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Arvind Kejriwal Targets PM Modi Over 'Swadeshi' Call, Questions Personal Commitment

(Gns). Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's renewed appeal for citizens to embrace swadeshi products. Kejriwal questioned the PM's own adherence to the principle, pointing to his use of foreign aircraft, services, and goods. "Why don't you start using swadeshi products yourself?" he asked.

The criticism followed Modi's national address, where he urged Indians to proudly declare "I buy swadeshi," as part of a broader push for economic self-reliance amid rising trade tensions with the US over tariffs and H-1B visa fees. Modi insisted the movement must go beyond rhetoric to everyday action.

Arvind Kejriwal, former Delhi Chief Minister, criticized

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for swadeshi products, questioning his personal use of foreign goods and services,



while Modi simultaneously introduced GST 2.0 with adjusted tax slabs. Modi framed the push as a move towards self-reliance, but Kejriwal dismissed it, urging stronger action amid US pressure.

Kejriwal, however,

argued that leadership by example is crucial. He also raised questions about the government's stance on American companies oper-

ating in India, saying the PM's words ring hollow if foreign dominance in key sectors goes unchallenged. GST 2.0 Unveiled

Alongside the swadeshi pitch, Modi rolled out GST 2.0, a major reform featuring two main slabs-5% and

18%-with ultra-luxury and sin goods taxed at 40%. Describing it as a "GST saving festival," he said the new structure would ease consumer costs while boosting local production and consumption. Tying the move to Navratri celebrations, Modi framed it as a step towards a developed and self-reliant India.

Reacting on X, Kejriwal dismissed the PM's statements as "sermons" without substance, urging stronger action in the face of US pressure under President Trump.

While supporters hailed Modi's swadeshi push as a path to reduced foreign dependency, critics contend that without personal example and concrete policy shifts, the call risks being symbolic rather than transformative.

Putin Calls on US to Respect New START as Nuclear Pact Nears 2026 Expiry

(Gns). Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday vowed that Moscow will continue to honor nuclear arms limits for an additional year after the landmark New START treaty with the United States expires in February 2026. Addressing Russia's Security Council, Putin warned that abandoning the pact could destabilize global security and called on Washington to similarly respect the treaty's restrictions.

The Last Line of Nuclear Control

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated Moscow will continue honoring nuclear arms limits for another year after the New START treaty with the United States expires in February 2026, which, signed in 2010 and enforced from 2011, limits

nuclear warheads and launchers.

The New START treaty, signed in 2010 and



enforced from 2011, stands as the final arms control agreement binding the world's two largest nuclear powers. It caps deployed strategic nuclear warheads at 1,550 and limits deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, subma-

rine-launched missiles, and heavy bombers to 700, with a combined ceiling of 800 on deployed and non-

deployed launchers. Verification measures-including inspections, data exchanges, and notifications-have ensured transparency and maintained decades of strategic stability.

Despite these safe-

guards, cracks have appeared. In February 2023, Russia suspended inspections and reporting, though it promised to abide by the numerical limits. Analysts warn that if the treaty lapses without a successor, the United States and Russia would face the first era in decades without binding constraints on their nuclear arsenals-a scenario fraught with risk, mistrust, and the specter of escalation.

As 2026 approaches, the fate of the New START treaty has become a focal point of global attention. Putin's pledge underscores the urgency for continued dialogue and the critical need to preserve the fragile framework that has so far prevented a nuclear arms race between the world's two most powerful nuclear nations.

Vice-President releases volumes of Prime Minister Modi's speeches titled Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas

(Gns). The Vice-President of India, Shri CP Radhakrishnan today released two volumes containing the selected speeches of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, titled 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' covering the fourth and fifth years of Prime Minister's second term.

Speaking at the event organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in New Delhi, the Vice-President extended warm greetings to citizens on the auspicious occasion of Navratri and noted that this was his first public function after assuming office.

The Vice-President said that the two volumes serve as keys to understanding the Prime Minister's contributions, vision, and dreams for the nation. He described Prime Minister Modi as "a living inspiration for millions across the country and abroad, who motivates people through his own conduct to give their very best, who has grown from being a representative of the common man to a true people's leader, whose determination has shown us how the impossible can be made possible, Namumkin ko Mumkin karna, Asambhav ko Sambhav Karna."

Highlighting the contents of the books- which include 76 speeches and

12 Mann Ki Baat addresses for 2022-23 and 82 speeches and 9 Mann Ki Baat addresses for 2023-24 compiled into 11 thematic sections each- the Vice-

person in society.

