



Amid Tariff Row, PM Modi Likely To Visit US Next Month For UNGA Session

(Agency)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN here.

The 80th session of the UNGA will open on September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on September 26 during the high-level debate, with the session opening on

September 9 and the General Debate running from September 23-29, including addresses from US President Donald Trump and leaders from Israel, China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh; this session occurs amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the Ukraine conflict, and discussions regarding tariffs and trade between the US and India are ongoing.

US President Donald

Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House. According to the provisional list of speakers for the high-level debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly, India's "Head of



Government (HG)" will address the session on the morning of September 26. The Heads of

Government of Israel, China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are also scheduled to address the UNGA general debate on the same day. Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump in the White House in Washington, DC.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting, Modi and Trump had announced plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by the fall of 2025. Even as trade negotiations were ongoing, Trump imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India.

CM Shri Bhupendra Patel Leads Grand 'Tiranga Padyatra' in Ahmedabad with Theme 'Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata'

Gandhinagar, 13 August 2025 : Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel led a grand 'Tiranga Padyatra' in Ahmedabad. Citizens joined in large numbers to

Rushikesh Patel, Minister of State for Cooperation and Rural Industries Shri Jagdish Vishwakarma, Minister of State for Home Shri Harsh Sanghavi, and

nation. The CM stated that Tiranga Yatra, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aims to inspire

Minister has emphasised cleanliness for this year's Tiranga Yatra. The state government is celebrating Independence Day with the campaign 'Har Ghar



pay tribute to the freedom fighters. People marched from Adarsh School in Kuberanagar to Rameshwari Circle in Meghani Nagar with a patriotic spirit.

The 'Grand Tiranga Yatra,' organized by the Department of Sports, Youth Services and Cultural Activities, Gandhinagar, in collaboration with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, was flagged off by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Health Minister Shri

other dignitaries participated in the yatra by waving the tricolour.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Tiranga Yatra is being organized to instill respect and honor for our tricolor, a symbol of pride and glory for every Indian. He further added that this campaign has become a source of inspiration for all and serves to unite the

respect and pride for the national flag. This campaign has become a source of inspiration for all. The national flag unites the nation. Operation Sindoor has further strengthened this patriotic spirit.

During the freedom movement, people expressed their commitment to freedom by hoisting the national flag. We must pledge to build a Viksit Bharat by its 100th year of independence. The CM also noted that the Prime

Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata'.

Speaking about the Prime Minister's Vocal for Local campaign Chief Minister said the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative fosters a "Nation First" spirit. He added that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi calls upon citizens to adopt indigenous products and Local for Vocal, and urged citizens to honor the tricolor by strengthening economic independence through Swadeshi.

India-Russia Diplomacy: Jaishankar Visits Moscow Following US Tariff

(Agency)
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to visit Moscow on August 20-21 for high-level talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The visit comes at a sensitive time in global diplomacy, following US President Donald Trump's recent decision to impose a 50 per cent tariff on India for its imports of Russian oil. The development has intensified trade tensions, making Jaishankar's engagement with Russia particularly significant.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, "On August 21, FM Sergey Lavrov will hold talks with

FM of India Dr. S. Jaishankar in Moscow." These discussions are expected to cover a range of issues on the bilateral agenda, including energy cooperation, trade, and strategic partnerships. Both leaders are also likely to explore areas of collaboration within broader international frameworks, further strengthening the long-standing ties between India and Russia.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on August 20-21 to discuss

bilateral agendas including trade, energy, and strategic partnerships. Jaishankar's visit, following US tariffs on Russian oil imports to India, aims to reinforce cooperation and address related implications amid strained trade relations, while maintaining India's approach to global affairs.



Switch To Shorts
India-Russia Diplomacy
Jaishankar Visits Moscow
Following US Tariff

The visit follows a detailed conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday, held against the backdrop of the US tariff decision. During the call, the two leaders reviewed the ongoing situation in Ukraine, reaffirming their commitment to dialogue and diplomacy. PM Modi reiterated India's consistent stance in favor of a peaceful resolution to global conflicts, emphasizing the importance of maintaining stability in international relations.

Jaishankar's Moscow trip is expected to be a crucial platform for addressing the implications of the US tariffs while reinforcing India-Russia bilateral cooperation.

with other officials and dignitaries from key ministries, research institutions, and industry associations.

Brainstorming Session on Annual Survey of Services Sector Enterprises (ASSSE): Aligning Stakeholders' perspectives for greater impact

(Agency)
The National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), is pleased to announce the conduct of the Brainstorming Session on Annual Survey of Services Sector Enterprises (ASSSE), convened today at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. This session provided a platform for collaborative discussion with stakeholders across government, industries and academia, in facilitating the refinement of survey methodology and fine-tuning the survey instruments of the forthcoming full-fledged ASSSE, building upon the experience gained through the Pilot Study.

Around 100 participants from diverse sectors such as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSME), Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), NITI Aayog, RBI, World

esteemed dignitaries, including Dr. Rakesh Mohan, member, EAC-PM, Dr. Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics, Dr. Umakant Dash, Vice-Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Dr. B. N. Goldar, Chairman, TAG, Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, economist and professor, ISPP, Dr. Tauqueer Ahmed, professor, IASRI, Ms. Geeta Singh Rathore, Director General, National Sample Survey (NSS), Shri N. K. Santoshi, Director General (Central Statistics) along

Bank, Experts of Technical Advisory Group (TAG), academic and research institutions, and industry associations and trade bodies participated actively in the session and contributed significantly to the vibrant discussions.

The Brainstorming Session was chaired by Dr. Saurabh Garg, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and was graced by the presence of



Prez Murmu to address nation on eve of 79th I-Day

(Agency)
President Droupadi Murmu will address the nation on the eve of the 79th Independence Day on Thursday.

According to a press communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the address will be broadcast at 7 pm across the entire national network of Akashvani and telecast on all Doordarshan channels, first in Hindi, and then in English.

The broadcast of the President's address in Hindi and English on Doordarshan will be fol-

lowed by broadcasts in regional languages by



Doordarshan's regional channels. Akashvani will air the address in regional lan-

guages at 9.30 pm on its respective regional net-

works.

The nation will celebrate its 79th Independence Day

on August 15, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the celebrations from the iconic Red Fort in Delhi.

