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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the Economic Times World Leaders Forum in New Delhi

(Gns). The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Economic Times World Leaders Forum in New Delhi today. On the occasion, Prime Minister welcomed all distinguished guests attending the World Leader Forum. Remarking that the timing of this forum is "very perfect", Shri Modi appreciated the organizers for this timely initiative. He highlighted that just last week, he spoke from the Red Fort about next-generation reforms and added that this forum is now acting as a force multiplier for that very spirit.

Stating that extensive discussions have taken place at the forum on global circumstances and geo-

economics, the Prime Minister emphasized that when viewed in the global context, one can sense the strength of India's economy. He highlighted that India is currently the fastest-growing major economy in the world and soon, India is poised to become the third-largest economy globally. Shri Modi cited expert assessments indicating that India's contribution to global growth is expected to reach nearly 20 percent in the near future. He attrib-



uted India's growth and economic resilience to the macro-economic stability achieved over the past decade. The Prime Minister

added that Indian companies are raising record funds from capital markets, while Indian banks are stronger than ever before and the inflation is very low and interest rates are also low. Underlining that India's current account deficit is under control and forex reserves are robust, Shri Modi further highlighted that every month, lakhs of domestic investors are investing thousands of crores of rupees into the market through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs).

The Prime Minister emphasised that when the fundamentals of an economy are strong, its foundation is solid, then the impact is visible across all sectors.

shared that India's fiscal deficit is estimated to decline to 4.4 percent, despite the severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He

PM Modi Refuses Special Exemption In Bills On Removal Of PM, CMs, Ministers: Kiren Rijiju

(Gns). Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday disclosed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi declined an exemption for himself while the government framed new bills concerning the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers if they are jailed for serious offences.

Rijiju said that during a Cabinet discussion, it was recommended that the prime minister be kept out of the ambit of the proposed legislation. However, Modi rejected the suggestion, stating that he too is a citizen and should not

enjoy special protection.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused an exemption from new bills regarding the removal of the prime minister and other ministers if jailed for serious offenses, while the bills introduced by Amit Shah were passed in Parliament and referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee despite opposition.

"PM Modi told the Cabinet that the recommendation was to exclude the prime minister from the bill, but he disagreed. The PM refused any exception, making it clear that ethics should apply equally. If most of the chief ministers, many from our own party, do something wrong, they too should vacate their positions," Rijiju told ANI.

The bills, introduced by Union Home Minister Amit



Shah, faced fierce opposition in Parliament, with protests, sloganeering, and even copies of the draft legislation being torn and thrown at Shah. Despite the uproar, the bills were passed through a voice vote and referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further examination.

Opposition leaders have slammed the proposed amendments as "draconian" and "unconstitutional," alleging they are intended to target chief ministers in states ruled by non-BJP parties through central investigative agencies.

Jaishankar Reminds US Of Osama Bin Laden In Abbottabad Amid Closer Ties With Pakistan

(Gns). At a time when Washington is seen drawing closer to Islamabad, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has cautioned the United States against forgetting its troubled history with Pakistan. Speaking at the ET World Leaders Forum on Saturday, Jaishankar reminded the audience that Osama Bin Laden, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, was discovered in Abbottabad-a Pakistani military town-in 2011.

"They (the US and Pakistan) have a history with each other. And they have a history of overlooking that history," Jaishankar remarked, drawing loud

applause.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar cautioned the United States about its history with Pakistan, reminding the audience that Osama Bin Laden was found in Abbottabad in 2011. He clarified that the decision to halt Operation Sindoor hostilities was reached directly between New Delhi and Islamabad, while acknowledging phone calls from the US and other countries.

He stressed that while countries often pursue the "politics of convenience,"

India does not lose sight of its own strengths in its relationship with the United States. "When you look at the certificates somebody in the military gives, it is the same military that went into Abbottabad and found-you know who-there. Countries do this for tactical reasons or other calculations, but we must not ignore what that means," he said.

Jaishankar underlined that despite observing the US-Pakistan dynamic, India remains confident in the larger structural strengths of its partnership with



Washington. "I obviously respond to the situation or the challenge of the day. But I also do so always keeping in mind the bigger picture and the confidence that comes from it. I know what I am about, I know what my strengths are, and I know the importance of my relationship," he said.

Operation Sindoor and Trump's Ceasefire Claim Responding to US President Donald Trump's assertion that he mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, Jaishankar clarified that the decision to halt hostilities was reached directly between New Delhi and Islamabad.

BJP may elect new party chief before Bihar elections, RSS to play key role

(Gns). Before the Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, a new national president of the BJP may be elected. The RSS plays a significant role in the selection, and this time, the exercise will be no different. The final decision will be made with the consent of the RSS to ensure the strength of the party organisation. For this purpose, emphasis is being placed on a 60-year-old candidate after consultations with 88 senior leaders.

According to sources, the monsoon session of Parliament has concluded, paving the way for the process of electing a new

BJP national president to commence soon. The RSS has gathered extensive opinions on potential candidates. There are several reasons for the delay in selecting the new BJP national president. One significant reason is that the RSS has engaged in thorough discussions regarding the choice of the new president.

According to sources, discussions have been held with the former BJP president, senior Union ministers, and leaders associated with the RSS

and BJP who hold constitutional positions, and their advice has been sought. Sources said many senior



leaders have also proposed names of their own, while others have stated that they will support whichever candidate is ultimately chosen.

A former national president of the BJP, along with a leader holding the coun-

try's second-highest constitutional position, has proposed the name of a central minister — who has previously served as a chief minister — for the party presidency. A central minister, who is currently serving as the state president in South India, has stated that he does not feel capable of accepting this responsibility.

A central minister, who has also served as a chief minister, stated that although he is not prepared to assume the role of party president due to his age, he would be willing to take on the responsibility if there is consensus regarding his candidacy.

Technology, science are crucial for agriculture: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

(Gns). To mark the second National Space Day on Saturday, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasised the importance of technology and science in agriculture.

"Through space science, we are bringing change in India and the world. We all know how important technology and science are in agriculture — and we must take it further", the minister said in his virtual address to a programme themed — 'Research and Development in Space Technology for Agricultural Transformation'.

It was held at the Indian

Council of Agricultural Research, Pusa, in the national capital.

Terming scientists the "modern sages", he said new developments in the field have transformed the lives of the farmers.

