



**2**  
**GOVT DEVELOPED  
2,661 CLIMATE-  
RESILIENT CROPS:  
MOS CHOUDHARY**



**3**  
**41,000 HOMES  
TO BE DELIVERED  
ON DWARKA  
EXPRESSWAY, SOHNA  
IN 3 YEARS**



**4**  
**SENSEX SOARS  
1397 POINT, NIFTY  
ABOVE 23,730 AS US  
PAUSES TARIFFS**

## GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY INDIA WILL GAIN FROM THE US-CHINA TRADE WAR

The ongoing trade war between the US and China is expected to benefit India by boosting its exports to the US

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The trade war between the US and China is going to benefit India, government sources told. According to government sources, India is not going to be immune from higher tariffs. There may be some products from India on which the US might take some action but despite this India's exports to US will increase.

Trump, who recently took office, imposed tariffs on goods imported from China, Mexico, and Canada over the weekend. Later on Monday, the US President postponed the tariffs on Mexico and Canada by a month under ongoing negotiation on terms.

The new additional 10 per



cent Tariff on imports from China is made effective from Tuesday. China retaliated and imposed 15 per cent tariff on coal and LNG and 10 per cent on crude imports from US.

But Sources told that irrespective of what is happening to India in the future, India is likely to gain out of this US

and China trade war.

"We have discussed this with Indian exporters also and got positive feedback about the mood and the sentiment about the export orders they are looking significant rise in export value," one of the sources said.

The government official told that India had benefit-

ted during the trade war between the US and China in the previous regime of Donald Trump's presidency.

"Then, our exports to US was around USD 57 billion. It went up to USD 73 billion. If you see historically, India's exports to the US, during the 1-2 years of the trade war time, India saw a significant jump in our exports to the US," one of the sources said.

After the US government announced a 10 per cent tariff on all Chinese goods exported to America, China too imposed additional tariffs on various US goods, including a 15 per cent tariff on coal and liquefied natural gas, and a 10 per cent tariff on crude oil starting from February 10.

China further said that a 15 per cent tariff will be imposed on coal and liquefied natural gas. A 10 per cent tar-

iff will be imposed on crude oil, agricultural machinery, large-displacement cars and pickup trucks.

China's decision comes as retaliatory action after Donald Trump imposed a 10 per cent tariff on goods from China, citing concerns over illegal immigration and the smuggling of drugs, including fentanyl.

Earlier on February 2, China's Commerce and Finance ministries had denounced Trump's decision to impose tariffs and said that the country would challenge the decision before the World Trade Organization and take unspecified "countermeasures". The Ministry of Commerce said the tariff "seriously violates" international trade rules, urging the US to "engage in frank dialogue and strengthen cooperation".

## Morgan Stanley: India shifts fiscal and monetary policies to boost growth

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal and monetary policies are now focusing more on supporting economic growth, aligning with expectations of a cyclical recovery, according to a report by Morgan Stanley.

The report highlighted that the Union Budget has maintained the path of fiscal consolidation, though at a slightly faster pace than anticipated.

It noted that despite the accelerated fiscal consolidation, the Budget includes measures that encourage consumption and increase capital expenditure, which should help drive economic growth.

The report stated, "In our view, both fiscal and monetary policy are pivoting to support growth, which is in line with our view of a cyclical recovery in growth."

The government's approach aims to strike a balance between stimulating demand and maintaining macroeconomic stability.

The Budget has focused on both fiscal discipline and eco-



nomic expansion, with a lower fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of GDP for FY26 (compared to Morgan Stanley's estimate of 4.5 per cent of GDP).

A key measure in the Budget is the reduction in income taxes, particularly for low- and middle-income taxpayers, which is expected to support consumption.

The Finance Minister has estimated that direct tax changes could lead to a revenue loss of Rs 1,000 billion (0.3 per cent of GDP), helping to boost spending power.

On the expenditure side, the government has prioritized capital expenditure. Effective capital expenditure (which includes direct capex and grants

for asset creation) is expected to grow by 17.4 per cent in FY26 Budget Estimates, compared to 5.3 per cent growth in the revised estimates for FY25.

A significant portion of this increase comes from grants to states, aimed at infrastructure and long-term economic development.

Morgan Stanley emphasized that this synchronized approach between fiscal and monetary policies reflects the government's commitment to strengthening economic recovery.

The targeted spending and fiscal prudence suggest a strategy designed to sustain growth while keeping macroeconomic stability intact.

### TOP OF THE DAY

#### SENSEX JUMPS AS TRUMP PAUSES

**Mumbai:** Indian stock markets opened on a strong note on Tuesday, tracking positive global cues after former U.S. President Donald Trump decided to pause tariff imposition for a month. Investors reacted positively to the development, leading to gains across major indices. The Nifty 50 index opened at 23,509.90, marking a gain of 148.85 points (0.64 per cent), while the BSE SENSEX surged 500.86 points (0.65 per cent) to start the session at 77,687.60. Experts stated that the temporary halt on tariffs will help the market recover from Monday's losses.

#### WHO BEGINS EBOLA VACCINE TRIAL

**Kampala:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday said that it has launched a first-ever vaccine trial in Uganda for Ebola from the Sudan species of the virus. In a statement, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO's Director-General, said that the candidate vaccine as well as candidate treatments are being made available through clinical trial protocols to further test for efficacy and safety. He added that three vaccination rings were defined, with the first ring involving about 40 contacts and contacts of contacts of the first reported and confirmed case. Ugandan authorities had declared an Ebola outbreak in the capital, Kampala, late last month.

#### GLOBAL MINISTERS JOIN INDIA ENERGY

**New Delhi:** Energy ministers from over 20 countries, including those from advanced economies, largest energy producers, countries of global south will be attending India Energy Week (IEW) here in the national capital from February 11-14, officials said. Apart from ministers, foreign ambassadors, and Heads of leading International Organizations, 90 CEOs/Members of the executive board from some of the world's largest Fortune 500 energy companies will also attend the IEW 2025. IEW, spanning over 1 lakh Sq mts, will be the second-largest energy event globally, in terms of participation, exhibition space and sessions.

● Agencies

## SBI report: RBI may use CRR for regulation, not liquidity management

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may start using the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) more as a regulatory intervention tool rather than just a liquidity management tool in the future, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report highlighted the urgent need for the central bank to revisit its existing liquidity management framework.

It said "The RBI could look into using CRR more as a regulatory intervention tool / countercyclical liquidity buffer rather than as a liquidity tool in future. There is an urgent need to revisit the existing liquidity management framework by RBI"

Currently, the RBI uses



various measures to manage liquidity in the banking system, such as Open Market Operations (OMO), CRR, and the repo rate.

However, the report suggests that the CRR should be seen as a countercyclical liquidity buffer rather than a liquidity adjustment tool. This means the central bank could use CRR to control liquidity in the economy depending on the financial situation, rather than adjust-

ing it frequently to manage day-to-day liquidity needs.

The report also suggested that the RBI should replace the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) as the main policy rate. WACR is the interest rate at which banks borrow and lend money in the overnight market.

However, SBI believes that WACR does not fully serve its purpose as a policy tool and should be reviewed.

■ P2

## Makhana cultivation grows from 13,000 to 35,000 hectares: MoS Agriculture

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Makhana cultivation has expanded from approximately 13,000 hectares to 35,000 hectares across multiple states, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Bhagirath Choudhary, said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

In the Budget 2025-26 tabled Saturday, the government announced a Makhana Board be established in Bihar, a key grower of nutrient-rich food. The board will work to improve production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana.

Over the years, 15,824.1 kg of high-yielding Makhana seeds have been distributed to farmers, Krishi Vigyan



Kendras, and organizations across various states. Significant beneficiaries include institutions like NABARD, fisheries departments, Bihar Horticulture Development Society and farmers from regions such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, the minister said in the writ-

ten reply.

The National Research Centre for Makhana (NRCM), Darbhanga, is a well-equipped facility dedicated to Makhana research and innovation, supported by a skilled team of scientists.

Its key achievements in-

clude developing high-yield makhana and thornless water chestnut varieties, introducing water-efficient and integrated farming systems, and launching Makhana-cum-fish farming. The cultivation practices of Indian Lotus, medicinal plants like Acorus calamus (Sweet flag) and Alocasia montana have also been established.

Several equipment/machines for Makhana popping and value-added products have been developed and licensed to manufacturers for commercialization namely Makhana seed washer, Makhana seed grader, Makhana seed primary roasting machine, Makhana seed popping machine, Popped Makhana

■ P2

## NetApp, Lenovo, Vodafone Idea, Anunta, and Tata Communications win CIO Choice 2025 Trust Seal

TBG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The 13th Anniversary edition of the coveted CIO CHOICE Honour & Recognition recently concluded at the Red Carpet Night felicitation ceremony.

- 34 Technology brands across 43 categories won the CIO CHOICE 2025 Trust Seal.

- Winners were picked based on 7,000+ votes received through an extensive pan-India voting process amongst CIOs & Digital Leaders.

Technology's impact on the ICT landscape has been profound, reshaping business operations and redefining organizational functionality. Innovations such as cloud

computing, big data, and artificial intelligence have empowered businesses with data-driven insights and automated solutions, revolutionizing operational efficiency. Through the utilization of these cutting-edge digital tools, enterprises are optimizing processes, phasing out obsolete infrastructure, and enriching customer interactions. These technological advancements have opened fresh avenues for growth and competitiveness in the dynamic contemporary market.

However, with an abundance of options available, selecting the right ICT products and solutions can be a challenging task for businesses. ICT brands that stand out are those that simplify this decision-making pro-



cess by creating flexible, user-centric environments that prioritize business, partner, and customer needs. These brands succeed in delivering a superior customer experience by aligning their offerings with the evolving requirements of the market.

CIO CHOICE : Celebrating ICT Excellence

CIO CHOICE, an esteemed annual recognition platform produced by CORE Media, honours ICT brands that empower businesses through innovation and excellence. The winners are selected via an extensive pan-India online referral voting process, conducted among technology leaders across the country, with KPMG serving as the Knowledge Partner for the event.

Empowering Enterprises Through Recognition

CIO CHOICE 2025 celebrated pioneering and transformative innovations by recognizing ICT brands for their role in revolutionizing various industries. These brands stand

out for empowering enterprises to streamline operations, bolster cybersecurity, and foster business expansion. Their innovative products, services, and solutions have been instrumental in propelling organizations to unprecedented success in their fields. Known as the only gold 'Seal of Trust,' CIO CHOICE represents a hallmark of excellence, bestowed by India's CIOs and digital leaders. This recognition reflects customer centricity, product innovation, and business excellence within the ICT community and ecosystem. By earning the trust of the nation's CIOs, these ICT brands solidify their reputation as enablers of growth and transformation.

This year, 34 distinguished ICT

brands earned recognition across 43 diverse categories, showcasing their excellence in innovation and service. Among the celebrated names were industry leaders such as NetApp, Vodafone Idea, Tata Communications, Lenovo Global Technology (India), Anunta Technologies, Rubrik India, Exotel Techom, and SUSE.

These winning brands were chosen as the most trusted and preferred by the country's technology leaders and pioneers. The recognition is based on their first-hand experiences of collaborating with these enterprises and leveraging their cutting-edge products, services, and solutions to drive business success and innovation.

■ P2



# GOVT DEVELOPED 2,661 CLIMATE-RESILIENT CROPS: MOS CHOUDHARY

The Indian government has implemented various initiatives to enhance agricultural resilience, water efficiency, and weather-based decision-making for farmers.

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

ICAR Institutes, State and Central agricultural universities have developed 2,900 varieties of different crops during 2014-2024, out of which 2,661 varieties are climate resilient, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Bhagirath Choudhary, said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

During this period, 63 field crop varieties have been developed for Kerala, comprising 23 of cereals, 2 of oilseeds; 10 of pulses; 15 of forage crops, and 13 of sugarcane of which 58 are climate resilient.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) has been implemented since 2015-16 which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at the farm level through micro Irrigation systems like drip and sprinkler Irrigation systems.

The PDMC was implemented as a component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi



Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) during 2015-16 to 2021-22 and under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2022-23 onwards.

The various components of this scheme helps in water saving as well as reduced fertilizer usage through fertigation, labour expenses, other input costs and overall income enhancement of the farmers.

The government provides financial assistance 55 per cent to the small and marginal farmers and 45 per cent to other farmers for installation of drip and sprinkler systems under the PDMC.

