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Andhra Pradesh emerging as major hub of self-reliant India: PM

(Gns). Slamming the Congress for leaving Andhra Pradesh to struggle for development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the state was becoming a major hub for self-reliant India through its progress in technology and manufacturing. Hailing his NDA allies, N Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, the Prime Minister, who inaugurated and initiated projects worth Rs 13,430 crore in Kurnool, expressed satisfaction over the change in AP's image under the NDA government. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu also returned the gesture by expressing confidence in the NDA's victory in the upcoming Bihar elections.



Kicking off his visit to AP with a tour of the shrine and Shivaji Memorial at Srisailem, the Prime Minister addressed a mas-

sive rally at Kurnool, flanked by his key NDA allies, N Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, over the recent GST reforms. He said that AP was the centre of culture, science and innovation with immense potential. "What Andhra needed was vision and right leadership and today, under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu garu and Pawan Kalyan garu, Andhra Pradesh has that vision and Centre's cooperation," he said.

He said in the past 16 months, the vehicle of development has been running at great speed and both Amaravati and New Delhi are moving together to achieve a high-speed growth. He claimed that the 21st Century will belong to India and its 1.4 billion people.

The Prime Minister said that under the double-

engine government, Andhra's potential was being fulfilled, referring to his conversation with Google CEO Sundar Pichai about the AI Hub in Vizag.

"This project will establish Visakhapatnam as an AI connectivity hub. It will serve not only India but the entire world. I extend special congratulations to the people of Andhra Pradesh for this and highly commend Chandrababu for his vision," said Modi.

He pointed out that to

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel rings the bell at the Mumbai National Stock Exchange for the listing of Surat Municipal Corporation's Certified Municipal Green Bond

Gandhinagar, 16 October 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel performed the bell-ringing ceremony at the Mumbai National Stock Exchange to mark the listing of Surat Municipal Corporation's Municipal Green Bond, in the presence of Mayor Shri Daxesh Mavani.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that through the issuance of green municipal bonds worth ₹200 crore, Surat Municipal Corporation has involved citizens as partners in green and sustainable development. The oversubscription of Surat's Green Bond by eight times reflects investors' enthusiasm for investing in green bonds. The farsighted planning of Surat Municipal Corporation will further accelerate the city's development. He mentioned that in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of achieving net-zero

carbon footprint by 2070, the state government has placed special emphasis on green growth and green mobility. Under the leader-

ship of the Prime Minister, India has maintained a commendable balance between ecology and economy.

Under India's G20 presidency, with the message of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', member countries have also prioritized the Prime Minister's vision

could have led the entire country forward, had to struggle for its development," said the Prime Minister.

He further said, "I am delighted that the AP government has resolved to make Kurnool India's drone hub. The drone industry will foster the development of many new sectors related to futuristic technology in Kurnool and Andhra Pradesh. I just mentioned the brilliance of drones in Operation Sindoor, which has aston-

ished the world. In the future, Kurnool is poised to become a national power in the drone sector."

The Chief Minister added that Prime Minister has resolved to build Viksit

green bonds with international green certification has been launched, and Surat's 'Municipal Green Bond Issue' has drawn significant international interest from global investors. The Corporation has successfully combined excellent urban planning with public participation.

He emphasized that Green People's Financing will become an exemplary model of green growth. This initiative will not only prove financially beneficial for the city but also have a positive impact on the environment. He expressed confidence that Surat Municipal Corporation's initiative will serve as an inspiration for other cities.

On this occasion, Mayor Shri Daxesh Mavani stated that this initiative will become a driving example of sustainable energy to realize the Prime Minister's vision of development by 2047. Surat represents mini-India, and everyone has contributed to its growth. Surat city has so far received 14 different awards and will soon become one of the best cities in the world with green energy.

Surat Municipal Corporation had issued ₹200 crore worth of listed, taxable, redeemable, secured non-convertible municipal bond debentures.



Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel's Cabinet Expansion on October 17

Gandhinagar, 16 October 2025: The swearing-in ceremony for the designated ministers in the expansion of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel's cabinet will be held on Friday, October 17, at 11:30 AM at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. Governor Shri Acharya Devvratji will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the designated ministers included in this expansion of the State Cabinet during the ceremony.

Chiefs/vice-chiefs of army participating in the army chiefs' conclave for united nations troop contributing countries call on the president

(Gns). Chiefs/Vice-Chiefs of Army, participating in the Army Chiefs' Conclave for United Nations Troop Contributing Countries, along with spouses, called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 16, 2025).

Addressing the participants, the President said that they are proud representatives of the best values and the ethos of their respective countries. They bring together a wealth of experience, expertise, and resolve of your nations towards sustainable peace and prosperity.

The President noted that United Nations peacekeepers have been deployed in 71 different

missions across the globe. She said that these missions share the purpose of mitigating the suffering of innocent people, particularly women, children and elderly.

