



GARVI GUJARAT

RNI No. GUJENG/2014/57876

ગરવી ગુજરાત

Published Daily from Ahmedabad

Volume-12

Issue-053

Dt. 26-09-2025

Friday

Page-04

Rs.00.50 paisa

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Diversity, demand, and scale: PM highlights India's strengths in food processing sector

(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday emphasized India's triple strength of diversity, demand, and scale in the food processing sector.

Addressing the gathering at the World Food India 2025 at Bharat Mandapam here, the prime minister noted that 25 crore people in India have overcome poverty in the last 10 years and the country is now the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem, with many start-ups working in the food and agriculture sectors.

"India has the triple strength of diversity, demand and scale....In the last 10 years, 25 crore people in India have overcome poverty....Today, India is the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem, with many start-ups working in the food and agriculture sectors," PM Modi said.

He further asserted: "India is continuously contributing to global food

security.....Today small farmers are becoming a major force in the market...In India, cooperatives are

be provided to around 26,000 beneficiaries for micro projects in the food processing sector worth

along with 150 international participants.

Multiple sessions will cover topics like India as a Global Food Processing Hub, Sustainability and Net Zero in Food Processing, and Frontiers in Food Processing.

India's food processing sector has seen significant growth, with the country emerging as a global leader in processing milk, millets, and pulses. The sector has attracted US \$7.33 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the past decade, and exports have touched US \$49.4 billion in 2024-26, with processed food making up 20.4 percent of the total share.

The event aims to foster global partnerships, drive investments, and shape the future of food. With its rich agricultural base, strong government support, and growing global collaborations, India is poised to strengthen its position as a Global Food Hub.



giving our dairy sector and our rural economy a new strength."

The four-day event showcases India's strengths in food processing, sustainability, and production of nutritious and organic food.

Over Rs 770 crore will

over Rs 2,510 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

The event features 21 exhibiting countries, including France, Germany, Iran, Australia, and the USA,

President Murmu offers prayers at Banke Bihari, Krishna Janmabhoomi

President Draupadi Murmu visiting Sri Banke Bihari

The birthplace of Shri Krishna arrived for the first time, President Draupadi Murmu, Bankebihari Janmabhoomi, was overwhelmed by the darshan of Nidhivan

Mathura (Ashfaq Chaudhary). For the first

around 10 am. Minister Sugarcane Development and Chinese Industry Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, Mayor Vinod Aggarwal, L. General V Hariharan (Ati Mishmay Service Medal, Army Medal, General Officer Commanding, 1 Kor Mathura), General Manager North Central Railway

Shri Banke Bihari Ji Temple Vrindavan

At Sri Banke Bihariji Temple, President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu offered prayers by law. He received the blessings of Tha Shri Banke Bihari ji. His Excellency President Smt. Draupadi Murmu ji served perfume on the dehri of

ji. He offered a makeup to Radharani in Rang Mahal, which had chadar, saree, 16 makeup, laddu, paan, perfume etc. He offered perfume and flowers in Ras Mandal. In Vanshichori Radharani, he offered perfume and flowers on Chunri Arpan and Charan Paduka. His



time on Thursday, President Draupadi Murmu came to Shri Krishna's city and went into devotion. Thakur visited Bankebihari and wished peace and harmony in the nation. When she reached Nidhivan, she also saw the place where Thakur ji creates a rhetoric. Aarti was performed by worshipping Paduka at the tomb of Swami Haridas. His Majesty brought the temple of Sri Krishna into the discussion, which many Brajwas are not aware of. When His Majesty visited the temple became special. The last gesture of the President's religious visit was Sri Krishna's birthplace, she was overwhelmed by the grandeur as soon as she entered the courtyard of Kanha. In the birthplace, she stared at the Kara for a long time, where Kanhaiya was born in Dwapar.

President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu reached Vrindavan Road railway station at

Allahabad Pal at Vrindavan Road railway station. Singh, Additional Director General of Police Smt. Anupam Kulshrestha, Divisional Commissioner Shailendra Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager Agra Gagan Goyal, F (P) TAC, CDR, 8 TAC Captain Shivam Manchanda, District Magistrate/District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar. His Excellency President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, from Vrindavan Road railway station, left to visit Shri Banke Bihari Temple. His Majesty President daughter Etishree, son -in-law Ganesh Chandra Hembram, two children of the daughter and another woman from the family, Dhanez Marandi Sri Banke reached the parking lot near the Bihariji temple, from where the Golf Cart departed to Shri Banke Bihari Ji Temple.

Chandan Kothari in the temple of Shri Banke Bihari Ji. He lit the honor Kunj Bihari Ashtak and Deep. Dinesh Goswami, Vijay Krishna Goswami, Gaurav Goswami, Fanki Goswami, Shailendra Goswami and Srivardhan Goswami were present at the time of visit of Sri Banke Bihari Ji. Goswamis and Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Ji Temple High Powered Management Committee Vrindavan, Mathura Chairman Ma. Justice (Retired) High Court Allahabad Ashok Kumar ji sent an attractive memento of Thakur Sri Banke Bihari.

After seeing Sri Banke Bihari ji, everyone reached Srinidhivan through golf cart. Where we saw the green trees of Tulsi forest. His Majesty President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu ji visited Lalita Kund, offered lotus garlands and flowers at the place of Shri Banke Bihari

Majesty was given to President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu ji as Vanshi Prasadi. Perfumery, Chunri and Haridas offered perfume at Swami Haridas Samadhi. Shri Bhikchand Goswami and Shri Rohit Goswami, the main service of Nidhivan, made His Excellency aware of the importance of all the sites, the antiquity and mythology of Nidhivan, from Lalita Kund to Swami Haridas Samadhi.

Bhajan Kuti in Srisudama Kuti inaugurated After Srinidhivan Darshan, President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu Shri Sudama reached Kuti. In Sri Sudama Kuti Vrindavan, His Excellency President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu was welcomed by Sutikshan Das Maharaj, Amardas Ji Maharaj, Narayan Das Aggarwal ji, Vyasdeva Mahant and Mohan Kumar Sharma.

around 13 per cent. He criticized the government for lacking a vision to revive the MSME sector and create jobs for youth.

Gandhi emphasized the need for a new approach that promotes employment, equal opportunities, and respects people's skills. He said that mere PR and headline management will not suffice, the government needs to adopt policies that benefit the broader population, not just a select few.



Rahul Gandhi questions govt's 'Make in India' claim

(Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday questioned the government's claim of promoting 'Make in India' initiatives, saying that the policies only benefit crony capitalists like Adani and Ambani.

In a post on his WhatsApp channel, Gandhi said the MSME sector, the backbone of the economy that generates the most employment, has suffered the most due to the govern-

ment's policies. The policies are designed to benefit crony capitalists, with no vision to revive the MSME sector even after reducing GST rates.

He said that the MSME sector has been severely impacted by policies like demonetization and GST.

