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## PM Modi Urges Diplomacy After Reports of Attack on Putin Residence

(Gns).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has voiced serious concern following reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin's residence came under attack as the Russia-Ukraine war continues to escalate. In a statement posted on X, PM Modi urged all sides to prioritise diplomacy and avoid actions that could derail ongoing peace efforts.

"Deeply concerned by reports of the targeting of the residence of the President of the Russian Federation. Ongoing diplomatic efforts offer the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving peace. We urge all concerned to remain focused on these efforts and to avoid any actions that could

undermine them," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed serious concern about the reported attack on Russian President Vladimir Putin's residence amid the Russia-Ukraine war and urged all parties to prioritize diplomacy to prevent actions that could undermine peace efforts. Moscow alleged Ukrainian drones attempted to strike Putin's residence, which Ukrainian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov claimed caused no damage, while Donald Trump stated Putin personally informed him of the alleged attack.

The comment came shortly after Moscow alleged that nearly 100 long-range Ukrainian drones attempted to strike Putin's country residence in

Russia's Novgorod region. According to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the overnight drone assault caused no damage, as Russian air defences

choosing."

Lavrov also suggested that the incident may prompt Moscow to rethink its negotiation strategy, though he added that talks



intercepted the aircraft. He accused Ukraine of attempting to disrupt peace negotiations and warned that Russia could choose to respond "at a time of its

would continue, including discussions involving representatives of US President Donald Trump.

Trump, reacting to the reports, said Putin person-

ally informed him of the alleged attack. "It's no good. I'm very angry," he told

media, though he also admitted the claims might not be fully confirmed, say-

ing it was "possible" the attack did not actually occur. As tensions intensify,

questions remain over how this alleged strike - and competing narratives sur-

### Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Along with Ministers, Keenly Watches 'Namotsav' Mega Musical Multimedia Show Based on the Life Journey of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

An inspiring presentation of the Prime Minister's life, thoughts, and journey of nation-building by 150 artists in Ahmedabad

Members of the State Council of Ministers graced the Event

Gandhinagar, 30 December 2025 : Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel today watched 'Namotsav', a mega musical multimedia show organised with the objective of conveying to the masses the life journey, thoughts, work culture, and unwavering commitment to the nation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

On this occasion, Cabinet Ministers Shri Kanubhai Desai, Shri Jitu Vaghani, Shri Kunvarji Bavaliya, Shri Naresh Patel, Shri Arjun Modhwadia, Dr. Pradyuman Vaja, along

with other members of the Council of Ministers, were also present.

At the grand cultural

multimedia, conveying an inspiring message of dedication to national service.

On this occasion,



programme held at Sanskardham in Ghuma, Ahmedabad, Prime Minister's journey from childhood to nation-building was presented through music, dance, drama, and

renowned artist Shri Sairam Dave, along with a total of 150 artists, mesmerised all those present with their artistic performances. During the programme, the values of

patriotism, service, resolve, culture, and development were artistically highlighted.

On this occasion, the Chairman of Sanskardham, Dr. R.K. Shah, welcomed the gathering, and all those present also took the Swadeshi pledge.

The program was watched with great interest by Ministers of State including Shri Manisha Vakil, Ramesh Katara, Pravin Mali, Dr. Jayram Gamit, Kamlesh Patel, Swaroopji Thakor, P.C. Baranda, Chief Whip Balkrishna Shukla, former ministers, film director Shri Ashutosh Gowariker, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Government of India) Shri Sanjay Jaju, Shri Ajay Patel, and other dignitaries, as well as a large number of citizens.

## "Will Govt Teachers Teach or Count Stray Dogs?"

### AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal Questions Delhi Govt

(Gns).

The BJP government in Delhi has ignited a political storm by directing government school teachers to count and monitor stray dogs, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). As opposition mounted on AAP's Delhi unit, the issue escalated on Tuesday when former Chief Minister and AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal stepped in, questioning whether teachers in the capital are meant to educate children or be deployed on the streets for tasks wholly unrelated to classrooms. The order, he said, lays bare the BJP government's distorted priorities and its troubling dis-

regard for education.

AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal

The Delhi BJP government's directive to government school teachers to count and monitor stray dogs has drawn strong criticism from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) including its National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj, who criticized the move as a disregard for education. The AAP claims that their government previously respected teachers by removing unnecessary burdens and prioritizing edu-

cation over non-essential tasks like dog monitoring.

Taking to X, AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal stated: "Will teachers in Delhi's government schools teach children, or will they count dogs on the streets instead? This order from the BJP's Delhi

government exposes their thinking and priorities. For the BJP, education is not even an issue; these people are insulting teachers and ruining schools. When our government was in Delhi, we respected teachers, removed unnecessary burdens from them, and made children's education the topmost priority. We

sent teachers abroad for training and improved the schools. Today, the BJP government is bent on destroying everything."

Meanwhile, AAP's Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj shared a copy of the Directorate of Education order on X and said, "The BJP government issues absurd orders every day, see now the responsibility of stray dogs has been placed on teachers. Will teachers teach or will they look after stray dogs?"

He pointed out that the order clearly states that teachers will be responsible for monitoring street dogs, ensuring their sterilisation, and preventing them from entering school premises.



## Contributions of tribal heroes should be known to the youth: President Murmu

(Gns).

Hailing statesman, educationist and nationalist thinker from Jharkhand Kartik Oraon, who dedicated his life to the uplift of tribal society, President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday stressed that the tribal community should ensure that the contributions of the tribal heroes are made known to the youth and future generations of the country.

Addressing Antarrajyiy Jansanskritik Samagam Samaroh - Kartik Jatra at Gumla in Jharkhand, President Murmu said, "It is the responsibility of every individual and institution associated with the heritage of the tribal communi-

ty to ensure that the contributions of these tribal heroes, from this region and all other regions, are made known to the youth

that visiting Jharkhand, the birthplace and workplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, feels like a pilgrimage to her. "He is revered by all of



and future generations of the country."

Speaking on the occasion, the President said

us as a great symbol of social justice and tribal pride," she stated.

President Murmu said,

"Pankhraj Saheb Kartik Oraon strengthened tribal consciousness and identity in accordance with the ideals of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Kartik Oraon Ji dedicated his life to the uplift of the tribal community and the nation. He worked for the spread of education and the strengthening of social unity. We should resolve to work for the overall development of society and the country by following his ideals."

