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TRUMP SAYS US TO RECEIVE USD 600 BILLION IN TARIFF REVENUE

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TBG NETWORK
DAVOS

US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that the United States will receive around USD 600 billion in tariff revenue, adding that the amount is expected to be much higher next year. Trump made these remarks during his address at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit in Davos, where he highlighted a sharp rise in investments flowing into the US. Speaking about investor sentiment, Trump said the United States is witnessing levels of investment. He said, "We're doing numbers in terms of people investing in the United States as we've never had before." He linked this surge to the November 5 election, stating that the election outcome provided clarity on his administration's approach to tariffs. According to Trump, tariffs are aimed at protecting the country, which he said had been taken advantage of for years. Trump noted that the estimated USD 600 billion in tariff revenue does not include additional investments by countries and companies setting up operations in the United States. He said, "We'll have, I'd say, USD 600 billion worth of tariff money coming in. And I think we're going to have maybe more than that. By next year, it'll be much more than that. That's not including the countries that, the countries and companies." Trump also shared the scale of corporate investments coming into the country. He said Apple is spending USD 650 billion, calling it a major commitment. He also mentioned that Toyota has announced plans to invest in the US. Recalling a meeting in Japan, Trump said Toyota's leadership confirmed the investment plans, describing them as part of a broader wave of global companies expanding their footprint in the US. Calling the developments "amazing," Trump said the scale of investment being seen now is unprecedented. "We've never had anything like it or close," he said, adding that no other country is witnessing similar momentum. He said that from an investment perspective, people are in "great shape" and claimed that many investors are making substantial money. Trump also said the US administration has provided a platform for innovators and business leaders to fully utilise their capabilities. "We have a lot of brilliant, genius people in this room, and you can put that genius to work," he said. In a lighter but candid moment, Trump remarked that he was both honoured and jealous of the success of some business leaders present. Referring to Apple, he again highlighted the scale of investment being led by CEO Tim Cook, reiterating the USD 650 billion figure and suggesting it could eventually rise further. Trump concluded by praising business leaders for their achievements, saying many have done an exceptional job, with several matching or exceeding expectations for investment and growth.

India's installed power capacity rises 36% in 5 years: RBI

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NEW DELHI

India has made significant progress in expanding its power generation capacity over the last five years, with installed power capacity rising by nearly 36 per cent, largely driven by rapid growth in renewable energy, according to a report released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The report highlighted that 2025 marked a milestone year for India's clean energy transition, as the country recorded its highest-ever annual addition to renewable energy capacity. This sharp rise was primarily led by a surge in solar power installations, reflecting strong policy support and growing private sector participation in the renewable energy space. It stated that "Installed power capacity has increased by nearly 36 per cent over the past five years, largely driven by the expansion of renewable energy. In 2025, India recorded its highest-ever annual addition to renewable energy capacity, primarily led by a surge in solar installations". Data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), cited in the report, shows that annual renewable energy capacity additions have steadily increased over the years. Renewable capacity addition rose from 5.6 gigawatt (GW) in 2020 to 14.4 GW in 2021 and further to 16.4 GW in 2022. Although additions moderated slightly to 13.0 GW in 2023, the pace picked up sharply thereafter, with 28.6 GW added in 2024 and a record 48.6 GW in 2025. In contrast, additions to fossil fuel-based power capacity remained relatively modest during the same period, reflecting a gradual shift in India's energy mix.

P2

GLOBAL COMPANIES SIGNAL STRONG CONFIDENCE IN INDIA AT DAVOS: VAISHNAW

Davos : Global confidence in India's growth trajectory and technology ambitions was strongly evident at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said, highlighting deepening engagement with global corporations and investors across logistics, manufacturing, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and infrastructure.

Sharing updates from Davos, the minister posted on X that multinational logistics major Maersk is actively engaging with India to enhance logistics infrastructure spanning shipping, ports, railways, and semiconductor materials, underscoring India's rising role in global supply chains.

Industrial technology firm Honeywell is partnering with India on railway modernisation and has expressed strong interest in expanding its manufacturing footprint in the country.

"Maersk is actively engaging with India in enhancing logistics infrastructure across shipping, ports, & railways, and semiconductor materials. Honeywell is partnering with India in railway modernisation. It is keen to expand manufacturing operations in India," Vaishnaw posted on X.

According to Ministry Vaishnaw, engagements at WEF have reinforced India's long-term growth story and its positioning as a trusted global partner.

Temasek Chairman Teo Chee Hean conveyed interest in expanding Temasek's presence in India, while reiterating Singapore's commitment to investing in India's physical and digital infrastructure as well as deep-tech startups, the Minister said.

The minister said discussions with global leaders in artificial intelligence, robotics, and cybersecurity reflected India's emergence as a reliable and values-based partner across technology value chains.

He emphasised that India is working comprehensively across all five layers of the AI architecture -- applications, models, chips, infrastructure, and energy -- to build a strong foundation for global AI services. Minister Vaishnaw also reiterated India's economic outlook, stating that the country is poised to become the world's third-largest economy in the coming years.

Agencies

Oil and Gas PSUs becoming tech-driven, profitable and future-ready: Puri

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NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday underscored that India's oil and gas public sector undertakings (PSUs) are steadily evolving into technology-driven, profitable and future-ready energy institutions, in line with the transformative vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Highlighting the strong performance of oil and gas PSUs, the Minister said that the turnaround demonstrating how robust economic outcomes and long-term energy transition can progress together. In a social media post, the minister stated, "Guided by the transformative vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh @narendramodiJi, country's oil and gas PSUs are evolving into technology-driven, profitable and future-ready energy institutions." He cited Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) as a key example of this transformation. According to Puri, HPCL recorded a 206 per cent increase in Profit After Tax (PAT) over a nine-month period, reaching Rs 12,274 crore. The company also reported a 35 per cent rise in quarterly profit to Rs 4,072 crore, reflecting improved operational efficiency and financial strength. The Minister said that these results show the growing resilience of oil and gas PSUs amid a changing global energy landscape.

P2

Nearly 60% of Indian businesses confident in scaling AI responsibly

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NEW DELHI

Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming a business imperative for Indian enterprises, moving beyond ethical intent to a strategic priority linked with trust, governance, and long-term value creation, according to Nasscom's State of Responsible AI in India 2025 report. The report, unveiled at the Responsible Intelligence Confluence in New Delhi, reveals that nearly 60 per cent of organisations confident in scaling AI responsibly have already established mature Responsible AI (RAI) frameworks, highlighting a strong correlation between AI capability and responsible governance practices. Based on a survey of 574 senior executives from large enterprises, startups, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) conducted between October and November 2025, the study indicated a clear year-on-year improvement since 2023. Around 30 per cent of Indian businesses now report mature RAI practices, while 45 per cent are actively implementing formal frameworks, signalling steady ecosystem-wide progress. Large enterprises continue to lead in Responsible AI maturity, with 46 per cent reporting advanced frameworks, compared to 20 per cent among SMEs and 16 per cent among startups. Despite the gap, Nasscom noted growing willingness among smaller firms to adopt and comply with responsible AI norms, reflecting increasing awareness and regulatory readiness across the ecosystem. From an industry perspective, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) leads with 35 per cent maturity, followed by Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) at 31 per cent, and healthcare at 18 per cent. Nearly half of businesses across these sectors are strengthening their RAI frameworks. Sangeeta Gupta, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Nasscom, said

India Aviation Sector: ICRA maintains a stable growth

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NEW DELHI

ICRA has maintained its stable outlook on the Indian aviation industry, even as it navigates a challenging period marked by operational disruptions and revised growth projections. While the industry is expected to face a significant net loss of Rs. 170-180 billion in FY2026, the outlook remains stable because these "disruptions are expected to be temporary." For the current fiscal year, domestic air passenger traffic is forecasted to grow by a modest 0-3 per cent, reaching approximately 165-170 million passengers. This is a downward revision from previous expectations of 4-6 per cent growth, primarily due to "cross-border escalations," an "aircraft accident tragedy in June 2025," and "the impact on business travel owing to the headwinds stemming from US tariffs."

A major factor in the recent slowdown was the significant operational disruption at IndiGo from December 3 to December 8, 2025, which resulted in approximately 4,500 flight cancellations.

These issues were largely "triggered by the implementation of stricter flight duty time limitation (FDTL) regulations, especially tougher rules on night duties and landings, alongside adverse weather and technical challenges." The report notes that "IndiGo's reliance on high aircraft utilisation and extensive night-time operations left it with limited flexibility, making it more vulnerable than its competitors". Consequently, domestic passenger traffic in December 2025 fell by 3.9 per cent year-on-year to 143.4 lakh. Despite this, the industry's domestic passenger load factor (PLF) was estimated at a healthy 94.0 per cent for the month. Financially, the industry continues to grapple with high costs and currency volatility. Fuel remains a massive burden, as "fuel costs account for 30-40 per cent of airlines' operating expenses". Additionally, a substantial portion of these expenses, including maintenance and lease payments, is denominated in dollars. The "weakening of the INR against the USD in Q2 FY2026 resulted in airlines reporting large foreign exchange (forex) losses," many of which remain unrealised. Supply chain issues also persist, with engine failures grounding approximately 133 aircraft as of March 2025, representing 15-17 per cent of the total industry fleet. Looking ahead, the industry expects a stronger recovery in FY2027 with a projected growth rate of 6-8 per cent. While the "credit metrics and liquidity profiles of others continue to remain under pressure," some airlines benefit from strong parent companies. For now, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has provided IndiGo temporary relief from the new FDTL regulations until February 10, 2026, which is expected to allow for a "partial recovery in passenger traffic growth" in the coming weeks.

ASF INSIGNIA SECURES RS 1,250 CRORE FROM ALPHA ALTERNATIVES

The funds will also support building refinements and enhance the overall occupier experience across the campus.

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NEW DELHI

ASF Insignia, a large integrated commercial IT office campus located in Vatsal Valley, Gurugram, has secured a commitment of approximately Rs 1,250 crore in equity and quasi-equity investments from Mumbai-headquartered Alpha Alternatives.

The company in an official statement on Thursday, stated that the investment will be infused in multiple tranches, with the first tranche of around Rs 450 crore already received.

According to the company, the capital will primarily be used to strengthen the balance sheets of ASF entities through debt reduction, along with targeted infrastructure and amenity upgrades.

The funds will also support building refinements and enhance the overall occupier experience across the campus. These measures are aimed at revitalising leasing momentum and repositioning ASF Insignia as a long-term prime commercial office project in Gurugram.

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Commenting on the development, Anil Saraf of ASF Insignia said, "The investment from Alpha Alternatives reinforces the long-term fundamentals of ASF Insignia and our strategy of building an institutionally driven office ecosystem. The focus is on balance sheet strength, asset quality and creating a campus that continues to meet the evolving needs of large enterprises and global capability centres, on cost optimal basis."

Kaushal Biyani, Alpha Alternatives, said, "In line with Alpha Alternatives' investment philosophy of long-term value creation, rigorous risk management, and consistent performance across market cycles, we are proud to partner with the ASF Insignia team as they enter their next phase of growth. We are delighted to invest in a high-quality office asset at scale, spanning approximately 4.5 million sq. ft., and look forward to working closely with Mr. Saraf and the ASF Insignia team to revitalise the ASF Insignia complex."

The partnership follows ASF Insignia's earlier institutional association with JP Morgan, which delivered returns over 2.5 times, and marks a renewed phase of growth supported by long-term capital.

ASF Insignia has historically attracted demand for large-format office spaces. Earlier, Smartworks had leased about 4.5 lakh square feet of space at the campus, underscoring the project's scale and enterprise appeal.

ASF Group, headquartered in New Delhi, is engaged in developing build-to-suit and state-of-the-art IT and commercial infrastructure and also provides facility management services across its projects.

CREDAI urges Budget reforms for affordable housing growth

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has submitted its recommendations for the Union Budget 2026-27, calling on the government to implement urgent measures to strengthen housing affordability and ensure a steady supply of residential units. The apex body emphasised that its proposals are designed to align with national priorities such as "Housing for All" and urban rejuvenation while tackling structural challenges in finance, taxation, and regulatory frameworks. As the real estate sector remains a driving force for employment and urban development, CREDAI argues that targeted interventions are now essential to unlock pent-up demand and support the vision of a "Viksit Bharat".

One of the primary focuses of the submission is the immediate need to redefine the affordable housing framework, which has remained unchanged since 2017. Currently, the definition restricts affordable units to a Rs 45 lakh value cap and specific square footage that CREDAI argues no longer reflects the reality of escalated land and construction costs.

To fix this, the body proposes increasing carpet area norms to 90 square meters in metros and 120 square meters in non-metros, while removing the price threshold entirely. This shift toward an area-based definition is intended to expand the supply of viable housing in urban centres and simplify the administrative complexity caused by inconsistent definitions across various government schemes.

