



# PM Modi to arrive in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, likely to announce development plan for the city

During the campaign for the Local body polls, the BJP had promised that the prime minister would visit the capital within 45 days of it coming to power in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation and announce massive development plans for the capital city. Hence, it is expected that PM Modi, keeping with the BJP's promise, may make big announcements during his visit.

The most notable thing will be the prime minister releasing the blueprint of a developed Thiruvananthapuram which he will hand over to the city mayor. The goal is 'Mission Kerala' through the blueprint of the BJP-ruled

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The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference Concludes at Uttar Pradesh, Vidhan Mandap

(Gns). The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) concluded today at Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Mandap. Addressing the valedictory session, Shri Hariwansh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, expressed deep satisfaction over the productive discussions held during the Conference and underscored that the collective exchange of ideas among Presiding Officers from across the country had significantly enriched the discourse.

Shri Hariwansh referred to Uttar Pradesh's impressive economic journey, including growth in Gross State Domestic Product, per capita income, expansion of budget size, increased exports and rapid infrastructure development. He noted that Uttar Pradesh, once described as a "problem State," by NITI Aayog has now emerged as a front-runner, achieving revenue surplus status and earning recognition for its reform-

ing a new identity in alignment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for a developed and self-reliant India. Referring to the State's opened India by 2047, as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is imperative that States formulate clear and forward-looking development roadmaps, and Uttar Pradesh is making a significant contribution in this direction. Shri Hariwansh highlighted that between 2017 and 2025, nearly six crore people in Uttar Pradesh have been lifted above the poverty line through planned and targeted interventions. He noted the State Government's ambitious objective of transforming Uttar Pradesh into a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2030, raising the growth rate to 20 per cent in the next five years and scaling up to a six-trillion-dollar economy by 2047, while increasing the State's share in the national GDP from 9.5 per cent to 16 per cent.

Jaishankar: World must display zero-tolerance towards terrorism

(Gns). Observing that the world order is undergoing a profound change, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday asked the global community to collaborate on shared challenges like terrorism. At a meeting here with Spain Foreign Minister, Jose Manuel, he said the world must display zero-tolerance towards terrorism. He was of the view that India and Spain, both victims of terrorism, must come together in the fight against the menace.

Jaishankar said he was delighted to launch jointly with the Spanish minister the logo for the "Dual Year".

The logo, he noted, has been selected from over the visiting leader that India is hosting the AI Impact

He observed that economic partnership is an important pillar of the India-Spain relationship. "Spain is among India's important trade partners in the EU, and the bilateral trade in goods has crossed USD 8 billion in recent years. Spanish companies have made a significant presence in India, particularly in infrastructure, renewable energy, urban mobility, engineering, water management.

Mumbai mayor race heats up: Shiv Sena and BJP eye post amid Opposition's phone tapping allegations

(Gns). As the race for Mumbai Mayor's post intensified, tensions have mounted between the Mahayuti allies — the BJP and the Shiv Sena — with both claiming the post but none having a majority on their own. The BJP emerged as the single largest party in the recently concluded BMC elections with 89 corporators. The Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde), which contested the polls in alliance with the BJP, won 29 seats. Together, they have 118 corporators, a comparatively thin majority of just four seats. On the other hand, the Opposition parties have 105 votes, with Shiv Sena

(UBT) having 65 corporators alone. Soon after the results, Eknath Shinde moved his corporators to a five-star hotel. However, the corporators have now moved out but poaching concerns remain. The Shinde Sena has also hinted that it wants the mayoral post. Party leader and minister Uday Samant said, "Every party wants the main post, and Bal Thackeray's (birth) centenary year gives that demand a different dimension."

The Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) has alleged that the decision for Mumbai's mayor will be taken from Delhi, calling it an insult to the Shinde Sena. "For the first time in history, Mumbai's mayor is going to be chosen from Delhi. The BJP high command will take a decision on this. To decide Mumbai's mayor, especially those people who call themselves the real Shiv Sena, have to go to Delhi. Is this what Shiv

Sena is? They have no self-respect. These are helpless people. They only want power," said Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut. He claimed that PM Narendra Modi wants BJP's mayor but the party lacks a majority. He said that the corporators are kept in a hotel almost like prisoners. "Despite having the government at the Centre and a strong Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis in Maharashtra, these corporators remain locked up. Why are they so afraid?" Raut asked. He further claimed that the BJP made Shinde Deputy CM only to break Shiv Sena.



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## Editorial

### Strategic Influence

Pragmatic power was on display when Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado walked into the White House carrying her Nobel peace medal and presented it to US President Donald Trump. The gesture was not about metal or ceremony. It was a calculated attempt to convert moral authority into political leverage. Ms Machado was speaking in the only currency left to a leader excluded from formal power: symbolism as strategy. Mr Trump received the moment with warmth and praise. He has never concealed his appreciation for spectacle or his desire for global recognition.