He underlined the Prime Minister's role in reviving India's cultural identity through initiatives such as Ek Bharat Shreshtha



President said they reflect the Prime Minister's clarity of thought, forward-looking vision, and commitment to inclusive governance. The Vice-President also congratulated the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the careful selection and elegant presentation of the speeches.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda- "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached"- the Vice-President observed that every speech of the Prime Minister carries the same message of persistence, determination, and public welfare. He emphasized that the speeches reflect PM Modi's vision of ensuring that government schemes reach the last

Bharat, Kashi Tamil Sangamam, Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, and the renaming of Rajpath as Kartavya Path.

On youth empowerment, the Vice-President praised initiatives such as Startup India, Fit India, Khelo India, Skill India, and Rozgar Melas, describing them as foundational pillars for building a developed India by 2047. He also highlighted the launch of Mera Yuva Bharat (My Bharat) as an initiative rooted in faith in the nation's youth.

Referring to India's G20 Presidency, the Vice-President lauded the historic inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member, underscoring PM Modi's vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- the world is

one family.

He further said that the speeches capture a "360-degree engagement" of Prime Minister Modi, ranging from shaping global agendas to driving transformative local initiatives like Vocal for Local, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. He noted how these programmes reflect the Sustainable Development Goals and bring tangible change in people's lives.

The Vice-President also highlighted that through initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar-Mobile linkage, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Lakhpati Didi, PM-KISAN for farmers, Mudra Yojana, and PM SVANidhi, more than 25 crore people have come out of extreme poverty in the past decade.

The Vice-President said that Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi draws upon Bharat's civilizational ethos-rooted in Dharma, Kartavya bodh and Seva bhav. He reminded us that a strong nation is not built on power alone but on character and unity.

The Vice-President noted that for the Prime Minister, no goal is ever too far or too difficult, as he constantly draws strength from the power of 1.40 billion Indians.

Jaishankar To Meet U.S. Secretary Rubio Amid H-1B Fee, India-U.S. Tariff Tensions

(Gns). External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is scheduled to meet U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New York on Monday for high-level bilateral discussions, coinciding with the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The meeting comes in the aftermath of President Donald Trump's recent decision to impose a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas and a 25% tariff on Indian oil imports, bringing total U.S. levies on India to 50% under the Trump administration. According to the U.S. State Department's schedule, Rubio and Jaishankar will meet Monday morning in

New York City.

Key Agenda for the Meeting

This will be the first face-to-face interaction between Rubio and

D.C., during the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will meet U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New York on



Jaishankar since Trump's trade and visa measures. The last meeting between the two diplomats took place in July in Washington,

Monday during the UN General Assembly's 80th session, following President Donald Trump's recent tariffs and visa fees.

The meeting aims to discuss a trade agreement and follows Jaishankar's initial bilateral meeting with Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Theresa P. Lazaro.

The bilateral discussion coincides with broader India-U.S. engagements aimed at achieving an early conclusion of a trade agreement. A delegation led by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will also hold talks with U.S. officials on Monday in New York.

"The delegation plans to take forward the discussions with a view to achieving early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement."

PM changed speech timing so that BJP members could watch cricket: Sanjay Raut

(Gns). Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and chief party spokesperson Sanjay Raut said here on Monday that the time of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national address, on Sunday, was advanced from 8 pm to 5 pm to enable BJP members to watch the India versus Pakistan cricket match on Sunday.

Speaking to media persons in Mumbai, Sanjay Raut said PM Modi's "usual time" to address the nation is 8 pm, calling it his "standard time to mislead people". "The prime minister addressed the nation at 5 pm, which surprised everyone, because his usual time to do it is 8 pm. That is his standard time to mislead people. So, why 5 pm this time? People are saying that there was an India-Pakistan cricket match yesterday (Sunday) and BJP workers wanted to watch it

without any disturbance from the prime minister's address," he said.

"Apparently BJP members requested the PM to schedule his address for 5 pm instead of the usual 8 pm. They wanted to watch the India-Pakistan cricket match and so the time was changed. What great patriots are these people who have made this arrangement! The prime minister talked about GST at 5 o'clock yesterday (Sunday) so that blind devotees and BJP members could watch the cricket match. What a display of patriotism," Sanjay Raut said.

Citing a viral video showing Pakistani batsman Sahibzada Farhan making a gun firing gesture during a match with India which has sparked a controversy,

Raut said, "Sahibzada Farhan just proved on the field how Pakistani terrorists slaughtered 26 innocents in Pahalgam by gunning them down like it was nothing. He gripped his bat like an AK-47, firing boundaries."

Raut also targeted Union Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah who is the chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC) by name. "We have not given Bharat Ratna. Jay Shah should be given Bharat Ratna for stopping the India-Pakistan war. United States President Donald Trump should also be given the Nobel prize for insulting India's martyrs. All Bhakts should strongly demand Bharat Ratna for Jay Bhai," he said sarcastically.

