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## US-India Relations: Trump Reaffirms Friendship With PM Modi Amid Trade Talks

(Gns). US President Donald Trump on Thursday reiterated his close ties with India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stressing the strong relationship between Washington and New Delhi.

Speaking at a joint press briefing in the United Kingdom alongside Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Trump said he has maintained a personal rapport with PM Modi. "I'm very close to India. I'm very close to the Prime Minister of India. I spoke to him the other day, wished him a happy birthday. We have a very good relationship. He put out a beautiful statement too," Trump said.

Donald Trump, during a

press briefing in the UK, highlighted his close relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi,



mentioning a recent birthday phone call and discussing the US-India partnership, while also addressing Ukraine and global oil prices.

The US President noted

that he had spoken to PM Modi just days earlier to extend birthday wishes, adding that the Indian leader is "doing a tremendous job." On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump had written: "Just had a wonderful phone call with my friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Thank you for your support on ending the War between Russia and Ukraine! President DJT."

I wished him a very Happy Birthday! He is doing a tremendous job. Narendra: Thank you for your support on ending the War between Russia and Ukraine! President DJT."

During the press conference, Trump also touched upon the Ukraine conflict, linking it directly to global oil prices. "Very simply, if the price of oil comes down, Putin is going to drop out. He's going to have no choice. He's going to drop out of that war," he said.

The latest comments highlight the camaraderie between Trump and Modi, coming just two days after their phone conversation. The warm exchanges also coincide with the revival of trade negotiations between India and the United States.

In response to Trump's birthday wishes, Prime Minister Modi emphasized India's commitment to the strategic partnership.

## No war is fought only on battlefield: Rajnath at 1965 war commemoration

(Gns). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stated that no war is fought only on the battlefield and the victory in war is the result of the collective resolve of the entire nation. He was addressing an event to commemorate the diamond jubilee of the 1965 war against Pakistan, organized at the South Block here on Friday.

Paying tributes to the brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, Singh said, "Pakistan thought it could frighten us through infiltration, guerrilla tactics and surprise attacks, but little did it know that every Indian soldier serves the motherland with the feeling that the sovereignty and integrity of the nation will never be compromised at any cost."

The defence minister further highlighted the bravery and patriotism displayed by the Indian soldiers during various battles fought during the war, including the Battle of Asal Uttar, Battle of Chawinda and Battle of Phillora.

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the battlefield; victory in war is the result of the collective resolve of the entire



Abdul Hamid, who laid down his life while destroying numerous enemy tanks under barrage of machine gun and tank fire during the Battle of Asal Uttar, the defence minister said, "Our brave Abdul Hamid taught us that bravery is not about the size of the weapon, it is about the size of the heart. His valor teaches us that even in the most difficult circumstances, the combination of courage, restraint and patriotism can make the impossible possible."

"No war is fought only on

nation. During that time in 1965, India managed to face the uncertainty and challenges, also due to the strong-willed leadership of Lal Bahadur Shastri ji. He not only provided decisive political leadership, but also raised the morale of the entire nation to greater heights. Even under adverse circumstances, we displayed unity and won the war," he went on to add.

Speaking about Operation Sindoor, the defence minister said that the cowardly terrorist attack

in Pahalgam still fills our hearts with pain and grief. "It shook us, but didn't break our morale. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a pledge to teach terrorists a lesson they never could have imagined.

"Operation Sindoor showed our enemies how strong we are. The coordination and courage with which our forces executed the operation is proof that victory is no longer an exception for us; it has become our habit. We must always maintain this habit," he said.

He also reiterated the Government's unwavering resolve towards the dignity and welfare of the serving soldiers, veterans and the families of the fallen heroes, terming it as "top priority".

"Our resolve of defence modernisation, better training of soldiers and equipment upgrades are aimed to ensure that the forces never face a lack of resources," he said.

Later, the Union Minister also interacted with the brave veterans and the families of the fallen heroes of the 1965 war.

## MEA Responds To Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Defence Pact, Says India Will Study Security Impact

(Gns). The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday reacted to the recently signed defence agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, stressing that New Delhi expects Riyadh to take into account mutual interests and sensitivities.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, addressing the weekly press briefing, commented on the "strategic mutual defence" pact signed between the two countries earlier this week.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) responded to

the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defense agreement, stating India expects Riyadh to



consider mutual interests, following the pact signed on Monday where an attack on either nation is considered aggression against both, days after Israel's

strikes in Qatar.

"India and Saudi Arabia have a wide-ranging strategic partnership which has deepened considerably over the past several years. We expect that this strategic partnership will take into account mutual interests

and sensitivities," Jaiswal said. The defence agreement between Islamabad and Riyadh, signed on Monday, states that an attack on

either nation will be treated as "an aggression against both." The pact was formalised just days after Israel launched strikes targeting Hamas leadership in Qatar.

On Thursday, the MEA had noted that India would carefully study the implications of the deal, both from the perspective of national security and in terms of regional and global stability. "The government remains committed to protecting India's national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains," Jaiswal had said.

## Akhilesh accuses BJP govt of involvement in a rigged recruitment process

(Gns). Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav, accusing the Yogi Adityanath government of telling lies, has alleged that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is involved in a rigged recruitment process.

"There is arbitrariness and corruption in all recruitments made by the state government. The appointments made at the Lakhimpur Urban Co-operative Bank are just one example. Loot, corruption, and dishonesty pervade every aspect of the BJP government with BJP members colluding to distribute jobs and budgets among themselves. Everyone from top to bottom is complicit in this scam. The BJP government is pursuing a policy of lies and plunder. Under this government, 90% of the PDA community is being neglected and their rights are being robbed," he claimed.

Mr. Yadav, in a press

statement issued here on Friday, stated that all kinds of illegal activities are taking place under the BJP



government in the state. Job grabs, land grabs, and budget allocations are all being systematically orchestrated. The rights and reservations of the poor and the PDA have been snatched away. The misdeeds of the BJP government and its leaders are before the public, and their lies are being exposed continuously. The BJP government is operating without any work but corruption

and lies.

Calling the BJP a party of liars, he remarked that its government tells the lies

but also one's own self. Blatant lies undermine a person's dignity and the prestige of the positions he holds. What is the greed for power that one should call a lie, something for which there is every public evidence and which the public has experienced firsthand? Telling such a huge lie is possible only when a person has either lost consciousness, truth, or his ideals and values of truth.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said such blatant liars actually consider their followers to be fools. They believe that their followers will believe everything they say, but, in reality, that does not happen to be the case. The only motive of the BJP and their allies is to deceive their people through lies. Today, all those people of the BJP camp must be buried in the ground with shame who did not shy away from any argument for such people and used to guarantee their honesty.

that even lies feel ashamed of. "Metro rail operations in the capital Lucknow began during the Samajwadi Party government along with Metro rail construction in Kanpur and Agra. The chief minister's statement regarding metro operations was extremely shameful," he said.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said, "One should not tell such a big lie that one loses not only the respect of others

## Sam Pitroda's 'felt At Home In Pakistan' Remark Triggers BJP Attack On Congress

(Gns). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Congress after its overseas chief Sam Pitroda said he "felt at home" in Pakistan, accusing the opposition party of being soft on Islamabad and undermining India's national interests.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, reacting to Pitroda's comments, alleged that Congress has an "undying love" for Pakistan and even claimed the party communi-

cated with terror mastermind Hafiz Saeed through Yasin Malik.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla

accused the Congress of favoring Pakistan after Sam Pitroda, the party's overseas chief, stated he felt at home there; Poonawalla alleged the Congress had communicated with Hafiz Saeed and undermined India on various issues, while



Pradeep Bhandari also criticized Pitroda's remarks.

"Rahul Gandhi's closest aide and family friend, Uncle Sam Pitroda-who once dismissed the 1984 anti-Sikh riots with a 'hua to hua' remark and has made racial-

ly offensive comments about Indians-now says he feels at home in Pakistan. Why is anyone surprised? Congress has always loved Pakistan. They even spoke

to Hafiz Saeed via Yasin Malik!" Poonawalla wrote on X.

He further accused the Congress of repeatedly undermining India by siding with Pakistan on crucial issues. "They gave clean chits to Pakistan on 26/11, Samjhauta, Pulwama, and Pahalgam. They echoed Pakistan's stance on Article 370, surgical strikes, and even on issues like sindoor. They agreed to give away 80% of our water to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty.

## US-China Leaders Hold Phone Call On TikTok Deadline, Trade Tensions

(Gns). US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a phone conversation as leaders of the world's two largest economies work toward a resolution on TikTok's US operations and long-standing trade tensions.

This marks the first discussion between Trump and Xi since June. The call focused on finalizing a potential trade agreement

and resolving issues surrounding TikTok, the Chinese-owned short-video app that faces a US ban unless parent company ByteDance sells its American assets.

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed TikTok's US operations and trade tensions, marking

their first call since June, with TikTok's deadline



extended to December 16.

The call addressed trade friction, where tariffs soared to 145% but were later capped, and are set to expire on November 10 absent a new deal.

Ahead of the call, Trump told Fox News that negotiations were "very close to deals on all of it," adding that his relationship with China was "very good" and suggesting that "it sounds like they've approved TikTok."



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



Editorial

Commerce and Camaraderie

The latest interaction between Washington and New Delhi is a study in how diplomacy often mixes warmth with hard bargaining. A birthday phone call from the American President to India's Prime Minister, replete with praise and talk of partnership, came even as punitive tariffs on Indian exports remain firmly in place.

The gesture offered a fleeting moment of goodwill, but it also underscored a deeper reality: sentiment may open doors, but strategy decides what crosses the threshold. The American leader's message was carefully calibrated. By thanking India for its role in efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he acknowledged New Delhi's global relevance while avoiding any direct concession on trade.

India, for its part, responded with equal optimism, emphasising friendship and the shared goal of elevating the relationship to "new heights." Both sides thus managed to project camaraderie while sidestepping the uncomfortable fact that the tariffs – some of the steepest in recent memory ~ remain untouched. The economic stakes are significant. India's exports to the United States have already shown signs of strain, with monthly figures slipping after the duties were announced.

Washington has openly tied half of the 50 per cent tariff to India's continued purchases of Russian oil and weapons, linking commercial pain to geopolitical choices. New Delhi has defended those purchases as a matter of national energy security, arguing that global energy markets cannot be held hostage to political conflicts. Both capitals recognise that a protracted stalemate serves neither side, especially as global supply chains remain fragile and investors seek predictable trade rules amid shifting geopolitical alliances.

Against this backdrop, trade negotiators from both countries described their discussions on Tuesday as "positive" and "forward looking." Yet officials were quick to clarify that the meeting was exploratory rather than a formal round of negotiations. That distinction matters. It signals that while both sides are willing to talk, neither is prepared to retreat from core positions. For the United States, tariffs remain a tool to pressure Moscow and to extract trade concessions.

For India, maintaining diversified energy supplies is a red line. This episode illustrates a broader truth about 21st century diplomacy. Economic instruments ~ tariffs, market access, investment approvals ~ are increasingly wielded as levers of strategic influence. Friendly rhetoric can soften the edges, but the underlying calculus is transactional. India and the United States share a long-term interest in closer economic integration, yet the path to a comprehensive trade agreement will be strewn with tests of political will.

A brief exchange of birthday greetings cannot mask the complexity of these negotiations. It can, however, serve as a reminder that even the hardest bargains require a measure of personal rapport. If Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump can convert their public warmth into private flexibility, the current pause in hostilities could become the first step toward a trade deal that reflects both strategic convergence and economic pragmatism.

Vivekananda, Gandhi, and path to global harmony

Moments of crisis and transformation have often brought forth voices of profound wisdom that guide humanity toward unity, tolerance, and peace. India's journey as a guiding light for the global community is anchored in the transformative messages delivered by Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi on two historic September 11ths – the former at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, and the latter launching the Satyagraha movement in South Africa in 1906. In contrasting eras marked by colonial oppression, racial injustice, and later, the global shock of 9/11's terrorism, their wisdom and the syncretic traditions of India offer invaluable lessons of tolerance, non-violence, and unity for the 21st century world.

The resonant words of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi – "Help and not Fight, Assimilation and not Destruction, Harmony and Peace and not Dissension," and "In a gentle way, you can shake the world" – remind us that moral courage and universal acceptance are vital antidotes to fanaticism, divisiveness, and violence. Their voices are not just historical echoes; they are living calls for introspection, inviting us to weave empathy, truth, and pluralism into the fabric of modern society. Through their timeless reflections, we discover a central theme – the enduring power of principles rooted in compassion and syncretic understanding to inspire a global moral uprising. Swami Vivekananda's address at the Parliament of Religions, Chicago, beginning with the iconic "Sisters and Brothers of America", resonated with a call for universal acceptance and toler-

For a nation as vast and diverse as ours, the journey to becoming a developed country, 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, requires us to look at every resource, including those hitherto unexplored under-explored, and every available opportunity – particularly, when the ambitious goal is to move up the ladder from Economy Rank 4 to Rank 1. For decades, our focus has been primarily harnessing the potential of our land resources. We have built highways, expanded the railway network, developed industries, and cultivated our fields.

But as we stand in this pivotal period of our history, the Amrit Kaal, we recognize that our greatest untapped resource lies not just on land, but in the vast blue ocean that surrounds our country. The Blue Economy is more than just another sector, it is our new exclusive frontier for growth, a pathway to prosperity, sustainability, and national strength. It is also recognized as a key focus pillar within India's vision of Viksit Bharat. It is a broad and powerful concept that includes everything from traditional activities such as fisheries, ports, and shipping to cutting-edge new fields such as marine biotechnology, eco-tourism, renewable ocean energy, and deep-sea exploration.

Floods have ravaged the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand and many more. From unusual rain patterns, upstream dam releases, to sheer heavy monsoon ~ the flooding and the accompanying devastation have been back-breaking for so many citizens. With politicians blaming each other, institutions responsible for safeguarding and rehabilitation failing in their duties, and the usual bureaucratic apathy, there is only one institution that has silently been aiding the relief and protection missions successfully ~ the Indian Armed Forces.

Images of daredevil Indian Army soldiers wading through neck-deep waters, to that of helicopters involved in daring rescue and lift missions have emerged yet again. As an example, the Indian Army's Western Command launched massive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions, executing 82 relief missions, evacuating over 6,000 people dangerously caught in flooded areas and delivering essential supplies to the affected communities. Just under this Command's operations, another 13,000 people are believed to have received emergency medical assistance and facilitation (including air dropping) of nearly 50 tons of rations.

The Army Command's Engineer detachment worked against odds to repair damaged infrastructure (including restoring critical bridge links), strengthened flood defenses, and laid optical fiber cables to reinstate mobile connectivity. Just another crisis facing the nation and yet another show of resilience, courage and commitment by India's "sword arm" ~ not just to defend the territorial integrity and dignity of the sovereign, but even to defend its citizens within, when all other ostensible institutions of managing internal affairs (including relief and rehabilitation works, planning and administration) have melted into the oblivion.

The nameless, faceless and often forgotten (once the purpose or perceived utility is served) "Indian Soldier" rises to the occasion. The institution is

Riding the waves of oceanic opportunity

The Blue Economy defines it as "comprising the entire system of ocean resources and man-made economic infrastructure in marine, maritime and onshore coastal zones within India's legal jurisdiction, aiding the production of goods and services with clear linkages to economic growth, environmental sustainability and national security". With a revised coastline stretching now over 11,098 kilometers and a vast Exclusive Economic Zone spanning 2.4 square million kilometers, India is exceptionally well-placed to become a leader in this ocean-based growth engine.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Blue Economy has emerged as a key pillar of New India's growth vision, with an ambitious target of building a US\$100 billion economy through sustainable use of ocean resources. Blue economy not only promises to create jobs, but also support our coastal communities, protect marine ecosystems, and strengthen our global maritime presence. We are now in Blue Economy 2.0, a new phase that is more modern and forward-looking. This new phase focuses not just on traditional sectors, but on the emerging, high-potential areas

that will define our future. Our efforts are already in motion through key initiatives.

The Deep Ocean Mission is helping our scientists explore the deep

sea using advanced technologies like the 'Matsya 6000' submersible, aiming to find strategic resources and create new technologies for the future. The Sagarmala Programme is modernizing our ports and infrastructure to make trade faster and more efficient, making our businesses more competitive. For the welfare of our coastal communities, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme to bring a "Blue Revolution" to our fisheries sector. But our vision goes far beyond this.

It is a vision that empowers people and pro-

vides them with new income streams and greater voice in their communities. It also entails investments in our youth, offering them training and skills for the new jobs that the Blue Economy will create, from marine engineering to data analytics. We are nurturing a new generation of blue-collar innovators and entrepreneurs. To support this innovation, the Ministry acts as a catalyst for private investment and innovative start-ups which are the core of Blue Economy.

This would mean creation of a business-friendly environment where young,



Institutional integrity

independence, trust, and reputation of conduct. Some "uniforms" like that of the Police personnel tend to evoke a combination of dread, corruption and excess. The reputation has got far worse for the investigative agencies like the Investigation Bureau (IB), Enforcement Directorate



(ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) etc., who can potentially lend invaluable (though unconstitutional) service to the political masters as a form of quid pro quo, thereby risking the unbiased conduct.

Whereas another set of

energetic companies can develop solutions in areas like smart fishing, green port logistics, and marine biotechnology. Our focus on technology and start-ups is a key part of our plan to build a self-reliant India, a nation that not only consumes but also creates. Sustainability and climate action are at the very core of our Blue Economy. We are encouraging clean and green activities, such as sustainable fish farming and the restoration of mangroves and coral reefs, which act as natural barriers against climate change and rising sea levels.

In places such as Lakshadweep, India's first ocean thermal energy plant is demonstrating how innovation can provide both clean electricity and drinking water. Our Harit Sagar Guidelines area clear commitment to making our ports green, aiming for zero carbon emissions and the use of clean fuels. India is also taking a leadership role in global ocean governance. During our G-20 Presidency, we launched the Chennai High-Level Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy, setting a global framework for responsible ocean development.

We are strengthening partnerships with other developed countries and

multilateral agencies for science-based decision making in the interest of oceans and people. We have also signed the historic Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, reaffirming our commitment to protecting marine biodiversity on a global scale. Most recently, India participated in the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France, where we launched the SAHAV Portal, a pioneering digital platform to enhance coordination, knowledge sharing, and transparency across Blue Economy initiatives such as Marine Spatial Planning. The journey to "Viksit Bharat" is a shared one.

The Blue Economy is a national commitment to responsibly harness the full power of our oceans. By empowering our people, protecting our nature, and investing in science and technology, we are building a maritime future that will benefit all Indians. As we look ahead to 2047, the Blue Economy will be a driving force behind the "New India" – one that is prosperous, inclusive, and ecologically secure. The tide is with us, and we are ready to ride it towards a brighter future. (The writer is Union Minister of State

explains the institutional pressures, morass, and therefore the consequential public perception.

When someone openly gives illegal orders (without even being on the site and on the basis of partisan hearsay), intimidates an officer on duty, and throws rank (in this case, Deputy Chief Minister!), it is unsurprising that many would rather succumb than offend their political masters for fear of vengeance. Perhaps the most telling part of emasculating a "uniform" was by the incredulous query of the clearly entitled Deputy Chief Minister when he asked, "Itna apko daring hua hai kya" (literally, how could you become so daring). Instead of lauding the fearless woman officer who was standing tall against complaints of illegal excavation, the shocking question asked was as to why she was so fearless.

As is the normal sequence in such events,

the Deputy Chief Minister offered a condescending, mealy-mouthed, and insincere explanation and it was followed by deafening silence by his party and coalition colleagues, the Central government, and also unsurprisingly, by the comity of her professional colleagues from the police services. So now whenever the policing services fail (be it the State Police, Central Armed Police Forces or even Specialist Forces), be it in the internal strife in Manipur, J&K or natural disasters like the recent flood situation ~ it is always the institution with a healthy "distance" from the politicians, i.e. the Armed Forces (whose mandate is to be external facing) that comes to the rescue, as the proverbial "last resort".

The lesson for the larger citizenry and institution themselves is to try and maintain the mandated "distance" from the political classes and to not allow or encourage usurpation, misuse, or even appropriation, of these institutions by the politicians. These institutions have survived not

Century Challenge

a society where reaching 90 is unremarkable and crossing 100 is increasingly routine.

Yet behind the celebration lies a sharper reality. An ageing population with a shrinking birth rate creates structural strains that no amount of fish and green tea can offset. Pensions and healthcare costs rise as the working-age base shrinks. Younger generations shoulder a heavier tax burden while simultaneously caring for parents and grandparents who live longer than any in history. Rural towns empty out as youth migrate to cities, leaving behind clusters of the elderly with dwindling services and limited social support. The very success of extending life has exposed a failure to renew it.

This paradox offers both



graphics but are already adopting diets and lifestyles that lead to chronic disease. They risk ageing before they grow rich, facing a double blow of rising healthcare costs and falling fertility without the financial cushion that

Japan built during its boom years. Meanwhile, wealthier countries in Europe and North America must confront their own version of the century challenge as medical advances lengthen lives without guaranteeing purpose or economic security. Longevity should be celebrated, but not romanticised.

A society of centenarians demands new thinking about work, retirement, and family life. Policies that encourage lifelong learning, flexible employment for older workers, and stronger community networks can turn added years from a fiscal burden into a social dividend. The goal is not merely to live longer, but to live well ~ safely, productively, and with dignity. Japan's centenarians embody human potential, but they also remind us that biology will not pause for politics. Every country that hopes to emulate their longevity must also prepare for the obligations it creates. Longer lives are a triumph; sustaining them is the true test.





# INDIAN MARITIME SECTOR

Waves of Growth, Anchors of Trust

## समुद्र से समृद्धि

TRANSFORMING MARITIME SECTOR



Launch of various initiatives and projects of the Government of India and  
Government of Gujarat  
by

## Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

**₹7,670+** crores projects of MoPSW and GoI.  
Ports that power India's future

- 3 projects of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority: Container terminal (PPP) to boost trade, floating LNG terminal to enhance energy supply, and berth modernisation for efficient port operations.
- 4 projects of Paradip Port Authority: Development of 2 new berths and mechanisation of 2 existing berths to increase cargo handling capacity.
- 2 projects of Kamarajar Port Ltd.: Strengthening HSE compliance and infrastructure for safer and sustainable port operations.
- 11 projects of Deendayal Port Authority: Upgraded surveillance & security, Green Bio-Methanol plant for clean energy, multipurpose cargo berth, new oil jetty, civil works, and berth upgradation to improve trade and sustainability.
- 3 projects of Inland Waterways Authority of India: Ship repair facilities at 2 locations and a freight village to improve inland transport and logistics.
- 1 project each of Chennai Port Authority, Mumbai Port Authority, and Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works: Enhancing regional port facilities and connectivity.

**₹25,954+** crores projects of GoI and GoG in Gujarat:  
Roads, Energy & Growth for Every Citizen

- 19 projects of Government of Gujarat: Roads to improve connectivity, sewage systems for sanitation, upgraded healthcare facilities, seawalls for coastal protection, and solar PV projects for clean energy.
- 2 projects of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Regasification terminal for energy security and an Acrylics/Oxo Alcohol Project to boost industrial output.
- 3 projects of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy: 2 solar projects (Surendranagar & Vadodara) and PM-KUSUM Feeder Level Solarization to strengthen rural power supply.
- 3 projects of Ministry of Coal: 2 large solar projects (300 MW & 600 MW) and One wind project (50 MW) to enhance renewable energy generation.
- 3 projects of Ministry of Power: Development of Khavda Solar Park in 3 areas to expand clean energy capacity.
- 2 projects of Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways: Rural road connectivity to improve access and mobility in Gujarat.

in the august presence of

### Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

### Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Hon'ble Union Minister  
Ports, Shipping and Waterways, India

### Shri Mansukh Mandaviya

Hon'ble Union Minister  
Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, India

### Shri C R Patil

Hon'ble Union Minister  
Jal Shakti, India

Guests of Honour

### Shri Shantanu Thakur

Hon'ble Union Minister of State  
Ports, Shipping and Waterways, India

### Smt. Nimuben J. Bambhaniya

Hon'ble Union Minister of State  
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, India

20th September 2025, Saturday

09:00 AM

Jawahar Ground, Bhavnagar, Gujarat

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## SHRAMDAAN EVENT HELD AT JOGESHWARI (AT) UNDER SWACHHATA HI SEVA CAMPAIGN 2025



Shri Pankaj Singh – Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Western Railway is seen with senior railway officers, staff and the NDRF team at the Swachhata drive at Jogeshwari (AT).

Mumbai, Western Railway's, Mumbai Central Division successfully organized a Shramdaan event as a part of Swachhata Hi Seva campaign held at Jogeshwari (AT). This initiative received strong support and active participation from key officials

including Shri. Pankaj Singh Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) and Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) of the Mumbai Central Division. This event witnessed enthusiastic participation reflecting the spirit of unity and dedication toward maintaining cleanli-

ness. According to a press release issued by Shri Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of the Mumbai Central Division, along with many other railway officers and staff, as well as mem-

bers of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), were involved, making it a well-coordinated and collaborative effort.

Shri Singh addressed the gathering and spoke on the importance of keeping public places clean and hygienic. He also spoke about raising awareness and encouraging good sanitation habits that are sustainable in the long run. The enthusiastic participation of Railway staff and NDRF team members showed their strong dedication to the goals of the Swachhata campaign. Their active efforts and teamwork played an important role in making the event successful and meaningful.

The initiative once again highlighted Western Railway's strong commitment to creating a clean, healthy and safe environment for all. Through such initiatives, Western Railway is playing an important role in promoting environmental responsibility and contributing to the larger vision of a cleaner India.

## NO DAY BLOCK ON SUNDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER, 2025

### WR's NIGHT BLOCK BETWEEN VASAI ROAD AND VIRAR

Mumbai, To carry out maintenance work of tracks, signaling and overhead equipment, a Jumbo Block of four hours will be taken on UP and DOWN slow lines between Vasai Road and Virar station from 00.15 hrs to 04.15 hrs during the intervening night of

Saturday/Sunday, 20th/21st September, 2025. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek during the block period, all Slow lines suburban trains will be run on fast lines between Vasai Road and Virar station.

Some suburban trains will remain cancelled during the block. Detailed information to this effect is available with concerned Station Masters.

Therefore, there will be NO BLOCK in DAY TIME over Western Railway suburban section on Sunday, 21st September, 2025.

## CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF SOME TRAINS DUE TO KONKAN RAILWAY'S NON-MONSOON TIME TABLE W.E.F. 21th OCTOBER, 2025

Mumbai, 19th September, 2025

The Konkan Railway will be implementing the non-monsoon timetable w.e.f. 21st October, 2025. Due to this, the timings of 23 pairs of trains which were revised during the

monsoon period will be discontinued and the non-monsoon timings will come into effect.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the tim-

ings of all Mail/Express and passenger trains originating/terminating/plying and over Konkan Railway section which will be changed w.e.f 21st October, 2025 is attached:

## Indian Railways with Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), organize seminar on HR

(Gns). Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), in collaboration with Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), today on 19th September 2025 (Friday) organized a seminar at Northern Railway Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi.

The seminar deliberated upon contemporary issues, best practices, and emerging trends in Human



Resource Management with special focus on Indian

Railways.

The program was attended by Director General/Human Resource, Additional Member/Staff, Additional Member/HR, Principal Executive Director/Industrial Relations, Principal Chief Personnel Officer/NR, dignitaries from SHRM, and all IRPS officers posted in Delhi, while officers posted outside Delhi joined the seminar virtually.

## Mehbooba's appeal for Yasin Malik sparks row; Lone calls it 'political theatrics'

**Mehbooba's sister, Dr. Rubaiya Sayeed, had, on July 15, 2022, identified Malik and three others as her abductors. She was kidnapped near Srinagar's Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989, and released five days later after the then VP Singh government freed five terrorists in exchange.**

life imprisonment after holding him guilty for offences under the strin-

in the state after renouncing violence and choosing non-violent political



gent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and IPC. The NIA on August 11 sought the death penalty for Yasin Malik in a terror funding case; the court gave him four weeks to respond, next hearing November 10.

Mehbooba wrote that while she differs with Malik's political ideology, one cannot ignore the courage it took for him to renounce violence and embrace political engagement and non-violent dissent.

In a three-page letter shared on X, Mehbooba described Malik's journey as a "profound transformation", saying he placed trust

engagement.

In her letter to home minister, Mehbooba wrote, "I write to you not merely as a witness but as someone who has lived through the turbulent times of Jammu and Kashmir, bearing its grief, enduring its silences, and holding on to its fragile hopes. This letter is written not in defiance but in faith, in the promise of reconciliation, and in the belief that this great nation, even in its most challenging moments, can still choose healing over hurt."

She appealed for a compassionate and urgent review of Malik's case, stressing that his journey reflects a profound trans-

formation. Malik, she said, once symbolized resistance but later chose to lay down arms and embrace political, non-violent means to pursue change.

She wrote: "Over the years, Malik engaged in dialogues involving senior officials, intelligence personnel, and even controversial figures like Hafiz Saeed, all with the tacit consent of Indian agencies. These efforts represented a painstaking and deliberate attempt to build bridges in a deeply fractured land."

Reacting sharply to Mehbooba's letter, Peoples Conference President and MLA Sajad Lone accused her of "hypocrisy and political theatrics". He said his friendship with Malik went back to their college days, but clarified that his concern was not about personal loyalty but about exposing the "double standards" of Kashmir's traditional political families.

Lone questioned the very basis of Mehbooba's letter, pointing out that Malik himself had never filed an appeal and had instead narrated his story with courage. "So, on whose advice has this mercy letter been written today?" he asked.

## Infosys Helps Women "Restart" Their Careers with New Program

(Gns). Infosys is rolling out a unique initiative to bring women professionals back into the workforce. Employees can earn rewards for referring women who have taken a career break and wish to rejoin. This programme, called "Restart with Infosys," is part of the company's broader strategy to enhance diversity. It aims to attract talent in various fields like Selenium testing, Java, Oracle, and Salesforce, The Times of India reported.

Referral Bonuses for Employees

The company has outlined specific referral bonuses for employees from job levels 3 to 6. Those at job level 3 will receive Rs 10,000, while job level 4 associates get Rs 25,000. Job level 5 employees are set to earn Rs 35,000, and those at job level 6 will receive Rs 50,000. These bonuses are paid once the referred candidate successfully fills the role.

Infosys launched the "Restart with Infosys" pro-

gram to re-integrate women professionals into the workforce, offering referral bonuses to employees for

Diversity

Infosys is not just focusing on hiring; it's also committed to increasing



successful hires; it seeks to increase female representation to 45% by 2030, with over 900 women hired in mid-management roles in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

To be eligible for nomination, candidates must have at least two years of prior work experience and a minimum career gap of six months. "We are committed to helping women return to the workforce after a break," stated an internal communication from Infosys.

Commitment to

women's representation in its workforce. Currently, out of over 320,000 employees, about 39% are women. The company aims to boost this figure to 45% by the year 2030 as part of its ESG vision.

Shaji Mathew, Infosys CHRO, highlighted the importance of this initiative: "Our ESG vision drives us to build a truly sustainable enterprise with inclusion as its core." He added that the programme encourages talented women in tech who've taken career breaks

to 'Restart with Infosys' and re-enter the workforce.

Impactful Hiring Initiatives

This initiative has already shown significant results. In the fiscal year 2024-25 alone, Infosys hired over 900 women in mid-management roles through this programme. Additionally, they brought on board another 500 women in the previous year. Such efforts underline their commitment not only to their business but also to enhancing women's participation across the industry.

Last fiscal year saw Infosys hiring over 15,000 college graduates as well. The company's focus on diversity and inclusion is evident in these numbers and initiatives.

The "Restart with Infosys" programme is more than just a recruitment drive; it's an investment in fostering inclusion at scale. By encouraging women who have taken breaks from their careers to return, Infosys is setting an example for other companies in the industry.

## Robo Shankar Dies: What Is The Cause Of The Death?

(Gns). Popular comedian and actor Robo Shankar passed away on Thursday evening at the age of 46, leaving the Tamil film industry in shock. The actor, known for his impeccable comic timing and unique screen presence, had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai.

Two days ago, while shooting for Gautham Vasudev Menon and Darshan's upcoming film Godzilla, Shankar reportedly fainted on set. He was said to have collapsed due to dehydration and low blood pressure and was immediately rushed to a hospital in Perungudi, Chennai. Doctors placed him on a ventilator and provided emergency care. Despite their best efforts, he breathed his last around 8:30 pm on Thursday.

Robo Shankar, a popular comedian and actor in the Tamil film industry, passed away at 46 on Thursday morning while undergoing treatment at a Chennai hospital. The actor,

who began his film career in 2007 with 'Deepavali,' was known for his performances in movies like 'Puli,' 'Viswasam,' and 'Maari.'

Family members, friends, and fans were dev-

family revealed that Shankar had been battling recurring health issues in recent years. He was previously hospitalised after being diagnosed with jaundice, for which he under-

ring Jayam Ravi.

He went on to carve a niche for himself with memorable performances in films such as Vijay's Puli, Ajith's Viswasam, and Dhanush's Maari. His abili-



astated by the sudden turn of events. The film fraternity, too, expressed grief at the loss of a beloved colleague whose performances had entertained audiences for nearly two decades. His mortal remains will be brought to his residence later tonight for the final rites.

Sources close to the

went intensive treatment before returning to acting. However, the illness resurfaced, and this time it led to severe liver and kidney damage, which ultimately claimed his life.

Robo Shankar, who first captured the limelight as a mimicry artist on television, transitioned into cinema in 2007 with Deepavali, star-

ty to blend humour with emotional depth earned him a special place in the hearts of audiences.

The Tamil film industry today not only mourns the loss of a talented actor but also remembers the infectious energy and laughter he brought to every stage and screen he graced.

## Zubeen Garg's Net Worth Before His Untimely Death

(Gns). Assam and the entire Northeast are in mourning after the sudden death of celebrated singer and cultural icon Zubeen Garg, who tragically passed away following a scuba diving accident in Singapore.

According to reports, Singapore police rescued him from the sea and rushed him to a nearby hospital. Despite being placed under intensive care, doctors were unable to revive him. Zubeen was in Singapore to perform at the North East Festival on September 20, but his untimely death has now left a deep void in India's music industry.

Celebrated singer and cultural icon Zubeen Garg died in Singapore following a scuba diving accident; he was in Singapore for the North East Festival on September 20. Born on November 18, 1972, Zubeen, with an estimated net worth of \$8 million as of 2024, sang in over 40 languages and recorded over 32,000 songs and also won the National Film Award in 2009.

Condolences have been pouring in from fans, colleagues, and political leaders. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed grief, saying,

"Today Assam lost one of its favourite sons. Zubeen's voice had an unmatched ability to energise people and his music spoke directly to our minds and souls. He has left a void that will

enue stream.

He had a love for luxury vehicles and his collection included a BMW X5, Mercedes-Benz, Range Rover Velar, and an Isuzu SUV with a custom coating.

was a lyricist, while his mother, Ily Borthakur, was a dancer and singer.

Zubeen dropped out of college to pursue music full-time after gaining early recognition, including a gold medal at a youth festival in 1992. His debut album Anamika brought him regional fame, but his national breakthrough came with "Ya Ali".

Over his career, he sang in more than 40 languages, recorded over 32,000 songs, and acted in Assamese films such as Mon Jai and Mission China.

He also won several accolades, including the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer in 2009 for "Dilruba" from Kismat.

His creativity extended beyond singing—he was a composer, director, and screenwriter, while also devoting time to philanthropy in education and healthcare.

Known for his outspoken nature, Zubeen remained a fearless voice for his community and a symbol of Assamese pride. His sudden passing has left fans not only grieving the loss of a beloved artist but also remembering the life of a man who combined art, wealth, and social responsibility in equal measure.



never be filled." Zubeen Garg's Net Worth and Luxuries

Beyond his musical legacy, Zubeen Garg also built significant wealth during his decades-long career. According to Pratinid Time, his net worth as of 2024 was estimated at around \$8 million (approximately ₹70 crore), according to a report in The Times of India.

Although it is not clear how much he has earned on his monthly basis, his steady involvement in playback singing, live concerts, acting, and film production ensured a consistent rev-

An avid biker, he also owned high-end motorcycles, often spotted riding them across Assam.

His financial success reflected the immense popularity he enjoyed, not just in the Northeast but also nationally after his Bollywood breakthrough with the iconic track "Ya Ali" from Gangster (2006).

Who Was Zubeen Garg?

Born Zubeen Borthakur on November 18, 1972, in Tura, Meghalaya, and raised in Assam, he was named after the legendary conductor Zubin Mehta. His father, Mohini Borthakur,