Accepting the tribute cost him little and gained him much ~ optics, validation, and the appearance of solidarity with a democratic cause. Yet his parallel engagement with Ms Delcy Rodríguez, the interim authority in Caracas, reveals the deeper logic at work. Washington is hedging, not choosing. This dual-track approach is not confusion; it is design. Ms Machado offers legitimacy, aspiration, and international sympathy. Ms Rodríguez offers continuity, administrative control, and access to institutions. One is moral capital, the other operational capital. In geopolitics, both are useful, but not equally decisive. Ms Machado's invocation of shared revolutionary histories – George Washington, Lafayette and Bolívar ~ was a deliberate attempt to bind Venezuela's struggle to America's own founding narrative. It was an intelligent appeal, but history carries less weight than hydrocarbons. The rapid restructuring of Venezuela's oil sector, the interception of tankers, and the reopening of diplomatic channels point to a transition being engineered, not celebrated. Stability is being prioritised over symbolism. For Ms Machado, the reality is unforgiving. She must remain visible without being empowered, honoured without being endorsed. The Nobel medal becomes both shield and signal: proof of global recognition and an admission of political exclusion.

It is the language of someone locked out of the room where contracts are written. When leverage is absent, gestures become tools. Outside the gates, supporters chanting her name told another story ~ of yearning, loyalty, and a desire for clean rupture. But crowds do not reopen embassies. They do not negotiate energy flows. They do not move tankers. The distance between popular aspiration and diplomatic engineering has rarely been so stark. Mr Trump's posture captures the era. He can praise Ms Machado as brave while calling Ms Rodríguez cooperative. He can honour dissent while negotiating with authority. This is as much moral ambiguity as it is strategic flexibility.

For a superpower managing regime change, energy access, and regional stability, sentiment is useful, but leverage is decisive. There is a wider lesson here. Global recognition does not guarantee political agency. Nobel prizes cannot be transferred, but influence can. Medals do not change governments; agreements do. Ms Machado's gesture was courageous, but it was also an admission of imbalance. She offered legitimacy in a marketplace trading in power. What is unfolding in Venezuela is not a romantic restoration but a managed realignment. Ms Machado's appeal reminds the world what is at stake. Washington's response shows how transitions are shaped.

## Amazon launches all-new Echo Show 11 and fourth-gen Echo Show 8 in India

Lucknow, 21 Jan 2026: Amazon today announced the launch of its all-new Echo Show 11 and fourth-generation Echo Show 8 smart displays with Alexa in India. The devices feature an all-new audio architecture and Omnisense custom sensor platform, along with a new design that includes edge-to-edge glass displays and thin bezels. These devices offer deep bass and crisp vocals, and simplified smart home routines using motion, presence, and temperature detection. Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 have maximised viewing area at 11 inches and 8.7 inches, respectively, compared to previous Echo Show smart displays in India.

Through on-screen touch controls and hands-free voice commands to Alexa, Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 help customers control compatible smart home devices, set smart home routines, enjoy audio-visual content from compatible apps, and navigate daily tasks like managing calendars and shopping lists, and asking for recipes.

"Whether coordinating family schedules, managing a smart home, or staying on top of a busy day, Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 are designed to help. These devices serve as home assistants, helping customers stay organised and connected, while adapting seamlessly to the way they live and taking care of routine tasks so they can focus on what matters most," said Dilip R.S., Director and Country Manager, Amazon Devices India. "I'm excited to see



experiences, or seamless hands-free voice control with Alexa." Embrace the convenience of advanced home automation Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 are powered by AZ3 Pro, a custom-designed silicon chip enabling fast performance. Built on top of this silicon is Omnisense, a custom sensor platform designed for ambient AI. It uses a range of sensors and signals, including the 13-megapixel (MP) camera, audio, ultrasound, Wi-Fi radar, accelerometer, and Wi-Fi CSI to deliver personalised, proactive, and helpful Alexa experiences.

This enables automated responses like adjusting compatible smart lights when someone enters a room or triggering temperature-based routines when the room reaches a certain temperature. Customers can set up smart home routines through the Alexa app. Experience the comfort of maximised viewing area and ambient visuals.

Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 feature an 11-inch full HD and 8.7-inch HD edge-to-edge glass display, respectively, offering vivid colours and sharp picture definition. The new build

In the vast and vibrant tapestry of Indian democracy, few moments carry the weight of quiet transformation quite like the election of Nitin Nabin as national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. To helm the world's largest political party – one that boasts over 13 crore members-is to shoulder a responsibility that transcends mere organisational leadership. It is to steward a movement whose roots run deep into the soil of India's nationalist awakening.

The BJP's soul is shaped by the towering vision of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who laid its foundations as a bold alternative to the prevailing political order, and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, whose profound philosophy of Integral Humanism and Antyodaya – the upliftment

of the last man standing – continues to illuminate its path. "Nation First" is not a catchphrase here – it is a lived conviction. Antyodaya is not rhetoric – it is the moral thread that binds every policy and every worker.

In stark contrast to the Congress party, where leadership has too often been a matter of inheritance, the BJP has always celebrated the ascent of those who rise from the dust of the ground, forged by toil, sacrifice, and an unshakeable devotion to the country. Nitin Nabin's election is the latest, luminous chapter in this enduring story of merit over lineage. Nitin Nabin steps into a legacy that is both humbling and exhilarating – a lineage of leaders who, across decades, turned a fledgling party into the dominant force of Indian

## India's push to build its own rare earth magnet industry

India's push to build its own rare earth magnet industry is being framed as a leap towards strategic autonomy, but it is better understood as a late awakening. For years, supply security was treated as an abstract concern, until trade frictions and export controls exposed how deeply modern manufacturing depends on a narrow geography. Magnets may be small, yet they sit at the core of electric vehicles, wind turbines, defence platforms, and medical equipment, making vulnerability unavoidable.