The leader of the Opposition pointed out that the government's promise to increase the

manufacturing sector's share in GDP to 25 per cent

has not been fulfilled, with the current share hovering

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel graces the Garba Festival organized at IPS Mess, Ahmedabad.

Chief Minister performs the Aarti of Maa Jagdamba and extends Navratri greetings to all IPS officers.

Gandhinagar, 25 September 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel on Thursday graced the Garba Festival organized at the IPS Mess in Ahmedabad.

The CM prayed to Adi Shakti Maa Amba and conveyed Navratri greetings to all IPS officers and police personnel.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Shri Pankaj



Joshi, Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department Shri M.K. Das, Director General of Police

Shri Vikas Sahay, senior police officials Dr. K.N.L. Rao and Shri Manoj Agrawal, Ahmedabad

Police Commissioner Shri G.S. Malik, along with other senior IPS and police officers, were present. IPS officers also participated in the Navratri festival with their families.

Renowned artist Shri Bharat Baria and his troupe performed aarti accompanied by a graceful dance performance. A troupe from Porbandar presented Maniaryo and Dhal-Talwar Raas, while the youth from Anand showcased both traditional and contemporary Raas-Garba performances.

Calcutta HC bars Kunal Ghosh from making comments on Mithun Chakraborty for 3 months

(Agency)

A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Wednesday, directed the Trinamool Congress state general secretary in West Bengal, Kunal Ghosh, from making any sort of "public comment" about superstar and BJP leader, Mithun Chakraborty, for the next three months.

The single-judge bench of Justice Arindam Mukherjee gave this direction to Ghosh, acting on a libel petition of Rs 100 crore filed by Chakraborty

against Ghosh.

In the libel petition, Chakraborty accused Ghosh of making certain public comments which was not only libellous about him but also about his family members. The libellous comments made by Ghosh also resulted in the tarnishing of his social image, Chakraborty complained in his petition.



As the matter came up for hearing on Wednesday, Chakraborty's counsel argued in the court that the libellous comments made by Ghosh publicly not only tarnished the social image of Chakraborty and his family members but also affected his professional prospects as an actor.

After a detailed hearing in the matter, the single-judge bench directed the serving of notice to Ghosh in the matter and also barred the latter from making any sort of "public comment" about Chakraborty for the next three months.

Recently, Ghosh made a number of public comments accusing the superstar of his alleged involvement with chit fund entities. Ghosh also made some slanting remarks about the shifting of political camp by Chakraborty, a former Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member.

'Sukumaran Nair has turned Kattappa': Banner criticizing NSS general secretary appears in Pathanamthitta

(Agency)

A day after Nair Service society (NSS) general secretary G Sukumaran Nair is a shame for the community. "Sukumaran Nair stabbed Ayyappa devotees from back for family, Nair turned Kattappa, doing padaseva for issue. The banner says

Sukumaran Nair stabbed Ayyappa devotees in the back and that Sukumaran Nair is a shame for the community."

G Sukumaran Nair on Wednesday openly said that he has faith in the LDF government. He also supported the Pinarayi Vijayan government on the Sabarimala

embarrassment to the community," the banner reads.

G Sukumaran Nair on Wednesday openly said that he has faith in the LDF government. He also supported the Pinarayi Vijayan government on the Sabarimala



ernment for taking steps to safeguard the Sabarimala traditions, the leader of the organization of the Nair community said it assured them that they would resolve the issue in Sabarimala. He criticized the Congress and the BJP in a harsh language.

It is said that the rift between Opposition leader V D Satheesan and the NSS leadership is the reason for the shift in the stance of the NSS favouring the CPI-M-led LDF.



गरवी गुजरात हिन्दी



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

Editorial

Passion and Conviction

The memorial service for Charlie Kirk was intended to honour a young right-wing activist's life, but it also revealed the combustible mix of politics, faith and identity shaping today's United States. Tens of thousands filled a football stadium, waiting through the night for a seat, transforming a farewell into something closer to a revival meeting. Music from Christian performers, chants of national pride and a procession of high-ranking speakers fused grief with political theatre, creating an atmosphere both mournful and defiant.

Kirk's death at just thirty-one is tragic in any context. He built a national following by challenging liberal orthodoxies on college campuses and urging young voters to embrace conservative ideas. His career was marked by a combative style and a gift for mobilising crowds, and his sudden killing has understandably shocked those who saw him as a generational leader. But the service went beyond remembrance. From the podium, senior political figures framed his death as an assassination, a sign of moral decay, and a call to arms for a movement that already commands significant influence in Washington. One of the most striking moments came when Kirk's widow addressed the crowd. Speaking with remarkable composure, she forgave the alleged killer and called for a spiritual revival rather than revenge. Her words, rooted in Christian teaching, stood as a counterpoint to the harsher political rhetoric that followed.

It was a rare plea for mercy in a gathering otherwise charged with talk of enemies, strength and retribution. The service showed how personal sorrow can quickly become collective symbolism, turning an individual tragedy into a nationwide political reckoning. The decision to elevate Kirk as a martyr carries risks. Treating a still-unexplained killing as proof of ideological persecution deepens the narrative of a nation under siege. When leaders describe opponents as existential threats and use tragedy as fuel for political mobilisation, they narrow the space for dialogue and invite further confrontation. The danger is not only that violence may escalate, but that the basic norms of democratic coexistence may be eroded.

At the same time, the memorial captured an undeniable truth: Kirk's movement has mastered the emotional language of belonging. By blending patriotic symbols, religious music, wooden crosses and youth-driven activism, it offers participants not just policies but identity. For many, that sense of purpose outweighs calls for restraint, making moderation an increasingly lonely position. America's challenge is to mourn without weaponising grief. The power of forgiveness expressed on that stage offers a path toward reconciliation, but only if it is allowed to stand on its own rather than serve as a prelude to partisan battle. A society that treats every tragedy as political currency will find that its victories are fleeting and its wounds permanent. The real test now is whether compassion can outlast the applause lines ~ and whether grief can remain sacred in a time of relentless division.

SBI Card and IndiGo Form Strategic Partnership; Launch IndiGo SBI Card

September 25, 2025: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer and IndiGo, India's preferred airline, today launched the 'IndiGo SBI Card', as part of the IndiGo BluChip loyalty program. This premium co-branded credit card has been launched in two variants, IndiGo SBI Card and IndiGo SBI Card ELITE, to offer highly rewarding experience for avid travellers. Customers will earn rewards on all spends made on offerings within IndiGo's ecosystem, and on hotel and travel bookings, among other categories. Customers can enroll for the card digitally via SBI Card SPRINT, by visiting the SBI Card website SBI Card.com, and can also opt to enroll offline by visiting SBI Card retail kiosks.

