Indore logs 33rd death linked to contaminated water

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 6 February

Indore reported its 33rd death, allegedly due to the consumption of contaminated Narmada river water supplied by the Indore Municipal Corporation through household taps in the city's Bhagirathpura locality, after an elderly man admitted to a hospital succumbed late on Thursday night. The latest fatality was identified as Algu Choudhary (70), who was admitted to Aurobindo Hospital on 9 January after suffering from severe vomiting and diarrhoea. He later developed respiratory complications and passed away during treatment.

His family members claimed that he had no prior ailments.

Locals claim that at least 33 people have died so far due to contaminated water.

However, the official death toll remains at 16, leading to a continuing dispute over the actual number of deaths due to contaminated water.

The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court heard the matter on 27 January, during which the state government submitted its report saying that 23 deaths had been reported till then, but only 16 were related to contaminated drinking water.

After a week of pandemonium in Lok Sabha, all eyes on Monday

VIBHA SHARMA
New Delhi, 6 February



Proceedings in the Lok Sabha continued to be stalled on Friday with Opposition MPs carrying on with their protests at the commencement of discussions on the Union Budget 2026–27. Despite repeated reprimands from Speaker Om Birla, noting that 19 hours and 13 minutes had already been lost during the Budget Session due to disruptions, sloganeering persisted

Budget discussions are scheduled to continue from Monday, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expected to reply on 11 February.

However, after the rather "unprecedented" development this week when the Lok Sabha passed the Motion of Thanks on the President's address without the customary reply from the Prime Minister, sources suggest the Opposition, led by the Congress and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, may continue protests issues such as the recent India–US trade agreement, claims related to the China standoff mentioned in former Army Chief M.M. Naravane's memoir, and the suspension of eight Opposition MPs.

On Friday also, Opposition MPs staged a protest at Parliament's Makar Dwar against the India ~ US trade agreement, displaying banners that described it as a "trap deal" and raising slogans such as *tanashahi nahi chalegi*.

Observers say exchanges between the Government and the Treasury Benches mark a new low in parliamentary discourse and signal further deterioration of working relationship between the two sides. Therefore unless some common ground can be worked out, such scenes are expected to continue. While partial functioning is sufficient for the Budget to be passed, productivity of the session will depend on the Speaker's ability to maintain order and the Opposition's willingness to relent, which currently appears unlikely.

The week witnessed an unprecedented development when the Lok Sabha passed the Motion of Thanks on the President's address without the customary reply from the Prime Minister. The motion was passed by voice vote amid loud protests, marking the first such instance since 2004 whne the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was unable to deliver his reply amid protests by the BJP.

Tensions have further escalated following the PM's sharp attack against the Opposition, particularly the Congress, during his speech on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha on Friday. He also criticised the past and present Congress leadership, terming Gandhi's "traitor" remark against BJP MP Ravneet Singh Bittu an insult to the Sikh community and an example of the party's "arrogance."

While the PM accused the Congress of "insulting" the President by disrupting the debate on her address, the Congress, in turn, accused him of lacking the courage to answer questions raised by the Opposition and of deliberately undermining democratic functioning in Parliament.

Congress accuses PM of lacking the courage to answer questions, of 'sacrificing' India's farmers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 6 February



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday launched a sharp attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his speech in the Rajya Sabha, accusing him of lacking the courage to answer questions raised by the Opposition and deliberately undermining democratic functioning of Parliament.

Speaking to the media, Kharge also questioned the PM's claim that the Congress had insulted the Sikh community, questioning whether a conversation between two individuals was labelled as an insult to the Sikhs. "The Congress party has always respected Sikhs. Under a Congress government, Dr. Manmohan Singh served as FM and later as PM," he pointed out, adding: "Narendra Modi respects neither Sikhs, nor Dalits, nor Adivasis. His only concern is how to belittle others."

The Congress chief also took aim at Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who on Thursday said he had advised the Prime Minister not to attend the House amid intelligence inputs suggesting a possible inappropriate incident near the Speaker's chair. "If your intelligence is so strong, where was it during terror attacks like Pulwama? Lynchings are happening across the country, and attacks on Dalits and Adivasis continue. Where does this intelligence disappear then," he asked.