The Prime Minister will unfurl the national flag and address the nation from the ramparts of the iconic monument.

Security arrangements have been intensified in the national capital, with traffic restrictions in place around key areas, including India Gate, Mandi House, and Mathura Road. Vehicles without parking labels have been advised to avoid these stretches.

BJP Hits Back At Congress, Cites 'Ghuspaithi Voters' And Sonia Gandhi Voter ID Row

(Agency)
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has countered Congress' allegations of electoral misconduct by levelling similar "vote chori" (vote theft) charges and raising concerns over the timeline of Sonia Gandhi's entry into India's voter list.

Taking aim at Congress for opposing the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Union Minister Anurag Thakur accused the party of practicing "appeasement politics" and relying on a specific community to secure votes. He claimed that instances of duplicate voters, fake addresses, fabricated family links, manipu-

lated ages, and mass voting had been observed in constituencies such as Raebareilly - represented by Rahul Gandhi - as well as Diamond Harbour, held by TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, and Akhilesh Yadav's Kannauj seat.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has accused the Congress of electoral misconduct, including allegations of vote theft and discrepancies in voter registration, specifically questioning Sonia Gandhi's entry into the voter list before acquiring Indian citizenship and instances of alleged irregularities in constituencies like Raebareilly and Kannauj.

On Wednesday, the BJP also raised pointed questions about Sonia Gandhi's voter registration. "Sonia Gandhi's association with



India's electoral rolls is marred by glaring violations of electoral law. This perhaps explains Rahul Gandhi's eagerness to legitimise ineligible and illegal voters, along with his opposition to the SIR exercise," BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya wrote on X.

Malviya alleged that Sonia Gandhi's name first appeared on the rolls in 1980 - three years before she acquired Indian citizenship - while she was still an Italian citizen. At the time, the Gandhi family lived at 1, Safdarjung Road, the official residence of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Until then, registered voters at that address included Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sanjay Gandhi, and Maneka Gandhi. During the revision of the electoral rolls for the New Delhi parliamentary constituency with January 1, 1980, as the qualifying date, Sonia Gandhi's name was added, appearing at serial number 388 in polling station 145, Malviya said.

देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Tranquility

For decades, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh has been a study in intractability ~ a seemingly endless cycle of ceasefires, flare-ups, and shattered hopes. The announcement that the two nations have now signed a comprehensive peace agreement, pledging to end hostilities “forever,” is therefore no small moment. It is the rare instance where deeply entrenched rivalries, bloodshed, and political bitterness appear to have been supplanted by the possibility of cooperation. What makes this development notable is the geopolitical context in which it has unfolded.

The Caucasus has historically been within Russia's strategic sphere, with Moscow acting as the default mediator between the two sides. This new agreement, however, was reached under American auspices, signalling a decisive shift in diplomatic influence. By securing this breakthrough, Washington has not only altered the conflict's trajectory but also disrupted a century-old pattern of regional power dynamics. The agreement's most tangible component ~ the establishment of a major transit corridor linking Azerbaijan with its Nakhchivan enclave via Armenian territory ~ addresses one of the thorniest disputes between the two countries.

For years, this issue has been a diplomatic deadlock, with each side unwilling to concede operational control. That this hurdle has been overcome suggests that both leaderships are prepared to place economic and strategic benefits ahead of nationalist intransigence. If successfully implemented, the corridor could transform trade flows, improve connectivity, and incentivise both nations to preserve peace. Such economic integration often has a moderating effect on historical enmities. Trade routes demand stability; infrastructure needs predictability. Once businesses and communities begin to benefit from open borders and crossborder ventures, the political cost of returning to conflict rises sharply.

The promise of joint prosperity is a potent antidote to the zero-sum logic that has fuelled past hostilities. There is, of course, a cautionary note to be sounded. Peace agreements in this region have a history of collapsing under the weight of mistrust and domestic political pressures. Nationalist factions in both countries may view concessions as betrayals, while external actors, particularly those now side-lined, may have incentive to undermine the accord. Sustaining this new framework will require not only goodwill but also robust mechanisms for dispute resolution, transparency in implementing agreements, and external guarantees that can deter backsliding.

Nonetheless, the symbolism of two leaders shaking hands after decades of violence should not be underestimated. In a world where many conflicts are hardening rather than thawing, the sight of adversaries choosing dialogue over force is a reminder that entrenched disputes can yield to diplomacy when conditions ~ and incentives ~ are right. If Armenia and Azerbaijan can translate this moment into lasting cooperation, the benefits will ripple far beyond their borders. The Caucasus could shift from being a geopolitical fault line to a hub of regional connectivity, a transformation as strategic as it is historic.

Gujarat Gets Another Veterinary and Animal Husbandry College; Admissions to Begin Next Month

**Kamdhenu Veterinary College
Approved at Himmatnagar
under Kamdhenu University
with 80 Seats**

**23-Acre State-of-the-Art
Campus with Quality
Education and Hostel Facilities
for Students**

**Prime Minister Shri Narendra
Modi, as the Then Chief
Minister of Gujarat, Launched
Extensive Animal Health
Programs in the State**

Gandhinagar, 13 August
2025: Under the leadership
of Chief Minister Shri
Bhupendra Patel, the State
Government has undertaken
several initiatives for student
welfare and the well-being of citizens

across the state. As part of these efforts, yet another educational opportunity has been created for students aspiring to build a bright career. The Central Government has approved the establishment of a new Veterinary and Animal Husbandry College at Himmatnagar, Gujarat. Admissions for 80 seats will begin next month for the academic year 2025-26.

The proposal to establish the new Kamdhenu Veterinary College at Himmatnagar under Kamdhenu University was submitted to the Central Government. Following an



inspection and thorough review by the Veterinary Council of India (VCI), approval was granted to commence the college this year.

Admissions and Courses

This will be the fifth veterinary college in the state after Anand, Navsari, Junagadh, and Dantiwada. Admissions will be based on NEET scores after completion of Class 12. The college will offer the

Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) and Animal Husbandry degree program. Adequate staff appointments have already been completed, including One Principal, four Professors, Seven Associate Professors, 34 Assistant Professors, and 23 non-teaching staff.

Modern Campus and Affordable Quality Education

The college will provide another excellent option for students in the state to pursue veterinary studies. The 23-acre campus is equipped with modern infrastructure and offers

high-quality education at affordable fees, per government norms, along with residential facilities for students.