IndiGo SBI Card unlocks a superior travel experience with an array of thoughtful benefits designed to make every journey more rewarding and seamless. Cardholders can enjoy 7% rewards on spends made using the IndiGo SBI Card ELITE and 3% rewards on spends made using the IndiGo SBI Card, in IndiGo's ecosystem. They can also avail 3% rewards on spends made using the IndiGo SBI Card ELITE and 2% on the IndiGo SBI Card, for hotel and travel bookings on other platforms. IndiGo SBI Card ELITE and IndiGo SBI Card customers also enjoy 2%, and 1% rewards, respectively, for spends made on all other categories.

Rewards earned on IndiGo SBI Card ELITE and IndiGo SBI Card are more than just points; they serve as a complete travel currency. The rewards are in

the form of IndiGo BluChips, credited to the cardholder's IndiGo BluChip account in every statement cycle. Cardholders can redeem them across IndiGo's extensive services including flight bookings, hotel bookings, seat upgrades, meals, and vouchers for services like Fast Forward, among many more. By combining spends with travel privileges, IndiGo SBI Card enables customers to earn up to 29,000 bonus IndiGo BluChips every year.

Speaking on the launch Ms. Salila Pande, MD & CEO, SBI Card said, "At SBI Card, we have observed that travel constitutes an important spend category for our cardholders. With increased exposure, and growing disposable incomes, tech-savvy customers in India are increasingly seeking holistic travel experiences. As a customer-centric organisation, we truly understand the evolving requirements and hence have formed this strategic partnership with IndiGo to launch the IndiGo SBI Card and address such needs. IndiGo SBI Card is a powerful product offering unparalleled benefits, ensuring every journey becomes more rewarding and seamless. We are confident that this premium credit card will be a key part of our strong co-brand card portfolio."

Mr. Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo said: "With IndiGo BluChip, we are constantly exploring ways to enhance the value proposition for our loyal customers. Our partnership with SBI Card is an important step in that journey. This co-branded credit card

(Agency) While the government has rolled out infrastructure for healthcare that reaches the entire country, in several parts of the country its actual reach in remote villages continues to be unsatisfactory. Recognizing this reality, the government too has been exploring various options of improving the situation from time to time. Several approaches and models created by teams of doctors and other health professionals have been tried in this context, including the widely appreciated work of several renowned doctors.

One such widely discussed health initiative is that of a voluntary organization Basic Healthcare Services (BHS). This initiative, which can be said to be based on the AMRIT approach or AMRIT clinics, started in 2012 in south Rajasthan. Over the last 13 years or so its work has steadily consolidated and although it continues to struggle with challenges old and new, its achievements resulting in saving thousands of lives have been widely appreciated. Dr. Pavitra Mohan, co-founder and director of BHS had earlier led the child health programme of UNICEF in India. He emphasizes three aspects of any such initiative. Firstly, the health needs of the poorest should be prioritized, or the 'last person' should get the 'first priority'.

Secondly, the initiative should be based on recog-

nizing the right to health of all people. Thirdly, such an initiative should be highly participative so that the community's real and priority needs can be properly understood by all those involved in the health initiative. Dr Sanjana Mohan, another co-founder, (see photograph) emphasize that in such people-based health initiatives dignity and trust are very important. The success of such initiatives, she says, should be seen more in terms of their more durable and lasting impacts, not just temporary gains.

BHS has six clinics in Udaipur and Salumbur districts, most of these in the midst of villages with tribal communities constituting most of the population, with high levels of poverty, malnutrition, disease burden and migrant labour. After considerable discussion it was decided that clinics would be led by nurses, helped by the weekly visit of one or two physicians and round – the – clock phone consultations with BHS doctors. Then Nurses, with adequate qualifications improved by BHS training, are selected, broadly speaking, from with the communities with which they work. Apart from attending to patients in day clinics, nurses are also available for night-time emergencies.

They can consult BHS doctors any time on phone or by video calls. They refer patients with more serious problems to hospitals in

Udaipur where a BHS staffer is specially posted to provide help to any such patient whenever this is needed, particular at the initial stage of hospital admission. Nurses are



assisted at the clinic and in villages by health workers. Village-based female health workers called 'health ray' or swasthya kiran play a particularly important role.

Thus, with four nurses providing the base, a clinic functions effectively with support from doctors on the one hand and female and male health workers on the other hand, helped further by village advisory committees, peer groups and partner organizations. There are also phulwari or nutrition and play centres for small children in many villages. There is strong logistics support from the BHS head office to ensure the ready supply of medicines and other requirements. Three out of six clinics are able to provide X-rays on

the same day with the help of clinic-level availability of a portable X-ray machine, while efforts to arrange this for the other clinics are being made.

Most lab tests are avail-

able in the clinic, while efforts to provide sputum tests are also being made. Meanwhile, arrangements exist with other labs for prompt and speedy availability of these tests. This is a low-cost model which can help patients in even better ways if the benefits of government's free medicine schemes, maternity benefit schemes and other schemes are extended to this initiative. At present a typical patient has to pay Rs. 50 for a weekly consultation including supply of medicines for the week.

This often has to be subsidized by the organization. What is even more important is that no one is refused care because of inability to pay. Once it is known that the patient is too poor to pay, various

Revoking visas

less. India's chemical industry, which has long prided itself on scale, innovation and export reach, now finds itself under a harsher spotlight where even a whiff of complicity can have far-reaching costs.

Fentanyl is not an ordinary narcotic. It is a synthetic opioid so potent that minute quantities can be lethal, and it has driven an unprecedented overdose crisis in the United States. While India is not a consumer hub for fentanyl, it is a significant producer of the pharmaceutical chemicals

that can serve as precursors. This dual reality ~ legitimate production capacity combined with the potential for diversion ~ makes Indian exporters both valuable partners and high-risk actors in the eyes of foreign regulators. By cancelling visas and extending restrictions to family members, Washington is signalling that its campaign against fentanyl will not be confined to criminal indictments or customs seizures. Immigration law is being wielded as a weapon of deterrence.



the global war on synthetic drugs. It is a reminder that in the age of borderless commerce, criminal liability and diplomatic consequences are also border-

insurance benefits for flight cancellations, lost credit cards, and lost baggage. The joining and annual renewal fee of IndiGo SBI Card is ₹1,499 plus applicable taxes and that of IndiGo SBI Card ELITE is ₹4,999 plus applicable taxes. Both variants of the contactless card are available on Mastercard as well as RuPay payment plat-

My character is the personification of greed,” says Manav Gohil from COLORS’ ‘Binddii’

No prison wall is strong enough to cage a mother's spirit. Carrying forward its legacy of fearless and raw sagas, COLORS brings a stirring tale of love, betrayal, and resilience in its new drama Binddii. Born behind bars, Binddii's world begins and ends with her mother Kajal, whose warmth turns a prison cell into her haven. But when fate pulls her into the outside world, she is thrown into a ruthless battle where survival is the only choice. In the heart of Mathura, Binddii discovers the bitter truth, her father Aviraj's lies for mafia don Dayanand Chaudhury's thirst for power shattered her mother's life. As danger looms and enemies circle once again, Binddii must summon the courage to defy them all and fight for her mother's freedom. Starring Radhika Muthukumar as Kajal, Saachi Bhojra as Binddii, Krushal Ahuja as Aviraj, and Manav Gohil as Dayanand, Binddii airs every day at 8:30 pm on COLORS and JioHotstar.