The government's incentive scheme signals intent, but intent alone cannot manufacture competence. Magnet production requires advanced metallurgy, precision sintering, tight quality control, and a workforce trained in techniques that take decades to master. Countries that

dominate this space build ecosystems patiently, linking universities, research labs and industry. India is attempting to compress that journey into a few years, while still lacking commercial-scale experience, proven technology platforms and credible industrial champions capable of executing at scale for the long term. Raw materials pose an even harder constraint. India may hold sizable rare earth reserves, but geology does not equal availability. Mining, separation, and refining are environmentally sensitive, capital intensive and technologically complex.

More critically, the country lacks extractable quantities of heavier elements such as dysprosium and terbium that are essential for high-performance magnets. Without assured access to these inputs, domestic manufacturing

politics. It begins, of course, with Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani, the twin pillars on whose shoulders the modern BJP stands.

Vajpayee was poetry in



motion – an orator whose words could soothe a restless nation or stir its deepest pride. As Prime Minister between 1998 and 2004, he mastered the delicate balancing of coalition politics, holding together a large alliance while boldly

asserting India's place on the world stage with nuclear tests and economic reforms that still echo today. L. K. Advani, the steadfast crusader, brought fire to the

cause. His Rath Yatra of 1990 was more than a journey across miles; it was a pilgrimage that reawakened India's civilisational memory, touching chords of cultural identity that had long lain dormant. It changed the grammar of



reliance in strategic sectors nationwide over the coming decade. Scale is another uncomfortable question. Current consumption already runs high, and demand from electric mobility, renewable energy

and electronics will accelerate. Planned capacity additions look impressive on

paper but may still lag the curve. If domestic output cannot keep pace, dependence merely shifts from finished magnets to imported components and materials. Strategic autonomy is not achieved by partial substi-

## Nail Care in Winters: Shahnaz Husain

Do you have dry, cracked, splitting, brittle fingernails during the winter months?

It's not just your skin that dries out during the winter months; your nails do too! As soon as there's even a hint of chill in the air, your nails start to chip and flake.

If you are experiencing slow nail growth, brittle nails, nail breakage, nail splitting, and other nail problems nowadays, winter is to blame here as well. People often take special care of their hair and skin during chilling weather, but forget to take care of their nails.

Nails are part of the integumentary system (skin) of your body and they develop from the outer layer of your skin called the epidermis. The exact same cells that form the outer layer of your skin also form your nails. These cells harden more in your nails, but structurally they share many common features and needs.

Natural oils hold together the different layers of your nails, so cold and dry winter months and lots of hand washing with harsh soaps will dry out this natural "glue." It's very similar to the dry skin you experience during the winter months.

The same concept to fix dry skin can be used for dry nails, but different formulations are recommended because of the unique structural properties of your nails.

Here, are easy winter nail care tricks to make sure your nails stay long and strong.

One easy to way counteract cold weather? With a nice warm pair of gloves.

Protect your nails by wearing a nice warm pair of rubber gloves for your washing chores. This is when you are gardening, house cleaning, washing dishes, or using harsh chemicals.

When you wear gloves, you protect your nails from getting dry and at the same time, keep dirt out of your

Indian politics forever.

Then came Murli Manohar Joshi, the scholar-statesman whose intellectual depth added philosophical gravitas to the party. His Ekta Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in 1992 was a defiant hymn to national unity at a time when forces of separatism threatened to tear the country apart. A young Narendra Modi, organising quietly in the background, was already preparing himself for a larger role in the years to come. The setback of the 2004 defeat tested the party's resilience. Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari stepped in, revitalising party cadres, restoring confidence, sharpening ideology, and preparing the ground for the seismic return in 2014. The Modi era brought out Amit Shah's relentless organisational genius.

tution; it requires end-to-end resilience across volumes that match industrial ambition and long-term procurement commitments from major public and private buyers alike. Cost will decide the battlefield. Chinese producers benefit from scale, integrated supply chains, and years of process optimisation, allowing prices that are hard to match. If Indian magnets emerge significantly costlier, industry will quietly return to imports despite policy rhetoric.

This is where smart statecraft matters: not just subsidies for factories, but incentives for users, assured offtake, and procurement rules that reward domestic value addition without breeding inefficien-

nails. Massage a cream, oils, or ointments to damp nails and the skin around the nails after washing chores

. Doing so can protect your nails from breakage and help locking in moisture to help preserve the cuticle seal and strengthen the nail itself.

For dry hands and nails, massage almond oil on the hands and around the nails too, in order to soften the cuticles. The cuticle (skin surrounding the nail) should be kept soft and smooth. Otherwise, it sticks to the nail and gets dragged as the nail grows. This causes the skin to get stretched and torn. The skin can even become infected if this happens. Daily massage is even more important during the dry winter season.