Under the leadership of the then Chief Minister and current Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, 'Pashu Arogya Melas' (Animal health fairs) were initiated in Gujarat. Gujarat is the only state in the country to have developed facilities such as health cards for livestock, Pashu Arogya Mela, and cataract surgeries for animals. This new college will further advance this initiative in the future.

Applications from 22 Major Units with Total Investment Over ₹1,478 Crore Approved in Gujarat, Expected to Generate More Than 4,136 Jobs



Under the 'Incentive to Industries' Scheme, Gujarat Attracts Investments of Around ₹1,48 Lakh Crore, Creating Over 1.65 Lakh Direct Jobs:- Industries Minister Shri Balvantsinh Rajput .

Gandhinagar, 13 August
2025: Industries Minister Shri Balvantsinh Rajput chaired a committee meeting in Gandhinagar to grant final eligibility certificates to major industries. During the

meeting, applications from 22 major units with a total investment of ₹1,478.71 crore were approved, expected to generate around 4,136 new jobs in the state.

On this occasion, Industries Minister Shri Balvantsinh Rajput stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, an industry-friendly ecosystem has been established across

the country, including Gujarat. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, the state has attracted investments of approximately ₹1,48,336.35 crore under the 'Incentive to Industries' scheme, resulting in the creation of over 1.65 lakh direct jobs. This, in turn, has given significant momentum to small and medium-scale ancillary industries in the MSME sector.

Moreover, Minister Shri Rajput said that among the applications approved today, investments include

₹383.91 crore in the metal, paper, food-agro, and cement-concrete sectors in Ahmedabad district; ₹227.77 crore in the metal sector in Kutch; ₹218.88 crore in the chemical and ceramic sectors in Bharuch; ₹55.23 crore in the paper sector in Mehsana; ₹167.70 crore in the ceramic, metal, paper, and textile sectors in Morbi; ₹36.22 crore in the metal sector in Rajkot; ₹359.47 crore in the chemical, plastic, and paper sectors in Valsad; and ₹29.53 crore in the paper sector in Surendranagar district. He

added that these approvals will play a significant role in further strengthening industries in the state and in increasing both direct and indirect employment opportunities across Gujarat.

With the vision of making Gujarat a hub of social and economic growth, the State Government launched the 'Incentive to Industries' scheme under the Industrial Policy-2015 to boost manufacturing, attract advanced technology investments, and promote innovative projects. Offering net SGST assis-

tance, the scheme has positioned Gujarat as a leading investment destination in India and globally, earning strong interest from major industries.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary of the Industries and Mines Department, Ms. Mamta Verma, Principal Secretary of the Forest and Environment Department, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Principal Secretary of the Labour and Employment Department, Dr. Vinod Rao, Industries Commissioner Shri Swaroop. P and other senior officials.

Inclusive growth for youth

(Agency)
One of the enduring qualities that distinguishes Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership is his consistent willingness to invite suggestions and inputs from citizens, whether through his monthly Mann Ki Baat or on important national occasions. This openness to dialogue is rare among world leaders and is a democratic strength worth commending. As India prepares to celebrate its 79th Independence Day, the Prime Minister has invited citizens to contribute their thoughts and ideas for his speech from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort on August 15. However, such public calls often generate a vast number of suggestions, making it difficult for the Prime Minister and his team to thoroughly examine each one.

Therefore, this author presents a focused two-part proposal aimed at empowering the nation's youth: lowering the voting age to 16 and introducing mandatory military service. Lowering the voting age would give young people a greater voice in shaping the country's future. Mandatory military service would build discipline, resilience, and a sense of national duty. Together, these reforms could equip young citizens to face the challenges of the digital age and contribute to building a stronger nation. India has a tradition of re – cognising the maturity of its youth.

The voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 through the Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988, on the grounds that young people were “illiterate and enlightened” and deserved a say in governance. That same reasoning applies today to 16- and 17-year olds, who are far more informed and politically aware thanks to the Internet and the now-ubiquitous social media, which were not even dreamt of in the 1990s. Granting the right to vote to 16-year-olds offers several compelling benefits. Research shows that individuals who cast their first vote while still in a

structured environment, such as school or within their family, are more likely to become lifelong voters.

This early participation lays the foundation for an active and responsible citi-

zen, fostering a habit of civic engagement that strengthens democracy. Lowering the voting age would also give young people voice on issues that affect them most: climate change, education, employment and technology. At present, they bear the consequences of policy decisions without having any say in them. Austria, Brazil and Argentina have successfully lowered the voting age to 16. The UK is now moving to lower its voting age to 16 for all national elections. This reform would position In – dia as a leader in democratic innovation and youth empowerment in Asia.

India's 16-17 age group is estimated at about 50 million youngsters, within a total population of about 1.46 billion in 2025. Lowering the voting age would be a powerful statement of faith in our youth, prompting political parties to take their concerns more seriously and nurturing a generation of informed, engaged citizens. To further build a disciplined and resilient young citizenry, India could consider introducing mandatory military service for all youth under 25, ranging from six months to one year.

Such a programme would instil survival skills, deepen patriotism, and strengthen respect for our defence forces. India often sees Israel as a role model universal military service. Israeli men and women must perform mandatory military service of 32 and 24 months, respectively. This reform would help curb crimes against children and women by instilling discipline, empathy, and responsibility in youth. It would also empower and strengthen girls physically and mentally, enabling them to confront and overcome gender discrimination once and for all.

India, with its vast and diverse population, has a unique opportunity to use such a programme not only for defence preparedness but also for national integration.

This would be a powerful tool for social cohesion, bringing together youth from different regions and socio-economic backgrounds to serve a common cause. Such training would provide a structured environment that builds teamwork, responsibility, and national pride, while also imparting essential life skills like leadership, problem-solving and physical endurance, assets valuable in both career and personal life. Further, it would create a large pool of trained citizens who could be mobilised during national emergencies, natural disasters, or other crises, thereby strengthening the country's resilience.

