



PM Modi Celebrates Raksha Bandhan With Children At His Residence

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Raksha Bandhan at his residence, marking the occasion with children. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Piyush Goyal also joined in the festivities. Singh observed the festival with school children and members of the Brahmakumari organisation, where young girls and women tied rakhis on his wrist and received his blessings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Minister Piyush Goyal celebrated Raksha Bandhan on August 9th with children and extended

greetings to the nation, emphasizing the festival's role in celebrating the bond

Goyal celebrated at Vanijiya Bhawan in Delhi, where he distributed gifts to

wishes on the special occasion of Raksha Bandhan," he posted on X.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also conveyed warm wishes to the nation, describing Raksha Bandhan as a celebration of the unbreakable bond of love and trust between brothers and sisters. In his X post, Shah wrote, "Heartfelt best wishes to all countrymen on the sacred festival of 'Raksha Bandhan,' dedicated to the unbreakable bond of love, trust, and commitment to protection between brothers and sisters. I pray to God that this festival becomes a source of joy and enthusiasm in everyone's life."



between siblings, as did Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The festival, a traditional Hindu celebration, involves sisters tying rakhis on brothers' wrists.

children. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi extended his greetings to the nation, highlighting the festival's role in strengthening the sibling bond. "Best

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Graces The Rakshabandhan Celebration



Minister For Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Bhanuben Babariya, Women MLAs, and Women from Across Gujarat Tie Rakhi to the Chief Minister and Convey Their Best Wishes
Sadhana Vinay Mandir Students Present 100-Foot Rakhi to the CM, Showcasing Operation Sindoor and Good Governance of Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi Gandhinagar, 09 August 2025: On the occasion of Rakshabandhan, women from various sections of society tied rakhis to Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Smt. Bhanuben Babariya, along with MLAs, police personnel, and women



from across Gujarat, tied rakhis to Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, offering blessings for his well-being and dedication to public service. Students of Sadhana Vinay Mandir in Ghatlodiya, Ahmedabad, presented a 100-foot rakhi illustrating the success of Operation Sindoor and the good governance of Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi. On this occasion, Gandhinagar MLA Smt. Ritaben Patel, Mayor Smt. Miraben Patel, members of the Gandhinagar BJP Mahila Morcha, women from the Brahma Kumaris and other organisations, school students, and Divyang women tied rakhi to the Chief Minister.

Secretary Expenditure Shri V. Vualnam presides over the Foundation Day celebration of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) Day 2025

(Gns). Shri V. Vualnam, Secretary, Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, presided over the Foundation Day of the Indian Cost Accounts Service under Department of Expenditure, in New Delhi, today. The theme for this year's celebration was 'ICoAS in SAM@RTH भारत', underscoring the pivotal role of ICoAS officers in contributing towards the vision of Viksit Bharat.

In his keynote address, Shri Vualnam appreciated the dedication, expertise and commitment of ICoAS officers in shaping the economic landscape of India and emphasised on the critical role of ICoAS officers in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Shri Vualnam urged the officers to embrace technology and innovation to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of public financial management. He also appreciated the weekly training programme

Shri Vualnam underscored the role of iGoT Karmayogi in enriching the knowledge of the officers towards professional competency and also suggested officers to associate themselves with the iGoT

Ministries and Departments.

On the occasion, he released the e-brochure of the ICoAS, highlighting its evolution, key functions, achievements and initiatives in capacity building.

Earlier, Shri Pawan Kumar, Chief Adviser (Cost) and head of ICoAS, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the notable developments in the ICoAS over the past year. A documentary, showcasing the journey, evolution and impact of ICoAS, was also screened during the event.

Shri Vualnam also felicitated three young ICoAS officers who have been exemplary in their contributions by conferring them with 'Sarvottam', 'Ati Uttam' and 'Uttam' appreciation certificates.



towards capacity building introduced by the ICoAS cadre and encouraged ICoAS officers to actively participate in it.

Portal by developing small capsule courses based on their experience and knowledge explaining the roles of ICoAS officers in different

Fadnavis questions Sharad Pawar's revelation about poll win guarantee offer in 160 seats

(Gns). Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has questioned a revelation made by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder and chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday about being approached by two men who met him personally before the 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections and guaranteed him an NCP victory in 160 assembly seats out of a total of 288 assembly seats in the state.

Reacting to Sharad Pawar's statement to media persons in Nagpur on Saturday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "I don't understand why Sharad

Pawar remembered all this only after so many days when he met Rahul Gandhi? He didn't speak for so long and suddenly he spoke today. Rahul Gandhi has been narrating Salim-Javed type movie screen-plays for a long time. Though Rahul Gandhi spoke about electronic voting machines (EVMs) for many years, Sharad Pawar

never talked about them. In fact, Sharad Pawar stated many times that it was not right to blame EVMs. But now, suddenly, Sharad Pawar made this statement

after meeting Rahul Gandhi. Clearly, the result of meeting Rahul Gandhi is visible".

"No matter how much confusion is created, everyone knows that free and fair elections are held in India.

When the Election Commission asked them for an affidavit about their claims, nobody was ready to do it. They say that they took an oath in Parliament. If the Supreme Court asks somebody to give an affidavit and if they refuse, will it work? Similarly, if anybody is asked for an affidavit in a

legal matter, why don't they give it? Because they know that they are lying and if their lie is caught due to the affidavit, criminal action can be taken against them. That is why people lie and run away everyday," Fadnavis said, without naming Rahul Gandhi.

The revelation of two men meeting Sharad Pawar personally before the 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections and guaranteeing him NCP victories in 160 assembly seats out of total 288 assembly seats in the state, was made by NCP founder and chief Sharad Pawar while interacting with media persons in Nagpur on Saturday.



Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari wish people on Raksha Bandhan

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday extended warm wishes to the countrymen on the occasion of 'Raksha Bandhan', a festival symbolising the bond of love and trust between brothers and sisters.

"Heartfelt best wishes to all countrymen on the sacred festival of 'Raksha Bandhan,' dedicated to the unbreakable bond of love, trust, and commitment to protection between brothers and sisters. I pray to God that this festival becomes a source of joy and enthusiasm in everyone's life," Shah posted on X.

The festival, celebrated across the country, holds deep cultural and religious significance. Marking the

bond of affection between siblings, it is observed every year on 'Purnima' (the full moon day) of the

month of Sawan. Heartfelt best wishes to all the countrymen on this sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan."



On the occasion, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also shared his heartfelt wishes on the social media platform, saying, "The festival of Raksha Bandhan is a symbol of the love, affection, and commitment

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too posted on X, "The sacred knot of affection, the silent vow of trust, the vibrant expression of the unbreakable love between brother and sister, heartfelt congratulations to the peo-

ple of the state on Rakshabandhan! The delicate thread of the Raksha Sutra does not merely tie the wrist; it binds the soul. It weaves an eternal saga of dignity and intimacy in every era," (translated from Hindi post).

'Raksha Bandhan' is especially revered in Hindu tradition as a symbol of love, trust, and protection.

The festival is marked by sisters tying a protective thread, known as Rakhi, around their brothers' wrists, symbolising their prayers for the brothers' well-being and the brothers' vow to protect their sisters.

The celebrations include family gatherings, rituals, and exchanging gifts, reinforcing familial bonds.

Himachal seeks separate e-way bill for tracking narcotic substances under GST

(Gns).

In a bid to curb drug abuse and prevent diversion of narcotic substances from pharmaceutical companies, the Himachal Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has announced a series of strict monitoring and enforcement measures.

A government spokesperson informed here on Saturday that a committee headed by the

Sub-Divisional

Magistrate (SDM) is being set up to oversee licensed pharmaceutical units dealing in narcotic formulations. It will include officials from the Excise Department, Police, and Drug Control Authority to ensure compliance with regulatory norms and prevent misuse.

To strengthen traceability,

the state has approached the GST Council seeking a dedicated e-way bill system for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, enabling real-time tracking of their movement across the supply chain. The State Taxes and Excise Department has also imposed quantity restrictions on license hold-

ers to minimise the risk of excess stock being diverted illegally. The government is revising the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules, 1989, and updating the Integrated Drug Prevention Policy to fortify the legal framework. District-level committees chaired by respective District Magistrates have also been formed to coordinate enforcement.



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Editorial

Enumeration hurdle

The notification for Census 2027 was finally issued by the Government on 16 June 2025. This represents a delay of more than six years as the notice for Census 2021 was issued on 26 March 2019. That notification has now been cancelled, and the government has named the present census “Census 2027.”

This also indicates that the government has finally admitted that the nation has broken its chain of 150 years’ history of uninterrupted census-taking. Now the government will have to decide whether it will continue the previous tradition of taking a census in the first year of each decade, or a tenyear interval from the present census, to take the next one in 2037. Section 3 of the Census Act 1948 provides the government with the power to notify its decision to take a census and its time. The best course of action in this context will be to continue the present convention of taking census at the beginning of each decade, as this will require only minor readjustment of the data.

The notification dated 16 June has not given any further information regarding the much-talked-about proposal of updating the National Population Registrars (NPR). The NPRs are prepared and updated under the provisions of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, framed under the Citizenship Act 1955. Under Rule 3 (4) of these rules, the Union Government is to issue an order stating the dates for preparation of NPRs. Similarly, rule 4 of these rules empowers the Central government to carry out house-tohouse enumeration for the collection of specified particulars from the persons, including their citizenship status.

Thus, it is for the Central government to issue a notification much prior to the beginning of house-tohouse enumeration for census 2027. It may be noted that NPR was first prepared in the year 2010, and thereafter these were last updated in the year 2015. Another notable absence visible in the context of the “Census 2027” notification is the information about the government’s decision to headcount the caste population. The caste populace was enthusiastic about the announcement made by the government on 30 April 2025. But thereafter, nothing came out. The government issued the notification under Section 3 of the Census of India Act 1948. The provision is that the government must announce publicly their decision to go for a census. Nowhere in the Act of 1948 has the word ‘census’ been defined. So, the provision of Section 3 is very broad, and the Union Government could have elaborated on their decision to take a census along with their intention to capture caste data.

But government avoided this perhaps thinking it to be too early. In this context, the government has to decide first about the modalities to be adopted for capturing caste data. At present, there are two lists of caste groups/communities, viz., 1) the Central list showing State-wise caste groups containing a total of 2,633 caste groups and 2) the list of each State. The present State lists together contain names of more caste groups than the existing Central list. In view of this, the Central Government would have limited scope to choose the Central list for the present census, because this would mean leaving out some of the caste groups/communities from enumeration that are already on the list and getting the admissible benefits from States.

This would open up a wide scope for litigation, defeating the purpose of conducting a census. On the other hand, accepting the State list for the census would mean more State compliance in the census process, especially concerning those – caste groups/communities which are not in the Central list. The government, although it has not come up with any information about the caste census, will soon have to comply with the provisions of Section 8(1) of the 1948 Act read with Rule 5(1) (c), when they will be required to notify the census schedules for public information. These schedules must also comprise the schedule prepared for capturing data of caste population. The basic purpose of enumeration of backward castes such as Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs, is to bring them up from the level of backwardness.