Kharge said repeated disruptions and the stalling of Parliament for days at a stretch reflected a failure of democracy and blamed the government for the ongoing deadlock in the Lok Sabha. He accused the Prime Minister of "repeating falsehoods" and said that during Modi's 97-minute reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, not a single issue raised by the Opposition was answered.

Referring to former Army Chief M M Naravane's book, Kharge said the government's denial of its existence in Parliament was misleading. "When we managed to access the book, how could those in power not have it? Ministers kept saying the book wasn't published, but it does exist. The truth is that Narendra Modi does not have the courage to answer our questions," he alleged.

Kharge also defended India's public sector legacy, crediting Jawaharlal Nehru with laying its foundations. "At a time when nothing was manufactured in the country, the public sector stepped in. Instead of strengthening it, Modi has worked to dismantle it. He has no ideology and no vision for the country," he said.

SC questions steep fall in NEET-PG cut-offs, seeks Centre's response

PARMOD KUMAR
New Delhi, 6 February

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed disquiet over the drastic reduction in qualifying percentile cut-offs for the NEET Postgraduate medical admission, observing that the issue raised serious concerns about the standards of postgraduate medical education.

A Bench of Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe sought a detailed affidavit from the Centre while hearing a public interest litigation challenging the decision to lower the cut-off marks for NEET-PG admissions in the third round of counselling.

"This is about standards. The question is whether those standards are being compromised," the Court remarked. The Court's concern was triggered after it was informed that the qualifying cut-off for the general category had been reduced from an earlier score of 276 to 103, while for SC, ST and OBC candidates it was brought down from 235 to minus 40.

Reacting to the sharp decline, the Bench observed, "We were stunned to see why this method was adopted. These are all regular doctors." In response, a counsel submitted that the relaxation was aimed at ensuring that no postgraduate medical seat remained vacant.

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences, in a notification dated 13 January, stated that the reduction in qualifying percentiles was carried out on the directions of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Policeman, 3 Maoists killed during encounter in Abujhmad forest area

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Gadchiroli, 6 February

A C-60 commando with the Gadchiroli Police and three Naxalites was killed during an encounter in the Abujhmad forest region near the Maharashtra–Chhattisgarh border, officials confirmed on Friday.

The encounter took place in the dense forests of the Bhamragad subdivision following specific intelligence inputs received on February 3 regarding the movement of a Maoist group, including Company No. 10 and a 'dalam' unit from Chhattisgarh.

Acting on the information, Gadchiroli Police launched a major anti- Maoist operation involving 14 commando teams on Thursday.

During the prolonged exchange of fire, two Maoist camps were destroyed one person died. The operation intensified on Thursday after reinforcements, including personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), reached the area.

Police later recovered the bodies of two additional Maoists, one male and one female, on Friday morning, taking the total number of Maoists killed in the encounter to three.

An AK-47 rifle and an SLR rifle were seized from the site. The identities of the deceased Maoist are yet to be established.

The C-60 jawan Deepak Chinna Madavi (38), a resident of Aheri taluka, sustained serious injuries during heavy firing by the Maoists.

He was airlifted by helicopter from the Abujhmad forest and rushed to the Bhamragad Sub-District Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

UCO Bank

Zonal Office: Balasore
O.T. Road, Near Police Line Chhak,
Balasore, Odisha-756001

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(Under SARFAESI Act 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS: 23.02.2026 upto 10.00 PM