Countries with conscription for both men and

women include Norway, which has a gender-neutral system, and Sweden, which reintroduced conscription in 2017 with a gender neutral, selective model. Some countries have conscription primarily for men. In Brazil, all men at age 18 are required to serve for 10 to 12 months. Finland mandates service for all male citizens for a period of 6 to 12 months. In Greece, mandatory service for men lasts from 9 to 12 months. Russia requires men aged 18 to 27 to serve for 12 months. Switzerland requires all able-bodied men to serve, beginning with an initial training period followed by recurring training. In Taiwan, mandatory military service for men lasts one year. In South Korea, all able bodied men must serve in the military, with service terms of 18 to 21 months.

Many K-pop stars, including members of the famous group BTS, have completed this service. The Constitution, in Article 23, includes a crucial exception, allowing the state to impose “compulsory service for public purposes.” This means that legally, the Indian government has the power to introduce conscription. The creation of a limited, one-year service programme could be a manageable and highly beneficial step. It would be an investment in our youth, building not just a stronger defence, but a stronger nation. Empowering our youth and instilling a sense of national duty are fundamental steps toward securing a prosperous future for all.

These proposals may resonate with the vision of a Viksit Bharat that is strong, democratic, and globally respected as Vish wa Guru. A nation's true strength lies in the character of its youth. The Amrit Kaal, the transformative era leading up to the 100th Independence Day in 2047, presents the perfect opportunity to realise Swami Vivekananda's vision of a generation with “muscles of iron and nerves of steel, within which dwells a mind made of the same material as that of the thunderbolt.”

Abandoning ship

The line “To be an enemy of America is dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal,” is attributed to Henry Kissinger though he may not have been the originator. However, India is now finding this to be true, especially with a vengeful Donald Trump targeting India. His recent outbursts against India when placing 50 per cent tariffs began increasing in tempo after PM Modi's statement in Parliament on the ceasefire on Operation Sindoor. PM Modi had stated, “not a single world leader asked us to stop the operation.

Our actions were precise and non-escalatory, just as we had committed.” This was in reply to Rahul Gandhi mentioning, “It is obvious the PM has not said that Trump is lying.” All this was in sharp contradiction of Trump's almost 30 plus repeats of having ended Operation Sindoor, apart from those of his staff. It was a rebuff of Trump's claims. PM Modi made his statement in Parliament on 29 July and Trump made his first announcement on tariffs on 30 July. His announcement of additional 25 per cent tariffs came a few days later, indicating growing frustration and anger.

For Trump, the statement by PM Modi implies that India will never endorse Pakistan's letter of recommendation for a Nobel Prize for the American president. It will also weaken Pakistan's recommendations, which led to Trump inviting Asim Munir for a luncheon at the White House. Another reason for Trump's growing frustration with India is its reluctance to open its farm and dairy sector to US products as it would impact a very large workforce. Added has been India's membership of the BRICS, which Trump visu-



alizes as being against the US. Trump is also frustrated at being unable to end the Russo-Ukraine conflict, which he had sworn to do in the first few days of his presidency. Putin has been playing Trump along, aware of the latter's desperation for the Nobel. Russia has no intention of ending the conflict unless it controls territories it desires and keeps Ukraine under its thumb. Though Putin would be meeting Trump on 15 August in Alaska, he will not bend until his terms are met. Trump, in his desperation for the Nobel may even throw Ukraine under the bus. Trump justified his additional tariffs threat on India by mentioning, “India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian oil, they are then, for much of the oil purchased, selling it on the open market for big profits. They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine.”

He is now seeking to isolate Russia by compelling India to change its strategic alignment. As per reports, China is the largest buyer of Russian oil. In 2024, China imported USD 62.6 billion worth of oil, compared to India's USD 52.7 billion. Trump cannot enhance tariffs on China (already 50 per cent) for procuring oil from Russia, because China

can hit back by blocking sale of rare earth minerals. He thus chose an easier target, India. Geopolitical and economic considerations compelled Trump to avoid challenging Beijing. India refuses to be cowed down by Trump's threats.

Coinciding with Trump's announcement was the visit of the Indian NSA, Ajit Doval, to Moscow. Doval held talks on expanding defence cooperation, including procurement of additional \$400 missile systems and other weaponry from Russia, trade in local currencies and other topics. Though the visit was preplanned, it indicated that India will continue with its independent foreign and economic policies. Putin is scheduled to visit India later this year. India's diplomatic response also conveyed that it would stand firm. The statement released by the MEA mentioned, “They (India's oil procurements) are a necessity compelled by global market situation. However, it is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia.”

It went on to add, “Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security.” A desperate Trump termed the

Indian and Russian economies as ‘dead.’ His frustration grows as India refuses to bow down and PM Modi does not respond by rushing to Washington or seeking deferments as other global leaders, including from Japan and Switzerland, had done. As rightly stated by the MEA, Indo-US relations have seen ups and downs over the decades. This is another hurdle which they will cross. Once again, Trump has misread India and its internal politics. The Indian leadership cannot bend or beg.

It will stand its ground. Accepting Trump's demands would be political suicide for the current dispensation. Hence, there is silence from the Indian leadership. For once all political parties are together against Trump's ‘economic blackmail.’ India will act maturely, not hit back, hoping to end the conflict by talks and a trade agreement, ensuring its key concerns are addressed. New Delhi is accustomed to prolonged negotiations for trade agreements, while Trump is in a rush. The IndiaUK Free Trade Agreement took three years to finalize. In the meanwhile, India will look at both internal and external options to offset US sanctions. Trump's desperation for a Nobel Prize has propelled him to ignore the importance of India in the Indo-Pacific.

His growing proximity to Pakistan, including seeking to invest in its nonexistent oil reserves, is intended to further push India. It is hoped that Indo-US defence ties are kept away from the on-going trade conflict. India must not conduct the heads of state summit of the QUAD this year.

Stray Dogs Case Referred To Larger SC Bench; Next Hearing On August 14

(Agency)
The Supreme Court of India has constituted a new bench to address the issue of stray dogs in Delhi-NCR. This decision follows an earlier order mandating the removal of all stray dogs within eight weeks due to concerns over rabies and dog bites. The fresh hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, as reported by LiveLaw.

Unlike the previous two-judge bench that issued the removal order on Monday, this matter will now be overseen by Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria. The change in judicial oversight indicates a shift in how the case will be approached moving forward.

The Supreme Court of India has formed a new

bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria to address the issue of stray dogs in Delhi-NCR, following an earlier order about their removal, with the next hearing scheduled for August 14.