For moisturizing your nail, take 1 tablespoon of almond and castor oil, and mix a little hand cream in it. Massage the mixture into your hands. Follow up with moisturizer and treat your-

As party president, Shah redrew India's political map – planting the saffron flag deep in the North East, making serious inroads in Bengal, and orchestrating the staggering 2017 Uttar Pradesh victory. His revolution lay in the booths: empowering the humble karyakarta, perfecting the science of micro-management, turning every worker into a pillar of electoral strength. J.P. Nadda, with his calm efficiency, carried the baton forward. He presided over the BJP's first government in Odisha, engineered stunning recoveries in Maharashtra and Haryana, and guided the party's fightback after the slight dip of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections – where, though short of an outright majority, the NDA under Modi's leadership retained power with renewed purpose.

cy or distorting competition across downstream sectors critical to growth and employment generation. None of this makes the mission futile. It makes it honest. Building a rare earth magnet ecosystem is a generational project, not a budget-cycle deliverable. It demands patient capital, credible partnerships, sustained research funding, and regulatory clarity that survives political change. The real achievement will not be an announced capacity figure, but a quiet accumulation of know-how, suppliers and skills that reduces vulnerability year by year. That is how industrial sovereignty is built over decades, and not in quarters or headlines.

self to a weekly hand at-home treatment mask.

Never cut, push back, or try to get rid of cuticles altogether. In fact, the cuticle is the nail's natural protective seal. Moisturizing the cuticles with cream or oil helps protect and strengthen your nails helping stimulate nail growth, and bringing blood and nutrients to maintain healthy nails.

. Cuticle oils will penetrate into the deeper layers of the skin and hydrate the cuticle, skin, and nail area, and help in preventing breakage of the nails.

Once a week soak the nails in lukewarm water for a few minutes and afterwards apply the cream to the nails. Massage them, so that it helps to soften the skin and lock in the moisture by wearing cotton gloves for at least an hour. Then push the cuticles back gently using a cotton bud. Never use sharp instruments to clean under the nails.

For strong and healthy nails, include adequate protein and calcium in your diet. Take skimmed milk, yoghurt, cottage cheese (paneer), fish eggs and sprouts. Follow a ten-day programme of taking gelatin. Dissolve one teaspoon of gelatin in a little boiling water. Cool the water and add it to fruit juice. Have this daily for ten days.

A weekly manicure keeps nails in good condition. For a home manicure, first, remove old nail varnish. To cut nails, use a nail clipper. Then shape them with an emery board. File in one direction only. Soak the hands in lukewarm water for 5 minutes after adding a few drops of shampoo. Use a soft brush to clean your nails.

If you have nails which break easily, avoid frosted nail polish. If there is any infection or pain, avoid filing the nails and using nail polish. Get medical attention first. Fungal infection of the nails is quite common.



## Western railway to run three pairs of super-fast special trains to various destinations

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passengers, Western Railway will run 03 pairs of superfast weekly special trains on special fare.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of these trains are as under:

- 1) Train No. 09009/09010 Bandra Terminus – Bhuj Superfast Weekly Special [10 Trips]  
Train No. 09009 Bandra Terminus – Bhuj Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Sunday at 19:25 hrs. and will reach Bhuj at 09:50 hrs., the next day. This train will run from 25th January to 22nd February, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09010 Bhuj – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Bhuj every Monday at 14:00 hrs and

will arrive Bandra Terminus at 05:10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 26th January to 23rd February, 2026.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad Dhrangadhra, Samakhiali, Bhachau and Gandhidham stations in both directions

This train comprises of AC - 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

- 2) Train No. 09011/09012 Bandra Terminus – Bhuj Superfast Weekly Special [10 Trips]  
Train No. 09011 Bandra Terminus – Bhuj Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Tuesday at 23:55 hrs and will reach Bhuj at 14:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 27th January to 24th February, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09012 Bhuj – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Bhuj every

Monday at 14:00 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 05:10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 26th January to 23rd February, 2026.

Wednesday at 17:40 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 08:45 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 28th January to 25th February, 2026.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad Dhrangadhra, Samakhiali, Bhachau and Gandhidham stations in both direction

This train comprises of AC - 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General second class coaches.

- 3) Train No. 09017/09018 Bandra Terminus – Veraval Weekly Special [10 Trips]  
Train No. 09017 Bandra Terminus – Veraval Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Sunday at 14:40 hrs and will reach Veraval at 08:05 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 25th January to 22nd February, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09018 Veraval – Bandra Terminus

Special will depart from Veraval every Monday at 11:05 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:55 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 26th January to 23th February, 2026.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Gondal, Jetalsar, Junagadh and Keshod stations in both direction

This train comprises of AC - 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General second class coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09009, 09010, 09011, 09012, 09017 & 09018 will open from 22nd January, 2026 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

## Centre for Trade and Investment Law and National Law University Odisha Organize International Conference on Role of Trade in Global Energy Transition

(Gns). The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), in collaboration with the Centre for International Trade Law, National Law University Odisha (NLUO), organised a two-day International Conference on the theme “Role of International Trade in Global Energy Transition” at the National Law University Odisha campus in Cuttack, under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Chairs Programme.