UN Peacekeepers deployed in remote and far-flung corners of the world have demonstrated exemplary courage and compassion. The President said that as the largest democracy, India firmly believes in multilateralism and adherence to principles of the United Nations Charter. India is proud to be a steadfast contributor to UN Peacekeeping since its inception.

Our Peace-keepers have served with distinction in some of the most challenging operations across the globe. She added that in the journey of peace-keeping, India has made appreciable strides in gender inclusion. She underlined that women peace-keepers have empowered local communities and fostered trust.

The President said that as nations that contribute valiant women and men to the noble cause of peace-keeping, we should collectively strive for frameworks that encourage a stronger voice for troop contributing countries. We should also work towards more active engagement with local stakeholders. This will help create an environment in which peace is not enforced but nurtured through participative processes.

The President expressed confidence that the Army Chiefs' Conclave for United Nations Troop Contributing Countries and other events with a similar sense of purpose and focus will promote new ideas, deeper cooperation, and enduring friendships.

The President said that his journey as "truly transformative." He expressed his heartfelt wishes to receive his offer letter personally from the Minister, a request she graciously accepted.

Another intern, R. Lakshmi Prasanna from Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, shared how PMIS opened new horizons for her after joining Infosys. Coming from an agricultural background, she said that the internship gave her confidence and exposure to the corporate world.

Similarly, Ms. Gouri H, an Embedded Engineer Intern at Honeywell Technology Solutions Lab Pvt. Ltd. from Kerala, shared her inspiring story. Being the daughter of a single mother, she had excelled academically but had limited opportunities in her field. She said PMIS helped her step into the career she always dreamt of. The Minister lauded her journey by saying "I am impressed with Gouri's positivity and perseverance. It is stories like hers that embody the true intent and spirit behind PMIS."



Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with interns of the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) in Hampi, Karnataka

(Gns). The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, interacted with interns of the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) at Hampi, Karnataka on 15th October, 2025. The session brought together over 60 interns from across the state along with representatives from leading partner companies including Infosys, MSP, IBM, TCS, Tata Consumer Products, Bharat Electronics Limited, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, HAL, NMDC, and Honeywell Technology Solutions.

A person sitting in a chair speaking into a microphone AI-generated content may be incorrect. During the interaction, the Minister engaged with the interns, listened to their experience and aspirations under PMIS. She discussed about what inspired them to join the scheme along with their learning and upskilling experience during the internship. While interacting with the PMIS interns, she offered guid-

ance and words of encouragement to the interns for their professional journeys.

Further, some of the interns with exceptional performance during their internships have already been absorbed into full-time roles by their respective companies. The Minister congratulated them for their achievements and wished them continued success in their endeavours.

She commended the interns for their dedication and emphasized the importance of adaptability in today's evolving workplace. Speaking at the event the Minister said, "It is pleasing to know the different ways in which this internship is contributing to personality development. Interns are learning core aspects of work and also sharpening other skills such as overcoming barriers to commu-

nication". A person standing in front of a group of people AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The event showcased remarkable stories of transformation of youth through PMIS. One such story was that of Kaluva Hari Krishna from Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, who secured a full-time role at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) after completing his internship in IT and Software Development. The son of a farmer and homemaker, Hari described

highlighting a series of governance failures that he says have left farmers and youth struggling. Yadav pointed to increased diversion of fertilizers from private to cooperative sectors under the BJP administration. He said that despite this, shortages persist, creating a lucrative market for fake and black-market fertilizers.

Akhilesh Yadav blasts UP BJP govt over fertilizer scarcity, corruption, farmer woes

(Gns). Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Thursday accused the Uttar Pradesh BJP government of fostering a fertilizer shortage that benefits black marketers and counterfeiters, while turning a blind eye to rampant corruption. In a sharp critique shared on his official WhatsApp channel Yadav

said, "The Uttar Pradesh BJP government is creating a scarcity of fertilizers, which benefits black marketers and counterfeiters who take double advantage by producing fake fertilizers and selling

them on the black market," Yadav said. "There's massive corruption happening, and the government seems oblivious to it, suggesting that some are likely involved." The former Chief Minister's statement goes beyond fertilizer issues,



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Editorial

A New Era in Water Management

With the onset of monsoon rains this year, a lesser-known but profoundly significant initiative has quietly taken root across the country's ecologically sensitive terrains, a first-ever national census of springs. Piloted in Manipur and expected to scale across the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), this initiative represents not just a hydrogeological mapping exercise, but a paradigm shift in India's approach to water sustainability.

Spring is a natural outflow of groundwater and have historically served as the primary water source for millions in the IHR, which spans 10 hill states and 4 hill districts of Assam and West Bengal. According to the 2018 NITI Aayog report titled "Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security," over 3 million of India's estimated 5 million springs are found in the Himalayas alone.