She said there is a long list of great tribal heroes from this region. The government is making efforts to familiarise the people of India with their heroic tales through the establishment of tribal museums.

## Amit Shah Accuses Congress Of Using Infiltrators As Vote Bank In Assam

(Gns).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the Congress of treating Bangladeshi infiltrators as a vote bank, while speaking at a public event in Assam. Shah said such infiltration endangered the state's people, land and culture, and claimed the BJP aimed to remove all illegal immigrants.

The comments came during Shah's address after inaugurating the redevelopment Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Abirbhav Kshetra at Batadrawa Than in Nagaon district. Shah told the gathering that the BJP government would prioritise security and identity concerns that, according to

Shah, Congress had ignored for years.

Shah alleged that Congress had looked away from the risks linked to unauthorised migration, while the BJP focused on

Assamese interests. He argued that these infiltrators affected jobs, resources and demographic balance, besides raising concerns about culture and identity in border areas and beyond.

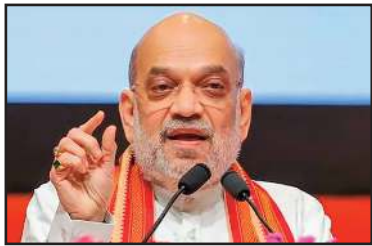
Reiterating this charge, Shah stated, "Congress has consistently treated infiltrators who have threat-

ened the people, culture, and identity of Assam as a vote bank," Shah said. Shah framed this as a core difference between the BJP's policy line and that of Congress in the state.

Shah also highlighted the central government's position on cultural protection and growth in Assam. "The Modi government has not only ensured the protection of the cultural identity of the Assamese people, but also focused on an all-around development of the state," Shah said during the programme.

With Assam's 2026 Assembly elections approaching, Shah sought another mandate for the BJP. Appealing directly to voters, Shah said, "Give us another five years, and we will make Assam infiltrator-free, ensuring the security, prosperity, and cultural pride of its people," he said.

Shah's remarks placed illegal immigration and identity politics at the centre of the coming electoral contest in Assam. By linking cultural preservation, development and border control, the Home Minister signalled that the BJP would continue to attack Congress over infiltrators and ask voters for renewed backing.





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प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही  
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये



# Editorial

## Welfare vs Work

The decision to repeal a long-standing rural employment guarantee and replace it with a new framework has reopened a fundamental debate about how India understands welfare, work, and federalism. What is being contested is not merely a scheme, but a philosophy that treated employment as a right rather than a discretionary benefit. For over a decade, the employment guarantee acted as a shock absorber for rural India. Its demand-driven design gave workers a legal claim on the state during periods of distress ~ whether caused by drought, agrarian slowdown, or economic shocks.

In doing so, it altered the relationship between citizen and government, embedding a rights-based approach into everyday governance. Its replacement with a centrally determined allocation model marks a decisive shift away from that idea. The Congress's decision to mobilise on the streets reflects an understanding that this change cannot be fought only through parliamentary arithmetic. The charge being levelled is not just about reduced funding or altered cost-sharing between the Centre and states, but about the erosion of consultation itself. When welfare architectures are redesigned without broad engagement with states, local governments, and beneficiaries, policy begins to look imposed rather than negotiated. A key concern lies in the new financial structure. By capping allocations and transferring excess expenditure risks to states, the burden of guaranteeing employment quietly moves away from the Centre.

For fiscally weaker states, this effectively converts a national commitment into a conditional one. In practice, it could mean fewer workdays, delayed payments, or informal rationing ~ outcomes that undermine the very purpose of a safety net. There is also a deeper symbolic dimension to the controversy. Removing historical associations and renaming welfare programmes may appear cosmetic, but names often encode political intent. In this case, critics argue that the shift signals a move from rights to benevolence ~ from guaranteed work to managed relief. That distinction matters in a country where informal labour dominates and economic insecurity remains widespread. Supporters of reform argue that the old system was inefficient, leak-prone, and fiscally unsustainable. Those criticisms are not without merit.

Any programme of this scale demands constant reform, better monitoring, and adaptability to changing rural realities. Yet, reform and replacement are not the same thing. Improving delivery mechanisms is very different from dismantling the legal spine that gave workers bargaining power vis-a-vis the state. The emerging protest, therefore, is less about nostalgia and more about precedent. If one rights-based welfare framework can be restructured unilaterally, others may follow. For India's rural poor, the stakes extend beyond one law to the assurance that economic vulnerability will still be met with enforceable guarantees rather than policy discretion. In the end, the confrontation reveals a broader question facing Indian democracy: should social protection be anchored in law and entitlement, or redesigned as a centrally managed instrument shaped by fiscal priorities and political vision? The answer will shape not only rural livelihoods, but the future grammar of welfare itself.

## From ‘Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment’, ‘Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga’ to ‘Naagin 7’: COLORS owns 2025 as a year of landmark mass entertainment

If 2025 had a remote control, chances are it was tuned to COLORS. The year unfolded as a celebration of everything Indian television does best — different emotions, bigger personalities, and stories that stayed with viewers long after the screen faded to black. From shows that sparked debates and memes to formats that turned everyday viewing into shared national moments, COLORS didn't just reflect what India wanted to watch—it shaped it.

Serving the first big milestone property was 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'. Across two wildly popular seasons, the homegrown format dished out pure 'dinner-tainment' — celebrity first-time cooks, chaotic kitchens, and unfiltered humour that turned weekend viewing into a laughter-filled family ritual. Fueling the chaos right alongside was 'Bigg Boss 19'. With Salman Khan back at the helm, the iconic house once again morphed into a pressure cooker of raw emotions, power plays, and headline-making drama. Adding a refreshingly relatable layer to the reality slate was 'Dhamaal With Pati Patni Aur Panga', which ditched glossy couple goals for real-life chemistry, everyday pangas, and laugh-out-loud marital moments that viewers instantly recognized as their own.

While reality kept the nation buzzing, fiction became the emotional backbone of 2025. COLORS continued to build a rich storytelling universe rooted in grit, transformation, and evolving relationships. 'Mangal Lakshmi' emerged as a moving portrait of modern womanhood and quiet resilience, while 'Mannat: Har Khushi Paane Ki' added a deeply emotional lens on fate, and inner strength.

