



Floods Swamp Ujjain Temples; Mumbai Schools Shut as Heavy Rains Lash Several States

Bhopal/Jaipur/Lucknow/Patna(GNS) : Heavy rainfall continued to disrupt normal life across several parts of the country on Friday, triggering floods, landslides and waterlogging in multiple states. In Himachal Pradesh, heavy overnight rain caused landslides in Kinnaur district, where debris blocked the National Highway at Choling and buried two vehicles. A total of 49 roads remain closed across the state. In Uttar Pradesh, rain lashed Lucknow, Barabanki, Unnao, Jalaun and several other districts in the early hours of Friday. In Unnao, floodwaters entered residential areas, while in Gujarat's Valsad district, roads were sub-

merged, leaving several vehicles stranded. The southwest monsoon has now covered the entire state of Madhya Pradesh within just nine days. The Meteorological Department has forecast 4 to 8 inches of rainfall over the next 24 hours in Dhar, Barwani, Khargone and Dewas districts. Rising water levels in the Kshipra River submerged temples near Ram Ghat in Ujjain.

In Mumbai, authorities declared a holiday for schools due to incessant rainfall.

Jaipur has been witnessing intermittent rain for the past two days. The weather department has issued a heavy rainfall alert for Kota, Baran and Jhalawar districts



on Friday.

In Uttarakhand, landslides blocked roads in several districts, including Rudrapur and Chamoli. Continuous rockfalls were reported on the Badrinath and Kedarnath highways, prompting authorities to temporarily suspend the Kedarnath pilgrimage as a precaution.

Monsoon Likely to Cover Entire Country Ahead of Schedule... Although the southwest monsoon entered India on June 4, three days later than its normal onset date of June 1, its progress had slowed in several regions due to intermittent break-monsoon conditions, raising concerns over delayed nationwide coverage.

8 Jaish terrorists arrested in Gujarat-MP

ATS begins interrogation of terrorists working to expand their terrorist network in Gujarat



Ahmedabad(GNS): The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested eight terrorists affiliated with the terrorist organization Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. They were arrested from different districts. Two of them are 18 and 19 years old. All of them were working to establish an active JeM network in Gujarat to carry out terrorist activities. The ATS has begun questioning them.

ATS Raids Over 20 Rajasthan Cities

One Arrested Over Suspected Links to Pakistani Terrorist

Jaipur(GNS): Teams of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) carried out simultaneous raids across more than 20 cities in Rajasthan on Friday morning as part of an operation targeting individuals suspected of having links with Pakistani terrorist Shehzad Bhatti. During the operation, 28 suspects were taken into custody, while a 20-year-old man was arrested from Barmer district. According to the ATS, Bhatti allegedly used social media platforms to befriend young people by luring them with online gaming, money and the glamour associated with gangsters. Investigators said he allegedly persuaded them to send photographs of sensitive locations. Most of those believed to have fallen into his network are youths living in districts along the India-Pakistan border.



Child sexual abuse ads on Instagram

Government to send notice to Meta asking how such ads are being run and how they will be stopped

New Delhi(GNS): The government will summon Instagram parent company Meta over advertisements promoting child sexual abuse content. IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav issued the directive on Friday, according to news agency PTI.

The ministry will ask Meta how such ads were circulated on Instagram and what steps the platform has taken to stop them. It will also ask about the company's policies and mechanisms to prevent ads promoting child sexual abuse mate-



rial. In fact, the BBC reported in an investigative report on Friday that Instagram is showing advertisements related to child sexual exploitation in India. Previously, on July 1, the government issued a notice to Meta regarding WhatsApp's username feature.

Husband Stabs 40-Year-Old Influencer to Death Attempts Suicide in Meerut



Meerut(GNS): A 40-year-old social media influencer was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband at their residence in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district on Friday morning. The accused later attempted to end his own life by inflicting multiple stab wounds on himself.

The victim, identified as Nisha Chauhan (40), was attacked around 6 a.m. by her husband, Pradeep Chauhan (42). After the assault, Pradeep allegedly stabbed himself several times and sustained serious injuries. The couple's children ran out of the house screaming for help.

Neighbours rushed to the residence and found Nisha lying in a pool of blood, while Pradeep was found critically injured nearby. Police arrived at the scene and shifted both to a hospital, where doctors declared Nisha dead. Pradeep is undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigations suggest that the murder was triggered by a dispute over the registration of a 1,170-square-foot plot of land. According to police sources, the property registration was scheduled to take place on Friday, with Nisha insisting that it be registered in her name. However, Pradeep was reportedly opposed to the move. A forensic team and senior police officials visited the crime scene to collect evidence. Investigators also questioned the couple's children and are examining CCTV footage from the surrounding area as part of the probe.

Supreme Court Refuses to Stay Sonam Raghuvanshi's Bail in Raja Murder Case

Indore/New Delhi(GNS): The Supreme Court on Friday declined to stay the bail granted to Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the murder of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi. The court observed that although it had certain reservations about the High Court's order, Sonam had already been released from jail and her bail would not be suspended at this stage. The apex court, however, issued a notice on a petition filed by the Meghalaya government challenging the High Court's bail order. The matter was heard by a vacation bench comprising Justice M.M. Sundresh and Justice Sheel Nagu. Appearing for the Meghalaya govern-



ment, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that the case involved a premeditated murder. He submitted that Sonam, along with four accomplices, allegedly murdered her husband Raja Raghuvanshi and later dumped his body into a gorge. Following the incident, she allegedly absconded before being arrested in Uttar Pradesh. During the hearing, the Supreme Court remarked that the High Court appeared to have relied on a typographical error while granting bail. The bench observed that had Sonam not already been released from custody, it would have considered cancelling the bail.

Amarnath Yatra Begins

9,000 Pilgrims to Offer Prayers on First Day

Jammu(GNS) : The 57-day annual Amarnath Yatra commenced on Friday, with the first batch of pilgrims leaving the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district and the Nunwan (Pahalgam) base camp in Anantnag district for the holy cave shrine of Baba Barfani. The first batch comprises 4,822 pilgrims, all of whom had reached the base camps on Thursday. According to the Jammu and Kashmir administration, around 9,000 people, including pilgrims, security personnel and

support staff, are expected to complete the pilgrimage by the end of the day.

Authorities have made elaborate arrangements along the pilgrimage routes. Oxygen booths have been installed at intervals of every two kilometres. Large digital screens displaying real-time weather updates have been set up at four locations on the Domail route, while 12 water-proof domes have been erected along the Baltal route to provide shelter to pilgrims. The Amarnath



Yatra is conducted through two routes. The traditional 48-km route begins from Nunwan in Pahalgam, while the shorter 14-km route starts from Baltal in Ganderbal district. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28. Modern Medical Facilities Along Both Routes... Nearly 1,000 doctors and healthcare workers have been

deployed for the pilgrimage. Two state-of-the-art temporary hospitals with 100 beds each have been established on both routes. On the Baltal route, medical aid centres have been set up at Domail Gate, Railpathri, Barari and Sangam Top to provide emergency healthcare and oxygen support. On the Pahalgam route, a major hospital has been established at the Nunwan base camp, while another 100-bed base hospital has been set up at Chandanwari. Additional

medical aid centres are functioning at Pissu Top and the Sheshnag campsite.

Over 3.9 Lakh Pilgrims Registered

More than 3.90 lakh devotees have registered for this year's Amarnath Yatra. With the pilgrimage now underway, authorities have also started on-the-spot registration in Jammu for devotees who could not register in advance, enabling more pilgrims to participate in the annual pilgrimage.

Primary health care entangled between wellness and digitalization

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh) India's healthcare system has been undergoing unprecedented transformation over the past decade. The rapid expansion of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, telemedicine, electronic health records, health data management, and integrated digital platforms have begun to transform healthcare delivery. Meanwhile, medical science is shifting from just treating diseases to placing greater emphasis on wellness—holistic health, disease prevention, mental health, nutrition, yoga, and a healthy lifestyle. The Government of India's initiatives such as the Ayushman

Bharat Health and Wellness Centers (AB-HWC), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), e-Sanjeevani, ABHA Digital Health ID, and the National Digital Health Ecosystem symbolize this change. While these initiatives have certainly provided new opportunities for modernizing healthcare, a fundamental question remains relevant—can digital transformation and wellness-focused approaches replace strong primary healthcare institutions?

The answer to this question is negative. Technology can make healthcare more efficient, transparent, and accessible, but it cannot

replace doctors, nurses, medicines, laboratories, ambulances, and robust primary health care institutions. Healthcare is ultimately a human service, built on a strong institutional framework, trained human resources, and community outreach. If the primary health care system is weak, even the most advanced digital platforms will not be able to provide quality healthcare to citizens.

The foundation of India's public health system is Sub-Health Centers (SCs), Primary Health Centers (PHCs), and Community Health Centers (CHCs). These institutions are the first point of contact for

essential services such as maternal and child health, immunization, nutrition, family planning, infectious disease control, early detection of non-communicable diseases, and primary treatment. Unfortunately, in many rural, tribal, and remote areas of the country, these institutions have been struggling for years with a shortage of doctors, nurses, medicines, equipment, and infrastructure. Many Primary Health Centers lack regular electricity, clean drinking water, internet, laboratory facilities, and even ambulances. Therefore, simply developing digital platforms will not automatically improve the quality of health

services.

The establishment of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers was intended to expand primary healthcare services. These services included maternal and child health, as well as services such as diabetes, hypertension, early cancer screening, mental health, geriatric health, and yoga. This concept is consistent with modern public health approaches, as most diseases today are also lifestyle-related. However, in many places, health and wellness centers have remained merely a name change. The buildings remain the same, the equipment remains the same, the human resources remain

scarce, and in many places, essential medicines are not regularly available. Without a parallel investment in institutional capacity, health and wellness will remain mere policy buzzwords.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is an ambitious reform in the health sector. Through the ABHA ID, efforts are underway to create digital health records for every citizen, digitally register hospitals and health professionals, and integrate treatment information. This will preserve patients' treatment history, reduce unnecessary tests, ensure continuity of health services, and provide reliable data to policymakers.

Editorial

On the Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

The UN's Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI drives at a few fault lines in the rapid investment into and proliferation of AI technologies: the Global South-Global North divide, with the latter poised to take the lion's share of the benefits of the diffusion of advanced AI models in different industries; and the challenge poorer countries face in regulating models far more advanced than what their own AI ecosystems can develop. These divides force emerging countries to choose between capital-intensive undertakings to get a seat at the table, or to accept the hand dealt to them by the half-dozen companies whose decisions shape AI access and use. These divisions are all the more urgent when seen in the light of what makes a country a voice that matters in AI: abundant electricity, highly capitalised firms that employ scarce talent with high salaries, and a drive to plow through policy resistance with a competitive zeal to outdo last month's capabilities. While the report highlights AI technologies' transformative potential in scientific research, its development is far more rapid than that of social media — an industry that had time to act responsibly yet deformed public discourse and affected democracies, even as people were more or less able to tell what was going on in real time. It is unclear whether individual countries, even China or the U.S., have enough power to meaningfully arrest how AI develops.

AI firms acting irresponsibly have already caused harms that would not be tolerated in any other industry.

AI models have ensnared teenagers and adults in parasocial fantasies that have sometimes turned fatal; they have flattened the world wide web, grievously injuring the news media's ability to deploy resources in their respective missions to inform the public; they have unleashed an epidemic of deepfakes, undermining trust in the written word and images alike; and they have deeply intertwined their promises of Artificial General Intelligence with global financial systems, with possible catastrophic economic consequences.

Modi's Mission 360: Supermajority politics or a new chapter in democracy

(Vinod Kumar Singh Takiyawala)

A balanced analysis of the changing Indian political landscape, including parliamentary numbers, defections, constitutional reforms, opposition strategy and democratic norms.

These days, a term is rapidly gaining traction in Indian politics: Modi's Maha Mission, Mission 360. Although the Bharatiya Janata Party has not officially announced a campaign under this name, the perception is growing within both ruling and opposition circles that the BJP is pursuing a strategy to achieve a majority in both houses of Parliament in the coming years that will not only ensure political stability but also allow for relatively smooth passage of constitutional and policy reforms. Political analysts believe that this may not merely be a preparation for the next elections, but part of a strategy for long-term political dominance. Meanwhile, the opposition, calling it a challenge to democratic balance, alleges that the ruling party is attempting to create political inroads within the opposition. Whatever the truth, it is clear that Indian politics is undergoing a new transitional period, where electoral victory, along with parliamentary arithmetic, coalition management, and constitutional interpretations, are determining the path to power. The Indian Constitution does not prevent any political party from securing a broad mandate. The fundamental foundation of democracy is public trust. If a party achieves a majority by winning elections or through a legal alliance, there is no unconstitutionality in it. However, when the process of achieving a majority appears to proceed through splits in opposition parties, defections of elected representatives, or political realignments, debates about democratic ethics become natural. This is why today, Modi's "Maha Mission 360" is not just a political term but has become a symbol of many questions being

raised about the direction of Indian democracy. A simple majority in the Lok Sabha is sufficient to run a government, but a special majority is required on matters such as constitutional amendments. Under Article 368 of the Constitution, many amendments require a special majority in both houses, and in some cases, the approval of half the states. Therefore, merely remaining in power is not enough for any government; a significant majority in Parliament also becomes politically significant. In this context, political analysts believe that considering the full implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, delimitation, One Nation, One Election, administrative reforms, and other future constitutional issues, the BJP it wants to further expand its parliamentary power. It should be noted that defection is not a new chapter in Indian politics. In the year 1967, after repeated defection of Haryana MLA Gayalal, 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' became a permanent phrase in Indian politics. To stop this political instability, anti-defection law was implemented in 1985 through the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. Later, the 91st Constitutional Amendment (2003) made it more stringent.

Yet, the politics of the past decade has shown that despite the law, political restructuring has not been completely stopped. The most striking example was Maharashtra. First, the Shiv Sena split, and later, the Nationalist Congress Party also split into two factions. These events not only changed the government but also sparked widespread debate on the interpretation of the anti-defection law, the constitutional role of the Assembly Speaker, the powers of the Election Commission, and the limits of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court clarified that it is necessary to protect both the elected mandate and constitutional dignity, but in many circumstances, the final decision also lies within the jurisdiction of the

Assembly Speaker. This sent the message that political battles today are being fought not only in the Legislative Assembly or Parliament, but also in the courts. The change of government in Madhya Pradesh, the change of power in Karnataka, and the incidents of defections in various states established that the game of numbers is no longer decided solely by election results; post-election political strategy has become equally important. West Bengal is also an important example of this debate. Several leaders defected before and after the Assembly elections. Some leaders left the Trinamool Congress and joined the BJP, while others later returned. These incidents raised the question of whether ideological commitment is weakening in Indian politics and electoral arithmetic is becoming more dominant. In Delhi and Punjab politics, various political speculations have periodically surfaced regarding some MPs and leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party. Although in most cases, these discussions were neither officially confirmed nor resulted in decisive political developments, they certainly indicate that in national politics, every MP and every regional party is considered a potential part of the future power equation. This is where the discussion of Modi's Mission 360 gains strength. If a political party's objective is not just to win elections but also to garner widespread support in Parliament to advance a larger constitutional agenda for the future, then naturally, its strategy cannot be limited to election campaigning. Although the BJP has publicly maintained a restrained stance on such political debates, the opposition has consistently alleged that actions by central agencies, political pressure, and the influence of power are being used to weaken opposition parties. On the other hand, the BJP argues that if opposition leaders voluntarily join its party, it is part of the democratic process, and the

public ultimately decides on this in elections. This raises the most important question of Indian democracy: is party switching a respect for the mandate or a rewriting of the mandate? A section of constitutional experts believes that the Indian Constitution does not mandate that an MP or MLA remain tied to a party for life, but the Tenth Schedule certainly aims to prevent the alteration of the elected mandate for personal political gain. Therefore, if There is a growing disconnect between the spirit of the law and political practice. Therefore, the need for a future review of the anti-defection law cannot be denied. The current phase of Indian politics is not only a confrontation between the government and the opposition, but also a competition for political organizational capacity, leadership, ideological expansion, and parliamentary arithmetic. Over the past decade, the BJP has attempted to establish itself not just as an electoral party, but as a nationwide organization. Expansion in the northeastern states, growing political activism in South India, reaching out to new social groups, and pragmatic alliances with regional parties are considered part of this long-term strategy. If something like Modi's Mission 360 truly exists, its foundation lies not only in weakening the opposition but also in expanding political influence across the country. In contrast, the opposition's biggest challenge is not the BJP, but its own unity. Due to ideological differences, leadership, regional ambitions, and electoral interests, lasting coordination among opposition parties has not yet been established. In many states, parties that are allies at the national level are rivals at the state level. In such a situation, it is natural to form a common political strategy. A section of political analysts believes that if an MP or MLA is willing to change parties repeatedly, the reason of his parent party.

New efforts to restore relations with Pakistan: Can India ignore history

(Kantilal Mandot)

Trump's diplomacy, Pakistan's compulsions, and India's national interests: The

debate about normalizing relations between India and Pakistan has once again intensified. An open letter sent by 117 prominent figures from both countries to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has given this debate a new dimension. The letter calls for resuming dialogue, resuming trade, simplifying visa arrangements, resuming the Samjhauta Express and Thar Express, resuming cricket series, and ending the mistrust between the two countries. At first glance, this initiative appears to be a positive effort towards peace and harmony, but when analyzed in

light of the history of India-Pakistan relations, Pakistan's behavior, and current global politics, several serious questions arise.

India has always pursued a policy of peaceful and cordial relations with its neighbors. Since independence, India has extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan on numerous occasions. Whether it was the 1972 Shimla Agreement, the 1999 Lahore bus journey, or Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Lahore in 2015 to meet with then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, India consistently conveyed the message that disputes should be resolved through dialogue, not war. Unfortunately, terrorism from Pakistani soil undermined these efforts each time.

Pakistan's history demonstrates

that it has consistently maintained terrorism as a tool of its foreign policy, parallel to every attempt at friendship. From the 1947, 1965, 1971, and 1999 Kargil wars to the Parliament attack, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, and the Pathankot, Uri, and Pulwama terror attacks, Pakistan's role has been constantly questioned. India has repeatedly presented concrete evidence, but Pakistan has either denied it or avoided taking effective action against terrorism. Consequently, it is natural that India cannot accept any new dialogue proposal solely on emotional grounds.

Pakistan's economic situation is extremely weak in the current circumstances. Inflation, unemployment, foreign debt, and the energy crisis have severely crippled

Pakistan's economy. In recent years, the water crisis has also emerged as a significant challenge for Pakistan. Under these circumstances, restoring trade and relations with India could be economically beneficial for Pakistan. However, it must be noted that economic constraints do not necessarily mean a permanent change in Pakistan's policies. Unless Pakistan's support for terrorism changes, merely resuming trade or transport services will not establish lasting peace.

The role of the United States, and especially President Donald Trump, in this entire development cannot be overlooked. No superpower intervenes in international politics solely on humanitarian grounds. Every country prioritizes its strategic interests. The United States has

long desired to prevent Pakistan from falling completely into China's sphere of influence.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the growing strategic partnership between the two countries have been a concern for the United States. Therefore, if the United States promotes dialogue between India and Pakistan, it may be a strategy to maintain regional power balance and keep Pakistan within its sphere of influence.

If Donald Trump wants to take credit for restoring relations between India and Pakistan, this may be part of his political and strategic thinking. However, India should not compromise its national interests due to external pressure or international image.



Gujarat

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- **Harsh Sanghavi**, Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

Delhi govt clears 945 Lakhpati Bitiya applications in 3 months

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi government has approved 945 new applications under the Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme in the three months since it went online in April. To boost awareness and encourage more eligible families to enrol, the government plans to roll out metro jingles, school outreach programmes and district-level training initiatives. The upgraded scheme, which replaced the Ladli Scheme in April, now has over 9.32 lakh active beneficiaries since its launch in 2008, a Women and Child Development (WCD) official said. Existing beneficiaries have been automatically migrated to the new framework, while fresh enrolments are being processed through a dedicated online portal. "Creating awareness remains the biggest challenge as many eligible families are still unaware of the



revised provisions, particularly the expanded benefits available for girls pursuing graduation and professional diploma courses," the official said. To increase enrolment, the department has already issued newspaper advertisements and is preparing information, education and communication material, including posters, pamphlets, and leaflets, for distribution across districts. Metro jingles and other public awareness campaigns are also being planned, the official told PTI. The department will begin training district-level nodal officers from July 4 to familiarise them with the revised provisions. A joint advisory by the WCD and the Education Department is also in process to help schools spread awareness among eligible students, she said. According to her, the nodal officers will coordinate with schools in their respective districts and explain the scheme's revised features, eligibility conditions and online application process to ensure that more beneficiaries are covered.

Delhi govt. orders CAG audit of 3 discoms over 38,500 crore in deferred costs

New Delhi(GNS): The Delhi government has asked the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to undertake a "strict and intensive audit" of the circumstances in which three electricity distribution companies or discoms - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) - have continued operating despite the non-recovery of regulatory assets. "The audit shall extend to all matters incidental or ancillary to, or necessary for, conducting the aforesaid audit in accordance with law," read the order issued by the Delhi government's Power Department.

It seeks the completion of the audit within three months unless CAG seeks an extension considering the "scope and complexity" of the exercise.

The order, dated July 1 and made public on Thursday, comes at a time when ₹38,500 crore in accumulated regulatory assets is set to be recovered from consumers.

Regulatory assets are costs incurred by discoms that are not recovered in the current bills but are recognised as recoverable from consumers through future tariffs. As per officials, power tariffs in Delhi have not been revised since 2014-15, leading to the accumulation of costs over the years. Speaking to



the media on Thursday, Power Minister Ashish Sood said the direction for the CAG audit marked a "historic moment" for transparency, accountability and governance reforms in Delhi's power sector and hailed the "victory of electricity consumers and honest taxpayers. For years after the power sector's privatisation, many financial decisions, special arrangements and growing liabilities escaped proper public scrutiny. The previous AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) government chose to protect the system instead of examining it. What they failed to do in 10 years, our government has initiated within a few months," said the Minister.

He added that the people of Delhi have every right to know how regulatory assets worth nearly ₹38,000 crore kept growing and who benefited while this burden continued to mount on citizens.

Dept Of Youth Affairs Organises Industry Asso-ciation Conclave Of MY Bharat In New Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): The Department of Youth Affairs today organised an Industry Association Conclave of MY Bharat in New Delhi. Leading industry bodies, including ASSOCHAM, FICCI, CAIT and CII, participated in the conclave.

The event aimed to introduce the MY Bharat ecosystem to industry stakeholders and invite industry associations, corporates and public sector undertakings to join the initiative. The conclave also focused on exploring frameworks for future collaboration on youth development and aligning national youth goals with industry-led initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, said that the youth of the country are the key drivers in realising the vision



of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said that collaboration between industry and MY Bharat will help channel this youth energy towards national development goals. Talking to the media, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse, said that during the meeting, the ministry will look into how different industries and industrial associations are cur-

rently working within the youth sector. She said that the government's goal is to align the industries' and associations' efforts with the MY Bharat platform to increase visibility and ensure that all industry-led programmes, including skilling, mentorship, and experiential learning programmes, reach the districts and villages across the country.