To help the farmers make

decisions on day-to-day agricultural operations for reduction of crop damage and loss due to extreme weather as well as taking advantage of benevolent weather conditions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) runs a scheme - Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) to render weather forecast based operational Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agriculture Universities and other institutions for the benefit of farming community.

Under this scheme, presently 130 Agromet Field

Units (AMFUs), located at SAUs, institutes of ICAR and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) etc. are operational across the country. Along with the biweekly bulletins, daily weather forecast and nowcast information are also disseminated to the farmers by Regional Meteorological Centers (RMCs) and Meteorological Centers (MCs) of IMD.

Out of the 130 AMFUs, 5 AMFUs viz. Ambalavayal, Pillicode, Thrissur, Vellayani and Kumarakom are preparing the district-level AAS bulletins for all agriculturally important districts of Kerala. These units are also involved in the dissemination of AAS to the farmers through multichannel dissemination systems like print and electronic media, Door Darshan, radio, internet etc. including SMS using mobile phones through the Kisan Portal and also through private companies under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

SMS-based alerts and warnings along with suitable remedial measures

are being sent during extreme weather events like cyclones, deep depressions etc. through the Kisan Portal.

Farmers access weather information including alerts and related agromet advisories specific to their districts through the mobile App viz., 'Meghdoot' and 'Mausam' launched by Govt. of India. To extend real-time weather updates to farmers to make appropriate decisions on farm operations, AMFUs also use Social media platforms like 'WhatsApp', 'Facebook', 'YouTube' etc. In Kerala, these services have been integrated with the Agriculture Information Management System (AIMS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Kerala. About 40 lakh farmers are accessing the information in English and regional languages from this platform.

Recently, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), has launched Panchayat-level weather forecasts for nearly

all Gram Panchayats in India on 24th October 2024. These forecasts are accessible on digital platforms such as e-Gramswaraj (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in/>), the Meri Panchayat app, e-Manchitra of MoPR, and Mausamgram of IMD, Ministry of Earth Science.

For drought monitoring, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) has developed a Geoportal in collaboration with the Space Application Centre (SAC), ISRO. This Geoportal hosts data of multiple drought indicators related to rainfall, soil moisture, remote sensing-based crop conditions, water storages etc. This portal is a single window digital platform which provides drought indicators and enables various stakeholders towards easy, timely and objective assessment of the drought situation at the district or tehsil level. It also helps in identifying potential drought conditions enabling timely interventions to support effective drought management strategies.

## TN to launch climate policy for education: Stalin

TBG NETWORK  
CHENNAI



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced a pioneering initiative to introduce a comprehensive climate change policy tailored for educational purposes and establish ecology clubs in schools across the state. Speaking at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0, Stalin emphasized the importance of educating the younger generation about the pressing issue of climate change and ensuring that people from all sections of society are aware of its impact.

"Our government plans to educate people about climate change through the Education Department," Stalin stated. "In all schools across Tamil Nadu, ecology clubs will be established. The Tamil Nadu government will introduce a 'Climate Change Policy' exclusively for educational purposes," he continued. These clubs will focus on raising awareness about environmental issues, including climate change, and will aim to foster a sense of responsibility among students to take action for the planet's well-being.

Stalin emphasized that the fight against climate change requires widespread awareness and understanding. "Awareness of climate change will be promoted by students.

Training will be provided to staff in various government departments to help them address climate change. Special training will be given to the agriculture and water resources departments, as they are significantly affected by climate change," he added.

The Chief Minister also stressed that climate change is a global challenge that requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders. He highlighted that the effects of climate change are being felt across the world, with extreme

# SC orders Assam to deport 63 foreigners in two weeks

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Assam government to deport 63 declared foreigners within two weeks, expressing strong displeasure over the state's failure to take action and for keeping them in detention centres indefinitely.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the Assam government to initiate the deportation of 63 persons kept in detention centres within two weeks.

The apex court also questioned Assam's claim that deportation was impossible due to the migrants' undisclosed foreign addresses, stating that even without addresses, deportation is possible

"You have refused to start deportation saying their addresses are not known. Why should it be our concern? You deport them to their foreign country. Are you waiting for some 'muhurat' (auspicious time)? Even without an address, you can deport them. You can't continue to detain them indefinitely," the bench told Assam's Chief Secretary.

The bench further said, "Once they are held to be



*The apex court also questioned Assam's claim that deportation was impossible due to the migrants' undisclosed foreign addresses, stating that even without addresses, deportation is possible*

foreigners, they should be deported immediately. You know their citizenship status. Then how can you wait till their address is received? It is for the other country to decide where they should go."

The bench told Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta that Assam is indulging in suppression of facts. Mehta said he has spoken to the highest authority of the executive and "there may be some lacunae".

Justice Oka then observed, "On the flip side, the state exchequer is spending on the persons detained for so many years. This concern

doesn't seem to be affecting the government."

The bench asked Solicitor General if the Union government has started the process of deportation. Mehta replied, "Let me sit with Ministry of External Affairs. It is not a state subject. It is a central subject which is diplomatically dealt with the Centre. I will speak with the concerned official."

In its order, the top court recorded its dissatisfaction with the Assam's affidavit, saying that "it was as vague as its earlier affidavits."

In its order the bench noted that it is known that "persons in serial number

1 to 63 are citizens of a particular country", there is no reason why the state of Assam cannot start procedure for the deportation.

"Even if the address of these persons in the foreign country is not available, as the state is aware that they are citizens of a particular country, we direct the state to immediately start process of deportation in respect of persons at serial number 1 to 63," ordered the top court.

The apex court further directed the Assam government to file a detailed affidavit within two weeks regarding the nationality verification process, including dates of actions taken.

The bench also directed the Union government to give details within one month regarding the persons deported so far and to clarify how to handle stateless individuals. It ordered Assam to ensure better conditions in detention centres, forming a committee to inspect facilities fortnightly.

The matter was posted for further hearing on February 25.

The apex court was hearing case relating to foreigners detained in detention centre in Assam and seeking the release of persons who have completed more than two years in centres.

# Govt hiding true death toll: Akhilesh Yadav on Mahakumbh stampede

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday continued his attack on the Uttar Pradesh government over the Mahakumbh stampede incident and said that the government allowed this incident to take place.

Speaking to mediapersons, Yadav raised the question on why the Central government was not providing details of the actual number of people who died in the stampede that took place on January 29 this year at MahaKumbh venue in Prayagraj.

"If there was a huge gathering at that time, why was space not given in the Army premises? The Government allowed this incident to take place. Now, they do not want to give the details and if anyone tries to provide details, an FIR will be registered against them," the Samajwadi Party chief said.

Further, Yadav, the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh claimed that the government knew the time of the incident.

"Government knows the



time of the incident. Imagine the number of deceased if the incident took place at 1 AM and Ambulances were coming till 11 AM. Several devotees could not even take a holy dip; they had to go back. Is this the kind of world infrastructure you want make? CM Yogi Adityanath said that he has made arrangements for 100 crore people... Now they are saying there is a conspiracy, the officials who are saying there is a conspiracy should be terminated by the Central Government," Akhilesh Yadav said.

Earlier today, while

speaking in the Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav demanded transparency regarding the casualties at the Mahakumbh stampede, urging the government to present accurate figures on the deaths, treatment of the injured, and arrangements made for the event.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Akhilesh called for an all-party meeting to clarify the situation and recommended that disaster management and the lost and found centre be handed over to the Army.

Yadav also pressed for

strict punitive action against those responsible for the tragedy and those who concealed the facts, questioning the government's decision to suppress the numbers.

"For the Mahakumbh tragedy, there should be strict punitive action against those responsible and those who have hidden the truth should be punished. We ask the double-engine government, if there was no guilt, then why were the figures suppressed, hidden and erased?" he added.

"Log punye kamane aaye the aur apno ke shav lekar gaye hai (People came to earn merit, but they left with the bodies of their loved ones)" the SP Chief said.

A stampede occurred at the MahaKumbh Mela during the second Shahi Snan on Mouni Amavasya. As per the Uttar Pradesh government at least 30 people were killed and around 60 individuals sustained injuries. Several opposition leaders raised concerns over the government's handling of the stampede during the Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## SBI report: RBI may use CRR



According to the report, the ownership of government securities (G-Secs) is expected to remain unchanged in FY26. However, there could still be an OMO gap of around Rs 1.7 trillion.

This indicates that the RBI might need to introduce more liquidity measures on a sustained basis to ensure smooth functioning of the banking system.

The report also predicts that the RBI may cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in its February 2025 policy meeting. Over the entire rate cut cycle, the reduction could be at least 75 basis points.

It stated that in the first phase the RBI is expected to cut the repo rate twice in succession in February and April 2025. Then there could be a break in June 2025 and the second round of rate cuts may begin in October 2025.

The SBI report suggests that the RBI could revamp its liquidity management approach, shift CRR's role to a regulatory tool, and make changes to its policy rate framework. Additionally, it expects the central bank to cut rates gradually in 2025 to support economic growth.

## Makhana cultivation



grader and various type of value-added products. The NRCM has trained thousands of farmers and entrepreneurs, driving regional industries and livelihoods. Makhana cultivation has expanded from approximately 13,000 to 35,000 hectares across multiple states. Between 2012 and 2023, NRCM trained over 3,000 farmers in advanced Makhana cultivation, processing, and marketing techniques, focusing on water-efficient practices, cropping systems, and nutrient management. Additionally, NRCM has assisted 24 enterprises,

including Mithila Naturals, Maa Vaishnavi Makhana, and Swastik Food Group, by providing technical inputs and fostering Makhana-based industries, further boosting the agricultural economy, the minister's written reply added.

## Makhana cultivation



The entire process was guided by an eminent advisory panel of senior technology leaders. This year's advisory panel consisted of 10 distinguished CIOs and Digital Technology leaders:

- Aasish Kshetry, CIO & VP - IT, Asian Paints
- Dheeraj Sinha, EVP and Global CIO, Sun Pharma
- Jyothiritha B, CTO, Godrej Capital
- Narendra Sonawane, SVP, Global Head, IS, Infosys
- Ramesh Narayanaswamy, CTO, Aditya Birla Capital
- Rohit Kilam, CTO, HDFC Life
- Rucha Nanavati, CIO, Mahindra Group

- Subhash Kelkar, CIO, BSE
  - Vinod Sivarama Krishnan, CDIO, Essar Capital
  - Vishal Bhatia, CDO, Canara Bank
- The felicitation ceremony held in Mumbai received an overwhelming response from the CIO community and the ICT ecosystem. It was one of the largest networking events in the industry that brought together over 400 CIOs and Digital Leaders. "CIO CHOICE, THE platform honouring trusted and dependable ICT brands selected by CIOs and Digital Leaders, plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration among India's top enterprises and ICT Brands. This partnership facilitates joint efforts to address intricate business challenges effectively. In the ever-evolving digital realm, technology serves as a catalyst for business expansion, elevating customer interactions, and stimulating innovation and change. The CIO CHOICE platform exemplifies the strength of genuine partnerships, driving progress for enterprises and ICT Brands alike," said Anoop Mathur, Founder, CORE Media.



# 41,000 HOMES TO BE DELIVERED ON DWARKA EXPRESSWAY, SOHNA IN 3 YEARS

Dwarka Expressway and Sohna in Gurugram are set to witness a major housing boom with 41,000 units to be delivered from 2025 onwards.

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Expressway and Sohna in Gurugram areas are set to witness the delivery of 41,000 housing units over the next three years from 2025 onwards, according to Square Yards.

Dwarka Expressway is alone likely to witness the delivery of over 25,000 units by major developers by 2027. During the same period, Sohna is expected to witness delivery of around 16,000 units.

With the ongoing infrastructure developments both - Dwarka Expressway and Sohna - are witnessing strong demand and are among the fastest growing micro-markets in the Delhi NCR region. These regions are also expected to witness new supplies matching the demand trend.

Dwarka Expressway is set for a steady flow of housing deliveries over the next three years. In 2025, around 12,500 units will be handed over, followed by 5,500 units



in 2026, and another 7,000 units in 2027.

With these deliveries, the area is expected to continue its rise as one of Gurugram's top real estate destinations, supported by ongoing infrastructure upgrades and growing demand from homebuyers.