"We have ensured food security for the people. We have achieved record food grain production, and space science has made an incomparable contribution. Space applications are now central to agriculture — from crop yield estimation, cropping systems,

wheat, rice, mustard, cotton, sugarcane production, acreage assessments, to weather information — space technology plays a key role," the minister was quoted as saying in an official release.

Chouhan said that earlier, weather forecasts relied on folklore and assumptions, but today ISRO's GeoPortal provides nearly accurate information on rainfall, drought, and weather.

"Farmers now plan their farming based on this. The portal also gives informa-

tion on soil moisture, integrates crop health data, and provides precise information," the minister added.

Chouhan also noted that technologies have been developed to detect pests from photos uploaded by farmers, and for real-time wheat monitoring, sowing, and harvesting area estimation.

He also emphasised that space science aids in timely warnings during rising temperatures, storms, or droughts, helping in disaster management and crop protection.

Information must reach farmers directly, and awareness-building is vital, he observed.



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Editorial

Uncertain Promises

The debate over “security guarantees” for Ukraine has shifted the spotlight from lofty summit declarations to the harder terrain of military commitments. Within days of the Alaska summit, Western leaders gathered in Washington to wrestle with the practicalities of protecting Kyiv without crossing their own red lines. What emerged is a blueprint that is ambitious in rhetoric, but still riddled with contradictions.

The clearest of these contradictions lies in the very nature of the guarantees being promised. NATO membership, the most credible shield, remains off the table for now. Instead, a coalition of the willing ~ led by European powers – has been tasked with devising arrangements that fall short of formal accession but still reassure Ukraine. This halfway house reflects a desire to deter Russia without triggering the obligations of collective defence. President Donald Trump has sought to thread that needle by ruling out American boots on the ground, while leaving open the prospect of US airpower as a backstop. That position shields him from domestic political blowback while preserving Washington’s role as indispensable arbiter.

Yet, it also raises the question of whether a security guarantee that stops at the air can ever be decisive. Deterrence requires credibility, and credibility often requires soldiers in harm’s way. It is here that European leaders have stepped forward. Figures like British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron have signalled a willingness to contemplate European deployments, at least in limited forms. That means there may well be Western boots on the ground in Ukraine, even if they are not American. Such a division of labour ~ European risks underwritten by US airpower – offers a pragmatic compromise, but also threatens to sharpen transatlantic tensions.

The burden of ground combat would fall on Europe, while the ultimate military enabler, American air cover, could remain subject to political calculation in Washington. This arrangement underscores the fragile balance that the West is attempting to strike. Too little commitment, and Russia may calculate that its aggression can continue with impunity. Too much commitment, and the spectre of direct confrontation between nuclear powers becomes unavoidable. The coalition is thus walking a narrow line, trying to project firmness while avoiding escalation. But history shows that adversaries are quick to exploit ambiguity. That gap between rhetoric and reality is becoming more visible with each summit.

The longer it persists, the more Moscow will test the limits of Western patience and resolve. Ukraine, for its part, remains caught in the gap between words and enforceable guarantees. Each new formula raises hopes yet stops short of binding commitments. As long as the West hesitates to anchor its promises in indisputable military presence, security guarantees risk remaining aspirational rather than operational. The coalition may be broad, but without clear anchors, its deterrent power is less than the sum of its parts.

North Gujarat leads in processed potato production for French Fries

Banaskantha leads Gujarat’s 2024–25 potato cultivation with 18.70 lakh; followed by Sabarkantha and Aravalli VGRC in North Gujarat to showcase global leadership in processed potato products

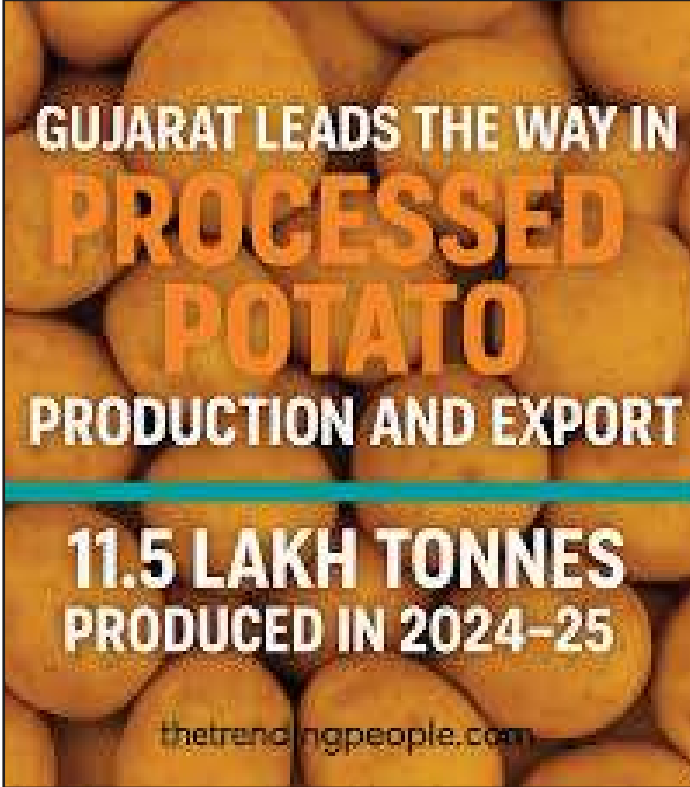
Gandhinagar, 23 August: Gujarat has emerged as the largest producer of processed potatoes and the leading exporter of French fries and chips in recent years. This achievement will be prominently highlighted in the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) for North Gujarat region.

In India, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab follow Gujarat in the production of processed potatoes. Gujarat’s favorable climate supports the cultivation of potato varieties ideal for frozen potato-based products. Leading manufacturers such as HyFun Foods, McCain Foods, and Iscon Balaji Foods have established their operations in North Gujarat.

In 2004-05, the produc-

tion of processed potatoes was less than 1 lakh tonnes and cultivated in just 4,000 hectares. In last two decades, the production of the potato breed increased by more than 10 times to 11.50 lakh tonnes cultivated in about 37,000 hectares. The area of production also increased by nine times. Increased procurement has, in turn, brought significant benefits to local farmers.

