



Republic Day and Constitution at Core of PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat Message

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the 130th episode of his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on 25 January to link Republic Day, the Constitution and elections. Modi stressed that National Voters' Day on 25 January highlights how central every voter is to Indian democracy. Modi reminded listeners that the Constitution took effect on 26 January, now marked as Republic Day, and said the date always offers a chance to honour

its framers. The address targeted young Indians in particular, stressing their growing role in public life and national development. In the 130th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on January 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi connected Republic Day, the Constitution, and elections, emphasizing the importance of National Voters' Day and active voting, while also acknowledging the growth of Indian start-ups, particularly in the youth sector. In the 130th episode of

'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "This is the first 'Mann Ki Baat' of the year 2026. Tomorrow, on 26 January, we will all celebrate Republic Day. It was on this day that our Constitution came into force. The day of 26 January gives us an opportunity to pay tribute to the makers of our Constitution. Today, 25 January, is also a very important day. Today is 'National Voters' Day'. The voter is the soul of democracy."

Modi also explained that voting is not just a right but a duty in a democracy. Modi suggested that when any young person votes for the first time, neighbours, should meet, greet them, and share sweets. Modi said this simple act can spread awareness and strengthen habits of active voting.

from January 2016, when a new effort began for the youth. Ten years later, Modi said, India has become the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem. PM Modi on memories of the 130th episode of Mann Ki Baat, PM Modi said, "These days I am seeing an interesting trend on social media. People are reliving their memories of the year 2016. In the same spirit, today I too would like to share one of my memories with you. Ten years ago, in January 2016, we embarked upon an ambitious journey. We had realised then that even if it were a small one, it was very important for the future of the country for the young generation. Today,

India has turned into the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world. These Start-ups are out of the box; they are working in sectors that were unimaginable even 10 years ago." Modi told listeners that Indian start-ups now operate in many advanced sectors that seemed distant a decade earlier. Modi framed this growth as linked to choices made by young people, including active participation in elections. The message in 'Mann Ki Baat' tied civic responsibility with innovation and economic opportunity. "AI, Space, Nuclear Energy, Semiconductors, Mobility, Green Hydrogen, Biotechnology, you name it, and you'll find one Indian Start-up or the other working in that sector. I salute

all my young friends who are associated with one Start-up or the other, or want to start one of their own. Let us resolve to improve the quality of whatever we manufacture. Be it our textiles, technology, electronics, or packaging, the connotation of an Indian product should become 'top quality'. Let us make excellence our benchmark," he said. Across the 'Mann Ki Baat' episode, Modi connected several themes, from the meaning of Republic Day to the rise of start-ups. Modi underlined that young citizens shape India both as voters and as entrepreneurs, and urged better quality in every Indian product alongside stronger democratic participation.

During 'Mann Ki Baat', villages or city communities



'Mann Ki Baat' highlights 2016 memories and start-up journey. During the same 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast, Modi referred to a trend on social media where users revisit 2016. Modi said this inspired a personal story

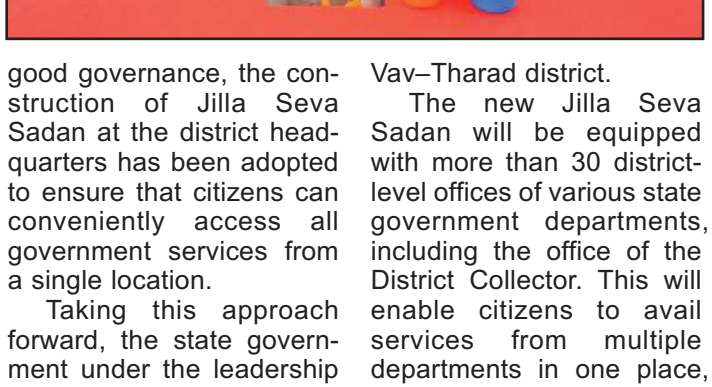
Newly formed Vav-Tharad district set to receive a state-of-the-art Jilla Seva Sadan

(Gns). Gandhinagar, 25 January 2026: The newly formed Vav-Tharad district will soon be equipped with a modern, state-of-the-art Jilla Seva Sadan. This Seva Sadan will provide a strong impetus to the holistic development of the district. The launch of this significant development project has taken place in the Vav-Tharad district, which will be hosting the state-level celebration of the 77th Republic Day for the first time.

Swaroopji Thakor. In accordance with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will develop this advanced Seva Sadan in the newly formed

resulting in the saving of time and resources while enhancing administrative efficiency. The Vav-Tharad Jilla Seva Sadan will be developed in accordance with green building standards. It will feature amenities such as a solar rooftop system, rainwater harvesting facilities, a spacious meeting hall, modern elevators, and basement parking. On this occasion, Deodar MLA Shri Keshaji Chauhan, District In-charge Secretary Shri Nagarajan, District Collector Shri J.S. Prajapati, District Development Officer Shri Kartik Jivani, Roads and Buildings Secretary Shri P.R. Patelia, Special Secretary J.A. Gandhi, Superintending Engineer Shri L.D. Chaudhari, Executive Engineer Shri Tejas Mangukiyia, along with other officials and a large number of citizens, were present.

good governance, the construction of Jilla Seva Sadan at the district headquarters has been adopted to ensure that citizens can conveniently access all government services from a single location. Taking this approach forward, the state government under the leadership



Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel laid the foundation stone and unveiled the plaque for the Jilla Seva Sadan, to be constructed across an area of 39 acres in Tharad, at an estimated cost of ₹70 crore. The event was graced by Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Shri Shankar Chaudhary and Minister of State Shri