Raut had claimed a few days ago that Jay Shah, who heads the International Cricket Council (ICC) had paid Rs 50,000 crore to Pakistan, while he announced a 'My Sindoor, My Country' campaign against the India-Pakistan cricket match played in Dubai.

Raut's statements came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens through an address on Sunday to take pride in purchasing and selling Swadeshi products, noting that India's prosperity depends on the strength of self-reliance.

During his address to the nation on the eve of the Navratri festival, PM Modi affirmed that achieving the goal of a developed India requires adopting self-reliance and promoting Made-in-India products.

PM Modi also touched upon the next-generation GST reforms,



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

Editorial

Hidden Menace

Kerala's encounter with a deadly brain infection highlights how climate, culture, and public health can sometimes collide in unexpected ways. A microscopic organism, *Naegleria fowleri*, thrives in warm, untreated freshwater and can invade the human brain through the nose. What follows is a near-fatal condition called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis, which destroys brain tissue within days.

Globally, only a few hundred cases have been documented over decades, but the mortality rate exceeds 90 per cent. In Kerala, this once-rare threat is now a seasonal danger. The southern state has detected dozens of cases in a single year ~ an extraordinary jump from the handful reported earlier. Yet amid the alarm lies a measure of hope: survival rates are improving. State laboratories, strengthened by years of investment in public health, are rapidly testing suspected patients and enabling early treatment.

Aggressive drug regimens, though far from perfect, are saving lives that would once have been lost. This demonstrates the critical role of surveillance and quick intervention when confronting pathogens that evolve faster than public awareness. Kerala's vulnerability stems from more than biology. Its landscape is dotted with more than five million wells and thousands of ponds, providing daily water to millions of households. These natural sources cannot be fully chlorinated without harming ecosystems or disrupting livelihoods. People bathe, swim, and perform religious nasal rinses in these waters, creating countless entry points for infection. Warning signboards and emergency chlorination drives help only at the margins.

The most effective defence remains knowledge which would involve cleaning storage tanks, using nose plugs while swimming, and avoiding stagnant or polluted water. Climate change deepens the challenge. Warmer air and water temperatures extend the amoeba's breeding season and nourish the bacteria it feeds on. Even a modest rise of one degree Celsius can dramatically increase risk. Kerala's experience is, therefore, not a local anomaly but a preview of global trends. As temperatures climb, organisms once confined to tropical ponds may emerge in temperate lakes, and diseases once considered medical curiosities may become public-health crises. Public communication must balance urgency with calm. Over-reaction could paralyse daily life, while complacency would invite tragedy.

Kerala's health workers are attempting that delicate balance ~ educating citizens without inducing panic, urging precautions without demonising everyday water use. Their success will depend on community participation as much as on medical breakthroughs. The lesson is clear. Investment in laboratory capacity, transparent reporting, and community education can transform a near-certain killer into a manageable risk. But no state can tackle climate-driven diseases alone. Reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, strengthening sanitation, and expanding research into rapid treatments are all part of the same fight. Kerala's silent waters remind us that the boundaries between environment and health are dissolving, and that vigilance must flow as steadily as the water on which life depends.

Buried Truths

The discovery of a newborn buried alive in Uttar Pradesh is more than a shocking crime. It is a chilling reminder of how deeply entrenched gender prejudice continues to poison Indian society. The image of a tiny hand protruding from the earth, of an infant gasping for air as mud fills her mouth and nose, is a metaphor for how we treat millions of girls ~ pushed to the margins, silenced, and left to fight for survival from the moment of birth. India's celebrated economic growth and urban modernity cannot mask the stubborn reality that a daughter is still often seen as a liability.

Despite decades of campaigns and legislation, female foeticide remains widespread, aided by illegal sex-determination clinics. Where abortion is not an option, infanticide or abandonment follows. Each case may be presented as an isolated tragedy, but together they form a pattern of systemic violence against girls, one that transcends caste, religion, and region. The economic rationale offered by many families ~ that sons inherit property, provide for aging



parents, and carry on the family name ~ has become a deadly social script. Daughters are still linked to dowry costs and diminished status.

Laws against dowry and prenatal sex testing exist on paper, but enforcement is patchy, and social norms often override legal deterrence. When a community silently accepts the disposal of a baby girl as unfortunate but understandable, it signals that the real crime is to be born female.

As we approach the last quarter of 2025, there is a need felt to map some of the transformative touch points that have influenced the journey of change and transformation in the last three quarters. This year has not just been about the rapid rise of new technologies, but also about how these technologies are reshaping social, cultural, and economic ecosystems. The branding industry, in particular, stands at the crossroads of disruption and reinvention.