Gujarat cultivates processing-grade potatoes, which are extensively supplied to processed food industries across the country for making French fries, chips, or frozen foods. As per Gujarat Agriculture Department, in 2024-25, the state produced 48.59 Lakh tonnes of potatoes, of which over 25% are processed and about remaining are mostly Kufri, the potatoes used for other domestic purpose. Of the total production of processed potatoes in Gujarat, about 60% are used for making chips and



around 40% for French fries. Banaskantha, Sabarkantha and Aravalli are the key contributing districts, meeting the rising demand for French fries and chips in India.

Banaskantha ranks first

in the state with 18.70 lakh tonnes of potato production

In 2022–23, Banaskantha recorded a production of 15.79 lakh tonnes of potatoes from 53,548 hectares, with a productivity of 29.5 tonnes

per hectare. In 2023–24, the district produced 15.62 lakh tonnes from 52,089 hectares at 30 tonnes per hectare. This number rose to 18.70 lakh tonnes in 2024–25, the highest in any district of Gujarat. During this period, the cultivation area was 61,016 hectares with a productivity of 30.65 tonnes per hectare.

Sabarkantha and Aravalli produced 12.97 and 6.99 lakh tonnes of potatoes respectively

Following Banaskantha, Sabarkantha and Aravalli districts have also seen significant potato production. In 2024–25, Sabarkantha produced 12.97 lakh tonnes of potatoes from 37,999 hectares, with a productivity of 34.13 tonnes per hectare. Although potato farming in Aravalli started more recently compared to other districts, it has made a substantial contribution to the state’s total output. In 2024–25, Aravalli produced 6.99 lakh tonnes from 20,515 hectares, with a productivity of 34.05

tonnes per hectare.

Advanced cold storage facilities in Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, and Aravalli

In North Gujarat, there are total 67 active warehouses inclusive of cold storages, registered with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, Government of India. Of the total, Banaskantha has 16 including, Sabarkantha and Aravalli has 10, Mehsana leads with 30, and Patan has 11.

The northern belt of Gujarat has become ideal for producing chip-grade and French fry-grade potatoes due to its fertile soil, favorable climate, and advanced farming systems. Varieties like Lady Rosetta, Kufri Chipsona, and Santana are known for their high dry matter content and low sugar content, cultivated here, making them perfect for crispy, golden fries. These potatoes are supplied to frozen food processors, quick-service restaurants, and are also exported, particularly to the

Can Indians learn from the South Koreans?

(Gns).

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the India-S. Korea Special Strategic Partnership. I do not know, apart from improved diplomatic relations with Korea, what tangible benefits have resulted from this partnership for India so far. Can India learn from the Koreans how to become a leader in the technology world? In a recent TV commercial, South Korean car-maker Hyundai was touting “what Hyundai Sonata can do that Honda Accord cannot”.

South Korea’s success has been driven by an

intense rivalry with Japan. A friend of mine bought a Honda car in the mid-1970s which became a laughing-stock because of its small size and poor repair record. Subsequently, a Japanese invasion revolutionized the American automotive industry. Honda dramatically improved the quality, reliability and style of its automobiles. Cars from companies like Toyota, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Mazda, Isuzu and Subaru started to appear in American show-rooms.

US companies were forced to improve quality and reliability to compete with the Japanese. The



Japanese did the same in consumer electronics. American domestic brands like RCA and Zenith had a dominant presence in televisions, radios, hi-fi equipment etc. Sony entered the market and became a leader with acclaimed critical reviews. Other companies like Panasonic, Hitachi, Toshiba, Sanyo and Sharp gradually became household names. By the early 1990s, Zenith had gone bankrupt and RCA consumer electronics was sold to a French company. There is a striking parallel between the global invasion of Japanese products in the 1980s and ‘90s and invasion of Korean products in the past two decades.

Automobile brands like Hyundai, Daewoo and Kia were ridiculed at the beginning because of poor reliability and bare-bone designs. The prices were low, but the consumers shrugged them off. Just like Honda in the 1980s, Hyundai made major improvements in style and technology of their products. Today, Hyundai Sonata is one of the most popular mid-size cars and their Genesis line is a bona fide luxury brand. On the con-

sumer electronics front, Koreans have effectively driven the Japanese out of business.

It is not just the television displays where Korean brands now dominate; home appliance sections are crowded with Korean washers, dryers and refrigerator models, a market that the Japanese did not even enter. The Koreans were able to lead the TV business, not by copying others in technology but by developing their own version of display using flat panel LCD technology. Japanese companies bet on competing flat panel display systems such as plasma, DLP and flat-faced CRTs but lost in the game. More than a triumph in marketing or cost, it was a decisive victory in technology.

Samsung has entered the cell phone market and gives Apple a run for their money – something the Japanese could not do. Samsung is also a leader in semiconductor chip manufacturing. The Koreans are leaders in battery technology for electric cars. They have also penetrated other technological markets such as medical equipment and heavy machinery. The

Koreans dominate the ship-building market and construction business. The emergence of Korean companies in advanced technologies did not surprise me. When I was working for Sony during the 1990s, I visited South Korea multiple times.

I was impressed by the inquisitiveness of Korean engineers. They were “hungry” for knowledge and had a profound desire to show the world their capability. This was in sharp contrast with Sony engineering groups in Tokyo where I faced polite indifference. Their attitude was that the Japanese knew everything there was to know about engineering and manufacturing. The Koreans have one other advantage over the Japanese: they value higher education. Many Sony engineers had no college degree and almost no one had a graduate degree. The emphasis was “on the job training”.

Korean engineers, on the other hand, were all college-educated, many with graduate degrees. I also sensed a family-type unity among Korean workers. For example, companies provided living quarters for all employees, right next to the operation sites, which not only motivated them but improved their productivity. The export-oriented economic policies of the Korean government have been a major reason behind the success of Korean businesses on the global stage and have made S. Korea the ninth largest exporter in the world. Technology aside, I saw their national pride outside of work.

They would proudly point out uniquely Korean items whether we were eating at a restaurant or on a sightseeing tour. One Korean engineer even emphasised that it was a “Korean Karaoke” during after-dinner entertainment. Koreans have also been successful in cultural and artistic areas. Bong Jon-ho won the best director and screen-play writer Oscars in 2020 for the film Parasite.

The show Squid Game won two Emmys in 2022. Margaret Cho is a well-known name in the comedy circuit. In skating, Korean American ice-skater Michelle Kwan dominated the scene during the first part of this century and Kim Yuna was the first Korean to win an Olympic gold in skating.

