



# 'Great Respect, He's a Fantastic Man, Friend of Mine': Trump Lauds PM Modi, Sees Good India US Trade Deal

(Gns). US President Donald Trump struck a notably warm and personal tone while speaking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the World Economic Forum in Davos, expressing confidence that India and the United States would eventually find common ground on a trade agreement.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, U.S. President Donald Trump praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing optimism about a trade deal despite existing tensions and warning about potential tariffs tied to India's Russian oil purchases.

es; unresolved issues include U.S. demands for India to open its agricultural markets.

In his only on-camera interaction with an Indian journalist at the summit, Trump praised Modi as both a trusted friend and a respected leader, even as trade tensions between the two countries continue to simmer.

Trump's Personal Praise For PM Modi

Speaking to Moneycontrol on the sidelines of the Davos meet, Trump made his admiration for the Indian Prime Minister clear, highlighting their personal rapport.

"I have great respect for your Prime Minister. He's a fantastic man and a friend of mine," Trump said.

The comments stood out against the backdrop of strained economic ties, signalling that despite policy disagreements, the personal relationship between the two leaders remains cordial. When asked directly about the prospects of a trade agreement, Trump sounded optimistic, adding, "We are going to have a good deal."

Earlier this month, Trump publicly linked India's trade treatment with its purchases of Russian oil, suggesting that New Delhi



had already adjusted its import strategy to accommodate US concerns.

"They wanted to make me happy," Trump said at the time, adding, "Basically, Modi is a very good man. He knew I was not happy,

broader geopolitical tensions.

Trump has also issued direct warnings on the trade front, making it clear that tariffs could be increased rapidly if India does not fall in line with US expectations.

"We do trade, and we can raise tariffs on them very quickly," he said, adding, "And it would be very bad for them."

At present, the Trump administration has imposed tariffs totalling 50% on a wide range of Indian exports. These include penalties linked to India's continued engagement with Russia and its

involvement in the BRICS grouping.

India's Response And Unresolved Issues

New Delhi has pushed back against claims that it offered assurances on cutting Russian oil imports, maintaining that its energy decisions are driven by national interest and the need for price stability. In response to US tariffs, India has imposed retaliatory duties on select American agricultural products.

Several issues remain unresolved, particularly Washington's demand that India open up its agricultural markets. For New

Delhi, farm protections are a politically and economically sensitive matter that it considers non-negotiable. Meanwhile, Trump has continued to tie the prospect of tariff relief to India's energy policy, warning that further penalties could follow if Russian oil purchases continue.

Despite the pressure, Trump's praise for Modi and his confidence in a future agreement suggest that diplomatic channels remain open, even as both sides navigate one of the most challenging phases in India US trade relations.

## BMC Lottery Decides: Next Mumbai Mayor to Be Woman from General Category

(Gns). Mumbai is set to get a woman mayor from the General category, after a reservation lottery fixed leadership for all 29 municipal corporations in Maharashtra. The outcome has already triggered political anger, with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) alleging bias in the allocation.

The Urban Development Department conducted the lottery to assign reservation categories for each civic body's top post for the coming term. Through this draw, officials decided which categories, such as General, OBC, SC or ST, would occupy mayoral

positions in every corporation.

Mumbai will have a woman mayor from the General category following



a reservation lottery conducted by the Urban Development Department,

which has led to Shiv Sena (UBT) alleging bias in the allocation for the next term.

Maharashtra mayoral reservation and Mumbai's

Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation mayoral seat went again to the General category. The faction argued that the rotation principle should have moved the post to OBC or another reserved group, instead of repeating a General category allocation for India's financial capital.

The party also highlighted expectations within its ranks for an ST mayor in Mumbai this year. However, officials pointed to legal norms that bar such an outcome under present conditions. Existing rules link the mayoral reservation to how many seats each category holds in that corporation.

## Shashi Tharoor Calls Team India's Cricket Coach's Role Toughest After PM, Gautam Gambhir Responds

(Gns). Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has described India head coach Gautam Gambhir as 'The man with the toughest job after PM', drawing fresh attention to the intense pressure around the role. Gautam Gambhir later responded on X, thanking Shashi Tharoor for the public support.

The exchange followed a meeting between Shashi Tharoor and Gautam Gambhir in Nagpur, held before the first T20I of the five-match series against New Zealand at the New VCA Stadium. Tharoor met the former India batter and praised Gautam Gambhir's work as India head coach.

Sharing a photo from Nagpur on X, Shashi Tharoor called Gautam Gambhir an old friend and stressed the weight of the coaching role. "In Nagpur, I enjoyed a good and frank discussion with my old friend Gautam Gambhir, the man with the hardest job in India after the PM's!" Tharoor wrote in one post.

Tharoor first posted a longer message that cap-

tured his thoughts in detail. "In Nagpur, enjoyed a good & frank discussion with my old friend @GautamGambhir, the man with the hardest job in India after the PM's! He is being second-guessed by millions daily but stays calm & walks on undaunted. A word of appreciation for his quiet determination and able...

Gautam Gambhir replied on X to Shashi Tharoor's public message, addressing debate around the coach's influence. "Thanks a lot, Dr. @ShashiTharoor! When the dust settles, truth & logic about a coach's supposedly 'unlimited authority' will become clear. Till then, I'm amused at being pitted against my own who are the very best!" Gautam Gambhir wrote.

A slightly different version of the response also appeared on the platform. "Thanks a lot Dr @ShashiTharoor! When

the dust settles, truth & logic about a coach's supposedly 'unlimited authority' will become clear. Till then I'm amused at being pitted against my own who are the very best!" read another post from Gautam Gambhir on 21 January 2026.

Shashi Tharoor underlined how Gautam Gambhir deals with public judgement around every selection and strategy call. The senior parliamentarian wrote that Gambhir is evaluated by fans every day yet continues without complaint. "He is being second-guessed by millions daily but stays calm and walks on undaunted," Tharoor said, highlighting this steady approach.

Tharoor also spoke about Gautam Gambhir's leadership methods as India head coach, describing them as effective without being loud. He added a specific good wish for the immediate assignment. "A word of appreciation for his quiet determination and

able leadership. Wishing him all success, starting today," Tharoor posted, linking the message to the opening T20I in Nagpur.

The context of the meeting is important for India's short-format plans. The five-match T20I series against New Zealand is seen as part of core preparation for the T20 World Cup 2026, which begins on 7 February. India opened the series strongly, beating New Zealand by 48 runs in the first match.