To directly benefit homebuyers, CREDAI is advocating for a significant overhaul of housing loan interest deduction limits. The current Rs 2 lakh cap has been static for over a decade, even as property prices and interest rates have climbed.

In most major cities, middle-income earners now face annual interest payments between Rs 4 and Rs 6 lakh, making the existing tax benefit negligible. The association recommends removing this cap for first-time, self-occupied homes and extending these deductions to the new tax regime to ensure all taxpayers are treated fairly. This reform is expected to improve disposable income and encourage more citizens to transition from renting to home ownership.

The recommendations also address the difficulties low-income and informal-sector households face when trying to secure formal bank loans due to a lack of documentation. CREDAI has proposed the creation of a dedicated Credit Guarantee Scheme for affordable housing, which would de-risk lenders and expand credit to underserved segments.

Constl and Nokia Forge Strategic Partnership to Transform Optical Connectivity in India

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Constl, a subsidiary of Space World Group, and Nokia have announced a strategic partnership for the pan-India deployment of a state-of-the-art Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) optical transport network across India - a landmark milestone for the webscale ecosystem and advancing trusted, high-performance optical connectivity nationwide.

With this development, Constl's fibre rollout will provide high-capacity digital service infrastructure to power seamless connectivity, beginning with Mumbai – India's leading data centre hub – and eventually, expanding across India. As Constl's technology partner, Nokia is enabling high-capacity metro and data center interconnectivity (DCI) - powered by their 1830 Photonic Service Switch (PSS) platforms.

This new optical transport network addresses the exponential growth in bandwidth demand driven by cloud computing, AI workloads, and OTT services - delivering scalable, low-latency connectivity infrastructure required for mission-critical applications.

"By bringing together Constl's nationwide fibre footprint with Nokia's advanced photonic technology, we're laying the foundation for the next generation of digital innovation in India. India's bold digital transformation ambitions demand infrastructure that can scale rapidly without compromising on reliability or performance – exactly what this partnership provides," said Ankit Goel, Chairman and Founder, Space World Group.

"Our partnership with Constl marks a significant milestone for India's digital future.

Young Poet Aanya Nigam's Book Truly, Madly, Deeply Launched at Delhi Book Fair

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Book Fair at Pragati Maidan witnessed the launch of a poignant new voice in contemporary poetry with the unveiling of Truly, Madly, Deeply, a poetry collection by young author *Aanya Nigam. The book was officially launched by **Sagar Azad, Founder of **Anecdotes Publishing House*, in the presence of readers, publishers, and literature enthusiasts. Truly, Madly, Deeply is a deeply reflective collection that explores love, vulnerability, emotional honesty, and the courage to feel in a world that often rewards emotional distance. Through intimate and thoughtful poetry, the book celebrates the beauty of feeling deeply—its joy and pain, healing and heartbreak—challenging the notion that emotion is a weakness. Set against universal human experiences, the poems speak to readers across generations, offering moments of stillness, self-reflection, and connection. The collection emphasizes authenticity and emotional presence, encouraging readers to embrace their inner truth without apology.

At just *16 years old, Aanya is a student of **Scottish High International School, Gurgaon*, and has been writing poetry since the age of six. For her, poetry is not an escape but a space where her deepest thoughts and emotions find voice. She effortlessly balances creativity with analytical precision, navigating between poetry, mathematics, and science. A trained *Bharatanatyam dancer* and a keen observer of life, Aanya brings grace, discipline, and emotional depth to her writing. She is also a *Global Youth Fund Awardee* and an articulate public speaker, driven by purpose and a desire to make a meaningful impact.

EU scraps GSP, hits 87% of Indian exports

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

From January 1, 2026, India faces a major setback in the EU market, as 87 per cent of its exports begin paying higher import tariffs following the EU's suspension of Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) benefits. These GSP concessions previously allowed Indian products to ship at less than Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs to EU markets. Now, however, concessions are suspended for 87 per cent of the value of Indian goods to the EU, forcing exporters to pay full MFN tariffs.

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Technically, under GSP, exporters received a "margin of preference"--a percentage reduction in the EU's MFN tariff--which averaged about 20 per cent for most textiles, garments, and industrial goods. For example, an apparel product facing a 12 per cent MFN tariff paid only 9.6 per cent under GSP, but as of this month, that benefit has ended, and exporters must pay the full 12 per cent duty.

The impact of this withdrawal is widespread across almost all major industrial sectors that form the backbone of India's exports to Europe, including minerals, chemicals, plastics, textiles, iron, steel, machinery, and electrical goods. GSP benefits now remain only for a limited group of products--such as agriculture, leather goods, and handicrafts--which account for less than 13 per cent of India's exports to the EU. The EU's move follows its "graduation" rules, under which preferences are withdrawn once exports in a specific product group cross a certain threshold for three consecutive years. Accordingly, India has been graduated for the 2026-2028 period under a regulation adopted in September 2025. GTRI report acknowledges the move is legally justified, it notes that "the economic impact is sharp: most Indian exports lose preferential access overnight".

This loss of preference comes at a particularly difficult time for Indian trade. While there is optimism over the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the report warns that "the loss of GSP preferences coincides with the start of the tax phase of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)". The GTRI describes the current situation as a "double hit--higher tariffs from GSP withdrawal and higher non-tariff costs under CBAM". Indian steel and aluminium exporters are already facing rising carbon reporting and compliance costs, with a real risk of being charged inflated default emissions as the CBAM entered its definitive phase on January 1, 2026. The combination of these factors is expected to hit margins directly and weaken India's competitiveness against other global suppliers. In highly price-sensitive sectors like garments, the tariff increase is already enough to "push EU buyers towards duty-free suppliers like Bangladesh and Vietnam". Because the implementation of the India-EU FTA is likely to take at least a year or longer, Indian exporters must absorb full MFN tariffs in the interim, which will squeeze already thin margins.

As the global trade environment remains fragile, the GTRI concludes that "2026 is likely to be one of the toughest years for Indian exports to Europe in more than a decade".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

India's installed...

Fossil fuel capacity additions stayed low, ranging between around 1 GW to 4 GW annually, while nuclear capacity additions were marginal but stable. Nuclear capacity saw small additions beginning 2023 onwards, indicating a renewed focus on diversifying clean energy sources beyond renewables. The RBI report noted that India's clean energy push is aligned with its long-term climate and energy security goals. The expansion of renewable energy has played a key role in meeting rising electricity demand while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The report also highlighted recent policy initiatives aimed at strengthening India's nuclear energy sector. The introduction of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill 22, 2025, along with the Nuclear Energy Mission, is expected to significantly boost nuclear power capacity. Under these initiatives, India aims to raise its nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047. Overall, the RBI report highlighted that India's power sector is undergoing a structural transformation, with renewable energy emerging as the main driver of capacity growth. The record additions in 2025 signal strong momentum in India's clean energy transition, positioning the country to meet its future energy needs in a sustainable manner.

Oil and Gas...

He noted that refineries are operating beyond their nameplate capacity, indicating efficient asset utilisation and strong demand conditions. At the same time, steady growth in fuel and LPG revenues has supported profitability, while continued reduction in debt levels points to a sustainable and disciplined financial approach.

Puri emphasised that the profitability achieved by oil and gas PSUs is being complemented by focused efforts towards energy transition and future growth areas. He said that renewable energy integration is progressing across the sector, with initiatives such as solarisation of retail outlets and expansion of CNG infrastructure gaining momentum. He also highlighted trials for sustainable aviation fuel as an important step towards cleaner energy solutions in the transport sector. In addition, the rapid advancement of the Rajasthan Refinery project was cited as a major driver of future growth and self-reliance in the refining and petrochemical space. The Union Minister said that India's energy journey today is about balancing scale with responsibility, innovation with reliability, and reform with results. He added that oil and gas PSUs are not only ensuring the country's energy security but are also adapting to emerging technologies and cleaner fuels to remain globally competitive.

Nearly 60% of...

responsible AI is now foundational to trust and accountability as AI systems become embedded in critical sectors such as finance, healthcare, and public services. She emphasised that businesses must move beyond compliance-led approaches and embed responsibility across the AI lifecycle to build sustainable and inclusive innovation The report highlighted workforce enablement as a major focus area, with nearly 90 per cent of organisations investing in AI sensitisation and training. Companies expressed the highest confidence in meeting data protection obligations. Accountability structures are also evolving. While 48 per cent of organisations place responsibility for AI governance with the C-suite or board, 26 per cent now assign it to departmental heads, and AI ethics boards and committees are gaining traction, particularly among mature organisations, where 65 per cent have established such bodies. Despite progress, significant challenges persist.

HSBC SEES INDIA CONSUMER DEMAND REVIVAL BY FY27

This policy support is seen as crucial at a time when external uncertainties continue to pose risks to global growth.

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Supportive fiscal and monetary policies, along with financial deregulation, are expected to aid a revival in the consumer demand in India into FY27, even as the global environment remains uncertain, according to a report by HSBC Asset Management.

The report highlighted that India's macroeconomic framework continues to focus on supporting growth while maintaining stability. It noted that a combination of accommodative fiscal and monetary policies, along with ongoing deregulation in the financial sector, should help sustain domestic demand momentum over the medium term.

This policy support is seen as crucial at a time when external uncertainties continue to pose risks to global growth.

It stated "Supportive fiscal and monetary policies and (financial) deregulation support a domestic/consumer demand revival into FY27".

HSBC said recent reforms, including changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework and labour reforms, further strengthen India's structural growth story.

These reforms are expected to improve efficiency, enhance formalisation, and support productivity, thereby reinforcing the medium-term outlook for consumption and investment-led growth.

On inflation, the report stated that price pressures are likely to normalise into FY27 while remaining largely benign. However, it also pointed out that inflation is expected to rise in the near term.

As per the report data, inflation in 2026 is projected to increase to 3.9 per cent, compared to 2.1 per cent reported in 2025. Despite this increase, inflation levels are expected to remain within a comfortable range, providing space for policymakers to continue supporting growth. The report also shared about the importance of fiscal discipline. It said fiscal pragmatism is likely to continue, suggesting that the government will balance growth support with a cautious approach to public finances.

For 2026, the fiscal impulse is expected to remain neutral, indicating no major expansionary or contractionary shift in fiscal policy.

On the growth outlook, HSBC stated that India's economy grew at 7.3 per cent in 2025. For 2026, growth is expected to moderate but remain robust at 6.5 per cent.

The report noted that this growth trajectory reflects resilience in domestic demand, supported by policy measures and structural reforms, even as global growth conditions remain challenging.

In terms of monetary policy, the report said that policy rate expectations remain stable. According to HSBC Asset Management, the 12-months-ahead policy rate outlook for India suggests that rates are expected to remain in the range of 5 to 5.25 per cent.

This stable rate environment is expected to provide predictability for businesses and consumers, supporting borrowing, spending, and investment decisions.

Overall, the HSBC report indicated that India's policy mix, backed by reforms and prudent macroeconomic management, is well positioned to support consumer demand revival into FY27 despite external uncertainties.

Small nuclear reactors key to India's energy security

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Nuclear energy, particularly small nuclear reactors are becoming central to India's strategy to tackle a heavy energy import bill, enhance energy security, and drive decarbonization. Speaking to ANI, Shamika Ravi, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, highlighted the importance of small nuclear reactors within the broader 2047 energy strategy.

"Nuclear, small nuclear reactors in particular, are going to be instrumental in weaning us away from these large import bills," Ravi said on the sidelines of the 10th Convocation of the Vedica Scholars Programme for Women held on Wednesday in New Delhi.

She also highlighted the government's push to diversify energy sources amid global uncertainty.

Ravi added that greater emphasis on renewables was also aimed at the same objective of improving energy security and sustainability.

She also highlighted the

government's push to diversify energy sources amid global uncertainty.

She said India was not rich in coal or natural resources and continued to rely significantly on imports to meet its energy needs.

"For the sake of energy sustainability, there is an effort to move away from these large import bills," she said, noting that policy measures following the passage of recent legislation were part of a broader strategy to strengthen the country's long-term energy framework.

She linked the energy transition to India's broader economic resilience, arguing that despite global turmoil and uncertainty on multiple fronts, the country's growth outlook remained strong.

"India remains not just the fastest growing major economy, but our macroeconomic... climate is very benign, very stable," Ravi said, adding that this stability meant growth was "likely to continue."

A key factor insulating India from global shocks, she said, was the dominance of domestic demand. "For us, domestic demand is about 70 per cent of our GDP. So we are a domestic demand-led growth," Ravi said, noting that this made India less vulnerable to global trade disruptions compared with more export-led economies.

Addressing concerns around US tariffs, Ravi said their impact on India had been far more limited than initially feared. "The US tariffs is unfortunate, but at the same time, as you have seen in the past several quarters, it has really not affected us in ways in which people anticipated," she said.