Rajasthan state finance panel chief accuses Gehlot of covering up irregularities in RSSB recruitment scam

(Gns). Rajasthan State Finance Commission Chairman Arun Chaturvedi has accused former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of covering up the irregularities in the OMR sheets of the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB) recruitment exams during his tenure. Responding to criticism from three-time former CM Gehlot over the arrest of five accused staffers of the board and an outsourced agency for rigging OMR sheets in recruitment exams to candidates' marks for money, senior BJP leader Arun Chaturvedi said the criticism was "nothing but an attempt to conceal and

cover up his sins". The former state president of the ruling party said that the Gehlot government had turned a blind eye to irregularities, and that the OMR sheet rigging during

and ordered a comprehensive probe and investigation, which led to the exposure of the big scam, Chaturvedi said. "The Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police had provided the state government with vital tip-offs in time, and had also recovered Rs 61.5 lakh. Despite this, your government neither constituted an inquiry committee nor made any arrests or filed a case even after more than four-and-a-half years. I want to know from the former Chief Minister why his erstwhile government remained an inactive, mute

spectator for four-and-a-half long years, and whom it was patronising," he said. The SOG constituted by the Bhajan Lal government has achieved a breakthrough in the case by arresting five accused a few days ago. "I want to assure the former Chief Minister that the present government is being run on a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption, and that all culprits will be punished appropriately," Chaturvedi asserted. Since the arrest of five accused in the scam earlier this week, a bitter war of words has erupted, involving MoS Home Jawahar Singh Bedam, the BJP state leadership, Gehlot, and Chaturvedi.



its tenure was exposed by the Rajasthan SOG earlier this week. In contrast, the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led government took the case seriously from day one, set up a Special Operations Group,

Voting reflection of citizens' faith in democratic process of elections: Prez Murmu

(Gns). Noting that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has made numerous efforts to ensure that "no voter is left behind", President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said voting is a reflection of citizens' faith in the democratic process of elections, adding that public participation gives practical shape to the spirit of democracy at the grass-roots level. Addressing the 16th National Voters' Day Celebrations in New Delhi, She said many programmes have been conducted to increase voter awareness. "This year's theme, chosen by the Election Commission, "My India, My Vote: Indian Citizen at the heart of Indian Democracy," reflects the spirit of our democracy and underscores the importance of

the right to vote in our democratic system," the President said. "The strength of our democracy lies not only in the sheer size of voters but

Election Commission, for providing so many inspiring examples of exercising this franchise. "Voting is not merely a political expression. It is a

equality," Murmu said. "The 'One Person, One Vote' system enshrined in our Constitution was a result of our Constitution makers' firm faith in the wisdom of the common people. The voters of our country have vindicated their faith, and Indian democracy has earned respect on the world stage as an extraordinary example," she said. The President said that while the right to vote is important, it is equally important that all adult citizens exercise their franchise, keeping in mind their constitutional duties. She expressed confidence that all voters, free from temptation, ignorance, misinformation, propaganda, and prejudice, will strengthen "our electoral system through the power of their conscience".



also in the depth of the democratic spirit. Even the oldest voters, divyang voters and those living in remote areas exercise their right to vote," she said. The President appreciated the aware voters and all those involved in the election machinery, under the leadership of the

reflection of citizens' faith in the democratic process of elections. It is also a means for citizens to express their aspirations. The right to vote, available to all adult citizens without discrimination, gives concrete expression to our constitutional ideals of political and social justice and

UP State Human Rights Commission issues directions on alleged police misconduct with Shankaracharya's disciples

(Gns). The Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission has taken cognisance of allegations raised in a complaint filed by Dr Gajendra Singh Yadav regarding alleged misbehaviour with the disciples of Shankaracharya Swami

Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati during Mauni Amavasya at the Magh Mela in Prayagraj.

ering the nature of the allegations, it would be appropriate to forward a copy of the complaint to the Police

take necessary action in accordance with the law. It clarified that no opinion has been expressed on the merits of the complaint. Dr Gajendra Singh Yadav, an advocate at the Allahabad High Court, had approached the State Human Rights Commission alleging misbehaviour by police personnel with the disciples of Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati on January 18, Mauni Amavasya, during the Magh Mela. Terming the matter serious, he sought the Commission's intervention. The complaint alleges instances of misbehaviour, assault, and jostling by the Mela administration and police personnel.



The Commission disposed of the complaint with specific instructions. In a statement issued on Saturday, it said that consid-

Holiday notice
 It is informed to our dear readers that on the occasion of 26 January Republic Day, due to the holiday on January 26 in the office, the newspaper of January 27 will not be available. The next newspaper will be available on Wednesday January 28.
 - Editor

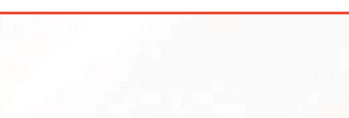
'SIR being used as weapon to delete Congress voters': Rahul Gandhi targets BJP, calls EC 'main accomplice'

(Gns). The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi today levelled allegations against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of selectively deleting

voters from specific communities and Congress-supporting booths in Gujarat under the Special Revision (SIR) of electoral

rolls. For his claims of large-scale vote theft during SIR, Rahul Gandhi referred to the Election Commission (EC) as the main accom-

plice in the conspiracy. "And the most serious truth is that the Election Commission is no longer the guardian of democracy but has become the main accomplice in this vote theft conspiracy," Gandhi said.