The first music video to receive more than a billion hits on YouTube was “Gangnam Style” by the Korean pop artist PSY which is anything but foreign-influenced. More recently, the global popularity of K-pop groups and K-dramas attests to the creativity of Koreans. The motivation of the Koreans to surpass the Japanese can be traced back to the Japanese occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945 and the Japan-Korea war. The Koreans have never forgotten the ill treatment by the Japanese and despise them. Koreans are thankful to the US for helping them to be free from the Japanese. They love to emulate Americans and feel comfortable with American culture. An American woman I met in Seoul who was married to a Korean gentleman told me that when her husband asked for permission for the marriage from his mother, she replied “you can marry anyone except a Japanese”.

During the opening ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, an NBC TV commentator, Joshua Ramo declared that, “Every Korean will tell you that Japan is a cultural, technological and economic example that has been so important for their own transformation”.

This caused an immediate backlash, resulting in an apology from NBC to the Koreans and termination of Mr. Ramo from his assignment. In summary, the Koreans have shown us that key ingredients behind global success in technology are national pride, intense drive to excel, perseverance, belief in higher education, fearlessness in competition, acceptance of Western democratic values (appreciation of freedom and creativity) and favourable government economic policies on export.

India can certainly follow their example. Perhaps the Koreans can also teach us how an emotional urge to get even with our aggressors (the British in our case) can motivate us to excel. India even has an advantage over South Korea when it comes to dominance in global business; India can compete with China in labour costs.

NDA launches statewide Assembly conference in Bihar ahead of 2025 polls

(Gns).

With Bihar’s Assembly elections drawing closer, the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has launched a massive grassroots outreach campaign starting Saturday.

The month-long initiative, titled the ‘NDA Assembly Conference’, will run until September 24 and aims to strengthen the alliance’s organisational presence across all 243 Assembly constituencies of the state.

The conferences will take place in seven phases, covering around 14 constituencies each day, and are designed to boost coordination and morale among party workers at the constituency level.

A total of 14 teams comprising senior leaders from the NDA’s key constituent parties, primarily JD(U) and the BJP, have been formed to lead the campaign.

Each team will consist of seven members and will be led by prominent political figures such as Sanjay Kumar Jha, Ashok Chaudhary, Vijay Chaudhary, Umesh Kushwaha, Shravan Kumar,



Samrat Chaudhary, Nityanand Rai, and Ravi Shankar Prasad. Seven teams will be headed by JD(U) leaders while the remaining seven will be led

by BJP representatives.

The strategy marks a significant escalation in the NDA’s poll preparations, as the alliance attempts to galvanise its cadre ahead of a high-stakes electoral battle.

Insiders suggest that the

build grassroots momentum, and ensure strong coordination across different organisational levels.

A JD(U) spokesperson indicated that while earlier meetings were held at the district level, the focus has now shifted to Assembly constituencies to deepen local-level engagement. The leadership believes that workers are the backbone of the party, and energising them will be key to electoral success.

The NDA’s move comes at a time when the Opposition remains fragmented, sending a clear message of unity and purpose from the ruling alliance. The emphasis on joint participation from all NDA constituents, and the recurring slogan of bringing Nitish Kumar back as Chief Minister, reinforces the alliance’s intention to present a united front as the election countdown begins.

NDA is eyeing a target of 225 seats in the upcoming elections. This extensive programme is part of the alliance’s broader strategy to mobilise party workers,

Stranded at Sea

India today stands as the world’s second-largest supplier of seafarers, a source of both pride and livelihood for thousands of families across coastal states. Yet, behind this statistic lies a troubling paradox: Indian sailors also top the global list of those classified as “abandoned” at sea. This contradiction reflects deep structural flaws in international shipping and an equally worrying gap in India’s own regulatory and welfare framework.

Abandonment, under the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006, occurs when ship-owners sever ties with their crew ~ refusing to pay wages, provide provisions, or ensure repatriation. For those trapped in such situations, the consequences are devastating.

Crews are often left stranded for months, in some cases in conflict zones or near hostile shores, with limited food, dwindling fuel, and unpaid salaries that represent their families’ only financial hope. For families back home, each passing month without wages or news turns the uncertainty of the sea into a crisis of survival. A large part of the problem stems from the globalised and opaque character of the shipping industry.

Vessels frequently operate under “flags of convenience” ~ registrations in countries that impose minimal scrutiny and weak labour standards. This practice allows dubious owners to obscure accountability, even as they exploit the cheap and

skilled labour of developing nations. It is telling that most abandoned ships in recent years sailed under



such flags. But international opacity alone does not explain why Indian seafarers are disproportionately

affected. Many Indian sailors borrow heavily or pay significant sums to recruitment agents to

At the same time, India’s own maritime regulator, tasked with verifying owners, contracts, and placement agencies, has often been accused of lax oversight. Even when courts intervene to order settlements, wage recovery is frequently delayed or denied, compounding the distress of stranded crews. The moral and strategic case for reform is clear.

India benefits enormously from its reputation as a supplier of reliable maritime labour. But that reputation risks erosion if its seafarers remain the most vulnerable in the global fleet. The government must, therefore, enforce stricter scrutiny of recruitment agencies, establish fast-track mechanisms for wage

recovery, and expand its diplomatic role in negotiating the safe repatriation of stranded crew. Equally, prospective sailors should be educated about the risks of opaque contracts and encouraged to report irregularities before signing employment papers. The seafaring profession has long been a bridge between India and the world, sustaining coastal economies and upholding the country’s global maritime presence. Protecting those who undertake this perilous work is not only a matter of labour rights but also of national credibility. Unless decisive steps are taken, India will continue to dominate an unenviable list ~ its sailors paying the heaviest price for an industry that thrives on invisibility.

For the convenience of passengers, a “Special Train” will run from Bhavnagar to Bandra Terminus on 29th August

Ticket booking will start from August 24 (Sunday). To accommodate the rush of passengers during the Paryushan Festival and for the convenience of passengers, Western Railway has decided to run a “Special Train” on special fare between Bhavnagar Terminus and Bandra Terminus. According to Shri Atul Kumar Tripathi, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Bhavnagar Division, the details of this special train are as follows:

Train No. 09210/09209 Bhavnagar – Bandra Terminus Superfast Special

Train No. 09210 Bhavnagar Terminus –

Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Bhavnagar Terminus at 20:20 hrs on 29th August, 2025 (Friday) and will reach

Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus at 13:50 hrs on 30th August, 2025 (Saturday) and will reach



Bandra Terminus at 10:20 hrs the next day.