The recent order has sparked significant attention due to its implications for public safety and animal welfare. The court's decision aims to address the growing concerns about rabies and dog bite incidents in the region. This development highlights the ongoing debate between ensuring human safety and protecting animal rights.

As this situation unfolds,

ED Summons Suresh Raina Over Alleged Ties To Betting Platform; ₹27,000 Crore Tax Evasion Suspected

(Agency)
Former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an investigation into illegal betting platforms. He is expected to appear before ED officials at the agency's Delhi headquarters on Wednesday morning.

According to a report in The Indian Express, Raina has been asked to depose before the agency on August 13 in a case related to an app named 1xBet. "Once he deposes, ED is expected to record his statements under the PMLA," the source said.

Former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear at its Delhi headquarters on Wednesday, August 13,



The ED suspects that Raina may have links to the app through certain endorsements, and officials are aiming to clarify these connections during questioning. A Hindustan Times report highlighted that such betting platforms have frequently changed names

over the years and have often been promoted by celebrities and social media influencers. One official told the publication, "These platforms are in violation of multiple laws and directions issued by the Indian government. It is estimated that around 22 crore (220 million) Indians use various betting apps, with 11 crore (110 million) being regular users."

this order while considering logistical challenges and potential backlash from animal rights groups. The outcome of this case could set a precedent for similar issues across India.

This evolving story continues to capture public interest as stakeholders await further developments from the Supreme Court's proceedings. The decisions made in this case may influence future policies regarding stray animals in urban areas.

The conclusion of this matter will have far-reaching consequences for both residents and stray animals in Delhi-NCR. As such, it is imperative that all parties involved work towards a solution that prioritises safety without compromising compassion.

Minister Nitesh Rane Announces Special Ganpati Modi Express Trains For Konkan Residents Celebrating Ganeshotsav

(Agency)
Minister Nitesh Rane has announced the launch of two special Ganpati Modi Express trains to assist Konkan residents travelling from Mumbai for the Ganeshotsav festival. This service, now in its 13th year, offers free travel, meals, and water to ensure a comfortable journey home for devotees.

The trains will operate on August 23 and 24, 2025, departing from Dadar Railway Station at 11:00 AM. On August 23, the train will stop at Ratnagiri and Kudal before reaching its final destination at Sawantwadi. On August 24, it will halt at Vaibhavwadi and Kankavali, also ending at Sawantwadi. Both trains will leave from Platform 14.



Minister Nitesh Rane announced the launch of two Ganpati Modi Express trains for Konkan residents traveling from Mumbai for the Ganeshotsav festival, offering free travel, meals, and water on August 23 and 24, 2025, departing from Dadar Railway Station at 11:00 AM, with ticket distribution starting August 18, 2025.

Ticket distribution for these special trains is set to begin on Monday, August 18, 2025. Devotees are encouraged to register their names with their respective mandal presidents to ensure more devotees can celebrate Ganeshotsav in their hometowns. We are committed to making this journey seamless and memorable," said Minister Rane, urging all Konkan residents to take advantage of this free service.

Minister Rane's announcement has been well-received by the community as it provides an opportunity for many to partake in the festivities without worrying about travel expenses. The initiative not only strengthens cultural ties but also fosters a sense of unity among residents returning home for the celebrations.

This service underscores the importance of community support during festive times and highlights how thoughtful initiatives can make a significant difference in people's lives. The Ganpati Modi Express trains have become a cherished tradition for many families who look forward to celebrating Ganeshotsav together each year.

Rajasthan Court Directs Authorities to Remove Stray Dogs from Streets

(Agency)
The Rajasthan High Court has instructed municipal bodies to clear stray dogs and other animals from city streets, ensuring minimal harm. This decision follows the Supreme Court's directive for the removal of stray dogs in Delhi-NCR due to fatal dog bites. The order also applies to Noida, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad.

In a suo motu plea, the court addressed the issue of stray animal-related deaths in Rajasthan. It warned that anyone obstructing municipal efforts to remove these animals will face consequences. Municipal officials



are empowered to file FIRs against those hindering the Supreme Court's directive, and empowered officials to file FIRs against those obstructing their work, also suggesting citizens feed animals in designated shelters; the Jodhpur

Municipal Corporation must swiftly remove animals from AIIMS Jodhpur and the district court, while the AAG will report on the condition of shelters.

A division bench comprising Justice Kuldeep Mathur and Justice Ravi Chirania issued several directives. They stated, "The Municipal bodies shall also undertake a special drive to remove stray dogs and other animals from city roads while ensuring that minimum physical harm is caused to them." The court emphasized that municipal employees can take necessary actions against individuals obstructing their work.

Mandalayukta inaugurated Collectorate Boundary Wall, Drain, Road, Street Light and Garage

Mandalayukta concluded a review meeting of CM Dashboard and Divisional Development works in Mathura. Mandalayukta Shailendra Kumar Singh inaugurated Collectorate Boundary Wall, Drain, Road, Street Light and Garage. After the inauguration, a review meeting of CM Dashboard and Divisional Development Work was held in the Collectorate Auditorium in Mathura under the chairmanship of Mandalayukta Shailendra Kumar Singh. The first CM dashboard was reviewed in the meeting.

the full target at the earliest. Apart from this, a bad situation was also seen in the

tion of the four districts was also bad in the construction of PWD's setuers, con-



presence of students in Jal Jeevan Mission, Family ID, Panchayati Raj, Mid-day meal. Along with this, the Mandalayukta instructed all the District Magistrate and Chief Development Officer that those who are working at the lower level should be given honorarium of MNREGA, Panchayat Assistant, Computer Operator etc. Constant efforts should be made on the usefulness of funds in the 15th and 5th Finance Commission scheme in Panchayati Raj. The construction of new roads. Due to lack of permission in Mathura district in the construction of new roads, work is not being done at 3 - 4 places, the Mandalayukta instructed to coordinate with the District Magistrate and take permission and start the work soon. The Commissioner expected the District Magistrates and the Chief Development Officers that the schemes in which the progress is not good, should be given serious attention. Efforts should be

made with district level officials and efforts should be made to improve the ranking.

