

# LP AI CONNECT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA



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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to bring to you the third issue of the 'LP AI Connect' Newsletter. This issue aims to disseminate the key developments and key activities undertaken by the Land Ports Authority of India. This covers all operational and upcoming Integrated Check Posts to augment our country's trade across international land borders during the period of March 2021 to July 2021.

On 9th March 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of ICP Sabroom in Tripura. Sabroom is strategically located at the southern-most tip of Tripura State and has a vital role in linking India and Bangladesh, both through the road and railway link. In March, LPAI also celebrated its 9th Foundation Day at its Headquarters in New Delhi. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Secretary, Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. A virtual technical session on "Facilitating Regional

Trade and Connectivity through Land Route" with experts from South Asia was also organized that day. To understand the concerns of a wide range of stakeholders and ensure inclusivity in the decision making process at land borders, LPAI also organized virtual stakeholder consultations at each of its operational ICPs. Construction activities are ongoing for building a new Passenger Terminal Building at Petrapole, West Bengal; developing a new ICP at Rupaidiha in the Bahraich District of West Uttar Pradesh along the India-Nepal border and at Dawki in the West Jaintia Hills District in Meghalaya along the India-Bangladesh border. This issue highlights these updates and many more.

I hope you take out some time from your busy schedule and glance through these updates.

**Shri Aditya Mishra**  
Chairman LPAI

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## I. Key Developments

### PM Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone for ICP Sabroom

On 9th March 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' bridge between India and Bangladesh through video conference. The 1.9 km long bridge connects Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh. During the event, he also laid the foundation stone of ICP Sabroom in Tripura which is strategically located at the southern-most tip of Tripura State and has a vital role in linking India and Bangladesh, both through the road and railway link.

During the event, PM Modi emphasized the significance of connectivity in not only strengthening the friendship between India and Bangladesh but also proving to be a strong link of business too.<sup>1</sup> The development of ICP Sabroom will play an important role in establishing a trade corridor between Northeast India and Bangladesh. PM Modi during the virtual event stressed that the ICP in Sabroom will work like a full-fledged logistic hub with warehouses and container trans-shipment facilities.

The total area identified for the development of ICP is 49.08 acres, while the planned built-up area is 4.47 acres (18,100 sqm). In January 2021, LPAI transferred the funds for land acquisition to the Government of Tripura. In April 2021, the Architect Consultant and Project Management Consultancy were also appointed.

## II. Recent Activities

### LPAI Celebrated its 9th Foundation Day

LPAI celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 1st March 2021 at its Headquarters in New Delhi. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Secretary, Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Chairman LPAI, in his welcome address, narrated the journey of the organisation since its formation in 2012 and highlighted various new initiatives and projects that are being undertaken by LPAI. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar complimented LPAI for the excellent work done by the organisation in building infrastructure for facilitation of India's land borders. He also applauded LPAI for the crucial role it has played in facilitating safe and seamless cross-border movement of trade and passengers through land ports during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The keynote address was delivered virtually by Shri Vikram K. Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh. The event also featured special addresses delivered virtually by Shri Amitabh



*Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Secretary, Border Management, MHA (L) with Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman, LPAI (R)*

<sup>1</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1703457>

Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Shri Nilaya Mitash, Principal Operations Coordination Specialist, Asian Development Bank, India Resident Mission.

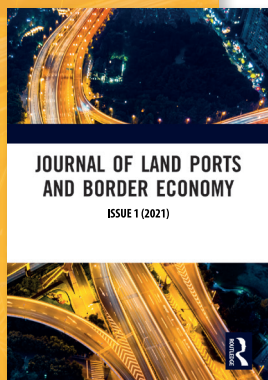
During the event, the Chief Guest released flyer for the inaugural issue of the 'Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy' which is being published by LPAI in collaboration with the Taylor & Francis Group. The inaugural issue presents a set of nine research papers written by eminent scholars and practitioners, covering various facets of trade and development.

On the occasion of its Foundation Day, LPAI also organized a virtual technical session on "Facilitating Regional Trade and Connectivity through Land

Route". The session was moderated by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The key panelists included Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India; Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, Nepal. The session had two guest speakers: Mr. Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF) and Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Assistant Professor at ASEAN India Centre, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

## Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy

Editor-in-Chief  
Mr. Aditya Mishra



ISBN: 9781032051659

The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy* presents a set of research papers covering various facets of trade and development. The development of border posts by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) has triggered the development of border economy across the country. This inaugural issue of the *Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy* captures India's journey in border management, progress and achievements. It has the editorial by the Chairman of LPAI and nine research papers, written by eminent scholars and practitioners.

*Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy* is the primary publication of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), which has distinguished itself as a leading developer for land port and border development. Widely consulted by researcher scholars, but also by educators and practitioners, the journal encourages the submission of papers from all social science and humanities focusing on land port development, border issues, bordering dynamics and borderlands in any part of the world. The distinctive purpose of *Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy* is to publish original research covering the development of theories and concepts, methodological perspectives, empirical analysis and policy debate in the field of land port development and border studies with particular reference to India. The journal is an interdisciplinary forum, which showcases diverse perspectives and analytical techniques.

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Arijita Mukherjee and Angana Parashar Sarma

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### About LPAI

LPAI is a statutory body established under Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010. The provisions of the Act came into force on 1 March 2012. Section 11 of the Act gives powers to LPAI to develop, sanitize and manage the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India. The Vision of LPAI is to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure to facilitate trade and travel. The Mission of LPAI is to build land ports on India's borders, to provide secure, seamless and efficient systems for cargo and passenger movement, to reduce dwell time and trade transaction costs, to promote regional trade and people-to-people contact and endeavour to imbibes the best international practices.

### Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)

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## Stakeholder Engagement and Consultations

Acknowledging the importance of having meaningful and constructive consultations with stakeholders, LPAI organized virtual consultations with its stakeholders at each of the operational trade ICPs during the period 22nd February-5th March 2021. The sessions were moderated by distinguished scholars working in the area of international relations.

The stakeholder consultations were structured in a manner that participants during the panel discussion were encouraged to define and narrow down the chokepoints and propose proper policies to encourage and facilitate cross-border trade. The key stakeholders who participated in the consultations included representatives from Department of Customs, border guarding forces, plant quarantine and animal quarantine departments, traders and freight forwarders.

The consultations helped in establishing a cross-platform dialogue and information sharing across stakeholders. It also helped LPAI disseminate the trade facilitations reforms it is undertaking at different ICPs.

LPAI plans to hold regular consultations with its stakeholders and make the decision making process at land borders more inclusive.

## Vaccination Camps Organized across ICPs

To ensure immunization and safety of front-line workers fighting against COVID-19 at India's land borders, LPAI in collaboration with several state health departments has been organizing free vaccination camps for its employees, staff and stakeholders supporting the government in the largest vaccination drive.

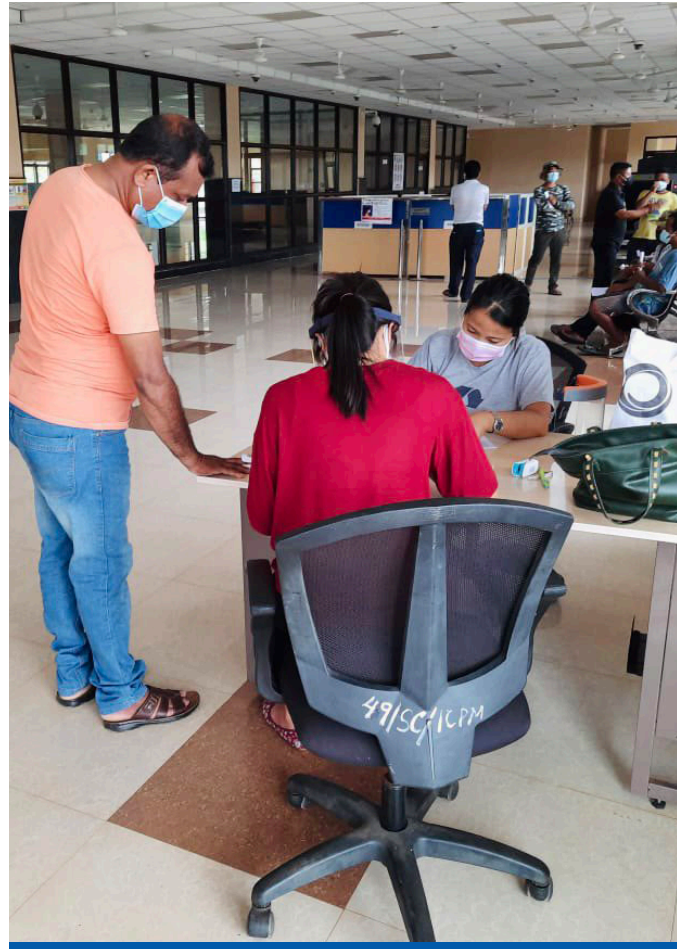
S. No.	ICP	Date	Moderator
1	Petrapole	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata
2	Attari	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Mr. Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), New Delhi
3	Raxaul	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Consumer Utility and Trust Society (CUTS), Jaipur
4	Jogbani	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Prof. Nawal Paswan, Dean, Sikkim University, Gangtok
5	Agartala and Srimantapur	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021	Dr. Gurudas Das, Professor, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar
6	Moreh	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Dr. Ch Priyoranjan Singh, Professor, Manipur University, Imphal
7	Sutarkandi	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Late Dr. Joyeeta Bhattacharjee, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi



## Vaccination Camps across ICPs



ICP Jogbani



ICP Moreh



ICP Agartala



ICP Sutarkandi

## LPAI Launches Summer Internship Programme

In June 2021, LPAI launched the Summer Internship Programme for students and research scholars to familiarize them with the process of land port development, cross-border trade and passenger movement and nuances of border issues and bordering dynamics and borderlands.

The programme is aimed at providing educational and career-development opportunities through practical ground research experience at ICPs. Through this initiative, LPAI envisions to tap into

young and talented students and research scholars with fresh perspectives and yearning for knowledge and seek their inputs into the policy making process at land borders.

Each intern is assigned to a mentor who is an expert on the subject matter of interest of the intern. The programme is spread over two months and involves both desk research and field experience.

LPAI has onboarded six interns this summer from diverse fields and premier educational institutions across the country.



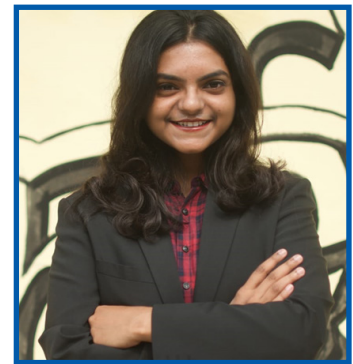
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## Visit of Joint Secretary (Border Management-II) to Tripura

Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Joint Secretary (Border Management-II), Ministry of Home Affairs visited the state of Tripura on 25th June 2021 to oversee the operations of existing ICPs and review the status of upcoming ICPs in the state. He was accompanied by Shri Manoj Kumar Jha, Deputy Secretary (BM-II), MHA, Col. Raman Kumar Sharma, Director (Projects), LPAI and Shri Debasis Nandi, Manager, LPAI.

The team first visited ICP Agartala to oversee the entire gamut of facilities available for facilitating cargo and passenger movement. Deliberations were held on the Phase-II development program of the ICP. Following this, the team, led by Shri Barnwal, visited the Nischintapur Railway Yard to explore the feasibility of establishing an ICP at Nischintapur and the proposed site location at Sabroom to oversee the progress of the development work there. Shri Barnwal along with the team also visited ICP Srimantapur wherein they were briefed about the existing facilities at the ICP including floating jetty over the river Gomati to facilitate trade and passenger movement.

## Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Joint Secretary (BM-II), MHA visit to Tripura



ICP Agartala



Nischintapur Railway Yard



ICP Sabroom



ICP Srimantapur

## LPAI Participates in Outreach Workshop with Freight Forwarders

On 27th July 2021, an Outreach Workshop was convened under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry to create awareness amongst the Freight Forwarder community on the reform measures being undertaken by the Government with reference to the six parameters of the Logistics Performance Index released by the World Bank.

LPAI, being a crucial facilitator of cross-border movement of trade and passengers through land ports, was invited to present the key reforms

measures it is undertaking to improve the infrastructure at India's land borders. On behalf of LPAI, Shri Dipak Kumar Gupta, Secretary, LPAI participated in the workshop and presented the range of initiatives (such as digital initiatives, hard and soft infrastructure initiatives) that are being undertaken by LPAI that are expected to improve the infrastructure at India's land borders.

Following the Workshop, the Logistics Division released an E-Book LPI Compendium of reform measures that related government ministries and departments have undertaken to improve the trade logistics.