The Conference was attended by Justice Biraja Prasanna, Odisha High Court, Prasanna Satapathy, as the Chief Guest, and Professor N.L. Mitra as the Guest of Honour. The event also witnessed the presence of Ambassador Ujal Singh Bhatia, Former Chairperson, World Trade Organization Appellate Body.

Director, Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago; Professor James J. Nedumpara, Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law; and Ms. Alice Tipping, Director, Trade and Sustainable Development, International Institute for Sustainable



Organization Appellate Body.

The Conference featured special addresses by Professor Werner Zdouc, Former Director, World Trade Organization Appellate Body Secretariat; Dr. Kaushik Deb, Executive

Director, Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago; Professor James J. Nedumpara, Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law; and Ms. Alice Tipping, Director, Trade and Sustainable Development, International Institute for Sustainable

Development. Discussions at the Conference focused on the role of the multilateral trading system at the intersection of international trade and global energy transition. High-level technical sessions deliberated on

green industrial policy, sustainable trade frameworks, clean energy systems, regulatory practices, carbon governance and challenges faced by developing economies in the global energy transition.

Each panel discussion concluded with interactive question-and-answer sessions, enabling meaningful engagement between speakers and participants. Distinguished speakers from international institutions, academia and policy-making bodies shared insights on aligning international trade rules with climate and sustainability objectives, underscoring the Conference’s role as a constructive platform for policy dialogue and knowledge exchange.

## Union Minister of State Smt. Anupriya Patel Launches NBEMS Online Training Programme on Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education

**Over 42,000 Doctors Registered for NBEMS AI Programme**  
**AI in Healthcare No Longer Optional, but a Necessity : MoS Health**  
**Artificial Intelligence to Augment Medical Professionals, Not Replace Them: Anupriya Patel**  
(Gns).

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel, today launched an online training programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medical Education developed by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The programme has been designed to provide approximately 50,000 doctors with a foundational

understanding of Artificial Intelligence and its practical applications in clinical practice, diagnostics, clinical decision-making, research and medical education. The initiative aims to enhance digital competencies among medical professionals and enable them to effectively integrate AI-based tools into healthcare delivery and academic practice.

Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel, expressed satisfaction at the enthusiastic response to the initiative and noted that more than 42,000 doctors have already registered for the

programme. She described the initiative as both timely and forward-looking, stating that in a country grappling with a significant burden of non-communicable



diseases and the continuing challenge of tuberculosis, such programmes can support a shift from reactive to more proactive and preventive approaches to healthcare delivery.

The Minister of State emphasised that the use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare is no longer an

option but a necessity. She stated that AI is not intended to replace doctors, but to augment their capabilities, help bridge gaps arising from shortages of medical professionals, and address the growing burden of patients. She underscored that the adoption of AI must be guided by the principles of accountability, accessibility, and ethical use, ensuring that technological advancements strengthen healthcare delivery while safeguarding patient interests.

She also congratulated NBEMS for its commendable efforts in conceptualising and implementing the programme, and appreciated the institution for taking a proactive role in leveraging emerging technologies to strengthen medical education and healthcare delivery in the country.

## GSI Presents Exploration Action Plan for Field Season 2026-27 with Focus on Critical Minerals

Posted On: 21 JAN 2026 5:04PM by PIB Delhi

The 65th meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) was held today at the A. P. Shinde Symposium Hall, ICAR, Pusa, New Delhi. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, with the traditional lighting of the lamp, in the gracious presence of Shri Asit Saha, Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, and Dr. Joyesh Bagchi, Additional Director General, GSI.



focus on critical minerals, resource augmentation, energy transition, geohazard management and environmental sustainability.

In his welcome address, Shri Asit Saha, Director General, Geological Survey of India, underscored GSI’s firm commitment to aligning geoscientific programmes with national priorities and the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He highlighted that the upcoming Annual Programme places strong

emphasis on leveraging advanced geoscientific technologies, digital platforms and AI-enabled tools

fast-tracking the exploration in the country by all the exploration agencies. He directed GSI, NPEAs and other exploration agencies to complete the projects within the stipulated time. He informed that the agencies taking up exploration in any area may consult the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal of Ministry of Mines to avoid duplication of work. He also urged State DGMs and all other stakeholders to upload their data in NGDR. He informed that Ministry of Mines have formulated a Policy for recovery of Critical and Strategic minerals from ongoing exploration projects, existing mines and dumps, overburdens and tailings. He requested all the stakeholders including GSI, IBM, AMD, DAE, Ministry of Coal and State DGMs to adopt and implement the Policy in their respective domains.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Mines, in his address, underscored the importance of