Intensive to the Election Commission (EC) as the main accom-



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Editorial

Delimitation Test

As India approaches the next census, the return of delimitation to the political agenda has revived an old and uneasy question: how should representation be balanced in a country where population growth has diverged sharply across regions? At its core, delimitation is a democratic necessity. Electoral boundaries cannot remain frozen in a society that changes continuously. Yet democracy is not arithmetic alone. It also rests on trust between regions, faith in constitutional fairness, and a shared belief that national rules do not penalise responsible behaviour. This is where the tension lies.

States that succeeded in stabilising population growth now fear political marginalisation, while states with faster demographic expansion argue ~ reasonably ~ that representation must reflect present realities. Both claims are legitimate. Treating this as a moral contest between "responsible" and "lagging" states risks reducing a structural constitutional issue into a political grievance. A purely population-based redistribution of parliamentary seats may satisfy numerical equality, but it can also distort federal balance. In a country as large and diverse as India, representation serves two functions: reflecting citizens and protecting states as political units. Ignoring either weakens the Union. The challenge, therefore, is not whether delimitation should occur, but how its impact can be moderated.

One approach lies in expanding the size of the Lok Sabha rather than redistributing existing seats. This would allow growing states to gain representation without forcing others, especially in the south and west to lose political voice. While this raises concerns about legislative efficiency, larger democracies across the world have adapted to bigger parliaments through committee systems and procedural reforms. Another stabilising mechanism is the continued relevance of the Upper House. In an era when fiscal powers and welfare delivery are increasingly centralised, the Rajya Sabha can be an institutional space where states, irrespective of size, retain equal constitutional weight with equal representation for all states as in the US Senate. This balance could become especially important as the lower house grows more population driven. There is also a case for re-examining the administrative size of states themselves.

Several Indian states now govern populations larger than most countries. Smaller political units can improve administrative responsiveness while also diffusing excessive concentration of parliamentary power. Such reorganisation, however, must emerge from political consensus rather than electoral calculation. What must be avoided is a winner-takes-all framing. If delimitation is projected as a transfer of power from one region to another, it will harden identities and deepen mistrust. Federal systems survive not by perfect equality, but by perceived fairness. India's Constitution was never meant to operate mechanically. It was designed to evolve through negotiation, accommodation, and restraint. Delimitation after the next census will test whether that spirit still endures. Handled wisely, it can modernise representation while strengthening national cohesion.

Sarhadno Saad - Nutan Vav-Tharad," the multimedia cultural programme organised on the eve of Republic Day at Tharad

(Gns). Gandhinagar, 25 January 2026: As part of the state-level celebrations of the 77th Republic Day - 2026, a multimedia cultural programme "Sarhadno Saad - Nutan Vav-Tharad" was organised on the eve of Republic Day at Malupur in the newly formed Vav-Tharad district.

On this occasion Governor stated that this is the first time such a grand and magnificent Republic Day celebration is being held here since Vav-Tharad became a new district, and lauded the entire district for it.

Governor stated that, During my tenure as Governor of Gujarat, I have witnessed many grand events, but the dignity, politeness, and simplicity displayed by the people here are truly unique and unmatched. The people of this region are exceptionally kind and cultured." Commending the various development works and financial allocations announced by the Chief Minister for the newly formed district, he said that the formation of the new district will further accelerate the region's development.

Appreciating the efforts of Speaker Shri Shankar Chaudhary and the contribution of Banas Dairy, the Governor noted that cooperative initiatives have played a vital role in transforming this desert-like region into a greener landscape. He also urged parents to provide higher education to their children without gender discrimination and to nurture them as value-driven and addiction-free individuals who can bring pride to their families

and the nation. The governor encouraged farmers associated with animal husbandry in the region to adopt 'chemical-free' or natural farming. He stated that embracing natural farming would protect the environment, Mother Earth, and cows, improve public health, and raise groundwater levels. He appealed to citizens to develop Vav-Tharad into a 'model district' for natural farming.

The Governor extended wishes for good health and well-being for all by reciting the shloka 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah'.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel stated that the first-ever state-level flag hoisting ceremony of the 77th Republic Day is being held today in the newly formed Vav-Tharad district, which is a moment of pride and joy for him.

The enthusiasm, energy, and spirit of patriotism witnessed among the people since morning have made this historic occasion even more memorable. On this auspicious occasion, he conveyed his heartfelt greetings to all on the 77th Republic Day.

Chief Minister recalled that in 1947, India attained freedom from British rule, and subsequently, the Constitution drafted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar guided the nation on the path of democracy and granted citizens the right to celebrate Republic Day. He emphasized that Republic Day symbolizes the unwavering faith of 140 crore Indians in democracy.

Inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a resolve has been taken to celebrate the

Somnath Swabhimani Parv throughout the year, connecting future generations with India's history, culture,



and heritage. Chief Minister stated that with the spirit of 'Nation First,' Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expanded the celebration of national festivals beyond a limited framework and initiated the tradition of hosting them across various districts of the state.

Chief Minister said that hosting the first state-level Republic Day celebration in Vav-Tharad district stands as a living example of the commitment to the holistic development of the border region.

Highlighting the strategic importance of a district sharing an international border, the Chief Minister recalled the bravery and courage displayed by the local population during the wars of 1965 and 1971, which continues to inspire the nation. On this occasion, he paid tribute to legendary patriots such as Ranchhod Pagi.