For this, the Constitution has provided various benefits and concessions to the communities belonging to SC, ST, and OBCs, including reservations in government jobs and reserved seats in government educational institutions, etc. So far, the quota system in both jobs and educational institutions is working effectively. Fixation of the size of the quota for job reservation, etc., for SC and ST communities is a matter that falls within the purview of the States. Almost every State in India has its legislation dealing with the size of the reservation quota for SC & ST populations. This is mainly done depending on the size of their population. In most cases, these State enactments were made during the 1970s and 80s, and therefore the size of the quotas is proportionate to the populations of the SCs and STs as recorded in the censuses of 1971 and 1981.

For example, in Andhra Pradesh the strength of the SC and ST populations was 16.41 per cent and 7.0 per cent, respectively, as per the 2011 census. Against this, the quota for SC and ST was fixed at 16.0 and 7 per cent, respectively, of the total vacant jobs. Similarly, the proportions of SC and ST populations in Gujarat were 6.74 per cent and 14.75 per cent, respectively. As against this, the job reservation quota was fixed at 7.0 and 15 per cent, respectively. Likewise in Karnataka, as against 17.15 per cent SC and 6.95 per cent ST populations, quotas were 16.0 and 7 per cent, respectively. This makes it amply clear that the exercise of fixation of quotas for reservation of jobs, etc., for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was not much of a difficulty, as the population for both the categories is enumerated in successive censuses.

Quotas were fixed, keeping some room for accommodating future increments in the populations of both categories. At the time of the launch of the reservation policy, the concept of other backward classes was not in place, and therefore job reservation for them as a group was also not on the agenda. The demands for job reservation came up strongly only after the submission of the reports of the Mandal Commission on 31 December 1980. The commission in its report recommended, inter alia, 27 per cent reservation for jobs under Central government for the members of OBCs. The recommendations of the report, however, were not implemented till 1990, the year in which the VP Singh-led government decided to implement the recommendations and accordingly made an announcement in Parliament.

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Symbolism and Stakes



(Gns).

The United Kingdom's announcement that it will recognise a Palestinian state unless certain conditions are met by Israel signals not just a policy pivot, but a deep reckoning with history and principle. It is also a moment fraught with political consequence, as symbolism collides with the hard limits of power and diplomacy. For decades, Britain, like many of its Western allies, has spoken of Palestinian statehood as the inevitable outcome of a negotiated two-state solution.

But negotiations have long stalled. Instead, the reality has shifted on the ground: Israeli settlements have steadily expanded across the West Bank, the

Gaza Strip remains under siege, and Palestinian governance is fractured and largely powerless. The idea of a twostate solution has gone from diplomatic orthodoxy to political fiction. What then does recognition mean in such a context? It means, primarily, the affirmation of a people's right to self-determination. More than 140 nations already recognise Palestine as a state, though many do so in name more than in consequence. For Britain to join them, especially as a former colonial power in the region, is to acknowledge that moral responsibility lingers long after the empire. The Balfour Declaration promised a home for Jews but also

warned against prejudicing the rights of non-Jewish communities.

The failure to uphold both ends of that promise is a wound that remains unhealed. Yet recognition is not just an act of atonement

or a symbolic gesture of solidarity with Palestinians under siege. It is also a political lever aimed squarely at a government in Israel that has made no secret of its disdain for Palestinian sovereignty.

Rivers have a right to flow



(Gns).

If the natural rhythm of riverine ecosystems for centuries. However, with rising urbanization, unregulated development, and outdated flood management strategies, the damage caused by floods has intensified posing severe threats to human lives, infrastructure, and the environment. Rather than attempting to control nature, it is time to reframe our approach to floods: from flood control to flood resilience. This paradigm shift requires recognizing rivers as living systems with their own rights and aligning our development strategies with ecological wisdom.

At the heart of flood resilience is the recognition that rivers are not mere conduits of water to be channelized or obstructed at will. A river has the right to flow, the right to meander, and the right to meet the sea. These are not abstract ecological ideals but essential processes for maintaining sediment transport, water quality, and the ecological integrity of aquatic life. When rivers are forced into rigid channels through embankments or dammed extensively, their natural processes are disrupted. The denial of these rights leads to increased sedimentation upstream, waterlogging in surrounding areas, and intensification of flood risks downstream. Embracing the natural behavior of rivers is the first step toward true flood resilience.

Since Independence, India's flood policy has been centered on large dams, embankments, and other hard infrastructure. While these structures were initially seen as solutions to protect life and property, decades of evi-

dence now show that such approaches have often exacerbated the problems they sought to solve. Dams disrupt natural flow regimes, embankments often breach during high floods, and flood prone regions have continued to suffer heavy losses year after year. In contrast, a flood-resilient approach focuses on coexistence. It promotes adaptive infrastructure, community awareness, and livelihood systems that can withstand or recover quickly from floods.

This includes stilt housing, floating agriculture, flood-resilient crops, and early warning systems. One of the key drivers of flood related disasters in urban and semi urban areas is unregulated development on floodplains and riverbanks. These regions are natural buffers that absorb excess water during floods. When they are occupied by construction, commercial ventures, or encroachments, the water has nowhere to go – leading to flash floods and prolonged inundation. Clear zoning laws must be enforced to prevent construction on these sensitive areas. Riverfront development should prioritize ecological restoration over real estate expansion. Urban planning authorities must be mandated to treat rivers and their floodplains as protected ecological assets, not empty land waiting for development.