Sale of Immovable Properties mortgaged to Bank under **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002).** Whereas, the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under section **13(2)** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of powers conferred **under Section 13(4)** of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of Immovable Properties	Notice Amount	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Reserve Price / EMD	Name of the Branch Manager & Contact No.
1.	**LANGALESWAR BRANCH /** **Borrower: Mr. Parsuram Rana,** S/o: Banshidhar Rana, At: Sampatia, PO.: Demuria, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756034 **/ Guarantor: Mr. Arjun Charan Senapati,** S/o.: Raghunatha Senapati, At: Jaleswarpur, PO.: Langaleswar, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756034	All that part and parcel of the immovable property standing in the name of **Mr. Radhakrushna Rana,** S/o.: Krupasindhu Rana, **Mr. Bansidhar Rana, Mr. Benudhar Rana,** S/o.: Dinabandhu Rana, **Mr. Muralidhar Rana,** S/o.: Jagabandhu Rana, **Mr. Srikanta Rana, Mr. Rajanikanta Rana,** S/o: Kamalakanta Rana, Mouza: Sampatia, Thana: Jaleswar, Tahasil: Jaleswar, Dist.: Balasore, PIN - 756034, Khata No.: 202, Plot No.: 341, Area: Ac.0.580 Dec. i.e. 25264.8 sq.ft., **Property Type:** Residential, **Property Sub type:** Individual House, **Title Deed Type:** Registered Sale Deed, **Distance from Railway Station/ Bus Stand: 15 Km / 1 Km**	₹1,94,716/- as on 22.04.2014 + Interest and other expenses	31.10.2017 / 13.02.2018	₹26,82,900/- / ₹2,68,290/-	Chandan Majhi, Mob No.: 9230501197
2.	**BONTH BRANCH /** **Borrower: Sundar Narayan Sahu,** S/o: Ghanashyam Sahu **/ Co-Borrower: Satya Narayan Sahu,** S/o: Ghanashyam Sahu, Both are At: Jamitiria, PO.: Orali, PS: Nandipada, Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha, PIN - 758083	All that part and parcel of the immovable property standing in the name of **Sundar Narayan Sahu** and **Satya Narayan Sahu,** Mouza: Anra, Thana: Nandipada, Tahasil: Hatadihi, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN - 758083, Khata No.: 548/2, Plot No.: 320/2963/2972, Area: Ac. 0.060 Dec., **Property Type:** Residential, **Property Sub type:** Individual House, **Title Deed Type:** Registered Sale Deed, **Distance from Bus Stand: 5 Km**	₹4,59,242/- as on 31.05.2017 + Interest and other expenses	04.07.2018 / 12.09.2018	₹12,42,000/- / ₹1,24,200/-	Sudhansu Sekhar Giri, Mob No.: 9128171769
3.	**GANESWARPUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BRANCH /** **Borrower: M/s. Ganapati Aluminium, Prop.: Mr. Kamalakanta Sahu,** S/o: Late Hadibandhu Sahu, At: Sahajipatna (Madhipur), PS: Remuna, Dist.: Balasore - 756019 **/ Guarantors: 1) Smt. Bharati Sahu,** W/o: Late Ramakanta Sahu, **2) Smt. Laxmipriya Sahu,** D/o: Late Ramakanta Sahu, **3) Sri Basanta Kumar Sahu,** S/o: Late Ramakanta Sahu, **4) Sri Pradumna Sahu,** S/o: Late Ramakanta Sahu, **5) Smt. Bishnupriya Sahoo,** D/o: Late Ramakanta Sahu, All are at Vill: Sahajipatna, (Madhipur), PO/PS: Remuna, Dist.: Balasore, PIN- 756019	All that part and parcel of the immovable property standing in the name of **Late Ramakanta Sahu** & **Mr. Kamalakanta Sahu** both S/o: Late Hadibandhu Sahu, Mouza: Madhipur, PS: Remuna, Dist.: Balasore, Khata No.: 662/69, Plot No.: 1083, Area: Ac. 0.42 Dec., **Property Type:** Commercial / Industrial, **Property Subtype:** Land with Building, **Title Deed Type:** Registered Sale Deed, **Distance from Bus Stand: 4 Km**	₹2,93,74,811.56 as on 31.01.2020 + Interest and other expenses	29.02.2020 / 17.01.2025	₹2,89,32,000/- / ₹28,93,200/-	Pabitra Pradhan, Mob No.: 9230501291