Additionally, the co-branded credit card enables customers to avail renewal benefit of 2500 IndiGo BluChips on annual fee payment of IndiGo SBI Card and 5000 IndiGo BluChips and 1 IndiGo 6E Eats voucher on annual fee payment of IndiGo SBI Card ELITE. The credit card offers domestic airport lounge access on both variants and complimentary international airport lounge access on the IndiGo SBI Card ELITE, adding more to the premium experience. The IndiGo SBI Card ELITE also provides travel

iron bars into a haven of joy and hope. But their fragile happiness is shattered when the law forces Binddii out, leaving her unprotected and alone in a hostile world she has never known. When her uncle Saurav takes her to his home in Mathura, the past begins to resurface. She discovers that her father, Aviraj, had conned Kajal, conspiring with the ruthless mafia don Dayanand Chaudhury for money and power. Determined to right these wrongs, Binddii sets out to educate herself and one day free her mother, but the challenge is that Aviraj and Dayanand are closing in on the mother-daughter. The story rides on her inspiring journey to fight this impossible battle that is tilted in favour of the powerful.

2. What drew you to Binddii and your role in particular?

A. Dayanand Chaudhury is one of those characters who frightens you with their unpredictability. He started as a petty criminal, always scheming for shortcuts to wealth, and over the years, he's built himself into a mafia don who wears the mask of a respectable man. And yet, for all his darkness, he has

this very human layer - his love for his son. He's whimsical, his moods keep everyone around him terrified, and he balances this strange duality of being feared in private but celebrated in public. He uses acts of kindness as stepping stones for political power. He will go to any extent to protect that spotless public image. My character is the personification of greed. That's the thrill of playing Dayanand, you never know which side of him you'll see next, and neither does the audience.

3. The show exposes how greed can destroy families. Do you think audiences will see shades of their surroundings in this story?

A. Absolutely. Greed isn't only measured in money. It shows up in everyday choices where personal gain outweighs relationships. Most families have seen it in some form, whether through inheritance disputes, siblings drifting apart, or trust shattered by ambition. Binddii mirrors this reality through its characters, and I believe audiences will connect with the show because they've either experienced or witnessed the damage greed can cause.

4. Each character represents a side of society - nurturing, innocent and corrupt. Which side do you think has the upper hand in the real world?

A. Greed and corruption may seem powerful in the moment; we see their impact in scams, failures of systems, and unsettling headlines every day. Yet, over time, it is love, innocence, and justice that truly prevail. Families cannot thrive on greed, and societies cannot recover through corruption; they survive because of compassion, resilience, and the fight for what's right. Binddii reflects this very pattern that while darkness may claim its victories, it is humanity and love that win the greater war. That's why this story feels so timely and so personal.

5. Dayanand seems like an outright evil man. How did you ensure he feels menacing yet believable?

A. The scariest kind of evil is the one that doesn't announce itself. I wanted Dayanand to feel chilling precisely because of how ordinary and composed he appears. Real menace doesn't always come with loud theatrics; it hides in restraint, in silence, in the ability to look you in the eye and never flinch. I focused

charges are waived. The results of this approach during the last 13 years have been encouraging. The preventive aspects of healthcare promoted by health workers are important in the context of malaria, TB and other diseases. On the whole the AMRIT experience has been highly appreciated in the context of health needs of remote villages. One of its clinics despite its very remote location is also accredited for safety and quality by the National Accreditation Board of Hospitals and Health Care Providers.

It is encouraging that nurses have lived up to the high level of trust and confidence reposed in them. By and large the nurses are selected from the same tribal communities from which the patients come. Hence they are familiar with the socio-economic conditions and cultural norms of the people whom they serve and are also deeply sympathetic to their needs. While recently visiting some of these clinics, I spoke to some of these nurses.

One of them, Ganga, working in Bagdunda clinic, said that one day she got a phone call from a man saying that he was coming to the clinic with his wife who was in a very late of pregnancy. But she had developed unbearable pain and was now lying on the roadside. Leaving the clinic to the care of fellow-nurses, Ganga rushed to the spot. With her assistance, both

the mother and the baby could be saved. Another recent occasion Ganga remembers is when a woman came for delivery in such a serious state that there was no time for referral to a bigger hospital.

So, she rang up BHS doctors for advice and following their instructions, performed the essential procedures, saving both mother and child. Chandrabhanu, a nurse in Salumbur district, is an even more inspiring example of not giving up efforts in difficult circumstances as despite suffering twice from cancer, she continued her efforts for providing medical care and contributed significantly to improving health services at a government primary health centre which was being helped by the BHS to improve. She has also advanced professionally to be the mentor to nurses of three clinics.

Community health workers have also important contributions in important areas like reducing malnutrition and ensuring that TB patients complete their treatment properly. At Rawach clinic, health workers gave examples of some serious cases of TB patients whose successful treatment has been completed. (The writer is Honorary Convener, Campaign to Save Earth Now. His recent books include Man over Machine, When the Two Streams Met, Planet in Peril and A Day in 2071.)

in traceability technologies, and empowering customs and narcotics agencies with real-time data are urgent needs, not optional upgrades. There is also a diplomatic dimension.

India's aspiration to be a trusted global supplier of high-value chemicals and pharmaceuticals rests on the confidence of international markets. Allowing rogue operators to exploit regulatory loopholes risks damaging that reputation at a time when global supply chains are already under strain from geopolitical tensions. Proactive cooperation with foreign enforcement agencies, rather than defensive posturing, will strengthen India's position as a responsible stakeholder.

on underplaying him, making his calm more unsettling than chaos. His danger lies in his conviction - he doesn't second-guess, he doesn't apologise, he doesn't feel guilt. That quiet self-assurance is what makes him believable, and in many ways, far more terrifying than an over-the-top villain.

6. You've played a range of roles over your career. What makes Dayanand stand apart from the others?

A. Most of the characters I've portrayed had a shade of humanity - something the audience could latch on to, even if they were flawed. Dayanand is different. He doesn't seek your sympathy, he doesn't need validation, and he certainly doesn't have a redemptive bone in his body. He thrives on destruction and power, and he's absolutely comfortable in that skin. That's what sets him apart for me as an actor; he isn't offering the audience a chance to understand him, and that lack of compromise makes him unsettling. It's rare to play a character who is so unapologetically dark, and that challenge was exciting.