## Press conference of Aam Aadmi Party in Ahmedabad against attempts to wrongly delete names from the voter list

Ahmedabad / Gujarat

Regarding the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process going on across Gujarat, a press conference was organized by the Aam Aadmi Party at the Ahmedabad regional office. At this press conference, Aam Aadmi Party’s state president Isudan Gadhvi, state chief spokesperson Dr. Karan Barot and Legal Cell president Pranav Thakkar were present. Addressing the press conference, state president Isudan Gadhvi made serious allegations and said that during the SIR process, after the door-to-door verification carried out by BLA-1, BLA-2 and BLO, all the work had been properly completed except the process of deleting the names of about 73,73,000 voters. But after the completion of this process, a

big conspiracy has been hatched by BJP leaders and workers. In the last two to three days, more than about 9,59,000 applications have been filed by BJP workers to delete names from the voter list, which is highly suspicious. In many areas such as Khambhaliya Assembly, Bapunagar, Rajkot, Kutch and other places, thousands of applications have been submitted together. In Jamkhambhaliya, about 15 thousand applications were submitted to delete names, and a conspiracy was made to delete 10 thousand votes from all assemblies. Isudan Gadhvi



alleged that many applications have been filed in the names of people who are not even aware that an application has been made against them. Especially those who voted against BJP, supported the opposition and socially vocal citizens have been targeted. The Aam Aadmi Party exposed the irregularities in the SIR process with audio evidence and also made viral the call record showing that no application was filed by Dipali ben.

The Aam Aadmi Party has made a written representation to the Election Commission and put forward the main demands. 1.

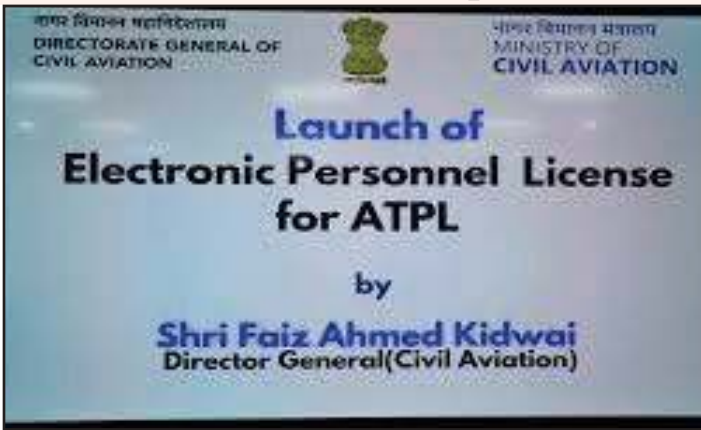
All applications received for deletion of names should be re-verified in the presence of representatives of the opposition. 2. Criminal action and police complaints should be filed against those who filed false applications and submitted false documents. 3. All voters whose names are sought to be deleted should be given at least 10 days’ time and served notice. 4. The action of deleting names under political pressure by ignoring the verification already done by BLO should be immediately stopped. Isudan Gadhvi warned that if any officer illegally changes the voter list under political pressure, the Aam Aadmi Party will take legal action against him and, if necessary, will take the matter to the Supreme Court.

## DGCA Launches Electronic Personnel Licence Services for Airline Transport Pilot Licence

(Gns).

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) launched the Electronic Personnel Licence (EPL) services for Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) in an event held at DGCA Headquarters here today. The EPL ATPL service was inaugurated by the DGCA, marking an important milestone in its digital transformation journey.

Speaking on the occasion, DG (CA) highlighted that the EPL initiative is a key step towards strengthening India’s civil aviation regulatory ecosystem through secure, modern and future-ready digital



systems. The DG (CA) congratulated the DGCA teams and technology partners for their efforts in implementing this initiative and acknowledged the cooperation extended by the aviation industry and stakeholders in adopting the new system.

The Electronic Personnel Licence is a secure digital licence incorporating ICAO-aligned

security features to ensure authenticity, prevent tampering, and enable real-time verification. The EPL can be accessed through the eGCA mobile application.

The DGCA had initiated the roll-out of EPL in February 2025, starting with Commercial Pilot’s Licence (CPL) and Flight Radio Telephone Operator’s (Restricted) Licence (FRTOL). With the launch of the EPL services for ATPL, the DGCA further strengthens its commitment towards enhanced efficiency, transparency and improved service delivery for the aviation sector.

## CMD, IREDA Highlights India’s Solar Leadership at World Economic Forum

(Gns).

Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), participated today in a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Davos 2026. The session was themed “Scaling Solar Where It Matters: India’s Lessons on Rooftop, Agriculture and Decentralized Energy for the Global South.”

Earlier in the day, Shri Pralhad Joshi, Hon’ble Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, delivered the keynote address at the forum, highlighting India’s experiences and leadership in advancing solar energy solutions for inclusive and sustainable development.

The session underscored India’s global leadership in distributed solar and its growing relevance for emerging economies. He added that adopting decentralised renewable energy can enhance efficiency in the system thereby reducing the Govt. subsidies and AT&C losses, which can significantly bring down the costs and ensure affordability.

Shri Das underlined that while emerging renewable energy segments are often viewed as challenging in terms of risk profiling, effective project design and prudent risk management can significantly de-risk these areas. This is evident from IREDA’s exceptionally low cumulative write-off of just ₹149 crore over its 38-plus years of operations, despite financing of approximately ₹1.81 lakh crore since inception, reflecting the company’s strong appraisal and monitoring systems.

He pointed out that IREDA finances 70–80% of project costs under Rooftop Solar and PM-KUSUM schemes in aggregator mode, significantly accelerating clean energy access across rural India.

Shri Das thanked Union Minister, Shri Pralhad Joshi, for providing IREDA with the platform at the World

Economic Forum to showcase India’s renewable energy growth, which has been enabled by a mature and well-developed ecosystem.