4.	**BALASORE MAIN BRANCH /** **Borrower: Late Krushna Chandra Das,** S/o: Late Gangadhar Das **/ Guarantor: Late Sukamani Das,** W/o: Late Gangadhar Das, **(Legal Heirs are: Nimai Mohanty, Bandita Mohanty, Sangita Das, Sasmita Das),** All are At: Sankhua, PO: Khantapada, Dist.: Balasore	All that part and parcel of the immovable property standing in the name of **Nimai Mohanty , Bandita Mohanty, Sangita Das, Sasmita Das**, All are sons and daughters of Krushna Chandra Das & Sukamani Das, Mouza: Sankhua, PS: Khantapada, Tahasil: Bahanaga, Dist.: Balasore, Khata No.: 5, Plot No.: 196, Area: Ac. 0.18 Dec., Plot No.:198, Area: Ac. 0.5.5 Dec., Plot No.: 200, Area: Ac. 0.0.6 Dec., **Property Type:** Residential, **Property Sub type:** Individual House, **Title Deed Type:** Registered Sale Deed, **Distance from Rly/Bus Stand: 7 Km**	₹4,13,450/- as on 10.12.2006 + Interest and other expenses	11.12.2006 / 31.05.2008	₹5,00,000/- / ₹50,000/-	Satyabrata Samantray, Mob No.: 9230500462
5.	**GANESWARPUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BRANCH /** **Borrower: M/s. Sundargundi Service Station, Prop.: Late Srikanta Mahalik,** Legal Heirs of Late Srikanta Mahalik are: **Saroj Kumar Mahalik** and **Manoj Kumar Mahalik,** Both are S/o: Srikanta Mahalik, At: OT Road, FM Golei, Dist.: Balasore - 756001 **/ Guarantors: 1) Swarnlata Mahalik,** W/o: Late Srikanta Mahalik, At: OT Road, FM Golei, Dist.: Balasore- 756001, **2) Late Bansidhar Pradhan,** S/o: Bhima Pradhan, **(Legal Heirs of Late Bansidhar Pradhan are (i) Santilata Pradhan (wife), (ii) Pravat Pradhan (son), (iii) Jhunu Pradhan (Daughter), (iv) Kunu Pradhan (Daughter),** At: Nuagaon, PO: Udampur, Dist.: Balasore	All that part and parcel of the immovable property situated at **(Property- 1)** Mouza: Bhaskarganj, Unit No.: 10, Tahasil: Balasore Dist.: Balasore , Khata No.: 274/661, Plot No.: 360/2989, Area: Ac. 0.046 Dec., owned by **Manoj Kumar Mahalik**, At: Bhaskarganj, PO: Balasore, PS: Balasore Town, Dist.: Balasore, Khata No.: 274/662, Plot No.: 360, Area: Ac. 0.046 Dec., owned by **Saroj Kumar Mahalik,** Corresponds to Khata No.: 245, Plot No.: 360, Area: Ac. 0.092 Dec., **(Property- 2)** Mouza: Salbani, Tahasil: Remuna, SRO: Balasore, Dist.: Balasore, Khata No.: 143/336, Plot No.: 340/608, Area: Ac. 0.10 Dec., owned by **Saroj Kumar Mahalik,** Khata No.: 143/335, Plot No.: 340/606, Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec., owned by **Manoj Kumar Mahalik,** Khata No.: 129, Plot No.: 340, Area: Ac. 0.06 Dec., owned by **Late Srikanta Mahalik,** Corresponds to Khata No.: 129, Plot No.: 340, Area: Ac. 0.24 Dec., **Property Type:** Commercial, **Property Sub type:** Plot with construction thereon, **Title Deed Type:** Registered Sale Deed, **Both property Distance from Bus Stand: 1 Km**	₹94,51,091.66 as on 29.01.2010 + Interest and other expenses	01.02.2010 / 09.11.2012	**(Property- 1)** ₹1,24,20,000/- / ₹12,42,000/- **(Property- 2)** ₹1,08,00,000/- / ₹10,80,000/-	Pabitra Mohan Pradhan, Mob No.: 9230501291