Modern urbanization, especially in metropolitan areas, has ignored the natural pathways of rivers and stormwater. In both rural and urban areas, traditional water bodies like ponds, lakes, wetlands, and tanks

have historically acted as natural sponges, absorbing excess rainwater and helping regulate groundwater levels. Protecting, rejuvenating, and integrating these water bodies into flood management systems is crucial. In cities, this may include creating decentralized rainwater harvesting

ties of their share, increasing flood risks during sudden releases or breaches. A transparent water allocation system based on ecological flow requirements, equitable distribution, and scientific assessment must replace ad-hoc diversions. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and

ment, and community engagement. Cities are encouraged to prepare URMPs to align infrastructure, land use, and governance with river conservation goals.

This initiative supports climate resilience, biodiversity, and livability, ensuring Indian cities coexist harmoniously with their rivers. Floods in India cannot always be fully prevented, as they are natural events. Some of the technological interventions that can greatly reduce their frequency, intensity, and impact of floods are: Advanced flood forecasting and early warning systems, such as: Satellite-based monitoring, Doppler weather radars, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to analyze data and community-level alerts through SMS, mobile apps, and sirens.

River basin and reservoir management using real-time reservoir operation systems (RT-ROMS) to adjust dam releases based on incoming rainfall and downstream capacity, Hydrological modeling software like MIKE-FLOOD or HEC-RAS for better water release planning, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping for flood-prone areas, catchments, and urban drainage networks. This helps planners avoid construction on floodplains and improve zoning laws and identifies vulnerable populations and infrastructure for targeted interventions.

Drones in post-flood damage assessment and real-time monitoring of river embankments and breaches. Remote Sensing is used for tracking changes

in river courses, sedimentation, and encroachments over time. Blue-Green infrastructure and design have permeable pavements, green roofs, and rain gardens in cities to reduce surface runoff and smart stormwater drainage systems equipped with sensors to reduce urban flooding. River Information Systems (RIS) for real-time digital systems tracking river flow, rainfall, dam discharge, and flood alerts.

These are decision support tools for authorities for coordinated response and disaster preparedness. Crowd-sourced data and mobile apps for citizens to report waterlogging or rising water levels via flood-reporting apps. This feeds into centralized monitoring systems and helps enhance data coverage and rapid response. Flood resilience is not about building higher walls or bigger dams. It is about building harmony between humans and rivers. It means designing cities that breathe, restoring nature's own infrastructure, and empowering communities with knowledge and tools to adapt.

While floods cannot be entirely prevented, integrating technological tools into flood management policies, urban planning, and community response mechanisms can significantly reduce damage and save lives. For a flood resilient India, technology must go hand-in-hand with ecological wisdom and sustainable planning. By recognizing the rights of rivers and shifting our focus from controlling floods to coexisting with them, we can create a future where floods are no longer disasters, but part of a resilient and thriving ecological cycle.

Opportunity for Reform



The dramatic collapse of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5 last year followed by the installation of a caretaker administration under Muhammad Yunus has ushered Bangladesh into uncharted political territory.

A year after the student-led uprising that drove Sheikh Hasina into exile, the country finds itself perched on the edge of democratic reinvention, or yet another cycle of political turmoil. The announcement of elections in February 2026, while symbolically powerful, raises fundamental questions about the readiness of Bangladesh's institutions, the sincerity of the new political order, and the ghosts of a repressive past that continue to cast long shadows. The scale and intensity of the youth-led protests that forced the fall of a 15-year-old regime surprised many, but the grievances fuelling them

had been simmering for years.

Widespread allegations of state repression, enforced disappearances, and crony authoritarianism under Sheikh Hasina's

deeply unfair, morphed into a nationwide demand for accountability in governance and civil liberties. The caretaker government's commitment to enshrining this movement

isation ~ but whether it is more than a symbolic gesture remains to be seen. The sheer scale of youth participation signalled a generational shift, not just in leadership demands, but

in the constitution through the so-called "July Declaration" appears to be a nod to this mass movement

in the political imagination of Bangladesh itself. This was no ordinary transfer of power. Muhammad Yunus's

Israeli democracy.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's refusal to entertain a two-state solution, combined with Israel's on-going military campaign in Gaza and recent threats of West Bank annexation, has effectively closed the door to a credible peace process. In that light, Britain's recognition pledge becomes a conditional ultimatum. It gives Israel a diplomatic off-ramp ~ ceasefire, no annexation, return to negotiations ~ but it also sets a deadline. Few expect Israel to yield, but the move forces a stark choice into the open: either uphold the viability of two states or acknowledge that the alternative is indefinite occupation, and the erosion of both Palestinian rights and

Critics may argue that recognition, without a functioning state apparatus or defined borders, is a hollow act. But hollow acts can still echo. They can redraw the moral map of international diplomacy. They can signal to the Palestinians that their cause is not forgotten; and to Israel that unchallenged impunity is no longer guaranteed. France and Canada's recent decision to recognise Palestine, alongside earlier moves by Ireland, Spain, and Norway, signals a broader Western shift. With Britain poised to follow, the moral and diplomatic isolation of Israel deepens and the demand for justice, even if symbolic for now, becomes impossible to ignore.

promise of inclusivity and reform has earned cautious optimism from a fractured position.



promise of inclusivity and reform has earned cautious optimism from a fractured position.