Post-pandemic, both micro-markets have seen a significant rise in real estate supply, fuelled by better infrastructure and increased developer interest. In the past three years, Dwarka Expressway has led the way, with over 10,000 units delivered each year.

On the other hand, Sohna has seen such a huge boost in supply since 2020 that it's already surpassed the total number of units delivered in the entire decade before that, from 2010 to 2020.

Along the Dwarka Expressway, Signature Global has established a strong presence with key projects like 'Signature Global City' and 'De-luxe DXP' in Sector 37D, contributing significantly to the area's new launches over the past four years.

Other major developers, such as Krisumi Corpora-

tion, Conscient One, Smart World Developers, and Sobha Realty, have also played a vital role in driving the growth of the luxury residential segment, enhancing the region's overall appeal.

In Sohna, developers such as Signature Global, Ganga Realty, and Central Park Group have strategically secured key land parcels and are advancing with a variety of ongoing and upcoming projects. This underscores their confidence in the region's strong growth potential and its promising future in the real estate market.

Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder & Chairman, Signature Global (India) Ltd., while commenting on the evolving real estate landscape in the region, said, "With a steady flow of new housing projects set to be delivered, these regions are becoming key investment destinations, offering tremendous opportunities for both investors and homebuyers."

He added, "With the momentum continuing, we can expect further growth and long-term value, making these areas essential for anyone looking to capitalize on Gurugram's real estate potential."

Speaking about the region's growth potential, Akash Khurana, President and CEO, Krisumi Corporation, said, "With significant infrastructure improvements underway, the area is attracting growing demand from homebuyers and investors alike. This development is a testament to the area's potential and its crucial role in shaping the future of the city's real estate market."

## Alieus Hedge Fund seeks AIF registration in India

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Alieus Hedge Fund, a rapidly growing global investment firm, has officially applied online for Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) registration in India on 24th January 2025. This strategic move aligns with the firm's commitment to expanding its presence in key financial markets and providing innovative investment opportunities to Indian investors.

With a strong international footprint, Alieus Hedge Fund has garnered significant interest from investors across India, the UK, Malaysia, Singapore, Mexico, and other regions. The application for AIF registration marks a critical step in the fund's journey to offer structured and compliant investment solutions under India's regulatory framework.

"Our decision to apply for AIF registration in India reflects our confidence in the country's growing financial ecosystem," said Ashish



Jain, Founder & CEO of Alieus Hedge Fund. "We see tremendous potential in India's investment landscape and are committed to bringing our global expertise to Indian investors through a well-regulated and transparent fund structure."

Alieus Hedge Fund has been actively engaging with investors through exclusive events in major financial hubs, including Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Azerbaijan, Mauritius, and beyond. The successful event in Prayagraj, India, further reaffirmed the growing interest in Alieus Fund's investment strategies.

Upon approval, the AIF registration will enable Alieus Hedge Fund to

offer diversified investment solutions, catering to high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), institutional investors, and family offices in India. The fund aims to leverage its deep market insights and data-driven strategies to generate consistent returns while adhering to regulatory best practices.

About Alieus Hedge Fund: Alieus Hedge Fund is a global investment firm specializing in hedge fund strategies, alternative investments, and wealth management. Focusing on innovation, transparency, and performance, the firm has built a reputation for delivering strong returns to investors worldwide.

## Gunnebo Entrance Control opens new offices in Gurgaon, Mumbai

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Gunnebo Entrance Control has strengthened its presence in India with the opening of two new offices in Gurgaon and Mumbai.

As a global leader in physical security solutions, this strategic expansion highlights the company's commitment to providing advanced security solutions tailored to the growing needs of the Indian market.

The new offices will house the operation functions of the company's presence in India, with the ability to showcase innovative solutions for visitors to discover the benefits of advanced single-person detection in their access control strategies.

Says Chetanya Vali, Gunnebo Entrance Control Vice President - India: "Gunnebo Entrance Control is taking a significant step forward in India by bringing our expertise closer to our customers. Our latest technologies are designed to create seamless, secure environments that facilitate effortless movement while ensuring the highest levels of protection."

Thomas Porquet, Gunnebo Entrance Control Vice Presi-

dent of South APAC, added: "This expansion not only strengthens our foothold in India but also reinforces our commitment to innovation and service excellence. With these new offices, we aim to create deeper collaborations and drive advancements in the security landscape that can continue to make a difference."

The two office openings with a growing workforce of over 70 employees spanning across the country, highlight Gunnebo Entrance Control's dedication to shaping the future of secure access solutions in India, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in the industry.

Tina Hughan, Global Marketing & Sustainability Director commented: "Security is not just about technology - it's about trust. As we expand in India, we are committed to delivering solutions from a dedicated team that enhance safety and supports sustainable, intelligent infrastructure for the future."

The new office openings align with Gunnebo Entrance Control's global strategy to enhance regional presence, improve customer support, and drive innovation.

# Crisil Coalition Greenwich reveals 2025 Best Bank, Share Leader award winners

TBG NETWORK  
NEW YORK

Crisil Coalition Greenwich today announced the 2025 Best Bank and Share Leader award winners. Over 60 banks were recognized globally, regionally and by country in the corporate banking segment. J.P. Morgan took top honors as the 2025 Best Bank globally for Corporate Banking and Corporate Cash Management. The 2025 Best Bank globally for Corporate Foreign Exchange is HSBC. J.P. Morgan and HSBC earn top honors as the world's best global corporate bank and corporate FX bank respectively from Crisil Coalition Greenwich.

"For decades, Crisil Coalition Greenwich has conducted high touch interviews with thousands of companies around the world annually to determine which banks deliver the best products and services," says Dr. Tobias Mirarka, Global Head of Corporate Banking at Crisil Coalition Greenwich. "In



2025, we distilled our findings to identify J.P. Morgan and HSBC as the year's best global corporate banks in their respective categories."

New Award, Same Trusted Methodology

The Coalition Greenwich Leader designation has long been the industry's standard among banks and corporates across Corporate Banking, Cash Management, Foreign Exchange, Trade Finance, and other core bank business lines. These awards help companies identify the top performers in specific banking functions and for banks to benchmark themselves against rivals both locally and regionally.

For 2025, Crisil Coalition Greenwich retained the Share Leader award and revamped the renowned Quality Leader and Excellence designations as Best Bank awards to enhance clarity, marketability and prestige. With the new and expanded awards, the same industry-leading data and analytical rigor that made the Quality and Excellence Leaders the most trusted and cited award in global banking is retained.

Award winners receive quality ratings from corporate clients that top those of competing banks by a statistically significant margin. The analysis considers coverage intensity, ease of doing

business, advisory capabilities, product and digital capabilities, and other factors. "Our expertise in market analysis is why our awards are the industry gold standard," says Dr. Tobias Mirarka. "They comprise direct feedback from objective and in-depth interviews with corporate decision-makers and are built on comprehensive and robust market analysis."

View the 2025 Coalition Greenwich Award Winners:

2025 Coalition Greenwich Leaders: Global Corporate Banking, Cash Management and FX

2025 Coalition Greenwich Leaders: Asian Corporate Banking, Cash Management and FX

2025 Coalition Greenwich Leaders: European Corporate Banking, Cash Management and FX

2025 Coalition Greenwich Leaders: U.S. Corporate Banking, Cash Management and FX

2025 Coalition Greenwich Leaders: U.K. Commercial Banking

About Crisil Coalition Greenwich

Crisil Coalition Greenwich is a leading provider of strategic benchmarking, analytics and insights to the financial services industry, and specializes in providing unique, high-value and actionable information to help clients measure and drive their business performance.

For more information, visit CoalitionGreenwich.Crisil.com

About Crisil

Crisil is a global, insights-driven analytics company. Our extraordinary domain expertise and analytical rigour help clients make mission-critical decisions with confidence.

Large and highly respected firms partner with us for the most reliable opinions on risk in India, and for uncovering powerful insights and turning risks into opportunities globally. We are integral to multiplying their opportunities and success.

Headquartered in India, Crisil is majority owned by S&P Global.

Founded in 1987 as India's first credit rating agency, our expertise today extends across businesses: Crisil Ratings, Crisil Intelligence, Crisil Coalition Greenwich and Crisil Integral IQ.

Our globally diverse workforce operates in the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Australia and the Middle East, setting the standards by which industries are measured.

For more information, visit www.Crisil.com

Connect with us: LinkedIn

| Twitter

Crisil Privacy Notice

Crisil respects your privacy. We may use your contact information, such as your name, address, and email id to fulfil your request and service your account and to provide you with additional information from Crisil.

For further information, please click here.

Disclaimer Crisil Ltd (Crisil) has taken due care and caution in preparing this Report. Information has been obtained by Crisil from sources it considers reliable.

## Mitsu Chem Plast reports 110% export growth, expanding globally

TBG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Mitsu Chem Plast Limited (Mitsu) (BSE: 540078), a global leading player in polymer-based moulded products, particularly in hospital furniture parts, has proudly announced achieving a remarkable 110% growth in export value during the 2024-25 fiscal period (April to December). This export growth, specifically in hospital furniture, underscores the company's aggressive expansion into new markets and its strengthened dominance in existing ones, marking a significant leap in its global presence.

Export Performance (2024-25) (April to December)



● New Markets Entered: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Europe, Malaysia, Portugal, France, Germany, Armenia, the USA, and the Maldives.

● Export Value: Rs140.08 lakhs

● Bagged new export approvals from five countries.

● Export Performance (2023-24) (April to March)

● Prominent Export Markets: Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, UAE, Europe, Turkey, Israel, Kuwait, and Malaysia.

● Export Value: Rs66.69 lakhs

● Diverse Product Portfolio

● Industrial Plastic Packaging: Drums, jerry cans, bottles, jars.

● Infrastructure Furniture Components: Chair shells.

● Hospital Furniture Parts: Panels, railings, planks, trolley parts.

● Rescue and Safety Equip-

ment: Spine boards. Mitsu Chem Plast's commitment to innovation, reinforced by rigorous in-house testing and quality control, has earned it a reputation as a trusted partner to OEMs across industries like chemical, pharmaceutical, healthcare and infrastructure. Its impressive export growth showcases a bold vision for global expansion and adaptability in advance markets. Driven by consistent quality and cutting-edge products, the company is carving a path to greater global influence, setting new standards in manufacturing excellence, innovation, and sustained leadership.

Commenting on the performance, Sanjay Dedhia, Managing Director of

Mitsu Chem Plast Limited said, "Our journey of innovation and excellence has reached new heights in FY 2024-25, with exports soaring to Rs140.08 lakhs. Breaking into new markets like the USA, Europe, and the Maldives, while fortifying our presence in established regions, reflects the growing global trust in Mitsu Chem Plast's products."

This milestone isn't just about numbers; it's a story of resilience, teamwork, and a relentless drive to deliver value. As we expand our horizons, we are not just exporting products - we are exporting quality, reliability, and a promise of excellence. The future holds endless possibilities, and we are ready to seize them together."

## Ashiyana: A Celestial Haven by Krish Kothari

TBG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Perched high above Mumbai's bustling streets, overlooking the serene waters of the Arabian Sea, Ashiyana redefines luxury living. Designed by KKD Studio, this penthouse on Nepean Sea Road, sprawling across 20,000 sq. ft., embodies the essence of a "villa in the sky," seamlessly blending the vibrancy of the outdoors with an intimate, personal sanctuary. A project deeply inspired by both its discerning clients and its breathtaking surroundings, Ashiyana is an architectural masterpiece that brings together grandeur and minimalism in perfect harmony.

With the city's skyline as its canvas, Ashiyana is more than just a residence - it's a retreat suspended in the sky, where the vast openness of the sea and the curated elegance of the interiors coexist effortlessly. The penthouse stands as a testament to meticulous craftsmanship, architectural finesse, and an uncompromising commitment to excellence.

In most high-end residences, achieving a balance between grandeur and minimalism is a delicate task. In Krish Kothari's case, however, the approach was different - instead of choosing one over the other, he seamlessly integrated both philosophies.



# SENSEX SOARS 1397 POINT, NIFTY ABOVE 23,730 AS US PAUSES TARIFFS

Despite strong market gains, macroeconomic concerns persist as the rupee drops to 87.15, raising inflation and stability fears.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Indian stock market soared on Tuesday, closing sharply higher as Sensex surged 1,397.07 points to end at 78,583.81, while Nifty jumped 378.20 points to close at 23,739.25.