Series Teams Format Matches Venue (1st T20I) Result (1st T20I)

India vs New Zealand India, New Zealand T20I Five New VCA Stadium, Nagpur India won by 48 runs

The public exchange between Shashi Tharoor and Gautam Gambhir highlights how demanding the India head coach role is, especially before a major T20 World Cup. With results like the 48-run win against New Zealand, scrutiny is likely to stay high as the team moves through this white-ball phase.

## Bangladesh Election Date Announced, Polls Scheduled for February 12

(Gns). Bangladesh is heading for a crucial vote on February 12, with the Election Commission releasing its final candidate list for the general elections. This will be the first national poll since the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government fell after violent student protests in August 2024, turning the upcoming contest into a major political test.

According to the Election Commission, multiple parties and alliances have entered the race, alongside a strong pool of independents. The vote will decide the next elected government and follows several months of political tension and public debate over the transition from the interim

administration that took charge after the August unrest.

Bangladesh will hold general elections on February 12, with the Election Commission finalizing the candidate list, following August 2024 student protests. The election involves parties like the Bangladesh Nationalist

Party (BNP) with 288 candidates, and independents, while the interim government assures a free and fair vote.

Bangladesh elections: party line-ups and alliances Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party has put forward the largest slate, nominating 288 candidates. The party is trying to regain power after years out of office.



## Seat-sharing talks gain momentum in NDA for TN assembly poll, Modi to kick off election campaign near Chennai

(Gns). Seat-sharing talks in the NDA in Tamil Nadu for the upcoming assembly polls gained momentum with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to kick off the alliance poll campaign at a massive rally tomorrow (Friday) at Madurantakam, 87 km south of Chennai.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, BJP in-charge for Tamil Nadu, accompanied by a party delegation comprising his ministerial col-

league L Murugan and state president Nainar Nagenthran, called on AIADMK general secretary

his residence in Chennai on Thursday. Senior AIADMK leaders were also present on the occasion, and the



Edappadi K Palaniswami at discussion revolved around

the potential winnable seats that the BJP wants for itself.

Though the AIADMK revived its ties with the BJP and re-entered the NDA in April last, the alliance so far has not held a grand show, giving a head start for the election. Neither the AIADMK nor the BJP has finalised the seat-sharing deal. With TTV Dinakaran's Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) back in the NDA fold, efforts are on to rope in

## 'When those in power start acting unrighteously, that is the Kali Yuga': Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns). The political rumblings over the incident involving the stopping of the palanquin of Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktেশwaranand Saraswati of Jyotish Peeth at the Prayagraj Magh Mela have intensified.

Samajwadi Party (SP) National President Akhilesh Yadav targeted the BJP government, stating, "When those in power start acting unrighteously, that is

the Kali Yuga."

Posting on his social media account on Thursday, Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP and its allies are insulting Sanatan Dharma with their "anti-religious" mindset, causing resentment throughout the Sanatani community. He said that not only ordinary people but even BJP saints and

supporters are ashamed of the government's actions.

In his statement, Akhilesh Yadav said that even the junior employees who are being forced to commit acts of disrespect towards the sadhus are internally disturbed by this. He claimed that there is anger among the employees as well, but they are remaining silent due to the compulsion of their jobs.

He said that if the BJP is not "true to Sanatan Dharma, then what can be expected of them regarding anyone else?" He linked the entire incident to the respect of saints and sadhus and accused the government of adopting an insensitive attitude.



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## Editorial

### Economic Reliance

India enters every Budget season with renewed confidence in its economic trajectory. Strong growth projections, resilient domestic demand and macroeconomic stability reinforce the belief that the economy is on firm footing. Yet, beneath this optimism lies a persistent structural weakness that rarely receives sustained attention: India continues to rely on imports in sectors where domestic capacity should exist. This dependence is not the result of natural scarcity. It is largely shaped by policy choices. The contradiction is most visible in agriculture.

India ranks among the world's largest producers of foodgrains, yet remains heavily dependent on imports for edible oils and periodically for pulses and animal feed. At the same time, public agencies struggle to manage excess stocks of rice and wheat that exceed domestic consumption needs. Surplus and shortage coexist, not because of ecological limits, but because incentives influence what farmers choose to grow. Farmers respond rationally to policy signals. Crops backed by assured procurement and predictable pricing become safe options. Crops exposed to export bans, sudden import duty cuts or shifting trade rules become risky. When prices rise one season only for markets to be abruptly closed the next, producers learn that profits may be temporary while losses can be permanent. Over time, cultivation shifts toward stability rather than strategic requirement. This dynamic creates dependence long before imports enter the picture.

Trade merely fills gaps created by domestic disincentives. Public resources are then spent twice ~ first on procuring, transporting, and storing surplus grain, and again on managing shortages through tariff changes and emergency imports. The fiscal burden persists because the incentive structure remains unchanged. There is also a deeper developmental cost. Staple grains require limited coordination beyond the farm gate. In contrast, oilseeds, pulses, and protein crops depend on stronger seed systems, storage infrastructure, processing capacity, and market integration. These activities generate higher incomes per hectare and build links with allied industries. In economic terms, they carry greater complexity ~ and complexity underpins sustainable growth. India's challenge lies in the mismatch between complexity and policy certainty.

The strongest assurances exist for the simplest products, while sectors that require investment and coordination face the greatest uncertainty. When uncertainty collides with complexity, diversification stalls, learning slows and import dependence deepens. Reducing this dependence does not require dismantling food security systems or ignoring inflation risks. What is required is credibility. Farmers do not need permanently high prices; they need confidence that rules will not change unpredictably between sowing and harvest. The Budget can signal a shift by moving away from perpetual surplus management toward stable diversification incentives. Transparent, rule-based trade interventions and consistent long-term support for high-value crops would gradually reshape production decisions. Import dependence is often portrayed as an external vulnerability. In reality, it is largely an internal outcome ~ created not by economic limits, but by policy habits. Correcting it begins not with protectionism, but with consistency.

### Flipkart Deepens Marketplace Governance Framework to Strengthen Trust, Accountability, and Platform Integrity

Lucknow, 22 January 2026: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, continues to invest in and strengthen its compliance governance framework to ensure fairness, authenticity, and trust across the platform. These systems are designed to operate with consistent standards, internal control, and audit-ready processes across the organisation. This proactive, layered approach is critical for governing a marketplace with millions of listings and over 1.4 million sellers. By combining sophisticated technology, structured human oversight, and formalized compliance policies, Flipkart maintains a trusted, well-governed environment, enabling genuine businesses to thrive and ensuring customers receive safe, quality products.