Industry, diplomats signal India-EU FTA breakthrough

TBG NETWORK
DAVOS

The long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union appears to be entering its final stages, with industry leaders and diplomats expressing high optimism during the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Speaking to ANI, Rajan Bharti Mittal, Vice-Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, noted that the momentum for the deal has reached a critical point. "I think EU-India (Trade Agreement), we are all hoping and I think voices are being heard that the Agreement is happening. I think it is a good Agreement between the two countries. Technologies will be shared, exports. Some hit that has been taken will get addressed, they will get a

large market," Mittal said, adding that the relationship has been "long-pending" and expressing hope that the deal will be signed during the upcoming visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to India.

European diplomats have echoed this sentiment, highlighting the immediate benefits the pact would bring to individual member states.

Estonia's Ambassador to India, Marje Luup, pointed out that while Estonian products like liquors and cheese are already available in Indian markets, the FTA would serve as a catalyst for deeper economic ties. "Companies are here already, but if we are going to have the FTA, this is going to increase the possibilities for cooperation," she remarked.

The urgency of the agreement was further emphasised by Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to India, who described the current period as the "last days" before a potential signing.

Gauci underscored that the FTA is vital for all EU members, regardless of their size, particularly in addressing trade imbalances. "This Free Trade Agreement has been awaited for a very long time. It is great to note that finally we are in the last days, where hopefully this FTA will be signed," he said.

Highlighting the specific trade dynamics between his nation and India, he noted, "Malta imports from India, 10 times more than India imports from Malta. I have a belief that Maltese products can make it here in India."

"During my time as High Commissioner here, I've overseen a number of Maltese products coming to India, being imported here in India for the first time. Thanks to this Free Trade Agreement, we will have new Maltese products, and we will reduce the trade deficit," he explained.

As President Ursula von der Leyen prepares for her visit to New Delhi, where she is scheduled to attend the Republic Day celebrations as a Chief Guest, the diplomatic community remains hopeful that this "mother of all deals" will finally be sealed.

Adani Energy Solutions Q3 income rises 16%

TBG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL)'s total income registered a robust growth of 15.7 per cent year-on-year to an all-time high of Rs 6,945 crore in the October-December 2025 quarter, backed by better operating performance and SCA (Service Concession Arrangement) income due to higher capex.

Adani Energy Solutions Limited, part of the globally diversified Adani portfolio and the largest private transmission, distribution, and smart metering company in India, today announced its financial and operational performance for the quarter and nine month ended December 31, 2025.

The Adani Group company's EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortisation) during the quarter also reached a record high of Rs 2,210 crore, up 20.7 per cent year-on-year, driven by robust growth in the transmission and smart metering segment and steady performance in the distribution segment.

The company's profit before tax (PBT) rose 43.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 801 crore. The profit after tax (PAT) stood at Rs 574 crore, down 8.2 per cent year-on-year. This was on account of a positive impact of deferred tax of Rs 185 crore last year in Q3-2024-25 which has to be adjusted for a like-for-like comparison, the company said in a release.

Its adjusted PAT was up 30.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 574 crore, translating from double-digit EBITDA expansion.

So far in 2025-26 (April-December), AESL's total income has risen 16.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 20,737 crore, an all-time high.

The EBITDA is up 15.9% per cent year-on-year to Rs 6,354 crore, again an all-time high.

Profit Before Tax during the three quarters combined stood at Rs 2,205 crore, up 37.3 per cent year-on-year.

Profit After Tax (PAT) at Rs 1,670 crore is down 2.5 per cent due to past period one-time positive impact of deferred tax of Rs 469 crore in 9M-2024-25.

AESL's adjusted PAT grew by 34.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,670 crore.

The company's capex in 9M-2025-26 has increased by 1.24x to Rs 9,294 crore, as against Rs 7,475 crore in 9M-2024-25.

During the nine months period, the company commissioned four transmission projects - North Karanpura Transmission (NKTL), Khavda Phase II Part-A, Khavda Pooling Station - 1 (KPS-1) and Sangod transmission. In the smart meters business, they installed 61.2 lakh new meters as of 9M-2025-26, thereby reaching a total mark of 92.5 lakh installed meters cumulatively.

Author and karaoke singer Pawan Sharma Honoured by India Book of Records for First Karaoke Singers Directory

TBG NETWORK
GURUGRAM

Author and karaoke singer Pawan Sharma has been honoured with the India Book of Records (IBR) Achiever title for creating India's first Karaoke Singers Directory titled "Swar Sangrah." The directory has been officially registered in the India Book of Records, recognising it as a pioneering initiative in the field of karaoke singing.

As part of the recognition, Sharma was presented with a certificate, medal, and identity card. The India Book of Records is a reputed organisation that acknowledges outstanding achievements across various fields and is affiliated with the Asia Book of Records.

"Swar Sangrah" has been independently conceptualised, compiled, edited, and published by Sharma. The directory features information on karaoke singers, organisers, auditoriums, and studios from Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad, along with articles related to karaoke singing.

Sharma said that singing is an integral part of Indian culture and an emerging global hobby that promotes positivity, social interaction, and mental well-being. He added that the growing professional structure of karaoke singing has also created employment opportunities.

The directory was recently launched at a ceremony held at Artemis Auditorium, Gurugram, attended by singers, organisers, and music enthusiasts from Delhi NCR.

Priya Suri Launches "The Chattarpur Extraordinaire" - Maps the Rise of Women-Led Enterprise

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a resolute recognition of women's role in the local economy, The Chattarpur Extraordinaire was unveiled this week by Priya Suri in the presence of Mani Suri, First Lady of the DAV Society that runs more than 1000 Educational Institutions. The newsletter brings into focus the journeys of women entrepreneurs who have steadily

shaped businesses and livelihoods across Chattarpur.

The Chattarpur Extraordinaire documents the lived realities of women whose professional pursuits unfold alongside family responsibilities and deep community ties. Their stories are defined not by spectacle, but by continuity—of enterprises built patiently, ambition sustained over time, and leadership exercised with quiet assurance in spaces where women's work often remains under-acknowledged.

Rather than defining success through singular milestones, The Chattarpur Extraordinaire presents entrepreneurship as an ongoing practice rooted in values, identity, and long-term purpose. The narratives reflect determination built over years—businesses grown incrementally, confidence earned through resilience, and authority assumed without fanfare.

In addition to profiling women-led enterprises, the newsletter will also carry local Chattarpur news and community updates, creating a platform that connects entrepreneurship with neighbourhood developments, shared concerns, and everyday life in the area.

Changing Lives, Building Wealth: Why Education Is One of the Most Sustainable Impact Careers Today

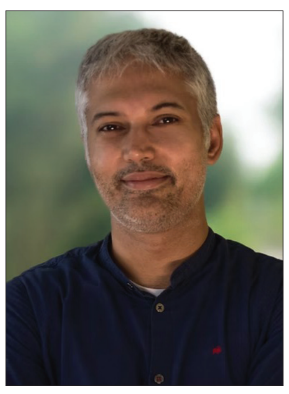
TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The connotation of wealth, for most people, is directly connected to material and financial possessions. And yes, that matters. But is that what makes people happy? Can material possessions buy what we know to be the biggest drivers of happiness: meaning, purpose, and joy? The real drivers of happiness, we believe, are embedded in a new definition of wealth. It's one that's discovered and subsequently built when we choose to be in service of others. Here's the greatest investment that we can make: choosing to educate a nation and, in the process, lift millions of young citizens out of poverty.

Education for our children: We know that a high-quality education can provide children an opportunity to not just climb out of poverty, but to thrive. Nobel Prize Laureate James Heckmann's research highlights that high-quality early education programs for children from disadvantaged communities yield a 13% annual return on investment. This means the earlier you invest in a child's development, the higher the economic return to society as they grow older.

A high-quality education can drive both individual prosperity and national stability, helping create a self-sustaining cycle where higher individual earnings lead to increased tax revenues. Those additional revenues further fuel public health and infrastructure.

A population with higher educational attainment is often linked to lower crime rates and better wellness outcomes, providing the social stability necessary



Sandeep Rai, Ashoka Fellow and Founder of The Circle

to solve complex, modern problems through innovation.

Education as a career: A 2021 UNESCO estimate tells us that India needs over 1.1 million teachers to meet national educational goals. This figure highlights the massive opportunity for young professionals to choose a career that bridges the gap between human potential and national development. Choosing to teach in today's India is, in essence, choosing to build the future of India. A career in education can offer a professional life across three key axes:

Meaning and Purpose: As Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo's research suggests, our work is a core part of our identity and dignity. We view work as more than an exchange of labor for a paycheck, instead we view it as a source of self-worth and dignity. Educators have the opportunity to witness a student's growth and transformation knowing that the high-quality education that children receive will create a ripple effect across generations in communities.

Dynamic Nature of the Role: The landscape of education is rapidly evolving. The modern educator has moved from being the "sage on the stage" to a "choreographer of learning." Today, a career in education offers an agile variety of roles from curriculum design, pedagogical strategy to institutional leadership where longevity and experience is rewarded.

Sustainable Growth in the age of AI: A 2025 Future of Work Report shows that education is one of the few careers that may be able to withstand the force of AI. While algorithms can curate information and automate grading, they cannot replicate the empathy, mentorship and guidance that a teacher provides. In a world that is threatened by the advancement of AI and other technologies, a career in education is one that promises not just deep impact but also sustainability. Education can be transformative, offering children a lease to upward mobility.

A career in education is a rare invitation to carve a life where individual growth and national progress can move hand-in-hand. Our classrooms hold India's tomorrow and by choosing to lead them, you aren't just taking a job, you are impacting the nation's most precious investment.

NIFTY, SENSEX SURGE AMID INDIA-US TRADE OPTIMISM

Positive global cues, along with optimism around a potential India-US trade deal, supported early market gains.

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Domestic equity benchmarks opened higher on Thursday as investor confidence improved after US President Donald Trump rolled back tariff threats against European nations, citing a framework agreement on the Greenland issue.

Positive global cues, along with optimism around a potential India-US trade deal, supported early market gains.

The Nifty 50 index opened at 25,344.15, registering a gain of 186.65 points or 0.74 per cent. The BSE Sensex opened at 82,459.66, up by 550.03 points or 0.67 per cent.

Market experts said easing global trade tensions provided a key trigger for the rally.

Ajay Bagga, Banking and Market Expert, told ANI that India benefited from the global relief, but there was more driving sentiment.

He said, "India got this global boost but there was more to come. Talking to an Indian reporter, Trump praised PM Modi and spoke of an imminent trade deal with India. That was the catalyst the Indian markets were seeking. Despite persistent FPI selling, the Trump detente on EU and hope for an Indian trade deal are positives driving Indian markets this morning. We have to watch if this global relief rally continues to gain traction and on the impact on India. Asian markets this morning are celebrating the latest Trump pivot as the prospects of a US- EU tariff war recede."

Broader markets also opened firmly in the green. On the NSE, the Nifty 100 surged by 0.72 per cent. The Nifty Smallcap 100 rose by 0.83 per cent, while the Nifty Midcap 100 gained more than 1.2 per cent.

Sectoral indices showed broad-based buying interest. The Nifty Auto index surged by 1.29 per cent, Nifty IT rose by 0.97 per cent, and Nifty Metal gained 0.62 per cent. Nifty PSU Bank advanced by 1.12 per cent, while Nifty Pharma climbed 0.94 per cent. Almost all sectors opened with gains. On the institutional front, data for Thursday showed that domestic institutional investors (DII) bought shares worth Rs 4,181.74 crore, while foreign institutional investors (FII/FPI) sold equities worth Rs 1,680.25 crore.

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said, "A strong US dollar and sustained FII selling remain key overhangs, while steady DII buying is providing partial support and preventing sharper downside. Earnings recovery has been slower than expected, and elevated valuations are undergoing a time-wise correction rather than a sharp price-led decline. The rupee slipping to fresh record lows near 91.69-91.72 against the dollar has intensified concerns around imported inflation and capital outflows."

In other Asian markets, most indices were trading higher. Japan's Nikkei 225 surged by 1.95 per cent, Taiwan's index rose around 2 per cent, and South Korea's KOSPI gained 1.62 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, however, was down by 0.16 per cent.

FICCI survey shows strong industry optimism on growth

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A survey conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) found strong optimism across industry in India, with nearly 80 per cent of respondents expressing confidence in the country's growth prospects.

The industry chamber conducted its 'Pre-Budget Survey 2026-27', capturing industry sentiment and outlining key policy recommendations ahead of the forthcoming Union Budget.

About half of the participants expect GDP growth to remain in the 7-8 per cent range in 2026-27, reaffirming faith in India's medium-term fundamentals despite persistent global uncertainties.

Industry also underscored the importance of fiscal prudence, with around 42 per cent of respondents expecting the fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of GDP to be achieved in 2025-26, reinforcing confidence in the Government's fiscal consolidation roadmap.

Based on the survey, three macroeconomic priorities clearly emerge for the Union Budget 2026-27: job creation, a sustained thrust on infrastructure, and stronger support to exports.