Investor sentiment improved significantly, with 39 Nifty stocks advancing and 12 declining. Among the top gainers in the Nifty 50 were Shriram Finance, Larsen & Toubro (LT), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), IndusInd Bank, and Adani Ports. On the other hand, Trent, ITC Hotels, Britannia, Hero MotoCorp, and Nestle India were the top laggards.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, attributed the sharp rally to improving global market sentiment.

He said, "Yesterday, the Indian market struggled to absorb the optimism gener-

KEY POINTS

- **Market rally:** Sensex surged 1,397 points to 78,583.81, Nifty gained 378 points to 23,739.25.
- **Top movers:** Gainers – Shriram Finance, L&T, BEL; Laggards – Trent, ITC Hotels, Britannia.
- **Key drivers:** Global sentiment boost, RBI rate cut hopes, but FII outflows and weak rupee raise concerns.
- **Expert take:** Focus on strong stocks amid volatility; market momentum

ated by the good union budget due to heightened geopolitical risks stemming from 'Trump tariff war'. However, India could outperform in a weak global market, and as a rebound has been triggered in the global sentiment, it has fuelled a sharp surge in domestic equities."

"While overall market sentiment remains positive,

large-cap stocks are the preferred choice. Meanwhile, banking stocks are rallying in anticipation of a rate cut in this week's RBI policy, the new governor's first meet," he explained.

Despite the stock market's strong performance, concerns remain over macroeconomic factors. The Indian rupee hits a low of 87.15, rais-

ing concerns about inflation and economic stability.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have been selling heavily, offloading Rs5,285 crore worth of equities in the cash segment over the last three sessions. In contrast, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs3,532 crore.

## PM Internship Scheme not meant for jobs: FM replies in Parliament

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that the Prime Minister Internship Scheme announced last year was not meant to provide jobs, instead it was to provide exposure and skill to the youth to make them job ready.

"The intent of the program itself is not to provide job, but to provide an exposure, and through the internship, and kind of awareness of what is there in the market for which they have to be trained," the finance minister told Rajya Sabha, responding to a question during the Question Hour.

She clarified and said that internship is different from employment, and explained the details of PM internship scheme.

She asserted that the government wanted to allow



youth to get an internship or exposure in the top 500 companies.

"With the exposure and the internship having been completed, they would be better placed to seek jobs," she added.

In the budget of July 2024, the BJP-led NDA government has announced five different kinds of approaches for a Viksit Bharat. Among those was measures for promotion of manufac-

turing and services through internship.

The government announced launching a comprehensive scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top companies to 1 crore youth over 5 years.

They will gain exposure for 12 months to real-life business environments, varied professions and employment opportunities.

An internship allowance of Rs 5,000 per month along with a one-time assistance of Rs 6,000 are being provided. Companies will be expected to bear the training cost and 10 per cent of the internship cost from their CSR funds.

The internship programme was meant for people who, till then, couldn't find an opportunity because either they were not skilled enough, or they were not trained enough.

## RBI may use CRR as a regulatory intervention tool: SBI

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may start using the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) more as a regulatory intervention tool rather than just a liquidity management tool in the future, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report highlighted the urgent need for the central bank to revisit its existing liquidity management framework.

It said "The RBI could look into using CRR more as a regulatory intervention tool / countercyclical liquidity buffer rather than as a liquidity tool in future. There is an urgent need to revisit the existing liquidity management framework by RBI"

Currently, the RBI uses various measures to man-



age liquidity in the banking system, such as Open Market Operations (OMO), CRR, and the repo rate.

However, the report suggests that the CRR should be seen as a countercyclical liquidity buffer rather than a liquidity adjustment tool. This means the central bank could use CRR to control liquidity in the economy depending on the financial situation, rather

## 41,000 housing units to be delivered on Dwarka Expressway

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Dwarka Expressway and Sohna in Gurugram areas are set to witness the delivery of 41,000 housing units over the next three years from 2025 onwards, according to Square Yards.

Dwarka Expressway is alone likely to witness the delivery of over 25,000 units by major developers by 2027. During the same period, Sohna is expected to witness delivery of around 16,000 units.

With the ongoing infrastructure developments both - Dwarka Expressway and Sohna - are witnessing strong demand and are among the fastest growing micro-markets in the Delhi NCR region. These regions are also expected to witness new supplies matching the demand trend.

Dwarka Expressway is set for a steady flow of housing deliveries over the next three years. In 2025, around 12,500 units will be handed over, followed by 5,500 units in 2026, and another

By 2027, Dwarka Expressway will see over 25,000 unit deliveries, while Sohna expects around 16,000.

7,000 units in 2027.

With these deliveries, the area is expected to continue its rise as one of Gurugram's top real estate destinations, supported by ongoing infrastructure upgrades and growing demand from homebuyers.

Post-pandemic, both micro-markets have seen a significant rise in real estate supply, fuelled by better infrastructure and increased developer interest. In the past three years, Dwarka Expressway has led the way, with over 10,000 units delivered each year.

On the other hand, Sohna has seen such a huge boost in supply since 2020 that it's already surpassed the total number of units delivered in the entire decade before that, from 2010 to 2020.

Along the Dwarka Expressway, Signature Global has established a strong

presence with key projects like 'Signature Global City' and 'De-luxe DXP' in Sector 37D, contributing significantly to the area's new launches over the past four years.

Other major developers, such as Krisumi Corporation, Conscient One, Smart World Developers, and Sobha Realty, have also played a vital role in driving the growth of the luxury residential segment, enhancing the region's overall appeal.

In Sohna, developers such as Signature Global, Ganga Realty, and Central Park Group have strategically secured key land parcels and are advancing with a variety of ongoing and upcoming projects. This underscores their confidence in the region's strong growth potential and its promising future in the real estate market.

The report also predicts that the RBI may cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in its February 2025 policy meeting. Over the entire rate cut cycle, the reduction could be at least 75 basis points.

purpose as a policy tool and should be reviewed.

According to the report, the ownership of government securities (G-Secs) is expected to remain unchanged in FY26. However, there could still be an OMO gap of around Rs 1.7 trillion. This indicates that the RBI might need to introduce more liquidity measures on a sustained basis to ensure smooth functioning of the banking system.

The report also predicts that the RBI may cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in its February 2025 policy meeting. Over

the entire rate cut cycle, the reduction could be at least 75 basis points.

It stated that in the first phase the RBI is expected to cut the repo rate twice in succession in February and April 2025. Then there could be a break in June 2025 and the second round of rate cuts may begin in October 2025.

The SBI report suggests that the RBI could revamp its liquidity management approach, shift CRR's role to a regulatory tool, and make changes to its policy rate framework.

## Vipin Aggarwal: Innovation hubs, green tech key to growth

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Vipin Aggarwal, a seasoned investor and financial expert with over 30 years of experience in capital markets and private equity, underscores the transformative potential of innovation hubs and startups in driving India's economic progress. A steadfast advocate of sustainable development, Aggarwal envisions a future where green energy and disruptive technologies catalyze economic growth while addressing environmental challenges.

India has long aspired to become a \$10 trillion economy, and its economic success hinges on the growth of multiple sectors. In the coming years, green energy, technology, and startups are poised to play a pivotal role in achieving this ambitious goal.

**INDIA'S GREEN ENERGY VISION**

India's commitment to deriving 50% of its electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030 is a bold step toward a sustainable energy future. The nation currently ranks:

STARTUP CORNER

- 4th globally in renewable energy installed capacity.
- 4th in wind power capacity.
- 5th in solar power capacity.

With approximately 300 sunny days annually, India has the potential to generate 5,000 billion units of electricity per year from solar energy. The solar sector alone has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 36.5% over the past 11 years, driven by supportive government policies and robust invest-



ments.

The clean energy sector-encompassing solar, wind, green hydrogen, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery energy storage systems (BESS)--has seen significant investment activity:

- **Residential Rooftop Solar:** Over \$2 billion raised since 2015.
- **Companies like Inox Wind and Suzlon Energy:** Secured substantial funding.
- **Green Hydrogen Projects:** Initiatives like Hygenco and Ayana Renewable Power are attracting large-scale investments.
- **EV Startups:** Ola Electric and Ather Energy have

collectively raised \$550 million.

- **BESS Investments:** Amount to \$9 to \$10 billion annually.

Indian startups, integral to the nation's innovation landscape, are poised to make a substantial economic impact. A Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) report projects that by FY 2029-30, startups will contribute \$1 trillion to India's GDP and create 50 million new jobs. The same report anticipates the emergence of 300 new unicorns--startups valued at \$1 billion or more--by 2035. This vibrant ecosystem positions India as a global leader in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Aggarwal has played a pivotal role in fostering this ecosystem, supporting over 25 groundbreaking startups across diverse industries. Among these are Indlaw.com, now part of Thomson Reuters, and Ieraonline.com, a Moody's venture. His involvement with Zamil Renewable Energy, a large-scale solar power initiative in Gujarat, exemplifies his belief

in sustainable energy as a cornerstone of economic progress. Aggarwal's investments consistently bridge financial expertise with industrial innovation, delivering solutions that are both profitable and sustainable.

In his TEDx Sukhna Lake talk, Aggarwal described climate change as one of the greatest business opportunities for entrepreneurs. He highlighted the potential for innovation to address global environmental challenges. A notable example of his vision is his investment in a startup that converts PET bottles into fiber. Under his guidance, the company achieved a market capitalization of \$2 billion within just nine years, showcasing the immense possibilities of green entrepreneurship.

Government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, with an outlay of Rs1.97 lakh crore (over \$24 billion), focus on 14 sectors to enhance manufacturing, foster technological advancements, and elevate

India's global position.

This aligns with the Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision, driving investments in renewable energy and advanced technologies through incentives for solar modules, EV components, and green hydrogen.

Similarly, Startup India has eased compliance, provided tax exemptions, and funding support for entrepreneurs. Schemes like FAME and the National Green Hydrogen Mission have further strengthened private sector investments, creating a thriving innovation ecosystem.

India's economic success is intertwined with its ability to harness the potential of green energy and startups. By fostering a supportive ecosystem, the government and private sector can unlock unprecedented growth opportunities. As India marches toward its \$10 trillion economy goal, the combined efforts of innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship will shape a prosperous and environmentally responsible future.

## Every 5th home linked with stock market: NSE

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

A fifth of Indian households are now linked to the stock markets, as the total market capitalisation of Indian companies has grown six times over the last decade, says a report by National Stock Exchange.

The report highlighted that the number of accounts linked to stock market investments has crossed 21 crore, with over 18 crore demat accounts. Notably, the last two crore investors joined in just over five months for each crore. The year 2024 alone saw 2.32 crore new investors, the highest ever in a single year.

It said "A fifth of Indian households have a link to the markets, today, as the market capitalisation of Indian companies has increased 6x in this period".

The report also highlighted significant wealth creation for Indian households through stock market investments. It stated that the household wealth in Indian equities has increased

by over Rs 40 lakh crore in the last five years and by over Rs 28 lakh crore in the last three years. In 2024 alone, household investors saw a wealth gain of Rs 13.2 lakh crore.

The wealth estimation is based on the annual change in individual holdings in NSE-listed companies, both through direct stock investments and mutual funds.

NSE said "the household wealth in Indian equities has increased by over Rs 40 lakh crore in the last five years, and over Rs 28 lakh crore in the last three years".

The report assumed that individuals hold the same proportion of mutual fund investments as they do in equity assets under management (AUM).

Despite market ups and downs, Indian investors continue to show confidence in stock markets. NSE stated that as of September 2024, individual investors directly and indirectly own 17.6 per cent of the Indian stock market, a significant jump from previous years.



# THE FORGOTTEN INMATES: GENDER-SENSITIVE PRISON REFORM IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

## OPINION

DR. PYALI CHATTERJEE



Prison reform is a vital aspect of any justice system, as it seeks to uphold the dignity and humanity of individuals within the penal system. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer aptly remarked, “Every prisoner is a person, and personhood holds the human potential which, if unfolded, makes a robber a Valmiki and a sinner a saint.” In India, the principles of reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration (3Rs) form the foundation of prison management. These efforts aim to provide spiritual, moral, vocational, and educational development to inmates, enabling their reintegration into society as law-abiding citizens. The Indian Jail Committee of 1919–20 first recognized the importance of reformation and rehabilitation, while Justice Krishna Iyer’s 1987 committee emphasized the urgent need for gender-sensitive approaches, particularly for women prisoners.

