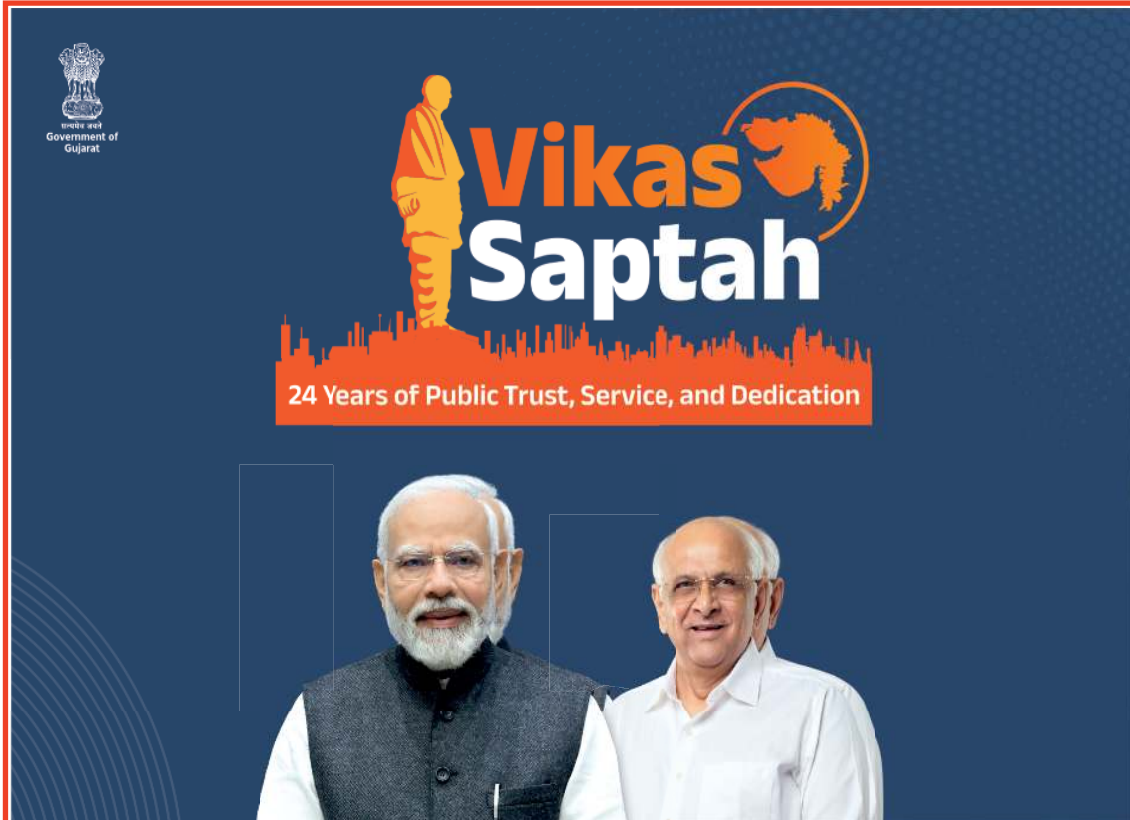




EDITOR : ASHVINKUMAR KESHAVLAL RAMI Regd. Office: TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnagar, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380 005. Gujarat, India.

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



Ahmedabad - Home to India's First Riverfront

PM Modi Launches ₹35,440 Crore Agriculture Schemes To Boost Farmer Productivity In India

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched two major agriculture schemes worth ₹35,440 crore at a special Krishi programme in New Delhi, urging farmers to adopt modern techniques and increase productivity. The announcement marks a significant push by the government to strengthen India's agricultural sector and support farmer-centric initiatives. The first scheme, PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, with an outlay of ₹24,000 crore, aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification, strengthen irrigation facilities, expand

post-harvest storage infrastructure at block and panchayat levels, and improve access to short-term and long-term credit. This initia-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two significant agriculture schemes in New Delhi: the ₹24,000 crore PM Dhan Dhaanya

Aatmanirbharta in Pulses to boost pulse production, along with projects worth over ₹5,450 crore, promoting modern farming and rural empowerment.

The second scheme, Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, with an allocation of ₹11,440 crore, is focused on increasing productivity and area under pulses cultivation, strengthening the value chain through improved procurement, storage, and processing, minimizing post-harvest losses, and reducing imports to make India self-reliant in pulses. The scheme is expected to benefit pulse growers nationwide.



tive will cover 100 selected districts across the country, targeting areas with low agricultural productivity.

Krishi Yojana to enhance agricultural productivity in 100 districts and the ₹11,440 crore Mission for

Ahmedabad receives the 'Best District' award for remarkable performance in the 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2025' campaign

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel presents the award to Ahmedabad district for being the best non-tribal district in cleanliness.

Gandhinagar, 11 October 2025: Under the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Ahmedabad district has achieved a distinguished position across the state by delivering outstanding performance in the 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2025' campaign conducted across Gujarat.

Chief Minister Shri



Bhupendra Patel conferred Tribal District to the award for the Best Non-Ahmedabad. On this occa-

sion, A.M. Desai, Director of Ahmedabad District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), was specially felicitated. This recognition stands as a result of the collective efforts of all officers, employees, and rural citizens of the district.

Notably, this award to Ahmedabad district is not just a certificate of appreciation but a symbol of how resolve, dedication, and collective effort can turn any campaign into public welfare.

Sergio Gor's Introductory Visit To India: Talks With EAM Jaishankar On Trade, Defense, Technology

(Gns). US ambassador-designate to India, Sergio Gor, met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on October 11, 2025, as part of his six-day introductory visit following confirmation by the US Senate.

The discussions centered on the strategic, economic, and global importance of India-US relations, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral ties in trade, technology, and defense.

Jaishankar extended his best wishes to Gor, who is accompanied on this visit by Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, Michael J. Rigas.

On October 11, 2025, US ambassador-designate to India, Sergio Gor, met

with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi to discuss the strategic, economic, and global importance of India-US relations. Gor, accompanied by Deputy Secretary Michael J. Rigas, was appointed by President

Donald Trump, confirmed by the Senate, and is also the special envoy for South and Central Asian affairs. Gor's visit is a familiarization trip, with his formal presentation of credentials scheduled for a later date.

Background of Sergio Gor's Visit

Gor was officially nominated as US ambassador

to India by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate in early October. This marks



his first official visit to India as ambassador-designate. The visit coincides with active diplomatic exchanges, including phone calls between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi on trade negotiations and the Gaza peace plan.

At 38, Gor is the youngest US ambassador

to India and is considered one of President Trump's closest aides. He is also set to serve as the special envoy for South and Central Asian affairs.

Key Topics Discussed Both delegations addressed the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and priority bilateral issues such as H1B visa policies and trade tariffs. The discussions also emphasized strengthening collaboration in defense, technology, and economic growth, reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two nations.

