



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

Swadeshi and Atmanirbhar Bharat: The Cornerstone of Building Viksit Bharat – Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Gandhinagar, 25 August 2025: The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, expressing unwavering confidence in the people of India, has resolutely stated that Swadeshi (Indigenous) Aatmanirbhar Bharat is the cornerstone of building Viksit Bharat. He emphasised that in the coming years, every citizen will champion the mantra of 'Vocal for Local,' embracing indigenous products and practices. By 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of independence, it will undoubtedly stand as Viksit Rashtra.

As part of the celebrations marking 20 years of urban development under the 'Viksit Gujarat, Viksit Bharat' initiative, the Prime Minister, from Ahmedabad,

in the presence of Gujarat's Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil, and senior state ministers



Shri Kanubhai Desai, Shri Rushikesh Patel, and Shri Jagdish Vishwakarma, dedicated development projects worth ₹5477 crore to Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Mehsana.

Of these, Ahmedabad received development projects worth ₹3125 crore, including the inauguration of a ₹608 crore electricity dis-

tribution system project by UGVCL, the dedication of slum redevelopment at Sector-3, Ramapir Tekra, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) ISSR component at a cost

exceeding ₹133 crore, the commissioning of 66kV sub-stations at Chandkheda and Gota, and the inauguration of the Viramgam-Khudad road. Additionally, foundation stones were laid for a stormwater drainage system, a Stamps and Registration Bhavan in West Ahmedabad, and the expansion of Sardar Patel Ring Road into a six-lane corridor under the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

In Gandhinagar, development projects worth ₹555 crore were inaugurated and their foundation stones laid. Mehsana was gifted projects worth ₹1796 crore, including railway development works costing ₹1404 crore and the flag-off of two trains. Furthermore,

PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

(Gns). The Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Hon'ble Shri Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, called on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (August 25, 2025).

Welcoming Prime Minister Rabuka and his delegation at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President fondly recalled her meeting with him during her State Visit to Fiji in August 2024, as well as the beautiful traditional welcome extended to her by the indigenous tribal elders. She also recalled her interactions with members of the vibrant Indian origin community and appreciated

the vital role they play in deepening understanding and friendship between the two countries.

Underlining the long-standing relationship between India and Fiji, characterized by strong people-to-people ties, the President said that the contributions of the Girmitiya community have been significant in not only upholding our strong bonds but also shaping Fiji's multicultural identity, diverse society and economy.

She added that as part of our modern and multi-faceted partnership, India is privileged to partner in the socio-economic development of Fiji with a particular focus on Fijian priori-

ties such as health, capacity building and training, and climate resilience.

The President stated that India remains committed to strengthening its relations and development partnership with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), among which Fiji remains a special partner. She was happy to note that an MoU on establishing a Super-Speciality hospital in Fiji has been signed today, marking a milestone in our shared vision for enhanced healthcare cooperation.

The President said that capacity building has always been an important pillar of India-Fiji relations, including through the ITEC training programmes for Fijian officials in Indian

institutions. She noted that digital technologies have brought about a revolution in financial inclusion in India, and that we would be happy to share with Fiji our experiences in initiatives such as UPI payment systems, 'Jan Dhan', and Aadhar.

The President was happy to note that the government of Fiji has prioritized strengthening relations with India, which is evident in the strong momentum in our engagements in recent times. Both leaders expressed confidence that this visit will open new avenues for cooperation, which will benefit the people of both countries.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan chairs 56th Meeting of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Held at IIT Delhi

(Gns). The 56th Meeting of the Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) was convened on 25th August 2025 at IIT Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education. The Council unanimously resolved to take forward PM's vision of 'Atmanirbharta se Samridha Bharat' across its all stakeholders.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan emphasised positioning IIT education as a catalyst for an Atmanirbhar and Samridha Bharat. He stressed the PM's directive that the country is not aiming for incremental change but for quantum jump and encouraged the IITs to take lead in this direction. He specifically urged the IITs to promote Indian languages by introducing regional languages in addition to English as the medium of instruction of courses for

inclusive growth. He highlighted that IITs must produce job creators, not job seekers, by solving real-world problems, and promoting translational research in critical technologies of national importance.

Underscoring the transformative role of IITs in advancing technological self-reliance and global leadership, The Minister pointed to their growing impact on entrepreneurship and innovation, aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of Reform, Perform, Transform. With over 6,000 start-ups, 56 unicorns, and nearly 5,000 patents, IITs have emerged as engines of economic growth and symbols of India's aspirations in the Amrit Kaal. Supported by initiatives such as the PM Research Fellowship, Centres of

excellence in AI, and vibrant research parks, IITs are driving world-class



research and industry partnerships.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sukanta Majumdar, Minister of State for Education and DoNER underlined the pivotal role of IITs in shaping India's higher education and innovation ecosystem. He emphasized that IITs are not just centres of learning but engines of Innovation, Inclusion, and Transformation, driving India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047. Highlighting their global

impact, the Minister said IITs have produced world-class technologists, entrepreneurs, and leaders who are transforming industries and societies worldwide. He noted that with 23 IITs, international campuses, and a thriving startup ecosystem, IITs are at the forefront of research, innovation, and nation-building, ensuring India continues to R.I.S.E. through Research, Innovation, Skills, and Entrepreneurship.

The meeting also witnessed the participation of dignitaries including Members of Parliament Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera and Shri Tanuj Punia, Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman of ISRO; Dr. Sridhar Vembu, CEO of Zoho Corporation; Shri Senapathy 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of the Council of IISc Bangalore; Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman-Executive Committee, NAAC and Chairman

Haryana CM announces govt jobs for family members of 1984 anti-Sikh riots victims

(Gns). Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday announced government jobs for the family members of those who lost their lives in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Saini made the announcement during the Monsoon session of the Haryana Legislative Assembly. According to the state government's data, 121 people from Haryana were killed in the 1984 riots.

Earlier this year, the Delhi Government had also distributed job letters



to family members of victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

These appointment letters were distributed by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha

Gupta and Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa at an event in New Delhi.

Thousands of people belonging to the Sikh community were killed in the

1984 riots that broke out in Delhi and across the country following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards.

The ruling BJP often claims that the anti-Sikh riots were organised by the Congress party.

In February this year, former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar was convicted by Delhi's Rouse Avenue court in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case linked to the killing of a father-son duo in the Saraswati Vihar area during the riots.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome at Ahmedabad Airport

Gandhinagar, 25 August 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who arrived in Gujarat on a two-day visit, was accorded a warm welcome at Ahmedabad Airport by Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel.

During his visit to Gujarat, the Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development

projects worth several crores under the vision of Gujarat.

On his arrival, Union



Viksit Bharat, Viksit Minister and BJP State

President Shri C.R. Patil, Chief Secretary of the State Shri Pankaj Joshi, Director General of Police Shri Vikas Sahay, and Additional Chief Secretary of GAD Smt. Sunaina Tomar, Air Marshal S. Srinivas, Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Shri G.S. Malik, Chief Protocol Officer Shri Jvalant Trivedi, and Ahmedabad Collector Shri Sujit Kumar, along with other senior officials, also welcomed him.

Amit Shah Slams Opposition Over VP Candidate, Salwa Judum Verdict, 130th Amendment Bill

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a sharp attack on the Opposition while speaking on a range of issues including Vice Presidential candidate Sudershan Reddy, the resignation of former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and the upcoming 130th Amendment Bill.

Referring to the INDIA bloc's Vice Presidential pick, Shah accused Sudershan Reddy of weakening tribal rights and aiding the survival of Naxalism. Speaking to ANI, Shah said, "He rejected Salwa Judum and ended the right of self-defence of tribals. Because of this, Naxalism lasted for more than two decades in this country."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah criticized the Opposition on various issues, including Vice Presidential candidate Sudershan Reddy, the resignation of former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and the 130th Amendment Bill, clarifying the government's stance and expressing confidence in the bill's passage while questioning the Opposition's strategies.

At that time, Naxalism

was breathing its last. The tribals formed Salwa Judum to protect themselves. The Supreme Court rejected it. After this, the schools that were destroyed due to Naxalites, CRPF and security forces were present in those schools. They threw everyone out overnight by issuing an order. There were attacks on security forces at many places. Rahul Gandhi should answer these two judgments more than Sudershan Reddy..."

The 2011 Supreme Court ruling, authored by Justices Reddy and S.S. Nijjar, had declared the use of tribal youth as Special Police Officers in anti-Maoist operations unconstitutional and ordered the disbanding of Salwa Judum, a controversial Chhattisgarh-based anti-Naxal militia.

Questioning the Opposition's choice, Shah added, "...I believe leftist ideology must have been the criterion (for selecting Sudershan Reddy)."

Rejecting attempts to link the NDA's Vice Presidential candidate to

the RSS, Shah said, "The Prime Minister has a connection with RSS, I also



have a connection with RSS. Has the country chosen us because we are from RSS? Is having connection with RSS a minus point? Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Advani ji, Modi ji are also connected with RSS..."

On speculation that the choice was aimed at Tamil Nadu, Shah clarified, "No, it is not like that... It is natural for the Vice Presidential candidate to come from the South because the President was from the East, the Prime Minister was from the West and the North. It should not be seen from this perspective. CP Radhakrishnan has had a very long political career. He has been a member of Parliament twice, the President of our party,

Governor of Jharkhand, Telangana, Pondicherry, Maharashtra..."

On Jagdeep Dhankhar's Resignation

Responding to questions over former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, Shah dismissed Opposition criticism. He said, "...Baat ka batangad nahi banana chahiye' (don't make a fuss about it). Dhankhar ji was on a constitutional post and during his tenure, he did good work according to the constitution. He has resigned due to his personal health problem. One should not try to stretch the issue too much and find something..."

Shah reiterated, "Dhankhar Sahab's resignation letter is self-explanatory. He has resigned citing his health, and he has thanked ministers, the Prime Minister and all the members from his heart for his good tenure..."

On Rahul Gandhi and Opposition Outreach

The Home Minister also took a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, remarking that there is a big difference between managing a programme and engaging with people.

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Editorial

Information Warfare

The guns may have fallen silent along the Thai-Cambodian border, but the battle has not ended. Instead, it has shifted to a different front ~ one where perception, rhetoric and propaganda are the decisive weapons. The fragile ceasefire now holds not because the two neighbors have found common ground, but because both are seeking to win the argument in the court of global opinion and in the hearts of their own citizens. In this contest, Cambodia appears to have seized the initiative. With a tightly controlled political system, centralised leadership, and a commanding voice on social media, Phnom Penh has portrayed itself as both victim and defender of sovereignty. Images, allegations and emotional appeals have flooded the information space, often regardless of factual accuracy. What matters is not the truth of each claim but the speed and resonance with which it is delivered. Thailand, in contrast, has been on the back foot. Its government, weakened by internal political divisions and an uneasy relationship with its military, has struggled to project a coherent message. While Cambodian voices sing in unison, Thailand's statements have been scattered across different ministries and military units, often dry and technical in tone. In an era where narratives travel faster than facts, this slow and fragmented approach has cost Bangkok dearly. At the heart of this confrontation lies history. The disputed territory is not just about lines on a map but about memories of humiliation and national pride. Cambodia recalls an empire fractured and diminished by neighbours and foreign powers. Thailand remembers the concessions it made to colonial powers in the last century and still bristles at the 1962 international ruling over the Preah Vihear temple. These stories have become inseparable from questions of sovereignty, ensuring that compromise is framed as betrayal. The stakes, however, are not limited to symbols. Border clashes have displaced communities, injured soldiers, and endangered livelihoods. Landmine accusations and artillery exchanges have left scars both physical and political. Meanwhile, the mass departure of Cambodian workers from Thailand highlights how quickly nationalist fervour can spill into economic pain. What makes the present situation so perilous is the widening gap between perception and reality. Cambodia has successfully internationalised the conflict, taking it to global institutions, while Thailand insists it must be resolved bilaterally. Each step deepens the stalemate, hardening nationalist positions on both sides. Ultimately, this conflict illustrates how modern wars need not be fought only with bullets and bombs. The real struggle is over legitimacy, narrative and identity. Unless leaders in Bangkok and Phnom Penh find the courage to rise above historical grievances and nationalist pressures, the ceasefire will remain fragile, the distrust will deepen, and the “silent” war of words will continue to carry the seeds of future violence.

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 defen-



sive 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.

(Gns). Election Commission (ECI) has played a crucial role in institutionalizing democratic procedures in India and continues to enjoy public trust and respect. Even with its recent popularity, the ECI faces criticism from opposition parties regarding the revision of electoral rolls. However, it has been accused of being susceptible to EVM manipulation on numerous occasions. On 24 June, 2025, the ECI revealed plans for a Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which includes conducting door-to-door checks to update voter lists by removing those who are ineligible or deceased, relocated, and possibly 'illegal migrant' voters.

Bihar is the first testing ground for this SIR; nearly 6.6 per cent of voters' names, totaling 65 lakh people, were struck off the electoral rolls. This omission opened the door to criticism, and Bihar's opposition sought help from the Supreme Court, which dismissed the complaints, citing constitutional and legal reasons for the project. Opposition parties like RJD, TMC, Congress, and others took to the streets of Delhi to protest against the 'alleged conspiracy of disenfranchising the poor, migrant, and marginalized people' in connivance with the BJP. The conspiracy theory behind the ECI drive served as a unifying force for them, although they differ in the importance they attach to the issues.

The TMC has criticized a supposed hidden plan to bring in the NRC through voter list revisions, while the RJD fears that many legitimate voters from disadvantaged and migrant groups could lose their right to vote. Some state government employees in Bihar and West Bengal faced punitive action for dereliction of their official responsibilities, drawing criticism

Lithuania is planning up to 30 miles of reclamation ditches, bridges prepared for bombing and trees designated to fall on roads when necessary. The Baltic 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 antipersonnel landmines, while Lithuania revoked its pledge to a cluster bomb treaty. Poland announced in June 2025 that it had added minefields to its “East Shield” border plans. These border defences will be using the latest technology and early warning systems and artillery units. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland and Norway met in Riga in 2024 to begin plans to build a 1,850-mile “drone wall” to protect their borders. This drone wall will have a sensor network, consisting of radars and electronic war-

ECI's initiatives must earn public trust

from the political establishment. The rhetorical refusal by the state government to act against the deputed officials for dereliction of responsibility prompted the ECI to take a proactive stance. The opposition's wrath over the SIR necessitates an examination of the issue through the lens of constitutional provisions. The mere conduct of elections does not amount to democracy; it requires transparency and fairness of the entire electoral process. Although the Constituent Assembly firmly upholds the principle of universal adult franchise, the institutional mechanism for conducting free and fair elections was the pivotal issue. The Assembly rejected the imperial practice of entrusting elections to the central executive because such an arrangement would carry high risk of manipulation and undermine the democratic ethos and integrity of the election.

An autonomous constitutional body, the Election Commission of India, was created to conduct elections to the offices of President, Vice President, members of Parliament, and the State Legislatures. Article 324 explicitly vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission (ECI), while Article 326 grants the right to vote to every citizen of India. The Representation of the People Act (RPA) in 1950 and 1951 laid down detailed provisions for the smooth conduct of elections. RPA essentially deals with the preparation of electoral rolls and the delimitation of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Article 15 of the RPA empowers the Commission to prepare

fare tools to identify and destroy Russian drones. Within seconds of detecting a target crossing the border, there would be a system of close reconnaissance of drones. This project will require a great deal of cooperation among participating states. Estonian companies are already designing drones that can both detect and neutralise threats along complex terrain in lakes, swamps and forests that blanket Russia's border with the Baltic countries. Both cooperation from all countries that border Russia in Europe and an understanding of the terrain is critical to avoid the failures of the Maginot Line, part of a set of defensive barriers that France built along its borders in the 1930s, and which failed to prevent a German invasion in the second world war. In that case, it was assumed that the Germans could not pass through the Ardennes forest in Belgium. While the Maginot Line fortifications did cause the Germans to rethink their plan of attack, Belgium was left vulnerable. Today, European nations are aware that they cannot fully prevent a Russian attack, but they can, possibly, shape the nature of a Russian invasion.

The goal of these barriers is both deterrence and to try to control the location of any invasion. If a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia is announced, the leaders of the Baltic nations fear the Kremlin could redeploy troops to their borders. Countries neighbouring Russia are trying to be as prepared as possible for whatever Vladimir Putin might do next.

The second group is

an electoral roll for each constituency.

In contrast, Article 16 provides for striking off names on three grounds: non-citizenship, unsound-



ness of mind as declared by a competent court, and disqualification from voting under electoral laws. The Commission can initiate revisions of electoral rolls, including special revisions, at any time. While such revisions typically occur before elections, the Commission, under Section 21(3) of the Act, is empowered to conduct special drives for this purpose whenever it deems necessary. Historical evidence suggests that officials have revised electoral rolls since the 1960s, and Andhra Pradesh provides a striking example: in 2004, authori-

ties deleted 93.42 lakh voters, citing various reasons. Under the RPA 1950, the Election Commission requisitions the services of government officials for

Flash floods hit the Kashmiri village of Chosoti on August 14, where pilgrims were on their way to the shrine of Machail Mata. Arif Rashid, an ambulance driver, plunged into mud and chaos to rescue the stranded. Over three relentless days, this ordinary man saved more than 60 pilgrims. Terrorists stormed India's Parliament on 13 December 2001; Constable Kamlesh Kumari spotted a suspicious car heading for an open Gate No. 11.

Unarmed, she ran to raise the alarm, taking bullets in her chest; that saved Parliament and democracy itself. Such courage is timeless but rare. When Ravana abducted Sita, it was not Rama's army that came first. It was Jatayu, an old vulture. He knew he could not win, but he still fought to protect her. His courage is remembered even today, not as a defeat, but as a victory of dharma ~ doing what is right ~ over fear. In the Mahabharata, when Draupadi was insulted in full court, many great warriors and elders chose silence.

That silence is remembered as a great moral failure. It shows that when people see wrong and stay quiet, they are not neutral – they are standing with adharma. Silence is never innocent. When bystanders witness injustice, there is no neutral ground: either they support the survivor by intervening, or by keeping silent they support the perpetrator. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, crimes against women rose by 15.5 per cent in 2021 and another 4 per cent in 2022, crossing 4.45 lakh cases ~ over 1,200 every day. Crimes against children rose by 16.2 per cent in 2021 and 8.7 per cent in 2022, touching 1,62,449 cases ~ 445 daily. Many of these crimes happen on streets where bystanders remain mute spectators. It is often alleged that citizens have lost empathy, but this is only partly true. Bystanders can be divided into two groups. The first group is unconcerned or fearful, held back by fears for personal safety, legal trouble, or uncertainty about the situation.

One can Disrupt by interrupting directly if it is safe, for example by asking “Are you fine?”. One can Delegate by involving others, like alerting other bystanders or authorities by calling helplines or using Emergency Response Support System App like ‘112 India’. Lastly, one can Document by recording events confiden-

ties deleted 93.42 lakh voters, citing various reasons.

Under the RPA 1950, the Election Commission requisitions the services of government officials for



electoral duties; such officials, once deputed, function under the control, supervision, and discipline of the Commission (article 13CC). Moreover, Article 32(1) categorically provides for penal action in the event of negligence or misconduct in the discharge of responsibility by the concerned officials. On several occasions during or before the election, the ECI took penal measures against the alleged misconduct or negligence of duty. Even if the MCC (Model Code of Conduct) is not active, the law says the Election Commission can still act

concerned and empathetic but fails to act due to hidden psychological barriers. Modern psychology explains that people are more likely to help when they are alone rather than in big groups – this is called the Bystander Effect. Groups create diffusion of



responsibility, where each person in a group feels less personally responsible, thinking “someone else will help.” Another barrier, Pluralistic Ignorance, says people look at others' calm faces and think nothing is wrong, even if everyone inside feels worried. The good news is that this inaction can be overcome. For many, simply being aware of these psychological barriers can increase their willingness to intervene. A 2023 meta-analysis showed that with brief training, 70 per cent of people feel confident enough to intervene, and 54 per cent act in real scenarios. Bystander Intervention Training (BIT) teaches a five-step process: notice something wrong, define it as requiring intervention, decide how to help, choose a method, and act ~ always prioritizing personal safety. The intervention itself can be of different forms, known as the four Ds. One can Distract by diverting attention from the situation, perhaps by asking for the time or dropping something.

One can Disrupt by interrupting directly if it is safe, for example by asking “Are you fine?”. One can Delegate by involving others, like alerting other bystanders or authorities by calling helplines or using Emergency Response Support System App like ‘112 India’. Lastly, one can Document by recording events confiden-

against officials who shirk their electoral duties, despite questions raised about suspending them.

The EC can take action against any official who is negligent in her or his electoral duties. Amidst denials and controversy, the Chief Secretary of West Bengal recently updated the ECI on the actions taken by the government against officials the Commission wants to take action against. Officials play a crucial role in the democratic process when they prepare the list of eligible voters, and by doing it carefully, they win half the battle. Usually, the ECI revises the electoral rolls before any election; however, the RPI Acts mandate undertaking a special drive in this direction. Opposition parties act understandably, as their hopes of returning to power after two consecutive defeats at the Centre have not materialized.

The frustration of Congress is reflected visibly in the statements and behavior of the top brass, while the ruling parties in different states want to utilize the controversy to regain lost ground or

tially if required. Even small words can break harm. Consider an e-rickshaw driver in Delhi, Brahm Dutt, who noticed something was wrong with a man and two nervous girls. He asked a simple question: “Who are you to each other?” The answers



didn't match, and that one question prevented a kidnapping.

There was no fighting, no chasing ~ just a calm voice and timely presence. A small talk between two scientists saved millions of lives; they met by chance at a photocopy machine in their University. Katalin Karikó, a biochemist, was frustrated. Her research on mRNA was not getting the attention it deserved. She was facing rejection after rejection. Then came the small, casual chat with immunologist Drew Weissman. That conversation led to a partnership. That partnership gave the world the mRNA vaccine during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2023, both scientists won the Nobel Prize in Medicine. These are life skills that save lives. Let us tell our children that courage can look like asking “Is everything okay?”, saying “Can I help you?”, or interrupting an inconvenient moment with a smile and a question.

By teaching children to notice feelings, ask questions, and show kindness, we are teaching them how to make their world safer. Active Bystander Intervention Training has many applications and the potential to address a wide range of societal challenges ~ crimes against women and children, ragging and bullying in educational institutions, human trafficking, drug abuse, terrorism, and other public

strengthen their constituencies. The non-BJP state governments allege that the ECI works at the behest of the Central government to disenfranchise potential voters. Amidst the ongoing mudslinging, the ECI has found itself in a catch-22 position while revising electoral rolls. The pertinent issue that haunts Indian citizens is the requirement to collect and preserve valid documents, which has silently crept into the public psyche, fostering fears of loss of citizenship and possible deportation.

The ECI was directed by the apex court to expand the list of required documents and to publish the details of deleted voters in Bihar, along with the reasons for their deletion. Its recent compliance with these directives reflects its discomfort. The SIR offers the opposition parties a golden opportunity to regain their credibility. At the same time, the ECI must adopt credible initiatives to preserve its public trust. Fairness, integrity, and independence from external pressures are the hallmarks of the institution, which have helped it earn public trust and respect. Safeguarding this reputation requires prompt, well-articulated, and appropriate measures, which are the need of the hour.

safety threats. Its motto, “We can save others,” creates greater confidence than the narrow self-preservation mindset of “Save yourself.” We need to celebrate heroes like Inspector Rajendra Bhosle, who rescued 165 missing children; Sonu Sood, who

helped migrant workers return home during the pandemic and Prameela Devendra, a Juhu worker whose quick use of a smartphone helped trace a missing child.

During the Gujarat riots of 2002, Hindu cattle-rearers in Naroda Gam sheltered 110 Muslims, even as violence raged nearby. Recognition normalizes bravery. History reminds us of Oskar Schindler, who saved

more than a thousand Jews in Nazi Germany. When he fled after the war, his workers gave him a gold ring inscribed with the Talmudic truth: “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.” Section 134A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the 2020 Rules grant Good Samaritans in India the right to help accident victims without fear of harassment. But unlike Germany, where Section 323c of the Criminal Code makes it a legal duty for bystanders to assist in emergencies ~ with penalties for inaction ~ India has no such mandate.

For a country where countless lives are lost because victims are left unaided, India too needs a law that obliges citizens to help. India's independence itself was won because men and women refused to be silent spectators. Subhas Chandra Bose rallied the INA with the call, “Give me blood, and I will give you freedom.” Bhagat Singh and his comrades risked everything to awaken a nation through fearless action. Countless ordinary men and women defied fear, filled prisons, and faced ruthless colonialists so that India could be free. Without such active social bystandership, freedom would have been denied. Action is contagious. When one person acts, others follow. As the Bhagavad Gita says: “Action is better than inaction.”

Hon’ble prime minister dedicates railway projects Worth more than ₹1,400 crore to the nation in gujarat

Mumbai, Hon’ble PM dedicates Mahesana–Palanpur Doubling and Gauge Conversion of Kalol–Kadi–Katosan Road & Bechraji–Ranuj Rail Lines

Hon’ble PM also flagged off the inaugural service of Katosan Road – Sabarmati MEMU train from Kadi station and First Dedicated Automobile Freight Train from Bechraji station via Ranuj to North India

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister dedicated to the Nation a series of Railway projects worth over ₹1,400 crore during his visit to Gujarat on Monday, 25th August, 2025. These include the doubling of the Mahesana–Palanpur Rail Line, gauge conversion of the Kalol–Kadi–Katosan Road Rail Line and the Bechraji–Ranuj Rail Line along with the flagging off of a new passenger train between Katosan Road and Sabarmati and first dedicated automobile Freight Train from Bechraji station via Ranuj to North India. The main function was held at Ahmedabad and the event was attended by Shri Acharya Devvrat, Hon’ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri C.R. Patil, Hon’ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti and other dignitaries. Also, local function were held at Kadi Railway station and Bechraji which was attended by concerned Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Local Representatives, etc. These projects will particularly benefit the districts of Mahesana, Patan, Banaskantha, Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad in North

Gujarat. Collectively, they are expected to enhance regional connectivity, spur

The completion of this project has eased out traffic congestions and unneces-

reduces travel time, improves accessibility to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, and enhances economic activities in the surrounding areas.

The gauge conversion of the Bechraji–Ranuj Rail Line has been carried out in alignment with the National Logistics Policy and the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity. This initiative reduces logistics costs and further strengthens Gujarat’s position in the national Logistics Performance Index, accelerating the socio-economic progress of North Gujarat while setting a benchmark in India’s logistics and railway sectors.

On this occasion, the Hon’ble Prime Minister also flagged off the inaugural service of Katosan Road – Sabarmati MEMU train from Kadi railway station, as well as the first dedicated automobile Freight Train from Bechraji station via Ranuj to North India. The new passenger service provides improved access to religious destinations, benefits daily commuters in the region and stimulates economic activity at the grassroots level. The freight service will enhance connectivity to the state’s industrial hubs, strengthen the logistics network and generate employment opportunities.

These sustainable and environment-friendly transportation initiatives will reduce travel time, attract new investments and boost regional industrial growth. All these Railway projects mark a significant step towards building a Viksit Bharat through a Viksit Gujarat.



In 1 st Photo Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is addressing thegathering at a function held at Ahmedabad on 25 th August, 2025. In the 2nd photo, Hon’ble PM is seen flagging off the Katosan Road – Sabarmati MEMU train from Kadi railway station, as well as First Dedicated Automobile Freight Train from Bechraji station via Ranuj to North India.

industrial development, improve logistics efficiency and create new avenues for employment.

The doubling of the 65 km Mahesana–Palanpur Rail Line has been executed at a cost of ₹537 crore, while the 37 km Kalol–Kadi–Katosan Road Rail Line has been converted to broad gauge at a cost of ₹347 crore. Similarly, the 40 km Bechraji–Ranuj Rail Line has also been converted to broad gauge at a cost of ₹520 crore. The completion of these projects have ensured smoother, safer and more seamless connectivity, especially for Mahesana, Banaskantha and Patan districts. They have significantly eased travel for daily commuters, tourists and businesses, while promoting regional economic integration.

The doubling of tracks has enhanced line capacity, making it possible to run higher-speed trains on the Ahmedabad–Delhi corridor.

sary passenger train detentions due to crossing, ensuring punctuality in train movement. This development facilitates introduction of more passenger services as well as improves the efficiency of freight operations, thereby giving a fresh momentum to Gujarat’s economic activities.

The 37 km long Kalol–Kadi–Katosan Road Rail Line has been converted to broad gauge at a cost of ₹347 crore. This project has provided a vital boost to passenger as well as freight connectivity in the region. The gauge conversion has ensured seamless integration with the national broad-gauge rail network, enabling faster and more efficient movement of goods and people. The project is particularly beneficial to local commuters, small businesses and industries around Kadi and Kalol, which are important industrial and agricultural hubs of Gujarat. It also

Upholding the Sunnah: The Only Two Eids in Islam

By Dr Ammar Nagrami - General Secretary All India Muslim Intellectual Society

In an age where cultural practices and religious innovations often blur the lines of pure Islamic doctrine, it is imperative for the Muslim Ummah to return to the fundamental sources of its guidance: the Holy Quran and the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). A pertinent issue that has surfaced in various communities is the celebration of numerous days under the nomenclature of "Eid." It is a duty upon scholars and conscious believers to clarify, with evidence and respect, that there are only two canonical Eids in Islam: Eid ul-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Any other celebration termed as "Eid" is a bid'ah (innovation) that finds no basis in the pristine teachings of our faith.

The evidence for this is unequivocal and stems from the very heart of our tradition. Upon arriving in Madinah, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) observed that the people had two specific days for celebration and play. He clearly informed them, "Allah has substituted them for you with two better days: the day of Adha and the day of Fitr" (Sunan Abi Dawud). This

Hadith establishes a divine principle: Allah Himself has chosen and designated these two days as the official festivals for the Muslims. To introduce a third or fourth Eid is to implicitly claim that the divine selection was insufficient, a notion that no believing Muslim would ever entertain.

The practice of the Noble Companions (Sahabah Razi Allahu Anhum Ajma'in) further solidifies this understanding. These were the individuals taught directly by the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), who absorbed his teachings like no other generation. Their unanimous consensus (ijma') and practice revolved exclusively around these two Eids. There is not a single authentic narration that suggests they gathered to celebrate the Prophet's birthday (Mawlid), or any other day, with the rituals and designation of an Eid. Their devotion to the Prophet (peace be upon him) was unparalleled, yet it was expressed through emulating his Sunnah, not through inventing new acts of worship that he himself did not prescribe.

Some well-intentioned but misguided individuals argue that celebrations like Mawlid un-Nabi are expressions of love. However, true love for the Prophet (peace be upon him) is demonstrated through obedience, not innovation. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Whoever introduces anything into this matter of ours that is not part of it will have it rejected" (Sahih Alлахu Anhum Ajma'in). Furthermore, he warned us specifically about innovations in religion, stating, "Indeed, the worst of matters are newly invented matters, and every newly invented matter is an innovation, and every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Fire" (Sunan an-Nasa'i).

Celebrating these unauthorized "Eids" leads to division within the Ummah, creates confusion among common Muslims, and most gravely, equates a humanly-invented practice with divinely-ordained rituals. It shifts the focus from the monumental sacrifices of Ibrahim (AS) and the culmination of a month of fasting to personalities and events that, while revered, do not hold the Islamic leg-

islative status of an Eid.

As a community, we must channel our energies into reviving the true spirit of the two authentic Eids. Eid ul-Fitr is a day of gratitude to Allah for enabling us to complete the fast of Ramadan, marked by the obligatory Zakat al-Fitr to ensure all Muslims can celebrate. Eid al-Adha commemorates the ultimate submission to Allah's will and is intertwined with the Hajj pilgrimage, a pillar of Islam. These are days of prayer, gratitude, charity, and community bonding, as established in the Sunnah.

From the heart of Lucknow, a city steeped in Islamic learning and culture, I humbly urge my brothers and sisters in faith to reflect upon this matter. Let us hold fast to the Quran and the authentic Sunnah as understood by the Salaf as-Saliheen (the pious predecessors). Let us celebrate the two Eids given to us by Allah and His Messenger with joy and devotion, and abandon any practice that contradicts their perfect and complete guidance. In doing so, we safeguard the purity of our faith and ensure our actions are accepted by our Lord.

May Allah guide us all to the straight path and grant us the understanding to follow His religion in its purest form. Ameen.



Reduction in GST : "A Progressive Step Towards Affordable Healthcare"

Quote by Mr. Jude Gomes, MD & CEO , Ageas Federal Life Insurance

"We welcome the Government's proposal to reduce GST across the life, healthcare, and pharmaceutical sectors. This is a progressive step that will make quality healthcare more affordable and acces-

sible for millions of Indians. For the insurance industry, it provides much-needed relief to customers while also helping to stabilize medical costs — a critical factor in keeping premiums affordable. A balanced approach that combines customer benefit with operational sustainability will strengthen the long-term



resilience of the sector. Over time, this move will not only encourage higher

insurance penetration and support the growth of the healthcare ecosystem, but also contribute to building a healthier, more productive India. Importantly, it aligns with the larger vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047,' driving deeper penetration across both urban and rural India."

Elon Musk's Lawsuit Against Apple And OpenAI Alleges Unfair Competition For ChatGPT On iPhones

(Gns). Elon Musk has filed a lawsuit against Apple and OpenAI, claiming that their partnership unfairly benefits OpenAI's ChatGPT on iPhones. Musk argues this collaboration stifles competition and limits consumer options. The lawsuit, lodged by Musk's companies X and xAI in Texas, seeks billions in damages, alleging Apple's integration of OpenAI into iOS prevents other chatbot developers from gaining visibility on the App Store.

The legal battle pits Musk against Apple, one of the world's most valuable companies. According to the lawsuit, Apple's exclusive deal with OpenAI ensures ChatGPT remains the only generative AI chatbot integrated into iPhones. This arrangement allegedly monopolises the market, hindering competitors like X and xAI from entering the space.

Elon Musk, along with his companies X and xAI, sued Apple and OpenAI in

Texas, alleging that their partnership unfairly benefits ChatGPT on iPhones and stifles competition,

sion, suggesting that Apple's actions are part of a broader pattern of limiting competition within its



seeking billions in damages. The lawsuit claims Apple's integration of OpenAI into iOS monopolizes the market, hindering competitors.

Background of the Dispute

Musk's conflict with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman is longstanding, stemming from disagreements that led to their separation after co-founding OpenAI. The lawsuit highlights this ten-

ecosystem. Apple has faced similar accusations before regarding its App Store practices.

Apple has previously been involved in legal disputes over its App Store policies. Notably, it has been in a prolonged legal battle with Epic Games over claims of monopolistic practices. These cases underscore ongoing concerns about Apple's control over app distribution on its

devices. Responses to Allegations

In response to Musk's allegations on social media, Apple stated that its App Store aims to be fair and unbiased. Meanwhile, Altman redirected attention to how Musk manages his own platform, suggesting potential biases there as well. Both companies have yet to officially comment on the lawsuit itself.

The case raises important questions about competition and innovation in tech ecosystems dominated by major players like Apple. As it unfolds, it will likely draw significant attention from industry observers and regulators alike. The outcome could have implications for how tech giants manage partnerships and competition within their platforms.

Musk's lawsuit against Apple and OpenAI highlights ongoing tensions in the tech industry regarding market dominance and fair competition.

Yoga makes you healthy: Aparna Yadav



Lucknow, August 25, 2025 – Divinity – The Third Eye, Yoga and Fitness Academy was inaugurated today in collaboration with Amartva Krishi, a natural farming initiative.

Divinity – The Third Eye, founded and owned by Sachin Rajvansh,

Yoga and Fitness Expert, Amartva Krishi with over 15 years of experience, and established in collaboration with Shama R. Gupta, Director, SRG Commercial Group, highlights a collabo-

ration that promotes holistic health and sustainable living.

At the inauguration ceremony, BJP leader and Vice-Chairman of Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission Aparna Yadav marked her presence at the inauguration of the centre.

On this occasion, she said that today a wonderful confluence of yoga and natural farming products is being seen here. Yoga not only keeps our body healthy but also provides

inner peace and energy in today's stressful life, he said. Divinity

The Third Eye, Yoga and Fitness Academy's collaboration with Amartva Krishi, Pratikriti Krishi today brings together two powerful approaches - health and sustainability. Adopt Yoga and stay healthy, he said. Shama R. Gupta, Director, SRG Commercial Group said that the initiative aims to create a holistic ecosystem where yoga, fitness and natural living go hand

in hand. The centre offers Iyengar Yoga, therapeutic treatments, strength training, nutritional guidance and holistic health programmes. Along with this, Amartva Krishi will showcase its range of organic, chemical-free, hand-crafted agricultural products under the vision of "From our fields to your home". Many dignitaries including senior IAS, IPS and PCS officers as well as MLAs and guests were present at the event.

SSP awarded the winners of the kabaddi competition held in police line

Mathura's team defeated Firozabad team

Mathura. The Kabaddi men's class took place between Mathura and Firozabad on Sunday in the Reserve Police Line Mathura. Come. The players of Mathura defeated the Firozabad team 74-35. After this, Senior Superintendent of Police Mathura Shlok Kumar provided awards to the players who finished first and second in Kabaddi Kho-Kho and facing competition.

In the three-day competition, Firozabad stood first in Kabaddi and Kho-Kho (men's category) in Mathura first gymnastics.



SSP winning participants

Kasganj stood second in Agra Gymnastics in Firozabad Kho in Kabaddi. Mainpuri stood first and Hathras second in the fac-

ing men category. In Kabaddi Women's category, Mathura First Agra II, Agra I in Kho-Kho, Mathura Lines first in Mathura Lines I,

Agra, finished second.

Best Player Award in Kabaddi Sunny Yadav in the women's category Sandhya Mishra Kho-Kho received the Best Player Award in Kuldeep Singh Women's category of Mathura. During this, SP countryside Suresh Chand Rawat SP City Rajiv Kumar Singh SP Crime Avnish Kumar Mishra SP Traffic Manoj Kumar Yadav CO Dharmendra Singh Chauhan RI Ramratan CO Trainee CO Ankur Gautam CO Umbrella Ashish Sharma PTI Pushpendra Gautam RTC in -charge Rajit Verma SI Rakesh Baghel etc

Sanskriti University Introduces Diploma opportunity in 'Guidance', 'Counselling'

Mathura. Sanskriti University is adding new and useful courses to its curriculum for the new session. Recently, the Ministry of Education has acknowledged the increasing stress level in the current generation and cited academic pressure, social expectations and career uncertainties as the main reasons for this. Diploma in Guidance and Counselling has been designed as a direct solution to these essential needs and is based on the values and vision of the National Education Policy.

The Vice Chancellor of Sanskriti University said that its duration will be one year and the interactive sessions will be online in bilingual mode. It will help

teachers, interested counsellors and concerned parents to understand and address the needs of today's youth. Teachers and academicians will become skilled in using counselling skills while teaching in their classes, providing mental health services and making a career in the field of counselling. It will also help them change the behaviour of youth in the right direction with emotional support.

It is very much needed nowadays as the youth sometimes cannot decide

what they should do and indulge in wrong habits. Nowadays every educational institute, industry, corporation needs counselors not only for their students but also for their employees, so this diploma will also help you in getting a counselor job.

Certificate Course in Educational Technology

The rapid advancement in technology has revolutionized various fields and education is one of the important fields among them. It is a fact that if we want to bring any change in the

society, only education can play the role of an important tool. Although teachers are often experts in their respective fields, many teachers still lack the technical expertise to use technology seamlessly and effectively.

This three-month online certificate course will enhance teaching efficiency, equip teachers with practical skills, support diverse teaching needs and bridge the knowledge gap. This course will not only make teachers proficient in using technological tools, but they will also learn to design and deliver engaging and impactful online lessons that meet the needs of 21st century learners.



Professor MB Chetty

Shubhanshu's experience helpful in future space missions: CM Yogi

(Gns). The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday felicitated Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who returned from the International Space Station, on behalf of the people of the state, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the Shubhanshu Shukla Scholarship for students pursuing space technology courses.

In his address, Yogi Adityanath said Shubhanshu Shukla's achievement has increased the country's respect and the world has seen India's strength in the field of space. This is not just today's success for our country but is a part of the legacy that is already present in our genes. This is a

demonstration of our country's incredible talent. Shubhanshu's experience will prove to be helpful in other missions related to



the field of space of our country. Our new generation will learn from his experiences.

The chief minister further said that this field was untouched by us till now.

"The whole world is struggling with climate change. Somewhere it is raining and somewhere it is dry. The crop cycle is getting

the challenges, we can overcome it. Be it flood or drought, we can pave the best way for all these," he said.

He said we can also prevent loss of life through early warning system.

Addressing the program, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that while congratulating Shubhanshu Shukla, the whole country is proud of you. This greeting is from the whole state. When you were leaving for space travel, everyone's eyes were on you. He said that you have inspired the youth of the country to do something too.

Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak said, "Today is a proud day for all of us. Our brother Lucknow's son is here after taking the tri-

Odisha Police bust interstate bike-lifting gang, arrest three from Chhattisgarh

(Gns). A special squad of Odisha's Bargarh district police on Monday busted an inter-state gang of bike-lifters and recovered stolen bikes from their possession, said a senior police official.

A haul of 31 motor bikes stolen across the district has been seized by the police in an intensive crackdown on the racket of bike-lifters for the past 12 days, said Bargarh Superintendent of Police Prahlad Sahai Meena.

It is an interstate racket as three of the eight bike lifters arrested so far are from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. The gang members used to keep a close watch on the movement of the owners before breaking open the

lock and fleeing with motor bikes parked at crowded marketplaces, weekly markets or in places of mass



gathering like Jatra open air theatre show or fair, SP Meena said.

The arrested bike lifters, who were later remanded to judicial custody, spilled the beans during intense questioning. The police are

hopeful of making more recovery of stolen motor bikes. A thorough investigation is still underway to delve

(32), a native of Kapati village in Jharbandh police station jurisdiction in Bargarh district, reported that during the intervening night of 12 and 13 August, while the Jhulan Jatra festival was being held at his village, his bike was stolen.

A special team of Bargarh district police was constituted and the team traced and seized the stolen motorcycle from Pradeep Bhoi of Jhitiki village under Paikmal police station of Bargarh and Lukeswar Patel, a native of Chhattisgarh. Interrogation of the duo found that the interstate racket was involved in the bike lifting. All the arrested persons have a history of crime, police concluded.

Jarange-Patil to lead Maratha march to Mumbai during Ganesh festival, warns of statewide shutdown if demands ignored

(Gns). Maratha reservation agitation leader Jarange-Patil on Monday announced that he would lead a massive march of thousands of Marathas to Mumbai's Azad Maidan on August 29, coinciding with Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, to press for job reservations for the community.

Speaking to reporters in Antarwali Sarathi village of Jalna district, Jarange-Patil said the march would begin on August 27, the day of Ganesh Chaturthi, and culminate in Mumbai on August 29, where he and his supporters would launch an indefinite hunger strike.

"Deputy CM Fadnavis, you have the opportunity to grant reservations to the Marathas—make the most of it. We will leave from Antarwali on August 27 and reach Mumbai on August 29 with Ganpati Bappa. Some people are trying to

stop us, but we will enter Mumbai peacefully with our deity. Those who indulge in violence are not with us; if anyone does so, we will hand them over to the police," Jarange-Patil said.

Reminding the government of pending promises, he alleged that "Fadnavis is insulting the Maratha community and does not want to give reservations." He pointed out that during the previous Eknath Shinde-led government, BJP leader Girish Mahajan had accepted that Marathas and Kunbis are one community, yet reservations continue to be denied. "No Maratha should stay home—everyone must march to Mumbai," he urged.

Among his key demands, Jarange-Patil

called for immediate withdrawal of police cases against Maratha youth and financial assistance for families of those who lost their lives in the agitation.



"The government has been given a deadline of August 26. If our demands are not met, the government can even be overthrown," he warned.

Issuing a stern caution, he said, "We want a peaceful protest, but if even a single Maratha boy is beaten in Mumbai, no road will remain safe. We will not return without reservation. No matter what obstacles the government creates,

we will not step back. Mumbai is ours, the state is ours, and reservation is our right."

Criticizing the state's caste policies, he asked, "Why did the Chief Minister include 29 castes in the OBC list but exclude Marathas? Why is the Hyderabad Gazette not being implemented despite Kunbi caste records being available?"

He further cautioned against attempts to pit Marathas against OBCs. "Our fight is not for casteism but for our rights. We are protesting while upholding Hindu culture and Warkari traditions. If reservations are not granted, BJP MLAs will not be allowed to enter villages. If we are harassed in Mumbai, we will shut down the state. Do not mistake our peacefulness for weakness—if the Marathas rise, no power can stop us," he declared.

Rajnath praises PM Modi for bringing desired reforms in education system

(Gns). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for showing firm resolve and strong will in effecting desired and bold changes in the education system of the country.

Speaking after inaugurating new premises of Adarsh Defence and Sports Academy in Lalsagar here, he said, "In the recent decade, many essential changes (reforms) have been affected in the education system. I wish to thank our Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji for demonstrating a strong will and firm resolve for effecting the reforms. This was not an easy task."

Sharing his own experience of being the education minister of Uttar Pradesh,

Singh said, "That was the era when copying in examinations was almost in the institutional dimensions.



Mass copying used to keep the results as high as 80 per cent, never below the mark of 60 per cent."

"I, being the education minister, took serious exception to the situation, legislated on the Anti Copying Law that evoked

unpopular sentiments among people as the results of exams dropped down to 14.2 per cent," he said.

"The impact of my decision was that I lost the next assembly election," he said. Appreciating the changes/reforms affected, the defence minister said, "The changes that are brought (now) are proving to be the power (strength) of

India. Today, it is the internet era where the needs and requirements of the youth have been changed. You cannot separate one subject from the other, several issues or aspects become inevitable and unavoidable."

Singh also admired the role of the Vidhya Bharati and the Adarsh Defence and Sports Academy for imparting comprehensive and inclusive education – training to youngsters.

The institution has been ensuring education to its students for evolving their personality as capable and responsible civilians. Here equal importance is being given to strike proper equilibrium between spiritual and divine knowledge and the academic curriculum, he observed.

Legislatures are living institutions reflecting people's aspirations: Om Birla

(Gns). Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, while addressing the valedictory session of the All India Speakers' Conference held at the Delhi Assembly, on Monday said that legislatures are not merely buildings of brick and stone, but living institutions that embody the voice, aspirations, and democratic spirit of the people.

Recalling the rich history of the Delhi Assembly, Birla noted that the chamber once echoed with the voices of freedom fighters and national leaders such as Lala Lajpat Rai, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Tej Bahadur Sapru.

He said their spirited debates and sacrifices had transformed the Assembly into a sanctum of India's

democratic aspirations. Birla underlined that traditions of free expression, robust debate, and fearless



representation form the bedrock of Indian democracy, and it is the responsibility of presiding officers to preserve these values with dignity and fairness.

He further stressed that legislatures today must meet citizens' expectations by ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficient

cy in law-making, reminding that freedom of expression must always be exercised responsibly and with-

in parliamentary propriety. The session also witnessed the presence of Union Minister of Housing, Manohar Lal Khattar, who said Vithalbhai Patel's leadership had laid down the values of impartiality and accountability, which remain relevant even today. He emphasised that

while governments may change, the duty of presiding officers to uphold decorum, fairness, and dignity remains constant.

Khattar also highlighted the transformative role of technology, IT systems, and artificial intelligence in governance.

Drawing from his experience in Haryana, he cited initiatives like Parivar Pehchan Patra and CM Window, which delivered services, pensions, and welfare schemes directly to citizens' homes, reducing bureaucratic delays and saving both time and resources.

At the same time, he cautioned against the risks of misuse, including cyber-crime, and urged for responsible application of technology to strengthen public trust.

NGT pulls up authorities over illegal riverbank constructions in Himachal

(Gns). The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognizance of a news report highlighting illegal constructions in Himachal Pradesh despite a government ban imposed after the 2023 floods.

The report noted that multi-storey buildings are being constructed on riverbanks and hillsides without proper checks, in violation of environmental laws, thereby increasing risks in this disaster-prone region.

In the absence of effective

monitoring and enforcement, the Tribunal



has issued notices to state and central authorities, directing them to file their

replies before the next hearing on November 14.

The NGT observed that despite the ban in place since 2023, the Town and

Country Planning Department has failed to implement the directive seriously.

The Tribunal has directed the respondents, which include the Department of Town and Country Planning, Department of Urban Development, Department of Environment, Science, Technology & Climate Change, Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dehradun, to submit their affidavits at least one week before the next hearing date

Revanth visits Osmania University, first CM to enter campus post Andhra-bifurcation

(Gns). Congress leader Revanth Reddy on Monday delivered a fiery speech, promising to develop Osmania University to the same league as Oxford University, as he became the first chief minister to enter the campus since the formation of the state in 2014.

Osmania University (OU) was the hotbed of the Telangana statehood movement both in 1969 and more recently, since 2001, leading to the formation of the new state, but

Reddy's predecessor, K Chandrasekhar Rao, chose to stay away during his decade-long rule.

However, the BRS claimed that the BRS supremo had been to Osmania University when he attended the centenary celebrations of the university in 2017 along with the then President Pranab Mukherjee.

Reddy today seasoned his speech with promises to

the student community and also made several political statements after inaugurating three hostels at the Osmania University. Acknowledging its role in the Freedom Movement and the Statehood Movement, he said, "Osmania University should not be allowed to fade into oblivion. It must stand as a living testimony to history."

He alleged that there have been conspiracies to

erase Osmania's legacy, but his government wants to restore it to its past glory. He even called those opposing his development initiatives termite. He warned that if BRS comes back to power, it will put OU in oblivion and sell its land as plots.

He pledged Rs 1000 crore for the development of the university and its transformation into a world-class institution, directing the principal secretary of the education department to constitute a committee.

Indian Navy set to commission advanced stealth frigates Udaygiri, Himgiri

(Gns). The Indian Navy is set to commission multi-mission stealth frigates Udaygiri and Himgiri at Naval Base, Visakhapatnam, on Tuesday.

The ceremony will be presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

This will be the first occasion when two frontline surface combatants,



constructed at two different shipyards, will be commissioned simultaneously,

underscoring the growing maritime importance of India's eastern seaboard,

The wait ends: India's iconic fantasy saga 'Naagin' returns with Season 7 on COLORS

Two years of anticipation. Countless fan theories. Endless speculation. And now, the wait is finally over! COLORS and Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms reunite to bring back the serpentine saga that redefined fantasy on Indian television — 'Naagin'. The much-talked-about teaser premieres during the launch of Bigg Boss 19, setting the stage for this supernatural thriller to extend its decade-long spell.

Ever since its debut in 2015, 'Naagin' has shapeshifted the very landscape of primetime televi-

sion, proving that fantasy can rule hearts and TRPs alike. Season after season, the serpent queen has enchanted viewers with her allure, her power, and her



battles, each chapter pushing the boundaries of imagination.

Now, the epic franchise coils back into the spotlight, promising unmatched charm, high-voltage drama,

and a mystical spectacle poised to reclaim its throne. Over the years, this cult classic has been brought to life by some of television's most celebrated faces—

Mouni Roy, Adaa Khan, Surbhi Jyoti, Anita Hassanandani, Nia Sharma, Surbhi Chandna, and Tejasswi Prakash. And now, the biggest mystery returns—who will step into the role of Naagin in this new season?

The countdown begins, as the queen of fantasy 'Naagin' returns with its 7th season; coming soon on COLORS.

an official release said.

Udaygiri and Himgiri are follow-on ships of the Project 17 (Shivalik) class frigates. Both these vessels incorporate significant improvements in design, stealth, weapon and sensor systems and are capable of executing a full spectrum of maritime missions in Blue Water conditions.

Udaygiri, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, and Himgiri, constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, showcase the nation's growing shipbuilding prowess, as well as the synergy between India's premier defence shipyards, it added.

Udaygiri also holds the distinction of being the fastest ship of her class to be delivered post-launch, a result of the modular construction methodology adopted by Indian shipyards.

In keeping with the Navy's tradition of reviving names of illustrious predecessors, both frigates are named after the earlier INS Udaygiri (F35) and INS Himgiri (F34) that served the nation with distinction for over 30 years before being decommissioned.