

How India's neighbourhood has been a challenge for Delhi in 2024

The year 2024 has proven to be a critical period for India's foreign policy, particularly in its relationships with its immediate neighbors. India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to prioritise and strengthen

relations with neighbouring countries. However, this year has presented a series of unprecedented challenges, testing the resilience and strategic depth of Indian diplomacy. The political landscape of South Asia has been turbulent,



with significant political shifts in countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Maldives. In Bangladesh, the ouster of long-time ally Sheikh Hasina has led to a more strained relationship with Dhaka, as the new government appears to be pivoting towards Pakistan and China. This shift, coupled with rising violence against minorities, has strained the bilateral ties that were previously strong. Nepal has seen considerable political instability, impacting its engagement with India despite high-level economic cooperation efforts. The Maldives presents a similar scenario, with a pro-China leadership creating diplomatic tensions that India has been striving to mitigate through strategic dialogue and cooperation. In Sri Lanka, the economic recovery process has necessitated a careful balancing act for India. While seeking to aid its southern neighbour, India must also navigate the increasing influence of China in the region. Meanwhile, the relationship with Pakistan remains fraught with historical animosities and recent developments, including India's decision to avoid travelling to Pakistan for the 2025 Champions Trophy. This decision, along with Pakistan's missile developments, has only added to the existing complexities.

Amazon launches Echo Spot, an Alexa-enabled smart alarm clock



Ahmedabad, Amazon has launched the all-new Echo Spot in India, making it the latest addition to its line-up of Alexa-enabled Echo devices. Echo Spot is a sleek new smart alarm clock, featuring a variety of custom-designed clock faces, colourful display options, and four newly-added alarm sounds. Combining style with functionality, Echo Spot's compact and customisable display allows customers to set and view alarms, see the time, weather, or song titles at a glance, and experience vibrant sound with its directional speaker. Specifically designed to enhance the bedside table experience, the night mode option helps customers easily check the time on the screen mid-sleep. Available in Black and

Blue, customers can get the Echo Spot at an introductory limited period offer of INR 6,449. "Through our range of devices, we constantly strive to add more convenience and comfort to our customers' daily lives. Echo Spot, the newest addition to the Echo family of devices, continues to deliver on this commitment. Customers can gently wake up to their favourite music, control Alexa-compatible smart lights and home appliances, and glance at the weather and their calendar by giving voice commands to Alexa from the comfort of their bed," said Parag Gupta, Director and Country Manager, Amazon Devices India. "Its aesthetic design with a colourful, customisable display helps enhance any bedside setting. (19-10)

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Signs MoU with Government Tool Room



Ahmedabad, Reinforcing its dedication to skill development and community empowerment, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government Tool Room & Training Centre (GTTC), Karnataka. The MoU, effective from January 2025, underscores TKM's role in elevating the quality of training at GTTC centers and Multi-Skill Development Centres (MSDCs) by introducing advanced industry culture, faculty development programs, and modern training materials. By bridging the gap between academia and industry, the initiative underscores TKM's commitment to empowering

trainees with the skills needed to excel in today's competitive industrial landscape. Building on the success of developing 16 GTTC centers, TKM is now embarking on a transformative journey to provide Toyota's expertise to 16 additional GTTCs, furthering its commitment to advancing technical education across Karnataka. All upcoming GTTCs will be modelled after the Magadi campus, envisioned as a "Role Model" institute, setting new benchmarks in industrial culture and training excellence. This collaboration will also see a significant upgrade to the Multi-Skill Development Centre (MSDC) in Mysuru, enhancing its capacity to support advanced training initiatives. (20-4)

JSW MG Motor India partners with Kotak Mahindra Prime



Ahmedabad, JSW MG Motor India today announced its partnership with KMPL to offer a finance solution for its innovative Battery-As-A-Service (BaaS) ownership program to EV customers. With this partnership, KMPL becomes one of the first leading auto financiers to support the BaaS concept and will help in furthering its reach to prospective customers. BaaS is a flexible ownership program that significantly reduces the initial acquisition cost, ensuring an economical and hassle-free ownership experience. Launched in September 2024, BaaS has regenerated customer interests back to EVs, which has translated in the growth of EV sales. The growing consumer

interest in this one-of-a-kind ownership model was a catalyst in KMPL joining the BaaS bandwagon and curate finance solutions for EV customers. Speaking on the occasion, Gaurav Gupta, Chief Growth Officer, JSW MG Motor India said, "Our pursuit for innovation is relentless and we remain committed to create experiences that enhances consumer delight. With BaaS, we have created a disruption in the market and created a benchmark in the Electric Car industry. It remains our priority to enhance its reach through various finance partners, to enable rapid EV adoption. I welcome and thank the KMPL team for partnering with us to extend the BaaS concept to customers. (20-4)