The presence of key political blocs on stage during his election announcement ~ the BNP, Jamaate-Islami, and the student-led NCP ~ reflects a rare convergence. Yet this unity is brittle. Many of these actors carry their own histories of intolerance and opportunism. Bangladesh's political culture is marked by swings between absolutism and chaos, and the lack of institutional maturity has made every transition vulnerable to relapse. What remains especially delicate is the handling of transitional justice. The new government has committed to prosecuting abuses committed under the previous regime, including charges against Sheikh Hasina herself. Yet, without a clear and credible process, ideally one independent of political influence, the risk is

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Western railway to run rakshabandhan special train between valsad & ajmer

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Rakshabandhan, Western Railway will run one more Special Train on Special fare between Valsad & Ajmer.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri

Vineet Abhishek, the details of the train is as under:
1. Train No. 09612/09611 Valsad – Ajmer Special [2 Trips]
Train No. 09612 Valsad – Ajmer Special will depart from Valsad on Tuesday, 12th August, 2025 at 13:00 hrs, and will reach Ajmer at 09:55 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09611 Ajmer – Valsad Special will depart from Ajmer on

Monday, 11th August, 2025 at 13:00 hrs, and will arrive Valsad at 08:30 hrs, the next day.
Enroute, this train will halt at Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Nagda, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Durgapura, Jaipur and Kishangarh stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC -3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.
The booking for Train No. 09612 will open from 10th August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

India Expresses Support For Upcoming Trump-Putin Summit Aiming To Address Ukraine Conflict

(Gns). India has expressed its support for the upcoming meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, scheduled to take place in Alaska on August 15. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the potential of this meeting to resolve the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and pave the way for peace. This sentiment aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's view that "this is not an era of war."

Trump-Putin Summit President Trump announced his plans to meet with President Putin next Friday in Alaska. The focus will be on ending Russia's war in Ukraine. This summit marks the first US-Russia meeting since 2021, when former President Joe Biden met Putin in Geneva. Trump mentioned that a peace

deal might involve "swapping some territories," which he acknowledged would not be easy.



India supports the upcoming meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15 to address the Ukraine conflict, as expressed by the Ministry of External Affairs, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stance against war.

Switch To Shorts

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, however, has cautioned against any peace agreements that



exclude Kyiv. He stated that such decisions would result in "dead solutions" and warned that Ukrainians are unwilling to cede their land to Russia. Zelensky emphasised that decisions made without Ukraine's involvement are inherently against peace.
India's Support for Peace Efforts
The Ministry of External

Affairs reiterated India's endorsement of the summit, expressing readiness to support efforts towards peace. The ministry's statement reflects India's commitment to fostering dialogue and resolution in international conflicts, particularly concerning the situation in Ukraine.

As the world anticipates this significant meeting, hopes are high for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The discussions between Trump and Putin could potentially lead to a breakthrough, offering new prospects for stability and cooperation between nations involved.

The outcome of this summit remains crucial as it may shape future diplomatic relations and influence global peace efforts. The international community watches closely, hoping for positive developments from this pivotal meeting.

Congress Raises Concerns Over PM Modi's Abrupt Halt Of Operation Sindoor Following IAF's Successful Military Actions

(Gns). The Congress has raised questions about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to halt Operation Sindoor on May 10, 2025. This inquiry follows revelations from Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who disclosed that the Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down five Pakistani fighter jets during the operation. The Congress is seeking clarity on the reasons behind the sudden cessation of military action.

Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh shared these details during the 16th Air Chief Marshal L M Katre Memorial Lecture in Bengaluru. He described the event as India's largest recorded surface-to-air kill. "We have an indication of at least one AWC in that AWC hangar, and a few F-16s, which are under maintenance there. We have at least five fighters confirmed killed and one large aircraft, which could be either an aircraft or an AWC, which was taken at a distance of about 300 kilometres. This is actually the largest ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," he

stated. The Congress party is questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision



to halt Operation Sindoor on May 10, 2025, after Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh revealed the Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down five Pakistani fighter jets during the operation, which targeted terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, following the Pahalgam incident on April 22, 2025.

Operation Sindoor's Objectives
Operation Sindoor was launched by the IAF to target terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The mission aimed to dismantle

terror networks and eliminate key figures responsible for orchestrating attacks, particularly follow-



ing the Pahalgam incident on April 22, 2025. Precision strikes were carried out on various targets associated with terrorist activities.

During the operation, several drones and missiles ended up in Indian territory. The IAF targeted strategic locations such as airfields and planning buildings used for both military and civil purposes. "So the airfield was attacked and the main building where the planning goes on, which was also used as the civil terminal building at times. As far as the Sukkur airbase is concerned, we

attacked the UAB hangar and radar site," explained Air Chief Marshal Singh.

Political Reactions
Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh expressed his concerns through a post on X, questioning why PM Modi halted Operation Sindoor abruptly. "In view of the new revelations made by Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh today, it becomes all the more shocking why the PM suddenly stopped Operation Sindoor on the evening of May 10th," Ramesh wrote.

Ramesh further questioned whether external pressures influenced this decision. "Where did the pressure on the PM come from and why did he capitulate so very soon?" he asked. These remarks highlight political tensions surrounding military decisions and their implications for national security.

The Congress party's inquiries into Operation Sindoor underscore concerns about transparency in military operations. As new information emerges about significant achievements during this mission,

Dhruva Sarja Booked for Cheating Producer Raghvendra Hegde of ₹9.58 Crore, Amboli Police FIR

(Gns). The Amboli Police have registered an FIR against popular South Indian actor Dhruva Kumar, also known as Dhruva Sarja, for allegedly cheating producer-director Raghvendra Hegde of ₹3.15 crore, which with 18% annual interest since 2018 has now risen to ₹9.58 crore.

According to the FIR, Hegde, 52, a Kandivali West resident and owner of RH Entertainment and R-9 Entertainment, made his directorial and production debut in 2016 with the Kannada film Jaggi Dada. After its success, Dhruva allegedly approached Hegde at his Mumbai office expressing interest in a collaboration.

Amboli Police have filed an FIR against South

Indian actor Dhruva Kumar (Dhruva Sarja) for allegedly cheating producer-director Raghvendra Hegde of ₹3.15 crore between 2016 and 2021, which has now

risen to ₹9.58 crore with interest; Hegde claims the actor never fulfilled his commitment to a film titled The Soldier and did not return the money.

Dhruva Sarja Booked for Cheating Producer Raghvendra Hegde of 9 58 Crore Amboli Police FIR

Between 2016 and 2018, Dhruva reportedly convinced Hegde to work on a project titled The Soldier and even handed over its

script. Hegde claims Dhruva demanded advance payment before signing the agreement, stating he needed funds to purchase a flat and assuring that filming would begin soon.

From June 2018 to March 2021, Hegde claims he paid Dhruva ₹3.15 crore in cash, in eight instalments, borrowed at high interest rates.

On February 21, 2019, both parties signed an agreement stating Dhruva would allot 80 days for shooting and promotions in 2020. However, the actor allegedly sought more time, and pandemic delays pushed the project further.

Post-lockdown, Dhruva allegedly avoided Hegde and in 2021 said he could no longer work on the film. Hegde also alleges that Dhruva asked him to pay six other individuals linked to the project, which he did, yet the film never began.

Hegde claims Dhruva never fulfilled his commitment or returned the money, accusing the actor of approaching him with intent to cheat. The Amboli Police registered the case on August 7 under Sections 318(4) (cheating) and 316(2) (criminal breach of trust) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Actor Dhruva Sarja's manager has clarified the allegations of cheating related to an advance of ₹3.15 crore for making a movie.

DARPG Notifies the Scheme for National Awards for e-Governance 2026

(Gns). The scheme for 23rd National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026 aims to promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives under seven categories through 16 Awards.

Nominations for National Awards for e-Governance 2026 can be submitted under 7 Categories: (i) Government Process Re-engineering by use of technology for Digital Transformation, (ii) Innovation by Use of AI and other new age technologies



for providing Citizen-Centric Services, (iii) Best e-Gov. Practices/Innovation in

Cyber Security, (iv) District Level Initiatives in e-Governance, (v) Grassroots Level Initiatives

by Gram Panchayats or equivalent Traditional Local Bodies for Deepening/ Widening of Service Delivery, (vi) Replication and Scaling of Nationally Awarded and Mission-mode e-Governance Projects by State/UTs/Districts and (vii) Digital transformation by use of data analytics in digital platforms by Central Ministries/States/ UTs.

Nominations can be submitted online on www.nceg.gov.in from 01st September, 2025

Good News For People Who Wish to Avail 5 Week Break From Work with Family During Diwali & Chhath Vacations

Railway Launches 20 % Rebate on Base Fare of Return Journey For a Round Trip Package to Spread Out Crowd Launch on Experimental Basis, the Bookings For Round Trip Package Begins From 14th August For Onward Journey From 13th to 26th October Current Advance Reservation Period of 60 Days Not Applicable For Discounted Return Journey Tickets Booked For 17th November to 1st December 2025

(Gns). In order to avoid rush, ensure hassle free booking as well as to facilitate passengers and redistribute the peak traffic for larger range during peak festival seasons and ensure both side utilization of trains including special trains, it has been decided to formulate an experimental scheme named as Round Trip Package for festival rush on discounted fare. This scheme will be applicable for those passengers who chooses their return journey during the pre-

scribed period as detailed below:

(i) Under this scheme,



rebates shall be applicable when booked for both onward and return journey for the same set of passengers. Passenger details of return journey will be same as of onward journey.

(ii) Booking start date shall be 14.08.2025 for the ARP date 13th October 2025. Onward ticket shall be booked first for the train start date between 13th October 2025 and 26th

October 2025 and subsequently return journey ticket shall be booked by using

(v) Booking under this scheme shall be for the same class and same O-D pair for both onward and return journey.

(vi) No refund of fare shall be permissible for the tickets booked under this scheme.

(vii) The above scheme shall be allowed for all classes and in all trains including special trains (Trains on demand) except trains having Flexi fare.

(viii) No modification will be allowed on these ticket in either of the journey.

(ix) No discounts, Rail travel coupons, Voucher based bookings, Passes or PTOs etc. shall be admissible during return journey booking on concessional fare.

(x) Both onward and return journey tickets must be booked using the same mode either:

Internet (online) booking, or

Counter booking at reservation offices

Delhi Police Issues Traffic Advisory After Mahipalpur-Mehrauli Road Collapse Near Vasant Kunj

(Gns). A section of the Mahipalpur-Mehrauli Road, extending from Fortis Hospital towards Mahipalpur, collapsed following a wall failure. This incident prompted the Delhi police to release a traffic advisory. The collapse occurred under the Masoodpur flyover near Vasant Kunj, and authorities urged commuters to heed instructions from personnel on-site.

"A wall of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's under-construction underground site near D-6, Vasant Kunj, under the Masoodpur Flyover, has

collapsed," stated the Delhi traffic police in their advisory. They noted that this led to a portion of the Mahipalpur-Mehrauli Road



caving in.

A section of the Mahipalpur-Mehrauli Road collapsed near Vasant Kunj following a wall failure at an under-construction Delhi Metro site, prompting a traffic advisory from Delhi

police and alternate route suggestions. Heavy rainfall on Saturday in Delhi-NCR also caused traffic disruptions and waterlogging, and

in Jaitpur, another wall collapse resulted in seven fatalities, leading to a police investigation.

The police advised those travelling from Mehrauli towards Mahipalpur to use an alternate route via Aruna Asaf Ali Marg. Commuters should start from Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj to reach Mahipalpur and avoid the affected area. This advice was shared by the traffic police on X.

Meanwhile, another wall collapse occurred in Jaitpur, Delhi, resulting in seven fatalities. Among those who died were three men, two women, and two children. Eight individuals were rescued and taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre and

Safdarjung Hospital for medical care.

Heavy Rainfall Disrupts Delhi-NCR

Delhi and its surrounding National Capital Region experienced heavy rains on Saturday. This led to traffic disruptions and waterlogging in several areas such as Panchkuian Marg, Mathura Road, Shastri Bhawan, RK Puram, Moti Bagh, and Kidwai Nagar.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had initially issued a red alert for most parts of Delhi-NCR but later downgraded it to a yellow alert. The rain began late Friday night around 11 pm and continued into Saturday.

Rainfall Measurements Across Delhi

The primary weather station at Safdarjung recorded 78.7 mm of rainfall over 24 hours until 8:30 am on Saturday. Other areas also reported significant rainfall: Pragati Maidan recorded 100 mm, Lodhi Road 80 mm, Pusa 69 mm, and Palam 31.8 mm.

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Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding International Olympiads of 2026.

To enroll:

NSEs: <https://www.iapt.org.in> (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2025)

For more details: <https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in>
<https://www.iapt.org.in>

cbc 48143/12/0005/2526

Not Going To Occupy Gaza, Will Free It From Hamas: Israel PM Netanyahu

(Gns). After coming under attack over his war plans, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has clarified his intentions on Gaza, saying that his country will not occupy Gaza rather free it from Hamas.

This statement came after Israel's security cabinet approved a military plan to take control of Gaza City, which faced criticism both domestically and internationally.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated Israel's aim to liberate Gaza from Hamas and establish a civilian government, following the security cabinet's approval of a military plan to take control of Gaza City, which has faced international criticism, while also criticizing Germany's decision to halt weapons exports to Israel.

In a post on X, Netanyahu said, "We are not going to occupy Gaza - we are going to free Gaza from Hamas." The Israeli PM stated that Israel aims to liberate Gaza from Hamas and establish a peaceful civilian government.

On the other hand, the Netanyahu emphasized Israeli Prime Minister also

United Nations Human Rights Chief have voiced concerns over the move. Hamas has labelled the plan as a "new war crime."

In response to these developments, Germany announced a halt on military exports to Israel due to concerns about their potential use in Gaza. Chancellor Merz remarked on the difficulty in understanding how Israel's actions align with its stated objectives.

Israel's Military Strategy Netanyahu outlined five principles for Gaza's future, focusing on demilitarization and establishing an alternative civil authority. He mentioned in an interview with Fox News that Israel does not plan long-term governance of Gaza but intends to create a "security perimeter" before transferring control to Arab forces capable of maintaining stability.

Last month, the Israeli army claimed control over approximately 75 percent of the Gaza Strip. Historically, Israel occupied Gaza from 1967 until its withdrawal in 2005.Z

expressed dissatisfaction with Germany's decision to halt weapons exports to Israel. During his call with Merz, Netanyahu criticized Germany for suspending arms supplies, arguing that it rewards Hamas terrorism instead of supporting Israel's fight against the group.

International Reactions and Criticism The updated military strategy includes Israeli forces taking control of Gaza City. This plan has sparked significant global criticism. Countries like China, Turkey, Britain, several Arab nations, and the

that Israel does not intend to occupy Gaza but rather aims to demilitarize it and set up a civilian administration. He stressed that this administration would not involve the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, or any terrorist group.

He added, "Gaza will be demilitarized, and a peaceful civilian administration will be established, one that is not the Palestinian Authority, not Hamas, and not any other terrorist organization.

This will help free our hostages and ensure Gaza does not pose a threat to Israel in the future.:



Two speeding motorcycles collided head-on, resulting in the death of four persons

.. Bhopal, Two speeding motorcycles collided head-on, resulting in the death of four persons, including a father, his two sons, and his relative, while two others were injured in the Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday evening.

According to the police, the mishap occurred at around 4 pm near the Jarga-Jargi village on the Mandla-Seoni border.

Mandla SP Rajat Saklecha said the accident occurred when a family of five persons, riding on a single motorcycle, from Seoni to Mandla, collided with another bike coming from the opposite direction.

The official said that the deceased were identified as Rajendra Kushram (38), his sons Sohil (10) and Ravindra (7), all residents of Seoni district, and his brother-in-law Shivprasad Maravi (27).

Rajendra's wife, Shakun Kushram (32), and Vivek Kumar Kakodia (28) of Seoni district, who was on the other bike, sustained injuries and have been admitted to a hospital, the SP added.



S-400 system proved to be a game-changer during Operation Sindoor, says IAF Chief

(Gns). Since the first time India launched a strike against Pakistan backed terrorism on May 7, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh revealed that the Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down six Pakistani aircraft during Operation Sindoor.

Addressing a gathering at the Bengaluru based Hal Management Academy, the IAF Chief said that during Operation Sindoor one of the targets marked the longest recorded surface-to-air engagement by the Indian Air Force, highlighting the effectiveness of Russian defence systems in achieving airspace superiority.

"Our air defence systems have done a wonderful job. The S-400 system, which we had recently bought, has been a game-changer. The range of that system has really kept their aircraft away from their weapons like, those long-range glide bombs that they have, they have not been able to penetrate the system," he added.

Speaking about the Pakistan jets that were downed by India, the CAS said that five were Pakistani fighter jets while the other one was an AEW & C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) or an ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) aircraft.

"We have at least five fighters confirmed kills and one large aircraft, which could be either an ELINT aircraft or an AEW&C aircraft, which was taken on at a distance of about 300 kilometres. This is actually the largest ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," he said.

Speaking about the 2019 Balakot strike carried out by IAF, the Air Chief said that it was unfortunate that some sections raised doubts about the terror camps being destroyed in the strikes.