Flipkart's first line of defense is a standardized, risk-based onboarding and monitoring system designed to prevent non-compliant and fraudulent sellers from entering or operating on the platform.

Advanced Seller Vetting  
New sellers onboarding with Flipkart are vetted using a risk-based model that moves beyond document submission. In addition to GSTIN and PAN checks, the onboarding system verifies the seller's device, address, and pin-code against historic fraud patterns using internal data models. All GST details undergo two-factor authentication, helping prevent misuse of credentials. These checks are further supported by fraud linkage analysis, ensuring that sellers with prior violations cannot re-enter the platform.

Accountability & Real-Time Monitoring

Flipkart's monitoring architecture pairs AI-led scale with human supervision and auditability, ensuring that automation is embedded within documented review processes, audit trails, and escalation protocols.

The company's real-time infringement scanning system identifies text and logo infringements on products using detection models, leading to manual validation and subsequent delisting of confirmed infringing items. Additionally, the Marketplace Quality Control team scans millions of listings monthly to ensure compliance with relevant regulatory requirements. In addition to tech-based measures, Flipkart conducts on-ground seller inspections and geo-tagged address verification, including surprise audits of certain sellers for whom heightened observation is indicated.

To amplify vigilance across the ecosystem, Flipkart has also launched an internal employee campaign that enables employees to identify and report seller or consumer abuse patterns ranging from fake listings and multi-account misuse to return manipulation and promotional fraud. Institutionalizing the Seller Compliance and Transparency Framework Across the Marketplace

Central to this framework is the institutionalization of transparency as a seller's right of due process. At the point of onboarding, sellers receive a detailed

(Gns).  
In an increasingly digital society, a single careless click can cost an individual their savings, identity and peace of mind. Phishing scams – fraudulent messages designed to impersonate banks, companies, or trusted individuals – are rising sharply across emails, text messages, and social media platforms. Despite frequent warnings, many users continue to fall victim, often because they are told what is dangerous but not why. Most internet users have encountered alerts such as “Suspicious link detected” or “This message may be unsafe.” While these warnings are meant to protect users, they rarely explain the underlying risk.

As a result, people may

ignore the alert, assume it is a technical error, or proceed out of urgency. This gap between detection and understanding has become a critical weakness in the fight against online fraud. Phishing is a form of cyber-crime in which attackers trick users into revealing sensitive information, including passwords, one-time passwords (OTPs) and banking details. These messages are often carefully crafted to appear legitimate – a notification from a bank, a delivery update or even a job offer. The growing sophistication of such scams makes them difficult to identify at a glance. Contrary to popular belief, falling for phishing is not a sign of carelessness or lack of intelligence. Fraudsters rely on psychological

manipulation rather than technical complexity. By creating urgency, fear or a sense of authority, they push recipients to act



quickly.  
Messages warning that an account will be blocked or demanding immediate action are designed to override rational judgement.

Cyber security experts now emphasise the importance of explaining why a message is considered dangerous. Modern security

include links that lead to fake websites, email addresses that do not match official domains, unusual language patterns, spelling errors or unnecessary urgency. Such explanations make warnings more effective. When users understand the reasons behind a security alert, they are more likely to trust it and less likely to repeat the same mistake.

Over time, this approach helps individuals recognise common scam patterns independently, reducing reliance solely on automated tools. Realising awareness strengthens digital safety in three important ways. First, it builds long-term awareness by educating users about how scams operate. Second, it increases trust in

security systems by making their decisions transparent. Third, it enhances prevention by turning users into active participants in their own protection. While technology plays a vital role, individual caution remains essential. Users should avoid clicking on links from unknown sources, carefully verify sender details, never share OTPs or passwords, and be wary of messages demanding immediate action. When in doubt, it is safer to visit official websites directly or contact customer support through verified channels. As phishing techniques continue to evolve, awareness remains the strongest defence. Understanding why a message is dangerous is far more powerful than simply being told it is.

## Parliament must reform for a stronger democracy

(Gns).  
Parliament is the forum where laws are debated and passed, policies are scrutinized, and the voice of the people is represented. It needs to act as a check on the government to ensure it follows the Constitution, laws, and established rules. Currently, the institution faces a crisis of credibility, as citizens lose faith and become frustrated with how it functions. Empty benches, noisy disruptions, displaying placards, smoking e-cigarettes, entering the well, poor-quality debates, and the hurried passing of bills amid uproar have eroded public trust. Urgent reforms are necessary to restore its credibility and effectiveness and to rebuild Parliament as the temple or heart of democracy.

The cost of operating Parliament is estimated at Rs 2.50 lakh per minute; if it fails to operate properly, public money is wasted. The most glaring problem is absenteeism. Very often,

senior, and prominent members, irrespective of the parties they belong to, are missing from debates, leaving critical discussions to a handful of participants – sometimes only those listed as speakers are present. This is an act of misuse of democracy. Attendance must be made visible and enforceable. A simple way to do it could be to display the number of members present, along with their names, on the chamber screen during live telecasts. It is the right of the voters to know whether their elected representatives are fulfilling their duty and attending Parliament regularly.

Bills should be passed when there is a stipulated Quorum in the House. Financial incentives such as daily allowances and perks could be conditional on attendance. Chronic absenteeism without a valid reason must carry serious consequences, such as being barred from attending the rest of the

session and disqualified from contesting the next election, etc. After all, public office is a responsibility, not a privilege. Attendance alone is not enough; the quality of debate must improve. Mostly, discussions are reduced to political point scoring, with



members of the ruling parties supporting, and the Opposition criticising instead of giving constructive suggestions and opposing whatever the government proposes. Senior leaders and ministers should be mandated to attend and contribute to debates on major legislation. Speaking time should be strictly enforced, and defaulters fined. Parliamentary committees must consult subject experts before approving bills, so that laws are shaped by facts and knowledge rather than political bias.

Some members speak in regional languages during parliamentary proceedings, making it difficult for most viewers to follow live telecasts. It is therefore desirable that those proficient in Hindi or English use these languages, as this not only ensures clear

during proceedings further erodes the seriousness of debate and is unacceptable in a forum requiring dignity and discipline. Their attention must be on legislative business. To restore credibility, a stronger and enforceable code of conduct is required. Penalties must be imposed on those who indulge in unruly behaviour. To protect public trust, MPs could refrain from voting on matters that affect their personal interests, which could help restore decorum, integrity, and trust in parliamentary proceedings. Parliament could be made transparent, disciplined, and accountable with the help of modern technology. An e-Parliament system could be introduced, providing public access to information about attendance, punishments, and speeches of the MPs. AI-powered monitoring could track the participation and contribution of the MPs to evaluate their performance.