The mantra of 'Ease of Living' given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is clearly being realized in Vav-Tharad today. CM added that the State Government has accorded top priority to development in sectors such as roads, education, healthcare, and connectivity.

CM said that ₹59 crore

has been allocated for development works under the Rural Panchayat Department in Vav-Tharad

clear development roadmap.

On this occasion, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Shri Shankar Chaudhary stated that it is a historic moment that, within just three and a half months of the formation of Vav-Tharad district, the Bhoomi Pujan of the Collector's Office and the foundation stone laying and inauguration of development works worth ₹207 crore have been completed. He noted that through the GIDC initiative, the Chief Minister has transformed a far-sighted vision into reality by enabling local farmers to become entrepreneurs and boosting agricultural exports. He added that the people of the border region will always be grateful to the Chief Minister for gifting them the new Vav-Tharad district.

The Speaker further stated that approval for projects worth over ₹2,000 crore to supply Narmada water up to local reservoirs will permanently resolve the region's water scarcity and transform the area. Lauding the patriotism of the border population, he expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the State Government for organizing the state-level Republic Day flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day.

During the event, sixteen distinguished individuals were honoured by the Governor and the Chief Minister of the district for their outstanding contributions in various fields, marking a proud moment for the district.

On this occasion, the booklet Vav-Tharad: A Symbol of Development, Heritage, and Trust was

released.

District Collector Shri J. S. Prajapati delivered the welcome address and extended greetings to all present.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister presented a cheque worth ₹2.50 crore to the District Collector and the District Development Officer for development works.

Furthermore, six completed development works worth ₹23.23 crore were inaugurated, and foundation stones were laid for nineteen new projects worth ₹184.32 crore, collectively gifting the district development works worth ₹207 crore.

In the presence of the Governor and the Chief Minister, the programme showcased a vibrant confluence of dance, music, and drama, vividly portraying the rich cultural heritage, folk traditions, and deep-rooted patriotism of the border region of the newly formed Vav-Tharad district.

Presented with modern multimedia elements, the programme proved to be a memorable and inspiring experience for the audience.

The event was attended by Minister of State Shri Swaroopji Thakor, MLAs Shri Keshaji Chauhan, Shri Mavji Desai, and Shri Lavangji Thakor, leader Shri Kirtisinh Vaghela, Chief Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Das, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Anju Sharma, Principal Secretary Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Director General of Police Shri K. L. N. Rao, In-charge Secretary Shri M. Nagarajan, along with senior officials and citizens.

Andhra Pradesh to restrict children's access to social media reflects a growing unease shared by parents, educators, and policymakers alike.

(Gns). The proposal being examined in Andhra Pradesh to restrict children's access to social media reflects a growing unease shared by parents, educators, and policymakers alike. Concerns about screen addiction, harmful content and the psychological impact of algorithm-driven platforms are no longer confined to private households. They have entered the realm of public policy.

At first glance, limiting social media use for children below a certain age appears both protective and intuitive. Young users often lack the cognitive maturity to interpret online content critically. Platforms optimised for engagement frequently amplify sensationalism, unrealistic imagery, and emotional extremes, creating environments that can distort self-perception and behaviour. However, translating concern into enforceable law is far more complicated. The internet does not operate through clearly marked entry points. Access is mediated through devices, shared accounts and easily altered personal information. Age verification mechanisms remain imperfect,

especially in a country where digital access is widespread but unevenly regulated. For a state government such as Andhra Pradesh, the challenge is even sharper. Social media companies are governed by national frameworks,



while digital infrastructure transcends state boundaries.

Enforcement would depend on coordination with central authorities and private platforms, raising questions about legal jurisdiction and operational feasibility. Political urgency should not substitute for institutional clarity. Laws framed in haste often struggle in court and implementation alike. When digital rights, federal authority and children's welfare intersect, careful design matters more than dramatic

announcements. There is also the risk of mistaking restriction for solution. Children today inhabit a digital ecosystem that shapes friendships, education, and identity formation. A sudden prohibition may not eliminate exposure but

rather than blanket bans. This could include mandatory child-safe default settings, limits on algorithmic amplification for minors, stricter controls on targeted advertising, and clear accountability when platforms fail to act on harmful content. Education must form the backbone of any long term solution. Digital literacy should be integrated into school curricula, teaching children how online incentives work, why misinformation spreads and how digital actions carry lasting consequences. Empowering young users builds resilience that legal prohibitions alone cannot.

For Andhra Pradesh, which has long projected itself as a technology-driven state, the debate also carries symbolic weight. Policy choices must balance innovation with responsibility, signalling seriousness without resorting to gestures that may prove unenforceable. The impulse to protect children online is both legitimate and necessary. But durable safeguards will come not from attempting to shut the digital world out, but from learning how to govern it wisely.

merely drive usage into less visible spaces, beyond parental or institutional oversight. India already possesses regulatory instruments addressing data protection, intermediary responsibility, and child safety online. The difficulty lies not in legislative absence but in implementation gaps. Many parents remain unfamiliar with existing safety tools, while schools often lack structured programmes on digital behaviour. A more effective approach would involve layered regulation

rather than blanket bans. This could include mandatory child-safe default settings, limits on algorithmic amplification for minors, stricter controls on targeted advertising, and clear accountability when platforms fail to act on harmful content. Education must form the backbone of any long term solution. Digital literacy should be integrated into school curricula, teaching children how online incentives work, why misinformation spreads and how digital actions carry lasting consequences. Empowering young users builds resilience that legal prohibitions alone cannot.