Amongst the sectors expected to be in focus, respondents identified infrastructure, manufacturing, defence and MSMEs amongst others.

The government must continue to lay thrust on manufacturing and capex, it suggested. Setting up of a mega electronics industrial cluster to co-locate OEMs, EMS firms and component suppliers will be important to give a further push to this strategic sector. Equally important is to lay thrust on defence manufacturing. The government must enhance the capital outlay share in defence allocations to 30 per cent to modernise frontline assets, UAVs, counter-UAV systems, EW systems and AI-enabled capabilities, it suggested.

Additionally, enhancing Drone PLI outlay to Rs 1,000 crore and establishing a Rs 1,000 crore Drone R&D Fund will give a boost to this emerging sector.

Given the rising global trade frictions, uncertainty on global tariffs and non-tariff barriers such as CBAM and deforestation-related regulations, the expectations of support to exports in the Union Budget is clearly evident.

To strengthen India's export performance and integration into global value chains, respondents emphasised the need for streamlining trade facilitation and customs processes, reducing logistics and port-related bottlenecks, and strengthening ex-

Kai India Offers a Safe and Effortless Solution for Facial Hair Removal

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

KAI India, a leading name in personal grooming products, offer CAN Face Razor for Women, a thoughtfully designed product that provides women with a simple, safe, and effective solution for facial hair removal. Drawing from the brand's Japanese craftsmanship and more than 117 years of expertise, the CAN Face Razor ensures a gentle shaving experience that leaves the skin feeling soft, smooth, and clean.

The CAN Face Razor uses a PTFE chromium-coated stainless steel blade, that reduces friction and helps the blade stay sharp and rust-resistant for longer. It also has a protective skin-guard and a textured, anti-slip handle for better control. The razor comes with a protective cover so it can be carried safely in a bag. These features makes it suitable for regular home use and while traveling.

Mr. Keijiro Takasago, Managing Director, KAI India, said, "We designed the CAN Face Razor to be simple and dependable — something a woman can use quickly, even on busy mornings.

It removes the finest hair with care and makes skin feel smooth. Kai products make everyday grooming easier, and that's what we set out to do: combine careful design with Japanese craftsmanship that last."

The CAN Face Razor forms part of KAI India's thoughtfully curated personal-care range. Alongside grooming essentials such as body face & eyebrow razors, nail clippers, and other grooming accessories, the brand also offers a diverse selection of kitchenware products — each reflecting KAI's hallmark precision and craftsmanship. KAI India CAN Face Razor is available on www.kaiindiaonline.com and across all leading e-commerce platforms. It provides a quick, safe, and gentle way to remove unwanted facial hair, leaving the skin smoother and cleaner within minutes.

Founded in Seki, Japan, in 1908, the KAI Group enjoys cult status for its high-quality beauty and personal grooming products. Known for integrating practical aesthetics with refined craftsmanship, KAI offers well-designed, innovative houseware and grooming tools that are part of everyday life. In India, KAI entered the market by establishing a 30,000 sq. mt. manufacturing facility in Neemrana, Rajasthan. Bringing over 800 years of Japanese legacy in blademaking, the brand now offers premium kitchenware, beauty, and personal care tools to Indian households.

With deep R&D capabilities and superior Japanese technology, KAI is committed to becoming a trusted name in every Indian home.

Grand procession taken out in Rajendra Nagar under the leadership of BJP leader Ramdas Malik

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Religious programs and rituals are being held in every corner of the country to mark the first anniversary of the grand construction and consecration of the temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya. In this connection, a gathering of saints and a grand procession of Lord Shri Ram were organized in the premises of Shri Sanatan Dharma Temple on Shankar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Delhi, under the leadership of Ramdas Malik, co-convener of the Delhi Pradesh BJP Business Cell, and his son, young BJP leader Rahul Malik. Mahamandaleshwar Shri Krishna Shah Vidyarthi Ji Maharaj, President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Delhi Province Kapil Khanna, Mahant Aman Giri Ji of 108 Hanuman Road, and prominent social activist Preet Sirohi, among others, addressed the thousands of people who participated in the procession. Kapil Khanna said that Lord Shri Ram is the deity of all, and every follower of Sanatan Dharma must work to establish him everywhere, especially in their hearts.

BJP leader Ramdas Malik said that Sanatan Dharma is a religion that has been established for centuries. Followers of Sanatan Dharma consider the whole world as their family and talk about the welfare of all. Sanatan Dharma does not belittle anyone, but some anti-national and anti-social elements are trying to divide Hindus into castes, but their intentions will not succeed.

RightLife Launches India's First AI-Driven, Wearable-Free Preventive Healthcare Platform

TBG NETWORK
MUMBAI

RightLife, part of JetSynthesys, a global digital entertainment and technology company with a presence across more than 180 countries, today announced the launch of India's first unified, AI-driven, wearable-free preventive healthcare platform, built to make actionable health insights accessible to anyone with a smartphone.

India is facing a growing preventive healthcare challenge, with lifestyle-related conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, sleep disorders, and chronic stress rising steadily. While health awareness has increased significantly, adoption of preventive healthcare remains limited due to high costs, fragmented digital solutions, and dependence on expensive wearables that restrict access for a large segment of the population. RightLife has been launched to address this gap through a smartphone-led, holistic approach to everyday health, enabling individuals to move from awareness to sustained action. By bringing together sleep, nutrition, movement, and mental wellbeing into a single platform, RightLife eliminates the need to juggle multiple apps or devices to understand and manage personal health.

Designed as a digital health co-pilot, RightLife interprets daily lifestyle data to deliver personalised, structured, and practical guidance. Through weekly and quarterly health intelligence reports, the platform helps users identify patterns, optimise habits, and build sustainable behaviour change — supporting fitter bodies, sharper minds, and improved emotional wellbeing over time.

Unlike traditional health apps or wearable-dependent solutions, RightLife removes the cost and complexity barriers associated with preventive healthcare. Despite the rapid growth of India's wearable market over the past decade, adoption remains limited, underscoring the challenges of hardware-led health solutions in a smartphone-first country. RightLife leverages proprietary facial scan technology, AI-driven food scanning, and advanced data correlation models to deliver deep, meaningful insights without the need for expensive devices.

"Preventive healthcare in India has struggled not because of lack of intent, but because solutions haven't been built for everyday life," said Nilanjan Mukherjee, Founder, RightLife. "RightLife has been designed to help people move from intention to action by making preventive healthcare accessible, holistic, and sustainable through the device they already use every day."

RightLife's AI foundation has been trained and validated over multiple years using diverse datasets and real-world behavioural signals, ensuring meaningful outcomes rather than surface-level activity monitoring. Its approach focuses on decision support and habit formation, not diagnosis, reinforcing the responsible and ethical use of AI in healthcare. This ensures the platform complements, rather than replaces, clinical care while empowering users to make informed everyday health decisions.

"By building a wearable-free, smartphone-first platform grounded in validated scientific studies and purposefully correlated through AI, we've created a system that delivers insights people can realistically act on and sustain over time," said Adit Mukherjee, Co-Founder, RightLife.

Designed with accessibility and scalability at its core, RightLife extends its relevance from individual users to workplace and organisational wellness ecosystems, while laying the groundwork for predictive wellness intelligence in the future.

Why India's Creator Economy Needs Systems, Not Virality

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The creator economy in India has grown faster than its underlying infrastructure. In an exclusive interview with The Business Guardian, Puneet Narayan Saxena, Founder of Hype10X, shares his perspective on the rapid expansion of the sector and the structural gaps that threaten its long-term sustainability.

Q1. India's creator economy is expanding rapidly. What structural weaknesses do you currently observe?

A: The creator economy in India has grown faster than its underlying infrastructure. Most creators are dependent on platforms rather than owning digital assets. Algorithms change, reach fluctuates, and income becomes unstable. The structural weakness is the absence of search-based visibility, owned traffic, and repeatable monetisation systems. Without these, creators remain vulnerable to external shocks.

Q2. How does Bring It On Screen respond to this structural imbalance?

A: Bring It On Screen is designed as an infrastructure model, not a trend-based program. It focuses on building three assets: Identity clarity (what problem you solve and for whom) Search authority (SEO-driven content that compounds over time) Systems (AI-assisted workflows that reduce manual effort) When these three elements are in place, income becomes predictable rather than speculative.

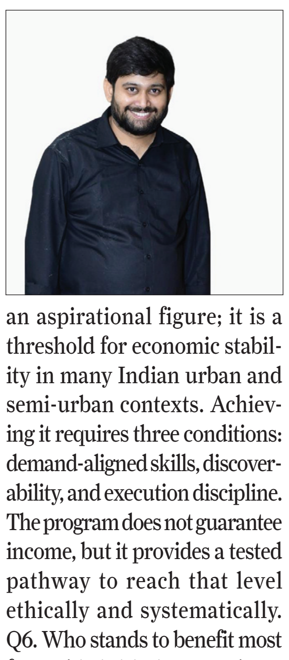
Q3. AI is central to your model. Where do you see most professionals misusing AI today?

A: Most professionals use AI tactically, not strategically. They generate content without understanding search intent or audience demand. AI should be used to support decision-making, research patterns, and automate execution, not replace thinking. Without a clear framework, AI increases output but not outcomes.

Q4. What differentiates your bootcamp from conventional digital marketing certifications?

A:Conventional certifications teach tools in isolation. Our approach teaches business architecture. Participants learn how traffic converts into trust, trust into offers, and offers into revenue. Tools change, platforms evolve—but systems thinking remains relevant. That is the core differentiation.

Q5. You have set a target of enabling participants to earn 1 lakh per month. How realistic is this goal?



A: 1 lakh per month is not an aspirational figure; it is a threshold for economic stability in many Indian urban and semi-urban contexts. Achieving it requires three conditions: demand-aligned skills, discoverability, and execution discipline. The program does not guarantee income, but it provides a tested pathway to reach that level ethically and systematically.

Q6. Who stands to benefit most from this initiative—students or working professionals?

A: Both. Students gain early exposure to systems thinking and income architecture. Working professionals benefit by converting domain expertise into digital revenue streams. The common factor is a willingness to move from time-for-money models to value-for-impact models.

Q7. How does your experience at Hype10X influence the curriculum design?

A: At Hype10X, we manage real client campaigns across industries. The curriculum is built from live market data, performance metrics, and operational challenges, not theoretical frameworks. What participants learn is directly derived from what works in client environments.

Q8. How does this initiative align with India's broader skilling and employment goals?

A: India requires scalable skill-to-income models. Traditional employment alone cannot absorb the workforce entering the market. Digital entrepreneurship, when structured correctly, can become a supplementary economic engine. Our model supports self-employment, micro-enterprise creation, and knowledge monetisation.

Q9. What metrics will define the success of Bring It On Screen over the next two years?

A: Success will be measured by:

- Percentage of participants generating sustainable income
- Retention and progression within the ecosystem
- Quality of digital assets created
- Ethical compliance and brand longevity

Revenue alone is not the sole metric; economic resilience is.

Q10. What is the long-term vision behind Bring It On Screen?

A: The vision is to build India's most credible ecosystem for purpose-driven digital professionals—where income is a result of value, not virality.

Q11. You recently announced the launch of a dedicated website. What role does this platform play in the ecosystem?

A: The website functions as the central digital asset of the Bring It On Screen ecosystem. It is designed to serve three purposes: first, as an information hub outlining the framework, curriculum, and outcomes; second, as a learning interface hosting resources and updates; and third, as a transparent gateway for prospective participants to evaluate the program before enrolling. From a systems perspective, owning the platform ensures continuity, data integrity, and long-term scalability.

Q12. You have also announced a series of free webinars. What purpose do they serve?

A: The free webinars are designed as orientation and qualification layers, not sales events. They help participants understand whether the framework aligns with their goals and capabilities. This reduces mismatch and improves long-term engagement. From an ethical standpoint, informed entry is essential.

Q13. How frequently will these webinars be conducted, and how can interested individuals access them?

A:The webinars will be conducted periodically and announced through the official website and communication channels. Interested individuals can register directly through the platform, ensuring transparent access and consistent updates.

Q14. How does this funnel—from webinar to bootcamp—reflect your broader philosophy?

A: It reflects a trust-first model. Education precedes enrolment. Demonstration precedes commitment. This mirrors how sustainable businesses are built—by allowing the market to experience value before making a decision.

SOCIALISM WHERE ART THOU?

OPINION

HIMANSHU DHULIYA

Dear Socialism where are you ? Our founding fathers had given you a place of primacy in our constitution in words such as social , economic and political justice, in the Preamble itself . And lest we forget and go astray by an amendment the word 'Socialist' was explicitly added later, and yet you have vanished or crushed by the mighty boots of capitalism !

But what hope and fun it was to hear of your advent and the promise you held . You were the child of freedom struggle and the moment you were incorporated in the movement the entire country and its teeming masses aligned with the moment and it became a formidable force . There were members of all castes and classes , farmers , workers , students , lawyers , women , in the movement and there was an unwritten understanding that you shall be the core value of our constitution . And indeed you were the nucleus of the document and the very idea of India.

PROMISES TO KEEP

Policies and programmes were framed with you in picture – planning commission, green revolution ,white revolution, nationalization of banks, public sector undertakings , abolition of privy purses, end of zamindari , land ceiling and distribution etc . Despite the good intentions the success was limited but we were singing – '*Hum layein hein toofan se kashti nikal ke is desh ko rakhna mere bachhon sambhal ke*'(Mohammad Rafi , film -Jagriti 1954). The 'spirit' of socialism was alive , the emotions had not withered .

And yet there was disenchantment and loss of heart and hope and it reflected in cinema and songs- '*Ye mehlon ye takhton ye tazon ki duniya , ye insan ke jhute samajon ki duniya, ye duniya agar mil bhi jaye to kya hai , ye duniya agar mil bhi jaye to kya hai*' (Mohamad Rafi , film Pyassa 1957).

Though you were in the news always in modern India , our country had known you since ancient times, our sages and wise people had believed in you and propagated your concepts :

'*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niraamayaah*
Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu, Maa Kashcid-Dukkha-Bhaag-Bhavet'

(May All be Happy, May All be Free from Illness.
May All See what is Auspicious, May no one Suffer.)- Brihadaranyaka Upnishad.

The freedom struggle was being steered by Mahatma Gandhi who was influenced by not only Indian philosophy of Gita and Upanishads but also some of the great writers and thinkers of his time . He learnt to serve the last man by the works of John Ruskin's 'Unto the Last' where he propounded the thought that the last man should be served too. Henry David Thoreau stated the concept of simplicity and to curb ones wants in his work 'Walden' in which he narrates his stay in the forest living alone and working alone. Leo Tolstoy taught Gandhi the concept of 'The kingdom of God is within us' and to seek goodness in oneself first. Gandhiji had dreamt of 'Village Republic' in India. Nehru was influenced by the French Revolution and the Russian revolutions and was a Fabian Socialist himself. Subhash Chandra Bose also talked about abolition of Zamindari and State control for general good.

Socialism was linked to simplicity and curbing wants . Professor J K Mehta an economist of Allahabad university was influenced by the ideas of Gandhiji and was himself a reputed scholar who propounded the theory of '*wantlessness*' . In this era when environment is under constant strain his theory is of relevance . He had stated '*true economic satisfaction is not maximising unlimited wants but achieving a state where wants cease , leading to contentment and bliss*' . Mehta argued that individual should focus on basic needs – '*needonomics*' in line with Gandhiji's principle.

PATH ABANDONED

It seems that our planning programmes and policies were partially successful and the best of programmes did not cover much ground and did not uplift the Nation and bring in prosperity and happiness and so in the early nineties we changed course and loosened the Government control of license and permits and opened our markets to international firms, markets, agencies . Many structural changes prompted by an acute state of economy compelled us to mortgaged our gold and seek financial relief . Matters stabilized and we never looked back thereafter. Justice V R Krishna Iyer in the chapter titled 'The Noble Preamble : We have promises to keep ' of his book 'Off the Bench' states " *The Indian humanscape , when freedom dawned in 1947 was vibrant with socialist hope of egalite, liberty and pursuit of happiness As the twentieth century was about to set and the new Millenium was being midwifed by passage of time , the onward Nehruvian locomotion of people's progress took a reverse Manmohanics direction.*"

The state has come to such as pass that there were pleas in the highest court to remove the word 'Socialist ' from the preamble. Over the years many symbols and motifs and essentials of 'socialism' have dismantled as our journey toward free market and capitalism commenced . The physical and the emotional structure of socialism was dissolved in the flood and storm of market economy. And our preamble stood silence . Let me elaborate by a few examples below.

Raj Kapoor in 'Shri 420' walking alone on the road.

Balraj Sahni as Shambhu Maheto in 'Do bigha Zameen'

ROADS

The most common symbol of socialism are the 'Roads' made for the people . The 'first right' on roads is of the person and people who walk on the road on foot. This right has been snatched away from them , no one can now sing the song –' *nikal paden hein khulli sadak par apna sina taane , manzil kahan kahan rukna hai upar wala jane , badhte jaayen hum sainani jaise ik Dariya toofani , sar pe lal topi rusi phir bhi dil hai Hindustani*' (Mukesh in film -Shri 420).

Now six lanes highways adorn our land with vehicles speeding at 100 km per hour tread on these , leaving the by standers gasping for breath. There is no room for the commoners , no sideways or pathways for walkers. Even in cities the sidewalks have reduced and only vehicles are encouraged.

HEALTH

What great progress has been made in the medical field by private hospitals with astronomical fees , the attention is on money and not on patient ! I often wonder how countries like Cuba , China , Russia, England have provided medical care to their citizens . The Government and various state Governments have increased medical insurance substantially but still the moot question remains that this enhancement is to benefit the citizen or the hospital . Many pointers exist of our failures and the most glaring is the fee of private medical colleges . We failed to build Government medical colleges and hospitals in accordance with the size of our population and have become dependent on privatization . The gap between a Government seat and private seat is unimaginably wide and the student/parent is trapped in bank loan cycle for the most productive period of his life . And yet the hygiene and care between private and Government hospitals is not comparable. The socialism spirit is lacking in this area substantially . In such times I search for the old family Doctor with his leather brief case and spectacles, statoscope hung around the neck , smiling , genial person whose very presence gave us relief and satisfaction and was affordable to the common man.

EDUCATION

The universal free education was a mirage . The basic primary education was not a success story and the 'right to education' bill was introduced much later . The Government colleges which were giving excellent results and hope prior and post independence soon sank into deep slumber and the private schools and universities took charge.

However, I remember that the education system was still holding some idealism and principles and was yet not called an 'education industry' . But, today it is indeed an industry where among others people who were dealing with the sale of 'liquor' and owners of 'sweet shops' are running prominent private universities . Their attitude toward education is the way they treat any commodity for sale and profits and their aim is attained through admissions and high fees . Institutions advertise themselves promoting jobs , a few students do achieve high standards and obtain high salary positions in prestigious firms mainly digital . Based on the success of these students other prospective students are lured and fall into the educational loan trap. Quality of education is secondary and image projection is the sole purpose.

I think of my days in the school , college and the university where fair standards prevailed. I was in a missionary school St Joseph College in Allahabad and later in the university . My school had students mostly middle class like me from all over the city belonging to all religions and there was never any issue of fee being high . At the university it was nominal, and my university was known for producing maximum IAS officers at one time .

There was a social purpose in the field of education, the famous DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) colleges were established in Lahore in 1886 under the patronage of Lala Lajpat Rai to give balanced quality education to boys and girls in North India under the aegis of Arya Samaj . There are about 1000 schools and colleges and universities running at present and at one time this was the only institution in towns where higher education was imparted such as in Dehradun . Sadly many lack funds and have been taken over by the Government as a rescue measure but that commitment and glory is gone.

Perhaps the biggest success story in the primary and secondary education field of the Government are the 'Central schools' spread over the country and Navodaya schools both have CBSE programmes . The quality of teachers and students in 'Central schools' should be our National bench mark . It is a success story but has covered limited area , the central school model should have been our National model and all the states and districts should have followed it . It has given innumerable IIT graduates and successful citizens of India. Balanced and standard instructions are imparted. Central schools is 'Socialist ' model of which we should be proud of.

Education is the foundation of a Nation and what spirit we had toward this cause ! Tagore established 'Vishva Bharti University ' in Shanti Niketan from the prize money he received as Nobel prize , an education close to nature . He established a team of eminent scholars and was successful . Madan Mohan Malviya established 'Banaras Hindu University' with his herculean efforts went around the country to seek financial aid and was successful. It is a premier university today. Hari Singh Gaud created the Sagar university in remote corner of Bundelkhand to provide higher education to his people and today it is a central university. We having such models before us and yet we took a wrong turn and packed education in the capitalist bandwagon.

HOUSING

'*Chota sa ghar hoga badalon ki chaanv mein*
Aasha diwani mann mein bansuri bajaye' (Kishore Kumar film -Naukri -1954)

Among the many core social sectors it is the 'Housing' which has suffered the most and has succumbed to near complete privatization. But was not so when it started . Our people had the necessary know how to build good houses and the many Government personnel quarters spread all over the country are testimony to the same – R K Puram in Delhi , Armed forces quarters built by MES (military engineering services) , MAHDA (Maharashtra housing building authority) and similar such organizations. My parents purchased their only house in Allahabad in 1975 , a two BHK flat on 'hire purchase' scheme of ADA (Allahabad development authority) . An initial amount of Rs 5000/- was paid and then for fifteen years an affordable amount of Rs 550/- per month was paid as rent . The Government was indeed benevolent. When we had everything with us – land , engineers, material resource , why then we opened the gates to such massive privatization which has economically burdened the masses for their life time.

THE SPIRIT AND HOPE

More than anything it is the spirit of socialism which is lost . Socialism meant good for all , it meant considering all the people as part of oneself . It meant that their fears and problems were common , and that they shall travel together and work for the people and the Nation in the making together . What we have adopted is crass consumerism , the collective human spirit is discarded. In this digital age we have become assembly line creations in turn we have lost ourselves . This loss has traversed from economy to culture , we have shunned grace and poise and adopted pomp and pelf.

I have some hope and with that hope I conclude here with the song penned by Shailendra for Bimal Roy's 'Do Bigha Zameen '-1953 . The scene is that Shambhu Mahato's 'Do bigha Zameen' has been mortgaged to the zamindar as he could not pay back the loan and so he is compelled to leave his village and go to Kolkata for work to earn money and get back his land. The song plays as he is leaving his village : '

'*Dharti Kabe pukar ke*
beej bichale pyar ke
Mausam bita jaye
Apni kahani chod ja
Kuch to nisbani chod ja
Kaun kabe is oar
Tu phir aye na aye
Mausam bita jaye
Mausam bita jaye '

Himanshu Dhuliya is an Indian Navy veteran, author and podcaster.

India's MSME moment is a test of systems leadership

OPINION

ANIL TRIGUNAYAT & SUMIT KAUSHIK

Across advanced and emerging economies alike, MSMEs are being asked to do more than survive. They are expected to absorb supply chain shocks, drive employment, anchor domestic manufacturing, and increasingly, meet the sustainability and compliance standards of global trade. In this context, MSME policy is no longer a domestic development concern. It is a competitiveness strategy.

India has over 68 million MSMEs, contributing nearly 28 to 30 percent of the country's GDP, making the sector central to economic growth, employment generation, and domestic value chains across regions. Its performance will decisively shape India's growth momentum and manufacturing competitiveness. Improving productivity, simplifying compliance, and ensuring convergence across schemes and institutions are therefore not administrative choices but economic imperatives to unlock scale, efficiency, and sustained value creation across the MSME ecosystem. India has responded to this challenge with scale and intent. Few economies deploy as many targeted interventions as possible for small enterprises. Yet the defining constraint today is not policy attention but policy architecture. As global capital becomes more selective and trade regimes more exacting, fragmentation within MSME support systems has begun to carry macroeconomic consequences.

The renewed emphasis on convergence must therefore be read as a strategic inflection point. Not a bureaucratic consolidation, but a systems reform with implications for productivity, exports, and economic resilience.

FRAGMENTATION IS A HIDDEN DRAG ON GROWTH

In a world shaped by near-shoring, friend-shoring, and supply chain rebalancing, the speed and reliability of MSMEs matter as much as their scale. Fragmented policy delivery introduces delays, raises compliance costs, and weakens the ability of small firms to integrate into time-sensitive value chains.

When credit schemes are decoupled from technology upgrades, when skilling operates independently of industry demand, and when market access initiatives do not align with quality and sustainability standards, MSMEs struggle to convert policy support into measurable output. At the macro level, this translates into lower productivity, weaker export competitiveness, and reduced investment efficiency. Convergence offers a way to address this structural drag. But only if it is framed around enterprise outcomes rather than institutional convenience.

DESIGNING POLICY AROUND THE FIRM, NOT THE FILE

Leading economies increasingly design MSME support as platforms rather than programmes. The objective is coherence. Data integration across taxation, registration, finance, and skilling allows governments to anticipate stress, allocate capital more efficiently, and calibrate interventions in real time.

For India, information convergence can enable a shift from reactive policymaking to predictive governance. But data integration must be complemented by process alignment. From the enterprise perspective, engagement with the state should feel continuous, intuitive, and proportionate to scale. Digital infrastructure is an enabler, not a solution. Platforms must reduce decision friction, lower compliance burdens, and provide actionable insight. Otherwise, digitisation risks replicating fragmentation at a faster pace.

SUSTAINABILITY IS NOW A TRADE VARIABLE

Perhaps the most significant global shift facing MSMEs today is the convergence of trade and sustainability. Carbon intensity, resource efficiency, and traceability are rapidly becoming prerequisites for market access, not optional differentiators.

For export-oriented MSMEs, especially those linked to European, North American, and East Asian markets, sustainability compliance will increasingly influence pricing, financing, and buyer relationships. This reality demands that sustainability be embedded within MSME policy design rather than addressed through standalone initiatives.

Converged policy frameworks can align technology upgradation with energy efficiency, skilling with environmental management, and cluster development with shared sustainability infrastructure. When sustainability is treated as a productivity driver rather than a regulatory cost, MSMEs are better positioned to compete globally.

CONVERGENCE REQUIRES INSTITUTIONAL MATURITY

The risks of convergence are real. Large-scale restructuring without sequencing can disrupt delivery and weaken accountability. Execution will require shared metrics, inter-ministerial coordination, and capacity building at the administrative level.

Equally, convergence must be selective. Targeted programmes serving specific regions, communities, and sectors should retain autonomy where scale and context demand it. Strategic systems are not uniform systems. They are adaptive by design.

A STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

As global trade becomes more fragmented and geopolitical risk reshapes supply chains, countries that can offer reliability, transparency, and scale will gain advantage. India's MSMEs are central to that proposition.

The question is no longer whether India has enough MSME schemes. It is whether the ecosystem allows enterprises to move quickly, comply effortlessly, and compete credibly on the global stage.

Convergence, if executed as systems leadership rather than administrative reform, can reposition India's MSMEs as anchors of growth, exports, and economic resilience. This is not incremental policy work. It is a strategic choice about how India competes in a more complex, more demanding global economy.

Former Ambassador Anil Trigunayat is a Retd. IFS Officer, and has served as the trade commissioner in New York, USA
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TAMIL NADU POLLS: EC ALLOTS 'WHISTLE' FOR VIJAY, 'BATTERY TORCH' FOR KAMAL HAASAN

Haasan's MNM has ties with DMK, while Vijay's TVK is set to debut upcoming assembly polls

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Ahead of the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, the political parties of veteran actors Vijay and Kamal Haasan have been allotted their respective symbols by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The whistle symbol has been allotted to Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), headed by actor Vijay. Whereas, the battery torch symbol has been allotted to Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), the party headed by Kamal Haasan.

Haasan's MNM has an alliance with the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), while Vijay's TVK is set to debut in the upcoming assembly polls, vying to gain power by unseating the incumbent DMK.

"I am directed to state that the application of the following registered un-recognised political party(s) for conession in the allotment of a common symbol to its candidates being set up at the forthcoming General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry 2025-26, under the provisions of Para 10B of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order,1968, have been accepted by the Commission," according to an order by the secretariat of the ECI to the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer.

The allotment and usage of symbols is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. The symbols are also available for allotment as "free symbol" to other candidates in the constituencies where the parties do not actually set up their candidates. Moreover, the parties could also lose their symbols if they do not meet the requirement of a minimum number of candidates, that is, winning in 5 per cent of the total Assembly constituencies.

All the political parties have started gearing up for the elections, with AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami already announcing the party's first phase of the party's poll promises on January 17.

The AIADMK's election promises include the Women's Welfare Kulavilakku Scheme, under which a monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,000 will be provided to all ration card-holding families, credited directly to the bank account of the woman head of the family.

Vijay, the founder of TVK, himself has been embroiled in controversy, already facing questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding the Karur stampede.

Tamil Nadu is scheduled to hold elections in the first half of this year.

Piyush Goyal attacks Stalin, says NDA will defeat him

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

BJP election in-charge for Tamil Nadu, Piyush Goyal, meets the Founder and President of the Puthiya Needhi Katchi, A. C. Shanmugam, in Chennai on Thursday. (@DrACSofficialX/ANI Photo)

Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Tamil Nadu election in-charge Piyush Goyal on Thursday criticised the ruling DMK government over alleged nepotism and corruption after meeting Tamil Maanila Congress leader GK Vasan and senior National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ally AC Shanmugam in Chennai, asserting that the NDA is determined to free Tamil Nadu from what he described as "corruption" and "incompetence."

Speaking after the meeting, Goyal said he was pleased to meet Vasan, whom he described as a long-time friend. "I am so happy to meet my friend GK Vasan. I have known him for more than 20 years. We have worked together in the Rajya Sabha. I have seen how well he represents the people of Tamil Nadu and how passionate he is about serving the state," he said.

Goyal also praised AC Shanmugam, calling him a trusted NDA ally. "I am very delighted to meet Dr AC Shanmugam. He is a trusted and loyal partner of the NDA, and together with Mr Vasan, we will ensure that Tamil Nadu gets a good NDA government," he added.

The Union Minister said the NDA is focused on good governance and inclusive development. "We will bring good governance, development and prosperity for every section of Tamil Nadu, our sisters and daughters, youth, fishermen, farmers and all sections of society, and under the guidance and leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the leader of the alliance in Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami," he further stated.

Expressing confidence in the alliance's prospects, Goyal said the NDA would secure a decisive mandate.

"I am grateful for the love and affection that the people of Tamil Nadu have always shown towards Prime Minister Modi. I have seen the concern and affection that the Prime Minister has for the people of Tamil Nadu. I am sure that in this election, the NDA will win with a thumping majority," he said.

Taking aim at the ruling DMK, Goyal alleged corruption and nepotism. "GK Vasan and Dr AC Shanmugam will work with full force to defeat the nepotist and corrupt Stalin government.

YS Jagan alleges TDP's 'credit chori' in land resurvey

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

YSRCP President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday called the bluff of the TDP leadership over its tall claims and alleged "credit chori" in the comprehensive land resurvey. He affirmed that legal options would be explored to ensure justice to the Pinnelli villagers who were allegedly forced to leave their village, while also highlighting what he termed rampant corruption under the coalition government. He hinted that the mass contact programme would begin when anti-incumbency reaches its peak.

Speaking to the media here, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy gave a detailed account of how N Chandrababu Naidu had, he alleged, hijacked the comprehensive land survey undertaken by the YSRCP party government and resorted to credit chori, despite having virtually no contribution to the herculean task of implementing the Bhu Raksha and Bhu Hakku schemes.

Recalling the origins of the initiative, he said that during his padayatra, farmers had poured out their woes over irregular land titles and disputes, an issue that was clearly mentioned in the 2019 manifesto. During the YSRCP party government's tenure, Rs 6,000 crore was spent and nearly 40,000 staff were deployed to carry out comprehensive land reforms—something no other government had managed—by issuing clear land titles with advanced security features using high-end technology. The initiative, he said, was appreciated far and wide.

After assuming office, Chandrababu Naidu, who could never have imagined such a reform, allegedly took away Pattadar Passbooks from farmers, merely changed their colour, and returned them while claiming credit for the entire exercise. Even the Rs 400 crore given by the Centre as a token of appreciation was, he alleged, "knocked away" by the TDP leadership, exposing the extent of credit chori. The new Pattadar Passbooks being issued by the coalition government, he said, are riddled with errors, further increasing farmers' hardships.

It was Chandrababu Naidu and his propaganda machinery, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged, that floated story after story just before the elections claiming that lands would be taken away under the Bhu Hakku and Bhu Rakshana schemes. IVR calls were also made to scare farmers and urge them not to vote for the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party. Such short-term political gains would not last long, as people have seen through the "dirty game," he said.

After assuming office, Chandrababu Naidu initially blamed prohibitive lands and later took a U-turn, which, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said, exposed his opportunistic mindset.

Pawan Kalyan inaugurates Kotappakonda-Kothapalem road

NARESH AKKENA
VIJAYWADA

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Pawan Kalyan, fulfilled his promise to the devotees of Sri Trikoteswara Swamy at Kotappakonda. He inaugurated the new road constructed between Kotappakonda and Kothapalem villages with funds from the Panchayat Raj department, making it accessible to the public. On Thursday, after visiting the Kotappakonda temple, he unveiled the plaque at the Shiva Stupa located at the foot of the hill. He then inspected the quality of the road by walking on it. This new road, spanning 8 kilometers, was constructed with funds amounting to Rs. 3.9 crores. During the last Assembly sessions, local MLA Dr. Arvind Babu had submitted a petition to Pawan Kalyan requesting the construction of this road for the convenience of the devotees.

The Deputy Chief Minister had promised to complete the road before the Shivaratri festival. With the construction of this road between Kotappakonda and Kothapalem, the travel difficulties of approximately 1.5 lakh devotees attending the Shivaratri festival will be resolved. The problems faced by farmers in the Kothapalem village area and students going to the Gonepudi school will also be alleviated. On the occasion of the road inauguration, students from Gonepudi school met Mr. Pawan Kalyan and thanked him for providing the road facility.

Shocking animal cruelty: Over 100 stray dogs poisoned, buried

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

A disturbing case of alleged animal cruelty has surfaced in Yacharam village of Rangareddy district, where around 100 stray dogs were reportedly killed using poisonous injections and buried in open land. The incident has triggered outrage among animal welfare groups and prompted a police investigation.

According to officials, the complaint was filed by Mudavath Preethi (22), an Animal Cruelty Prevention Assistant from Nagarkarnool district. In her petition to the police, she stated that she received information on January 19, 2026, around 9:00 AM, that stray dogs in Yacharam village were killed allegedly on the instructions of the village Sarpanch and Panchayat Secretary.

The complainant said she was informed through conversations between animal welfare activists and village representatives. In one call, a ward member reportedly claimed that the dogs had been relocated. However, in another conversation with an animal welfare activist, the same ward member allegedly admitted that the dogs were given anesthesia injections. Upon further enquiry with Yacharam villagers, Preethi stated that she confirmed the dogs were injected with poisonous substances, leading to their deaths.

Following the complaint, Yacharam police registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 11(1)(a)(i) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act. The case was registered as Crime No. 15/2026, and an investigation was initiated by Sub-Inspector U. Madhu.

On Thursday, police officials along with health department personnel and local authorities reached the suspected burial site. Digging operations were undertaken in an open land area where the dogs were allegedly buried. Officials said the excavation is part of evidence collection to verify the allegations and strengthen the investigation.

Animal welfare activists have condemned the incident and demanded strict action against those responsible. They have urged authorities to ensure accountability and prevent such acts of cruelty in the future.

RPSG Group to invest Rs 10,500 crore in Vijayapura and Ballari

BELLIE THOMAS
BENGALURU

The RPSG Group, a major player in the renewable energy sector, will invest RS 10,500 crore over the next three years in Vijayapura and Ballari districts, Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil said on Thursday. He assured that the State Government would extend all necessary support to facilitate these investments.

The Minister shared this information while participating in the World Economic Forum meeting currently under way in Davos.

Similarly, the InoxGFL Group, which has already commenced turbine blade manufacturing for the wind energy sector at Kustagi, is planning to set up a facility to manufacture large wind power towers at a nearby location in the coming days. The company has already invested Rs 10,000 crore in Karnataka, he said.

The Ramky Group, which specialises in waste management, has expressed interest in setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in KIADB industrial areas across the State. Discussions have also been held with the group on establishing a Pharma Park in Karnataka. Tech Mahindra Limited, meanwhile, has shown interest in making industrial investments in Tier-2 cities of the State, he added.

The State is keen on attracting greater investments from Singapore-based companies. In this regard, discussions were held with representatives of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), functioning under Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Shivakumar invites investors to invest in 'City of the Future' at Davos

BELLIE THOMAS
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, on Thursday, extended an invitation to investors at the World Economic Forum in Davos to invest in Bengaluru.

"Bengaluru is the city of the future. We have excellent weather, culture and human resource. Many global companies are thriving in the city, I welcome you also to our city," the DCM told the investors in an address at the World Economic Forum.

"More than 500 of top global companies are operating out of Bengaluru currently. The city boasts of excellent human resource in several fields including aerospace, IT, medicine. The state has 70 medical colleges and 1.5 lakh medical professionals are passing out of the state's colleges. We can all grow together," he said.

"India has huge talent pool and we are preparing for the next 25 years. Bengaluru is Asia's IT Capital. The urban population in India has gone up to 40% and it is likely to go up to 50% in the next 25 years," he added.

"World's IT Capital California has 13 lakh engineers and Bengaluru has 25 lakh engineers. This demonstrates Bengaluru's strength.

Six dead, five injured in kiln blast at Chhattisgarh iron plant

TDG NETWORK
BALODABAZAR

Six people were killed and five others injured after a massive explosion occurred in the kiln of an iron plant in Balodabazar, falling under the jurisdiction of Bhatapara Rural Police Station on Thursday, officials said.

District Collector Deepak Soni informed that all the injured have been shifted to a hospital in Bilaspur for further treatment.

According to preliminary reports, the blast took place while coal was being burned and rotated inside the kiln, resulting in a violent explosion that caused extensive damage to the plant and claimed multiple lives. The exact cause of the accident is under investigation.