This visit is seen as an important step in advancing India-US relations and setting the stage for Gor's tenure as ambassador.

Uddhav threatens Maharashtra-wide stir if Fadnavis fails to waive off farmers' loans

(Gns). The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena threatened Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday that farmers all across Maharashtra will hit the streets and launch an agitation if their loans are not waived off completely. Earlier this week, the Fadnavis government had announced a compensation package of Rs 31,628 crore for farmers who suffered massive losses due to rains and floods, stating that the total assistance provided will be Rs 48,000 per hectare of land.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Fadnavis had stat-

ed that his government would announce a loan waiver in due course, adding that a comprehensive memorandum on the losses suffered by farmers is being prepared for submission to the central government.

"We are warning the government that if you do not waive off farmers' loans completely, not only Marathwada's farmers but farmers from all over Maharashtra will take to the streets to oppose you," Thackeray said at a march,

organised at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Saturday, to demand a complete loan waiver for flood-affected farmers.



"You (Fadnavis) need the votes of farmers to rule, but when they ask for justice, you tell them not to indulge in politics. What kind of

government is this? They said that they will restructure the loans. We do not want any so-called restructuring of loans. We want debt relief and complete waiver of farmers' loans. I have the right to demand this because when I was the Chief Minister, I had waived off farmers' loans," he said, addressing farmers who attended the march.

"I came to Marathwada 15 days ago. When I met the farmers, I announced that we will not rest until this government waives off all farmers' loans. Shiv Sena is with you when you face a crisis.

Mandaviya felicitates World Para Athletics medalists, hails them as 'Power Athletes of Bharat'

(Gns). Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday felicitated India's medal-winning contingent from the recently-concluded World Para Athletics Championships, praising their extraordinary spirit, determination and record-breaking achievements.

India recorded its best-ever performance at the World Para Athletics Championships, finishing 10th in the overall standings with a total of 22 medals (6 Gold, 9 Silver, and 7 Bronze). The Sports Ministry awarded cash prizes exceeding Rs 1.09 crore to the para athletes in recognition of their feats.

"You are not para athletes, but power athletes of Bharat. The pride you brought to the nation after the medal wins and the inspiring message you

have given to divyang people in particular is noteworthy. The passion you have shown is tremendous," Mandaviya said during the felicitation.

He further lauded the athletes' resilience, saying, "The vision and spirit of New India which is shown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is upheld in the best way. The Prime Minister was watching your matches on TV and he used to keep asking about you all during our meetings."

The felicitation followed what has been described internationally as India's most successful hosting of a global para-sport event. The World Para Athletics Championships, held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium,

was the largest para-sport event ever organised in India, featuring over 2,100 participants from 100 countries.



tries competing across 186 medal events.

Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president Devendra Jhajharia also praised the collaborative efforts that made the event a success.

"The Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India (SAI) have helped us as a family. The WPA gave us a trophy on the final day of

the event for hosting this event successfully. They said they will be happy to have India host more such events in the country, going forward."

Jhajharia added, "Both the IPC president Andrew Parsons and World Para Athletics President Paul Fritzelard said that the level of facilities provided to athletes and the technical conduct of the Games, were both of the highest level. This kind of praise from international associations was made possible because of the combined strength of PCI, SAI and the ministry. Today, the Minister handing over of the cash awards to athletes within seven days of the competition, is another showcase of his remarkable efforts to improve sports."

Akhilesh Yadav's FB account blocked for around 15 hrs, Centre denies any role

(Gns). The temporary suspension of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's official Facebook account has sparked outrage among party leaders who accused the BJP of attempting to "suppress the opposition's voice."

However BJP has countered the issue saying that government has nothing to do with this blockade.

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav said in Delhi that, "Facebook had blocked the account due to some abusive post. It is the policy of the FB to block such account for abusive posts and the government has no role in it."

The FB account of Akhilesh Yadav was blocked for around 15 hours and now it is functioning normal.

Early in the day, SP leaders quickly took to

social media to express their outrage, placing blame squarely on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and alleging that the



ruling government was behind the efforts to silence dissent.

SP leader Fakhru Hasan Chand condemned the action, calling it an "attack on democracy." He wrote on Instagram, "The suspension of the Facebook account of Shri Akhilesh Yadav, the respected national president of the country's third-

largest party, is an attack on democracy. The BJP government has imposed an undeclared emergency, seeking to silence every

voice raised against it." Chand reaffirmed that the Samajwadi Party would continue its fight against the BJP's "anti-people policies." Echoing similar sentiments, SP National Secretary and MP Rajiv Rai said that blocking Yadav's account was a "blow to India's democratic fabric."

Rai stated, "Facebook's

action against the former Chief Minister and leader of the third-largest party in Parliament is deeply condemnable. If this was done under the influence of the ruling party, it reflects sheer cowardice. Suppressing socialist voices is a grave mistake."

Another senior SP leader, Pawan Pandey, denounced Facebook's actions as "a deliberate attempt to stifle democracy." He posted, "Facebook crossed all limits today, suspending Akhilesh Yadav's official page without warning is a shameful attempt to muzzle his voice, which represents millions of Indians. Facebook must realize it cannot silence democracy."

Pandey further warned that the SP would not tolerate such actions, announcing, "It's time for socialists to bring Facebook to its senses. Such arrogance will not be accepted."

Editorial

Transnational corruption

Not far from the glittering skyline of downtown Toronto, in the leafy suburbs of Mississauga and Markham, stand rows of palatial homes – elegant, glass-fronted, and conspicuously quiet. To a casual visitor, these neighbourhoods look like any other prosperous corner of suburban Canada. But to Bangladeshis, they symbolize something far darker: a destination for the country’s looted wealth. A recent exposé by Bangladesh Pratidin, one of the nation’s largest newspapers, has reignited debate over ‘Begumpara,’ a term now synonymous with corruption, luxury, and flight from accountability.

The report, published on 5 October, claims that since August 2024, Bangladesh’s interim government has launched initiatives to recover billions of dollars siphoned overseas — much of it ending up in Canada. Investigators believe at least 1,000 Bangladeshis suspected of large-scale money laundering have made Canada their permanent home. They include senior bureaucrats, influential businesspeople, and politicians who accumulated immense fortunes through corruption before quietly moving their assets abroad. Between 2006 and November 2024, more than 44,000 Bangladeshis obtained Canadian permanent residency (PR), according to official Canadian immigration data.

Most were ordinary migrants – professionals, students, and families seeking stability and opportunity. But a small, powerful subset took advantage of the now-defunct Investor Visa Program, which allowed wealthy foreigners to buy residency through financial investments. Canadian authorities eventually scrapped the program in 2014, citing evidence that it had become a gateway for global elites to evade taxes and accountability. Yet by then, hundreds of well-connected Bangladeshis had already used it to move millions of dollars out of the country – sometimes through elaborate financial networks designed to conceal their tracks. ‘Canada’s openness and its stable financial system made it very attractive,’ said a South Asia-based anti-money-laundering analyst. ‘For many, it became the final stop – a place where stolen money could sleep safely.’

