Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, Section 11 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Section 4/25

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will create a robust block-level weather network throughout Uttar Pradesh.

He also informed that

there is a proposal to install wind profiler radar meters in Lucknow and Varanasi. The site selection and tendering process have been completed, and these radars will become operational in the next one year, making daily weather moni-

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In addition, under IMD's

'Mission Mausam' scheme, state-of-the-art observation systems will be established in Bareilly, Deoria, and Prayagraj, which will be operational in the next one and a half years. These systems will assist in surface, remote sensing, and upper atmospheric observations, strengthening forecasting accuracy and disaster management capabilities.

Senior scientist Mohammad Danish of IMD Lucknow said that the shift from traditional systems to digital systems will provide real-time data, more frequent updates, and high-quality weather data. This will make it possible to issue accurate weather warnings in a timely manner. Overall, these initiatives are expected to significantly strengthen weather forecasting, disaster management, and public safety in Uttar Pradesh.

According to Manish Kumar, these advanced

radars are capable of tracking the reflectivity and three-dimensional structure of clouds, which will further

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