He also highlighted that the forum offered an opportunity to underline IREDA’s pivotal role in steering India’s renewable energy transition, noting that the country’s experience and institutional framework could serve as a valuable learning for other nations pursuing their own renewable energy journeys.

Citing Maharashtra’s progress in agricultural solarisation, he stressed the need to build an enabling ecosystem that de-risks the sector and attracts patient global capital.



## NITI Aayog releases three reports on green transition in cement, aluminium and MSME sectors

(Gns).

India has an aspiration of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047 and achieving USD 30 trillion economy. This economic expansion will be driven by a significant increase in industrial activity and accompanied by extensive infrastructure development. Increasing the share of manufacturing sector from 17% to 25% in GDP is a key national objective that is central to India’s developmental goals. India has also pledged to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070. Therefore, a need was identified for developing industry specific green transition roadmaps that are consistent with Viksit Bharat by 2047. In this context, NITI Aayog released three reports on decarbonisation roadmaps for cement, aluminium and MSME sectors. These three reports have been prepared in consultation with line ministries/departments, industry stakeholders, research institutions and knowledge partners.

Cement Sector: The report highlights that cement production is likely

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme to enable deep decarbonisation in this sec-



to increase sevenfold to ~2100 million tonnes in 2100, from the level of 391 million tonnes in 2023. Under the decarbonisation strategy, the cement sector must reduce its carbon intensity from 0.63 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne of cement to approximately 0.09-0.13 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne by 2070. The report proposes to prioritize the use of refuse-derived fuels, clinker substitution, scaling up of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and effective implementation of

Aluminium Sector: Aluminium production is projected to increase from 4 million tonnes in 2023 to 37 million tonnes by 2070. The decarbonisation roadmap identifies three phased solutions - transition to Renewable Energy-Round the Clock (RE-RTC) power and enhanced grid connectivity in the short term, adoption of nuclear power in the medium term, and long-term integration of CCUS. MSME Sector: India’s

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form the backbone of the nation’s industrial landscape, contributing nearly 30% to national GDP, employing over 250 million people and accounting for approximately 46% of exports. The Roadmap for Green Transition of MSMEs focuses on three key levers: deployment of energy-efficient equipment, adoption of alternative fuels, and integration of green electricity.

Sh. Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog observed that MSMEs are important members of domestic and international supply chains. He urged prioritizing technology adoption, access to affordable finance, skilling & regulatory reforms, and increased participation of female workforce to achieve overall competitiveness of MSMEs. Sh. B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog emphasized that these roadmaps would serve as reference manuals for India to achieve its unique goal of becoming a



## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel chairs 26th Meeting of the State Board for Wildlife in Gandhinagar

**Forest Minister and the Minister of State for Forests attends the meeting**  
**Jessore Sanctuary is included under the National Programme for Bear Conservation by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India**  
**CM directs to promote Eco-Tourism in Protected Forest Areas and to Frame Visitor Policy Guidelines**

Gandhinagar, 21 January 2026: In the 26th meeting of the State Wildlife Board held in Gandhinagar under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, it was informed that the Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary in Banaskantha has been included in the National Program for Bear Conservation by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

In this meeting, held in the presence of Forest and Environment Minister Shri Arjunbhai Modhwadia and Minister of State Shri Pravin Mali, details presented before the Chief Minister also mentioned that the presence of a tiger has been observed in the Ratanmahal Sanctuary, and there is a strong possibility of it settling there permanently.

In this context, the meeting also held discussions on planning community participation training for residents for tiger conservation and protection in the area, in collaboration with the NTCA.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel directed the Forest Department to ensure that the rising number of tourists and visitors in the state's protected forest areas does not cause any harm or disturbance to wildlife.

He instructed that eco-tourism be promoted and visitor policy guidelines be formulated. The meeting also discussed plans to identify a sanctuary location in the near future for Gujarat's growing leopard population, including rescued leopards.

In the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Forest Minister Shri Arjun Modhwadia, and Minister of State Shri Pravin Mali, around 18 proposals related to roads, water supply, optical fibre, renewable energy, power transmission lines, and other facilities within sanctuaries and national parks were placed before the meeting for approval.

MLAs Shri Mahesh Kaswala, Shri Devabhai Malam, Smt. Malbaben Maheshwari and others participated in the meeting and offered suggestions for wildlife conservation.



Government of India.