7. What is scarier in your opinion: a villain with no remorse or one who justifies every action as 'necessary'?

Western railway to introduce amrit bharat express between udhna & brahmapur

Mumbai, Amrit Bharat Express marks a significant milestone in Indian Railways' continuous efforts to provide modern, safe, and comfortable travel for the common man. This train is a technologically advanced train, designed to serve long-distance passengers with improved amenities, enhanced safety, and a modern travel experience at affordable fares. With locomotives at both ends in a push-pull configuration, the train ensures faster acceleration, reduced travel time, and a smoother as

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

	Train No
19021/19022	Udhna —
Brahmapur Amrit Bharat Express (Weekly):	
Train No. 19021 Udhna — Brahmapur Amrit Bharat Express will depart from Udhna every Sunday, at 07:10 hrs, and will reach Brahmapur at 13:55 hrs the next day. This train will run from 05th October	

2025. Similarly, Train No. 19022 Brahmapur – Udhna Amrit Bharat Express will depart from Brahmapur every Monday, at 23:45 hrs, and will reach Udhna at 08:45 hrs, on Wednesday. This train will run from 06th October, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Bardoli, Vyara, Navapur, Nandurbar, Dondaicha, Sindkheda, Amalner, Dharangaon, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Akola, Badnera, Wardha, Nagpur, Gondia, Durg, Raipur, Mahasamund, Khariar Road, Kantabanji, Titlagarh, Kesinga,

Muniguda, Rayagada, Parvatipuram, Bobbili, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road and Palasa stations in both directions.

This train comprises of Sleeper Class & General Second Class coaches.

The booking for Train No. 19021 will open from 26th September, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Western Railway's Mumbai Central Division Conducts Mega 'Shramdaan' Under "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath"

Mumbai,
 "One Nation – One Hour
 – Together for Clean India!"
 In a remarkable display
 of collective commitment to
 cleanliness and sustain-
 ability, Western Railway's
 Mumbai Central Division
 successfully conducted a
 massive Shramdaan activi-
 ty under the theme "Ek Din,
 Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" on
 25th September 2025 at
 Mumbai Central Station as
 part of the Swachhata Hi
 Seva 2025 campaign. The
 initiative witnessed enthusi-
 astic participation from Shri
 Ramendra Kumar Tewari -
 Additional Member (RE) of
 the Railway Board, Shri
 Pradeep Kumar - Additional
 General Manager Western
 Railway, Senior officers
 from WR Headquarters and

Mumbai Central Division, staff from Headquarters, Division and Mumbai Central station, as well as volunteers, showcasing the spirit of unity for a cleaner and greener public environment. The drive included extensive cleaning activities in the parcel office area, one of the busiest and most challenging sections of the station reinforcing Indian Railways' mission to provide hygienic and passenger-friendly premises.

Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the Shramdaan drive was not just limited to cleaning



activities but was a holistic campaign promoting civic responsibility. Over 50 railway officials took part in the intensive cleaning operation at the Parcel Office area. A captivating Nukkad Natak performed by the

Railway cultural team of Lower Parel Workshop in the Main Waiting Hall drew an audience of more than 120 passengers, spreading the message of cleanliness, waste segregation, and behavioural change. In a symbolic gesture of commitment to environmental conservation, a tree plantation drive was also carried out at the circulating garden area of Mumbai Central, with AM(RE)/Railway Board and AGM/WR planting saplings. This initiative reaffirms Western Railway's dedication to the Swachh Bharat Mission and highlights the power of community participation in building a clean, green, and aesthetically pleasing railway ecosystem.



Why Leh and Ladakh Is Boiling? What Is Sixth Schedule Status Protesters Are Demanding?

(Agency)
Local organizations in Ladakh have intensified calls for the Union Territory to be included under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, citing the need to protect tribal land, jobs, and cultural identity.

The Leh (LAB)	Apex and the	Body Kargil
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Democratic Alliance (KDA) have urged the Centre to grant constitutional safeguards similar to those enjoyed by tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram under Article 244(2). The Sixth Schedule protects tribal land and resources and provides autonomy for local governance, preventing the

Local organizations in Ladakh, including the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, are demanding the Union Territory be included under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to protect tribal land, jobs, and cultural identity, seeking

safeguards similar to those in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. Currently, Ladakh is governed under regulations issued by the President under Article 240, following the abrogation of Article 370 and the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Navratri-Dussehra Special Collection: Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak Inaugurates 'New Craft Silk India Exhibition 2025'

Lucknow, September 25.
On the auspicious occasion of Navratri and Dussehra, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Brijesh Pathak, inaugurated the exhibition of special party wear apparel organized by New Craft Silk India at the Safed Baradari in Kaiserbagh by cutting the ribbon and lighting the lamp. This nine-day exhibition will run from September 25 to October 3.

During the event, organizers Mr. Manas Acharya and Mr. Javed Maqsood welcomed the chief guest with a bouquet of flowers. Mr. Pathak visited various stalls and inquired about the apparel and handloom products. On this occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister also honored women work-

ing in various fields on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday.



Speaking to the media Mr. Pathak said, "The availability of a variety of apparel for women under one roof during the festive season is a commendable initiative. My heartfelt congratulations to the weavers. We must promote

Swadeshi."
The exhibition features
garments made from 100%
pure natural fibers – silk,


are highlights.

The products of weavers from various states have a unique identity in this exhibition and are being made available to the people of Lucknow at affordable prices.



PNB signs MoU with BSNL to open employee salary accounts

25 September 2025: Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's leading public sector bank, signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for opening of salary accounts of BSNL employees.

From PNB, the MoU was signed in the august presence of Shri Suresh Kumar Rana, CGM, BA & RM Division; Shri Parveen Goyal, CGM, Delhi Zonal Office; Shri Sanjeev Bhardwaj, GM, National Business Team, and Shri Rajesh Kumar, GM, Delhi Zonal Office.

From BSNL, senior dignitaries included Shri Prabhu Dayal Chirania, Sr. GM, Corporate Budget and Banking and Shri Shailender Kumar, DGM, Corporate Budget and

Banking.

Under this MoU, PNB will extend its specially designed salary account offerings to the employees of BSNL, covering a wide



A photograph showing three men in suits standing in front of a backdrop featuring the PNB logo. The man on the right is holding a certificate or document. They are standing behind a table with a potted plant, a plate of fruit, and a cup of tea.

range of benefits aimed at ensuring their financial security and convenience.

Key features of Salary Accounts:

- Customised Account Number
- Free Hospicash facility
- Free Term Insurance
- Free Personal Air & Accidental Insurance Cover



- Free Accidental Education Cover & Girl Child Marriage Cover
- Free Family Banking benefits

• Overdraft Facility
• Special concession in Home Loan, Car Loan interest rates, processing charges and documentation charges

WESTERN RAILWAY

STEEL GIRDER WORK

DY. CE (Bridge-E)-Dadar, Western Railway, invites e-Tender Notice No: **DYCE-BR-DDR-2025-15**, Date: **22.09.2025**, Name of Work: Saphale-Surat Regirdering of existing BGML Standard steel girder 18.30 M of Bridge No. 228 (7x18.30) only Span No. 7, 284 (1x18.30), 288 (2x18.30) & 352 (1x18.30), UP & DN in Saphale - Surat section in Jurisdiction of SSE(Br) Valsad of Mumbai Central division with 25 Tonne Axle loading standard steel girder of Mumbai Division.

Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 2,79,24,090.73. EMD: ₹ 2,69,800.69.

Date and time for Submission: Till 16.10.2025, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 16.10.2025 at 15:30 hrs.

For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in

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WESTERN RAILWAY

STEEL GIRDER WORK

DY. CE (Bridge-Line)-Dadar, Western Railway, invites e-Tender Notice No: DYCE-BR-DDR-2025-15, Date: 22.09.2025, Name of Work: Saphale-Surat Regirdering of existing BGML Standard steel girder 18.30 M of Bridge No. 228 (7x18.30) only Sp No of 7, 284 (1x18.30), 288 (2x18.30) & 352 (1x18.30), UP & DN in Saphale - Surat section in Jurisdiction of SSE(Br) Valsad of Mumbai Central division with 25 Tonne Axle loading standard steel girder of Mumbai Division.

Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 2,79,24,090.73. EMD: ₹ 2,89,600.00.

Date and time for Submission: Till 16.10.2025, 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 16.10.2025 at 15.30 Hrs.

For further details please visit our website www.irops.gov.in

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Premji Rejects Siddaramaiah's Request To Open Wipro Sarjapur Campus For Public Traffic

(Agency) Wipro founder and chairman Azim Premji has turned down a request from Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to allow public vehicular access through the company's Sarjapur campus, citing legal, operational, and security constraints.

In a letter dated September 19, the Chief Minister had proposed limited public access through the Wipro-Ecoworld link road to ease traffic congestion at Iblur junction along Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR), a key IT corridor. Preliminary studies by

traffic experts suggested the move could reduce congestion by up to 30%, with Bengaluru Traffic Police simulations projecting a 38% drop in travel time during peak hours. Wipro chairman Azim Premji declined Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's request for public vehicular access through Wipro's Sarjapur campus due to legal, operational, and security concerns, but offered financial support for

Responding to the proposal, Premji acknowledged the severity of Bengaluru's traffic woes and emphasized the need



for a comprehensive, scientific study led by global experts in urban transport. He offered Wipro's financial support for such an initiative and reaffirmed the company's commitment to collaborating with the government on long-term mobility solutions.

"With respect to the specific suggestion of allowing public vehicular movement through our Sarjapur campus, we apprehend significant legal, governance and statutory challenges since it is an exclusive private property owned by a listed company not intended for public thoroughfare,"

Asian Palm Oil Alliance and Council for Palm Oil Producing Countries to build a stable and sustainable Palm Oil supply chain

Mumbai, 25 September 2025 — APOA, the CPOPC and A Solidaridad today announced a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deepen producer and consumer collaboration and accelerate sustainability across the palm oil value chain. Signed in Mumbai, the MOU creates a formal platform to harmonise approaches, address market volatility and strengthen inclusion of smallholders, with a special focus on India and South Asia.

A photograph of three individuals standing behind a white podium. On the left, a man in a white shirt and dark vest holds a certificate. In the center, a man in a dark suit and tie holds a certificate. On the right, a woman in a black top holds a certificate. Behind them is a large banner for 'THE SOLVING ASSOCIATION' with the tagline 'Association of Problem Solvers'. The banner also features images of various fruits and vegetables.

To strengthen stability and predictability of supply for more than 1.5 billion consumers in South Asia,



“At a time when food security and price stability are front of mind for families and businesses across South Asia, this partnership gives producers and consumers a formal table to strengthen collaboration and foster mutual understanding in addressing shared challenges.”
— Atul Chaturvedi, Chairman, APOA

A partnership built for resilience, fairness and inclusion

Under this MoU, with

alignment and mutual recognition among national sustainability frameworks including Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO), Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) and Indian Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) Framework while fully respecting each country's laws and regulatory competencies. The collaboration also prioritises regenerative practices.

the Parties will promote traceable, smallholder-inclusive and NDPE-compliant (No Deforestation, No Peat, and No Exploitation) sourcing, with pilots that use Solidaridad's SoliTrace traceability tool and complementary remote-sensing tools to enable mill-to-market visibility. The MoU also provides for importer-facing dashboards tailored to Indian buyers. The Parties

"This collaboration signals our collective commitment to a responsible palm oil stewardship," said Dr B. J. Mehta, Executive Director, Solvent Extractors' Association of India. "This initiative will help Indian and South Asian consumers to have a clear, evidence-based information on palm oil's nutritional profile, its role in keeping edible oils affordable, and the progress producers are making to protect forests and support smallholders."










Under Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban
Nirmal Gujarat Award Ceremony
 and
Swachh Bharat Mission's
Chintan Shibir

Under the
 Nirmal Gujarat Award Ceremony,
Cheque distribution
worth ₹18.50 crore
 to the winning Municipalities and
 Municipal Corporations
 by
Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
 Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat.

26th September, 2025 | 03.00 PM
Mahatma Mandir Convention Center, Gandhinagar

Who is Flying Officer Priya Sharma? Meet the Woman Fighter Pilot in MiG-21 Farewell

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to bid a final farewell to the MiG-21, a cornerstone of India's air defence for over six decades. The aircraft has played a pivotal role in the IAF since the 1960s, taking part in major conflicts from the 1965 and 1971 wars to the Kargil conflict in 1999 and beyond. While the Bison upgrade extended its operational life, the iconic jet is now gradually being replaced by modern platforms, including the indigenous Tejas Mk-1A.

As part of this historic event, Flying Officer Priya Sharma, one of India's elite woman fighter pilots, will take to the skies. The farewell ceremony, scheduled at Chandigarh Air Force Station on

September 26, will feature a ceremonial flypast, aerial displays, and the official decommissioning of the legendary jets. Sharma, commissioned in 2018 from the Air Force Academy in Dundigal, is among the key pilots participating in the final sorties, symbolising both the end of an era and the evolving role of women in India's combat aviation.

Flying Officer Priya Sharma, a woman fighter pilot from Rajasthan, is participating in the MiG-21 retirement ceremony at Chandigarh Air Force

Station after being commissioned in 2018 and training at Dundigal and Bidar Air Force Stations;



her involvement highlights women's roles in India's combat aviation.

Switch To Shorts Who is Flying Officer Priya Sharma Meet the Woman Fighter Pilot in MiG-21 Farewell Early Life and Inspiration

Priya Sharma hails from Jhunjhunu district, Rajasthan. Growing up in a military family, she was inspired by her father, who served in the Air Force. Her fascination with aviation started at a young age when she watched Jaguar and Hawk aircraft during her father's postings. This passion eventually led her to pursue a career as a fighter pilot, breaking barriers in a predominantly male profession.

Her journey into fighter aviation was shaped by her engineering background (B.Tech from IIT-Kota) and the inspiration of her father, an IAF officer, who influenced her decision to take to the skies.