From the emotional intensity of 'Seher Hone Ko Hai' to the youthful chaos of 'Tu Juliet Jatt Di' where marriage happened first and love finds its way later and the supernatural intrigue of 'Noyontara', the slate deliv-



ered a compelling mix of depth, energy, and imagination—stories that resonated deeply while offering viewers constant freshness. Mythology and fantasy continued to command loyal audiences with 'Shiv Shakti: Tap Tyag Tandav'. And shows like 'Dhaakad Beera', 'Bindii', 'Meri Bhavya Life', 'Manpasand Ki Shaadi', 'Ram Bhavan', 'Suman Indori', and 'Doree 2' explored themes of resilience, ambition, love, and reinvention—each in its own distinct voice. But the year wasn't done yet. Just when 2025 seemed ready for a grand finale, the cult franchise 'Naagin' returned to prime time—closing 2025 on a high and reaffirming its place as one of Indian television's most iconic fantasy sagas.

Dinner-tainment was right at the top of viewers' menu for three seasons straight! Setting the tone for the year was 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' — the comedy-cooking reality show that turned kitchens into laughter arenas and became one of India's most loved non-fiction properties. Hosted by the ever-energetic Bharti Singh and guided by celebrity chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, the show blended culinary challenges with side-split-

## Indian AI Research Organization to be established in GIFT City Gandhinagar

**IAIRO to Begin Operations from 1 January 2026 under PPP Model; CM Grants In-Principle Approval**  
**Gujarat Becomes the First State in the Country to Establish the IAIRO under the PPP Model**

Gujarat Takes Innovative Step to Transform Lives through AI under Prime Minister's Guidance

Gandhinagar, 30 December 2025: Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat is taking a landmark initiative at the beginning of 2026 to strengthen research and development in artificial intelligence (AI)

A prominent figure in Bangladesh's politics for more than forty years, Begum Khaleda Zia demise impact, political implications in Bangladesh, BNP sympathy wave, Tarique Rahman return to Dhaka, Bangladesh general elections February 2026, BNP clean sweep prediction, Awami League marginalisation, Jamaat electoral prospects, post-Khaleda Zia political scenario, rose from an ordinary housewife's life to become the country's first woman Prime Minister and one of the most influential leaders in South Asia's post-independence history.

Her political career was moulded by military rule, mass movements, electoral politics and prolonged legal and political standoffs. Only a matriculate, while in her college years, she married then Pakistan Army officer Ziaur Rahman in 1960. During the Liberation War in 1971, she initially went into hiding.

On July 2, in 1971,

and accelerate the national AI ecosystem.

For this purpose, the Chief Minister has granted in-principle approval for the establishment of the Indian AI Research Organization (IAIRO) through a tripartite partnership involving the State Government, the Government of India, and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA).

Aligned with the vision of Prime Minister and under the decisive leadership of Chief Minister, Gujarat has earned the distinction of becoming the first state in the country to establish the IAIRO under the PPP model.

This IAIRO will be made operational as a Special Purpose Vehicle in GIFT

City from 1 January 2026. It will be constituted as a non-profit institute under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. Additionally, an estimated budget of approximately Rs. 300 crore has been earmarked for the first five years of the project, in which the State Government, the Central Government, and the private partner will each contribute 33.33 percent.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance has joined as the anchor private partner for IAIRO and will contribute Rs. 25 crore for the year 2025–26.



This initiative of Gujarat is aligned with the objectives of the India AI Mission of the Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India, as well as the AI Action Plan of the State Government's

## Exit Khaleda, Enter Tarique!

tributed to the fall of Ershad and paved the way for the restoration of parliamentary democracy.

Khaleda Zia became Prime Minister for the first time in 1991 after the BNP won the parliamentary



elections, marking the return of a democratic governance. She was re-elected briefly on February 15, 1996, and later returned to power for a third term in 2001 through a coalition government. She had contested 23 parliamentary seats across five general elections and won all of

them, a record often cited as unique in Bangladesh's electoral history.

Now, what are the immediate political and other implications for Bangladesh in the aftermath of Khaleda's demise?

According to Bangladesh watchers and geo-political analysts, her passing away is likely to see a huge sympathy wave for the BNP in the forthcoming elections scheduled on February 12, 2026.

Everyone noticed the tumultuous welcome accorded to Khaleda's son and acting chairman of the party, Tarique Rahman when he landed in Dhaka on December 25 after 17 years of exile in London.

Both these factors, the

Science and Technology Department. To accelerate sustainable development by improving the quality of life for many people through transformative improvements in health-care, education, agriculture, and other services using artificial intelligence, the State Government has also constituted an AI Task Force under the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel. Moving further in this direction, IAIRO is now envisioned as a multidisciplinary hub for AI.

The core activities of IAIRO will include advanced AI research and development, development of AI-based products and solutions, and fostering col-

laboration among academic institutions, industries, startups, and the government. In addition, IAIRO will also focus on intellectual property (IP) creation, capacity building, and policy-based research. IAIRO will function under a hybrid compute model, integrating on-premise GPU infrastructure along with national platforms such as the IndiaAI Cloud.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, this initiative will prepare a skilled and future-ready AI workforce, position India as a globally competitive leader in the AI sector, and further strengthen Gujarat's role as a hub for emerging technology and innovation.

death and Tarique's arrival, are expected to add to the electoral prospects of BNP.

This is also likely to dissipate, to a large extent, the chances of Jamaat's improved performance in the elections.

In other words, there may be a clean sweep for the BNP. Tarique Rahman and the BNP rank and file will leave no stones unturned in their election campaign to capitalise on Khaleda's demise to ensure an outright victory.

This may also see further alienation of the Awami League (AL) which already seems to be on the margins after Hasina's unceremonious exit from Bangladesh in August last year.

However, it would be too early to write an epitaph for any political party in Bangladesh.

Assuming BNP returns to power in the election, then Tarique Rahman is the only prospective "Prime Ministerial hopeful" and after being in oblivion for nearly two decades, he will like to make up for his absence by asserting and rewriting the role of his slain father Ziaur Rahman and his mother's premier-ship for two spells thus

deifying her.

While asserting his father's role in the liberation struggle, Tarique and his cohorts will possibly try to play with history by highlighting his father's role in the freedom struggle in a more pronounced manner carving a permanent place in the history which seemed dimming in the last nearly twenty years.

With the renewed glorification of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda in redefining history of Bangladesh, other pro-liberation heroes and martyrs may gradually fade. Or that would be what the BNP would reckon for.