## III. Status of Ongoing Construction Activities

III.1 Project Name	New Passenger Terminal Building at ICP Petrapole, West Bengal
Construction Agency	Contract has been awarded to Shapoorji Pallonji & Company Private Limited (SPCPL)
Letter of Award	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Details	The total planned built-up area for the new Passenger Terminal Building is 14.55 acre (58,900 sqm).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of July 2021, the physical progress of the work is 20 percent and financial progress is Rs 100 cr.</li> <li>Foundation work of Hostel Block &amp; Police Station building has been completed.</li> <li>Construction of the temporary Terminal Building is near completion.</li> </ul>

### Temporary Terminal Building (TTB) at ICP Petrapole – Progress Photos



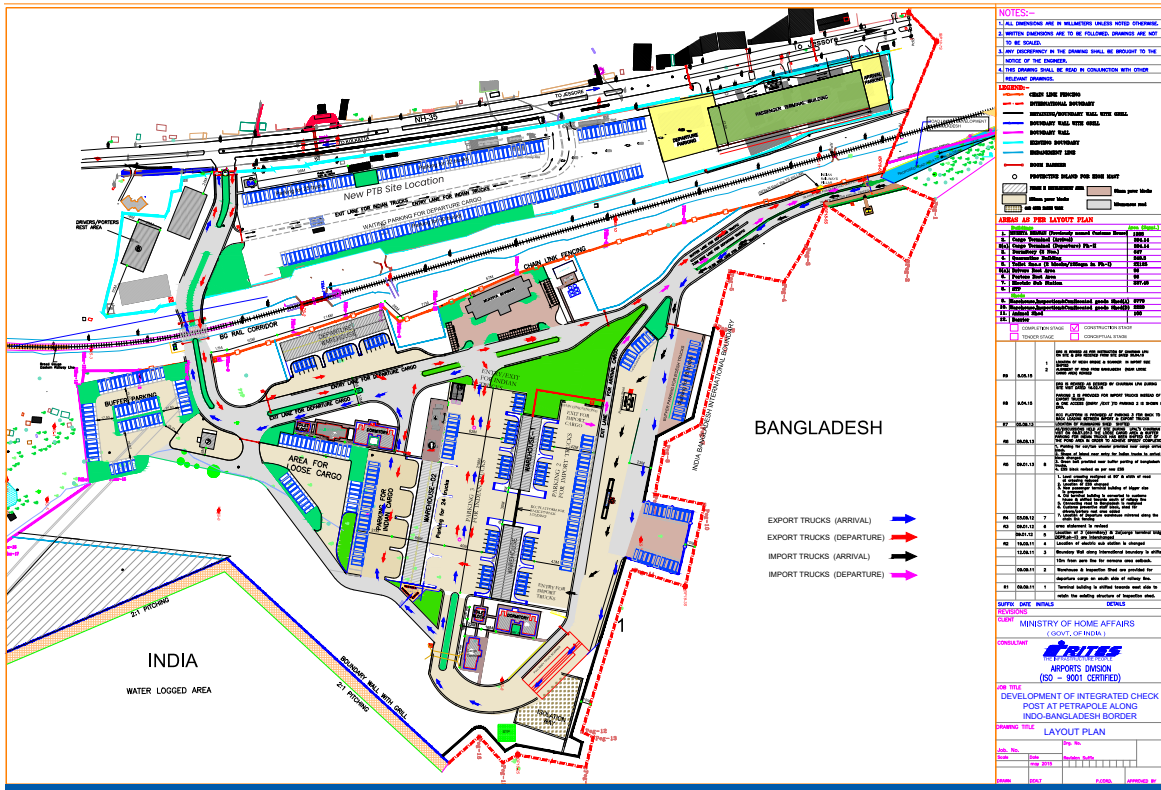
External View, TTB



Front View, TTB



## ICP Petrapole – Progress Photos



## Master Plan



*Police Station Building*



*Hostel Building*



### Additional Parking



III.2 Project Name	Development of ICP Rupaidiha, Uttar Pradesh
Construction Agency	Contract has been awarded to M/S KSM Bashir Mohd & Sons
Letter of Award	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Details	The total area identified for ICP development is 116.15 acres while the planned built-up area is 5.58 acres (22575 sqm).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of July 2021, the physical progress of work is 42 percent and financial progress is 40 percent.</li> <li>Foundation work of all the important buildings has been completed.</li> <li>Brick work and finishing works are under progress.</li> <li>Development of a parking facility for 500 trucks is under progress.</li> </ul>