"In Balakot, we could not get anything from inside, and it became a big issue trying to tell our own people, unfortunately, as to what we have been able to achieve. We had intelligence (human kind of intelligence) on what had gone on inside, where we had a very clear picture of the inside in terms of them having been huge damage. There have been so many terrorists who have been neutralised, but we could not convince our own people that, look, we have achieved that," he said.

He further noted that the absence of video proof could have led to similar doubts after Operation Sindoor. However, he emphasized that footage from the recently concluded military mission is now publicly available.

"Things like this would have given us the same problem (regarding Operation Sindoor). However, we were lucky that we got these videos in the open. So, I'm very happy that this time we were able to take care of that ghost of Balakot, and we were able to tell the world what we have achieved," the Air Chief Marshal said.

Clearing the air about the liberties extended to the defence forces in carrying out the strikes during Operation Sindoor, the CAS said that there were no restrictions upon the planning and execution of the operation.

"A key reason for success was the presence of political will. There were very clear directions given to us. No restrictions were put on us. If there were any constraints, they were self-made.



ECI delists 334 Registered Unrecognized Political Parties for failing to contest elections

(Gns). The Election Commission of India has delisted 334 Registered Unrecognized Political Parties (RUPPs) for failing to contest elections for over six years and not complying with mandatory disclosure norms under Section 29A of the RP Act, 1951, said an ECI notification.

As per ECI data, there are currently six national parties, 67 state parties, and 2,854 RUPPs registered in the country. Political parties are required to contest elections at least once every six years and promptly inform the Commission about any changes in their name, address, or office bearers, added the notification.

and Union territories to verify compliance of 345 RUPPs. The CEOs conducted inquiries, issued hearings. The verification found 334 RUPPs in violation of the rules, while the remaining cases were sent back for re-verification.

Following the findings, the ECI removed these 334 RUPPs from its list, reducing the total to 2,520. The Commission stated that delisted parties will no longer be eligible for benefits and recognition under ECI norms.

The move is part of the ECI's larger, continuous drive to clean up the electoral system and ensure greater accountability among registered political outfits.

In June 2025, the ECI directed Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of states

show-cause notices, and allowed parties to present their case through personal



Marandi alleges conspiracy by senior Jharkhand officer against Assam CM

(Gns). Leader of Opposition and Jharkhand BJP chief Babulal Marandi has alleged that a senior police officer in Jharkhand conspired to frame Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the state assembly elections. In a statement on Saturday, Marandi claimed the officer sent someone to Delhi and Guwahati twice, allegedly after paying them money, to implicate the Assam CM.

Marandi said he would soon present proof of the conspiracy. Addressing Chief Minister Hemant Soren, he questioned whether such actions were carried out with Soren's greed for money and position, can dare to indulge in the same to you when the time comes?" Marandi said.

The former chief minister also alleged that in the past, the same individuals had prepared detailed dossiers on Soren's activities and sent over a hundred signed and unsigned complaints against him to various places.

Marandi advised Soren to have the matter investigated by his own agencies and if information was still lacking, to meet him personally to review the evidence. "It might open your eyes and help you identify the snakes in your sleeve," he said.

knowledge or without his awareness. "If an officer, driven by such a vile act against a highly respected figure, what stops him from doing



KGMU gets A++ recognition from NAAC

(Gns). The medical education sector of Uttar Pradesh has achieved another historic achievement after King George Medical University (KGMU) was awarded A++ recognition by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

This honor has been received with a 3.67 CGPA, which is a testimony to the quality, research, education level, and management capability of the university.

Two years ago, Prof. Sonia Nityanand, who took over as Vice Chancellor on August 9, 2023, had set a target to bring KGMU from A+ to A++ category.

Under his leadership, all the departments of the university worked together and worked with the resolve to leave no stone unturned. During this period, academic and administrative reforms were implemented under the leadership of Prof. Rajiv Garg of the IQAC team, which took the overall performance of the university to new heights.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Nityanand, while giving credit for this achievement to the entire KGMU team, expressed special gratitude to the Governor and Chancellor of the University, Anandiben Patel, and the

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. She said that under the guidance of CM Yogi ji, there has been unprecedented improvement in the infrastructure and quality of the medical institutions of the state. This is the reason why today KGMU is among the leading medical institutions of the country.

With the efforts of the state government, transparency, technical upgradation, and better resources were provided in medical education, which has a direct impact on the performance of institutions like KGMU. This achievement is giving Uttar Pradesh a new identity in the field of medical education at the national level.



Congress leaders extend Raksha Bandhan wishes, emphasize bond of love and unity

(Gns). The festival, observed on the full moon day of the Shravana month, is a significant occasion in Indian culture, highlighting the importance of sibling relationships and the values of protection, care, and mutual respect.

As the nation celebrates Raksha Bandhan, the festival symbolizes the bond of love and trust between brothers and sisters, Congress leaders Saturday took to handle X to extend their warm wishes to the people.

The festival, observed on the full moon day of the Shravana month, is a significant occasion in Indian culture, highlighting the importance of sibling relationships and the values of protection, care, and mutual respect.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge extended his Raksha Bandhan wishes, emphasizing the festival's role in promoting brotherhood, unity, and respect for women in Indian society. He expressed hope that the festival would strengthen the bonds of love, harmony, and goodwill in everyone's lives. Kharge's message underscored the significance of Raksha Bandhan in fostering a sense of togetherness.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also extended her greetings, saying, "Brother-sister love, trust, and faith in symbolized by Raksha Bandhan... May this sacred festival bring immense happiness to your lives." Her message emphasized the joy and warmth that Raksha Bandhan brings to families and communities.



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प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही

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