Train No. 09209

Bandra Terminus – Bhavnagar Terminus

Bhavnagar Terminus at 04:30 hrs the next morning. This train will halt at Bhavnagar Para, Sihor (Gujarat), Songadh, Dhol,

Botad, Surendranagar Gate, Viramgam, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Vapi, Palghar, and Borivali stations in both directions.

The train will comprise AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class, and Second Class General Coaches.

Booking for Train No. 09210 & 09209 will commence from 24th August, 2025 (Sunday) at Passenger Reservation Centers and on the IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding stoppages, composition, and timings, passengers are requested to visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam: Bhupesh Baghel's Son Chaitanya Sent To 14-Day Judicial Custody

(Gns). Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has been remanded to 14 days of judicial custody by a Raipur court in the alleged multi-crore liquor scam. The decision came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) completed his five-day custodial interrogation. ED counsel Saurabh Pandey told the court that Chaitanya Baghel did not cooperate during questioning. “We found his role in the liquor scam. His police remand ended today, and we sought judicial custody. The court has granted it until September 6,” he stated.

Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has been remanded to 14 days of judicial custody by a Raipur court in connection with the alleged multi-crore liquor scam, after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 18

following a five-day custodial interrogation. The scam allegedly caused losses of over ₹2,161 crore and also linked to others like businessman Anwar Dhebar, former bureaucrat Anil Tuteja, and ex-Excise Minister Kawasaki Lakhma.

Switch To Shorts

Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam

Bhupesh Baghel's Son Chaitanya Sent To 14-Day Judicial Custody

Why was Chaitanya Baghel arrested?

The ED arrested Chaitanya Baghel on July 18 in connection with the scam, which allegedly caused losses of more than ₹2,161 crore to the state exchequer. According to investigators, he is described as a key figure behind the operation, which reportedly involved bribes, unaccounted liquor sales, and manipulation of licenses.

The alleged racket func-

tioned through the Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited (CSMCL), where



liquor manufacturers were accused of paying bribes in exchange for preferential treatment. The agency claims that country liquor was sold illegally through state-run shops, while foreign liquor licenses (FL-10A) were misused to benefit certain players.

Other prominent names linked to the case include businessman Anwar Dhebar, former bureaucrat Anil Tuteja, and ex-Excise Minister Kawasaki Lakhma, all accused of accepting regular kickbacks. So far,

the ED has attached assets worth ₹205 crore in the matter.

Supreme Court's direction

On August 4, the Supreme Court directed Bhupesh Baghel and his son to approach the Chhattisgarh High Court for relief concerning their investigation and possible arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The apex court further asked them to file a separate petition challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the PMLA, which will be heard independently.

Political row

The Congress has strongly condemned the arrest, accusing the BJP-led central government of targeting opposition leaders ahead of elections. Party leaders called the move a “blatant act of political vendetta” and alleged that central agencies are being misused to silence dissent.

Centre to launch pilot project to revive diversified fish farming in Kuttanad, Keral

(Gns). KOCHI: In a major move to uplift the fishing community in the Kuttanad region in Kerala, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian, has announced a new pilot project aimed at boosting livelihood opportunities for fish farmers. This was decided at a consultative meeting held at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi.

Under the new initiative, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, will take proactive steps to implement a range of modern and traditional aquaculture practices to revive economy based in Kuttanad. These include integrated fish farming, cage fish farming, the sustainable “one fish one paddy” initiative, and

biofloc fish farming. As part of the project, Fish Farmers Producers

Under the pilot project, extensive training programmes will be conducted



Organizations (FFPOs) will be formed to empower local communities and streamline operations.

“Enhancing livelihood for the region's farmers is the primary goal of the initiative”, Minister George Kurian said.

to equip farmers with the necessary skills in aquaculture and other related practices. The project will also encourage startups to enter the sector, focusing on essential post-harvest activities such as processing, cleaning, packing, and

fish trade, thereby creating new employment opportunities and adding value to the produce.

Given the diverse aquatic environments of Kuttanad, the project will be divided into separate fresh and brackish water farming initiatives, catering specifically to the distinct conditions of Upper and Lower Kuttanad. Expertise of premier research institutions, including ICAR research institutes, central agencies, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) will be explored to provide technical and scientific support.

The Union Minister of State pointed out that a detailed project report will be prepared immediately to ensure the swift and effective implementation of the initiative, which is expected to bring significant and sustainable economic benefits to the Kuttanad region.

Telangana Speaker issues notices to dissident BRS MLAs after Supreme Court directive

(Gns). Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has issued notices to the dissident BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. The move follows the Supreme Court's directive to the Speaker to act on the disqualification petitions that had been pending for over a year.

On Friday, notices were sent to five of the 10 MLAs who had joined the Congress after winning their seats on a BRS ticket. Last month, the Supreme Court directed the Speaker to decide within three months on the disqualification petitions filed under the



Anti-Defection Act against the 10 BRS legislators who switched sides.

Following the court's order, the Speaker consulted the Advocate General and senior lawyers before issuing the notices. The Opposition BRS has sought

the disqualification of ten MLAs, including Kadiyam Srihari, Danam Nagender, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Sanjay Kumar, Tellam Venkat Rao, Arekapudi Gandhi, Kale Yadaya, Prakash Goud, Krishnamohan Reddy, and

Mahipal Reddy. The Speaker is expected to take a final decision after serving notices to all of them.

The defected MLAs are likely to deny that they have formally joined the ruling party. However, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender finds himself in a particularly unenviable position, as he contested the recent Lok Sabha elections on a Congress ticket without resigning as a BRS legislator.

Meanwhile, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has asked his party workers to gear up for elections in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Gift to Gujarat during the Urban Development Year

20 Years of Urban Development: Foundation-Laying and Inauguration of Various Projects Worth ₹2,548 Crore in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar

Ahmedabad to Get Projects Worth ₹2,267 Crore for Urban Development; Six-Laning of Sardar Patel Ring Road at a Cost of ₹1,624 Crore; Mini Sports Complex to be Built in South-West Zone

Gandhinagar, 23 August 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat on August 25 and 26, 2025. During his visit, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of urban development projects worth ₹2,548 crore in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. This major initiative for Gujarat comes at a significant moment, as the state is proudly cele-

brating the Urban Development Year. It also marks 20 years of the

Inauguration and laying the Foundation of Urban Development Projects



urban development journey that was initiated by Shri Narendra Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat. Carrying forward this two-decade-long achievement, the Government of Gujarat continues its dedicated efforts to enhance Ease of Living for its citizens.