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Impact of poaching on Elephant population



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World Elephant Day has been created to bring the world together to help elephants. Elephants are among the most intelligent of the creatures with whom we share the planet, with complex consciousnesses that are capable of strong emotions. Across Africa they have inspired respect from the people that share the landscape with them, giving them a strong cultural significance. India is one of the seventeen megadiverse countries of the world. Elephants have enjoyed a special place in India's culture and tradition. They were used as a means of transport for the royalties and to fight battles, as has been captured by various frescoes. Most important,

however, is the status of the elephant as a deity in the form of Lord Ganesha. For over 70% of the population, elephants hold religious importance. It is disappointing to learn that today only about 27,000 wild elephants remain in India, as opposed to a million a decade ago as indicated by research. Human-elephant conflict is a major conservation concern in elephant range countries. A variety of management strategies have been developed and are practiced at different scales for preventing and mitigating human-elephant conflict. The elephant population has been declining for decades. This is due to several factors, such as habitat loss, human conflict, and hunting. Elephants are considered to be the most intelligent of all animals after humans. They are very social creatures that live in herds led by a 'matriarch'. The leading female of the herd is called the 'matriarch'. They help maintain the health of forests by distributing seeds by roaming over great distances. Elephants have been a part of human society for thousands of years. Humans have been both aiding and hurting

elephants for centuries. In many stories, humans and elephants live in harmony as friends. Humans have always taken advantage of the incredible strength and endurance of elephants. Elephants are necessary for the survival of forest ecosystems, and indeed many creatures. Asian elephant numbers have dropped by at least 50% over the last three generations, and they're still in decline today. With only 40,000-50,000 left in the wild, the species is classified as endangered. An elephant is killed every 15 minutes and now some believe that in 12 years the elephant population will be extinct. Poachers kill about 20,000 elephants every single year for their tusks, which are then traded illegally in the international market to eventually end up as ivory trinkets. This trade is mostly driven by demand for ivory in parts of Asia. The poaching trade began in earnest in 1971, when a severe drought killed 9,000 elephants in a Kenyan game reserve. Neighbours of the park moved in to collect ivory. In recent years, the number of elephant killings due to

poaching has decreased, largely due to the worldwide ban (since 1990) on the trade of ivory. However, the illegal trade continues, and as long as it does, poachers will be a part of it. Today, witnessing a herd of elephants is becoming increasingly uncommon; as more and more elephants die prematurely every year. The illegal trade in ivory is one of the greatest threats to elephants today. Elephants are long-lived animals, and their survival depends upon regular migration over large distances to search for food, water, and social and reproductive partners. Too many elephants are getting killed in conflicts with humans! We simply cannot allow them to disappear from the face of this earth. Without the proper conservation of elephant survival we will see a drastic shift in the environment. Today as our physical world is changing fast, it is important to take a moment to reflect on and reinvent our relationship with elephants. (B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad - 380 015)

How Bangladesh's rising Islamic extremism is showing its early signs in India

Following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina in the student protests led by Islamic extremists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, Islamic Chitra Shivir, eminent strategic experts and credible voices from the intelligence community expressed concerns about the unfettered growth of Islamic extremism in Bangladesh, with its most alarming effects on India's national security, particularly in its sensitive North East. The interim government of Bangladesh, with a slew of decisions after Hasina's ouster, facilitating and promoting the spread and growth of Islamic extremists, has expedited the fast unfolding of apprehensions. Such measures include the removal of security clearance for Pakistani nationals applying for Bangladeshi visas, facilitating their smooth visa process in all the Bangladeshi embassies across the world, repealing the ban on Jamaat, releasing hardcore Islamic radicals convicted of murder, systematically persecuting the Hindu minorities and Awami League cadres, aggressively propping up anti-India sentiment in the media and on the grassroots among various sections of the society, including the military veterans, and initiating a debate on removing the word secular from the constitution. The effects of rising Islamic extremism in Bangladesh have already started manifesting in India. On December 17 and 18, under the aegis of Operation Praghat, the Assam STF arrested Mohammad Saad Radi, alias Mohammad Shah Sheikh, a cadre of the Ansarulha Bangla Team (ABT), from Kerala. The ABT leadership entrusted him to recruit Muslim youth,



under the direction of Mohammad Farhan Israk, a close associate of ABT chief Jasimuddin Rahmani. The incriminating documents and technical evidence suggest that the arrested individuals were continuously in touch with their Pakistani and Bangladeshi handlers. Notably, ABT is an AQIS (Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent) affiliate in South Asia. AQIS is banned in India. ABT's nefarious designs include exploiting religious, and ethnic vulnerabilities in India, particularly West Bengal and Assam, and creating disruption and chaos in India.