More than 60 per cent of rural Himalayan communities rely on these springs for drinking, irrigation, and livestock use. Yet, alarming evidence suggests that nearly 50 per cent of these perennial springs have dried up or becomes easonal due to unregulated land use, deforestation, and climate-induced variability in rainfall. The Government of Manipur, in collaborating with the North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), the Water Resources Department, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, has initiated a state-wide census and digital mapping of over 2,900 springs.

Using remote sensing and geospatial technologies, this effort will generate a detailed hydrological and get agged inventory of each spring, including data on seasonal discharge variability, quality indices, and dependence levels. This will not only inform micro-level conservation strategies but also create an open-access national database aligned with India's commitments under SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Spring is often misunderstood in conventional water management, which prioritizes engineered infrastructure like dams, canals, and borewells. However, springs are the visible tips of vast, often fragile, mountain aquifers. These aquifers, unlike plains aquifers, are highly heterogeneous and largely governed by the fractured rock systems of the Himalayas. Spring discharge depends on rainfall infiltration, subsurface storage, and the geological structures that allow water to re-emerge at specific discharge points.

Unlike surface watersheds, these "springsheds" do not adhere to surface topography alone, they follow underground hydrological pathways that may cut across administrative and even watershed boundaries. This complex interplay makes traditional watershed approaches insufficient. Instead, the concept of "springshed management" has emerged as a more scientifically valid approach. First pioneered through the Dhara Vikas programme by the Rural Management & Development Department (RM&DD) of Sikkim, this method uses an eight- stepprotocol : from community-based mapping and hydrogeological characterization to recharge structure design, social governance mechanisms, and impact monitoring.

The programme successfully rejuvenated over 700 springs, augmented recharge by over 900 million litres annually, and achieved this at an estimated cost of one paisa per litre, a remarkable return on public investment. Sp rings are fundamentally monsoon – dependent, being recharged by seasonal rainfall. But with climate models projecting increased rainfall intensity and reduced temporal spread in the Himalayas, recharge efficiency is being compromised. A 10-minute high-intensity storm leads to more runoff and erosion than recharge, this is a recipe for aquifer collapse.

According to WIHG and IIT Roorkee, spring discharge in parts of Almora has reduced by over 60 per cent over the past century. Thus, the key is not just more rain but better rain management. This brings us to the concept of sponge cities, a revolutionary model that can be merged with springshed rejuvenation to address both urban and rural water security. Originally developed in China and now being piloted in India by Smart City Missions (Bhubaneswar, Indore, and Bengaluru), sponge cities utilize green infrastructure – permeable pavements, bioswales, rain gardens, and urban wetlands to absorb, purify, and store rainwater.

This not only mitigates floods but also recharges shallow aquifers. Imagine applying these principles upstream in spring recharge zones, particularly peri-urban and hilly areas where urbanization is encroaching on aquifer recharge zones. Combining springshed management with sponge city principles can enhance infiltration, reduce pollution, and ensure long-term spring discharge even in the face of climate volatility. To operationalize this integration, the following roadmap is proposed:

- 1 Scale up the spring census from Manipur to all 10 Himalayan states using Survey of India base maps, linked to a centralized database.
- 2 Include springshed management in AMRUT 2.0 and Smart Cities as a green infrastructure module, particularly in towns like Shimla, Mussoorie, and Shillong where springs are urban lifelines.
- 3 Train para-hydrogeologists under Skill India programme to bridge the knowledge gap between scientific experts and local communities.
- 4 Leverage existing schemes such as MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission, and CAMPA funds for recharge structure construction and springshed protection.
- 5 Develop a national digital atlas of springs, hosted by nodal department, integrating citizen science apps for data entry and real-time monitoring.
- 6 Pursue integrated Nature-based Solutions (NbS)/Ecosystem based Solutions (EbS) financing from national and international sources to implement cross-border Himalayan Spring revival initiatives. India's spring census is more than a data-gathering exercise, it is the start of a movement that sees water not just as a resource, but as a commons rooted in place, community, and culture. In an age of hydrological uncertainty and climatic flux, restoring our springs can anchor our water future in ecological wisdom and scientific foresight.

For once, West Asia witnessed tears not of anger but of relief and joy. Across Israel, families who had endured two years of uncertainty finally embraced sons and daughters once believed lost forever. The scenes of reunion ~ mothers clinging to grown children, fathers weeping without restraint ~ spoke a language beyond politics. For many, it marked not only the end of captivity but the beginning of healing.