The police and the fire brigade personnel rushed to the site shortly after the explosion to carry out rescue operations.

Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the explosion.

Ethanol ambitions and the return of the GM maize debate

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Maize is not just a crop; it is seed, livelihood, food, feed and identity. For years, this simple truth was overshadowed by a louder seductive narrative, one that promised higher yields, energy security, and technological inevitability. When multinational seed corporations began advocating genetically modified (GM) maize as a shortcut to productivity and fuel security, many farmers, local leaders, and even policymakers were not fully aware of the long-term ecological, economic, and social implications. I wrote continuously: to farmer bodies, to environmentalists, to journalists. Today, those of us who stood firmly for non-GM maize feel vindicated. The government is listening. The debate has shifted. And that matters, not just for maize, but for India's agricultural sovereignty. Commercial GM crops began spreading globally in the 1990s. GM maize, engineered primarily for pest resistance or herbicide tolerance, was rapidly adopted in countries dominated by large, industrial farming systems. The promise was straightforward: higher yields and easier management. India, however, chose a more cautious path. While Bt cotton was permitted, GM

Dr. Mamtamayi Priyadarshini, Environmentalist, Social Worker and Author of Maize Mandate

food crops remained under strict regulatory scrutiny. Over time, this restraint gave rise to a parallel and resilient non-GM maize ecosystem, traditional seed keepers and hybrid seed producers, identity-preserved supply chains, and exporters serving non-GM and organic markets in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. India's non-GM maize thus became more than an agronomic choice; it evolved into an economic premium and a strategic identity. Markets, however, do not remain static. With the global push to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, maize quietly acquired a second identity, as an energy feedstock. Grain-based ethanol policies transformed a food crop into a strategic fuel input in a short span of time. Globally, the cheapest maize is produced in countries where GM cultivation dominates. As ethanol demand increased, GM maize re-entered India's policy conversation, not as food, but as fuel. By late 2025, three forces converged: India's ambitious ethanol-blending targets sharply increased demand for maize; global corn oversupply made imports economically attractive; and trade pressure, particularly from GM-producing exporters, intensified. This convergence brought GM maize back into national focus. The debate soon moved beyond policy papers to village roads. In Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, farmers protested against a proposed grain-based ethanol plant. As protests intensified, construction was halted and the project's promoters began exploring relocation to another State. Similar concerns surfaced elsewhere. In Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, farmer groups questioned water diversion for ethanol units. In Karnataka, civil society organisations warned against monoculture expansion driven by ethanol demand. In Punjab and Haryana, grain-belt States cautioned against turning food-security regions into fuel corridors. The message was unmistakable: treating maize purely as an industrial commodity invites resistance. As someone who has long advocated non-GM maize, I have consistently argued that the risks are real and multilayered. Once GM grain enters domestic handling systems, accidental mixing with non-GM seed or food supplies becomes difficult to prevent unless stringent segregation mechanisms are enforced. Seed contamination undermines farmers who rely on saved seed and hybrid markets dependent on genetic purity. Many export buyers pay premiums for identity-preserved non-GM grain; even limited contamination can shut export channels and erase those premiums overnight. Large grain-based ethanol plants also reshape rural ecology.

BASANT PANCHAMI: A FESTIVAL OF KNOWLEDGE AND FAITH

AYUSH SHARMA
JAIPUR

In the Indian worldview, there are some festivals that are more of a dialogue than a celebration. Basant Panchami is one of them. This festival not only heralds the change of seasons but also questions our educational consciousness, cultural memory, and intellectual responsibility.

This day of Magh Shukla Panchami, when nature smiles in yellow, actually reminds us that knowledge is also a season in life—one that, if not brought on time, leaves society stunted.

The yellow hue of mustard fields, the soft fragrance of mango blossoms, and the first note of the cuckoo—these are not merely natural scenes but symbols of the aesthetics of knowledge. Indian culture has established Goddess Saraswati among these symbols—as the goddess of knowledge, who not only imparts information but also awakens wisdom.

SARASWATI: NOT A GODDESS, BUT A VISION

In Indian philosophy, Goddess Saraswati is not merely a supernatural fantasy. She is an educational vision. The veena in his hands suggests that knowledge requires tone and balance. The book suggests that study is essential, but silence is equally important. The white robes teach that true knowledge purifies oneself, not imposes superiority on others. It is no coincidence that knowledge and humility were not seen as separate entities in the Indian tradition. Where egoism increased, knowledge became a burden; and where humility prevailed, even ordinary education proved life-giving.

VIDYARAMBH: A SANSKAAR, A PLEDGE

Basant Panchami was once considered the day of the Vidyarambh Sanskaar. It was not merely a process of teaching a child the alphabet, but a moment to acknowledge that society was about to forge a new consciousness. Writing the first letter while sitting in front of the teacher was, in effect, an acknowledgment that knowledge is not acquired alone—it is linked to tradition, discipline, and conduct.

EDUCATION AT A CROSSROADS

The question today is unavoidable: have our educational institutions preserved this sacred tradition, or has learning been reduced to syllabi, examinations, and grades alone? Modern education has expanded rapidly—resources have multiplied, opportunities have widened, and technology has erased boundaries. Yet alongside this progress arises an uneasy concern: is education truly shaping us into better human beings? We are producing skilled professionals with impressive abilities, but are we nurturing sensitive, responsible citizens as well? Is there space in our classrooms for moral courage, social compassion, and thoughtful wisdom? Basant Panchami confronts us with this reflection. It reminds us that the true worth of knowledge lies not in its utility or market value, but in its humanity, ethics, and capacity to uplift society as a whole.

> *This day of Magh Shukla Panchami, when nature smiles in yellow, actually reminds us that knowledge is also a season in life—one that, if not brought on time, leaves society stunted.*

TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND SOCIETY

Basant Panchami is not just a festival for students. It is also a day of introspection for teachers. A teacher is not just a purveyor of curriculum, but an architect of society. Their single vision can shape the course of generations. For students, this festival is a reminder that education is not merely a means to score marks, but a process of self-understanding. And for society, it is a warning that if education is left solely to the market, culture will become hollow.

TRADITION OR RELEVANCE

We often dismiss festivals as mere traditions, overlooking their deeper relevance. But Basant Panchami is not a ritual bound by time; it is an inspiration that urges reflection on our priorities. If it is reduced to wearing yellow or performing formal worship, we betray its spirit. Its true essence lives in our education policies, intellectual outlook, and everyday social conduct.

THE SPRING OF CONSCIOUS LEARNING

When will the spring of knowledge truly arrive? It comes when learning gives us courage to question, space to disagree, and strength to defend truth. This is the living worship of Goddess Saraswati. Basant Panchami reminds us that education blossoms only when intellect is guided by sensitivity, culture, and character. Knowledge without values is information; knowledge with values becomes wisdom. Today, let us resolve to shape education not merely as a ladder to personal success, but as the foundation for building a just society. In a society where knowledge is alive, seasons transform not only into festivals, but into awakened consciousness. This awakening is our offering.

The author is an Educationist.

From Prayagraj to Thirunavaya: Kumbh, Mamankam and the Cartography of Sanatana Civilisation

SIDDHARTHA DAVE

If Mahamagham represented spiritual order, Mamankam embodied political tension within ethical boundaries. Held every twelve years at the same sacred geography, Mamankam was both a festival and a referendum on sovereignty. The Zamorin of Kozhikode presided, but his authority was continually contested by rival claimants, most famously through the Chaver tradition.

The Chavers' attempts to assassinate the Zamorin were not acts of anarchy. They were ritualised challenges rooted in a belief that sovereignty must be periodically tested through sacrifice. The climactic Mamankam of 1755, with the daring assault by the teenage Putumanna Kandaru Menon, symbolised the last flicker of this ethical-political order.

The subsequent Mysorean invasions shattered the delicate balance that sustained Mamankam. Without sovereignty, ritual collapses. Without ritual, memory fades.

VALLUVANAD: A CRADLE OF KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

The region surrounding Thirunavaya—Valluvanad—was far more than a political unit. Nourished by the Bharathapuzha, it served as a knowledge corridor linking gurukulas, yajña-lands and artistic traditions. This was the land of Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan, whose Adhyatma Ramayanam shaped Kerala's devotional imagination, and of Vellinezhi, the cradle of Kathakali and ritual performance.

Kalari institutions trained both body and mind, while centres like Koodalloor functioned as proto-universities. The Mahamagham did not arise in a vacuum; it was the natural outcome of a region where education, spirituality and governance were seamlessly interwoven.

PARAYI PETTA PANTHIRUKULAM: A SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY IN NARRATIVE FORM

The legend of Parayi Petta Panthirukulam, rooted in this same river basin, offers an ethical counterpoint to Mamankam's politics. Through the lives of twelve siblings raised across castes, professions and faiths, the narrative asserts a radical idea: divinity distributes talent without regard for social hierarchy.

In an era often caricatured as rigidly stratified, this legend reveals a more nuanced reality. Kerala's civilisational memory preserved stories that subverted birth-based determinism long before modern reform movements articulated similar ideals.

That this story culminates with the consecration of Vayillakunnilappan—the deity without a mouth—serves as a profound metaphor: ultimate truth often lies beyond speech and social labels.

COLONIAL DISRUPTION AND CIVILISATIONAL AMNESIA

The cessation of Mahamagham and Mamankam was not accidental. Large Hindu assemblies have historically been prime targets for disruptive forces precisely because they recharge collective consciousness. Colonial administrators understood this instinctively, as did earlier invaders. Fragment the ritual calendar, and the civilisation gradually loses its temporal compass.

By the early nineteenth century, Thirunavaya's temples lay neglected, its gurukulas silent, and its spiritual authority diminished. What survived did so as folklore and fragmented ritual, awaiting a moment of reassembly.

2026: RESTORATION, NOT REINVENTION

The proposed Kerala Kumbh Mela at Thirunavaya in January–February 2026 must be understood in this context. Led by the Juna Akhara and supported by Kerala's sannyasa lineages including Mata Amritanandmayi, it seeks to restore the Mahamagham's spiritual grammar—rooted in Magha Masa, tirtha-snana, discourse and collective sadhana.

It will mark a return after 271 years, reconnecting Kerala to a Pan-Indian sacred rhythm that was never truly lost, only paused.

WHY THIRUNAVAYA MATTERS TO BHARAT TODAY

In contemporary Bharat, discussions on civilisation often oscillate between nostalgia and nationalism. Thirunavaya offers a third path: institutional remembrance. It reminds us that Sanatana Dharma thrived not because it resisted change, but because it embedded change within cyclical frameworks.

The revival of Mahamagham challenges modern society to reconsider forgotten questions: Can governance be ethically audited by spiritual authority? Can diversity coexist without fragmentation? Can festivals serve as instruments of civilisational continuity rather than mere celebration?

THE RIVER REMEMBERS

Rivers outlive regimes. They witness yajñas, coronations, invasions and silences, carrying memory even when humans forget. The Bharathapuzha has waited centuries for the return of its full ritual voice. As preparations unfold at Thirunavaya, one senses not invention, but recognition—as if the land itself is responding to a long-delayed call.

From Prayagraj to Thirunavaya, from Kumbh to Mamankam, the story is ultimately one of unbroken flow. Sanatana civilisation does not march in straight lines; it circles back, renews itself, and continues. And when it does, it reminds us that dharma, like a river, may be obstructed—but it never forgets its course.

Shri Siddhartha Dave is an alumnus of United Nations University, Tokyo, an eminent columnist and a former Lok Sabha Research Fellow. He writes on Foreign Affairs and National Security.

THE BUSINESS GUARDIAN

FRIDAY | 23 JANUARY 2026 | FARIDABAD

ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE: COURT ACQUITS SAJJAN KUMAR IN JANAKPURI VIOLENCE CASE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Thursday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case linked to Janakpuri and Vikas Puri police stations.

The Janakpuri case pertains to the killing of two Sikhs, Sohan Singh and his son-in-law Avtar Singh, on November 1, 1984.

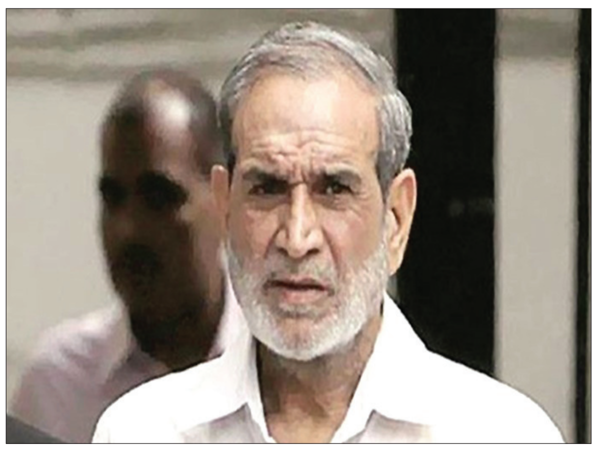
The second case was registered in the Vikaspuri police station related to the burning of Gurcharan Singh on November 2, 1984.

Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh acquitted Sajjan Kumar after trying him in a case lodged by the SIT formed by the Central Government.

A detailed judgment is to be uploaded by the court.

The court had reserved judgment on January 22. Sajjan Kumar was discharged of murder charges in 2023.

Additional public prosecutor (APP) Manish Rawat appeared for the prosecution. Advocate Anil Kumar Sharma alongwith Apoorv Sharma and SA Hashmi, appeared for Sajjan Kumar.



Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar

On July 7, during the recording of his statement, Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar denied the charges levelled against him in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. He had stated before the court that he was not present at the site of the riots and was falsely implicated.

The court had discharged Sajjan Kumar from the offence of murder on August 23, 2023.

The Court had framed charges against Sajjan Kumar under sections of IPC 147 (Punishment for rioting), 148 (Rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (offence is committed by any member of unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly), 153 (promoting enmity between different groups), 295 (Injuring or defiling place of worship, with intent to insult the religion of any class), 307 (attempt of murder), 308 (Attempt to commit culpable homicide), 323 (deals with punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 395 (Punishment for Dacoity) and 426 (Punishment for mischief) etc. The Special court while ordered framing of charges stated that, "this court is of prima facie view that the oral and documentary evidence placed on record by prosecution is sufficient to hold that an unlawful assembly or mob consisting of hundreds of persons and armed with deadly weapons like dandas, iron rods, bricks and stones etc. had gathered near the Gurudwara situated in Gulab Bagh, Nawada on November 1, 1984."

Court had noted that the accused Sajjan Kumar was also a part of the said mob and common object of the said mob was to put the above said Gurudwara on fire and to burn and loot the articles lying therein and also to burn and destroy the houses of Sikhs situated in the said locality, to damage, destroy or loot their articles or property and to kill the Sikhs residing in that locality, in order to avenge killing of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Hence, a prima facie case is held to be made out against the accused/Sajjan Kumar, for the commission of the offences punishable under sections 147, 148, 149, 153A, 295, 307, 308, 323, 395, 436 IPC and charges are accordingly directed to be framed against him for the said offences. Further, in alternative, a charge for the offence of abetment defined by Section 107 IPC and made punishable by Section 109 read with 114 IPC in relation to the above said offences is also directed to be framed against the accused as the accused being principal abettor was present at the scene of crime, when the offences abetted by him were committed by the other unknown offenders. However, as far as the offences committed during the incident dated November 02, 1984 and which relate to the murder of Sohan Singh and Avtar Singh at the hands of members of the mob or crowd, which had gathered on that date near or outside the Congress party office in Uttam Nagar, and also the injuries suffered by complainant Harvinder Singh in the said incident, are concerned, the accused is being discharged for the offences Under section 302 and 325 IPC respectively committed in the said incident for the reasons already discussed in this order, court had said.

Verdict reopens wounds, survivors to move SC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Anti-Sikh riots case victim speaks to the media as Rouse Avenue Court acquits former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in the case, at Rouse Avenue Court, in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI Video Grab)

The verdict delivered at Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court has reopened deep emotional wounds for the survivors of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

While the legal proceedings concluded with an acquittal for former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in the Janakpuri and Vikaspuri cases, the atmosphere outside the courtroom was one of devastation and renewed resolve.

The verdict left the victim's family members devastated, demanding justice and capital punishment for Sajjan Kumar.

For the families of the victims, the legal reasoning offered little comfort against the weight of their loss. The scenes outside the court were marked by grief and disbelief.

One woman, who lost 10 members of her family during the violence, broke down emotionally upon hearing the news. Her heartbreak was echoed by another victim who noted that 11 of their family members were killed.

"I lost 10 members of my family. Why is Sajjan Kumar not hanged till death?.. We will approach the Supreme Court....," she said.

The survivors expressed a profound sense of betrayal by the judicial process, questioning why, after decades of waiting, the man they hold responsible was walking free. "Why are we not getting justice? Why has the court acquitted him? Our 11 people were killed," said a victim's family member fighting for justice who broke down on hearing the verdict.

Many families reiterated their demand for the maximum penalty--capital punishment--stating firmly that they still view Kumar as the culprit. "We are still seeking justice. We will approach higher authorities for justice... He is a culprit."

Parvesh Varma slams AAP for neglect, lays

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

Delhi Government Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on Thursday held the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government responsible for the persistent waterlogging in Kirari, alleging that no effective sewerage or drainage infrastructure was developed in the constituency for more than a decade. Refuting what he called politically motivated misinformation, the Minister placed official records in the public domain to highlight what he described as prolonged neglect under the former AAP regime, while also outlining a clear, time-bound roadmap to permanently resolve the long-standing problem.

Speaking to the media, Verma said misleading claims about waterlogging in Kirari had been circulating on social media over the past week. "Today, I am putting facts on record. I hope the Opposition, particularly AAP leaders, are paying attention," he said.

The Minister said official data shows that only Rs 43 lakh was spent on sewage maintenance in Kirari over

Delhi Govt Minister Parvesh Varma

the last 11 years, despite the area facing persistent waterlogging for decades. He noted that Kirari's colonies were established well before 2000, yet successive governments failed to put in place a comprehensive sewer network. Verma alleged that both the Congress and AAP governments lacked any long-term planning to resolve the problem.

He added that media coverage over the years repeatedly showed the same images of waterlogged streets, underscoring how the issue was ignored rather than effectively tackled.

Verma said a major sewerage project for Kirari, approved in December 2020 with a target completion date of December 2024, remained largely stalled for years due to administrative failures and poor inter-departmental coordination under the previous regime.

He said work has now picked up pace, with sewer line coverage increasing from 70 per cent, or 286 km, to 84 per cent, or 340 km, including the addition of 54 km of new lines. He noted substantial progress in areas such as Pratap Vihar, Prem Nagar and at the Bhagya Vihar Sewage Pumping Station. "Projects existed only on paper. Execution was neglected, contractors stopped work due to non-payment, and sewage continued to flow into open drains," the Minister said, adding that the revised deadline for completing the project is June 2026, with phased commissioning planned before that.

The Minister also referred to audit findings that pointed to serious planning lapses, stating that expenditure on sewage pumping stations and rising mains was carried out without ensuring adequate treatment capacity. He said Kirari generates about 36 MGD of sewage, while only 15 MGD sewage treatment plant is currently functional and another 25 MGD plant is still awaiting construction. "This clearly reflects the lack of integrated planning, where infrastructure was created without ensuring the sewage could actually be treated," Verma said.

Verma said the current government has adopted a coordinated and accountable approach, with drain remodelling being carried out by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department and parallel works underway by the PWD to ensure inter-departmental coordination.

He said major projects include a Rs 220 crore drain from Mundka Halt to the Supplementary Drain, a Rs 250 crore, 7.2-km Kirari–Rithala trunk drain being built by the DDA, Rs 112 crore remodelling of the KSN drain, and a Rs 183 crore upgrade of the Rohtak Road drain, which is nearing completion. In addition, a Rs 9.4 crore project is underway in Sharma Colony to improve local drains and strengthen outfall connectivity through the Mubarakpur drain.

AIIMS Delhi performs over 1,000 robotic surgeries in 13 months

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi has taken a significant step towards advancing surgical care by installing a state-of-the-art surgical robot in its Department of Surgical Disciplines, according to a release.

The use of robotic surgery underscores AIIMS' commitment to enhancing patient care, enabling execution of complex surgical procedures with unmatched precision and keeping pace with global advancements in medical technology.

Robotic surgery at the Department of Surgical Disciplines has been initiated more than year ago to address intricate surgical challenges. The adoption

AIIMS New Delhi. File Photo

of the surgical robot represents a crucial development in making minimally invasive and highly precise surgeries accessible to a larger population, setting a benchmark for public healthcare in India, AIIMS said in its release.

The robotic surgery technology at AIIMS is being used for complex surgeries, such as gastrointestinal procedures, hepatobiliary surgeries, oncological resections and transplantation. During the last 13 months, the Department has performed over one thousand robotic procedures.

These include hepatobiliary procedures like pancreatic duodenectomy, gastrectomy, esophagectomy, colectomy, anterior resection for gastro-intestinal malignancy, various complex abdominal wall reconstructions for hernias, kidney transplantation and minimally invasive resection of thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas for endocrine tumours.

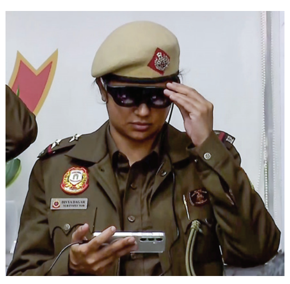
Robotic surgery offers several advantages, including reduced blood loss, minimal scarring, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery for patients.

Delhi police to use AI-enabled smart glasses for Republic Day 2026 security

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 2026 Republic Day celebrations, the Delhi Police will deploy AI-enabled smart glasses and advanced facial recognition systems as part of an upgraded security architecture aimed at tightening surveillance and improving threat detection across the national capital.

Additional Commissioner of Police Devesh Kumar Mahala said the force is making full use of technology-driven solutions from a security perspective. He noted that all CCTV cameras will be equipped with video analytics and Facial Recognition



A Delhi Police personnel tries AI-enabled smart glasses as part of strengthened security measures ahead of Republic Day, in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI Video Grab)

Systems (FRS), enabling police to identify suspects with greater accuracy. "There are various types of video analytics, and we will utilise them as well. This time, we are also using specially developed cameras and wearable glasses," Mahala said.

As per Mahala, this will be the first time that Delhi Police personnel will use such advanced wearable technology during the Republic Day parade. Selected police personnel will wear the smart glasses while on duty along the parade route to monitor crowds and identify potential threats.

Explaining the technology, the officer said multiple algorithms have been fed into standalone systems that can identify wanted individuals even if they attempt to disguise themselves. "If wanted individuals are detected or spotted, even if they are wearing makeup, a mask, a cap, or have a beard, our algorithm will identify them."

Panic at T3 after 'human skeleton' found during security check

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Panic briefly erupted at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi today, after the security team reported the recovery of what appeared to be a "human skeleton." The incident triggered an immediate check by airport security and the Delhi Police.

Police officials said the preliminary examination revealed the skeleton to be a demo skeleton commonly used by medical students for academic purposes. The item was found inside the luggage of a medical student, confirming that it was not linked to any criminal activity.

Delhi HC raises concern over language in Newslaundry video

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday expressed concern about the language used in a Newslaundry video commenting on television content aired by the TV Today Network.

The court observed that the use of the word "shit" to describe a television programme could be considered offensive.

A Division Bench comprising Justices C Hari Shankar and Om Prakash Shukla noted that journalist Manisha Pande used the expression while referring to a video relating to Good News Today, a channel op-

erated by TV Today. The Bench orally observed that such language was inappropriate and amounted to disparagement.

The court cautioned that it may pass strong observations which could have serious professional consequences for the journalist concerned. It remarked that the language used fell short of the basic standards of decency expected in journalism and stated that it would not hesitate to make its views known in open court or, if required, to implead the journalist as a party.

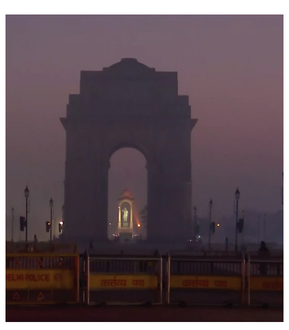
At the same time, the Bench clarified that criticism by itself does not amount to disparagement. It was observed that TV Today cannot treat every critical video or unfavourable comment as

Delhi's air quality remains 'very poor' amid marginal improvement

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi continued to grapple with 'very poor' air quality on Thursday morning, even as there was a marginal improvement in pollution levels, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 312 around 7 am, according to data released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Although the AQI showed a slight improvement compared to Wednesday morning, when it stood at 341, pollution levels across the national capital remained firmly in the 'very poor' category. The prolonged deterioration in air quality continues to



pose serious health concerns, especially for children, the elderly and those suffering from respiratory illnesses.

Several parts of the national capital recorded high pollution levels. As per CPCB, Anand Vihar registered an AQI of 379, Ashok Vihar at 333, and Wazirpur at 336. Other hotspots included Punjabi Bagh (338), RK Puram (359), Bawana (323), ITO (331), Chandni Chowk (361) and Dwarka Sector 8 (342), all falling in the 'very poor' category.

As per AQI classification, a reading between 0 and 50 is 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor' and 401 to 500 'severe'.

Delhi Police arrests suspects in Mangolpuri stabbing case which claimed one life

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday informed that the suspects in the stabbing incident in the Mangolpuri area, which claimed the life of a 25-year-old man, have been identified and apprehended.

According to police officials, a case has been registered against the accused, and further investigation into the incident is ongoing.

This comes after an incident of stabbing was reported in the Mangolpuri area of Delhi last night. A 25-year-old man named Akash was declared dead following the attack, according to Deputy

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