2025 has witnessed the impact of the "Disruptive Change" across Critical Institutions, Stakeholders, Policies, Processes and Outreach. In reality today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become the "Cutting Edge for Transformation, Innovation, Creativity within the global, regional and national architecture". The impact of AI is deep and diverse. As a phenomenon it has impacted the concept of ideation, management and dissemination, created curiosity for investors and investment and has positioned data management, data analytics the algorithm syndrome and the accompanying blitzkrieg at the nerve center of policy and decision making.

Machine Learning has become the mantra and tool for success. Branding dynamics and experience have undergone 360° changes. A new language of interface, interaction and exchange has developed between personalized driven chat boxes and consumers. Immersive brand experience has become the new tool of the understanding, visualization, knowledge and perception framework. AI as a process and facilitator has created a niche for consumer understanding and preferences. The response is instant, proactive; we may call it the "AI induced instant noodle

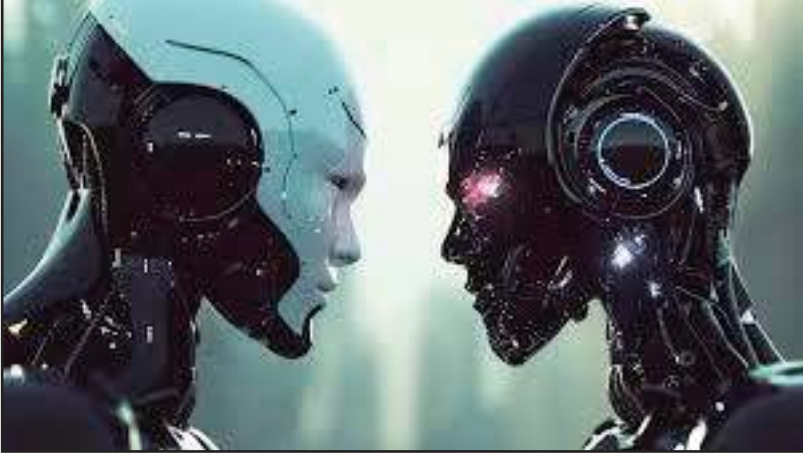
phenomenon".

AI has enhanced the scope of decision-making tools by introducing diverse language models. This has led strategists to debate as to whether a new form of "C onne ct and interconnect" is appearing in the rapid rise of new technologies, but also about how these technologies are reshaping social, cultural, and economic ecosystems. Segmentation. In 2025, conversational AI has revolutionized how brands communicate with their audiences. These aren't soulless, pre-programmed interactions; today's AI-powered conversational tools are nuanced and context-aware. They respond to emotional cues, adapting their tone and recommendations in real time.

This evolution has transformed what were once transactional interactions into rich, personalised dialogues. Voice AI takes this a step further, adding a sensory layer to brand interactions. Experts predict that AI-generated voices will soon be able to adjust dynamically, sounding more empathetic during stressful moments or more energizing during morning interactions. These advancements create opportunities for brands to develop consistent yet adaptable voices, capable of fostering deeper emotional connections with consumers. While no one denies the push factor of AI within the branding arena, the question being raised is whether brand profile, management and imaging have become fragile and over-dependent on tools?

Are AI chat bots spoiling human ingenuity, creativity and thinking? Will over-focused and tech driven branding lead to more revenues, advertising push and genuine thought driven creativity? The challenge in the days to come will be

whether we need to redefine the contours wherein we see better AI and human insightful collaboration. Branding as a process still requires a "Sixth Sense"



to feel and perceive, which no computational algorithm can replace. Despite AI's prowess in data processing, there are some things it simply cannot replicate. Emotional nuance and cultural intuition, hallmarks of great storytelling, remain this a step further, adding a sensory layer to brand interactions. Experts predict that AI-generated voices will soon be able to adjust dynamically, sounding more empathetic during stressful moments or more energizing during morning interactions. These advancements create opportunities for brands to develop consistent yet adaptable voices, capable of fostering deeper emotional connections with consumers. While no one denies the push factor of AI within the branding arena, the question being raised is whether brand profile, management and imaging have become fragile and over-dependent on tools?

Branding thrives on narratives that resonate with audiences on a visceral level, and while AI can assist in generating content, it cannot fully grasp the

subtleties of humour, nostalgia, or cultural symbolism. This is where human ingenuity will continue to shine. Brands that succeed in this era of AI-driven effi-

ments harmoniously. According to the EY Reimagine and Reinvent Report, AI is driving significant transformation in industries like media and entertainment (M&E), reshaping content creation, distribution, and audience engagement.