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Odisha's growth comes with kidney diseases

(Gns). Odisha today stands at a dangerous crossroads. While policymakers and investors celebrate rising GDP figures and the promise of "smart cities," a silent epidemic is eroding the very foundation of the state's future: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The numbers are stark, the causes are preventable, and the consequences - if ignored - will be catastrophic.

Recent government data reveal the scale of the crisis: 15,752 CKD patients and 4,648 deaths in Odisha in just three years. The epidemic is not evenly spread; it clusters in hotspots where contaminated water and industrial negligence converge.

• Sambalpur: 3,114 cases, 744 deaths - fluoride and heavy metals in groundwater.

• Cuttack: 2,657 cases, 778 deaths-urban waste mismanagement compounding contamination.

• Koraput: 918 cases, 266 deaths-tribal communities disproportionately affected.

• Balangir, Bargarh, Angul: Rising cases linked to mining effluents and poor regulation.

These are not isolated tragedies. They represent a

systemic failure to protect the most basic human right: safe drinking water. The economics of illness must be considered because CKDs are not just a health crisis - they are an economic time bomb.

• Household impact: Dialysis costs Rs 12,000-20,000 per month, while transplants exceed Rs 5-7 lakh. For rural families earning less than Rs 10,000 a month CKDs mean catastrophic health expenditure and lifelong debt.

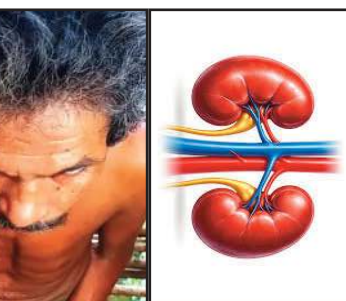
• Productivity loss: A working-age patient loses 3-4 workdays weekly to dialysis. The elderly, too, are incapacitated, draining household resources.

• State economy: Odisha risks losing billions in productivity and healthcare costs, undermining every claim of growth.

Economic growth without healthy citizens is a hollow victory. If water is poisoned, development is an illusion.

The government's recent move to establish a CKD registry is praiseworthy. It promises to bring transparency, track incidence, and strengthen referrals. A registry can ensure that patients detect-

ed at the periphery are quickly referred to higher centres, reducing delays in treatment. It can also help doctors in rural and tribal areas become more sensitised to early warning signs, ensuring CKDs are not dismissed as vague fatigue or weakness.



But a registry is only as strong as the action that follows. Who will be responsible for answering on CKD prevalence? How will the registry translate into accountability for contaminated water sources?

Without clear ownership - from the health department to local governance - the registry risks becoming another statistic-gathering exercise rather than a life-saving intervention.

It is vital to tackle the root cause which is contaminated water. The evidence is clear: CKD hotspots overlap with areas of fluoride, heavy metal, and waste contamination in groundwater. Mining, real estate, and construction industries are primary culprits, while rapid urbanisation has broken down waste management systems.

Here is a cost-benefit analysis:

Cost of inaction: Rising dialysis centres, premature deaths, lost productivity.

Benefit of action: Investment in clean water infrastructure, strict regulation of mining effluents, and urban waste management will save thousands of lives and billions in healthcare costs.

Odisha is not alone in facing this crisis, but others have acted

• Andhra Pradesh (Uddanam):

Safe drinking water schemes reduced CKD prevalence.

• Sri Lanka: Government interventions in water purification slowed CKD hotspots linked to agrochemicals.

• Bangladesh: Tackled arsenic contamination through community water filters and strict monitoring, saving millions.

Odisha must learn that economic growth without clean water is a mirage. Therefore, • CKD registry action plan: Use the policy imperatives are: registry data to strengthen referrals, train peripheral doctors, and hold

• Mining regulation: Enforce officials accountable for prevalence strict groundwater protection norms; penalize violators.

• Real estate & construction: Mandate waste treatment and groundwater recharge systems.

• Urban waste management: Smart cities must prioritize sewage treatment and landfill

regulation before boasting of smartness

• Waterpurification: Statewide installation of fluoride and heavy-metal removal plants.

• CKD registryaction plan:

Use registry data to strengthen referrals, train peripheral doctors, and hold officials accountable for prevalence figures.

Odisha cannot afford to celebrate GDP growth while its people die of preventable kidney diseases. If water is poisoned, development is an eye wash. The government must act decisively: regulate industries, clean water sources, and protect

its people. Otherwise, every promise of "smart cities" and "investment corridors" is nothing but a crueljoke.

THINKING AND AI TRANSFORMING MACHINES;

(Gns). The age of artificial intelligence is not merely transforming machines; it is reshaping the very nature of human thinking. From search engines that complete our sentences to algorithms that recommend what we read, watch, and buy, AI has quietly become an invisible companion to everyday cognition. While earlier technologies extended human physical capacities, AI extends - and in some cases replaces - mental processes such as memory, pattern

recognition, and decision-making. This profound shift raises an urgent question: what does it mean to think in an age where machines also "think"?

Human thinking has traditionally been understood as an active, effortful process involving reasoning, imagination, judgment, and reflection. It is shaped by experience, culture, emotion, and ethical awareness. Artificial intelligence, by contrast, operates through data, algorithms, and statistical correlations. It does not think in the human

sense; it computes. Yet because AI systems increasingly perform tasks once considered the exclusive domain of human intelligence - writing, diagnosing, predicting, even creating art - the boundary between human and machine cognition appears to blur.