Worth ₹2,267 Crore in Ahmedabad

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of urban development projects worth ₹2,267 crore in Ahmedabad. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is rehabilitating 1,449 slums in Sector-3 of

Ramapir Tekra at a cost of over ₹133 crore under the In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). The project, to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, includes facilities such as a common plot, anganwadi, health centre, solar rooftop system, and PNG gas connections.

Prime Minister to Inaugurate Development Projects in Ahmedabad

Under the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority, clean drinking water is being provided through the Jal Jeevan Mission. In Daskroi taluka, a clear water pump with a capacity of 15 lakh litres and a water pumping station have been constructed at a cost of ₹27 crore, along with a 23 km trunk main pipeline.

An Indian will announce 'Viksit Bharat 2047' from the surface of Moon in 2040, and this will send a message around the universe that India has arrived: Dr Jitendra Singh

(Gns). In a speech blended with science, poetry, realism and future promise, Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that an Indian will announce “Viksit Bharat 2047” from the surface of Moon in 2040, and this will send a message around the universe that India has arrived.

Addressing the National Space Day programme at Bharat Mandapam here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's space programme has, from its very beginning, been about more than rockets and satellites - it has been about empowering people, improving lives, and shaping a better future. He also referred to the recently concluded

National Meet 2.0, held a decade after the first Mega User Meet in 2015.

able asset for India, he said, pointing to four astronauts Group Captain Subhanshu



“National Space Day is a reminder that India's achievements in space are not an end in themselves but a stepping stone to a larger vision — where science, innovation, and public welfare come together to build the nation's future,” Dr. Jitendra Singh said. The ISRO has created a valu-

Shukla, Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan and Group Captain Angad Pratap who are prepping for Gaganyaan mission.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call in 2014 to expand the use of space technology in gover-

nance, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the 2015 had set the vision for integrating space applications into flagship development programmes. “Ten years later, both the government and private sector have grown significantly in their space capabilities,” he said. He added that the second edition of the National Meet was preceded by nearly 300 interactions with user departments and produced close to 90 documents, spanning over 5,000 pages, forming the foundation of a 15-year roadmap. The plan envisages the launch of over 100 satellites, 70 per cent of them small satellites, to be implemented through a mix of government technology missions and private sector-led operational

One-day capacity building workshop on “Strengthening Sub-National SDG Monitoring” organised in Agartala

(Gns). The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Tripura and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a Capacity Building Workshop on ‘Strengthening Sub-National SDG Monitoring’ at Agartala, Tripura on 22nd August 2025. The workshop was attended by participants from States and Union Territories that are still at a nascent stage in developing their own State/UT Indicator Framework.

Shri Bikash Debbarma, Hon'ble minister, Planning (Statistics) Department, Government of Tripura in his inaugural address underlined that a whole-of-government approach has been adopted for the SDGs, which are also being viewed as a tool to improve the socio-economic conditions of the

people, with particular emphasis on women, children, and weaker sections of society. Delivering the keynote address, Shri S.C. Malik,

national priorities. Stressing the need for high-quality, timely, and granular data, he underlined that monitoring is not an end in itself but a tool



Additional Director General, MoSPI emphasized the importance of localized action and continuous monitoring for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He highlighted the efforts of MoSPI in developing the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and supporting States and Union Territories in formulating State and District Indicator Frameworks (SIFs/DIFs) aligned with

to improve development outcomes, ensure inclusivity, and reach the most vulnerable. Shri Malik reaffirmed MoSPI's commitment to work in close coordination with States, line ministries, and partners to strengthen the SDG monitoring ecosystem in India. Shri Rajiv Sen, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog in his address, focused on strengthening institutions and ensuring effective implementation of schemes

through SDG monitoring. Thereafter, Shri Abhishek Chandra, Special Secretary, Planning (Statistics), Government of Tripura in his special address reiterated its commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda by strengthening state-level data systems and localized SDG monitoring. Representative of UNDP, Mr Jaimon Uthup, Policy Specialist emphasized its commitment to supporting the Government of India and States/UTs in building robust data systems, technical capacities, and inclusive monitoring mechanisms.

Ms. Saumya Sakshi, Joint Director, MoSPI and Mr Abhishek Gaurav, Deputy Director, MoSPI provided an overview of monitoring mechanism of SDGs in India through the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and Sub-National Indicator Frameworks. MoSPI emphasized that States/UTs are accountable for monitor-

India, Australia conclude 11th round of CECA talks to boost trade ties

(Gns). The 11th Round of India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (Ind-Aus CECA) negotiations was held in the national capital from August 18-23, further advancing the shared objective of strengthening bilateral trade and economic partnership.

“Building on the progress achieved in earlier rounds and intersessional meetings, the negotiations covered a wide range of areas including Goods, Services and Mobility, Digital Trade, Rules of Origin, Legal and Institutional Provisions, Environment, Labour, and

Gender, bringing greater understanding for conver-

advancing the India-Australia CECA and ensur-



gence in the remaining provisions,” the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Saturday.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to

ing that it delivers meaningful benefits, economic opportunities, and a balanced outcome for both sides. To maintain momentum and achieve conver-

gence, both partners will continue the negotiations in virtual intersessions.

Looking ahead, with shared ambition and mutual understanding to work towards a future-ready framework, India and Australia remain strongly aligned to the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Cooperation.

As India steadily advances its footprint through multiple trade agreements, this round reflects a steadfast commitment to enhance economic partnerships anchored with national priorities and global aspirations.

UN Declares Famine In Gaza City, Describes Situation As Humanitarian Disaster

(Gns). The United Nations has declared a famine in Gaza City and nearby areas, calling it a "failure of humanity." Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, described the situation as a "man-made disaster." The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has raised Gaza's food insecurity status to Phase 5, indicating severe conditions. Israel disputes these claims, denying any starvation in the region.