A feedback mechanism could also be incorporated to rate the usefulness of debates by voters. This would shift the focus of MPs from mere electoral popularity to actual legislative effectiveness. Beyond behaviour and technology, structural reforms are essential. In the early decades (1950s-60s),

Parliament sat for 120-135 days annually. In recent years, sittings have reduced to around 55-70 days per year. PRS Legislative Research and former Speakers have recommended a minimum of 120 sitting days, which could be adopted, to ensure adequate time for debate and legislation. The Speaker should have the authority to enforce discipline in the House. These reforms are not about punishing MPs, but about restoring the dignity and decorum of the Parliament. Citizens want their representatives to attend sessions, debate responsibly, and pass laws that benefit people.

The entire democratic system loses credibility when Parliament functions chaotically. It can be restored by enforcing attendance, improving debate quality, strengthening ethics, embracing technology, and maintaining structural discipline. Democracy is not just about elections; it is more about responsible representation. An MP's role does not end with winning votes – it begins there with the responsibility of shaping laws and policies. Therefore, reforms in parliamentary functioning are not optional; they are essential for the survival of democracy itself.

## Reforming the judiciary

(Gns).  
The first hearing in any rights dispute is the one the public never sees: who gets to become a judge. In India, judicial appointments are often discussed as an internal tussle ~ court versus government, collegium versus executive, transparency versus independence. But that framing misses the point. Judicial selection is not a technocratic HR process. It is human rights infrastructure. It decides whose liberty is protected, whose protest is restrained, whose land is taken, whose equality is affirmed, whose dignity is recognised, and whose suffering is ignored.

When appointments are opaque, delayed, or shaped by hidden vetoes, the damage is not abstract because it is borne by undertrials, by survivors of violence waiting for a trial date, by communities challenging discrimination, and by citizens seeking constitutional remedies. This matters now because international standards increasingly emphasise that judicial selection must be transparent, merit-based, independent, and nondiscriminatory. The UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary stress selection on “integrity and ability” and the duty of states to provide adequate resources for courts to function. The UN Human Rights Committee has also linked fair trial guarantees to the reality ~

not just the form ~ of an independent and impartial tribunal.

As the UN Special Rapporteur prepares a thematic report on principles of judicial appointments for the Human Rights Council's 62nd session (June 2026), India has an opportunity: to



show that independence and accountability are not enemies, and that transparency can strengthen ~ not weaken ~ judicial legitimacy. India's higher judiciary appointments operate through the collegium system, a judge-made framework that evolved through landmark Supreme Court decisions and later survived the failed National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) experiment. The result is a paradox: a system meant to protect courts from executive capture, but which often remains internally closed and socially narrow ~ while still being vulnerable to informal executive veto through delay, selective vetting, and control of timelines.

On paper, procedural timelines exist. The Department of Justice itself notes that High Court proposals should be initiated six months before vacancies arise. Yet in practice, delay has become a feature, not a bug ~ reallocating power away from open, rea-

soned decision-making and toward whoever can stall the process without accountability. When that happens, independence becomes a slogan, not a lived reality. The most measurable symptom is vacancies. Official government data shows that as on 24 December 2025, High Courts had a sanctioned strength of 1122 judges, but a working strength of 821 ~ leaving 301 vacancies.

The Supreme Court had a sanctioned strength of 34, with 33 working and 1 vacancy. Those are not just numbers; they are the architecture of delay. Fewer judges mean longer cause lists, more adjournments, and slower constitutional review. The backlog

becomes self-perpetuating: judges are overworked, time for detailed hearings shrinks, and courts increasingly manage crises rather than resolve them. And the crisis is even starker below. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) shows hundreds of millions of cases pending across the system (with a large share older than a year).

A recent report citing the government in Parliament put vacancies in district and subordinate courts at 4,855 out of a sanctioned strength of 25,886, alongside over 4.8 crore pending cases as of 1 December 2025. It is hard to speak credibly about “access to justice” when the system is structurally short-staffed. The second symptom is opacity, especially around “adverse material” and intelligence inputs. A striking public illustration is the Supreme Court collegium's statement of 18 January 2023 concerning the reconsideration of the proposal to appoint advocate Saurabh Kirpal as a judge of the Delhi High Court. The collegium noted the recommendation had been pending for over five years, and recorded objections reportedly raised through intelligence and executive communications ~ ranging from the nationality of the candidate's partner to the fact that the candidate was open about his sexual orientation.



## Western railway announces temporary changes in terminal & coach composition of two key trains

Mumbai, **Karnavati Express to Originate/Terminate at Bandra Terminus;**  
Vande Bharat Express to Run with 20-Coach Rake  
For the information of passengers Western Railway notifies temporary operational changes involving (i) shifting the terminal of Train No. 12933/12934 Mumbai Central – Vatva / Ahmedabad – Mumbai Central Karnavati Express from Mumbai Central to Bandra Terminus, and (ii) temporary augmentation of

coaches in Train No. 22961/22962 Mumbai Central – Ahmedabad – Mumbai Central Vande Bharat Express from 16 to 20 coaches.  
According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Train No. 22961/22962 Mumbai Central – Ahmedabad – Mumbai Central Vande Bharat Express will be temporarily augmented with four additional coaches and will run with a 20-coach

rake with effect from Journey Commencing on 26.01.2026 to 07.03.2026. Shri Vineet further stated that Train No. 12933/12934 Bandra Terminus – Vatva / Ahmedabad – Bandra Terminus Karnavati Express will originate/terminate at Bandra Terminus instead of Mumbai Central on a temporary basis with effect from Journey Commencing on 26.01.2026 to 07.03.2026. Train No. 12933 will depart from Bandra Terminus at

13:55 hrs, while Train No. 12934 will arrive Bandra Terminus at 12:30 hrs; there is no change in the rest of the timings between Borivali and Vatva / Ahmedabad.  
Passengers are requested to take note of the above changes and plan their journey accordingly. For detailed information regarding timings, halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

## Western railway to run three pairs of 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 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. 09035/09036 Bandra Terminus – Udhna Bi-Weekly Special [20 Trips]

Train No. 09035 Bandra Terminus – Udhna Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Friday & Saturday at 09:00 hrs and will reach Udhna at 15:05 hrs, the same day. This train will run from 30th January to 28th February, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09036 Udhna – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Udhna every Thursday & Friday at 15:45 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 21:35 hrs, the same day. This train will run

from 29th January to 27th February, 2026.

Enroute, this train will halt at Andheri, Borivali, Vasai Road, Virar, Vaitarna, Saphale, Kelve Road, Palghar, Boisar, Vangaon, Dahanu Road, Gholvad, Bordi Road, Umbargam Road, Sanjan, Bhilad, Karambeli, Vapi, Valsad, Bilimora and Navsari stations in both direction. Train No. 09035 will have additional halt at Atul, Pardi and Udvada stations.

This train comprises of Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

2) Train No. 09561/09562 Bandra Terminus – Okha Weekly Special [10 Trips]

Train No. 09561 Bandra Terminus – Okha Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Wednesday at 05:50 hrs and will reach Okha at 22:50 hrs, the same day. This train will run from 28th January to 25th February, 2026. Similarly, Train No.

09562 Okha – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Okha every Tuesday at 10:20 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:20 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 27th January to 24th February, 2026.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Virangam, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Hapa, Jamnagar, Khambalia and Dwarka stations in both direction

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

3) Train No. 09005/09006 Bandra Terminus – Bhiwani Superfast Weekly Special [10 Trips]

Train No. 09005 Bandra Terminus – Bhiwani Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Wednesday at 11:00 hrs and will reach Bhiwani at 13:00 hrs., the next day. This train will run from 28th January to 25th February,

2026. Similarly, Train No. 09006 Bhiwani – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Bhiwani every Thursday at 14:35 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 16:10 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 29th January to 26th February, 2026.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Mandisor, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Dausa, Alwar, Rewari, Kosli and Charkhi Dadri stations in both directions

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

The booking for Train No. 09035, 09036, 09561, 09562 & 09005 is open 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).

## 10 Army Soldiers Killed as Military Vehicle Falls Into Gorge in J&K's Doda

(Gns). In Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, a military vehicle accident resulted in the deaths of at least ten Indian Army soldiers and injuries to others after it plunged into a gorge; the accident occurred during routine movement on a mountainous road, according to officials.

The tragic incident occurred during a routine movement in the high-altitude region, once again highlighting the dangers faced by troops deployed in difficult terrain.

Lieutenant Governor Confirms Deaths, Offers Condolences

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha confirmed the loss of lives and expressed grief over the incident. Taking to

X, he paid tribute to the fallen soldiers and extended



condolences to their families.

"Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda. We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our

brave soldiers. My deepest condolences to the grieving



families," Sinha said.

He also shared an update on the condition of the injured soldiers and the steps taken by the administration.

"In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in

solidarity and support. 10 Injured soldiers have been airlifted to the hospital. Directed the Senior officials to ensure best possible treatment. Praying for their speedy recovery," he added.

How the Accident Took Place

According to officials, the accident occurred at Khanni Top along the Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road. The bullet-proof Army vehicle was carrying 17 personnel and was en route to a high-altitude post when the driver reportedly lost control, causing the vehicle to plunge nearly 200 feet into a gorge.

A joint rescue operation involving the Army and local police was launched immediately. Four soldiers were found dead at the spot, while nine others

her husband's body.

Night After the Killing Raises Alarms

What followed deeply disturbed investigators. Instead of alerting neighbours or seeking medical help, Madhuri allegedly stayed in the house through the night. Police claim that during this period, she watched pornographic videos while sitting near her husband's body.

In the early hours, around 4 am, she approached neighbours and told them that Nagaraju had died of a heart attack.

The claim did not convince those around her. Neighbours and acquaintances were aware of frequent quarrels between the couple and Madhuri's alleged extramarital relationship.

## After Killing Husband With Lover, She Spent the Night Watching Porn Beside His Body: Inside Andhra Murder Case

(Gns). In Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, police arrested Lakshmi Madhuri for allegedly killing her husband, Lokam Shiva Nagaraju, with her lover Gopi's help in Chiluvuru village, after marital disputes. Madhuri reportedly sedated Nagaraju, then Gopi suffocated him, followed by Madhuri watching pornographic videos near the body and falsely claiming a heart attack before neighbors grew suspicious.

Investigators say the crime was carefully planned and carried out inside the couple's home in Chiluvuru village, followed by behaviour that further alarmed authorities.

Murder Planned Inside the House

According to police, the accused, Lakshmi Madhuri,

conspired to kill her husband Lokam Shiva Nagaraju, an onion trader, after ongoing marital disputes. On the night of the



incident, she allegedly prepared biryani for Nagaraju and mixed it with a substance that caused him to fall into a deep sleep.

Once he was incapacitated, the next stage of the plan was executed. At around 11.30 pm, Madhuri's alleged lover,

by sitting on his chest, while Madhuri used a pillow to suffocate him. Police believe the combined assault led to Nagaraju's death on the spot.

After ensuring that he was no longer alive, Gopi reportedly left the house, leaving Madhuri alone with

## Reaction of AAP State President Isudan Gadhvi on the atrocities committed on Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranandji

**Atrocities on Shankaracharya are similar to an insult to Hindu society and Sanatan Dharma by the BJP: Isudan Gadhvi**

**Hindu society and Aam Aadmi Party do not support the attack on Shankaracharya: Isudan Gadhvi**

**BJP, in the name of Hindutva, is using the government system to carry out violence and pressure: Isudan Gadhvi**  
**Demand for legal action by Aam Aadmi Party for the honor of Shankaracharya: Isudan Gadhvi**

**BJP is no longer a party, it has become a corporate company selling certificates: Isudan Gadhvi**

**Stopping Shankaracharya from bathing is an insult to Sanatan tradition: Isudan Gadhvi**

**Isudan Gadhvi appeals to RSS-VHP-Bajrang Dal to**

**raise their voice on the issue of atrocities on Shankaracharya**

Ahmedabad / Gujarat  
AAP State President Isudan Gadhvi, reacting to the atrocities committed on Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranandji, stated that the BJP is not a party, it is a corporate company that has taken up the contract of selling certificates to everyone. The atrocities committed on Jagadguru

Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranandji and his disciples on 18/01/2026 during Mauni Amavasya in Prayagraj are a matter of concern for Hindu society and Sanatan Dharma. The police and administration stopped Shankaracharya and his disciples from bathing, stopped the palanquin, and the atrocities

committed by pulling their disciples by the hair have hurt the sentiments of all Hindus. These atrocities against Shankaracharya and his disciples are not merely a personal attack, but a severe blow to the universally accepted values of Hindu society and Sanatan tradition. The BJP has now become a corporate company in the name of Hindutva and nationalism. The BJP has started playing with people's sentiments in the name of Mother Cow, Hindu culture, and Sanatan Dharma. Are they now asking even Shankaracharya for certificates of Hindu faith? Who are you? First show your own certificate of nationalism. The Aam Aadmi Party has registered protests at various places in support of

Shankaracharya.