Date & Time of E-Auction: 24.02.2026 between 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. (With Unlimited Extension of 10 minutes each)

Terms & Conditions of Online E-Auction:

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.

1) The auction sale will be "online through **e-auction" portal https://baanknet.com on 24.02.2026 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM. 2)** Intrested bidder has to get themselves registered on the portal **https://baanknet.com. 3)** The particulars mentioned herein above are as per available records and to the best of information of Authorised Officer. The Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. **4)** The Authorized Officer of the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of listed properties for auction, not known to the bank. **5)** The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** and the intending bidders should make discreet enquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. and should satisfy themselves about the title, extent and quality of the property before submitting their bid. No claim of whatsoever nature regarding the property put for sale, charges, encumbrances over the property on any matter etc. will be entertained after submission of the online bid. **6)** The intending bidder or purchaser are requested to register through **https://baanknet.com** portal and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through RTGS or NEFT .Last date of deposit of EMD is **23.02.2026 upto 10.00 PM. 7)** The bidder should improve their further offers in multiple of **Rs.20,000.00** (Rupees Twenty thousand only) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each. **8)** The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the bid amount (including EMD paid), immediately on closure of E-Auction sale proceedings on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining 75% amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of acceptance/confirmation of sale conveyed to them in the form of Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favour of **"The Authorized Officer, UCO Bank, Zonal Office Balasore payable at Balasore or through RTGS/NEFT bearing A/C No. 0462021000270 4, IFSC- UCBA0000462.** 9) The sale is subject to confirmation by the bank. If the borrower/guarantor pays the bank in full before sale, no sale will be conducted. **10)** After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email. (On mobile No./ e-mail address given by them / registered with the service provider). **11)** The undersigned has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel/modify/discontinue the sale and change any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason. **12)** The purchaser shall bear the stamp duty charges including those of sale certificate registration charges, all statutory dues payable to Government, taxes and rates and outgoing both existing and future relating to the property sale and possession. The sale certificate will be issued only in the name of successful bidder after depositing full bid amount. **13)** Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194- IA of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75 % of the BID amount/full deposit of BID amount. **14)** The intending purchaser or bidder can inspect the property before 7 working days of the E-Auction sale between **10.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** It will start from **17.02.2026 to 23.02.2026. 15)** This is a statutory **15 days** sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act. 2002 and all the properties are under **Bank's Symbolic Possession.**

Place: Balasore
Date: 06.02.2026

Authorized Officer
UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Balasore

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक **pnb** **punjab national bank** *(Together for the better)*

Oriental United

Circle Office: A/32, FIRST FLOOR, UNIT-III, KHARVEL NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 751001, Mail Id: cobbsrsamd@pnb.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Punjab National Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the respective Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers confered on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforecement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below against account. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Punjab National Bank**, for the amount of detailed below and interest thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of the sub-section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total dues as per Demand Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
SIJUA BRANCH (142110)/ **Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagers: 1) Smt. Debashree Rath,** W/o- Sri Soumendra Rath, **Address-1:** Flat No.: 001, Plot No.: 344/3369, Sekhar Homes, Near Dasarathi Enclave Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751013, **Address-2:** Plot No.: A/2, Palaspalli, PS: Areadrome Area, Bhubaneswar - 751001, **2) Sri Anurag Rath,** S/o- Sri Soumendra Rath, Flat No.: 001, Plot No.: 344/3369, Sekhar Homes, Near Dasarathi Enclave Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751013, **3) Sri Soumendra Rath,** Plot No.: 353/3684, Near Bishnupriya Apartment, Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar - 751013	**01.12.2025 / 03.02.2026**	**₹42,12,976/- as on 01.12.2025** with Further interest & other charges w.e.f. 02.12.2025	All that Part and Parcel of Immovable Property i.e. Residential Flat No 001, Khata No.: 262, Plot No.: 344/3369, Sekhar Homes, Jayadev Vihar, Mouza Bhubaneswar Sahar, Jayadev Vihar, Tahasil/ SRO: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda recorded in the name of **Smt. Debashree Rath.**

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 06.02.2026 **Sd/-Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank**