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EDITOR : ASHVINKUMAR KESHAVAL RAMI Regd. Office: TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnagar, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380 005. Gujarat, India.

Phone : 90163 33307 (M) 93283 33307, 98253 33307 • Email : garvigujarat2007@gmail.com • Email : garvigujarat2007@yahoo.com • Website : www.garvigujarat.co.in

Ukrainian Envoy Confirms Zelenskyy's Possible India Visit; Modi Pushes Peace Talks

(Gns). Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may travel to India in the near future, with both governments currently working to finalise the dates, Ukrainian Ambassador to India Oleksandr Polishchuk confirmed on Saturday. The visit would follow an invitation extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his trip to Kyiv in August last year.

"In relation to the declaration about the future strategic partnership between India and Ukraine, believe me, we have potential for that. The Indian Prime Minister invited Zelenskyy to come to India. Both sides are working on this. We expect President

Zelenskyy to be in India, definitely. It will be a great achievement in our bilateral relationship... We are trying



to agree on a precise date," Polishchuk told ANI.

Ukrainian Ambassador to India Oleksandr Polishchuk confirmed that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy might visit India soon, following Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's invitation. This comes as Russian President Vladimir Putin is also expected to

visit India before the year's end, as confirmed by NSA Ajit Doval. This development comes shortly after National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, during his Moscow visit earlier this month, confirmed that

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India before the end of the year. The timing is notable, as U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods has nudged New Delhi closer to Moscow and Beijing, with experts suggesting a possible revival of the Russia-India-China (RIC) grouping.

Prime Minister Modi has consistently reiterated that "this is not the era of war," pressing for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. He has held regular conversations with both Putin and Zelenskyy, underlining India's stance as a neutral advocate for peace.

Gujarat has advanced in modern development while overcoming social challenges- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

(Gns). Gandhinagar, 24 August 2025: In the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah virtually inaugurated Sardardham Phase-2 and Shakriben Dahyabhai Patel Kanya Chhatralaya (girls' hostel) in Ahmedabad from Delhi.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the gathering via a pre-recorded video message. He highlighted that Gujarat has overcome social challenges while achieving modern development. He noted that Gujarat once lagged in girls' education, but collective efforts have transformed the scenario. Over the past 25 years,

society has worked together to drive progress.

He emphasised that Sardardham's work is as sacred as its name. The Phase-2 girls' hostel will

and praised the ongoing work in Vadodara, Surat, Mehsana, and other cities, calling Sardardham's efforts commendable. Reflecting on his tenure

infrastructure, education, and technology, resulting in a strong thirst for learning and knowledge that has emerged in every corner of the state. He also addressed the past stigma of female foeticide in Gujarat, noting that campaigns like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" and the "Beta Beti Ek Saman" movement, supported by communities like the Patidars, have eradicated this issue while advancing girls' education.

PM stressed Gujarat's reverence for feminine power, citing deities like Maa Umiya, Maa Khodiyar, Ambaji, and Bahucharaji. He highlighted that Gujarat's daughters now excel in diverse professions, supported by modern hostels.



enable daughters to pursue their dreams, contributing to nation-building and empowering their families. He recalled laying the foundation stone for this hostel

as Gujarat's Chief Minister. He said, "I always believed Gujarat's development is essential for India's growth." Gujarat has made significant progress in modern

Ex-Jharkhand CM Champai Soren Under House Arrest Amid Tribal Land Protest

(Gns). Ranchi: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren on Sunday found himself at the centre of political and tribal unrest after police placed him under house arrest ahead of a farmers' and tribal protest against land acquisition for the RIMS-2 hospital project, with his son and supporters also detained; Soren criticized the government's actions, alleging tribals' land was seized without compensation.

Despite the restrictions, Champai Soren did not hold back his criticism of the state government. He accused the JMM-led administration of dispossessing tribals of their land in Nagri, where the government has begun work on the ₹1,000 crore RIMS-2 hospital project.

Sino-India border trade to be revived through Shipki-La pass in Himachal Pradesh

(Gns). Himachal Pradesh is set to witness revival of cross-border trade as both India and China have agreed to re-open the routes through Shipki-La Pass in the Kinnaur district.

Both countries have also agreed to re-open other two designated trading points Lipulekha Pass and Nathu-La Pass.

They have also agreed to continue and further expand the scale of the Indian pilgrimage to Mount Kailash, Gang Renpoche and Lake Manasarovar from 2026.

With this the state has taken a significant step towards expanding pilgrimage and tourism opportunities with the Union government's approval to open the

Shipki-La route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Along with boosting traditional trade, the pass will also serve as an additional



route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, offering immense opportunities for tourism, cultural exchange, and local economic development.

A government spokesperson said here on Sunday that the Himachal government had been making efforts to resume trade with China through Shipki-La (Kinnaur).

Devendra Fadnavis Hits Back at Raj Thackeray Over Election Fraud Claims

(Gns). Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched a sharp counterattack on Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray after the latter echoed Rahul Gandhi's allegations of large-scale electoral fraud.

Fadnavis dismissed the charge outright, accusing Thackeray of "misleading his supporters" instead of addressing the reasons behind repeated electoral failures. "They are simply trying to console their own people, telling them they were on the verge of victory and lost

only due to a conspiracy. This way their workers don't scatter. But until they stop lying and deceiving people, they will not win," Fadnavis said in a pointed remark.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis criticized Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray for echoing Rahul Gandhi's claims of electoral fraud, dismissing the allegations and accusing Thackeray of misleading supporters after repeated electoral failures while Thackeray stood by the charges and claimed electoral manipulation occurred since 2014.



Seamless Tracks, Boundless Growth Gujarat Powers Journey TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT



Gift of 'Rail' Projects worth more than ₹1400 Crore dedicated to Gujarat



Dedication to the Nation of

Doubling of Mahesana-Palanpur (65 km) Railway Line

Cost: ₹537 crore

- Will pave the way for increased train speeds and the operation of additional rail services.
- Will boost freight transportation, benefiting industries in the Banaskantha, Patan and Mahesana districts.

Gauge Conversion of Rail Line between Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Road (37 km)

Cost: ₹347 crore

- Direct Rail connectivity of Katosan-Kadi-Kalol to Mahesana and Ahmedabad
- Increased Rail connectivity in the region will boost industrial activities

Gauge Conversion of the Bechraji-Ranuj (40 km) Rail Line

Cost: ₹520 crore

- Increased rail operations in the region will lead to growth in both passenger traffic and freight movement.
- The automobile hub will be directly connected to major markets, promoting the region's economic, social and industrial development.

Flagging Off of

Katosan Road -Sabarmati Passenger Train from Kadi

- Daily commuters, workers and students will be benefited
- Direct rail connectivity of Katosan and surrounding areas to Ahmedabad region.

Car-loaded Freight Train from Bechraji

- First dedicated automobile freight train from Bechraji via Ranuj to North India
- Benefits the automobile industry of Mahesana district.

by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

in the august presence of

Acharya Devvrat
Governor, Gujarat

Bhupendrabhai Patel
Chief Minister, Gujarat



25th August, 2025



5:00 pm



Khodaldham Ground, Nikol, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)



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Editorial

Confrontation with Reality

The Supreme Court has now redrawn the battle lines in the country's long and troubled relationship with its street dogs. After weeks of controversy over an earlier directive to confine every stray in the national capital region (NCR) within newly built shelters, the court has shifted course, opting instead for a calibrated balance between public safety and animal welfare. The new order allows healthy, non-aggressive dogs to be sterilised, vaccinated, and returned to their capture sites ~ a return to the globally recognised model of population control that India had already legislated.

At the same time, it insists that rabid or aggressive animals be confined in shelters, and it bans the feeding of strays in public places, requiring municipal bodies to designate proper feeding zones. Adoption has been permitted through civic authorities, but adopted dogs must not be sent back to the streets. This is a significant correction. The earlier blanket directive to round up and cage nearly a million dogs in Delhi alone, within two months, was logistically impossible and morally fraught. It provoked a storm of opposition because such mass confinement risked producing overcrowded shelters, disease outbreaks, and eventual culling. The revised position signals that the judiciary has recognised the limits of state capacity and the dangers of overreach.

Yet the judgment also raises a fresh set of challenges. Enforcing feeding bans in crowded cities is easier written than done. Ensuring that designated feeding areas are created, maintained, and used responsibly will require coordination between civic authorities, resident groups, and animal welfare volunteers. Adoption too, while a humane pathway, will call for rigorous monitoring to prevent abandonment or abuse. And the classification of "aggressive" dogs could quickly become subjective, opening the door to misuse. At its core, the court has placed the burden squarely back on municipal governance. India's urban local bodies have long struggled ~ and often failed ~ to implement sterilisation and vaccination programmes at the scale required.

Funds are routinely underutilised or siphoned off, while waste management, a key driver of stray proliferation, remains woefully inadequate. Why, even getting a dog license for a pet is a challenge in Delhi. Without fixing these basics, even the best-framed judicial orders risk sinking into the familiar cycle of half-measures and neglect. The promise of a national policy on strays, as hinted at by the court, is perhaps the most consequential part of this ruling. Fragmented state-level responses have created inconsistency and confusion, with each crisis spawning litigation instead of coordinated solutions.

A central framework could finally bring uniform standards for sterilisation, vaccination, shelter design, and accountability mechanisms. India stands today not at the end of a dispute, but at a pivot. The court has avoided an unworkable extremity and steered the issue back toward a humane middle path. The task now is for governments ~ national and local alike ~ to treat this reprieve not as closure, but as a call to act decisively where they have long faltered.

Europe shops for a new Iron Curtain

In 1946, Winston Churchill announced an "iron curtain" had descended across Europe "from Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic". This time it is the west that is building the barriers. Every European nation bordering Russia is accelerating plans to construct hundreds of miles of fortified border to defend against possible Russian aggression. The reasons are clear. The post-cold war European security framework ~ which relied on strengthening international institutions and trade, Nato expansion and US military guarantees ~ is being eroded.

Sharing an 832-mile border with Russia, Finland proposed building a wall in 2023 that would cover about 15 percent of its border, costing over US\$400 million and with hopes that it will be completed by 2026. Motivated in part by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, but also due to a rise of Russians fleeing to Finland to escape conscription, Finland's government passed a law in July 2023 to build stronger and taller fences, as the

previous wooden fences were designed only to prevent livestock from crossing. Eight border posts were erected (including north of the Arctic Circle) alongside greater obstacles in the southernmost strip of the country.

There are even defences being erected in remote areas of north-eastern Finland, where in the not-too-distant past, a steady flow of Russian and Finns would regularly come and go across the border to buy groceries. And Finland is not the first. In August 2015, Estonia announced that it would build a fence along its eastern border with Russia, after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea. In 2024, the Baltic states and Poland proposed to further fortify their borders with a defensive wall. It would cover 434 miles, costing over £2 billion. Plans and construction are now speeding up as leaders of the Baltic states worry that the prospects of a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia could mean Moscow redirects its military towards them. Latvia

will invest about US\$350 million over the next few years to reinforce its 240-mile border with Russia, while Lithuania is planning a 30-mile defence line



against a possible Russian invasion.

Poland has started building a permanent fence on its border with Belarus as part of its defence against Moscow's potential allies. These walls will also be accompanied by other physical barriers such as antitank ditches, 15-tonne concrete dragon's teeth (which can stop Russian tanks advancing), massive concrete blocks and pyramids, roadblocks, massive metal gates, mined fields and blocked bridgeheads.

states are also building more than 1,000 bunkers, ammunition depots and supply shelters to further protect the 600 miles of territory that borders Russia. Bunkers are expected to be about 377 square feet, capable of housing up to ten soldiers and being able to withstand artillery strikes from Russia.

The Baltic nations plus Finland and Poland also all announced in 2025 that they would withdraw from the 1997 international treaty banning antiperson-

Agricultural Resource Competition

need to replace parts or buy special kits to make older vehicles compatible. Insurance gaps add another layer of unease, as policies often do not cover damage from non-compliant fuel use. For a nation of two-wheelers and small cars, these concerns are not trivial. The larger worry, however, extends beyond the road. Ethanol production depends heavily on crops like sugarcane, maize, and increasingly even rice. This raises



uncomfortable questions about whether a poor and populous country can afford to use food to power its vehicles.

The diversion of maize into ethanol has already made India a net importer for the first time in decades, pushing up feed costs for the poultry industry. Allocating rice stocks meant for subsidised distribution into ethanol manufacture risks undermining food security in a nation where millions still struggle with hunger. There is also the environmental dimension. Sugarcane, which currently provides a major share of India's ethanol, is notoriously water-intensive.

Expanding its cultivation risks exacerbating groundwater stress in already fragile regions. A shift to maize may be more balanced, but it still requires large increases in yield or new farmland ~ both of which could squeeze out oilseeds, pulses, and other vital crops. The prospect of devoting vast new tracts of land to fuel production sits uneasily with the demands of nutrition, ecological balance, and rural livelihoods. Policymakers face a delicate balancing act.

The E20 push has proven India's ability to move quickly on climate commitments, but racing further to E25 or E30 with-

out recalibrating may create new crises. A more prudent course may be to consolidate at E10 or E20, while aggressively exploring next-generation biofuels from non-food sources ~ such as crop residues, algae, and waste. These would offer the same emissions benefits without competing with the dinner plate. India's biofuel drive represents progress, but progress must be measured against sustainability. The true test is not whether ethanol cuts emissions today, but whether it does so without mortgaging tomorrow's food security and environmental health.

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, Umesh Kushwaha, Shrawan 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 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, 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.

Emerging Faultlines

The return of Donald Trump to the White House has dramatically reshaped the global geopolitical landscape, particularly in the realms of trade and strategic alignments. While some of these changes may be guided by his broader ambition of making America "great again", there is also a growing sentiment ~ both within and outside the United States ~ that his actions are shaped as much by transactional and personal motivations as by strategic vision. At the heart of these shifts lies a reinvigorated tariff war, which has not only targeted traditional rivals like China but also extended to strategic partners such as India and members of the BRICS bloc.

Trump's first tenure was marked by a clear foreign policy orientation that sought to contain the rise of China. Recognizing China as the principal challenger to American supremacy, his administration sought to forge new alignments in the Indo-Pacific, bolstering ties with countries such as Japan, Australia, and India to act as counterweights. The strategic language was often couched in terms of preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific, in which the U.S. portrayed itself as a Pacific power with legitimate stakes in the region's balance of power.

However, Trump's second stint has seen a notable pivot: economic protectionism now trumps strategic consistency, and trade wars are being used not only as economic instruments but as tools of geopolitical leverage. The imposition of tariffs on India ~ America's largest democratic partner and a crucial player in the Indo-Pacific ~ is a startling manifestation of this shift. On August 7, President Trump signed an Executive Order imposing an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, raising the overall tariff to a staggering 50 per cent. The rationale given was India's continued purchase of Russian oil, which the White House claimed represented an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to American national security and foreign policy interests.

Yet this reasoning appears riddled with inconsistencies and accusations of double standards. Data shows that India accounted for only 13 per cent of Russia's fossil fuel revenue since the start of the Ukraine war, whereas the European Union ~ despite its anti-Russia rhetoric ~ contributed 23 per cent. Still, the EU has been spared punitive tariffs, while India faces the economic brunt. This selective application of punitive measures suggests that the logic behind the tariffs is not solely grounded in principled foreign policy. It increasingly looks like an attempt to pressure countries that have limited leverage over the United States.

Unlike China, which retaliated against earlier tariffs by banning the export of rare earth minerals ~ forcing Washington to reduce its tariff burden ~ India lacks such economic levers. With a vast population dependent on agriculture and dairy, New Delhi has long resisted opening up these sensitive sectors. Trump's insistence that India must make concessions in these very sectors adds further strain, as such demands are politically unacceptable in the Indian domestic context. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has responded with firmness, making it clear that India will not compromise the interests of its farmers, fishermen, and dairy producers.

Speaking at a public event, he acknowledged that India might have to pay a heavy price for its stance, but asserted his readiness to bear it.

This defiant posture marks a significant deterioration in US-India trade ties, especially since Washington has simultaneously ruled out any further trade talks until the matter



is resolved. For a relationship once touted as among the most consequential of the 21st century, the fallout is deeply disconcerting. What adds to the complexity is Trump's seemingly contradictory behavior towards other global actors. His previous hostility toward NATO and its European members has, in this tenure, given way to more transactional economic deals with both the EU and the UK. He has managed to extract higher defense spending from them, fulfilling one of his long-standing demands.

Meanwhile, Trump's initial soft posture toward Russia ~ based on the belief that he could persuade President Putin to end the war ~ has hardened as that expectation failed to materialize. Yet, rather than directly penalizing Russia, Trump has chosen to exert pressure on countries like India that maintain energy ties with Moscow. Even more puzzling is Trump's stance toward China. Despite earlier confrontations, he now appears to be exploring a

potential trade deal with Beijing. There is speculation that he may even visit China, signaling a thaw that could have wide-ranging geopolitical ramifications. This approach stands in stark contrast to the harsh tariff measures directed at India and Brazil, both of which are BRICS members.

Trump has also described BRICS as an anti-UMS bloc and blamed the group for pushing de-dollarization ~ claims that are contested and oversimplified, but serve to justify further economic penalties. The net effect of these shifting positions is a growing perception that Trump's foreign and trade policies lack coherence and are driven more by short-term gains and political optics than by long-term strategic thinking. For India, this unpredictability represents a significant challenge. The country must now navigate an increasingly volatile external environment in which even its traditional partnerships can no longer be taken for granted. The economic consequences are already visible.

According to Moody's, the new tariffs could slow India's GDP growth by 0.3 percentage points in FY2025-26, pulling it down from 6.3 per cent to around 6 per cent. Key sectors like electronics manufacturing may see reduced foreign investment due to the tariff gap compared to other Asia-Pacific economies. Investor sentiment is weakening, with foreign portfolio investors pulling out \$2 billion in July and nearly \$1 billion more in early August. Although the stock markets have shown some resilience, the broader trend is one of caution and concern.

Meanwhile, China's



VIKSIT BHARAT
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As part of the
Urban Development Year 2025 celebrations,

Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

of Development Projects
Worth **₹5,477 Crores** by

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Monday, 25th August 2025 | 5:00 PM

Venue: Khodaldham Ground, Nikol, Ahmedabad

Esteemed Presence

Shri Acharya Devvrat
Hon'ble Governor, Gujarat

Guest of Honour

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

Special Presence

Shri C. R. Patil
Hon'ble Union Minister,
Ministry of Jal Shakti, India



Railway facilities
worth ₹1404 crore across the
state under Ministry of Railways,
Government of India

◆ Doubling of Mahesana—Palanpur Rail
line to reduce congestion on
Ahmedabad—Delhi route

◆ Conversion into Broad Gauge of
Becharaji - Ranuj and Katosan Road -
Kadi - Kalol rail lines will boost local
industry and provide better logistics

◆ Direct Passenger train from
Katosan—Kadi—Kalol to Sabarmati,
and for the first time, a freight train
from Becharaji via Ranuj to North India

**Urban Development and
Urban Housing Department along
with Revenue Department initiates
projects worth ₹2,644 Crore for
Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar**

◆ Expansion of Sardar Patel Ring Road into
a 6-lane highway at a benchmark
investment of ₹1,624 crore

◆ Redevelopment of Housing and slum for
thousands of families

◆ New drainage system, sewerage network
and water distribution stations

◆ Beautification of Law Garden and other
prominent public areas

◆ New roads and flyovers to ease traffic
congestion

◆ Construction of a Modern Data Centre and
Technology Hub

**Energy and Petrochemicals
Department Projects
worth ₹1,122 crore to
Enhance Public Utilities**

◆ Modernisation of
electricity infrastructure for
enhanced power supply

◆ Construction of 66 kV Gota
Sub-Station and 2 Sub-Stations of
66 kV at Chandkheda

**Roads and Buildings Department
initiates smooth transit
Projects worth ₹307 Crore**

◆ Resurfacing and furnishing of
Viramgam—Ahmedabad Road and
Kadi—Thol—Sanand Road

◆ Construction of
Ahmedabad—Mehsana—Palanpur
Road to boost industries and
employment

◆ Expansion of Bapa Sitaram
Junction to GIFT City Road

“It has always been Gujarat’s resolve
that the development of the State
leads to the development of the Nation
—a Viksit Gujarat for a Viksit Bharat.”

— Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



Roadshow
Route:

▶ Haridarshan Crossroads ▶ Rajchandra Society Crossroads ▶ Mango Plus Cinema Crossroads ▶ Khodaldham Nikol Programme Venue

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN MUMBAI CENTRAL & BHAVNAGAR TERMINUS

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

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the train is as under:

Train No. 09087/09088	Mumbai Central – Bhavnagar Terminus Special [2 Trips]
Train No. 09087	Mumbai Central – Bhavnagar Terminus
Special will depart from Mumbai Central on Wednesday, 27th August, 2025 at 12:00 hrs and will reach Bhavnagar Terminus at 05:45 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09088 Bhavnagar Terminus –	

Mumbai Central Special will depart from Bhavnagar Terminus on Thursday, 28th August, 2025 at 17: 45 hrs and will reach Mumbai Central at 07:30 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Botad, Dhola, Songadh, and Sihor (Gujarat) station in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC -3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

The booking for Train Nos. 09087 & 09088 opens at 15: 00 hrs on 25th August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC web-site. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

65-Year-Old Indian Man Among Five Dead in New York Tour Bus Crash

By Madhuri Adnal
Time Updated: Sunday, August 24, 2025, 8:25 [IST]
Google Oneindia News

A tragic bus accident on Interstate 90 near Buffalo claimed the lives of five individuals, including an Indian national. The was returning to New York City from Niagara Falls with 54 passengers when it crashed. The victims included Shankar Kumar Jha from Bihar and others from New Jersey and China, as reported by ABC News.

During a bus accident on Interstate 90 near Buffalo, five people, including an Indian national Shankar Kumar Jha, died after the bus, carrying 54 passengers from Niagara Falls, lost control and overturned; the incident caused the closure of the Thruway for several hours.

New York State Police Trooper James O'Callaghan explained that the bus lost control while travelling eastbound, veered into the median, over-corrected, and ended up in a ditch. The incident occurred at 12:22 pm local time on Friday. The crash resulted in the closure of the Thruway in both directions for several hours.

Investigation and Response

Authorities have ruled out mechanical failure and driver impairment as causes of the crash. The investigation continues to determine what led to this tragic event. New York Governor Kathy Hochul expressed her condolences and stated that her office is working closely with state police and other agencies involved in the response.

According to Major Andre Ray of New York State Police Troop T, many passengers were ejected or thrown around when the bus overturned. Five people died at the scene, while others remain hospitalised. Fortunately, no one else is in a life-threatening condition.

The bus was operated by M&Y Tour Inc., based in Staten Island, and carried passengers aged between 1 and 74 years old. Initial reports mistakenly included a child among the fatalities; however, this was later corrected. All passengers sustained some form of injury during the crash.

The accident left the bus severely damaged, with numerous passengers ejected upon impact. Despite this, the driver survived without life-threatening injuries. Authorities continue to investigate all aspects surrounding this unfortunate incident.

Impact on Traffic

The crash forced a temporary closure of Interstate 90's eastbound lanes until approximately 8:30 pm on Friday evening, about eight hours after the incident occurred. Westbound lanes reopened earlier at around 5 pm, according to The Buffalo News.



Sourav Ganguly Takes Charge As Head Coach Of Pretoria Capitals Ahead Of SA20 League Season

(Gns).

Sourav Ganguly, the former captain of the Indian cricket team, has been appointed as the head coach of Pretoria Capitals for the upcoming SA20 League season. The franchise announced this news on social media, expressing their excitement by stating, "The Prince is all set to bring a royal flair to the Capitals camp! We are ecstatic to announce Sourav Ganguly as our new head coach." This marks Ganguly's debut as a head coach for any professional cricket team.

Ganguly will be taking over from Jonathan Trott, a former England cricketer. The franchise expressed gratitude towards Trott on X (formerly Twitter), saying, "Jonathan Trott, forever grateful for your leadership and unwavering dedication to the team. All the best on your next adventure! Once a Capital, always a Capital!"

Former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the head coach of Pretoria Capitals for the upcoming SA20 League season, marking his debut as a head coach for a professional cricket team. Ganguly transitioned into administrative roles. He notably served as the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and is currently the Chair of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee. Additionally, he holds the position of President at the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

His involvement in franchise cricket management includes being Director of Cricket for Delhi Capitals in both IPL and WPL. He initially joined Delhi Capitals as a mentor in 2019 but left to become BCCI president before returning to the franchise after his tenure ended.

Upcoming Challenges and Opportunities

The SA20 League's 2026 edition has been rescheduled to avoid overlapping with the Men's T20 World Cup that year, which will take place in India and Sri Lanka. The league will now run from December 26 to January 25. As Pretoria Capitals' head coach, Ganguly's immediate task is selecting top players during the player auction scheduled for September 9.

This role with Pretoria Capitals represents Ganguly's first comprehensive engagement as a head coach for any professional cricket team. His previous experience primarily involved administrative and mentorship roles within cricket organizations.



Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Announces Land Parcel for Assam at Colaba, Mumbai; Lease of 60 years by Mumbai Port Authority

(Gns).

In a boost to Assam's development journey, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Shri Sarbananda Sonowal today announced that FOUR bighas of land have been allotted by the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA) on lease for a period of 60 years to the Government of Assam. Located at the prime real estate of Mumbai's Colaba, the said parcel of land paves the way for the state to develop essential public infrastructure for the direct benefit of its citizens.

The decision follows a written request from the Chief Secretary of Assam to the Union Ministry, seeking allocation of land for a dedicated centre or infrastructure project that can serve the long-term needs of the people. With today's announcement, the PM Shri Narendra Modi Government has reaffirmed its commitment to support Assam in designing and implementing people-centric projects in the fields of critical infrastructure that will serve generations to come. The project will be developed in line with the needs and aspirations of the people of Assam. Located at the heart of personally spoken to Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma regarding the development. "The Chief Minister expressed deep satisfaction and appreciated the Government of India's support. He termed this step as a vital contribution to Assam's growth story and a milestone in our shared commitment to improving the lives of the people," Shri Sarbananda Sonowal added.

While the specific plans for development are under consideration, officials indicated that the focus will be on building infrastructure with high public utility — ranging from healthcare and educational needs to welfare and social service facilities as well as acting as an incubation centre for entrepreneurs.

Mumbai in Colaba, this will plug a big aspiration of the people of Assam to have an access in the Mumbai city that can serve the needs of people, be it patients, be it students or even entrepreneurs."

The Union Minister further informed that he had



DRDO Successfully Carries Out Maiden Flight Test of Indigenous IADWS Air Defence System

(Gns).

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the maiden flight tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) on 23 August 2025 at around 12:30 hrs, off the coast of Odisha.

The IADWS is an advanced, multi-layered air defence system designed to strengthen India's air defence capabilities. It integrates three key components: the indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), the Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles, and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).

On August 23, 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the initial flight tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off Odisha's coast, which comprises the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), VSHORADS missiles, and a Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).

The successful test demonstrates India's progress in developing cutting-edge, indigenous defence technologies that combine missile-based and directed-energy interception systems to counter aerial threats across multiple ranges.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh extended his congratulations to DRDO, the Indian Armed Forces, and the defence industry for their pivotal role in the successful development and testing of IADWS.



Vande Bharat Express Gets Schedule Update: New Stop Added on Mumbai-Gandhinagar Route

(Gns).

The Vande Bharat Express, India's third of its kind, has had its schedule updated. This semi-high-speed train, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 September 2022, is managed by the Western Railway zone. It connects Mumbai Central with Gandhinagar Capital, providing a quick and comfortable travel option for passengers.

Covering a distance of 521 km, the Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express (train numbers 20901/20902) operates six days a week. The train does not run on Wednesdays. It completes the journey in just 6 hours and 30 minutes, making it one of the fastest trains on this route.

The Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express, launched on September 30, 2022, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, now includes a stop at Navsari.

The stations where it stops are Borivali, Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Vadodara Junction, Anand Junction, and Ahmedabad Junction.

Passengers can board the train from Mumbai Central at 06:00 hrs (train number 20901), with an arrival time at Gandhinagar Capital set for 12:25 hrs. In the opposite direction (train number 20902), it departs Gandhinagar Capital at 14:05 hrs and reaches Mumbai Central by 20:30 hrs.

operating six days a week, excluding Wednesdays, completing the 521 km journey in 6 hours and 30 minutes with two fare categories: AC Chair Car (Rs 1,285) and Executive Chair Car (Rs 2,465).

Route and Stoppages

The train now includes an additional stop at Navsari, bringing the total number of halts to eight.



Israeli Military Conducts Airstrikes On Yemen's Capital Sanaa Following Houthi Missile Launches

(Gns).

The Israeli military has launched airstrikes on Yemen's capital, Sanaa, targeting an oil facility and a power plant, as confirmed by both Israeli and Yemeni officials. The Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV reported that the attack also included a strike on a presidential palace, which Israel claims is part of a "military complex." This escalation follows the Houthis' recent missile launch against Israel.

Escalating Tensions in the Region

At least two individuals lost their lives, and 35 others sustained injuries due to these attacks, according to Al Masirah. The Israeli military stated that these strikes were in retaliation for repeated assaults by the Houthi regime on Israel, including missile and drone launches. The Houthis have vowed to continue their support for Gaza despite these attacks.

Israeli military airstrikes targeted an oil facility, a power plant, and a presidential palace in Yemen's Sanaa, resulting in at least two deaths and 35 injuries, according to Al Masirah TV, in retaliation for Houthi missile launches against Israel; both sides continue to exchange hostilities.

Switch To Shorts

Footage verified by Al Jazeera depicted flames and smoke rising over Sanaa following the strikes. A Houthi military official claimed their air defences managed to "neutralise most of the Israeli enemy aircraft," forcing them to retreat. The Houthis remain resolute in their stance against Israel's actions.

Houthi Response and Allegations

Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a Houthi official, stated that Israeli aggression would not deter their support for Palestinians. He emphasised their commitment with the words: "The issue is settled for us: either eternity in heaven or eternity in hell." Abed al-Thawr from the Houthi Defence Ministry dismissed Israel's claims of targeting military sites as falsehoods.

Al-Thawr told Al Jazeera that the presidential palace struck had been abandoned long ago. He described Israel's actions as barbaric, accusing them of targeting civilian infrastructure to inflict suffering on Yemenis. The Government of Change and Reconstruction in Sanaa condemned the attack as a "war crime."

Continued Conflict and International Reactions

The Yemeni government accused Israel of trying to create a "fake victory" by showcasing smoke columns above Sanaa. They alleged that with American backing, Israel is waging an open war against Arab and Muslim nations. For over a month, Israel has been bombing Yemeni power plants and ports.

Last week, an Israeli naval strike hit a power station in Sanaa. On Friday, the Houthis announced they had launched a hypersonic missile and two drones at Israel.



Lok sabha speaker to lead indian parliamentary delegation at the 68th commonwealth parliamentary conference, in bridgetown, barbados from 5 to 12 october 2025

(Gns).

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla will lead an Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), in Bridgetown, Barbados from 5-12 October 2025.

In this regard, Shri Birla today chaired an inter ministerial briefing meeting at Parliament House premises, in which officers from different ministries briefed the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies from across India, about various events of the conference.

Apart from Lok Sabha Speaker and Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha Shri Harivansh and Presiding Officers and Secretaries of State and Union Territory Legislatures across India will represent the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Strengthening our Institutions to Support Democracy

- Workshop B: Leveraging Technology: Enhancing Democracy through Digital
- Workshop C: A Look Ahead to CHOGM 2026: Championing the Human Factor from a Gender and Accessibility Lens
- Workshop D: Climate

Commonwealth: A Global Partner'.

In addition, members of Indian Parliamentary Delegation will be taking part in the following seven thematic workshops:

- Workshop A: Transformations and Tackling the Digital Divide
- Workshop C: A Look Ahead to CHOGM 2026: Championing the Human Factor from a Gender and Accessibility Lens
- Workshop D: Climate

change and its threat to Global Health: Finding Sustainable Solutions

- Workshop E: Building Trust and Transparency in Democracy: Financial Transparency in Parliaments and Elections
- Workshop F: National Parliaments vs Provincial, Territorial and Devolved Legislatures: Protecting and Preserving the Separation of Powers
- Workshop G: The Role of the Commonwealth in Good Governance, Multilateralism and International Relations

In addition to the General Assembly and Workshops, there will be a Youth Roundtable on the topic: Staying Safe and Free to Thrive: Empowering Young People to Overcome Modern Challenges - From Gang Violence to Cyber-Bullying.