AAP leader Isudan Gadhvi further stated that I request RSS, Bajrang Dal, and VHP that when the BJP is committing atrocities on our Shankaracharyas, you too should unite and raise your voice in support of Shankaracharyaji. Today it is one Shankaracharya, tomorrow there will be another, and then all of us will also have to give certificates of being Hindus. This is not only an attack on Shankaracharya, but an attack on our Hindu faith and on future generations as well. I request all social organizations, saints, artists, and all followers of Sanatan Dharma to raise their voice together in support of Shankaracharyaji.

Aam Aadmi Party Gujarat

## Rajasthan: Reckless Driving Kills IAF Aspirant In Jaipur; Driver Absconds

(Gns).

In a shocking incident, an 18-year-old girl was killed in a hit-and-run incident on a Jaipur expressway on Wednesday in Rajasthan. She was preparing for the Indian Air Force physical examination, according to a report in the IANS.

The victim identified as Anaya Sharma was jogging on the Shanti Bagh stretch of the expressway before the speeding SUV hit her from the behind. She suffered severe injuries. The teenager was rushed to the hospital where she breathed her last during the treatment.

An 18-year-old girl, Anaya Sharma, was killed in a hit-and-run incident on the Jaipur expressway in

Rajasthan on Wednesday while jogging; the driver of

was living in Jaipur with her sister. The driver of the car



the black Mahindra Thar SUV fled the scene and a case has been registered at Kardhani Police Station.

The driver of the black Mahindra Thar SUV fled the spot.

Anaya Sharma was a resident of Jhunjhunu and

escaped from the spot after the incident, the police said. A case has been registered at Kardhani Police Station.

The reckless driver hit another vehicle before fleeing the spot. He abandoned the Thar SUV near Dadi ka Phatak and escaped on

foot.

However, the body was handed over to the victim's family after the post-mortem. It was taken to her native for the last rites.

Meanwhile, the hunt to nab the culprit is on. Special teams have been formed to catch the absconder. The cops are looking into the CCTV footage, technical surveillance, and other evidence to identify the accused.

The incident has triggered massive outrage among the citizens who demand a strict action against the absconder whose reckless driving took a life. However, the cops have assured the public that stringent action will be taken against him

## India sends 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Afghanistan

(Gns).

As part of healthcare cooperation between India and Afghanistan, New Delhi has sent 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul to address the needs of cancer patients in Afghanistan.

In a post on X, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Thursday said, "India delivers 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul to address the urgent needs of cancer patients. India remains committed to supporting the friendly people of Afghanistan."

In December,

Afghanistan's Minister of

Public Health, Mawlawi

Noor Jalal Jalali, held a

boosting health cooperation, sharing expertise



meeting with Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda in New Delhi and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the healthcare sector.

"The talks focused on

Public Health, Mawlawi

Noor Jalal Jalali, held a



between medical professionals, building the capacity of Afghan health workers, and ensuring the supply of quality medicines to Afghanistan. Cancer treatment, medical visas for

Afghan patients, and support for health facilities were also discussed," Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health posted on X.

Jalali thanked India for its recent support in the health sector and outlined additional needs to improve Afghanistan's healthcare system.

During the meeting, Nadda reaffirmed New Delhi's commitment to supporting the Afghan people, including through the supply of medicines and vaccines. He confirmed that a CT scan machine, along with medicines and vaccines, would soon be sent to a children's hospital in Kabul.

## Grassroots artistes to showcase UP's cultural diversity during UP Diwas in Lucknow

(Gns).

As Uttar Pradesh prepares to celebrate Uttar Pradesh Diwas, the state's

ing cultural traditions.

The journey of these artistes has unfolded through a carefully struc-

sions of the state competed for a place at the state-level celebrations.

UP Tourism and Culture

artistes from Uttar Pradesh—adolescents aged 14 to 20 years and youth aged 21 to 25 years—



cultural landscape is set to take centre stage in Lucknow with a unique initiative that brings together talent from the grassroots to the capital.

At the Rashtra Prerna Sthal, artistes selected from villages, panchayats, blocks, districts, and divisions across the state will present their skills, offering audiences a rare glimpse of Uttar Pradesh's rich and liv-

tured, multi-tiered cultural competition organised by the Department of Culture.

Preliminary rounds were held between January 10 and 15, at the gram sabha, panchayat, block, and tehsil levels, followed by district-level competitions from January 17 to 19. The process culminated on January 22 with divisional-level competitions, where participants from all 18 divi-

Minister Jaiveer Singh said here on Thursday that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to taking culture beyond elite stages and giving genuine grassroots talent a voice.

Congratulating the winners of the state-level cultural competition 'Hamari Sanskriti' – Hamari Pehchaan' (Sanskriti Utsav 2025–26), he said the platform has enabled young

to showcase their abilities in disciplines such as vocal and instrumental music, classical and semi-classical dance, folk dance, folk theatre, light music, tribal and folk instruments, and poetry recitation.

Selected participants will be honoured and awarded during Uttar Pradesh Diwas celebrations from January 24 to 26, 2026, at Rashtra Prerna Sthal.



## Security tightened across Kashmir ahead of R-Day

(Gns). Ahead of the Republic Day, security has been heightened in North Kashmir where a comprehensive multi-agency security meeting was convened on Thursday by DIG (North Kashmir Range) Maqsood-ul-Zaman in Baramulla to review the security arrangements.

Senior officers from the Army, CRPF, BSF, District SSPs of North Kashmir Range, Armed Police, SSB, IB, CID, CIK, SDRF and Fire & Emergency Services attended the meeting.

During the deliberations, recent developments and intelligence inputs were thoroughly analyzed with special emphasis on thwarting attempts by anti-national elements to create disturbances.