During the meeting, he expressed displeasure over the slow construction work in Agra, Mathura and Firozabad districts of the executive body Setu Nigam. To complete the 4 lane construction work from Yamuna Expressway to the Crazy Baba Temple in Mathura and the 2-lane bridge construction work on the Yamuna River, and to rectify the Vrindavan Parikrama Marg as soon as possible, he instructed the PWD. The meeting was attended by District Magistrate Agra Arvind Malappa Bangari, District Magistrate Mathura Chandra Prakash Singh, District Magistrate Mainpuri Anjani Kumar Singh and District Magistrate Firozabad Ramesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer Mathura Manish Meena, Chief Development Officer Mainpuri Neha Bandhu, Chief Development Officer Firozabad Shatruhan Vaishya and all Divisional OfficerStay present

Special Feature on the 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Ram Bux Singh

(13 August 1925 – 18 September 2016)
Lucknow, : Dr. Ram Bux Singh was born on 13 August 1925 in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh — a proud land that laid the foundation for his early life, education, and scientific inspiration. His life remained deeply connected to Lucknow, where he resided for over 50 years, driving a revolution in the field of renewable energy through his research and technological innovations. On 18 September 2016, Dr. Singh breathed his last in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Today, a grand ceremony was held at Dr. Ram Bux Singh Kanya Inter College, Sitapur, to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the world-renowned scientist, a pioneering leader in bioenergy, and the pride of Sitapur, Dr. Ram Bux Singh. On this occasion, a statue of Dr. Singh was unveiled within the college premises — a permanent memorial to carry forward his invaluable legacy to future generations.

The event was graced by the family members of Hon'ble MP Shri Anand Bhadauria and officials from the District Administration, as the Hon'ble MP is currently in Delhi due to the ongoing Parliament session. On behalf of the MP, his brother Shri Abhishek Bhadauria delivered the message to the gathering. In his address, he said that Dr. Ram Bux Singh's contribution is not only a source of pride for India but an inspiration to the entire world. He also shared that last year Hon'ble MP Shri Anand Bhadauria had written to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra



Modi recommending that Dr. Singh be honoured with the Bharat Ratna, and assured that this support will continue.

This year, the Government of India has approved the release of a special commemorative postage stamp in memory of Dr. Singh on his centenary, a decision taken by the Postal Stamp Advisory Committee. This milestone was made possible through the efforts of Hon'ble MP Shri Anand Bhadauria, who forwarded the request of Rajendra Singh (son of Dr. Ram Bux Singh) to Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Communications, Government of India. This is a moment of pride for the entire nation. Dr. Singh, in his lifetime, dreamt of promoting clean and renewable energy, and his visionary thinking continues to inspire policymakers, scientists, farmers, and the global community.

Dr. Singh's contributions extended far beyond India — he designed, developed, and installed over 1,000 biogas systems in more than 15 countries including the USA, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Mexico, several Central & South American nations, Iran, Nepal, and other parts of Asia. His work was appreciated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi during the International Biogas Workshop held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (28 July – 02 August 1975), as well as by Hon'ble Governor Shri V.V. Giri, along with several heads of state, chief ministers, sena-

tors, MPs, and scientists worldwide.

Major Achievements of Dr. Ram Bux Singh:

- ✓ Established India's first unique gobar gas (biogas) plant in 1957, marking the start of the renewable energy revolution.
- ✓ Installed the first Indian-designed biogas plant in the USA in June 1972, giving global recognition to Indian innovation.
- ✓ Served as an advisor to the United Nations (UN) and received recognition in the US Senate report.
- ✓ Served as Officer-in-Charge for two decades at Asia's first 'Gobar Gas Research Centre' in Ajitmal, Auraiya district, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Biogas Advisor to the US Department of Agriculture.
- ✓ On 26 September 2023, his historical works were acquired by the National Archives of India.
- ✓ Honoured by ISKCON's Cow Protection & Agricultural Ministry and International Society for Cow Protection.
- ✓ Recognised as a distinguished personality on Sitapur's official district website (<https://sitapur.nic.in/famous-personalities/>), strengthening the region's scientific heritage.
- ✓ Recognised by the United Nations as a global scientist.
- ✓ Conferred honorary degrees of Master of Applied Science and Doctor of Technological Philosophy by Pacific Western University, California, USA.
- ✓ Authored seven books on alternative energy,

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu To Launch 'Stree Shakti' Free Bus Scheme

(Agency)
On August 15, Andhra Pradesh will take a significant step towards women's empowerment as Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Stree Shakti', a free bus travel service for women across the state. The official launch will take place at Pandit Nehru Bus Station in Vijayawada on Friday afternoon, coinciding with the 78th Independence Day celebrations.

According to an official press release, the scheme will provide free bus rides to girls, women, and transgender persons who hold Andhra Pradesh domicile status. Beneficiaries will be

able to travel across the state on five categories of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) services - Pallevulugu, Ultra Pallevulugu, City Ordinary, Metro Express, and Express.



During a review meeting ahead of the launch, officials informed the CM that

On August 15, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will launch 'Stree Shakti,' a free bus travel service for women, transgender persons, and girls with Andhra Pradesh domicile status, coinciding with the 78th Independence Day celebrations in Vijayawada.

upgrades to the electronic point of sale (ePOS) ticketing machines are underway to facilitate the issuance of zero-fare tickets. The software update is expected to be completed by August 14

to ensure a smooth start.

Naidu emphasised that the success of Stree Shakti would depend on proper implementation and directed officials to collect feedback from passengers during the initial phase. He also instructed the completion of ongoing bus station repairs, costing ₹30 crore, by December to improve commuter facilities.

In addition to the bus travel scheme, the Chief Minister has asked the transport department to conduct a comprehensive study for a new welfare initiative for auto-rickshaw drivers, integrating existing central government schemes.