The condition of women prisoners in India continues to be a pressing concern. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), women comprised 23,772 of the total 573,220 prisoners as of December 31, 2022. Overcrowding remains a critical

issue, with women’s prisons operating at 60.1% capacity, and certain states like Uttarakhand, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh exceeding 100%. Additionally, 1,537 women prisoners live with 1,764 children, complicating the challenges further. Most female prisoners fall within the 30–50 age group, followed by younger women aged 18–30. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recommends the early release of pregnant women, those with dependent children, and those who are ill. However, poor implementation raises questions about the actual beneficiaries of these provisions.

The North-East faces unique challenges in prison reform. Limited infrastructure and inadequate rehabilitation facilities for women prisoners exacerbate the issues. Only Mizoram and Tripura have dedicated women’s jails, and many prisons fail to meet even basic needs. Reports suggest that due to the lack of gender-neutral laws in the Assam Jail Manual, women prisoners are denied essential provisions such as special diets for pregnant lady and sanitary napkins. The treatment of women inmates is often inhumane, leaving them vulnerable to mental and sexual abuse. Furthermore, anxiety and mental health issues among women prisoners are prevalent, but due to insufficient staff and resources, these problems frequently go untreated. Another point to high light here is that The Mental Health Act, 2017 had



definition for mental illness but it has failed to define and includes anxiety in it.

Gender sensitivity in prison management is critical to addressing these issues. The Model Prison Manual 2016 provides guidelines such as appointing a lady DIG to oversee women’s prisons and ensuring the provision of sanitary napkins. However, the lack of implementation remains a significant hurdle. Reforming prison systems requires training custodial staff to handle inmates humanely and effectively. Moreover, Assam’s Jail Manual should be amended to incorporate gender-neutral language and provisions to support the reformation of women

prisoners.

Globally, there is growing recognition of prisoners’ rights and the importance of alternatives to incarceration. The United Nations’ Tokyo Rules emphasize that imprisonment should be a last resort, advocating non-custodial measures like fines, probation, and community service. Open-air prisons in India, such as Rajasthan’s Sangar and Pune’s Yerawada for women, offer a rehabilitative approach. However, only four out of India’s 63 open-air prisons accommodate women. Expanding these facilities for female inmates, particularly pregnant women and mothers, is essential.

Programs like the Swadhar

Greh Scheme provide a glimmer of hope. This initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, offers shelter, food, legal aid, and counseling to women in distress, including those released from prison. The 90:10 funding ratio between the central and state governments in the North-East reflects the region’s specific needs. Additionally, the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, allows courts to release offenders under certain conditions, promoting rehabilitation. However, its uneven application across states underscores the need for better coordination between judicial and correctional institutions.

The Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003, enables foreign prisoners to serve their sentences in their home countries. This legislation is particularly beneficial for convicted foreign women prisoners and can also help reduce overcrowding in Indian jails. Similarly, community-based sentences, parole, and furlough can be implemented more widely to alleviate overcrowding while

supporting inmates’ reintegration into society.

Addressing these issues requires immediate and focused action. Building additional women-specific prison facilities, improving existing ones, and ensuring the proper implementation of the Model Prisons Act, 2023, are crucial steps. Engaging local communities and tribal councils can help develop culturally appropriate rehabilitation programs. Increased funding and staff training are also vital for enhancing the efficiency of the system and ensuring humane treatment for inmates.

Prison reform is not merely a legal obligation but a moral duty. By prioritizing reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration, India can ensure that its prison system offers a second chance to those incarcerated. Addressing the unique challenges faced by women prisoners and the North-East will create a fairer, more equitable system that benefits society as a whole.

*Dr. Pyali Chatterjee is HOD & Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law at ICAI University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India*

## THE DELHI ELECTION ROUND-UP

Campaigning for the Delhi Elections has ended and the capital city will go to vote on 5th February. One interesting take away from the campaign was the Citizens’ Voice. While covering the campaign I spoke to a cross section of voters. Those in the slums and lower income groups appreciated the various bouquets of welfare schemes that were being promised by each political party in the fray. However in South Delhi, while talking to a group of professionals and salaried class voters, the refrain was unanimous. In fact one voter identified himself as the Taxpayer who pays for all the freebies promised by the politicians. That was the mood of the entire group, a sense of outrage that instead of delivering on development and jobs, the politicians are resorting to the band aid of handouts and that too with the other hand in the taxpayer’s pocket. Those who are hurt the most belong to the salaried class and the middle class

To an extent Nirmala Sitharaman the finance minister has tried to assuage the middle class with the budget. But, as the joke goes, you have cut income tax. Now, how about giving us some income? The demand for jobs and unemployment is still there and none of the government schemes seem to have made much headway including the internship scheme. Lay-offs rather than recruitment slips



are being handed out. This is a problem not just for the next government of Delhi but for each and every government that rules our states as well as the government at the centre.

Apart from that, who has the edge in Delhi? Well it did seem that initially the Aam Admi Party was ahead with a huge margin between it and the BJP with the Congress being reduced to the role of a spoiler. But of late the BJP seems to be catching up and there is a real fight for the next chief ministership of Delhi. The BJP waited for the AAP campaign to peak before it unleashed its manifesto and stepped up its rallies and public meetings. Before that, as many as 27 leaders had been deployed throughout the city, ranging from stalwarts like Dharmendra Pradhan, Anurag Thakur etc with the Delhi incharge Jay Panda overseeing the operation under the aegis of Amit Shah himself. The reach out has been comprehensive, and the BJP does seem to have closed the gap substantially. Will it be enough to wrest the capital city away from the Aam Admi Party? The answer to that lies with the voter. The rest of us will know on 8th February which is counting day.

PRIYA SAHGAL

# Judicial overreach and training deficiencies: The urgent need for reform in lower courts

## OPINION

PRAGATI SOLANKI



In a landmark judgment dated 31st January 2025, the Supreme Court of India acquitted Karan Singh, who had been convicted under Sections 304B and 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for dowry death and cruelty. This ruling, which overturned both the trial court and High Court decisions, raises critical questions about judicial accountability

and the effectiveness of State Judicial Academies in training judges to handle sensitive cases.

### CASE BACKGROUND

Karan Singh’s marriage took place in 1996, and two years later, in 1998, his wife tragically committed suicide. Medical records confirmed the cause of death as asphyxia due to hanging. Following this, allegations of dowry harassment were levelled against Karan Singh and his family, leading to legal proceedings under Sections 304B and 498A of the IPC.

During the trial, Karan Singh’s parents were acquitted, but he was convicted in 2002 and sentenced to seven years of imprisonment. This con-

viction was upheld by the High Court in 2010. However, after spending over two decades fighting a flawed prosecution, the Supreme Court finally overturned his conviction in 2025.

### SUPREME COURT’S OBSERVATIONS

The Supreme Court meticulously examined the case, highlighting contradictions in the allegations, improper legal presumptions, and gaps in evidence. The apex court’s remarks—“It is for the State Judicial Academies to step in. Perhaps this is a case of moral conviction rather than legal reasoning” - emphasize the urgent need for improved judicial training. This acknowledgment sheds light on how lower courts often operate under societal pressure rather than strict adherence to legal principles.

### JUDICIAL OVER-REACH AND TRAINING GAPS

This case exemplifies how deficiencies in judicial training at the lower



*The role of State Judicial Academies is crucial in addressing these concerns. These institutions must ensure that judicial officers are adequately trained to distinguish between moral persuasion and legal reasoning. A well-structured training framework should incorporate:*

court level can lead to miscarriages of justice. Judges in lower courts frequently encounter complex cases involving

nuanced legal interpretations. However, their decisions sometimes reflect societal biases rather than objective le-

gal assessment, leading to wrongful convictions.

The role of State Judicial Academies is crucial in addressing these con-

cerns. These institutions must ensure that judicial officers are adequately trained to distinguish between moral persuasion and legal reasoning. A well-structured training framework should incorporate:

**Comprehensive Legal Education:** Regular workshops and refresher courses focusing on legal interpretation, evidence evaluation, and procedural fairness.

**Sensitivity Training:** Special emphasis on handling cases related to dowry deaths, domestic violence, and other gender-sensitive matters with impartiality.

**Case Law Review Sessions:** Encouraging judges to analyse landmark Supreme Court judgments to understand evolving legal principles.

**Monitoring and Accountability:** Establishing mechanisms to review lower court judgments and assess judicial performance periodically.

### IMPACT AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Supreme Court’s ruling in Karan Singh’s case is not merely an acquittal; it is a reflection of the larger systemic issue plaguing the lower judiciary. The prolonged legal battle endured by the accused underscores the devastating impact of flawed judicial reasoning. It is imperative that State Judicial Academies take proactive measures to bridge the knowledge gaps among judges, ensuring that future verdicts are grounded in legal precision rather than societal influences.

Strengthening judicial training at the lower court level will ultimately uphold the integrity of the judicial system and prevent miscarriages of justice. The case of Karan Singh serves as a stark reminder that an efficient judiciary is not merely about delivering judgments but about ensuring that justice is truly served.

*The author is Assistant Professor at HLM Group of Institutions, Ghaziabad.*



# CANCER CRUSADE

Cancer treatment remains financially burdensome, with 1.6 million new cases and 800,000 deaths in India in 2023, rising further.

## India's journey

India's journey in combating cancer is akin to a river carving its path through diverse terrains—navigating ancient traditions, embracing modern innovations, and integrating global advancements. This odyssey reflects a nation's resilience and adaptability in the face of a formidable adversary.

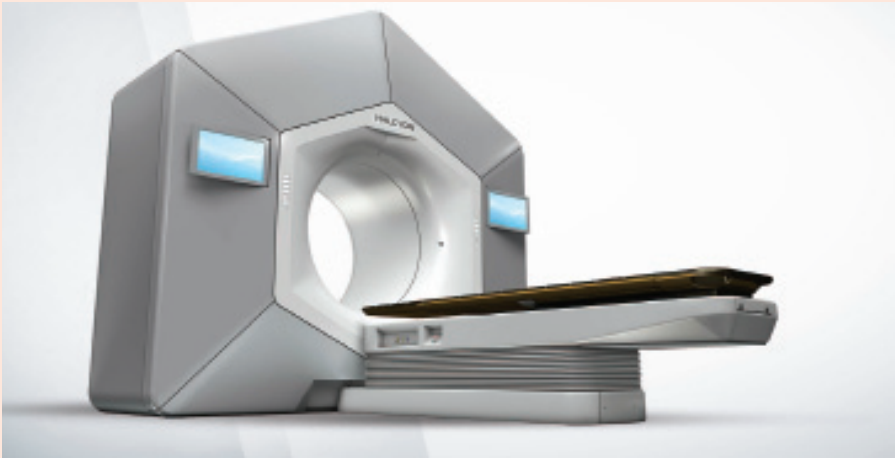
The earliest documented cases of cancer in India date back to the 17th century. Between 1860 and 1910, several audits and cancer case series were published by Indian medical practitioners, marking the initial recognition of the disease within the subcontinent. A landmark study by Nath and Grewal, utilizing autopsy, pathology, and clinical data between 1917 and 1932, confirmed that cancer was a common cause of death among middle-aged and elderly Indians.

In 1941, the Tata Memorial Hospital was established in Mumbai by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, serving as a cornerstone for cancer treatment and research in India. This institution laid the foundation for systematic cancer care and research, evolving into the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) in 1966, which now encompasses multiple centers across the country.

As the global understanding of cancer expanded, India actively integrated Western medical practices into its healthcare system. The adoption of radiotherapy in the mid-1920s marked a significant milestone, with radium brachytherapy being utilized for treatment. This method continued for over six decades, highlighting India's early commitment to embracing advanced medi-



Tata Memorial Hospital, founded by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust in 1941, is one of Asia's largest



Halcyon Radiation Therapy System was introduced in Eastern India on August 26, 2020. File

cal technologies. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy became integral components of cancer treatment protocols, reflecting a blend of imported methodologies and indigenous practices. The establishment of the National Cancer Institute Act in 1937 in the United States influenced India's approach to cancer research and treatment, fostering international collaboration.