The participating officers discussed a wide spectrum of security parameters including inten-

sified area domination, strengthening and establishment of 24x7 check points, domination of



National Highways, CCTV monitoring, protection of vital installations and minority pockets, monitoring of social media and VPN usage, preparedness for handling local law & order situations and contin-

uous analysis of local intelligence reports.

Venue and perimeter security for Republic-Day

joint drills, proactive measures, and real-time intelligence sharing are critical to ensuring peaceful and incident-free celebrations.

He further emphasized the role of public cooperation, urging citizens to remain vigilant, report suspicious activities and extend support to security forces in maintaining peace and harmony.

Meanwhile, the police in Srinagar have stepped up security and checking measures across the city to ensure a peaceful, safe, and incident-free observance of the national event.

As part of the enhanced security grid, police personnel have been deployed at strategic locations. Special checkpoints and mobile patrols have been established, where thorough checking of vehicles and individuals is being carried out.

functions were also reviewed in detail to ensure layered protection and access control.

The DIG NKR underscored the importance of seamless synergy among all forces stressing that

## Mathura: Five arrested including a woman who cheated Rs 2 crore 4 lakh in the name of digital arrest

Mathura. Cyber fraud of Rs 2 crore 4 lakh in the name of digital arrest has been revealed today by SP Crime and CO Gunjan Singh in the auditorium located at Police Lines. Cyber police have arrested five accused including a woman. Police have recovered 9 mobile phones, 9 SIM cards, 9 ATM cards, 3 PAN cards, 2 Aadhar cards and documents related to 11 bank accounts from them.

SP Crime Avneesh Mishra said that on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at around 13:05 pm, the police team arrested all the accused from Bareilly Highway after the Refinery area of the police station. The arrested accused include Ramesh alias Ram Vishnoi (resident of Phalodi, Rajasthan), Rahul Maglani (resident of Agra), Lakshya

Agarwal (resident of Awast Vikas Colony, Agra) and Puneet Solanki (resident of

used to call the victim woman from Hong Kong mobile numbers and pre-



Police taking the accused for presentation in court

Kirawali, Agra). A female accused has also been arrested along with them. During interrogation, the accused admitted that they were under the influence of their leader MAlong with D. Vishnoi, he used to carry out this cyber crime in a planned manner. The gang

tend to be CBI or Crime Branch officers. The victim was intimidated by saying that her Aadhaar card and SIM were used for money laundering, and she was put under "digital arrest" in the name of checking her bank accounts. The accused sent fake notices and documents

to the victim on the pretext of checking the amount deposited in the bank accounts and transferred a total of Rs 2 crore 4 lakh to various accounts. Cyber police have found sufficient evidence in this case in the form of call details, bank transactions, mobile and other documents. The victim had lodged a written complaint regarding this incident at Cyber Crime Mathura police station on 23 December 2025, on the basis of which a case was registered and investigation was started. As a result of vigilance and technical investigation of the cyber police, these accused could be arrested. The police have started the process of taking legal action against all the accused and presenting them before the Honorable Court

## Mathura Police increased security on January 26, started checking campaign

Mathura. Mathura Police including GRP and RPF have increased security arrangements on Republic Day (January 26). In this sequence, today the police conducted a special checking campaign at public places. This campaign was conducted from Bhuteshwar Bus Stand to Mathura Railway Junction, where there is heavy movement of passengers every day. During the operation, Bomb Disposal Squad (BDDS) and Dog Squad team of Mathura Police were deployed. Police personnel conducted a thorough check of the vehicles,

buses and trains parked in the bus stand and railway station premises. Besides, the waiting room, platform, ticket counter and luggage of the passengers were also searched in detail. The dog squad team conducted special checking of unclaimed bags and suspicious items. During this, the police appealed to the passengers for cooperation and made them aware to remain alert. Passengers were told to immediately report any suspicious per-



Under the checking campaign, the dog squad team conducted special investigation of unclaimed bags and suspicious items.

son or object to the police or security personnel. During checking, the police also interrogated people roaming unnecessarily. Police officials said that in view of Republic Day, tight

security arrangements have been made at public places, markets, religious places, bus stands and railway stations across the district. Constant patrolling is being done at sensitive places with the deployment of additional police forces. According to officials, this checking campaign will continue regularly till Republic Day. Its objective is to prevent any untoward incident and provide a safe environment to the general public. Police have appealed to the citizens to stay away from rumors and cooperate in security arrangements.

## 40 day festival will start from Basant Panchami, Bihari ji will play Holi with devotees

Mathura. Today, from Friday Basant Panchami, Thakur Banke Bihariji will start the forty-day Holi in Vraj by playing Holi with the devotees. On Panchami, wearing spring attire and makeup, after the Aarti, when Sevayat will sprinkle Thakurji's Prasadi Gulal on the devotees, then Holi will start from this day in Braj. After that, Thakurji will be given darshan of the devotees only after applying gulal on his cheek. The temple attendant told that Thakur Banke Bihari ji will start the forty-day Holi by playing Holi with the devotees. On Panchami, after dressing up in Basanti attire, after the Aarti, Sevayat will sprinkle Thakurji's Prasad Gulal on the devotees, then Holi will start from this day in Braj. After that, Thakurji will be given darshan of the devotees only after applying gulal on his cheeks.

Basant Panchami in the temple, before Shringar Aarti, gulal will be applied on the cheeks of Sevayat Thakurji. After this, Prasad Gulal of Sevayat Thakurji

By flying, the devotees will be drenched in the colors of Holi. In such a situation, as soon as they enter the temple, devotees from all over the world will

camp in Vrindavan, eager to get drenched in every bit of the color of Aaradhya's Prasad. On Vasant Panchami, devotees from all over the country will camp in Vrindavan and enjoy Holi in the courtyard

of Aaradhya at Thakur Banke Bihari Temple. In



Basant Panchami scene

such a situation, the Temple High Power Management Committee has made arrangements for the devotees to have darshan in a queue by barricading the routes leading to the temple. The commit-

tee has planned to implement the plan of allowing the devotees to have darshan from the railing inside the temple till Vasant Panchami. So that the devotees do not stay in the temple for long.

Basanti Rooms will have grand darshan todaOn Basant Panchami, devotees will be seen immersed in the aura of the room, looking at the colorful chandeliers of the Vasanti room located at Shahaji temple, the wonderful rays of light emanating from the artistic mirror and the glimpse of Thakur Radharamanlalji sitting on the throne placed in front of the horsemen in the middle of the room. The lights peeking through the colorful chandeliers in the room will delight the devotees. The glimpse of Roman and Italian style on the crooked marble pillars and parapet of the temple will delight the devotees.