According to the IPC, over half a million people in Gaza face "catastrophic" conditions marked by starvation and destitution. The

report calls for an "immediate, at-scale response" to prevent further famine-

related deaths. Predictions indicate that by late September, famine will



spread to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, affecting nearly 641,000 people with catastrophic conditions.

The United Nations declared a famine in Gaza City and nearby areas, citing it as a man-made disaster with over half a million people facing catastrophic conditions, while Israel disputes these claims. The IPC predicts the famine will spread, impacting nearly 641,000 people by September, as conflicts continue and humanitarian aid delivery faces restrictions, leading to severe malnutrition and displacement.

Humanitarian Aid and

Tantric of Mathura raped Agra woman, victim pleads with SSP

Mathura. In the police station Naujheel area, a tantric raped a woman, the woman was not having any child. The tantric burnt incense sticks in the room and smoke. After this, the woman was raped for an hour. Then threatened the woman that if she told anyone, she would get her murdered. The victim woman reached the SSP office on Saturday and lodged a complaint. The SSP has directed the police station to investigate the case. The incident took place near the button street in Nauzheel.

The woman informed the journalists outside the SSP office and said that she is a resident of Lohmandi Agra police station, even after 8 years of marriage, I did not have

children. He came to know that Naujheel, a button street in Mathura, Tantrik, who lives near the mosque,

bring anyone else but Nand. Do not tell this to anyone. He asked me to burn the lamp and intimi-

after which Tantric Mushtaq Ali raped me. He tried to make noise, but the voice could not come out. The accused tantric kept him locked in the room for about 1 hour. Also threatened that if I told anyone, I will get my sister and husband killed. From there somehow saved her life, she came back to her house Agra with sister-in-law and told her husband the whole incident. Due to fear, the police station did not come immediately. Now I have come to report on Saturday. SP Rural Suresh Chandra Rawat said that the woman has given a complaint. A lawsuit has been filed based on this. The police team is raiding. The accused will be arrested soon



Giving information to women media outside SSP office

treats Mushtaq Ali Tantra-Mantra. This can make him a child. Believing this, about a month ago, I went to the tantric with my sister-in-law. He said that I have to come there every night (Thursday). The second time I went there with my husband. On this, he took me to the room and said that I refused you not to

dated. Taking the room in the room, closed the door. The woman told- On August 21, she went to the tantric's house again at around 1.30 pm with her sister-in-law. Around 3 o'clock he took me alone and closed the door. He lit incense sticks and smoke. This stopped his voice. Threatened to kill him,

Patch-up or fresh panga? Isha Malviya & Abhishek Kumar's entry on COLORS' 'Pati Patni Aur Panga' raises questions and eyebrows

Fans of reality TV may want to sit down: COLORS' 'Pati Patni Aur Panga' is about to get a shocking twist! Isha Malviya and Abhishek Kumar, exes who have been the subject of much speculation, are stepping into the show, and they're bringing questions, drama, and anticipation with them. Their story is already the stuff of television legend. The duo first met on the sets of Udaariyaan, where their on-screen pairing soon spilled into real-life romance. But before they could step into Bigg Boss 17, the relationship cracked, leaving the nation to watch their explosive dynamics as exes play out inside the house. From fiery clashes to fleeting moments of vulnerability, the audience saw it all.

Now, destiny brings them together again. By walking into 'Pati Patni Aur Panga' together, they've

reignited curiosity — what could possibly have brought them face-to-face once more? Is this the

stage seems set for many surprises with Isha and Abhishek in the same frame.



beginning of yet another showdown under the spotlight? Adding to the intrigue, the two will reunite with their Bigg Boss 17 mate Munawar Faruqui, who is in an all-new avatar as host of the show alongside Sonali Bendre. With Munawar's quick wit and Sonali's balanced perspective, the

Talking about her entry on the show, Isha Malviya said, "Life has a strange way of bringing people back into each other's orbit. Abhishek and I have shared chapters that people have seen unfold on screen and off it... But this is a new stage, a new test. While I won't reveal what

the audiences are in for with our entry in Pati Patni Aur Panga, I do know that they will see a side of us they've never seen before." Abhishek Kumar added, "Isha and I have had a journey full of highs, lows and conflict in front of the world. Walking into this show together was all about surprising the viewers. Pati Patni Aur Panga is about to get a huge twist, and it's going to be super memorable."

Nivea Body Milk Presents 'Pati Patni Aur Panga - Jodiyon Ka Reality Check' Co-Powered by Sugar Free Green, Rajdhani Besan, Cadbury Dairy Milk, Pour Home Air Fresheners, Envy Perfumes and L'Oréal Paris Hyaluron Pure. Special Partner Vikram Tea, Colgate, and Catch Masale. Associate Partner Zouk Bags, airing every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 PM, only on COLORS.

Modi's infiltration claim a cover-up for NDA government's failure: INDIA bloc

(Gns). The INDIA Alliance leaders have said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's theory of Bangladeshi infiltration is a false propaganda to cover up complete failure of Nitish Kumar-BJP government during its 20-year-rule in Bihar and to deprive people of their voting rights.

CPI (ML) General Secretary Comrade Dipankar Bhattacharya said that during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, not a single Bangladeshi infiltrator has been found so far.

He said: "The prime minister is misleading the public. While name of migrant workers, women, and minorities are being removed from the voter list,

Modi Ji is making a failed attempt—just like he did during the Jharkhand elections—to raise the bogey of

RJD MP Sanjay Yadav said that Narendra Modi has been the prime minister for 11 years, while,



Bangladeshi infiltration."

"The truth is that not even a single piece of evidence of infiltration has surfaced to date. Despite this, the government is engaged in false propaganda. This entire exercise is a conspiracy to deprive people of their voting rights," he added.

except for a brief period, his party has been in power in Bihar for the past 20 years.

He said: "If Bangladeshis have infiltrated, it means you are weak, incompetent, and have no understanding of governance. After all, how did infiltrators come into Bihar?

If they did, then 'you' alone are responsible."

Taking a dig at the PM's 'Demography Mission', the RJD leader said that the "prime minister does not understand the demographics of Bihar."

He said: "Bihar is the youngest state in the country. 58% of Bihar's population falls in the 18 to 25-year age group. Despite this, there are only seven colleges per one lakh people in Bihar. There are 534 blocks in Bihar, and 398 of them still don't have a degree college—even though your government has been in power here for 20 years. In the last 10 years, you haven't given Bihar even a single Kendriya Vidyalaya or Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya."