The word Begumpara – literally meaning “the colony of wives” – carries a strange irony. Its roots trace back to Mississauga, a city near Toronto’s Lake Ontario shoreline. About a decade ago, Indian filmmaker Rashmi Lamba released a documentary titled Begumpura: The Wives’ Colony. The film depicted South Asian women who lived alone in Canada while their husbands worked abroad, often in the Middle East, sending money home to sustain their families. Their lives were lonely, their struggles poignant – a quiet testament to the sacrifices behind global migration. After the documentary’s release, Canadian newspapers began using “Begumpura” to describe these communities of migrant wives. In Bangladesh, however, the term took on an entirely new meaning.

It was repurposed into Begumpara – a sarcastic nickname for the extravagant neighborhoods where corrupt officials sent their own “begums” and children to live on embezzled public funds. Today, “Begumpara” is shorthand in Bangladesh for a very specific image: gleaming Canadian mansions built on stolen money, far beyond the reach of domestic law. Bangladesh Pratidin’s investigation revealed that few of these funds moved directly from Bangladesh to Canada. Instead, they were routed through third countries such as Singapore, Dubai, or the United Kingdom to obscure their origins. Once “cleaned,” the money was used to buy property, open businesses, or secure investment visas.

A name that has surfaced repeatedly in this context is that of Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, a former Principal Secretary to the Bangladeshi Prime Minister. According to the report, Kaikaus obtained U.S. citizenship while on study leave, later concealing it to return to government service. He is alleged to have transferred embezzled funds to the United States, registered companies under his family’s names, and subsequently moved those assets to Canada. Another example is Mahfuza Akter, a former senior executive at state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV), who reportedly sent her husband to Canada and later transferred illicit money in his name. Real estate agents in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) say such cases, though difficult to prove, fit a visible pattern.

“We often see Bangladeshis buying homes worth one or two million dollars,” said a longtime realtor in Mississauga, requesting anonymity. “They don’t appear to have high-paying jobs here, and yet they purchase properties outright, sometimes in cash. It’s unusual.” The Federal Immigrant Investor Program, which once attracted thousands of wealthy applicants from Asia and the Middle East, became a convenient channel for laundering money disguised as investment. The programme required applicants to make a significant deposit or investment in Canada, after which they could obtain permanent residency.

But a 2014 audit found that investor immigrants typically contributed little to Canada’s economy. Many declared minimal taxable income, paying less in taxes than average Canadian workers. The government subsequently terminated the programme – but by then, the damage was done. For Bangladesh’s elites, the programme’s peak years coincided with a turbulent political period at home. Between 2007 and 2014, during Bangladesh’s military-backed caretaker government and its sweeping anti-corruption campaign, many business figures quietly shifted their wealth abroad.

Canada, with its strong property market and lax beneficial-ownership laws at the time, became a favoured refuge. “That’s when a lot of them came,” recalled a long-time Bangladeshi resident of Toronto. “They started with condos downtown, near the CN Tower, and later bought sprawling houses in places like Richmond Hill and Oakville. Some homes are occupied; others just sit empty. They wanted privacy – and distance.” There is no registered neighbourhood called Begumpara in Canada. Yet the phenomenon is undeniable. Real estate professionals estimate that at least 200 ultra-wealthy Bangladeshis own multimillion-dollar properties across the GTA.

These homes, often held under company names or family trusts, create an illusion of legitimacy while shielding the true source of funds. Some of these properties are clustered in Bellevue, Mississauga, and Markham, where luxury homes with 6,000–8,000 square feet of space sit alongside those of established Canadian professionals. “They tend to keep to themselves,” said another realtor. “They don’t mix much with the larger Bangladeshi community here – especially not the working-class migrants.”

Vikas Saptah (Panchayati Raj Day): Gujarat’s Panchayats Moving from “Samras se Samridhhi,” 15,500 Panchayats Turned Samras in 24 Years, Received ₹351 Crore in Additional Grants

- The Samras Gram Yojana was implemented in Gujarat on October 29, 2001, under the leadership of then Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- So far, 828 Women Samras Panchayats have also been formed in the state, receiving additional financial assistance.
- During Vikas Saptah, 918 programs will be held in rural Panchayats across the state's 34 districts.
- Honoring outstanding Sakhi Mandals and districts in various categories, along with an exhibition of local products...

Vikas Saptah : October 12, Urban Development Day: Gujarat’s Urban Growth Advanced with Better Road, Rail and Air Connectivity During 24 Years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s Leadership

Bullet Train Project in Gujarat Will Connect Ahmedabad and Mumbai; Metro Rail Operational in Ahmedabad

Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 89 Railway Stations in Gujarat will be renovated

Hirasar Greenfield Airport in Rajkot and an International Airport in Surat are operational; Regional Air Connectivity in Gujarat to Increase Under UDAN Scheme

Gandhinagar, October 11, 2025: Gujarat is celebrating Vikas Saptah from 7 to 15 October 2025, marking 24 years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s dedicated public service. As part of the celebrations, Urban Development Day will be observed on 12 October. Over the past 24 years, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has guided Gujarat’s remarkable urban growth, first as Chief Minister and then as Prime Minister of India. Today, under the leadership of

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, the state continues to advance urban development. To accelerate the development of world-class cities, the state government has declared 2025 as the ‘Urban Development Year’. Gujarat offers excellent



transportation facilities, particularly in urban areas, with strong road, rail, and air connectivity. Wide, well-maintained roads, modern trains, an organised railway network, international airports, and ports together ensure smooth and efficient travel for citizens.

Robust Road

role in transforming the state’s rural and Panchayati Raj system. Gujarat’s “Samras Gram Yojana” is a successful model of rural democracy, in which all ward members and the Sarpanch of a village are elected unanimously and without opposition. This saves time and resources in elections and accelerates development work. Such uncontested panchayats are called “Samras Gram Panchayats,” and if all members are women, they are called “Mahila Samras Gram Panchayats.”

Samras Grams receive additional financial assistance from the state government for development works over and above the normal allocation, improv-

Infrastructure in Gujarat

As Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi focused on building a vast and efficient road network. He launched 'Pragati Path' to improve connectivity in tribal areas, 'Vikas Path' to strengthen urban roads during the Urban

As Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi focused on building a vast and efficient road network. He launched 'Pragati Path' to improve connectivity in tribal areas, 'Vikas Path' to strengthen urban roads during the Urban



Year, 'Pravasi Path' to improve access to tourist destinations, and 'Kisan Path' to connect rural farmers with urban markets.

Across Gujarat, overbridges and underbridges are being constructed to improve road connectivity and manage increasing traffic. These develop-

ing basic facilities in these villages. Over the past 24 years, the state government has provided Samras Panchayats with an additional grant of ₹351.20 crore, which has recently been increased by one and a half times.

Since 2001, 15,553 Panchayats in Gujarat Turn ‘Samras,’ Including 828 Women Panchayats

Additional Development Commissioner of the Panchayat Department and State Nodal Officer for Panchayat Department Day under Vikas Saptah, Dr. Gaurav Dahiya, said, “The Samras Gram Yojana, initiated by then Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has brought a revolutionary change in Gujarat’s rural develop-

ments are creating a robust road network in the four major cities, namely Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, and Surat. In February 2024, the state-of-the-art Sudarshan Setu, a signature bridge linking Dwarka and Bet Dwarka, was inaugurated, greatly



easing transport between the two locations. Along with this, key projects including the Jamnagar-Bhatinda Highway, Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway, and Porbandar-Dwarka National Highway are underway.

This year’s budget has proposed the construction

ment and Panchayati Raj system. This scheme is extremely popular in the state today because it provides rural panchayats with additional funds for development works over and above the normal allocation. So far, 15,553 Gram Panchayats have become Samras, including 828 Women Samras Panchayats.”

Statewide Vikas Saptah to Feature 918 Programs Across 34 Districts

In the context of celebrating 24 years of work by the Panchayat Department during this Vikas Saptah, Dr. Gaurav Dahiya shared important information. He stated, “As part of Vikas Saptah, today the State Government will organise special events of the

of two greenfield expressways: Nammo Shakti Expressway and Somnath-Dwarka Expressway. The Nammo Shakti Expressway, extending 430 km from Deesa to Pipavav, is estimated to cost ₹36,120 crore. Meanwhile, the 680 km-long Somnath-Dwarka



Expressway, estimated at ₹57,120 crore, will improve connectivity to Ahmedabad, Rajkot, and the surrounding areas of Dwarka. Additionally, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, over 15,330 km of roads and 88 bridges across 3,048 villages in Gujarat have benefited approximately over

‘Vikas Rath’ in three key villages, aimed at bringing transformative changes to rural life and directly delivering the benefits of government schemes. In addition, special programmes will be organised across the state’s 34 districts over nine days, comprising a total of 918 programmes in three phases. These will include providing scheme benefits to beneficiaries of various departments, along with ground-breaking ceremonies and inaugurations of development works.”

Vikas Saptah to Honour Sakhi Mandals and Districts for Outstanding Excellence

According to Dr. Gaurav Dahiya, Add...

Vikas Saptah : October 12, Urban Development Day: Gujarat’s Urban Growth Advanced with Better Road, Rail and Air Connectivity During 24 Years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s Leadership

20 lakh people. Similarly, the Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana has delivered 52,224 km of roads across 16,000 villages, improving access for over 2.6 crore people.

Modern Trains Strengthen Gujarat’s Railway Network

Gujarat has witnessed significant advancements in rail transport thanks to the foresight of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. As the then Chief Minister, he initiated the Ahmedabad and Surat Metro Rail projects, and as Prime Minister, he launched the first phase of Ahmedabad Metro Rail in September 2022 and the second phase in September 2024. Work on the Surat Metro is also progressing rapidly. The first bullet train project of Bharat, connecting Ahmedabad and Mumbai, is progressing swiftly, making the two cities the first to have a high-speed rail service. A...

The Talent Hunt

Linked Incentive (PLI) (2020) and Design Linked Incentive (DLI) (December 2021).

Make in India had two major objectives viz. creation of 10 crore new jobs in the manufacturing sector, and enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP, from



15 to 25 per cent, in ten years. However, after ten years of Make in India, the share of manufacturing in GDP still hovers between 16 to 17 per cent, and there has been little employment generation in the manufacturing sector. Rather, according to NSSO sample surveys, manufacturing employment has declined from 12.6 per cent of total employment in 2011-12 to 11.4 per cent in 2022-23. PLI and DLI, have fared little better; even with a budget of Rs. 2.96 lakh crore, success has been partial ~ as revealed in its fourth review, PLI seems to have degenerated into promoting local ‘assembling’ of smartphones with imported components, resulting in huge export values, but little value addition.

An analysis would reveal that Government alone is not responsible for the limited success of its flagship initiatives. The Government liberalised the FDI regime, introduced single-window clearances, reduced compliance burdens, decriminalised a host of offences,

drastically cut corporate tax rates, invested huge amounts in infrastructure development, and reduced both the Repo Rate and Cash Reserve Ratio, by 1 per cent in the last few months, but response from industry was sluggish; the Finance Minister loudly wondered why private investment in manufacturing was not forthcoming, and her Chief Economic Advisor rued the tendency of Indian industrialists to invest abroad, but not in India. However, there is a basic drawback with a development model based on manufacturing and exports, imagined by our planners.

Firstly, it is a concept copied from China, which had perfected it in the last fifty years. It served China well till the other countries noticed that China had raced ahead by flooding their markets with cheap goods, killing their manufacturing industries. Only recently, the US and Britain realised that their manufacturing bases had eroded; they were producing hardly any steel, the basic raw material for industry ~ US had produced only 88 million tonnes of steel in 2024, and UK a meagre 4 million tonnes, while China had produced more than 1 billion tonnes, and India had produced 150 million tonnes. Over the years, China took full advantage of the West’s laxity; till a week ago, despite being the world’s second largest economy, China graded itself as a ‘developing country’ at the WTO, that entitled it to a host of undeserved benefits. Significantly, the US had withdrawn China’s ‘develop-

ing country’ tag only in 2020 ~ at the end of the first Trump presidency.

With a wave of protectionism sweeping the world, there is little chance that India can replicate the Chinese model. Additionally, China became the factory of the world by operating at very thin margins, for example, when China was the sole producer of Apple iPhones, only four per cent of the profit on sale of an iPhone accrued to China. Of course, China made up by copying proprietary designs of its principals, and rolling out cheap substitutes of luxe products. Also, being a command economy, China could set prices to benefit itself and discourage rivals. Most importantly, as early as 2006, China realised that being a copycat, a fast follower or a “fat tech dragon”, could succeed only to a point, and so it formulated the “Outline of National Medium ~ and Long-term Science and Technology Development Plan (2006-2020),” which identified innovation as the new national strategy. Great efforts were made to further this initiative, the Thousand Talents Plan (2008), aimed at bringing back expatriate scientists and researchers, was one such project.

The Thousand Talents Plan, offered returnees a one-time settlement bonus of up to 1 million yuan (Rs.1.25 crore), with additional research funding ranging from 3 (Rs.3.75 crore) to 5 million yuan (Rs.6.25 crore).

Relocation packages included subsidised housing, paid return home trips, employment for spouses, and educational support for children. In the last ten years, more than 7,000 scientists and entrepreneurs,

both Chinese and foreign, have taken up positions under the Thousand Talents Plan. No wonder, China has triumphed in high-tech industries, such as electric vehicles, clean energy and lean AI ~ and Trump has banned Chinese students from attending hi-tech courses in US universities.

A totally different ecosystem operates in India. Nobel Laureate Hargobind Khorana, wanted to work in India, but was never offered a suitable position. Instead of being called upon to play a role in policy formation, Nobel Laureates Amartya Sen and Abhijit Banerjee, are routinely derided for their liberal views. Ace innovator and social reformer Sonam Wangchuk, has been jailed under the draconian National Security Act (NSA). Even investors get short shrift; after Amazon announced an investment of US\$1 billion in India, the Union Commerce Minister lambasted Amazon, saying inter-alia, that Amazon was not favouring India by its investment, for added effect, the minister accused Amazon of predatory pricing. It is rather late in the day for India to join the AI race.

Also, India does not have the hundreds of billions of dollars required to buy top talent and infrastructure, to be a serious contender. However, many other avenues are open for innovation; agriculture being a prime example. Our agricultural productivity is one of the lowest in the world, enhancing it will transform agriculture from a subsistence activity to a remunerative one. Waterlogging, soil alkalinity etc. are problems waiting for a solution.

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAINS ENHANCED FACILITIESFOR DIVYANGJAN

Mumbai, In a significant step towards fostering inclusive and accessible transportation, Indian Railways has introduced a wide range of state-of-the-art facilities for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) aboard the Vande Bharat Express trains. These enhancements are aimed at ensuring a safe, dignified, and comfortable travel experience for all passengers, reaffirming Indian Railways' unwavering commitment to universal accessibility and passenger convenience.

According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Vande Bharat Express running between Mumbai Central

and Gandhinagar exemplifies these thoughtful measures to facilitate smooth boarding and disembarking for divyangjan passenger.



A sloping assembly has been provided for passengers using wheelchairs with Divyangjan logos displayed on the designated doors for easy identifications. This train is equipped with automatic doors that opens and closes seamlessly to aid divyangjan passengers. A gentle incline has been

integrated to ensure ease of access and comfort for wheelchair users. To make access easier, portable ramps are available in des-

ignated coaches ensuring effortless wheelchair movement. In addition, special seating areas with extra surrounding space have been created, identified by the Divyangjan logo on the coach side wall. Wheelchair parking spaces with handrails is available for stability and safety dur-

ing travel. Stickers and signage are marked clearly for easy identification and convenience.

Shri Vineet further added that, to assist visually impaired passengers, Braille signage has been installed at vital points such as seat numbers, coach entrance and lavatories facilitating independent mobility and comfort.

With these comprehensive upgrades, Indian Railways is not only advancing accessibility but also reinforcing its vision of a barrier - free inclusive and dignified travel for all. The Mumbai Central - Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express stands as a proud achievement of Western Railway. It serves as a shining example of

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN THREE PAIRS OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Diwali & Chhath Puja, Western Railway will run Festival Special Trains on Special fare between Mumbai Central – Shakur Basti, Bandra Terminus - Gandhidham and Sabarmati – Haridwar.

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

1. Train No. 09003/09004 Mumbai Central – Shakur Basti AC SuperFast Special [92 Trips]

Train No. 09003 Mumbai Central – Shakur

Basti AC SuperFast Special will depart from Mumbai Central daily at 10:30 hrs and will reach Shakur Basti at 08:00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 15th October to 29th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09004 Shakur Basti – Mumbai Central AC SuperFast Special will depart from Shakur Basti daily at 10:15 hrs and will arrive Mumbai Central at 10:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 16th October to 30th November 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bharatpur, Mathura, Kosi Kalan and Delhi

Safdarjung stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC – 3 Tier Coaches.

2. Train No. 09471/09472 Bandra Terminus – Gandhidham Weekly SuperFast Special [10 Trips]

Train No. 09471 Bandra Terminus - Gandhidham Weekly SuperFast Special will depart from Bandra

Terminus every Tuesday at 12:30 hrs and will reach Gandhidham at 01:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 14th October to 11th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09472 Gandhidham – Bandra Terminus Weekly SuperFast Special will depart from Gandhidham every Monday at 20:20 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 09:45 hrs, the

next day. This train will run from 13th October to 10th November 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Halvad and Samakhiali stations in both directions.

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

3. Train No. 09425 Sabarmati – Haridwar Bi – Weekly AC Special [28 Trips]

Train No. 09425 Sabarmati – Haridwar Bi – Weekly AC Special will depart from Sabarmati every Wednesday and Saturday at 08:50 hrs and will reach Haridwar at 05:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 15th October to 29th November, 2025. Similarly, Train No.

US: White House Starts Mass Layoffs Amid Shutdown Impasse

(Gns). The White House announced on Friday starting the process of laying off federal workers en masse, as the Trump administration pressures the Democrats to end a government shutdown in place since October 1.

Trump's budget chief Russ Vought confirmed the start of the firing process on X, telling the media the layoffs would be "substantial."

The White House initiated mass layoffs of federal workers on Friday, aiming to pressure Democrats to end the government shutdown that began on October 1; RIFs have commenced, and the Education Department is among the agencies affected, with an uncertain number of layoffs.

Switch To Shorts It remains unclear how many public servants will be laid off and from which departments

"RIFs have begun," Vought wrote on X, referring to reduction-in-force plans aimed at reducing the size of the federal government.

What do we know about the White House's layoff

and whether or not those cuts will be temporary or permanent."

Democratic leaders including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House counterpart Hakeem

Jeffries have tried to call the president's bluff, stressing that mass layoffs would be illegal.

An Education Department spokesperson was cited by the Associated Press news agency as saying his agency will be among those hit by the layoffs. The Reuters news agency also said the department confirmed the layoffs but did not elaborate.

When Trump returned to the White House in January, the department had some 4,100 employees. But it has been among the hardest hit by the president's layoff policies, with its staff almost halved to 2,500 employees at the start of the shutdown.

Why is there an impasse over the government shutdown?

The federal government shutdown came after a September 30 deadline to approve a budget expired. Senate Democrats have repeatedly blocked a Republican resolution to reopen federal agencies, insisting on firm commitments to extend health care benefits.

The White House was quick to announce its intention to pursue aggressive layoffs, calling on all federal agencies to provide their reduction-in-force plans



plans?

Out of some 750,000 public servants placed on enforced leaves, it remains unclear how many will be laid off, and from which departments.

But earlier this week, US President Donald Trump said he was meeting Vought to decide which agencies "he recommends to be cut,

Jeffries have tried to call the president's bluff, stressing that mass layoffs would be illegal.

An Education Department spokesperson was cited by the Associated Press news agency as saying his agency will be among those hit by the layoffs. The Reuters news agency also said the depart-

Explosions And Gunfire Erupt Near Police Training Centre In Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan

(Gns). In Pakistan's Dera Ismail Khan district, in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, multiple loud explosions were reported near a police training centre. Initial reports suggest that the facility is under attack, with ongoing gunfire between security forces and unknown attackers.

Residents in the area described hearing several powerful blasts followed by continuous shooting from around the training centre. In response, security personnel have secured the location, and emergency teams have been dispatched to manage the situation.

Multiple explosions and gunfire were reported near a police training centre in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, prompting security forces to secure the area and emergency teams to



respond. The incident caused concern among local residents, and authorities are working to control the situation and ensure public safety.

The area has been cordoned off by security forces to ensure public safety and facilitate emergency opera-

tions. The authorities are working diligently to control the situation and prevent further escalation.

Details about the incident are still emerging as officials continue to assess the situation. The priority remains on securing the area and ensuring the safety of all individuals involved.

Community Impact The local community is understandably on edge

following these events. The sudden explosions and subsequent gunfire have caused significant concern among residents who are now awaiting further updates from authorities.

This incident highlights ongoing security challenges in certain regions of Pakistan, where such attacks can disrupt daily life and pose threats to public safety.

As more information becomes available, it will be crucial for authorities to communicate effectively with both local residents and the wider public to provide clarity on the situation.

The focus remains on resolving this crisis swiftly while ensuring minimal harm to civilians and maintaining order in the affected area.

Journey of India is a Living Example of Spirit of Democracy and Equality: Lok Sabha Speaker

(Gns).

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla emphasized that India is a living example of democracy and equality, with the Constitution being its guiding beacon for the past 75 years. He highlighted that democracy is India's soul, equality its resolve, and justice its identity. Shri Birla made these remarks while addressing the delegates at the General Assembly of the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference on the theme "The Commonwealth – A Global Partner." On this occasion, the Speaker invited Presiding Officers of Parliament of the Commonwealth to attend the next Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)

in New Delhi from 7 to 9 January 2026.

He emphasized that



global crises like climate change, pandemics, food insecurity, and inequality transcend borders, requiring collective solutions. Shri Birla urged for united efforts to combat these challenges, stressing that the solutions cannot be found

in isolation.

Shri Birla emphasized the importance of food and

health security, highlighting India's role as a reliable partner in global food and nutrition security. He recalled that India had once been dependent on others for food, and the journey from those challenging times to its current status

as a global power has been truly impressive. Noting India's significant contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, he mentioned that the country supplied medicines and vaccines to over 150 nations, underscoring the belief that health is a right, not a privilege.

Shri Birla highlighted India's status as the world's largest democracy and fastest-growing major economy. He proudly noted that India has become the first major country to meet the Paris Agreement targets ahead of schedule. Through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India has emphasized global responsibility for the planet.

Leading 6G Alliances and Research Institutions issue a Joint Statement reaffirming a shared commitment to shape the future of 6G as a global public good

(Gns).

At the International Bharat6G Symposium 2025, held alongside India Mobile Congress 2025, leading global research alliances "Bharat 6G, 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G-IA), ATIS' Next G Alliance, XGMF, 6G Forum, 6G Brazil, UKI-FNI, UK TIN, UK Federated Telecoms Hubs (CHED-

DAR, HASC, JOINER & TITAN), and 6G Flagship " came together to issue a Joint Statement reaffirming a shared commitment to shape the future of 6G as a global public good.

Together, they endorsed the guiding principles for 6G by Design ensuring that the next generation of connectivity is:

◆ Trusted and Secure

◆ Resilient and Reliable
◆ Open and Interoperable
◆ Inclusive and Affordable

always-on connectivity for billions of devices and users worldwide.

Recognising that 6G must be developed as a



◆ Sustainable and Globally Connected

The declaration underscores the need for trustworthy-by-design networks. It highlighted trusted ecosystems, risk mitigation, and AI-native safeguards across the telecom lifecycle.

Resilience engineering, fail-safe design, and privacy-preserving architectures will be central to ensuring

global public good, the declaration calls for open, transparent, and inclusive standardisation.

The joint statement promotes open interfaces, multi-vendor interoperability, and AI-enabled Network orchestration to accelerate innovation and affordability.

The declaration places sustainability at the heart of 6G design calling for ener-

gy-efficient, repairable, and recyclable systems that reduce carbon footprints while ensuring affordability and accessibility.

It envisions end-to-end global coverage through the integration of terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks satellites, high-altitude platforms, and future space-based systems — to deliver seamless connectivity across land, sea, air, and space.

Acknowledging the need to prepare the next generation for a rapidly evolving telecom landscape, the declaration emphasizes skills development and capacity building.

Partner alliances committed to advancing talent pipelines across hardware, software, and network standards to design.

Tennessee Munitions Plant Explosion Triggers Fire and Panic, Rescue Efforts Underway

(Gns).

A powerful explosion at a military explosives plant in rural Tennessee resulted in multiple fatalities and several missing individuals. The blast, which occurred on Friday morning, also caused nearby homes to tremble, prompting emergency services to respond swiftly. Local officials and residents reported the incident.

Accurate Energetic Systems, located near Bucksport and about 60 miles southwest of Nashville, was the site of the explosion. The Hickman County Sheriff's Office urged the public via social media to avoid the area to allow emergency teams to work efficiently.

An explosion at Accurate Energetic

Systems, a military explosives plant near Bucksport, Tennessee, caused multi-

by the Associated Press. David Stewart, an Advanced EMT from



ple fatalities and left people missing. Emergency services responded, and residents reported the impact of the blast, which occurred Friday morning and shook nearby homes.

The county sheriff confirmed casualties following the explosion, as reported

Hickman County, mentioned that ongoing explosions hindered emergency teams from accessing the site. He couldn't confirm any casualties at that time.

Footage from the scene displayed burning debris scattered across a field with smoke billowing into

the sky. Nashville's WTVF-TV broadcast images showing debris strewn across the area and damaged vehicles in a parking lot. Many local residents called in after feeling the significant impact of the blast.

Community Reactions Lobelville residents, living over 20 minutes away from the facility, reported their homes shaking due to the explosion. Several inhabitants captured the explosive sound on their home surveillance systems, highlighting its intensity.

The incident has left a profound impact on the community as they grapple with its aftermath. Emergency services continue their efforts while ensuring public safety remains a priority.

ICGS Sachet Makes Port Call at Maputo, Strengthens Maritime Cooperation with Mozambique

Delivers 20 metric tonnes of HADR Material to Mozambique under India's SAGAR Vision

(Gns).

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sachet, made a port call at Maputo, Mozambique on October 11, 2025, as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to Africa, underscoring India's commitment to fostering maritime cooperation with friendly nations. The visit highlights the ICG's operational reach and its role as an instrument of regional stability & partnership under the Government's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

As part of India's humanitarian outreach,

ICGS Sachet is carrying 20 metric tonnes of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

agement capacities.

During its stay in Maputo, the ship's crew will engage with Mozambican



material, including medical stores and medicines, to be handed over to Mozambican authorities. The initiative reinforces India's continued support for Mozambique's public health and disaster man-

maritime agencies through a series of professional exchanges focusing on Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search & Rescue (M-SAR) and Maritime Law Enforcement. Activities include onboard

training on Visit, Board, Search & Seizure (VBSS) operations, pollution response drills, joint cultural events and friendly sports engagements aimed at deepening interoperability & camaraderie between the two maritime forces.

In addition to professional engagements, the crew of ICGS Sachet, along with NCC cadets and Assam Rifles personnel, will participate in community initiatives such as beach clean-ups and marine awareness programmes in collaboration with local youth groups. These efforts form part of the Government of India's Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, a national campaign to combat marine pollution and promote environmental consciousness.

ANRF Executive Council approves major decisions regarding operationalization of RDI Fund

(Gns). In a significant milestone towards operationalization of the transformative Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, launched by the Government to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development, and innovation (RDI) in sunrise domains, the Executive Council of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation



(ANRF) today approved the establishment of a special

purpose fund (SPF) for the RDI scheme and also approved the Implementation Guidelines and governance framework. ANRF also adopted the Special Financial Rules and Management Team Position and Compensation, as approved by Ministry of Finance. The approval marks a significant step forward towards the launch of this transformative initiative in the coming months.

IEEE Day celebrated with competitions in Sanskriti University

Mathura. IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electricians Engineers) Day was celebrated by Sanskriti School of Engineering and IT. Debate and technical quiz competitions were organized during the event aimed at promoting creativity, technical thinking and communication skills. Students participated with great interest in both the competitions. The winning students of the competitions were honored with prizes.

The chief guest of the program was Vice Chancellor Dr. M.B. Chetty highlighted the importance of IEEE in promoting innovation, research and professional development among students and faculty members on the occasion of IEEE Day. Dr. Chetty emphasized how such events encourage young engineers to develop creative thinking and contribute to technological progress for the betterment of society. Dr., teacher of School of Engineering and ITPankaj Goswami told that on this day celebrated every year, members of the Institute of Electrical and



Chief Guest Vice Chancellor Prof. MB Chetty addressing the students in the program organized by Sanskriti School of Engineering and IT on the occasion of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electricians Engineers) Day.

Electronics Engineers organize various programs and seminars across the world, in which members collaborate on technical ideas. He shared his views on the IEEE Day and appreciated the efforts of Sanskriti IEEE Student Branch in organizing various technical activities. He encouraged the students to actively participate in the events of IEEE to enhance their technical knowledge and leadership skills.

Dr. Garima Goswami talked about the IEEE student core team and appreciated their hard work and dedication in making the event a success. He also gave a brief introduction to the benefits of IEEE membership and how it provides a global platform for students to connect, learn and grow through workshops, research publications and networking opportunities. He explained that the debate and quiz competi-

tions have encouraged participants to explore the interrelationships of technology, ethics and innovation while promoting teamwork and analytical reasoning.

In debate and technical quiz competitions, Should humans invest in technology to colonize other planets?, Should cyber security measures be prioritized over individual privacy rights?, Is sustainable development possible without compromising technological progress? Students expressed their views openly on the subjects. After the competitions, the jury awarded the first prize to BCA Cyber Security first year Anup Das, B.Tech. Yash Srivastava, a B.Tech student, was chosen second and Priya Devi, a B.Tech second year student, was chosen third. All three students were honored with awards and certificates. The program was organized by the Vice Chancellor of Sanskriti University, Dr. M.B. Chetty under the guidance of Dr. Pankaj Kumar Goswami and Dr. Garima Goswami

DM-SSP took stock of the preparations for Ahoi Ashtami Snan/Fair, gave guidelines

Mathura. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar took a meeting regarding the preparations for Ahoi Ashtami Snan/Fair Radhakund in the inspection building auditorium of the Public Works Department located in Tehsil Govardhan. The District Magistrate gave necessary directions to the officials regarding the preparations for the Ahoi Ashtami Bathing Fair to be held on October 13 in Radhakund. He gave instructions to strengthen the arrangements like circumambulation route, pond bank, parking lot, drinking water, electricity supply, divers, traffic etc. The District Magistrate directed Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority to complete the incomplete works on time. SP Dehat Suresh Chand Rawat said



DM and SSP giving instructions to provide strong arrangements to the devotees in the fair

that arrangements for barricading, iron mesh, CCTV cameras and additional lighting are being made around the pond. The entry and exit gates at the pond have been made separate so that crowd control is maintained. Couples will be given priority for bathing

from the night of 13th to 3 am in the morning of 14th. SSP said that surveillance will be done through drones and CCTV and a special plan has been prepared for traffic. In the meeting, Western District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent

of Police Shlok Kumar along with their subordinate officers inspected the main streets, roads and Radhakund connecting Radhakund in view of the Ahoi Ashtami festival organized in Tehsil Govardhan.

During the inspection, both the senior officers instructed their subordinate officers to ensure barricading, excellent cleanliness, divers, CCTV cameras, wall painting etc. at Radhakund. Additional District Magistrate Amresh Kumar, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Pankaj Kumar Verma, Deputy District Magistrate Govardhan Prajakta Tripathi, CO Govardhan Anil Kumar, Radhakund Chairman Ramphal Munshi and other officials were present in the meeting

Senior Superintendent of Police honored the lawyers

Advocates who took decisions quickly were honored citation given with best wishes

Mathura. Yesterday, the Senior Superintendent of Police in the district called and honored the government advocates in the Police Line auditorium. It should be noted that the Yogi government has announced that the government lawyers engaged in the cases in which conviction or disposal is done within 2 months will be honored, so that the rule of law is strengthened in the state and the cases are also disposed of as soon as possible. In this series, SSP Mathura honored those advocates of



Lawyer honoring SSP with citation

Mathura who, through their effective advocacy, got the criminals punished and got the cases resolved. Among the lawyers honored, government advocate Shivram Singh Tarkar, Raju Singh Chandrapuri, Mukesh Goswami, Hemendra Bhardwaj, Avnish Upadhyay etc. were honored.

Most of the advocates who received the honor are also responsible volunteers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Speaking on this occasion, advocate and physical head of the Sangh's department Shivkumar said that wherever the Sangh volunteer is, he will always set records with his working

style. The values and discipline of the Sangh are directly visible in the life of every volunteer, that is why the volunteer society keeps them in a leading role and provides them with leadership.