## UP's Mau: Teachers' Salaries to be withheld if Solar Panels not installed at their homes

(Gns). The Basic Education Department has intensified its efforts regarding the installation of solar panels at teachers' homes in districts under the Prime Minister's Suryaghar/Solar Scheme.

The District Basic Education Officer (BSA) of Mau has directed all Block Education Officers (BEOs) to personally contact the teachers in their respective areas and immediately provide 100 per cent information/certificates regarding the installation of solar panels. The salaries of teachers who do not get the panels installed will be withheld.

A letter issued by Mau District Basic Education Officer Santosh Kumar Upadhyay stated that, as per the instructions of the

Chief Development Officer, solar panels were to be installed at the homes of

In the order, the BSA has clarified that the attendance for salary purposes



every teacher under the scheme, but a complete report/certificate regarding the installation of solar panels at all teachers' homes has not yet been provided. This has been considered a disregard of the orders of higher authorities.

will be locked on the Manav Sampada portal only after the teacher concerned provides a certificate of solar panel installation to the undersigned.

The BSA office has directed that a certificate with the teacher's own sig-

nature, confirming 100 per cent installation of solar panels under the Solar Home Scheme, must be provided. Otherwise, action may be taken to affect the salary of the concerned individual.

On Thursday, Mau BSA Santosh Kumar Upadhyay told this reporter that solar panels are to be installed under the PM Suryaghar scheme. He said that it is not a mandatory order that salaries will be stopped if panels are not installed. If any teacher wants to get it installed voluntarily, they can do so. It has no connection with the salary. When asked about the language of the letter, he said that it is voluntary, and the letter was written in that manner.

## Sanatan row: DMK describes as wrong Madras HC quashing FIR against Amit Malviya

(Gns). Coming to the defence of Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and ruling DMK's Youth Wing Secretary in the Sanatan row, the party has termed 'wrong' the Madras High Court quashing the FIR against BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya for his remarks against the former.

Reacting to the Madurai Bench of the High Court quashing the FIR and observing that the party to which the minister belonged had repeatedly attacked Hindu beliefs, DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai has said "personal belief of the judge has no place in a judgment". Further in his post on 'X', he faulted the Court for not adhering to the dictum 'Audi Alteram Partem' (nobody should be condemned unheard).

"It does not adhere to a cardinal principle of

jurisprudence. Audi Alteram partem.... The personal belief or ideology of the Judge should not find a

Udhayanidhi.

The case stems from the 2023 speech of Udhayanidhi, equating



place in the judgment," Saravanan said, responding to Union Minister Piyush Goyal's social media post, claiming that the HC ruling was 'a strong rebuke to the DMK's narrow, anti-Hindu mindset'. After Malviya's posts, an Ayodhya-based monk had announced a reward of Rs 10 crore for beheading

Sanatan to dengue and malaria and calling for its eradication at the 'Sanatan Abolition Conference' in Chennai, organised by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association. Reacting to it, Malviya in his posts claimed that Udhayanidhi had given a call for the genocide of the adherents

of Sanatan Dharma. Following this, a DMK functionary had filed a complaint and an FIR was registered against Malviya.

Justice S Srimathy, in her order passed on Wednesday, observed that Malviya's posts were a response to a public speech already in circulation, and hence prosecuting him would cause 'irreparable harm and injury'. "This court with pain records the prevailing situation that the persons who initiate hate speech are let scot-free, but those react to such speech face the wrath of law," the Judge noted, adding, "There is material on record to show repeated instances of attacks on Hindu beliefs by the party to which the minister belongs, and these circumstances have to be formed as the background against which Malviya's reaction has to be assessed."

## ECI launches ECINET to revolutionise election management with unified digital platform

(Gns). The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday introduced ECINET, an all-encompassing digital platform designed to consolidate over 40 existing election-related apps and portals into a single, secure, and user-friendly interface. The launch event was held at the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Conceived by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, ECINET aims to elevate transparency, efficiency, and public confidence in managing elections across the world's

largest democracy.

Addressing attendees, CEC Kumar emphasised

orate with us in creating similar platforms suited to their legal frameworks and



ECINET's compliance with legal standards and its accessibility, stating, "ECINET has been developed in strict accordance with the law and is available in 22 scheduled languages and English. We invite election management bodies worldwide to collab-

languages." Election Commissioner Sandhu highlighted the platform's potential to strengthen trust in electoral processes: "This platform is a great tool to enhance trust in EMs as it ensures greater transparency, facilitates real-time monitoring

of election functions, and enables quick decision-making and information dissemination."

Echoing the global significance of the initiative, Election Commissioner Joshi remarked, "IICDEM offers election management bodies a valuable opportunity to learn from global best practices in technology adoption and digital innovation."

Seema Khanna, Director General of Information Technology, underscored cybersecurity as a cornerstone of ECINET's architecture: "Technology is no longer just a support function but a strategic enabler. ECINET enhances transparency, efficiency, credibility, and public trust in elections."

ECINET serves a wide

## Rash drivers to lose driving licence in J&K; Chief Secretary reviews road safety measures

(Gns). J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, while assessing the implementation of road safety measures as recommended by the Supreme Court on Thursday, underscored the need for extensive use of GIS-based data to identify vulnerable and accident-prone road stretches across districts in Jammu and Kashmir.

He emphasized that such data-driven identification would enable focused technological and physical interventions to significantly reduce road accidents in the UT.

The meeting was attended by administrative secretaries of concerned departments, senior offi-

cers of the Traffic Police, and Heads of Departments, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing from their respec-

bound roadmap for implementation of each directive must be prepared without delay.

He called for leveraging available transport and traf-



tive districts.

The chief secretary sought a detailed account of the Supreme Court directions on road safety and the status of compliance by the concerned departments. He stressed that a clear-cut and time-

fic data to guide interventions such as targeted safety measures, strategic deployment of traffic police, and engineering corrections on road patches identified for frequent accidents. Emphasizing deterrence as a key component of road

safety, the chief secretary directed the authorities to strictly enforce punitive measures against habitual and serious traffic violators. These include cancellation of driving licences, registration certificates, and other statutory actions against offenders involved in rash driving and non-compliance with traffic rules.

He also took stock of the road accident scenario in Jammu and Kashmir based on data available on the i-RAD portal. He reviewed accident trends with respect to time of day, monthly patterns, district-wise distribution, classification of roads, and the nature of traffic violations leading to such mishaps.