### PIONEERING INDIGENOUS SOLUTIONS

In recent years, India has made significant strides in developing homegrown solutions to combat cancer. A landmark achievement was

the approval of NexCAR19 in October 2023, India's first indigenous CAR T-cell therapy. Developed through a collaboration between Indian researchers and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the United States, NexCAR19 offers a cost-effective and accessible treatment option for patients with certain types of blood cancers.

Radiotherapy technology has also seen substantial advancements. The introduction of the Halcyon radiotherapy system, for instance, has enhanced the precision and efficiency of cancer treatments in India. This system allows for rapid imaging and treatment de-

livery, improving patient comfort and outcomes.

### GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Recognizing the growing burden of cancer, the Government of India has implemented several initiatives to bolster healthcare infrastructure. Under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, and Stroke, substantial investments have been made to establish state-level cancer centers and upgrade medical colleges with oncology departments. These efforts aim to enhance accessibility and quality of cancer care across the nation.

India's progress in cancer research and treatment has been significantly influenced by the contributions of several notable figures:

● **Dr. Vasant Ramji Khanolkar (1895–1978):** Known as the Father of Pathology in India, Dr. Khanolkar's pioneering research laid the foundation for cancer pathology in the country. His extensive studies on the epidemiology of cancer provided critical insights into the disease's prevalence and characteristics within the Indian population. Beyond cancer, his work encompassed leprosy, reproductive anatomy, and family planning, significantly influencing medical education and research in India.

● **Dr. Kamal Ranadive (1917–2001):** A trailblazer in cancer research, Dr. Ranadive was renowned for her groundbreaking work on the links between cancers and viruses. In the 1960s, she established India's first tissue culture research laboratory at the Indian Cancer Research Centre in Mumbai, facilitating advanced studies in cancer biology. As a founding member of the Indian Women Scientists' Association, she also championed the cause of women in science.

● **Dr. Indraneel Mitra:** Upon returning to India in 1982, Dr. Mitra joined the Tata Memorial Centre as a consultant surgical oncologist. He is credited with inspiring a generation of clinicians towards critical thinking and scientific inquiry, transforming the institution into a vibrant academic center. Dr. Mitra conducted a landmark randomized trial on breast and cervical cancer screening involving 150,000 women, providing valuable



Dr. Vasant Ramji Khanolkar (1895–1978), the "Father of Pathology" in India, laid the foundation for cancer pathology research.

data for cancer prevention strategies in low- and middle-income countries.

● **Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee:** An Indian-born American oncologist and writer, Dr. Mukherjee is celebrated for his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer." This seminal work offers a comprehensive history of cancer, blending scientific facts with personal narratives, and has significantly influenced public understanding of the disease.

● **Dr. Nina Bhardwaj:** Recognized for her lifetime contributions to cancer research, particularly in the field of immunotherapy, Dr. Bhardwaj's work has focused on understanding the immune system's role in combating cancer, leading to innovative therapeutic approaches. In 2022, she received the Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research award from the

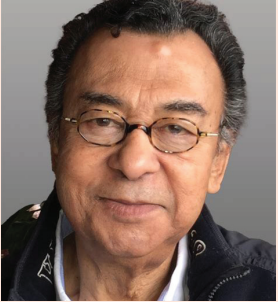


Dr. Kamal Ranadive (1917–2001) was a pioneering cancer researcher known for her work on cancer-virus links. Wikipedia

American Association of Indian Scientists in Cancer Research.

● **Dr. Ashok Venkitaraman:** Widely recognized for his contributions to understanding the genetics and biology of human cancer, Dr. Venkitaraman's research has elucidated how mutations in the BRCA2 gene lead to genome instability and cancer development. These insights have provided a scientific foundation for new cancer therapies and enhanced our understanding of carcinogenesis.

● **Dr. Kumaravel Somasundaram:** A professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has significantly advanced our understanding of glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. His research focuses on the genetic and epigenetic alterations that drive cancer development, particularly in gliomas. By analyzing changes in DNA methylation, chromatin modifications, and non-coding RNAs, his team aims to uncover novel therapeutic targets and biomarkers for early detection. A notable discovery from Dr. Somasundaram's lab involves the role of fibromodulin (FMOD), a molecule secreted by differentiated glioma cells. His research demonstrat-



Dr. Indraneel Mitra transformed Tata Memorial Centre in 1982 and led a major breast and cervical cancer screening trial for 150,000 women. doerlife.com

ed that FMOD promotes tumor growth by inducing angiogenesis through integrin-dependent Notch signaling in endothelial cells. Targeting FMOD in mouse models inhibited tumor growth and improved survival, suggesting its potential as a therapeutic target in glioblastoma.

● **Dr. Anil Suri:** Leading the Cancer Research Program at the National Institute of Immunology (NII) in New Delhi, discovered Sperm-Associated Antigen 9 (SPAG9) in 1998. SPAG9 is a novel tumor antigen expressed in various malignancies, including cancers of the reproductive tract and breast. This discovery has paved the way for new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Building on this discovery, Dr. Suri's team has developed a dendritic cell-based vaccine targeting SPAG9. Human clinical trials have been initiated in cervical cancer patients at the Cancer Institute (WIA) in Chennai. This innovative approach aims to harness the body's immune system to combat cancer cells expressing SPAG9, offering a promising avenue for immunotherapy.

## Debunking Myths about Cancer

On this World Cancer Day, as communities worldwide unite to raise awareness and promote understanding, it's crucial to address and dispel common myths surrounding cancer. Misinformation can lead to fear, stigma, and hinder effective prevention and treatment efforts.

### MYTH 1: CANCER IS A DEATH SENTENCE

Many people believe that a cancer diagnosis equates to an inevitable fatal outcome. However, advancements in medical research, early detection, and improved treatments have significantly increased survival rates for various cancers. For instance, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer exceeds 90%, and for prostate cancer, it's over 96%. Early detection and appropriate treatment are pivotal in improving outcomes.

### MYTH 2: CANCER IS CONTAGIOUS

Cancer cannot be transmitted from person to person through casual contact. While certain viruses and bacteria, such as human papillomavirus (HPV) and Helicobacter pylori, can increase the risk of developing specific types of cancer, the disease itself

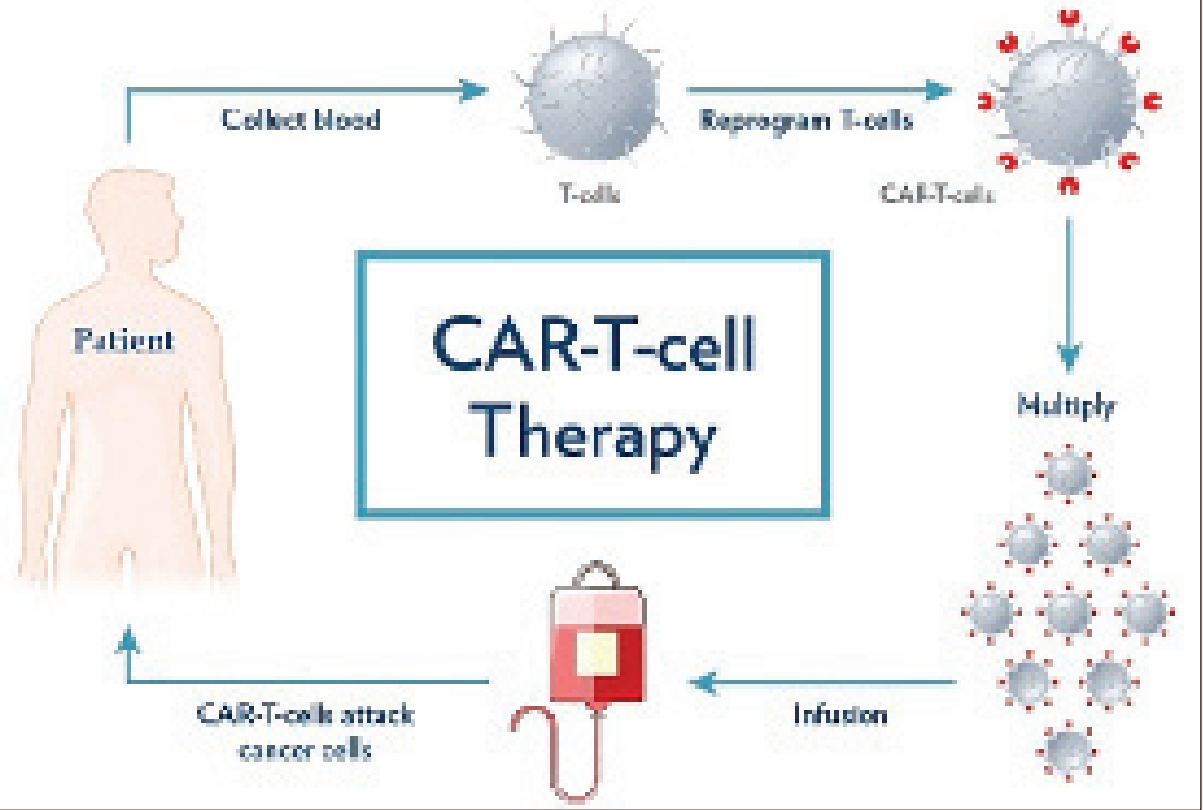
is not contagious. It's essential to understand that supporting someone with cancer poses no risk to your own health.

### MYTH 3: POSITIVE THINKING ALONE CAN CURE CANCER

Maintaining a positive attitude can improve quality of life and help individuals cope with the challenges of cancer treatment, but it is not a substitute for medical intervention. Relying solely on positive thinking without pursuing standard treatments can lead to disease progression. Comprehensive care involves a combination of medical treatments, psychological support, and healthy lifestyle choices.

### MYTH 4: SUGAR FEEDS CANCER

While cancer cells consume more glucose than normal cells, there is no conclusive evidence that eliminating sugar from your diet will prevent cancer growth. However, a balanced diet low in refined sugars contributes to overall health and helps maintain a healthy weight, which can reduce cancer risk. It's about moderation and making informed dietary choices rather than complete elimination.



CAR-T cell therapy enhances a patient's white blood cells to target and destroy cancer, reintroduced after chemotherapy via IV infusion. Chemotherapy stops cancer cell growth and division. ensureias.com

### MYTH 5: USING ANTIPERSPIRANTS OR DEODORANTS CAUSES BREAST CANCER

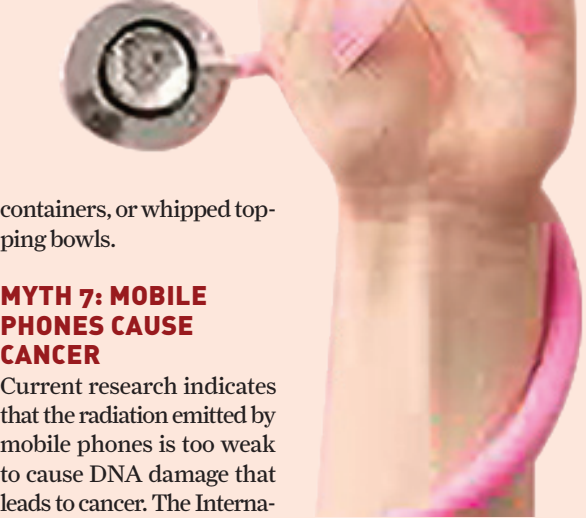
Concerns have been raised about chemicals in antiperspirants and deodorants, such as aluminum compounds, being absorbed through the skin and causing breast cancer. However, there is no conclusive evidence linking the use

Many people believe that a cancer diagnosis equates to an inevitable fatal outcome. However, advancements in medical research, early detection, and improved treatments have significantly increased survival rates for various cancers.

of these products to breast cancer. It's always a good practice to stay informed and consult healthcare professionals regarding personal care products.

### MYTH 6: MICROWAVING FOOD IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS RELEASES HARMFUL, CANCER-CAUSING SUBSTANCES

Using microwave-safe plastic containers is generally considered safe. However, plastics not intended for microwave use can melt and potentially leak chemicals into food. To minimize any risk, use containers labeled as microwave-safe and avoid microwaving margarine tubs, takeout



### MYTH 7: MOBILE PHONES CAUSE CANCER

Current research indicates that the radiation emitted by mobile phones is too weak to cause DNA damage that leads to cancer. The Interna-

tional Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic, but this classification also includes substances like aloe vera and pickled vegetables. There is no conclusive evidence linking mobile phone use to cancer.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra



# SUPREME COURT ISSUES NOTICE ON RTI ACTIVIST'S PLEA CHALLENGING AMENDMENT TO ELECTION RULES RESTRICTING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF POLL RECORDS

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Anjali Bhardwaj Versus Union Of India observed and has issued notice to the Union Government and the Election Commission of India wherein the petition is filed challenging the amendments to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 which seeks to restrict people's right to access election related records.