## Dalmia Bharat Limited, Delivers Strong Financial Performance

<p>January 21st, 2026: Dalmia Bharat Limited, (BSE: 542216, NSE: DALBHARAT), a leading cement manufacturing company, reported its con- solidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2025.</p>	<p>Umrangso, Assam on January 20, 2026 Commenting on the per-</p>	<p>We delivered a robust vol- ume growth of 10% YoY during this quarter driven</p>	<p>East. As I look forward, we remain confident of deliver- ing sustainable and profit- able growth and contribut- ing to India's growth jour- ney."</p>
<p>Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume increased by 9.5% YoY to 7.3 MnT</li> <li>Quarterly EBITDA grew 17.8% YoY to Rs 602 Cr</li> <li>Net Debt to EBITDA stood at 0.60x as on Dec 31, 2025</li> <li>Share of Renewable Power Consumption stood at 48%</li> <li>Commenced commercial production from 3.6 MnTPA Clinker Line at</li> </ul>	<p>formance, Mr. Puneet Dalmia, Managing Director &amp; CEO – Dalmia Bharat Limited, said, "The Indian economy continues to grow strongly despite global headwinds. Cement demand picked up well in the last quarter post monsoon and festival period.</p>	<p>by focused efforts of our sale team to deliver superior value proposition to our customers. Happy to share that we commenced the commercial production from our 3.6 MnTPA new clinker line at Umrangso which will further strengthen our position in the North</p>	<p>Mr. Dharmender Tuteja, Chief Financial Officer – Dalmia Bharat Limited, said "During the quarter, revenues improved by 10% YoY to Rs 3,506 Cr while EBITDA improved by 18% YoY to Rs 602 Cr. We remain one of the lowest cost producers in the country, while undertaking further cost reductions driven by operational efficiencies through strategic investments. Our ongoing expansion projects in Belgaum, Pune and Kadapa are progressing as per schedule. With a robust</p>

## Union Bank of India is Assigned a rating of SQS2 - “Very Good Sustainability Quality” by Moody’s

January 21, 2026: The Second Party investors and stakeholders, reaffirming alignment of

Moody's Ratings has issued a Second Party Opinion (SPO) on the Union Bank of India's Sustainable Financing Framework, assigning a rating of SQS2 – "Very Good Sustainability Quality". This rating is the second-highest on Moody's Sustainability Quality Score (SQS) scale, underscoring the Bank's strong commitment to sustainable and responsible financing.

Union Bank of India remains steadfast in its mission to integrate sustainability into its core operations and financing activities, reinforcing its vision of creating long-term value for environment, society and the future generations.

Union Bank of India is one of India's leading public sector banks, committed to delivering innovative financial solutions while promoting sustainable development.

**Union Bank of India**

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**

**एक सशक्त का उद्गम**

**Union Bank of India**

**A Government of India Undertaking**

Ratings is a globally recognized benchmark that provides independent assurance on the credibility and robustness of sustainability frameworks. This opinion fosters transparency for

Union Bank of India's Sustainable Financing Framework with international best practices and meaningful contribution to environmental and social objectives.

**lok sabha speaker shri om birla appeals to leaders and members of all political parties to cooperate in ensuring smooth functioning of the house; cautions against planned disruptions**

(Gns).  
New Delhi/Lucknow; January 21, 2026: The 86th

informed that a committee has been constituted in this regard.

loss is suffered by the citizens. He said that we must strengthen the culture of

Presiding Officers Conference:  
Resolution No. 1 – All

**lok sabha speaker shri om birla appeals to leaders and members of all political parties to cooperate in ensuring smooth functioning of the house; cautions against planned disruptions**

(Gns). New Delhi/Lucknow; January 21, 2026: The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), held at the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Bhavan, Lucknow, from January 19 to 21, 2026, concluded successfully today with the valedictory address by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla.

In the concluding session of the Conference, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Hon'ble Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and the Hon'ble Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly addressed the gathering.

In his valedictory address, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla said that a 'National Legislative Index' will be prepared to make Legislatures more effective, people-oriented and accountable, which would facilitate a healthy competition among the legislatures, enhance quality of dialogue and efficiency among Legislatures across the country. He also

informed that a committee has been constituted in this regard.

Shri Birla said that a minimum of 30 sittings per year should be ensured in State Legislatures so that Legislatures can become an effective platform for expression of people's aspirations. He said that the more the House functions, the more meaningful, serious and result-oriented discussions will be possible.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also addressed a press conference. Responding to a question on ensuring smooth conduct of proceedings during the forthcoming Budget Session, the Lok Sabha Speaker said that continuous planned disruptions and disturbances in the House are not appropriate for the country's democracy. When disruptions take place in the House, the greatest

loss is suffered by the citizens. He said that we must strengthen the culture of

Discussion and Dialogue, not Disruption.

He appealed to leaders and Members of all political parties to cooperate in ensuring smooth functioning of the House and said that in a democracy, the people are supreme, and our accountability towards the public is not only during elections, but every day and every moment.

Shri Birla said that Presiding Officers are not merely those who conduct proceedings, but they are the sentinels of the Constitution and the custodians of democratic decorum. Their impartiality, sensitivity and firmness determine the direction of the House.

A total of six important resolutions were adopted at the 86th All India

Presiding Officers' Conference.

Resolution No. 1 – All Presiding Officers will rededicate themselves to the conduct of proceedings of their respective Legislatures, so as to contribute towards achieving the national goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by the year 2047.

Resolution No. 2 – By building consensus among all political parties, a minimum of thirty (30) sittings per year should be held in State Legislative bodies, and the time and resources available for legislative work should be used constructively.

and effectively, so that democratic institutions can remain accountable to the people.

Resolution No. 3 – The use of technology to enhance the ease of legislative work will be continuously strengthened, so that effective engagement between the people and their Legislatures can be established and meaningful participatory governance can be ensured.

Resolution No. 4 – To continue providing exemplary leadership to all insti-