First Meeting of Consultative Committee for Ministry of Ayush to be held on 19 August 2025

(Agency)
The first meeting of the newly constituted Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Ayush is scheduled to be held on 19th August 2025 (Tuesday). The meeting will facilitate meaningful dialogue between the Ministry and Members of Parliament, enabling review and consultation on key initiatives and future strategies in the field of Ayush. The Committee will be chaired by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of Ayush (Independent Charge) and MoS (MoHFW).
The Government of India has constituted a separate Consultative Committee for the Ministry

of Ayush on 5th May 2025, recognizing the growing relevance of Ayush systems in India's healthcare framework.
Earlier, matters relating to the Ministry of Ayush were addressed under the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The formation of an independent Consultative Committee for Ayush marks a significant institutional step to ensure focused parliamentary oversight and engagement with Ayush-related policies and programmes.
The formation of the independent Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Ayush is in line with the Government's commitment to strengthening traditional systems of medicine and holistic healthcare, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri



Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal Inaugurates New ISA Building at Intellectual Property Office with Expanded Capacity and Modern Facilities

Innovation is a Symbol of Sovereignty and Will Drive India's Global Progress: Shri Piyush Goyal
New ISA Building to Serve as Foundation for R&D and Innovation in India's Intellectual Property Ecosystem

(Agency)
Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal today inaugurated the newly expanded ISA building of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in Dwarka, New Delhi.
Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that innovation has been an integral part of India's identity for centuries and is not a new phenomenon. Citing the Konark Temple as an example, he noted that the precision and engineering of such historic structures reflect the deep-rooted culture of innovation in the country for over a thousand years. He stated that innovation is not only a form of intellectual property but

also a symbol of sovereignty, and it will play a crucial role in taking India forward in the world.
Shri Goyal pointed out



that in every developed country, innovation, new ideas, research, and development have been priorities, and it is this focus that has led to their prosperity. The Minister stressed that the development of the country is riding on the shoulders of innovation and that the Intellectual Property ecosystem is now

being recognised worldwide as a key enabler of growth. He expressed confidence that if all stakeholders perform their duties

Prime Minister is remarkable, the growth of intellectual property is progressing very well, and that India will become a talent hub for electronics, IT, and semi-conductors.
The inauguration marks a significant milestone in the Government's commitment to strengthening India's intellectual property infrastructure. To support India's role as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), an ISA/IPEA building was constructed in 2014, comprising the ground and first floors. With the Indian IP ecosystem witnessing unprecedented growth, the Government approved the construction of an expanded building in 2018. The project, undertaken by the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), was completed in 2025.

The sanctioned houses will cater to the housing needs of urban poor, helping them gain access to

Secretary, MoHUA chairs 4th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee under PMAY-U 2.0

Additional 1.47 Lakh houses approved under PMAY-U 2.0, total houses sanctioned now at 8.56 Lakh

(Agency)
In another step towards fulfilling the goal of 'Housing for All', the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India has approved additional 1.47 lakh pucca houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) in 14 States/UTs. With this latest approval, the total number of houses sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0 is now 8.56 lakh. The decision was taken during the fourth meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) held on 12th August 2025 at GPOA2, Kasturba Gandhi Marg in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Srinivas

Katikithala, Secretary, MoHUA. This was the first meeting of the Housing for All (HFA) Division organised at the Kasturba Gandhi Marg office.
The meeting was attended by Shri Kuldip Narayan, Joint Secretary & Mission Director (JS&MD), HFA, Principal Secretaries from States/UTs, PMAY-U Mission Directors from different States/UTs and senior officials of the Ministry. The total houses approved are 1,46,582 in 14 States/UTs namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.



affordable and dignified pucca houses with basic amenities. The decision is in line with the Government's continued efforts to improve the living standards of urban poor.
Addressing the meeting, Secretary, MoHUA urged the States/UTs to emphasise on aligning housing projects with infrastructure corridor to promote inte-

grated urban development. "States/UTs should strategically plan and locate housing projects in areas that have enhanced connectivity, economic activity and better access to services," Secretary, MoHUA said.
JS&MD, HFA apprised Secretary, MoHUA about the status of implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 and said that the larger States, particularly Metro cities, should bring proposals for CSMC with focus on Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical of the scheme under which group housing projects are constructed.
Under the schemes, more than 120 lakh houses have been sanctioned, of which 93.81 lakh pucca houses have already been constructed and delivered to the beneficiaries. Aligning with the goal of

modern skill development. Furthermore, industry representatives shared insights on aligning ITI training with future workforce demands, while principals and faculty from technical institutions provided ground-level perspectives, valuable inputs and suggestions. Key recommendations focused on curriculum upgradation to meet global standards and industry needs, mentoring support for the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)-led model, enhanced training-of-trainers initiatives, adoption of hybrid training modes, promotion of skill competitions, specialized training for the defence sector, integration of AI in medicine and agriculture, and strengthening apprenticeship opportunities.



MSDE Hosts Consultative Workshop to Drive National Scheme for ITI Upgradation in Odisha

(Agency)
As part of a national push to upgrade and modernize vocational training facilities, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, in collaboration with the Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Government of Odisha, yesterday organized a Consultative Workshop on the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation at the World Skill Center, Bhubaneswar.
The workshop discussed the vision, structure, and operational framework of the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation and gathered perspectives from industry, academia, and training institutions to ensure alignment with evolving workforce needs.

Highlighting the scheme's role in empowering India's youth through high-quality, market-relevant skills, Shri Rajit Punhani, Secretary, MSDE, said, "The National Scheme for ITI Upgradation is not just about modernizing infrastructure—it is about reimagining the very DNA of vocational training in India. Through the Hub-and-Spoke model, industry-led governance, and global-standard training, we aim to make ITIs the epicentres of innovation, employability, and entrepreneurship. Odisha, with its robust industrial base and new National Centre of Excellence, is uniquely positioned to lead this change and inspire the rest of the country. This is not

just about preparing youth for today's jobs—it is about empowering them to lead in the economy of the future." The workshop featured an insightful presentation

on Odisha's ITI journey, highlighting the state's significant strides in technical education, infrastructure upgrades, and industry partnerships. It outlined Odisha's vision, readiness, and strategic plans for effectively implementing the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation, positioning the state as a frontrunner in

Amitabh Bachchan To Host Independence Day Episode Of KBC With Indian Armed Forces Officers Discussing Operation Sindoor

(Agency)
Actor Amitabh Bachchan will host a special episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) season 17, featuring esteemed officers from the Indian Armed Forces. This Independence Day episode will spotlight Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, and Commander Prerna Deosthalee. The officers will share insights into India's high-stakes counterterror mission, Operation Sindoor.
Operation Sindoor: A Swift Response
In a promo for the show, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi explained the necessity of Operation Sindoor. She stated that Pakistan's



repeated actions required a decisive response. "Pakistan had been carrying out such acts repeatedly. A response was necessary, and that's why Operation Sindoor was planned," she told Bachchan.
Amitabh Bachchan will host a special Kaun

Banega Crorepati episode on Independence Day featuring Indian Armed Forces officers, including Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, and Commander Prerna Deosthalee, who will discuss Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the Pahalgam

terror attack.
Switch To Shorts
Wing Commander Vyomika Singh recounted the operation's rapid execution in just 25 minutes. "From 1:05 AM to 1:30 AM, we completed the entire operation in just 25 minutes," she said. This swift action demonstrated the efficiency and precision of the Indian Armed Forces.
Precision and Planning
Commander Prerna Deosthalee praised the meticulous planning behind Operation Sindoor. She highlighted that all targets were destroyed without causing harm to any civilians. This careful execution underscored the operation's success and strategic brilliance.