Mathura Refinery in Hindi Pakhwara laid song singing competition for contract workers

Mathura. According to the instructions of Executive Director and Refinery Chief Mukul Aggarwal and under the guidance of conscious refinery management for their contract workers, Mathura Refinery organized a special program for contract workers in which contract workers sang songs in their melodious voice and mesmerized everyone in this interesting



With 50 colleagues in Hindi Pakhwada competition organized under Hindi Pakhwada,

contract workers working in the refinery impressed everyone by reciting patriotic songs, bhajans and folk songs and showed their talent towards Sur Taal. About 50 colleagues participated in this program and the same number of comrades encouraged their co-workers. All the contract workers appealed to appreciate this program and the management to organize such work in future as well.

Ayurveda Day celebrated with many programs in Sanskriti University

Mathura. The 10th Ayurveda Day was celebrated by Sanskriti Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital with seven-day events. During this, body painting, debate, Nature interpretation, poster making competition, Ayurveda diet, quiz, reel making, mini expo were organized. Not only this, the team of Sanskriti Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital organized awareness programs from village to village. On the 10th Ayurveda Day, the Chief Guest, former Chairman Ayurvedic Farmocopier Committee, Ministry of Ayush, Prof. D. Under Vinod Kumar Joshi Dravagun, medicines prepared from medicinal plants gave detailed information about their planting. Special guest Prof. Dr. CSR Prabhu told about yoga and its importance. On this occasion, students Abhinav and his colleagues performed a strong play on the long-term Ayurveda. Similarly, the first year students of BAMS gave an impressive theatrical performance on the baseable velocities. Students Kirti,

Students Devansh and Aditi made the students

Dr.Surabhi had a special contribution. A street play



Prof. D.C.S.R. Prabhu addressing students at a program organized on 10th Ayurveda Day at Santosh Memorial Hall of Sanskriti University.

aware of mental peace and health. Student Muskan and her colleagues performed Rajasthani folk dance. The program began with the lighting of the chief guest. Dr. Mohanan, Principal of Sanskriti Ayurveda Medical College welcomed the guests. The conduct was conducted by the students Apoorva, Dharmita and Khushi. In combination with all the programs done on Ayurveda Day, Dr. Ekta Kapoor, Dr. Prashant and

was presented by the students to commemorate the 10th Ayurveda Day under cultural and health awareness activities. On the occasion of Ayurveda Day programs, a grand Ayurvedic diet construction competition was organized at Sanskriti Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital. The program was organized in the students with the aim of raising awareness of Ayurvedic nutrition, balanced diet and traditional Ayurvedic dietary

practices. The program was inaugurated by Chancellor Dr. Sachin Gupta and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Meenakshi Sharma. The dishes presented in the competition were evaluated by Principal Respected Dr. M. Mohanan and Dean (Hotel Management Department) Ratish Sharma. The event was organized by the Healthy Department, whose main organizers were Dr. Shipra Pandey, Dr. Ashim and Dr. Akanksha Heer. A unique body painting competition was organized by the anatomy department. The purpose of this competition was to highlight the relationship between Ayurveda and human anatomy (anatomy). 20 groups participated in this competition and through their art showed important aspects of physiology (anatomy) and Ayurveda. In the competition, Dr. Surabhi and Dr. Anita from the Department of Anthology shared their views to make all the students the importance of Ayurveda and physical structure to the people.

Minister's nephew Nardev Chaudhary threatened to kill him for the second time

- **Firing at the residence of the District President of the ruling party**

- **SP Rural Suresh Chandra Yadav reached the spot** Kosikalan. A nominated and his unknown colleagues fired several rounds and escaped in the Narsi Village, the residence of the ruling party's district president. The entire case was captured in CCTV cameras installed outside the district president's residence. It is said that the nominee also threatened to kill Naradev, the nephew of the cabinet minister, on the phone for a second time. Police reached the information and inspected the spot and registered a case against the nominated and unknowns on the district president's tahrir and started a search of the accused. SP countryside Suresh Chandra Rawat said that the police team has been

formed, the accused will be arrested soon. CC TV footage is being scrutinized. Let us tell you that

Cabinet Minister Chaudhary has become a favorite of the youth of Nardev Chaudhary, nephew of Laxminarayan. Naradev is unable to digest the growing support base of Chaudhary. Nardev Chaudhary, who has always played a leading role in public interest works, has been threatened by the nominee to kill him on the phone. Nardev Chaudhary said that at around 10 pm on Wednesday, he went to discuss the program of His Majesty President coming to Mathura Vrindavan on Thursday, sitting near BJP District President Naradev Chaudhary. He told that

during this time, Namjad Lokesh came out of the district president's residence with his unknown compan-



SP giving information

ions and stopped and spread three four rounds and spread the rhythm in the colony. By the time someone could understand something, the accused had escaped. Meanwhile, Naradev Chaudhary's mobile bell rang and the person who speaks on the phone told him that if you become a supporter of the district president, you will be killed. Let us tell you that

Nardev Chaudhary has been threatened by the nominee for the second time. The nominee has just come from jail. The entire case was captured in a CCTV camera installed outside the district president's residence. On the information, there was a stir in the police administration and in a hurry police station reached the spot and inspected the opportunity. SP Rural Suresh Chandra Yadav and SOG in-charge Ashok Yadav also inspected the police station and gave instructions to the police station. The police station has filed a case against half a dozen unknowns including District President Nirbhay Pandey's tahrir and has formed teams of fast police personnel to take possession of CCTV cameras in their possession. Teams are suppressing everywhere in the case

DoT and Financial Intelligence Unit- India Sign Landmark MoU to Combat Cyber Crimes and Financial Frauds

(Agency) In a significant step towards strengthening India's fight against misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crimes and financial frauds, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) today signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance information sharing and coordination.

The MoU was signed by Shri Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Dy. Director General (AI & Digital Intelligence Unit - DIU), DoT and Shri Amit Mohan Govil, Director, FIU-IND, in the august presence of Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom) and Shri Arvind Shrivastava, Secretary (Revenue), marking a new era of collaborative intelligence sharing between Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) of DoT and the country's apex financial intelligence agency.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Neeraj Mittal highlighted the evolving role of technology across departments. "As technology advances, departments have leveraged it to achieve their respective goals. While this is an essential first step, true progress lies in transcending departmental boundaries to address existing gaps. Developing synergies by learning from each other is crucial," he said. Dr.

Mittal further proposed, "We could consider establishing a joint working group as the next step, focusing on identifying shell companies and conducting deeper, collaborative analysis and detection."

Shri Arvind Shrivastava, Secretary (Revenue), underscored the importance of partnership in maximizing technological potential. He stated, "This is an excellent collaboration where both sides contribute to enhancing each other's systems. Given the technology-driven nature of this partnership, I am confident it will deliver high efficiency in terms of accuracy and timeliness, enabling us to make optimal use of the data."

"Key Highlights of the Partnership Enhanced Data Sharing Mechanisms:

Real-time sharing of Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) data, which classifies mobile numbers as medium, high, or very high risk based on their association with financial fraud.