However, Tareque's and BNP's priority should be first to restore the fraught law and order situation, boosting the sagging morale of the uniformed personnel, and most importantly, ensuring full protection to the minorities and their places of worship which stand threatened by the "free for all" unleashing of terror by religious extremists.

Tarique will also do well to highlight these priorities in his canvassing speeches to instill confidence amongst the people in general who have been living

## Urban Co-operative Banks Sustain Positive Growth Momentum in FY25

Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) recorded sturdy growth in FY25, marked by balance sheet expansion, accelerated credit growth, robust profitability, healthy asset quality and improved capital buffers, according to the latest Trend and Progress of Banking in India report by RBI.

The consolidated balance sheet of UCBs expanded by 4.4% in FY25, higher than 4.0% in the previous financial year. Credit growth accelerated to 6.7%, highest in six years, with improvement across both the scheduled and the non-scheduled UCBs. Deposit growth improved to 5.2% from 4.1% in FY24. This momentum continued into H1 FY26, with deposit growth at 6.8% and credit growth at 6.4% by end-September 2025. The credit-deposit ratio rose to 63.3%, signalling improved intermediation efficiency.

Structurally, the sector continues to consolidate. As of March 2025, 1,457 UCBs were in operation, with Tier 1 banks accounting for 57.5% of institutions. In absolute terms, total 1457 UCB deposits stood at ₹5.84 lakh crore, while advances reached ₹3.70 lakh crore. Although Tier 3 and Tier 4 banks together accounted for less than 6% of UCBs by number, they dominated the sector's scale, accounting for more than half of total deposits, advances and assets, reflecting scale-led stability under the four-tier regulatory framework.

Tier-wise data shows a clear scale gradient -

- 838 Tier 1 UCBs held deposits of ₹65,760 crore and advances of

₹43,991 crore

- 535 Tier 2 UCBs accounted for ₹1.78 lakh crore in deposits and ₹1.10 lakh crore in advances
- 78 Tier 3 UCBs reported ₹2.01 lakh crore in deposits and ₹1.23 lakh crore in advances
- 6 Tier 4 UCBs held



₹1.39 lakh crore in deposits and ₹93,542 crore in advances

The statistics reflects the cumulative impact of regulatory reforms and consolidation. Data from the report shows that UCBs extended their multi-year recovery into FY25, marking a shift from balance sheet repair to steady, broad-based growth. Profitability strengthened sharply. Net profits rose 14.2% in FY25, following a 52% surge in FY24, supported by reduced provisioning and better asset quality. This translated into higher returns on assets and equity, indicating a structural improvement.

Asset quality continued to improve for the fourth consecutive year. The gross NPA ratio declined to 6.2% at end-March 2025, nearly half the 12.1% peak recorded in March 2021. Net NPAs fell to 0.7%, while the provi-

sion coverage ratio rose to 90.1%, reflecting balance sheet clean-up and harmonised provisioning norms. Although GNPA's edged up seasonally, they moderated to 7.6% by September 2025, down from 9.3% a year earlier. Capital buffers remained strong. More than 92% of UCBs maintained CRAR above 12%, while the sector-wide capital adequacy ratio improved to 18.0%, driven by stronger Tier 1 capital.

The sector met the 60% Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target in FY24, including sub-targets for micro enterprises (7.5%) and weaker sections (11.5%). By March 2025, MSMEs accounted for the largest share of UCB advances, with credit to micro enterprises increasing, signalling improved access for smaller borrowers.

Taken together, FY25 marks a decisive phase for Urban Co-operative Banking from balance sheet repair to growth-led resilience. Regulatory clarity, consolidation and improving financial metrics are repositioning UCBs as stable, community-focused intermediaries within India's formal banking system.

Commenting on the report's finding, Shri. Prabhat Chaturvedi, CEO, National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Ltd (NUCFDC), Umbrella Organisation of the UCB sector, said, "The data published in the report indicates consistent improvement in the balance sheet of the UCB sector. The sector is navigating a sustainable growth path ...



### WR CHANGES TIMINGS OF TRAIN SERVICES W.E.F. 01.01.2026

**To ensure smoother operations and better passenger convenience**

Mumbai, With an aim to improve punctuality, Western Railway will effect changes in the timings of some of the local train services plying to and from the Dahanu Road section as well as a few Mail/Express train services with effect from 1st January, 2026.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of local train services and Mail/Express train services affected due to the change in timings are furnished in the enclosed annexures. The details of local train services are provided in Annexure-1 (UP Direction) and Annexure-2 (DOWN Direction), wherein the affected local train services have been highlighted for the convenience of passengers. The list of Mail/Express train services whose timings have been preponed is furnished separately as Annexure-3.

Detailed information to this effect is available with the concerned Station Masters. Passengers are requested to take note of the above changes and plan their journey accordingly.

### WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN NONSTOP SUPERFAST SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS AND JAIPUR

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passengers, Western Railway will run nonstop superfast special train on special fare between Bandra Terminus and Jaipur station.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of this train is as under:

Train No. 09706/ 09705 Bandra Terminus – Jaipur Nonstop Superfast Special [16 Trips]

Train No. 09706 Bandra Terminus – Jaipur Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Monday at 14:40 hrs and will reach Jaipur at 08:45 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 05th January, 2026 to 23rd February, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09705 Jaipur – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Jaipur every Sunday at 18:40 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 11:20 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 04th January, 2026 to 22nd February, 2026

This train comprises of First AC, AC – 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class.

The booking for Train No. 09706 will open from 31.12.2025 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).

### Railway Achieves Electrification of One of Its Toughest Ghat Terrains: Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road Ghat Section

Indian Railways has achieved a major engineering milestone by completing the electrification of the Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road Ghat Section. This section is among the most difficult and technically challenging terrains on the Indian Railways network.

The milestone was marked by a successful electric locomotive trial on 28 December 2025. With this, the section is now fully ready for electric train operations. With the electrification of this ghat stretch, the entire Bengaluru-Mangaluru rail route is now fully electrified. This will improve rail connectivity, operational efficiency and sustainability in the region.

The project will also enable the operation of Vande Bharat and other fast electric trains, offering faster, cleaner and more reliable travel to the coastal region.