One of the most immediate impacts of AI is on memory and knowledge. Search engines and digital assistants have become external repositories of information, reducing the need to memorise facts. This phenomenon, some-

times called "cognitive offloading," allows humans to focus on higher-order thinking. However, it also risks weakening deep understanding. When information is instantly available, the temptation is to skim rather than reflect, to retrieve rather than internalise. Thinking becomes fragmented, driven by speed rather than depth.

platforms are designed to maximise engagement by analysing user behaviour and optimising content delivery. Notifications, recommendations, and per-

sonalised feeds continuously compete for attention, encouraging rapid consumption instead of sustained contemplation. In such an environment, thinking risks becoming reactive rather than reflective. The capacity for silence, boredom, and slow thought - conditions essential for creativity and critical insight - is steadily eroded.

AI also influences how we make decisions. Recommendation systems suggest routes, movies, news articles, job candidates, and even romantic

partners. While these systems can improve efficiency, they subtly shape preferences and choices. Overtime, individuals may begin to trust algorithmic judgment more than their own intuition or reasoning. This "automation bias" can dull critical thinking, making humans passive recipients of machine-generated suggestions rather than active decision-makers.

At the same time, AI challenges long-held assumptions about intelligence itself.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia lays foundation stone of ₹450 crore 'Matabari Tourism Circuit' at Dumbur

(Gns). Agartala/ Guwahati/ New Delhi. Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia, on the final day of his Tripura visit, laid the foundation stone of the ₹450 crore 'Matabari Tourism Circuit' at Narkel Kunja, Dumbur Lake. The Chief Minister of Tripura, Manik Saha, joined the programme virtually, while Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury was present at the venue. With this foundation-laying ceremony, the Union Minister announced development projects worth a total of ₹750 crore for Tripura during his three-day visit.



Sundari Temple, Chabimura and Dumbur Lake, positioning Tripura prominently on the global map of spiritual and ecotourism. Of the total project outlay, ₹276 crore is being contributed by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The project will include floating jetties, eco-friendly

resorts, modern tourist facilities and immersive experiences rooted in local culture, giving the Dumbur region a distinct interna-

opportunities, with nearly 30 percent participation by women. Self-help groups and local youth will be actively integrated into tourism-related activities. He added that the project will focus not only on infrastructure development but also on human resource development, with tour guides to be trained at premier institutions.

Praising the pristine beauty of Dumbur Lake, its tranquil waters, verdant islands and serene surroundings, the Union Minister described Dumbur as a rare confluence of nature, culture and spirituality. He highlighted the warmth, simplicity and hospitality of the people of Tripura as the state's greatest strength, noting that these qualities would help establish Tripura as a global tourism destination.

Shri Scindia said that this marks the beginning of a new chapter in Tripura's history. "Today, we have not merely laid stones; we have laid the foundation for future livelihoods," he said. The Matabari Tourism Circuit is expected to generate 4,000-5,000 direct and indirect employment

Matabari Tourism Circuit to become a confluence of spirituality, nature and livelihoods: Scindia

Addressing the gather-

Shri Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State, MoHUA interacts with PM SVANidhi Beneficiaries and Construction Workers Invited for Republic Day 2026 Celebrations

(Gns). On the eve of the 77th Republic Day, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Tokhan Sahu, interacted with beneficiaries of the flagship PM SVANidhi scheme and construction workers associated with landmark national projects such as Kartavya Path and Kartavya Bhawan, who have been specially invited to attend the Republic Day Celebrations this year.

how Government interventions have enhanced their livelihoods, financial inclusion, dignity and social security, and enabled them to become active participants in India's growth

tre of national pride. He noted that when these Special Guests witness the Republic Day Parade, the world will see that the foundation of New India rests on the strength of its work-

informed that more than one crore loans have been disbursed under the scheme.

The Minister added that the digital empowerment of vendors is evident from their widespread adoption of QR-based transactions and large-scale digital payments, reflecting their integration into the formal financial ecosystem.



story.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Tokhan Sahu said that Republic Day has evolved from being only a ceremonial occasion to becoming a true celebration of Jan Bhagidari, where citizens from all walks of life are at the cen-

ers, street vendors and ordinary citizens.

Highlighting the transformative impact of PM SVANidhi, the Minister said that the scheme is not merely a credit programme, but a mission for dignity, self-reliance and empowerment of street vendors. He

noted that the extension of PM SVANidhi till March 2030 underlines the Government's long-term commitment to ensuring that every street vendor is empowered. He also made a reference to the recent launch of credit cards with a limit of up to ₹30,000 for PM SVANidhi beneficiaries, which will further strengthen their access to affordable institutional credit.

The Minister further noted that the extension of PM SVANidhi till March 2030 underlines the Government's long-term commitment to ensuring that every street vendor is empowered. He also made a reference to the recent launch of credit cards with a limit of up to ₹30,000 for PM SVANidhi beneficiaries, which will further strengthen their access to affordable institutional credit.

World Economic Forum 2026 Engagements Strengthen Global Partnerships for India's Renewable Energy Transition: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

(Gns). Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, returned from the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 at Davos after a series of high-level engagements that significantly strengthened India's positioning as one of the world's most attractive destinations for long-term clean energy investments.

try as a key driver of the global energy transition, the Minister added.

global confidence in India's ability to scale renewable energy rapidly while ensuring socio-economic growth

execution capabilities. International stakeholders expressed keen interest in India's investible project pipeline and acknowledged the success of flagship schemes such as PM-Surya Ghar and PM-KUSUM, which have demonstrated India's capacity to implement large-scale programmes at speed.