### Development of ICP Rupaidiha– Progress Photos



*Cargo Terminal Building*



*Master Plan*



*Quarantine Building*



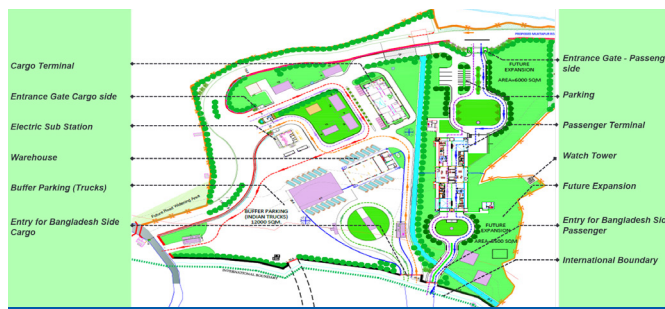
*Staff Hostel*

III.3 Project Name	Development of ICP Dawki, Meghalaya
Construction Agency	Contract has been awarded to M/s Pawan Communications & M/s Brahmaputra Infrastructure Joint Venture (JV)
Letter of Award	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Details	The total area identified for ICP development is 23 acres while the planned built-up area is 1.83 acres (7420 sqm).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of July 2021, the physical progress of work is 12 percent.</li> <li>Design has been finalized and fabrication work for Pre-Engineering Building has commenced.</li> <li>Foundation work of all the important buildings is under progress.</li> <li>Construction of important culvert over Mukhtapur village road has been completed.</li> </ul>

### Development of ICP Dawki– Progress Photos



Entrance Gate



Master Plan



Cargo Terminal Foundation Work

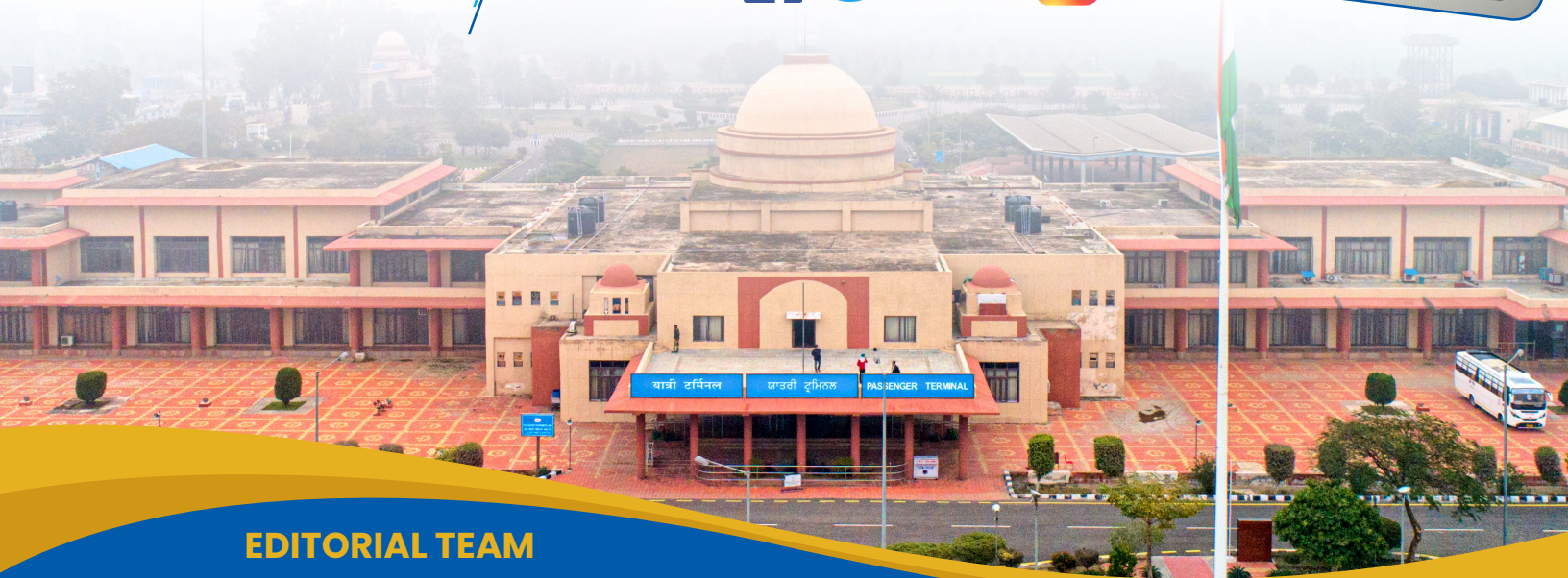


Toilet Block





FIND US ON



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