Gujarat Government Announces Major Increase in Compensation for Farmers Affected by Power Transmission Projects

Compensation to be based on twice the prevailing market value instead of jantri rates; farmers to receive 100% payment upfront

Gandhinagar: In a major farmer-centric decision, the Gujarat Government has significantly enhanced the compensation payable to farmers whose land is used for electricity transmission lines and power towers. The revised policy replaces the earlier jantri-based compensation with payments calculated at twice the prevailing market value of the land, ensuring fair and market-linked compensation for affected farmers.

The decision has been taken under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghani following extensive consultations with farmer organisations, the State Government has decided that compensation will now be calculated at twice the prevailing market value of the land instead of the



Agriculture Minister Shri Jitubhai Vaghani, Energy Minister Shri Rushikesh Patel and Minister of State for Energy Shri Kaushikbhai Vekariya held discussions with farmers and farmer organisations before finalising the revised compensation framework, keeping farmers' economic interests at the forefront. Until now, compensation for electricity poles and transmission lines passing through agricultural land was paid at 200 per cent of the jantri value. Responding to long-

standing representations from farmer organisations, the State Government has decided that compensation will now be calculated at twice the prevailing market value of the land instead of the



jantri rate. The government has also increased compensation for land occupied by power transmission towers. Earlier, compensation was calculated only on the actual base area of the tower. Under the revised policy, the tower base area will include an additional one metre on all four sides, thereby increasing the compensable area and providing higher compensation to landowners. For example, for a 765 kV transmission line, the compensable area has been increased from 625

square metres to 729 square metres. In another major relief for farmers, the government has abolished the earlier staggered payment system under which compensation was paid in three instalments—40 per cent during foundation work, 40 per cent during tower erection and the remaining 20 per cent after stringing of transmission lines. Under the new policy, 100 per cent of the compensation will be paid upfront before the commencement of work. To ensure transparent and fair determination of land values, the State Government will constitute a Market Rate Committee (MRC) to assess the prevailing market value of land.



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The committee will include the District Collector, representatives of affected landowners, an authorised market valuer nominated by farmers, and representatives of the transmission service provider. The inclusion of farmer representatives is intended to

ensure transparency and protect farmers' interests during the valuation process. For compensation under the Right of Way (RoW) corridor of transmission lines, payments will be linked to the market value determined by the MRC. Farmers in rural areas will receive compensation equivalent to 30 per cent of the market value, those in municipal areas 45 per cent, and those in municipal corporation areas 60 per cent of the assessed market value.

The government has also extended the benefits of the revised policy to farmers whose compensation was determined under the earlier rates but whose transmission line projects are still under execution. Such farmers will also be eligible to receive the benefits of the new compensation policy. The Gujarat Government said the revised compensation framework reflects its commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests by ensuring fair, transparent and market-linked compensation for land used in critical power transmission infrastructure projects.

Example 1

Particulars	As per Gujarat Government Resolution dated 01.03.2024 (DLVC Rate)	As per Proposed Market Rate Committee (MRC) Rate (1 Vigha =30 lakh)
Rate	DLVC Rate • For Tower:979 per sq. m. • RoW Corridor:761 per sq. m.	MRC Rate:1853.29 per sq. m.
Area occupied by the four tower foundations	6.11 lakh (625 sq. m.)	20.02 lakh (729 sq. m.)
RoW Corridor	12.74 lakh (25% RoW)	37.25 lakh (30% RoW)

Example 2

Particulars	As per Gujarat Government Resolution dated 01.03.2024 (DLVC Rate)	As per Proposed Market Rate Committee (MRC) Rate (1 Vigha =20 lakh)
Rate	DLVC Rate • Fore Tower and RoW Corridor:382 per sq. m.	MRC Rate:1235.53 per sq. m.
Area occupied by the four tower foundations	2.38 lakh (625 sq. m.)	18.00 lakh (729 sq. m.)
RoW Corridor	6.39 lakh (25% RoW)	24.83 lakh (30% RoW)