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Visit Gujarat on 25th and 26th August

Gandhinagar, 23 August 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat on 25th and 26th August 2025. During this two-day visit, the prime minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for major development projects across the Revenue and Energy & Petrochemicals Departments. The inauguration will cover five major power distribution projects by Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited (UGVCL) and Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited (GETCO) across Ahmedabad, Mehsana, and Gandhinagar districts, with a total investment of ₹1,122 crore, benefiting 4.25 lakh consumers. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for two state-of-the-art Revenue Department buildings with a combined cost of ₹96 crore: the State

Level Land Record Data Storage Centre in Gandhinagar, estimated at ₹62 crore, and the Stamps and Registration Bhawan in Ahmedabad (West), estimated at ₹34 crore.

The UGVCL projects, implemented as part of the Government of India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and the Normal Development (N.D.) Schemes will modernise and strengthen Gujarat's electricity distribution. In Ahmedabad, a ₹608 crore turnkey project will transition the overhead network underground, enhancing safety, reliability, and aesthetics, reducing consumer complaints and low-voltage issues, and lowering transformer loading, benefiting 2,00,593 consumers.

Mehsana will see a ₹221 crore turnkey project

modernising and under-grounding the network, improving service quality, public safety, and resilience during adverse weather,



benefitting 1,36,072 consumers. In Gandhinagar, a ₹178 crore turnkey project will also shift the distribution network underground, minimising transformer loading, preventing conductor snapping, and ensuring reliable electricity even in challenging conditions, benefiting 86,014 consumers. Together, these projects aim to reduce Feeder Aggregate

Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses to the Pan-India benchmark of 12–15% by 2024–25, eliminate the ACS-ARR gap, and establish a financially sustainable and operationally efficient power distribution system.

Alongside this, two high-capacity substations in Ahmedabad will strengthen the urban electricity supply. The ₹75 crore 66 kV Gota Substation (60 MVA, 3 x 20 MVA transformers) will provide uninterrupted power to 1,634 consumers, while the ₹39 crore 66 kV Chandkheda-II Substation (60 MVA, 3 x 20 MVA transformers) will provide electricity to 1,149 consumers, support new connections, and improve urban power stability. Collectively, these initiatives will benefit 4,25,000 consumers while strengthening Gujarat's electricity distribution infrastructure.

Sanskrit program organized on Sanskrit Day in sanskriti University

Mathura. Sanskrit Day was organized under the aegis of sanskriti Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital in Santosh Memorial Auditorium of Sanskrit University. On this occasion, in a program organized in Sanskrit, the students made the attendees aware by giving presentations related to the antiquity, divinity and prosperous background of Sanskrit language.

During the program, Principal of sanskriti Ayurveda Medical College as the keynote speaker Mohanan M said that the aim of this day is to promote the importance of Sanskrit language, express respect to sages and sages and preserve the ancient linguistic heritage of Indian sanskriti. The Government of India announced to celebrate this day in 1969, to promote the promotion and spread of Sanskrit language.

Culture Ayurvedic

Medical College teacher Sudhi Kumar Mishra said

The program started with Saraswati Vandana.



that Sanskrit is considered to be the mother of all Indian languages and the language of Vedas, Upanishads, religious texts, and mantras. Sanskrit Day is celebrated to highlight the importance of this language. The beginning source of Sanskrit literature is Rishi-Muni, hence this day is celebrated as Rishi Parva and Sanskrit Day.

Students Diya, Avantika, Kajal, Nupur worshiped Maa Saraswati in Sanskrit language. The student recited Ganesh Vandana and Panchratnam by Neelam Bhati. Student Vanshika Chaudhary told in her statement that Sanskrit is considered to be the mother of all Indian languages and the language of Vedas, Upanishads, religious texts, and mantras.

MLA and SDM handed over ration bags filled with household goods to flood victims in Jaisinghpura

Mathura. For the help of flood victims, the district administration is distributing ration kits in different areas. On Friday, people affected by MLA Srikanth Sharma and Joint Magistrate/ SDM Sadar Abhinav J Jain were given ration -filled bags in Jaisinghpura area of the metropolis. A large number of flood victims have taken shelter in the spiritual ashram, whose faces blossomed by receiving everyday household items. On this occasion, MLA Shrikant Sharma said that



MLA Srikanth Sharma and Joint Magistrate/ SDM Sadar Abhinav J Jain giving bags of ration

the Yogi government is very serious about the living affected by the floods. Joint

Magistrate Shri Jain said that ration bags are being given to the victims on the instructions of the district officer, the revenue personnel are on duty in the flood chowk and the area for any inconvenience to any person. All flood victims are being provided with food and other necessary materials of both times continuously. Councilor Rakesh Bhatia Tehsildar Sadhar Jitendra Chandrashekar Verma etc. was present during the ration kit distribution.

“She’s On Duty”: IAF Quashes Reports of Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh’s Capture

(Gns). Months after the government claimed that Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh, India's first and only female Rafale pilot, was not captured by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, the chatter on social media handles has gained momentum regarding her "alleged disappearance".

Singh shot into the limelight way back in 2020 when she was shortlisted for flying Rafale. Earlier she was flying MiG-21 Bison aircraft. Hailing from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Singh got commissioned in the Indian Air Force in 2017, as part of IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots. Following an intru-

sive process, she was shortlisted as a Rafale pilot in 2020.

ejecting from her aircraft, which was purportedly shot down.



During Operation Sindoor, various rumours circulated suggesting that India had lost several fighter jets, including a Rafale. Some reports even alleged that Singh had been captured near Sialkot after

A few days ago, another fake video claiming that IAF Chief, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, visiting the home of the IAF pilot went viral on social media.

Several pro-Pakistan social media accounts,

including verified ones, circulated a 23-second video claiming it showed the IAF Chief at the residence of missing pilot Shivangi Singh. However, PIB Fact Check refuted the claim, clarifying that the footage was from August 14, 2025. The video actually depicts the Air Chief Marshal visiting the family of the late Sergeant Surendra Kumar in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. Sergeant Kumar lost his life in the line of duty during Operation Sindoor.

In a statement issued to The Statesman, the Indian Air Force spokesperson called the reports fake. "Sq'n Ldr Shivangi remains deployed and is performing her operational duties."