The electrified ghat section covers 55 km between Sakleshpur and Subramanya Road. The terrain is extremely complex having no approach road to the railway track. It includes a steep ruling gradient of 1 in 50, 57 tunnels, 226 bridges, and 108 sharp curves. The area is also highly prone to landslides, especially during the monsoon. Electrifying this stretch was therefore a significant engineering challenge.

The electrification work began in December 2023. The project included the construction of five switching stations and full overhead electrification. To ensure safety and reliability, the maximum distance between traction poles was kept at 67.5 metres.

Tunnel electrification required special attention. In the 57 tunnels, 427 main brackets and 427 spare brackets were installed. Detailed geological studies were carried out with support from the National Institute of Rock Mechanics and Bangalore University. To ensure long-term safety, pull-out tests were conducted at every bracket location to check anchoring strength.

The steep gradients required specialised equipment and strong engineering solutions. Work was frequently affected by heavy rainfall, landslides, soil erosion and rockfalls. In many locations, materials had to be transported by rail to reach remote and inaccessible sites. Strict safety measures were followed during the entire project.

The work was carried out with meticulous planning because of steep gradients, while ensuring safe and uninterrupted train operations throughout the project period.

With electrification complete and trials successful, the ghat section is now fully ready for electric traction. This will lead to lower fuel consumption, reduced emissions and more efficient operations. It also supports the introduction of modern electric superfast train services including Vande Bharat services in the region.

The electrification of this vital ghat section will also strengthen economic and commercial linkages between Bengaluru the country's IT capital and the port city of Mangaluru, as well as other coastal commercial centres. Introduction of electric trains will facilitate smoother movement of people and business travel, thereby stimulating trade, services and allied economic activities across the coastal region.

Highlighting the impact of this achievement, Hon'ble Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting & Electronics and Information Technology, said, "Now we will be able to run Vande Bharat train through this route to Mangaluru."

Indian Railways has already electrified more than 99% of its Broad Gauge network. Since 2014, over 46,900 route kilometres have been electrified, compared to 21,801 route kilometres in the nearly six decades before 2014. Between 2019 and 2025 alone, around 33,000 route kilometres were electrified almost equal to the entire railway network of Germany.

Once the remaining small sections are completed, India will have one of the largest fully electrified railway networks in the world. This reflects Indian Railways' strong commitment to clean energy, reduced carbon emissions, energy security and reliable rail travel for millions of passengers every day.

### MP witnessed a year of achievements and major controversies in 2025

(Gns).

The year 2025 proved largely positive for Madhya Pradesh, bringing a fair share of development, investment, prosperity, and welfare initiatives under the BJP-led government of Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav. However, the year was also marked by some blotches that brought disrepute to the dispensation.

On the very first day of the year, 340 metric tonnes of toxic waste from the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, which had been lying inside the Union Carbide factory in the state capital for the past 40 years, was finally removed on court orders and safely transported to the Pithampur Industrial town near Indore, where it was eventually incinerated.

The next month, investment proposals worth Rs 30.77 lakh crore were received for the state at the two-day 'Invest Madhya Pradesh – Global Investors Summit – 2025' (GIS), held in Bhopal on 24-25 February.

Women beneficiaries of the 'Laadli Behana Yojana' also started receiving the long-promised Rs 1,500 per month from Diwali this year. Earlier, they were getting Rs 1,250.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav claimed that MP became totally free of the Naxal menace in 2025, with no hard-core Maoists remaining in the previously affected parts of the state. The CM cited it as one of the biggest achievements of his two-year government, following his oath-taking on 13 December 2023.

The CM also said that the state became the first in the country to formulate an Electric Vehicle (EV) policy.

Madhya Pradesh created history in the renewable energy sector too, with the state's first 'Solar-plus-Storage' project, being developed in Morena, registering the country's lowest-ever tariff rate of Rs 2.70 per unit.

This is the first project in India where firm and dispatchable renewable energy (FDRE) will be available at a cost of less than Rs 3 per unit.

Moreover, with 95 per cent annual availability of power, the project has set another new benchmark. While previous such projects across the country could ensure only about 50 per cent peak-hour availability and 85 per cent annual availability, the Morena project is changing this trend by ensuring 95 per cent supply during peak hours.

Already crowned India's cleanest city for eight years in a row, Indore in Madhya Pradesh added another 'green' feather to its cap this year, as it became the country's first city to receive a supply of drinking water from a solar power plant, which has been built mainly through funds generated by the sale of green bonds on the stock exchange.

The solar energy plant has been set up by the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC). The electricity generated from it is used to operate pumps to supply drinking water from the Narmada River to Indore city.

The state also became the first to have a medical college on the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model. Its foundation stone was laid at Dhar by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda.

The country's first PM MITRA Textile Park was also launched in Dhar this year.

To encourage organ and body donation, the BJP state government launched the practice of offering a guard of honour by police to all deceased who donate their bodies.

The CM informed that Madhya Pradesh became the first and only state in the country to start Air Ambulance and Helicopter Tourism Services as Intra-State Air Services.

In a significant event in India's ambitious journey of cheetah reintroduction, for the first time, an Indian-born cheetah gave birth to five cubs at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in the Sheopur district of the state.

The female cheetah, Mukhi, became the first Indian-born cheetah to give birth since 1947, when the last cheetah in India was shot dead. The species was subsequently declared extinct in the subcontinent in 1952.

Mukhi is the daughter of Namibian Cheetah Jwala. Mukhi's becoming a mother has now brought in the third generation of cheetahs in India.

The newborn five cubs are definitely at least half-Indian, as it is not yet certain whether Mukhi's male partner is also an Indian born cheetah or one from the initial males brought from Namibia and South Africa.

In another important milestone, CM Dr Yadav released three cheetahs from the KNP to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Ujjain division, making it the second home for cheetahs in MP.

### Russian Air Defence Stops Massive Drone Raid on Putin's Home, Retaliation Imminent

(Gns).

Russia has accused Ukraine of attempting a coordinated drone strike on a residence linked to President Vladimir Putin in the Novgorod region. The allegation was made by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who described the event as a large-scale offensive involving dozens of unmanned aircraft.

Lavrov claimed that Russian air-defence forces intercepted every drone before it reached the presidential estate, crediting security units for preventing what he called a deliberate attempt to target the country's top leadership. According to his remarks, carried by Russian media agencies, a total of 91 drones were reportedly involved in the operation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated that Ukraine launched a coordinated drone strike on a residence linked to President Vladimir Putin in the Novgorod region, involving 91 drones, which Russian forces intercepted. Lavrov condemned the alleged attack as state-sponsored terrorism and warned of an uncompromising response, potentially impacting future peace talks.

The foreign minister sharply condemned the alleged strike, labelling it an act of "state-sponsored terrorism" and warning that Moscow's response would be uncompromising. He said that retaliatory military actions have already been identified and that the timing of such steps will be determined by Russian armed forces. No further specifics were shared about where or when the response could occur.

Lavrov also suggested that the reported incident would influence how Russia engages in any future dialogue with Kyiv, hinting that upcoming conditions for peace discussions may become more stringent.

Whether President Putin was present at the residence at the time of the alleged attack has not been clarified by Russian officials. Ukraine has so far not issued a statement addressing the claims, and the situation remains unverified by independent sources as of the latest updates.



### SC Halts Its Nov 20 Aravalli Order, Calls for Deeper Probe to Avoid Regulatory Loopholes

(Gns).

Amid the outcry over the new definition of Aravallis, the Supreme Court on Monday kept in abeyance its November 20 directions that accepted a uniform definition of these hills and ranges, saying there is a need to resolve "critical ambiguities" including whether the 100-metre elevation and the 500-metre gap between hills criteria will strip significant portion of the range of environment protection.

Proposing to constitute a high-powered expert panel, a vacation bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said it seemed prima facie that the earlier report of a committee and the verdict had "omitted to expressly clarify certain critical issues" and there is a "dire need to further probe" to prevent any regulatory gaps that might undermine the ecological integrity of the Aravalli region. It also directed that as set out in the order dated May 9, 2024, until further orders, no permission shall be granted for mining in the 'Aravalli Hills and Ranges', as defined in the August 25, 2010, FSI report, without its prior permission.

On Monday, the Supreme Court put its November 20 directions regarding the definition of Aravallis on hold, due to concerns about environmental protection and regulatory gaps, and proposed forming an expert panel to address ambiguities. The court, led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, also stated that no mining permissions will be granted in the Aravalli Hills and Ranges and Ancillary Issues". The top court had on November 20 accepted a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges and banned the grant of fresh mining leases inside its areas spanning Delhi Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat until experts' reports are out.

Hills and Ranges as defined in the August 25, 2010 FSI report, until further orders. Aravalli hills

"There has been a significant outcry among environmentalists, who have expressed profound concern about the potential for misinterpretation and improper implementation of the newly adopted definition and this court's directions," the bench, also comprising Justices J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih, said. It said this public dissent and criticism appear to stem from perceived ambiguity and lack of clarity in certain terms and directives issued by the court.

"Consequently, there is a dire need to further probe and clarify to prevent any regulatory gaps that might undermine the ecological integrity of the Aravalli region," the bench said in its order passed in a suo motu matter titled "In Re: Definition of Aravalli Hills and Ranges and Ancillary Issues".



### After delimitation, UP has 1,77,516 booths, an increase of 15,030

(Gns).

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has approved the proposal for the delimitation of polling stations based on 1200 voters per polling station in 403 assembly constituencies across 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

State Chief Electoral Officer( CEO) Navdeep Rinwa stated here on Tuesday night that the process of delimitation of polling stations in the state commenced on October 29, 2025. The proposals received from the District Election Officers of all 75 districts were sent to the Election Commission of India for approval on November 24, 2025.

The ECI had given its approval on December 23 last.

Rinwa, further stated that the number of polling stations in the state was 162,486, which has increased to 177,516 after the delimitation, representing an increase of 15,030 polling stations. Last year, in 2024, the delimitation of polling stations was done based on 1500 voters per polling station.

Due to the increase in the number of polling stations, additional Booth Level Officers will be deployed at the newly created 15,030 polling stations.

The draft electoral roll under the special intensive revision, based on the qualifying date of January 1, 2026, will be published at the new polling stations on January 6, 2026.



### What Was Khaleda Zia's Net Worth? Bangladesh's Former Prime Minister Dies at 80

(Gns).

Khaleda Zia, former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, passed away on December 30 at 80, after a career marked by political rivalry with Sheikh Hasina, and legal issues. The affidavit revealed her annual income was about 15.2 million taka, and her assets included property, shares, and bank deposits.

Along with tributes and reflections on her long and turbulent career, public attention has also turned to questions about her personal wealth and sources of income after decades spent at the centre of power. Khaleda Zia had been battling multiple serious health issues for months and was undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka. Her family and leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party confirmed her passing.

Son's return followed by Khaleda Zia's final farewell

Khaleda Zia's elder son and BNP acting chairman, Tarique Rahman, returned to Dhaka from London on December 25 after 17 years in exile. Just five days after his return, Khaleda Zia passed away. Her younger son, Arafat and assets.

According to the affidavit, Khaleda Zia's annual income was approximately 15.2 million Bangladeshi taka. Of this, around 6.73 million taka came from rent earned through houses, apartments and shops. The remaining income of about 8.51 million taka was generated from shares, savings certificates and bank deposits.

The affidavit stated that she held only 50,300 taka in cash. However, deposits in banks and financial institutions amounted to nearly 47.7 million taka. The declared value of her cars was around 4.87 million taka, while electronic goods were valued at about 500,000 taka and furniture at roughly 260,000 taka. In terms of immovable property, she owned non agricultural land with a nominal valuation. At the same time, she had rental related liabilities amounting to approximately 15.8 million taka.

Rise in politics and rivalry with Sheikh Hasina

Khaleda Zia was the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh and served two terms in office from 1991 to 1996 and again from 2001 to 2006. She was the wife of former president and military ruler turned politician Ziaur Rahman. Her entry into politics followed his assassination, after which she gradually assumed leadership of the BNP.

For decades, Bangladesh's political landscape revolved around the intense rivalry between Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina. The media famously termed this prolonged contest for power the "Battle of the Begums", with the country largely alternating between their leadership after 1990.





## Yogi Government Bets Big on IT in 2026 With AI Cities, Data Centres and Jewar Chip Unit

(Gns). Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has outlined a technology-led roadmap for Uttar Pradesh in 2026, through a special letter titled 'Yogi Ki Paati'. The plan places Lucknow and Noida as dedicated AI City, expands large data centres, and accelerates a 3700 crore semiconductor unit in Jewar, positioning the state as a 'Digital Powerhouse'.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 2026 roadmap, outlined in 'Yogi Ki Paati,' designates Lucknow and Noida as AI cities, accelerates a ₹3700 crore semiconductor unit in Jewar, and targets ₹30000 crore investment in data centers while aiming to

train 10 lakh citizens in AI under the 'AI Pragy' program to establish Uttar Pradesh as a 'Digital Powerhouse'.



The message states that government focus in 2026 stays on artificial intelligence, semiconductors and data centres. A target of 30000 crore investment in data centre projects is set, while 10 lakh

citizens receive AI skills under the 'AI Pragy' programme. These measures seek to push Uttar Pradesh on the global IT and inno-

novation map. AI cities and data centers roadmap for Uttar Pradesh

Shared on 30 December 2025, 'Yogi Ka Paati' repeats the aim to turn Uttar Pradesh into a global

centre for technology and innovation. Yogi Adityanath stresses that the state is moving beyond its old image as an agriculture-heavy economy and working towards becoming a 'Digital Powerhouse' built on advanced industries.

Under this plan, Lucknow and Noida are being developed as specialised AI City. These hubs are intended to attract AI firms, research units and start-ups and place Uttar Pradesh ahead on the global IT map. Parallel to this, construction of a semiconductor unit worth 3700 crore in Jewar is progressing quickly and is expected to reshape the state's industrial profile.

## S Jaishankar to Represent India at Former Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia's Last Rites

(Gns). External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the state funeral of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on 31 December, signalling a careful diplomatic outreach as India Bangladesh relations face one of their lowest points in years.

Khaleda Zia, who led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and twice headed the government, dies just as Tarique Rahman, Zia's son and BNP's de facto leader, returns to election-bound Bangladesh after 17 years in exile, reshaping political calculations in Dhaka and New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at Khaleda Zia's state funeral on December 31st, as India-Bangladesh relations face a challenging period, particularly following the removal of Sheikh Hasina and uncertainty cre-

ated by the interim government under Muhammad Yunus.

Jaishankar's decision to attend the ceremony is viewed in Delhi as a deliberate gesture towards Dhaka, at a time when India Bangladesh relations deteriorate sharply following Sheikh Hasina's removal in a student-led uprising last year, which brings Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to office and creates new uncertainty. Under Yunus, the interim government keeps India at arm's length, raising concerns in New Delhi that Bangladesh could lean closer to both Pakistan and China, especially as Dhaka reassesses past alignments and recalibrates foreign policy ahead of crucial national elections.

India Bangladesh rela-

tions, Tarique Rahman's stance and foreign policy signals

Tarique Rahman emerges as the frontrunner for the upcoming polls, and Rahman's early statements since preparing for his return attempt to reassure multiple sides, while leaving space for Dhaka to act independently in India Bangladesh relations and wider regional affairs.

In May, Rahman questions whether the interim administration has the legitimacy to make long-term foreign policy commitments without a fresh mandate, then later at a rally in Dhaka, Rahman states, "Not Dilli, not Pindi (Rawalpindi), Bangladesh before everything," stressing that the country will not fall into

either India's or Pakistan's strategic camp.

India-Bangladesh relations, BNP history with China and Pakistan During Khaleda Zia's first term from 1991 to 1996, and again between 2001 and 2006, Bangladesh distances itself from the Awami League's perceived closeness to Delhi and instead nurtures stronger ties with Beijing, a trend that troubles India Bangladesh relations and shapes regional security debates in South Asia.

Zia's second term sees Dhaka move further towards China, which becomes Bangladesh's main military hardware supplier, deepening defence cooperation. and raising a red flags in India, as officials worry about strategic encirclement and the longer-term impact on security planning along the eastern flank.

## Punjab Finance Minister Cheema calls 'Viksit Bharat – GRAM G' an attack on poor and federalism

(Gns). Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Union government, accusing it of systematically dismantling the MGNREGA scheme and stripping the poor of their right to a livelihood.

Speaking in the Vidhan Sabha in support of a resolution against the recent changes and the renaming of the MGNREGA scheme to 'Viksit Bharat – GRAM G', Cheema described the move as an "assault on the stomachs of the marginalised."

During his address, the finance minister read a poignant letter from a woman worker, Charanjit Kaur, which highlighted the fears of thousands of rural labourers. Kaur's letter, he said, reflects the anxiety that changing rules and centralised village lists would deprive children of education and the elderly of medicine.

He emphasised that by

centralising the scheme and moving to complex mobile-based attendance, the Union government is snatching away the



"Guarantee" of work that was once the backbone of rural survival.

The finance minister slammed the BJP-led Union government for working against the spirit of the Constitution, authored by Baba Saheb Dr Ambedkar.

He emphasised that the Preamble to the Constitution, which embodies the fundamental principles and values of the nation, is being undermined by the Centre's policies. The Preamble reads: "We, the People of India, solemn-

ly resolve to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic."

He said the Supreme

weakening local economies, which he described as a direct attack on the soul of democracy.

Strongly objecting to the renaming of the scheme after religious icons, he said while the world respects Lord Rama, using a religious name for a government scheme is a political tactic to shield the government from criticism. He warned that this creates a dangerous precedent where protesters seeking wages or rights can be labelled as being disrespectful to religious sentiments.

Contrasting the Center's policies with the Punjab government's initiatives, Cheema highlighted that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is working day and night for the elevation of the Dalit community through concrete actions. He pointed out that for the first time in Punjab's history, the Dalit community has received unprecedented representation with six out of 15 ministers in the Mann cabinet.

In a strongly-worded critique, Cheema further added that the Union government is attempting to turn the country's labourers into "bonded labourers" and "slaves" of a centralised system by centralising every scheme. This approach, he argued, is destroying cooperative federalism, stripping states of their rights, and

to unite society, not divide it." It is noteworthy that after this meeting in Lucknow a few days ago, discussions began in political circles. The party leadership expressed displeasure, linking it to organisational discipline. State BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary had also given

a stern warning to the MLAs who attended the meeting. Political analysts believe that Pathak's statement is being seen as an attempt to clarify his position after the party president's warning. However, the BJP has not yet given any official reaction to this statement.

The meeting of Brahmin MLAs and the reactions to it have given rise to a new debate in the state's politics regarding caste equations and organisational discipline.