On this occasion, District Government Advocate Shivram Singh Tarkar said that we all are government advocates. Our wish is that there should be no delay in justice and justice should be done as soon as possible, this scheme of Yogi government will help in fulfilling this wish of ours. Senior officials of the Sangh also congratulated the advocates who were honored and also blessed them to work like this in future also

L&T Technology Services' Illuminate 4.0 Inspires a Sustainable Future for Engineering

October 11, 2025: L&T Technology Services (BSE: 540115, NSE: LTTS), a global leader in AI, Digital & ER&D Consulting Services, in partnership with Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), successfully concluded the fourth edition of its flagship initiative, illuminate, in Vadodara. The event, held at the Pandit Deendayal Auditorium, drew a packed house of 1,000 attendees, including students, academics, and industry professionals, all gathered to explore this year's theme: Smart Industry, Sustainable Future: Engineering Innovation for India's Next Leap.

The event featured insightful discussions from some of India's most distinguished scientific and tech-

nological minds. Keynote speakers Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog and Former Chief of DRDO and

nology. He also emphasized the need for sustainable manufacturing practices and indigenous inno-



Dr. Chetan Solanki, founder of the Energy Swaraj Foundation, shared their perspectives on the future of engineering. Dr. Saraswat highlighted that India must scale up manufacturing, adopt AI-driven smart processes and reduce reliance on imports to become a global leader in manufacturing and tech-

vation to strengthen India's strategic capabilities and global competitiveness.

Dr. Chetan Solanki championed the widespread adoption of solar energy and sustainable consumption practices, emphasizing the importance of reducing energy use and transitioning to renewable energy to com-

Sabarimala gold robbery: Two FIRs filed, Unnikrishnan Potty named main accused

(Gns). In the ongoing row over Sabarimala gold theft, two FIRs have now been filed, one for detaching of gold from the Dwarapalaka sculpture and the other from the door frame.

The FIRs have been registered at the Crime Branch headquarters, as it has to conduct a state-level investigation on the matter. Two FIRs have been registered since these incidents took place at two different times.

The main accused in both cases is Unnikrishnan Potty and Devaswom officials may also be accused in both the cases.

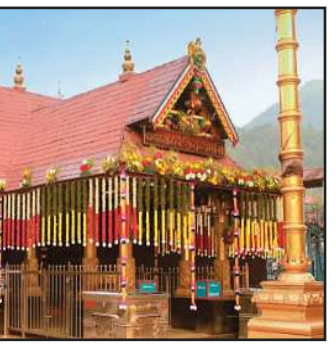
The gold-plated layers of the Dwarapalaka sculptures were taken away, melted down and stolen in March 2019. The incident

of stealing gold from the door frame took place in August 2019. Due to the time difference, the different officers involved in the two incidents, and the different people involved in the conspiracy, the investigation will proceed as two cases.



The main crimes alleged in these cases are conspiracy and breach of trust. All the officials who issued orders may be accused in the case. The SIT will later decide whether Devaswom officials and others should also be listed as accused. Meanwhile, it has been

reported that the amount of missing gold is expected to increase. The final report of the Devaswom Vigilance says that 989 grams of gold



was missing from Sabarimala. This figure is based only on the statement of Smart Creations CEO Panka Bhandari. However, one and a half kilos of gold, given by UB Group in 1998, was used for plating the Dwarapalaka sculptures.

Smart Creations says that only 577 grams were found in the Dwarapalaka sculptures when they were melted in Chennai in 2019. Then the question then is - where did the remaining gold go?

In addition, Smart Creations claims that 409 grams of gold were found when the 7 layers on the sides were melted and separated. There are no exact records of how much gold was used to plate the layers in 1998. When these two are added together, the weight of the missing gold may increase to more than one and a half kilos.

But the final report says that there is only less than half a kilo of gold. The challenge for the Special Investigation Team is to find the missing gold.

UP Dy CM arrives in Russia with relics of Lord Buddha

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, along with a delegation, arrived in Elista, the capital of the Republic of Kalmykia, Russia, carrying the relics of Lord Buddha, where they will be displayed.

The delegation, led by Deputy Chief Maurya, and the sacred relics were welcomed by Batu Sergeyevich Khasikov, the Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, the Ambassador of India, V Kumar, the High Religious Leader of the Kalmyk People, Shajin Lama, and other monks

and dignitaries. It is noteworthy that the Deputy Chief Minister

of Kalmykia, Russia, he, along with venerable monks, worshipped the



departed for Kalmykia from Delhi last night. Before departing for the Republic

sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha at Palam Airport.

Revamped Sugamya Bharat App Launched at Purple Fest

(Gns). In a significant stride towards building a digitally inclusive India, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, launched the revamped 'Sugamya Bharat App' at the Purple Fest in Goa. The launch was led by Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD, at the ALIMCO stall, in the presence of Ms. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, Ms. Richa Shankar, DDG, Ms. Debolina Thakur, JS(FA), and Shri Praveen Kumar, CMD, ALIMCO.

Redesigned with a user-first and accessibility-first approach, the Sugamya Bharat App is envisioned as India's digital accessibility hub—bringing information, schemes, and services directly to the fingertips of persons with disabilities. Developed with the support of SBI Foundation and in technical partnership with NAB Delhi, ISTEM, and Mission Accessibility, the app offers a seamless, intuitive interface with screen

reader compatibility, voice navigation, and multi-language support, ensuring that no user is left behind.

The revamped app is a first-of-its-kind, one-stop digital solution offering a

sectors tailored for persons with disabilities. Through its grievance redressal module, users can directly register complaints about inaccessible infrastructure and services, making public



range of features. Its accessibility mapping function allows users to locate and rate public places on accessibility parameters, empowering community-led data collection. A consolidated directory of government schemes, scholarships, benefits, and employment opportunities is provided at a click, eliminating the need to navigate multiple portals. The app also features curated job and education listings from government and private

spaces more accountable. Designed inclusively, the app is compatible with assistive technologies, available in multiple Indian languages, and optimized for both Android and iOS platforms. Speaking at the launch, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal said that the revamped Sugamya Bharat App is not just a technological upgrade—it is a gateway to empowerment. "It connects persons with disabilities to opportunities, information,

and the power to demand accessibility, all through their smartphones," he added. Shri Jagannath Sahu, President, SBI Foundation, expressed pride in supporting this transformative initiative, stating that inclusive technology can bridge societal gaps and unlock the potential of millions.

The launch event was graced by dignitaries from SBI Foundation, including President Jagannath Sahu and CEO Shashi Bhushan, and by leaders from the National Association for the Blind (NAB Delhi) — President Shri P.D. Dahariyal and General Secretary Shri Prashant Ranjan Verma.

Originally launched under the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), the app served as a citizen-led platform to make India's public spaces more inclusive. With this revamp, it has evolved into a comprehensive, mobile-based accessibility ecosystem that empowers persons with disabilities to not just access information but also shape the accessibility landscape.