DoT will share Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) data, including the date and reason of such disconnection, with FIU-IND on an automatic basis. FIU-IN will share mobile

numbers linked to accounts involved in Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) related to cyber fraud and money mule



activities. Information exchange will be facilitated leveraging advanced technology platforms like DoT's Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) and FIU-IND's Finnex 2.0 portal.

System-based exchange portals will enable secure, real-time data transmission between the agencies.

Strengthening India's Telecom Cybersecurity Ecosystem

This strategic partnership comes at a crucial time when India's digital payment ecosystem has witnessed unprecedented growth, making it essential to safeguard citizens from sophisticated fraud schemes. The collaboration will significantly enhance the country's ability to:

Prevent Financial Crimes: By combining DoT's telecom intelligence with FIU-IND's financial intelligence, authorities can

now identify and act against fraudulent mobile connections before they cause financial damage to citizens.

Protect Digital Transactions: The shared FRI data will enable financial institutions to implement enhanced risk checks for mobile numbers flagged as high-risk during digital payment transactions.

Real-Time Intelligence for Proactive Action: The MoU enables both agencies to move from reactive to pro-active fraud detection and prevention. The FRI, developed through multi-dimensional analysis using inputs from various sources including DoT's Chakshu platform (Sanchar Saathi), intelligence from financial institutions and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), will provide early warning signals about potentially fraudulent mobile numbers.

The collaboration builds upon DoT's successful Digital Intelligence Platform which currently has over 700 users from various stakeholder organizations including 36 State/UT Police, Central LEAs, SEBI, NPCI, FIU-IND and 650 banks and financial institutions.

Looking Ahead This partnership represents a significant milestone in India's comprehensive approach to cybersecurity,

New White Paper Charts India's Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency by 2047

September 26, 2025: Solidarity Asia, in collaboration with The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) and the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA), released a research-backed white paper titled Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency in India. The white paper provides a comprehensive strategy to reduce India's heavy reliance on palm oil imports, boost domestic production, and achieve up to 50% self-sufficiency by 2047, potentially saving trillions of dollars in import costs while enhancing farmer income and environmental sustainability.

India, the world's largest importer of palm oil, sourced 8.9 million metric tonnes (mmt) in 2023—accounting for 21% of the global imports—while the domestic output met less than 5% of the demand. With the projected vegetable oil demand reaching 66.8 mmt by 2047, driven by rising incomes, urbanisation and growing reliance on processed and packaged foods, the white paper warns of a potential 40 mmt supply gap if production lags.

"India's pursuit of self-sufficiency in edible oils is both a national imperative and a collective responsibility. Among vegetable oils, palm oil stands out for its affordability, versatility, and critical role in meeting both nutritional and industrial needs. Yet, domestic production of Palm Oil fulfils only a small fraction of our demand, leaving the nation heavily depend on its import," said Dr B.V. Mehta, Executive Director, SEA.

The white paper highlights the potential of palm across critical pathways.

Economic resilience: Oil palm is a highly profitable crop, delivering a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.49, compared to 1.03 for rice and 1.13 for cotton. In states like Andhra Pradesh, transitioning from low-return crop cycles, such as rice-rice, rice-maize, and groundnut-based systems to oil palm can boost farmer profits by INR 30,000 to INR 1,50,000 per hectare

per year.

Multi-sectoral growth: An expanded palm oil value chain is projected to create

pliers are vast: a robust domestic palm oil ecosystem could generate an additional INR 15 trillion in



an additional cumulative output of INR 15 trillion by 2047, creating an estimated 6.9 lakh new employment opportunities per year. These multi-sectoral opportunities hold potential to empower rural households, enhance livelihood security and drive regional economic development.

Environmental benefits: Palm oil's high yield per hectare translates into lower emissions per unit of oil compared to soybean, sunflower, and rapeseed oils. When cultivated on non-peatland areas—as is the case in India—emissions are among the lowest globally at 1.44 kg CO₂ per kg of oil, versus 3.45 kg for soybean and 3.32 kg for sunflower. With better land-use planning and the adoption of POME (Palm Oil Mill Effluent) methane-capture technologies, India can further minimise emissions, positioning palm oil as a climate-smart oilseed option.

Food security: Palm oil plays a vital role in food security, particularly in developing economies. Studies from Indonesia and Costa Rica show that switching to oil palm cultivation increased household calorie intake by 13 percent and improved access to nutritious foods.

"India's push for palm oil self-sufficiency is not just about economic resilience—it's a bet on home-grown innovation that can transform rural livelihoods and secure food security for billions," said Dr. Shatadru Chattopadhyay, Managing Director, Solidarity Asia. "Beyond farms, the multi-

output and create nearly 7 lakh new jobs annually. For a country aiming to build resilient supply chains and inclusive growth, this is an opportunity too significant to ignore."

To achieve the goal, the white paper suggests a five-point action plan.

1. Target high-potential areas: Expand the coverage of the National Mission on Edible Oils — Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) while simultaneously strengthening irrigation infrastructure and providing targeted support for rainfed regions, with a special focus on Northeast India.

2. Repurpose low-return lands: Approximately 16.08 million hectares (mha) of marginal rice-growing areas, identified as suitable for oil palm cultivation, can be utilised to enhance yields and overall returns.

3. Enhance productivity and efficiency in oil palm cultivation: A focused strategy is required to improve yields from the current 2.4 metric tonnes/hectare to 4-5 metric tonnes per hectare through the adoption of high-quality planting material, improved agronomic practices and timely access to critical inputs.

4. Create an enabling ecosystem for oil palm cultivation: Strategic investments in rural road connectivity, FFB collection systems, and processing facilities are required, particularly in the Northeastern states where infrastructure gaps remain a major constraint.

5. Catalyse private sector partnerships: In

India, private players already play a pivotal role—owning 69 of the country's 82 seed nurseries and operating 26 of the 32 processing mills. Strengthening public-private partnerships under NMEO-OP, enabling investments in new nurseries, expanding processing capacity and supporting technology transfer can significantly boost production while improving market access for farmers.

Speaking at the launch event, APOA chairperson Atul Chaturvedi said: "A self-reliant India is critical for the development of the region. The white paper illustrates strong evidence of south-south cooperation, especially on key learnings from Indonesia and Malaysia on predictable returns and inclusive growth for palm smallholders."

Among the key recommendations of the white paper are:

- Strengthen research via regional Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) centers,
- Embed the India Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) framework into the NMEO-OP to mandate responsible production practices, traceability and certification,
- Adopt regenerative agriculture and integration of similar certification and practice-based models in India to help improve soil health, strengthen ecosystem services, build climate resilience and secure long-term crop profitability while contributing to the social and economic well-being of farming communities and workers,
- Encourage public-private partnerships to accelerate investments in nurseries, mills, and Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for training, input distribution, and mechanisation services
- The successful integration of smallholder farmers into value chains is critical. Prioritise access to affordable credit, secure land rights and dedicated advisory services.