## BJP MLA P N Pathak clarifies on meeting of Brahmin MLAs in Lucknow

(Gns). A controversy arose during the Uttar Pradesh Assembly's winter session over a meeting of BJP Brahmin MLAs at the official residence of party MLA P N Pathak from Kushinagar. Now, the MLA himself has responded to the controversy, and his statement, given through social media, has once again intensified political activity.

BJP MLA Pathak, in his post on 'X', said that the Brahmin community works to unite society, not divide it.

He wrote, "Jai Shri Ram, Jai Sanatan, Jai BJP. In the Sanatan tradition, Brahmins are considered the guides, thinkers, and bal-

ancers of society. Where Brahmins gather, there is a churning of knowledge, wisdom, and contemplation, which strengthens Hindu identity. Their duty is



organisational discipline. State BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary had also given

## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Releases the State Government's 2026 Calendar



Gandhinagar, 30 December 2025 : Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel today released the 2026 calendar in Gandhinagar. Prepared on the theme "Atmanirbhar Bharat, Our Pride – Vocal for Local," the calendar showcases Gujarat's industrial progress and the richness of its art and culture, reflecting the state's dedicated efforts to realise

the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat through visually appealing photographs and concise, informative details.

Chief Minister, in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, reviewed the 2026 calendar and expressed his satisfaction. The calendar highlights key industries such as automobiles, chemicals,

pharmaceuticals, ceramics, semiconductors, and diamonds, while also showcasing Gujarat's distinctive art forms including Patola of Patan, Kutch handicrafts, Pithora paintings, Bandhani, Rogan art, and agate (akik) craftsmanship.

On this occasion, Minister of State Dr. Jayram Gamit, Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Shri Vikrant

Pandey, Commissioner of Cottage and Village Industries and Principal Secretary Shri Mohammad Shahid, Director of Information Shri K. L. Bachani, and In-charge Director of the Government Printing and Stationery Office Shri Prem Singh Kanwar, along with other officials, were present.

## City Of Nawabs to have new culture building near Shaheed Path, Double-Decker heritage bus

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh is set to give a fresh cultural and tourism identity to its capital as the state government moves ahead with plans to strengthen living heritage tourism in Lucknow.

UP Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh on Tuesday announced that a new Culture Building will be developed near Shaheed Path, where offices of institutions under the Culture Department will be brought together. The initiative is aimed at creating a cohesive cultural ecosystem while improving coordination and public access.

Reviewing the working of the Tourism and Culture Departments, the Minister said that Lucknow's heritage goes far beyond monuments. Its music, literature, crafts, cuisine, and everyday traditions make it

a living cultural city, and future tourism planning will reflect this character. He added that the new cam-

will be launched on January 6, connecting 1090 Chauraha to Residency. The service will

for media on the inaugural day.

The Minister directed officials to prepare a focused roadmap to position Lucknow on the same global tourism platform as Agra and Varanasi. He stressed the timely completion of museums, memorials, and cultural centres under construction and underlined that quality, transparency, and accountability must guide all ongoing works.

Senior officials reviewed progress on major projects, cultural centres, museums, heritage sites, tourism amenities, and promotional efforts across the state. The emphasis, the Minister said, is on building destinations that combine heritage, culture and modern visitor services—so that Lucknow emerges not only as an administrative capital but also as a vibrant hub of living heritage tourism.



pus of Bhatkhande Culture University will be developed to international standards, reinforcing Lucknow's role as a centre of classical music and cultural learning.

To enhance the visitor experience, a double-decker sightseeing bus service

offer affordable tickets and curated city tours, allowing visitors to explore Lucknow's historic neighbourhoods and cultural landmarks in a single, comfortable circuit. The launch will be flagged off by the Tourism Minister, with a special complimentary ride

## LoPRahul Gandhi and his MP sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, arrive in Ranthambore for New Year celebration

(Gns). Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and his MP sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, along with her family, have reached Sawai Madhopur on Tuesday on a private visit to have jungle sojourn at the Ranthambore national park for three to four days.

The family, including the husband of Wayanad MP Priyanka, Robert Vadra, their children and some friends, reached Sawai Madhopur by road from New Delhi in a 6-7-vehicle carcade and drove straight

to the elite Sherbagh hotel in Ranthambore where they will stay during the sojourn

A short while after their arrival at a hotel, the group was scheduled to proceed



to celebrate the New Year eve and undertake jungle trekking.

While Rahul, Priyanka, and Robert Vadra opted to

stay back at the hotel to take rest, Vadra family children and friends went on tiger trekking in four gypsies in the afternoon shift.

According to unofficial sources, during the Ranthambore sojourn, the family may also celebrate a get-together.

The tiger reserve at Sawai Madhopur Is the Gandhi siblings' favourite destination for short holiday breaks. The brother and sister duo often drop in at the tiger sanctuary to keep date with Ranthambore tigers.

## Mysterious death of 170 sheep in Lucknow triggers high-level probe, CM announced compensation

(Gns). A shocking incident has come to light from Uttar Pradesh's capital, Lucknow, where around 170 sheep were found dead under mysterious circumstances. The incident has raised serious concerns, with questions being asked about whether the deaths were caused by negligence, poisoning, or some larger conspiracy.

A high-level investigation has been ordered to determine the exact cause, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the matter and directed officials to conduct a thorough inquiry into the deaths, which occurred near the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal in the Madayganj (Madiyaon) area.

The Chief Minister has also announced compen-

sation of Rs 10,000 for each deceased sheep.

Charu Khare, founder of

Narendra Modi.

According to initial observations, it is not yet

of the animal carcasses to ascertain the real cause of death. She further demanded strict action if poisoning or negligence is confirmed. The NGO has assured full cooperation with the authorities during the investigation.

Calling the incident "very serious" and "sensitive," Khare expressed concern over the possibility of animal cruelty or gross negligence. She warned that if a fair and timely investigation is not conducted, similar incidents could occur in the future.

Meanwhile, Madayganj Station House Officer Shivanand Mishra said that the police are actively investigating the case. Officials confirmed that the Chief Minister has ordered a detailed probe into the mysterious deaths of the sheep.



the non-governmental organisation, 'Asra – The Helping Hands Trust', has filed a complaint at the Madayganj police station. She stated that the sheep died suddenly in the area surrounding Rashtriya Prerna Sthal shortly after a recent programme attended by Prime Minister

clear whether the sheep died after consuming some kind of waste material or if they were deliberately poisoned.

Khare said her organisation received information about the incident around noon on Monday. She has urged the police to conduct post-mortem examinations