indocriate them, and establish sleeper cells across the country to orchestrate subversive activities in India, including terrorism, rioting, and violent civil unrest. Besides him, the Assam STF apprehended his close associates, Minarul Sheikh and Mohammad Abbas Ali from West Bengal; Nur Islam Mandal, Abdul Karim Mandal, and Mojbar Rahman; and the remaining two, Hamidul Islam and Inamul Haque from Assam, all Bangladeshi nationals and operatives of ABT. The ongoing interrogations have revealed that they were working

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
E-AUCTION FOR THE CONTRACT OF CATERING SERVICES
 With reference to above, E-auction for the contract of catering services at catering units over Ahmedabad Division has been invited. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website. The details are furnished as under -

| Catalogue No. | Category | Date & Time of E-Auction |
|---------------|----------|--|
| CTG-ADI-03-24 | Catering | E-Auction for all Lots will start at 11:00 Hrs. on date 27-01-2025 |

Note : Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The lot-wise details are available therein under above mentioned Catalogue No. Initial Cooling Off period is 30 minutes. Successive Lot Closing Interval is 10 minutes. Lot-wise Closing Time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

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JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
 Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2007PLC74287
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 Contact Person: 1.Dharmesh Variya - 9925827126, 2.Vishal Ketele - 9584966653, 3. Jyoti Sawant - 022 - 6224 1676

E-Auction Sale Notice - Fresh Sale
 That Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd have assigned a pool of Loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created thereon along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JM Financial (JM) (herein referred as Assignee) acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFCARC - Aranya - Trust. It is to be notified that PJCFH is authorized and appointed to act as Service provider / Collection agent to facilitate all operational and procedures processes vide Assignment / Service Agreement Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor under the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrowers/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:

| Loan Code / Branch / Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Property Address_final | Reserve Price | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP) | Outstanding Amount (08-01-2025) |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Loan Code No.: 04100006879, Surat - Majura Gate (Branch), Mithulal Modiram Khatri (Borrower), Bhagwati Bai Mithulal Khatri (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 23-04-2019, Rs. 1631652/-, (Rs. Sixteen lakh Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot No: 131, Ramdev Residency, Nr. Tantihiya Gram Panchayat; Moje: Tantihiya; Surat Gujarat IN 394315 Boundaries As :- North :- Plot No. 132 South :- Society Road East :- Adj. Plot West :- Society Road | Rs. 1180000/- (Rs. Eleven lakh Eighty Thousand Only) | Rs. 118000/- (Rs. One lakh Eighty Thousand Only) | Rs. 2957553/- (Rs. Twenty Nine lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three Only) |
| Loan Code No.: 04100008857, Surat - Majura Gate (Branch), Mahendrabhai Laxmanbhai Luhar (Borrower), Tejalben Mahendrabhai Luhar (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 23-08-2021, Rs. 1383354/-, (Rs. Thirteen lakh Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot No. 82, Mahavi Dham Residency, Nr. Shriji Super Store, ayush Petrol Pump Sayan Sivan Road, Sivan,olpad, Surat Gujarat IN 394210 Boundaries As :- North :- OTHER BLOCK South :- SOCIETY ROAD East :- PLOT NO. 83 West :- PLOT NO. 83 | Rs. 1215000/- (Rs. Twelve lakh Fifteen Thousand Only) | Rs. 121500/- (Rs. One lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Only) | Rs. 1982198/- (Rs. One lakh Nineteen lakh Eight Hundred Ninety Eight Only) |
| Loan Code No.: 04100009980, Surat - Majura Gate (Branch), Shashikant Bhaurao Patil (Borrower), Archana Shashikant Patil (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 08-11-2022, Rs. 1294224/-, (Rs. Twelve lakh Ninety Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot No. 668, Gokuldham Residency, B/s. Tantihiya Railway Crossing Tantihiya, Palsana SURAT, GUJARAT, 394305 Boundaries As :- North :- Plot No. 670 South :- Plot No. 667 East :- Entry road West :- Adj. Property | Rs. 900000/- (Rs. Nine lakh Only) | Rs. 90000/- (Rs. Ninety Thousand Only) | Rs. 1759666/- (Rs. Seventeen lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six Only) |
| Loan Code No.: 01800006800, Vadodra (Branch), Niranjan Giridhar Parmar (Borrower), Vijaybhai Girishbhai Parmar (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 25-02-2023, Rs. 3231732/-, (Rs. Thirty Two lakh Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot No. B-6 Sumeru Duplex Harni Road Vadodra Gujarat IN 390017 Boundaries As :- North :- Plot No. B-5 South :- Plot No. B-7 East :- F.P.No. 21 West :- Road | Rs. 3665000/- (Rs. Thirty Six lakh Sixty Five Thousand Only) | Rs. 366500/- (Rs. Three lakh Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Only) | Rs. 4557735/- (Rs. Forty Five lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five Only) |
| Loan Code No.: 01800007585, Vadodra (Branch), Ramtavalika Rajbahadur Mahto (Borrower), Motizaridevi Ramtavalika Mahto (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 28-06-2021, Rs. 721954/-, (Rs. Seven lakh Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Four Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Flat No.g.1, Om Residency, Sonipark 2, Tati Thaya, Kadodra, Surat Gujarat IN 394327 Boundaries As :- North :- Flat No.G/2 South :- Parking East :- Flat No.G/3 West :- COP | Rs. 463000/- (Rs. Four lakh Thirty Three Thousand Only) | Rs. 46300/- (Rs. Four lakh Six Thousand Three Hundred Only) | Rs. 1301829/- (Rs. Thirteen lakh One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Nine Only) |
| Loan Code No.: 04100007443, Surat - Majura Gate (Branch), Digambar Narayan Shamal (Borrower), Laxmi Digambar Shamal (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 14-06-2021, Rs. 306981/-, (Rs. Thirteen lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot No 132 Ramdev Residency, Near Tantihiya Gram Panchayat, Near Sahyog Hotel Palsana, SURAT, GUJARAT, 394305 Boundaries As :- North :- PLOT NO: 133 South :- PLOT NO: 131 East :- PLOT NO: 143 West :- society road | Rs. 835000/- (Rs. Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only) | Rs. 83500/- (Rs. Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only) | Rs. 2061824/- (Rs. Twenty lakh Sixty One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four Only) |
| Loan Code No.: 04100008329, Surat - Majura Gate (Branch), Jayeshkumar Ukabhai Paravada (Borrower), Divyaben Jayeshbhai Paravada (Co Borrower 1) | Dt: 22-05-2021, Rs. 1184888/-, (Rs. Eleven lakh Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight Only) | All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Shop No.08, Upper Ground Floor Rameshwari Residency, Nr. Shagun Residency Yogi Chowk, Punagam Surat Gujarat IN 395017 | Rs. 1060000/- (Rs. Ten lakh Sixty Thousand Only) | Rs. 106000/- (Rs. One lakh Six Thousand Only) | Rs. 2114565/- (Rs. Twenty One lakh Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Five Only) |

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 20-02-2025, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M. (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 19-02-2025, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.
 For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/Home/Assetsforsale> OR <https://www.bankauctions.in>.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR
 The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.
 Date : 22-01-2025 Place: Gujarat
 Sd/-
 (Authorised Officer) (Aranya - Trust)

"Bharat Utsav" Begins: A Grand Celebration of India's Cultural Heritage



Ahmedabad, "Bharat Utsav," a vibrant celebration of India's rich cultural diversity, began on January 10, 2025, at Sunshine Banquet, Satellite, Ahmedabad. This three-day event, running until January 12, is expected to attract over 4,000 visitors. Organized by Tulsi and Naarivam, the initiative is led by two self-reliant women, Tuli Banerjee and Sheetal Dave. Tuli, the Founder and CEO of Tulsi, has a history of organizing community-driven events like Bengali festivals and music competitions. Sheetal, the Founder of Naarivam, is renowned for her impactful women empowerment programs that celebrate women's achievements. Together, they aim to create a platform that highlights India's cultural richness while fostering connections and opportunities. The festival brings together the traditions of India's eastern, northern, western, and southern regions, offering visitors a colorful and emotional journey through the country's heritage. Visitors can explore an array of highlights, including Assamese handicrafts, Odisha's Bhagalpuri sarees, Bengali white sarees with red borders, and unique egg-shell paintings. Other attractions include kids' creativity workshops, traffic awareness corners, handcrafted jewellery, art displays, and local snacks, creating a harmonious blend of art, culture, and tradition. (19-10)