Companies are using AI to forecast consumption trends, optimize production, and deliver personalized experiences across platforms, embedding branding into every step of the customer journey. The report stresses that while AI offers vast opportunities, success will depend on balancing innovation with ethical practices addressing data privacy, algorithmic bias, and transparency to maintain consumer trust. True leaders will strategically leverage AI to enhance their core values, ensuring branding remains both innovative and emotionally compelling. Ultimately, the future of branding isn't about dazzling consumers with flashy tech. It's about using technology to enhance what truly matters: human con-

nection. AI offers unparalleled opportunities for personalization and efficiency, but it's up to businesses to wield these tools with integrity and purpose.

Brands that rise to this challenge will be those that stay curious, creative, and, above all, authentic. In a world saturated with noise, the brands that stand out will be the ones telling stories worth remembering, stories that reflect not only technological innovation but also the timeless art of human connection. And if the last year is any indicator, the strongest brands will not simply embrace AI as a tool, but use it as a bridge to amplify empathy, deepen trust, and bring humanity back into focus, even amidst rapid technological disruption. The lesson for leaders is clear: machines may set the rhythm, but it is human imagination that writes the melody. Only when the two perform in harmony will branding achieve its highest purpose, building communities, shaping cultures, and leaving behind stories that endure long after the algorithms change.

Suhrawardy and Partition

In the 1946 election, though the Hindu Mahasabha opposed Congress in 26 general seats, it polled only 2.73 per cent of the total Hindu vote and won only one seat, which was a special Reserved University seat from where Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (1901-53) was elected unopposed. "It was not a support for secular nationalism" pointed out Joya Chatterji "but rather against Hindu communalism".

The general understanding was that the Congress was in a much better position than the Hindu Mahasabha in protecting the interests of Bengali Hindus. The election brought the Muslim League back to power in Bengal under the Prime Minister-ship of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (1892-1963). The anti-Muslim feeling was enhanced by his role during the Bengal famine as it was believed that 4 million people perished because of his negligence and corruption. Suhrawardy did not believe in elite accommodation and did away with the principle of parity of Hindus and Muslims in ministry formation. Pakistan-isation of Bengal looked certain. The Bengali Hindus were terrified at the prospect of becoming second-class citizens as Muslims constituted 54 per cent of Bengal's population, similar to the Muslim feeling of being a permanent minority within the national movement with Hindus as the permanent majority.

A number of prominent Bengali intellectuals, Jadunath Sarkar, Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, Meghnad Saha, Sisir Kumar Mitra and Suniti Kumar Chatterji sent a

telegram on 7 May to the Secretary of State expressing lack of confidence in Suhrawardy's ministry and called for a separate Hindu Bengal. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, earlier a champion of unity of Bengal, now veered towards a separate entity for the Hindus. The suspicion was enhanced when Suhrawardy declared that 16 August, the Direct Action Day, would be a public holiday. Much more significant was his threat of complete independence for Bengal.

His demand for an independent Bengal was because of his opposition to the Congress being the sole party at the Centre, bypassing the Muslim League's claims. The threat of Pakistan-izing Bengal got further entrenched and the savagery of the 16 August followed. There is little doubt that Suhrawardy bore the responsibility for this inhuman action and as Joya Chatterji pointed out "Hindu leaders were also deeply implicated, a fact which is less well known. More Muslims than Hindus died in the fighting". But this is only the first phase of the development. By 10 May 1947, the fact that India would be partitioned was more or less accepted by both the Congress and the Muslim League.

During this crucial time, Suhrawardy sent an emissary, Maulavi Abul Hasan, MLA and his close confidant, to meet Mahatma Gandhi at Sodhpur, near Calcutta where Gandhi was staying. Suhrawardy was getting alarmed at the terrible consequences awaiting the partition of Bengal as a consequence of the division of India between India and Pakistan. To avoid the

ill effects of Bengal's partition Suhrawardy proposed to Gandhi that instead of dividing India into two, it should be divided into three, India, Pakistan and a United Bengal. Hasan met Gandhi to prepare the ground for a discussion with Suhrawardy.

He told Gandhi that if India was divided into two, Pakistan also would have to be divided into two, West and East Pakistan. He stated that religion united the Bengali Muslims with those in West Pakistan but there were wide differences between the two groups in food habits, social interaction, culture, and language. There were no common points. Added to this, was a suspicion that West Pakistanis would dominate over East Pakistanis which was unacceptable to the Bengalis. As such, a united Bengal would be beneficial for both Hindus and Muslims who had several common practices and interests other than religion. Gandhi patiently heard Hasan and asked for a few clarifications.

The next two days, 11 and 12 May, Suhrawardy met Gandhi and acquainted Gandhi with his proposal. Gandhi replied that such a proposal could not be imposed forcibly on any community and added significantly, that after the happenings in Noakhali, Calcutta and Bihar, there was a total breakdown in communication leading to total distrust between the two communities. Suhrawardy acknowledged this difficulty and added that when he proposed a united Bengal the Muslims were receptive but the Hindus rejected it outright though a few Hindu leaders heard him out.

Gandhi replied that he

would put in his efforts to convince the Hindus provided Suhrawardy could work out a non-violent mechanism of keeping both the communities together and offered to be his secretary to help him. Suhrawardy considered it a strange proposal and requested Gandhi for some time to think about it. Gandhi in a letter to Suhrawardy which was delivered on the morning of 13 May 1947 stated "I recognise the seriousness of the position in Bengal in the matter of partition.

If you are absolutely sincere in your professions and would disabuse me of all the suspicion against you and you would always retain Bengal for the Bengalis ~ Hindus and Mussulmans, intact by non-violent means, I am quite willing to act as your Honorary private secretary and live under your roof till Hindus and Muslims begin to live as brothers that they are". Nirmal Kumar Bose, a close associate of Gandhi, commented on this historic meeting after 18 years, much before 1971.

The fears expressed by Suhrawardy and Hasan were proved right. There was a total domination of West Pakistan over East Pakistan in all important spheres like trade and employment. Bose praised the two Bengali Muslim leaders for clearly comprehending the ill effects of partition on Bengal and cautioned both the Muslims and the Hindus but unfortunately the leadership at the time did not accept the warning. Maulana Azad had predicted that no nation could sustain only on a single religious identity. Pakistan was dismembered into two in 1971.

Pakistan on humanitarian grounds, despite the Indus Waters Treaty held in abeyance. This has reduced dramatically the impact of this year's floods across Pakistan. Without warning or data, communities would have diminished lead time for evacuation and infrastructure defense, elevating the scale of human, agricultural and economic devastation." If the recent floods underscore the compounded consequences of the Indus Waters Treaty's suspension, Pakistan must reflect on whether persisting with terrorism ~ at the cost of innocent civilian lives ~ serves any purpose.

Annamalai's meeting with Dhinakaran sparks speculation of AMMK's return to NDA

(Gns). Former BJP state president K Annamalai had an hour-long meeting with Amma Makkal Munntera Kazhagam (AMMK) general secretary TTV Dhinakaran, sparking speculation of the AMMK's return to the NDA combine. Annamalai is the first BJP leader to walk the extra mile to meet the sulking Dhinakaran, who had left the NDA following his marginalisation after the re-entry of the AIADMK under Edappadi K Palaniswamy (EPS) into the saffron combine in Tamil Nadu and his projection as the Chief Ministerial candidate in the 2026 assembly election. He and rebel AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam (OPS) have deserted the NDA in close succession after their long wait for the BJP national leadership to facilitate their re-induction into the AIADMK turned futile. The meeting took place at the residence of Dhinakaran in Chennai late on Sunday night and lasted for more than an hour. It is believed that Annamalai had strongly requested Dhinakaran to reconsider his decision to quit the NDA and return to the saffron fold. Dhinakaran, while training his guns on BJP state president for the chaos in the NDA and accusing him of lacking the capability to carry along all constituents, has praised Annamalai's leadership besides crediting him with bringing the AMMK into the NDA for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Despite walking out of the NDA, Dhinakaran displays a soft heart for the BJP national leadership, avoiding any criticism of the Union Government. With OPS and Dhinakaran reportedly moving closer to actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), it remains to be seen whether mission Annamalai can succeed.



Azam Khan to walk free from Sitapur jail on Tuesday

(Gns). Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan is set to be released from Sitapur Jail on Tuesday morning at 7 am after spending nearly 23 months in judicial custody. Sources confirmed that the jail administration has received the official release order, and all necessary formalities have been completed. Khan's anticipated release has created a stir in political circles across Uttar Pradesh. His supporters are preparing a grand welcome outside the jail, while political rivals are maintaining a cautious silence. Authorities have deployed tight security to ensure law and order during the high-profile event. Jail Superintendent Suresh Kumar Singh confirmed Khan's release, stating, "We have received the release order for Azam Khan. The process for his release is currently underway." Completed all legal procedures required for his release, with only final jail formalities pending. His return to public life is being viewed as a potential game-changer in Uttar Pradesh's political landscape. Adding to the intrigue, speculation is rife about Khan's next political move. Rumours suggest a possible departure from the SP, with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) emerging as a potential destination. Fueling these speculations, BSP's lone MLA and close confidant of party chief Mayawati, Uma Shankar Singh, publicly invited Khan to join the BSP, while clarifying that the final decision would rest with Mayawati. Khan's return is expected to influence the state's political narrative significantly. Whether he stays loyal to the SP or charts a new course remains to be seen. All eyes are now on Tuesday morning, as the veteran leader prepares to walk out of jail.



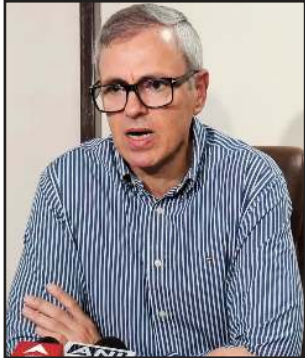
Cross-border arms smuggling module busted in Punjab

(Gns). In an intelligence-led operation amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state, Amritsar Commissionerate Police has dismantled an organised arms and hawala network with the arrest of its three operatives involved in cross-border illegal weapons supply and recovered 10 sophisticated weapons and Rs 2.5 lakh in hawala money from their possession. Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said on Monday that those arrested have been identified as Amarjeet Singh, alias Bau (22), a resident of Majhi Meo in Amritsar; Manbir Singh (26), a resident of Vaan Tara Singh in Tarn Taran; and Mohammad Tofiq Khan alias Babblu (42), a resident of Gautam Nagar in Mumbai. The recovered weapons include three .30 bore PX5 pistols, three 9MM Glocks, one 9MM Beretta, and three .30 bore pistols. DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested accused were in contact with Pakistan-based handlers and were using social media to procure and further distribute illegal weapons with an intention to disturb peace and harmony in the state. The DGP said that further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages in this case to unearth the entire network and identify cross-border linkages. Amarjeet, Manbir was nominated and arrested along with nine pistols, he said, while adding that both Amarjeet and Manbir had a common Pakistan-based handler, who pushed weapon consignments into Indian territory using drones. The CP said that further investigation has revealed that the money from this smuggling trade was routed through hawala to Pakistan by a Mumbai-based individual, Mohammad Tofiq Khan, who was using rented premises in different cities of the Punjab for network operations. The latter was arrested along with Rs 2.5 lakh in hawala money, he added. In this regard, an FIR dated 17 September 2025 has been registered under sections 25(6), 25(7), and 25(8) of the Arms Act at Police Station Gate Hakima in Amritsar.



Permanent restoration of flood damages to start after centre approves package: J&K CM

(Gns). Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that permanent restoration of infrastructure and restoration of livelihoods hit during the recent incidents of cloudbursts and landslides across Jammu and Kashmir would be taken up on a war footing once a comprehensive package is approved by the Government of India. The Chief Minister chaired a high-level meeting to take a comprehensive review of flood relief and restoration measures across Jammu and Kashmir. He directed all departments to expedite their assessment so that projections for relief and restoration could be submitted to the Government of India without delay. He enquired about the funds released during the floods and was informed that in several districts, these funds have been utilized in temporary restoration works. Stressing the importance of durable solutions, he directed the Jal Shakti Department to avoid temporary fixes and instead focus only on permanent restoration of water supply schemes. He also reviewed the safety audit of schools undertaken after the floods, calling for the certification process to be fast-tracked. The Chief Minister was informed that the slow movement of traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar highway has been on account of poor road conditions on certain stretches and not deliberate. Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, presented the situation in the Jammu Division, reporting several human and heavy material losses. He said the floods claimed 150 lives, left 178 people injured, and 33 missing, with Kishtwar recording the highest number of casualties. Housing losses were severe, with more than 4,200 homes fully damaged and over 8,600 partially damaged, the worst-hit districts being Udhampur and Jammu. Livestock losses stood at 1,455, and crops over 1,300 hectares were damaged. It was informed that financial assistance exceeding Rs 40 crore has been disbursed from the State Disaster Response Fund, with an additional Rs 3.35 crore provided from the CM Relief Fund. Restoration work is underway across sectors, with over 2,700 km of roads and more than half of the damaged bridges already temporarily restored. Permanent restoration of roads and bridges is estimated at nearly Rs 893 crore. The power sector was also badly affected, with over 49,000 distribution transformers hit—almost all of which have now been restored. More than 2,000 water supply works were damaged, with around 1,600 temporarily restored, requiring nearly Rs 195 crore for permanent restoration. The education sector also bore the brunt of the floods, with more than 8,800 schools audited for safety. Over 5,500 have been issued safety certificates, of which around 5,200 were deemed safe, while 758 were declared unsafe.



Kharge, Sonia, Rahul to attend historic CWC meeting in Patna on Wednesday

(Gns). The Congress Working Committee's extended meeting will be held at Sadaqat Ashram, Patna, on Wednesday, which will be attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Apart from top party leaders, all other CWC members and chief ministers of Congress-ruled states are also expected to attend the CWC meeting, which is being held in Patna for the first time since independence. Announcing a press conference in Patna on Monday, Bihar Congress President Rajesh Ram said that Sadaqat Ashram, the centre of political consciousness in Bihar, will now become the driving force for change across the nation. He said that the decision to host the CWC meeting at the historical Sadaqat Ashram holds great significance in current circumstances. The current socio-political scenario in the state warrants special efforts to save the country, its Constitution and the citizens of India from people with vested interests. He said: "After independence, we received the Constitution, which is now under threat by the BJP. But we will protect it at all costs. We will not let the conspiracy of vote thieves succeed in Bihar." Bihar Congress In-Charge, Krishna Allavaru, said that the Sadaqat Ashram was the centre of the freedom struggle against the British. It will now turn into the centre of the "second war of independence." He said: "Discussions at this meeting will not be limited to Bihar but will encompass national issues of great importance. During the CWC meeting, resolutions on several key national issues will be passed. We are all committed to finding ways to provide relief to the people of Bihar." The Congress leader said that even after 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown no interest in resolving major issues such as unemployment, inflation, rising crime, failed foreign policy, and increasing atrocities against women.



Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi begins four-day official visit to Sri Lanka

(Gns). Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi embarked on a four-day official visit to Sri Lanka. The visit will culminate on 25th September. A statement from the Naval spokesperson informed that during the visit the CNS will call on the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, VAdm Kanchana Banagoda, and engage in bilateral discussions with the three Service Chiefs and other senior government officials on a broad spectrum of defence cooperation matters, with emphasis on maritime security, capability enhancement, training and identifying avenues to strengthen cooperation. He will also be participating in the 12th edition of Galle Dialogue 2025 – Ocean under Changing Dynamics'. The Indian Navy regularly interacts with the Sri Lanka Navy through medium of Annual Defence Dialogue, Staff Talks and International Maritime Conference at Colombo on the theme 'Maritime Outlook of the Indian Ocean under Changing Dynamics'. The Indian Navy regularly interacts with the Sri Lanka Navy through medium of Annual Defence Dialogue, Staff Talks and International Maritime Conference at Colombo on the theme 'Maritime Outlook of the Indian Ocean under Changing Dynamics'.



Chennai becomes first Indian city to launch integrated digital ticketing system for public transport

(Gns). In a major leap forward to enhance connectivity and streamline urban mobility, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched the mobile application Chennai One, which provides an integrated QR code-based ticketing system for all modes of transport—buses, Metro Rail, suburban trains, and autos. Hailed as the first city in the country to achieve this milestone, Chennai now offers a seamless commuting experience through the app, which also doubles as a journey planner. The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA), which developed the app, described the all-in-one digital platform as a "game changer" that brings multiple modes of public transport under a single umbrella. "This will make commuting easier. Positive feedback has already been received from the public, which will be taken into account to make Chennai shine as the best in the world in #PublicTransportSystem," Stalin posted on X. The app, available for both iOS and Android platforms, was launched following successful trials that began in June. A key hurdle that delayed the rollout was resolving the issue of platform fees. It was settled with the State government agreeing to bear 1.39 percent of the ticket fare charged through the app. The government is expected to pay approximately ₹3 crore annually toward this. Further, CUMTA officials confirmed that the State government has already deposited ₹30 lakh into the account of Southern Railways as rolling funds. Southern Railways can deduct ticket fares from this pool, which will be reimbursed from daily fare collections. This landmark initiative, a digital gateway for urban commuting, is part of Chennai's 25-year comprehensive mobility plan. By eliminating the need for multiple ticketing systems, it offers a model that urban planners believe can be replicated in other cities across India.



SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav Questions BJP's GST Profit Distribution Plan

(Gns). Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav Monday raised sharp questions about the BJP government's plan for distributing the profits earned from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). In a post on his WhatsApp channel, Yadav asked 10 pointed questions regarding the fate of the amount collected through GST over the past eight years. Key Questions Raised by Yadav: Will the total amount be distributed directly to households like the "Mahakumbh model" implemented by the UP BJP government? Will it be adjusted in the next insurance premium payments? Will the amount be returned directly to bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme? Will the amount be adjusted against the remaining Rs 15 lakh prom-door channels? Will the amount be distributed in cash by BJP leaders on the eve of the next election? Will the amount be used to waive school fees for children? Will the amount be used to provide free medical care to the sick and elderly? Will the amount be added to the BJP's Jumlakosh, a fund allegedly used for making false promises? Yadav alleged that the BJP government "looted the public for 10 years through heavy taxes" and now, when they are feeling rejected by the masses, the ruling party is now trying to woo people with token sops. "The BJP government entangled businesses and traders in a flawed GST. The government made huge profits through high GST and allowed profiteering," Yadav said. While the government maintains that GST reforms are intended to simplify the tax structure, reduce prices, and spur economic growth. However, the opposition parties, including the SP and Congress, have dismissed the government's move, calling it "inadequate" and nothing more than a "Band-Aid solution."