TRAI Issues Manual to Assess Digital Connectivity in Properties

First framework to assess properties for digital connectivity and guide digital infrastructure development and upgrades across India
(Agency)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued the Manual for Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity, the country's first standardised framework to evaluate how effectively buildings are equipped for high-speed, reliable digital access.
With more than 80% of mobile data consumed indoors, and high frequency band signals of 4G and 5G often weakened by modern day building materials, robust in-building networks have become essential for work, education, healthcare, and daily digital

services. Weak indoor connectivity directly affects consumer experience and overall quality of service.
Developed under the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024, the manual:
Establishes a uniform assessment methodology for Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs).
Serves as a reference framework for Property Managers (PMs) and Service Providers to plan, implement, and maintain future-ready Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI).
Defines transparent, standardised criteria for property ratings, including fibre readiness, in-building mobile coverage, Wi-Fi

coverage, broadband speeds and overall user experience
Enables buyers, tenants, and businesses to make informed decisions based on actual digital connectivity performance.
Encourages developers to integrate robust digital infrastructure from the design and construction stage.
"In the 21st century, digital connectivity is not a luxury—it is essential infrastructure, just like electricity or water. Today, it powers growth, innovation, and opportunity. This framework is a decisive step towards making every building in India ready for the Digital India vision, enabling more citizens to participate fully in our con-

nected economy and laying the foundation for inclusive national growth," said Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI.
Over the past decade, India has undergone rapid digital transformation, reshaping how citizens work, learn, access healthcare, and engage with public services. Reliable digital infrastructure now underpins economic growth, innovation, and social welfare. With most data usage occurring indoors, ensuring robust in-building digital connectivity has become critical.
To address this, TRAI notified the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024 on 25 October 2024, establishing a standardised,

IBC to organise 3rd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars (ICYBS) on the 22nd August 2025

(Agency)
The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi in its efforts to strengthen the role of the youth in preserving the essence of Dhamma, is organising the 3rd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars (ICYBS) on the 22nd August 2025. The Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Dr Ambedkar International Centre are part of this conference. The conference will be held at the Nalanda Hall, Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.
The ICYBS, has explored vivid themes in their previous conferences. From exploring the "Buddhist Pilgrimage" in 2023, to emphasizing on "Buddha Dhamma in Education, Research,

Healthcare and Well-being" in 2024, the theme for 2025 aims to have a discourse on the "Wisdom Transmission in Buddha Dhamma in the 21st Century".
The conference will be graced by our Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor Prof. Rana Pratap Singh, Gautam Buddha University, Uttar Pradesh. The keynote address will be delivered by eminent Buddhist historian, Prof. KTS Sarao.
The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has time and again underscored the role of India as "Dhamma Setu", the spiritual bridge that not only connects the Buddhist-majority nations but in the world at large. India takes pride in being the flagbearer in contributing towards the

preservation of the Buddha Dhamma through initiatives such as the Global Buddhist Summit, the Asian Buddhist Summit and establishing Pali as a classical language.



The principle of "Dhamma-based harmony" connects the five pillars enshrined in India's Panchamrit doctrine. The Prime Minister has elaborated on Samman, Samvad, Samridhi, Suraksha, and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata.
This conference will, therefore, delve into the following:
Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, known for

propagating Dhamma, has left a legacy on the principle of inclusivity rooted in compassion, non-violence and social harmony. To honour King Ashoka for his efforts in preparing the future generations through his teachings in the form of edicts spread across pan India, the first theme aims to discuss "The role of Ashoka in the dissemination of Buddha Dhamma". The theme explores the expanse of his teachings, which made their way from Sri Lanka to the Hellenistic territories and Central Asia.
Indian tradition is known for the importance of the "Guru-shishya" relationship, which is the backbone of knowledge transfer. The second theme will explore the "Guru Shishya Parampara – Models of Knowledge Transfer in Buddha Dhamma".

India Achieves Historic Milestone of 100 GW Solar PV Module Manufacturing Capacity under ALMM

Remarkable Rise in Solar PV Manufacturing Capacity from 2.3 GW in 2014 to 100 GW under ALMM: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi
(Agency)

India has achieved a landmark milestone of 100 GW of solar PV module manufacturing capacity enlisted under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) for Solar PV Modules. This achievement reflects the country's rapid progress in building a robust and self-reliant solar manufacturing ecosystem, aligned with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the global imperative for clean energy transition.
Highlighting this achievement, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi said " India

has achieved a historic milestone -100 GW Solar PV Module Manufacturing Capacity under the



Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM), a remarkable rise from just 2.3 GW in 2014! Driven by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and transformative initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for High-Efficiency Solar Modules, we are building a robust, self-reliant solar manufac-

turing ecosystem. This achievement strengthens our path towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and the target of 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030." The Government of India's commitment is to make India self-reliant in solar PV manufacturing and establish the country as a major player in the global value chain. This commitment is supported through a comprehensive set of initiatives, including the PLI Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules and measures to provide a level playing field for the Indian manufacturers. The catalytic effect of these interventions has resulted in an expansion in solar module manufacturing capacity, from just 2.3 GW in 2014 to over 100 GW today. This reinforces India's commit-

ment to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and contributes meaningfully to global decarbonization efforts.
The ALMM Order was issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on 02nd January 2019. The first ALMM list for solar PV modules was published on 10th March 2021 with an initial enlisted capacity of around 8.2 GW. In just over four years, this capacity has grown more than twelvefold, crossing the 100 GW mark. This remarkable expansion is not just limited to depth of capacity achieved, but by the breadth of the number of manufacturers who has also significantly increased from 21 in 2021 to 100 manufacturers, who are operating 123 manufacturing units currently.