The bench comprising of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed and has issued notice in the petition tagged it with the similarly pending challenge by Congress Rajya Sabha MP and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh

In the present matter, the petition is filed by Anjali Bhardwaj who is a transparency activist and has been working on issues of transparency and accountability for several decades.

The petition filed states that the 2024 amend-



ment carried out in Rule 93(2) (a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, places unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to information of voters in so far as it introduces new restrictions beyond the records already specifically exempt from disclosure under Rule 93(1).

The petitioner in the plea argues that by way of the amendment, a restriction has been created on the access of all electoral records including the photography, videography and CCTV footage, various reports and diaries required to be maintained by election officials including the Presiding Officer's

Diary and the Report of the Returning Officer's Diary etc.

Therefore, before the amendment, the Rule stated "All other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection"

The amended provision now provides: 'All other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection'.

The court highlighted that the amendment violates the right to information under Article 19 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

The petition filed stated that, 'The impugned amendment is a blatant violation of article 19(1)

(a) and article 21 of the Constitution of India as it brings opaqueness and restricts people's fundamental right to access vital documents and papers related to elections.

The impugned amendment seeks to narrow and restrict public access to election related records.'

Therefore, the Handbook of the Returning Officer 2023 details the procedure for the storage and supply of important election documents and records including CCTV footage of the polling stations (Clause 19.10), copies of the results form, supply of 17C- account of votes recorded in each constituency.

Therefore, the supply of the CCTV footage and other electoral records for public inspection was possible.

The main relief sought by the petitioner in the plea include:

a) To issue an appropriate writ, order or direction setting aside and declaring the Conduct of Elections (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024 brought in through notification dated December 20, 2024 in official ga-

zette issued by Respondent No.1 amending Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 as being unconstitutional, illegal and void;

b) To Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction directing Respondent authorities to provide copies and allow inspection as sought by the petitioner as per her applications dated May 28, 2024 under Rule 93(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961;

c) To Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction laying down a time-bound mechanism for furnishing of copies of election papers under Rule 93(2) of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961;

d) To Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction directing Respondent No.1 to set aside the direction in point no. 3 of Para 19.8.2 of Handbook for Returning Officer, 2023 which places arbitrary restrictions on people's rights to access information regarding elections.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on March 17, 2025.

## Supreme Court dismisses PIL challenging provisions of Dowry Prohibition Act

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Rupshi Singh Versus Union Of India And Ors observed and has dismissed the Public Interest Litigation, PIL filed challenging validity of Section 2, Section 3, Section 4 and Section 8A of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 as "adverse to men".

The bench comprising of Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran passed the order.

The counsel appearing before the court that he was 'concerned about the invalidity of laws.'

Further, the petitioner submitted that the impugned provisions adversely affect

men.

The bench of Justice Gavai probed as to who the petitioner was. The counsel replied to the same, saying "I am a public spirited person".

The bench in the case asked the petitioner to approach the Parliament.

In the present mater, the Public Interest Litigation, PIL was filed by one Rupshi Singh, impleading the Union of India as well as the Prime Minister.

It has been assailed that Section 2, Section 3, Section 4 and Section 8A of the Dowry Prohibition Act which deal with definition of dowry (Section 2), penalty for giving or taking dowry (Section 3), penalty for demanding dowry (Section 4) and burden of proof in certain cases (Section 8A).

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has dismissed another Public Interest Litigation, PIL seeking a review of the anti-dowry laws and domestic cruelty judgments.

Following the tragic death of Atul Subhash, allegedly due to harassment by his wife, the petitioner in this case approached the Court seeking to ensure that husbands (and their family members) are not harassed in false cases of domestic violence and under dowry laws.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has dismissed the petition, saying making of law is upto the Parliament.

Accordingly, the court dismissed the PIL.

# Supreme Court: Forfeiture of earnest money permissible if it is not excessive amounting to penalty under Section 74 of Contract Act

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Godrej Projects Development Limited Versus Anil Karlekar And Ors observed and has clarified that forfeiting a reasonable earnest money deposit in a contract does not constitute a penalty under Section 74 of the Contract Act, 1872.

The court in the case held that, 'It can be seen that this Court has held that if the forfeiture of earnest money under a contract is reasonable, then it does not fall within Section 74 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, inasmuch as, such a forfeiture does not amount to imposing a penalty.'

The bench comprising of Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice S.V.N. Bhatti was hearing the present matter.

In the present matter, the Respondents, as flat



purchasers, challenged the Appellant builder's forfeiture of 20% of the basic sale price as earnest money following their cancellation of the flat booking.

The Appellants supported the forfeiture contending that the Apartment Buyer Agreement, ABA explicitly allowed forfeiture of 20% of BSP as earnest money in case of cancellation.

The respondent called the forfeiture of 20% as earnest money to be arbitrary and unfair demanding that the forfeiture should be limited to 10%.

However, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, NCDRC ruled in favor of the respondents-flat purchasers allowing the builder to forfeit only 10% of the Basic Sale Price, BSP as earnest money instead of 20% and directed the refund of the remaining amount with 6% interest per annum.

Assailing the decision of NCDRC's, the builder appealed to the Supreme Court.

The judgement authored by Justice Gavai ruled that the forfeiture of the 20% of the BSP

as earnest money by the Appellant was excessive and arbitrary qualifying as a penalty under Section 74 of the Contract Act against cancellation of the booking.

The court in the case justified the ruling of NCDRC's ruling to allow the builder to forfeit only 10% of the BSP as earnest money terming such an amount to be just and fair not qualifying as a penalty under Section 74 of the Contract Act.

The court also emphasized that while earnest money can be forfeited as security for performance, it should not be so excessive or punitive that it becomes a penalty. Thus, if a forfeiture is deemed excessive, the Court has the power to reduce the amount.

The court referred to the case of Maula Bux v. Union of India and Satish Batra v. Sudhir Rawal to hold that for-

feiture of reasonable earnest money could not be categorized as penalty.

The court upheld 10% forfeiture but removed interest on refunds.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case noted that, 'This court find that the NC-DRC was not justified in awarding interest on the amount to be refunded by the Appellant.'

Accordingly, the court partly allowed the appeal.

The counsel, Mr. Dhruv Mehta, Sr. Adv. Mr. Kapil Madan, Adv. Mr. Saurabh Gauba, Adv. Mr. Akshit Narula, Adv. Mr. Shailendra Pratap Singh, Adv. Mr. Randhir Kumar Ojha, AOR Ms. Surabhi Kapur, Adv. appeared for the Appellant(s).

The counsel, Mr. Ashwarya Sinha, AOR Mr. Aditya Malhotra, Adv. represented the Respondent(s).

# Supreme Court asks Union: Why detain illegal Bangladeshi immigrants here indefinitely instead of deporting them?

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Maja Daruwala v Union of India observed and has asked the Union Government about the purpose of keeping hundreds of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in detention centres in India for an indefinite period, instead of deporting them to their native country.

The bench comprising of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed that if an il-

legal immigrant from Bangladesh has been apprehended and convicted under the Foreigners Act, 1946, then they should be immediately deported to their native country after their period of sentence.

The bench wondered if they should be kept for an indefinite period in detention centres or correctional homes in India.

The bench in the case noted that there are almost 850 illegal migrants who are detained in correctional homes and sought to know the exact present figures.

The bench asked the Union that, 'How many

illegal immigrants as on date are in various detention camps/correctional homes after being convicted and having undergone the entire sentence under the Foreigners Act?.'

The bench asked that, 'We would like to understand from the respondents that once an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh has been convicted for the alleged offence is it not established that he is not a citizen of India. What is the idea in keeping hundreds of such illegal immigrants in Detention Camps or Correctional Homes for

an indefinite period of time?.'

Further, the bench also noted that as per Clause 2(v) of the circular issued by the Government of India dated November 25, 2009, the entire exercise is to be completed i.e. the exercise of deportation, verification etc.

within a period of 30 days. Thus, it sought to know why this Clause 2(v) is not being strictly complied with.

The court referred to the case Maja Daruwala v Union of India, which was transferred from the Calcutta High Court. In 2011, the petitioner wrote

a letter to the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice highlighting the plight of plight of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who after being convicted for the offence under the Foreigners Act are being kept confined to correctional homes. Thus, the letter pointed out that the immigrants, even after undergoing sentence, instead of being deported to their own country are being detained in the Correctional Homes of the State of West Bengal.

The Calcutta High Court took suo motu cognizance of the letter.

In 2013, the matter was

transferred to the Supreme Court.

On January 30, the court also sought to know from the Union of India what was expected of the State of West Bengal to do in these type of matters.

Further, the court noted that another bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Oka, has also questioned the Union Government over the indefinite detention of illegal immigrants in foreigners' detention centres in Assam.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on February 06, 2025.

## Supreme Court rejects plea to recall TN Governor RN Ravi for walking out of Assembly

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case CR Jaya Sukin v. The Secretary to the President and others observed and has dismissed a writ petition filed seeking directions to recall Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi for walking out of the Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly without delivering the customary address.

The Petitioner in Person CR Jaya Sukin stated that, 'He i.e., the governor has violated the entire constitution....he has insulted the people of the entire Tamil Nadu.'

The petitioner also sought directions to the President of

India to recall the Governor.

The petitioner cited Article 156 of the Constitution of India, as per which a Governor holds the post at the pleasure of the President.

The bench comprising of Chief Justice of India, CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case dismissed the petition, wherein the court noted that the ambit of prayers was outside the scope of the Court.

The Chief Justice of India, CJI observed that, 'This court cannot grant that prayer, we are also bound by the Constitution ...petition is dismissed.'



*The bench in the case directed that the order passed in the present writ petition shall be treated as a representation addressed to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in regards to matters pending for many decades in the High Court and pass an appropriate order in this regard on its administrative side.*

High Court of Judicature at Allahabad past more than three decades seeking directions that the matter should be heard expeditiously by the High Court. There being no doubt that the High Court of Allahabad is flooded with litigation. We are informed that each Hon'ble Judge in the High Court has with him or her around 15000 to 20000 matters. The High Court has a sanctioned strength of 160 Judges but unfortunately is working today with a strength of 84 Judges. The litigants are eagerly waiting for their matters be taken up and decided.

The court in the case stated

that, 'the only way out is to take necessary steps at the earliest in order to fill-up the vacancies recommending suitable persons on the basis of pure merit and ability. Let this petition be treated as a representation addressed to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. The Registry shall forward one copy of the Writ Petition along with this order to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. Let the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court look into the matter and pass an appropriate order in this regard on its administrative side.'





# THE BUSINESS GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY | 05 FEBRUARY 2025 | NEW DELHI

## AKHILESH VS. YOGI: MAHAKUMBH CLASH

Akhilesh Yadav, in Lok Sabha, demanded transparency on Mahakumbh stampede casualties, urging the government to reveal accurate death and injury figures.

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday continued his attack on the Uttar Pradesh government over the Mahakumbh stampede incident and said that the government allowed this incident to take place. Speaking to mediapersons, Yadav raised the question on why the Central government was not providing details of the actual number of people who died in the stampede that took place on January 29 this year at MahaKumbh venue in Prayagraj.

"If there was a huge gathering at that time, why was space not given in the Army premises? The Government allowed this incident to take place. Now, they do not want to give the details and if anyone tries to provide details, an FIR will be registered against them," the Samajwadi Party chief said.

Further, Yadav, the for-

KEY POINTS

- Akhilesh Yadav's attack: Accuses UP government of allowing the Mahakumbh stampede, suppressing casualty numbers, and punishing those revealing details. Demands transparency and strict action.
- Adityanath's counter: Slams opposition for "anti-Sanatan Dharm" conspiracy, defends govt response, and praises security forces for swift action.
- Casualty dispute: UP govt claims 30 dead, Congress alleges 1000. Opposition demands official death toll release.



mer chief minister of Uttar Pradesh claimed that the government knew the time of the incident. "Government knows the time of the incident. Imagine the number of deceased if the incident took place at 1 AM and Ambulances were coming till 11 AM. Several devotees could not even take a holy dip; they had to go back. Is this the kind of world infrastructure you want to make? CM Yogi Adityanath said that he has

made arrangements for 100 crore people...Now they are saying there is a conspiracy, the officials who are saying there is a conspiracy should be terminated by the Central Government," Akhilesh Yadav said.

Earlier today, while speaking in the Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav demanded transparency regarding the casualties at the Mahakumbh stampede, urging the government to pres-

ent accurate figures on the deaths, treatment of the injured, and arrangements made for the event. Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Akhilesh called for an all-party meeting to clarify the situation and recommended that disaster management and the lost and found centre be handed over to the Army. Yadav also pressed for strict punitive action against those

*UP CM Yogi Adityanath came down heavily on Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accusing him of "taking payoffs" to speak against Sanatan Dharm.*

responsible for the tragedy and those who concealed the facts, questioning the government's decision to suppress the numbers.

"For the Mahakumbh tragedy, there should be strict punitive action against those responsible and those who have hidden the truth should be punished.

We ask the double-engine government, if there was no guilt, then why were the figures suppressed, hidden and

erased?" he added.

"Log punye kamane aaye the aur apno ke shav lekar gaye hai (People came to earn merit, but they left with the bodies of their loved ones)," the SP Chief said. A stampede occurred at the MahaKumbh Mela during the second Shahi Snan on Mouni Amawasya. As per the Uttar Pradesh government at least 30 people were killed and around 60 individuals sustained injuries. Several opposition leaders raised concerns over the government's handling of the stampede during the Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath came down heavily on Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday accusing them of "taking payoffs" to speak against Sanatan Dharm as the opposition disputed the number of casualties in the Mahakumbh stampede.

## India, UK hold disarmament talks

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

On February 4, 2025, India and the United Kingdom convened consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) from the Ministry of External Affairs, while the UK delegation was headed by Stephen Lillie, Director for Defence and International Security at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

The discussions encompassed a broad spectrum of topics within the disarmament and non-proliferation landscape. Key areas of focus included developments in nuclear, chemical, and biological domains, as well as regional non-proliferation issues. The delegations also deliberated on outer space security matters, the role of artificial intelligence in the military domain, and the significance of multilateral export control regimes.

In the nuclear sphere, both nations reaffirmed their commitment to preventing

the spread of nuclear weapons and ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy. They discussed strategies to strengthen the global non-proliferation architecture and emphasized the importance of compliance with international treaties and agreements.

Regarding chemical and biological weapons, the consultations underscored the necessity of full adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Both sides expressed concern over the potential use of such weapons and highlighted the need for robust verification mechanisms to prevent their proliferation.

The topic of outer space security was also prominent in the discussions. Recognizing the increasing reliance on space-based technologies, the delegations emphasized the importance of maintaining outer space as a conflict-free domain. They explored measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and to promote transparency and confidence-building among space-faring nations.

## UNICEF-NIMHANS release national roadmap for child road safety

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A national roadmap for child and adolescent road safety in India, released on Tuesday by UNICEF in collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury Prevention and Safety at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS).

"Road Traffic Injuries (RTIs) is today the leading cause of death of children and adolescents, who account for 10 percent of all road crash fatalities in the country," the official release stated on Tuesday.

Speaking at the launch of the report, Gautham Melur Sukumar, Additional Pro-



fessor of Epidemiology and Head of WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury Prevention and Safety, NIMHANS, said, "Every day nearly 45 children under 18 years age lose their lives in road crashes in India. In 2022, 16,443 fatalities were reported in this age group, with actual numbers likely 20 percent higher due to underreporting. Additionally, every year around 5 million children suffering non-fatal injuries require hospitalization."

Highlighting the pressing need for child road safety measures in India, Vivek Singh - Officer-in-charge Health, UNICEF India, said, "Children are vulnerable to severe injuries owing to their physical, developmental and physiological attributes. Nearly 50 percent of all deaths occurred at the crash site, with head injuries being the most common, followed by injuries to the lower parts of the body. Given the huge increase in road crash fatalities among children, UNICEF has stepped in to ensure safer mobility for them."

Further, the report reviews the current situation of child and adolescent road safety in India through sec-

ondary data sources and expert consultation.

It describes the burden, risks and determinants of child and adolescent road traffic fatalities in India, analyzes existing frameworks, and provides recommendations and a multi-sectoral action plan for strengthening child and adolescent road safety in India.

The findings reveal that between 2011 and 2022, an estimated 198,236 road fatalities occurred among children and adolescents, and nearly 75 percent of those road fatalities occurred in the 14-17 years age group. Furthermore, the number of fatalities of this group more than doubled between 2011 and 2022.

## CM Bhupendra Patel announces committee to examine need of UCC in state

TDG NETWORK  
GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to implement the Uniform Civil Code across the nation to ensure equal rights for all citizens. Aligning with this, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced the formation of a five-member committee to assess the necessity of a Uniform Civil Code in Gujarat, ensuring equal rights and privileges for all citizens in the state, said a statement from Gujarat CMO on Tuesday.

The committee will be chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Smt. Ranjana Desai. Other members include retired senior IAS offi-



cer C.L. Meena, advocate R.C. Kodekar, former Vice Chancellor Dakshesh Thakar, and social activist Geetaben Shroff. The CM announced this decision in the presence of the Minister of State for Home Affairs Harsh Sanghavi.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel stated that this decision aligns with PM Modi's vi-

sion, and accordingly, Gujarat has formed a committee to assess the need for a Uniform Civil Code and draft the law for the state.

The committee is expected to submit its report within 45 days, and the state government will take appropriate action based on its findings. Highlighting key achievements such as the abolition

of Article 370, the One Nation One Election, the Nari Shakti Vandana Act, and the Triple Talaq Law, the Chief Minister restated that the government follows the principle of 'Je Kahevu Te Karvu' (Delivering on Commitments).

Bhupendra Patel reaffirmed that aligning with the Prime Minister's vision, Gujarat remains dedicated to implementing the Uniform Civil Code. He also emphasized that the state has always supported the Prime Minister's resolutions and is determined to see them fulfilled.

CM explained that, to this end, the state government has formed a committee to assess the need for the Uniform Civil Code and draft the law.

## Himanta meets Jaishankar, discusses Act East Policy

TIKAM SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

On Tuesday, Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma met Union Minister for External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar at his South Block office. During the 30-minute-long meeting, the Chief Minister requested the External Affairs Minister to chair a session on Assam's crucial role in India's Act East Policy at the upcoming Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit. In response, Jaishankar accepted the invitation and agreed to grace the session.

While exchanging pleasantries, Chief Minister Sarma also briefed the Exter-

nal Affairs Minister about his recent visits to Bhutan, South Korea, and Japan. He shared his experiences of how India's remarkable growth trajectory has been widely appreciated in these countries.

Later, taking to social media platform X, the Chief Minister expressed his delight over the meeting. He wrote, "I had the pleasure to call upon our erudite Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. During our conversation, I had the opportunity to brief him on my recent visits to Bhutan, South Korea, and Japan and the tremendous appreciation for the India growth story,

which I witnessed first-hand in these countries.

At Advantage Assam 2.0, we will have the privilege of Hon'ble Minister elucidating the critical role of Assam in India's Act East Policy."

In a separate engagement, the Chief Minister also met the Governor of Chhattisgarh, Ramen Deka, at Chhattisgarh Bhawan in the national capital. According to officials, the meeting was a courtesy call.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma held discussions with potential investors ahead of the upcoming Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit at Assam House in New Delhi.

## 'Nearly 864 km of India-B'desh border yet to be fenced'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

In response to queries raised by Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Sajda Ahmed over the fencing of the India-Bangladesh border, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that nearly 864.482 kilometres of the border was yet to be fenced and it includes a length of 174.514 km of non-feasible gap.

"A length of 864.482 km of the India-Bangladesh border is yet to be fenced, which includes a length of 174.514 km of non-feasible gap," MoS Rai told Lok Sabha in a written reply.

Of the 4,096.7 km of the

CENTRE RELEASES RS 146.42 CR FOR WB UNDER BADP

Union MoS for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, informed Lok Sabha that the Centre has allocated Rs 146.42 crore to West Bengal under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) since 2019-20. An additional Rs 1.93 crore is pending as part of the total Rs 53.34 crore for all states and UTs. BADP funds are disbursed to states for infrastructure projects in border areas to enhance security and development. Currently, the programme covers 457 blocks across 117 districts in 16 states and two UTs. Assam has utilized BADP funds for schools, health centers, roads, and drinking water facilities. Sikkim received the highest allocation in

India-Bangladesh border, 3,232.218 km has been covered with fencing, he added.

"The challenges faced in completing the feasible stretches of fencing projects relate to land acquisition, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) objections

to limited working season and landslide and marshy land," the minister's reply read.

Citing reasons of security, the MoS said that construction of fencing was important for securing the border as it helps ensure a crime-free border by addressing

challenges of cross-border criminal activities including smuggling, movement of criminals and trafficking. The MoS stated that the Bangladesh government conveyed that India observes all protocols and agreements between the two governments and between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh.

"The Government of India's expectation that all earlier understandings will be implemented by Bangladesh and there will be a cooperative approach to combating cross-border crimes has also been conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh," Rai said in his written reply.

## Trinamool slams Ashwini Vaishnaw's claims on Railway allocation to Bengal

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's claim that the Modi Government had allocated almost three times the amount that had been allocated when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Government was the Union Railway Minister has triggered a fierce counter-response from the Trinamool

Congress. Banerjee was the Railway Minister during 1999-2000 in the NDA regime and during 2009-11 in the UPA Government. After Banerjee, Trinamool leaders Mukul Roy and Dinesh Trivedi have also held the portfolio.

Yesterday, during a web conference on the Railway Budget 2025, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said: "The allocation in West Bengal which was in Mamata

Didi's (Banerjee) time has been increased three times by Modi ji."

The Minister said that an allocation of Rs 13,955 crores has been provided for West Bengal under Railway Budget 2025. The average annual allocation to West Bengal from 2009 to 2014 was Rs 4,380 crore.

Vaishnaw's remark led to a sharp response from the Trinamool Congress with party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh

saying this was "totally misleading".

"When Mamata Banerjee was the Railways Minister, West Bengal was given a lot of projects and funds too. A lot of new trains (were given) and renovation of stations, new lines, new projects, and new factories were undertaken," said Ghosh.

Ghosh alleged that in the NDA-era, the Modi Government was not even allowing

paperwork related to the projects.

"Less funds are coming in for many projects and in some cases, funds are not at all enough. So, paperwork is saying something and is being used by the BJP. Effective work is not being done in the Railways in West Bengal," he added.

Since the time the Union Budget has been presented, the Trinamool Government has been claiming that the

Budget had "done nothing for the State".

Trinamool Congress number two Abhishek Banerjee, Mamata Banerjee's nephew, said it had nothing for West Bengal and the NDA rule continues to keep the State "deprived".

"As in the past during the BJP's reign, there has not been enough allocation for the State in this budget. Our MPs have been vocal and sought a rise in the allocation of funds for Cen-

tral projects. We also demanded new projects for Bengal, but the State remains deprived," he had said.

At the web conference, Vaishnaw appealed to the West Bengal Chief Minister to help in land acquisition and in law and order, and said: "Land acquisition is very important for the Railways' development so that benefits of these investments and projects reach citizens at the earliest."

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**  
Prof. M.D. Nalapatt

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Pankaj Vohra

**EDITOR**  
Joyeeta Basu

Printed and Published by Rakesh Sharma for and on behalf of Good Morning India Media Pvt. Ltd. at 275, Piccadilly house, Floor -1, Captain Gaur Marg Srinivasapuri, New Delhi-110065.

Printed at: Good Morning India Media Pvt. Ltd., Khasra No. 39, Village Basai Brahuddin Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, [U.P.-201301].

The Editorial offices: 275 Captain Gaur Marg Srinivasapuri Okhla New Delhi - 110065

Mumbai Office: Juhu Hotel, Juhu Tara Road, Santa Cruz-West, Mumbai-400049.

Chandigarh Office: SCO-7, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh- 160017

**RNI REGISTRATION NO.**  
DELENG/2022/83224

**TITLE CODE**  
DELENG19835

For Subscriptions and Circulation Complaints Contact: **DELHI**  
Vinod Kumar Rana  
Mobile: +91-7011055010

The views expressed by the columnists do not necessarily represent those of The Sunday Guardian.