Forum, the Union Minister showcased India's long-term investment story, underpinned by policy stability, predictable regulations and sustained stakeholder engagement at both Central and State levels. The interactions reaffirmed

and inclusivity.

During multiple sessions and media interactions, the Minister highlighted India's remarkable progress in renewable energy, achieved through transparent policies, people-centric programmes and strong

India's efforts to strengthen domestic manufacturing across the solar PV value chain were widely appreciated by global corporate leaders, reinforcing India's role as a resilient and competitive clean energy manufacturing hub. The export potential of green hydrogen derivatives was also highlighted as a key enabler for supporting the energy transition of partner countries.

18 Days In Space, Lifetime Of Honour: Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Set For Ashok Chakra On Republic Day

(Gns). Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, India's second astronaut to travel to space and the first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS), is likely to be honoured with the Ashok Chakra this Republic Day.

ice to the nation. The honour follows Shukla's historic space mission in June 2025,

as part of the Axiom-4 mission. During his stay, he carried out several important experiments in micro-

can safely live and work in low Earth orbit. The data collected during the mission is considered crucial for preparing Indian astronauts for long-duration space travel.



which marked a major step forward for India's human spaceflight programme. Historic ISS Mission and National Pride

gravity that are expected to play a key role in India's upcoming Gaganyaan mission.

Shukla's successful mission placed India firmly among a small group of nations with proven human spaceflight experience and brought widespread pride across the country. Bravery Beyond the Battlefield

The Ashok Chakra is usually associated with acts of courage in extremely challenging situations. Shukla's mission involved high risk, intense training, and immense physical and mental endurance, making his contribution stand out as a rare blend of military discipline and scientific excellence.

The Ashok Chakra is the country's highest peacetime gallantry award and recognises exceptional bravery, courage, and serv-

Shubhanshu Shukla spent 18 days aboard the International Space Station

His work focused on understanding how the human body behaves in space and how astronauts

Farmer-centric initiative by AAP MLA Gopal Italia to provide market access for organic farming in Visavadar

Ahmedabad / Junagadh / Gujarat, (Gns). Aam Aadmi Party MLA from Visavadar, Gopal Italia, today attended a farmer-centric meeting at Mota Kotda village in Visavadar taluka on the issue of natural farming. As part of an effort to ensure that farmers practicing natural farming (organic farming) in Visavadar and Bhesan areas of Junagadh district receive proper market access, benefit financially, and gain information about the possibilities of natural farming, this farmer-oriented meeting was organized. Regarding this meeting, MLA Gopal Italia said during a Facebook Live that he was interested in under-

standing what natural farming is, what benefits it offers, and how he, as an MLA, can assist farmers, which is why this meeting

farmers in this region practicing organic farming, but people are not aware of it. That means the farmers in this area have fertile land,

done on how to create a proper market for organic farming. Gopal Italia said that through this video he wants to request all those who can help create a platform for organic farming, and those who can assist with social media, e-commerce, marketing, branding, and packaging work, to contact him.



was organized. Around 90 percent of the area surrounding Girnar mountain is connected with the Visavadar-Bhesan region, and a large number of

water, forests, hills, and hardworking farmers, but there is no proper market. Therefore, in the coming time, more meetings will be held and planning will be

If people from across Gujarat support this initiative and purchase organic products from farmers of Bhesan and Visavadar, it will boost the morale of the farmers. With this simple thought, the meeting was held today, and it is hoped that in the coming time a large platform will be created.

Dr Jitendra Singh interacts with young school children from Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across the country at NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission Republic Day programme

(Gns). Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said that India's future growth will be shaped by its youth and their capacity to innovate, describing young innovators as the architects of Viksit Bharat @2047.

both opportunity and responsibility. The coming decades, particularly the vision year of 2047, will be shaped by today's students through their ideas, skills, and confidence to innovate.

encouraged them to view technology not merely as a tool for consumption but as a platform for creation. He stressed that modern learning no longer depends solely on physical libraries or

conventional career choices.

Referring to the wide range of student innovations presented during the interaction, spanning health, hygiene, safety, agriculture, artificial intelligence, robotics, environment, and peer-to-peer learning, the Minister said these ideas reflect how innovation is no longer confined to metropolitan cities. He observed that nearly half of India's startups today are emerging from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, a shift made possible by sustained institutional support and equal access to opportunities.



The Minister explained that the Atal Innovation ecosystem was conceived to build this confidence early in life, enabling students to discover their strengths, explore real-world problems and develop solutions through technology. The initiative, he said, is designed to shift young minds from passive learning to problem-solving, teamwork and experimentation, which are essential for a technology-driven future.

coaching centres, as digital access has democratised knowledge. What matters, he said, is the ability to use technology wisely, productively, and ethically.

The Minister also encouraged students to explore region-specific innovation, stating that local geography and resources offer unique possibilities. Students from coastal, island, hilly and mining regions, he said, are well placed to develop solutions that others cannot, thereby creating distinct identities and sustainable innovation pathways.

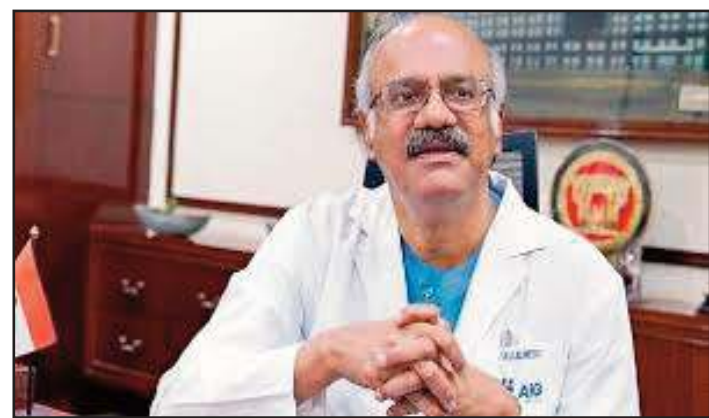
Hyderabad Gastroenterologist D. Nageshwar Reddy to Receive Padma Vibhushan

(Gns). Renowned Hyderabad-based gastroenterologist Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy has been selected for the Padma Vibhushan in 2025, one of India's highest civilian honours, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the field of medicine. He is among seven distinguished individuals chosen for the award this year.

a Hyderabad-based gastroenterologist

and where he has played a lead-

Bhushan in 2016, acknowledging his growing impact on India's healthcare system.



Chairman of AIG Hospitals, has been awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2025 for his contributions to medicine, adding to his previous Padma Shri (2002) and Padma Bhushan (2016) honours.

ing role in advancing gastroenterology and patient care over several decades. His selection for the Padma Vibhushan marks the highest point in a long journey of national recognition. He was earlier awarded the Padma Shri in 2002, followed by the Padma

Reacting to the honour, Dr Reddy described it as a reflection of everyday clinical practice and the faith patients place in doctors. He said compassionate care and empathy have always guided his work, adding that healthcare goes beyond treatment and is ultimately about serving humanity with dignity.

The Padma Vibhushan further underlines Dr Reddy's enduring legacy in Indian medicine, highlighting the importance of medical leadership and service in public life. His recognition brings renewed attention to the role of doctors who combine clinical excellence with compassion.

Punjab Attracts ₹1,003.57 Crore Greenfield Investment in Special Steel Manufacturing Sector: Sanjeev Arora

(Gns). Punjab has secured a major greenfield investment in the special steel manufacturing sector, further strengthening the State's industrial and metallurgical ecosystem.

that AISRM Multimetals Private Limited (AISRM)-a part of the Arora Iron Group with a group turnover of approximately ₹2,200

with the first phase targeted to become operational by September 2027.

Furnaces, Electric Arc Furnace (EAF), Ladle Refining Furnace (LRF), Vacuum Degassing, Argon Oxygen Decarburization (AOD), Continuous Casting Machines and Rolling Mills. These technologies will enable the production of high-quality alloy and special steel products for demanding industrial applications.

Punjab is set to receive a ₹1,003.57 crore investment from AISRM Multimetals Private Limited, part of the Arora Iron Group, to establish a steel manufacturing facility in Village Jaspallon, Doraha-Khanna Road, Ludhiana, with a capacity of 5.40 lakh metric tonnes per annum and employment for over 920 people, planned to be operational by September 2027.

to set up a state-of-the-art steel manufacturing facility at Village Jaspallon, Doraha-Khanna Road, District Ludhiana.

The proposed unit will have an installed capacity of 5.40 lakh metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) and will manufacture Round Bars, Wire Rods, Coils and Flats, using scrap and ferro alloys as raw materials. The facility is proposed to operate on a triple-shift basis for nearly 350 days a year, reflecting the scale and continuous nature of operations.

"The proposed investment will significantly strengthen Punjab's alloy and special steel ecosystem, especially for the automobile and automotive components sector, where demand for high-grade steel is steadily rising," said Mr. Arora. He added that the project would further reinforce Ludhiana's position as a major industrial and metallurgical hub of North India.

Disclosing this here today, Cabinet Minister for Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion and Power, Punjab, Mr. Sanjeev Arora, informed

The project will be implemented in three phases,

Mr. Arora stated that the plant will be equipped with modern and advanced steelmaking technologies, including Induction



Har Ghar Swadeshi
Ghar-Ghar Swadeshi



**With a resolve for Good Governance...For a service-oriented mission of public welfare...
A committed and proactive government...**

We, resolve to realise the vision of **"Viksit Bharat"** envisioned by
the Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi,
and to further strengthen the nation's democracy

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

At the State Level Celebration on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day

Under the gracious auspices of Hon'ble Governor
Shri Acharya Devvrat

Date: 26 January 2026, Monday | Time: 9:00 a.m.

Venue: Helipad Ground, opposite the New Court, Malupur, Ta. Tharad, District Vav-Tharad

In the August Presence of

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

Shri Shankarbhai Chaudhary

Hon'ble Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly

- The VGRC-Kutch-Saurashtra Regional Summit proved to be a landmark in the industrial development of the state
- Financial assistance of ₹450 crore provided to more than 2.5 lakh women from over 25,000 Self-Help Groups across the State
- Gujarat emerges as a role model in Thalassemia eradication, with over 15.5 lakh people screened statewide

- The historic organisation of the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' took place in a deeply devotional atmosphere
- Daily distribution of 3,200 million litres of water through the State-wide Water Supply Grid
- Inauguration of end-to-end OSAT facility at Sanand
- Gujarat has secured the 'Best Performer State' position for the fifth time in the National Startup Ranking
- Gujarat is a frontrunner in launching the Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

Come, let us take pride in the heritage and development of Swarnim Bharat, and further strengthen the spirit of fraternity and equality

“ On this Republic Day, let us reaffirm our faith in the values of our Constitutional values Let us embrace the mantra of 'Vocal for Local' and work together with determination to realize the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat @2047 through a Viksit Gujarat'.”

- Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