But the joy was laced with unease. For every freed hostage returning to life, there are families still waiting for the bodies of loved ones who never made it home. Hamas has released only a few

The debate over the Bagram Airbase has once again placed Afghanistan at the centre of global strategic calculations. U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed demand to regain control of the base, which the country abandoned during its hurried withdrawal in 2021, has triggered widespread concern and opposition across the region. What might appear at first glance as an isolated assertion of American military ambition is, in fact, deeply tied to Washington's broader strategy of containing China and reasserting U.S. influence in a region where its presence has sharply declined.

Yet, for most regional powers ~ India, China, Russia, Iran, and even Pakistan ~ Trump's move is seen as a destabilizing proposition that risks reopening old wounds and creating new strategic uncertainties. When the U.S. signed the Doha Agreement with the Taliban in 2020, it marked a turning point in its long and costly engagement in Afghanistan. Trump himself, who negotiated the deal, hailed it as a path to ending America's "forever wars." However, following his election defeat, the actual withdrawal was overseen by President Joe Biden, who completed the exit in 2021.

The departure not only symbolized the end of two decades of American military intervention but also left behind a vacuum in Afghanistan's security architecture. Among the many consequences of that withdrawal was the loss of Bagram Airbase, a sprawling military complex that had served as the nerve centre of U.S. operations during the "war on terror." Now, four years later, Trump's repeated calls to "get Bagram back" have reignited strategic anxieties. On several occasions in

remains so far, citing difficulties in locating others. In Israel, grief has fused with relief, the two emotions coexisting uneasily. No true closure can come until every last captive, living or dead, is accounted for. The release has stirred deep emotions even among those unconnected to the captives. After years of division and distrust, the collective sense of empathy across Israel and Palestine has, if only briefly, reminded both peoples of their shared vulnerability and interwoven humanity. On the other side of the divide, similar emotions unfolded.

In Gaza and the West Bank, hundreds of Palestinians ~ some con-

victed of deadly attacks, others held for years with-

and fathers reclaimed from a system they see as



out charge ~ were welcomed home to jubilation and disbelief. Families erupted in cheers, their loved ones returning gaunt, pale, and shaken, yet alive. To them, these were not criminals or militants but brothers, sons,

unjust. The parallel images ~ Israeli hostages stepping off helicopters into waiting arms, Palestinian prisoners descending from Red Cross buses ~ reflect a symmetry of suffering that rarely surfaces in political

Strategic Assets:

under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

For Islamabad, allowing any American military presence targeting Beijing is politically and strategically unviable. The Central Asian republics, once seen as potential alternatives for U.S. basing, are now heav-

or Bagram explicitly, its intent was unmistakable.

Remarkably, India ~ a country that has maintained close strategic ties with Washington in recent years ~ joined hands with the Taliban and China in opposing Trump's proposal. This convergence reveals both



ily influenced by both Russia and China and unlikely to risk their ties by accommodating an American request. The Gulf states, where the U.S. maintains large bases such as Al Udeid in Qatar, are simply too distant for forward operations near western China or Central Asia. Against this backdrop, Bagram appears to be the only viable option ~ at least in theory ~ for those within the U.S. establishment seeking to reassert military influence in Eurasia.

Yet, Trump's ambition to regain Bagram has faced unprecedented pushback from almost all major regional actors. At the 7th Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan, held in October 2025, a rare consensus emerged among countries that seldom share a common view on security issues. India, China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, and the Central Asian nations jointly declared that any attempt by foreign powers to deploy military infrastructure in Afghanistan or neighboring states was "unacceptable." Though the statement did not name the United States

the depth of regional apprehension and the evolving dynamics of security cooperation in post-American Afghanistan. India's opposition stems from its longstanding belief that Afghanistan's sovereignty must be preserved and that any foreign military presence would undermine regional stability. New Delhi has been consistent in advocating an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled peace process.

Moreover, India fears that renewed U.S. militarization of Afghan soil could once again turn the region into a theatre of great-power competition, with spill over effects on its own security. From India's perspective, external interference risks empowering extremist groups, reigniting terrorism, and disrupting developmental and connectivity initiatives such as the Chabahar Port project and the International North-South Transport Corridor. China's position, though driven by different motivations, aligns with India's in this instance.

Beijing views any U.S. return to Bagram as a direct

discourse.

For both sides, the war's human toll has cut deep, eroding generations of trust. The fragile ceasefire that enabled these releases is more than a diplomatic milestone; it is a brief, flickering reminder that humanity can still pierce through the machinery of conflict. It is also a reminder that peace is not born in summits but in moments like these ~ in the trembling voices of parents whispering "you're home," in the silence that follows relief, in the recognition of shared grief on either side of a border.

The current calm is precarious. It will take only a single act of violence, a

single breach of faith, to unravel it. Yet, amid fatigue and loss, a faint shift can be felt ~ a recognition among both peoples that perpetual war has achieved nothing. The hostages' return, and the prisoners' release, have laid bare the unbearable costs of endless retaliation. Whether this moment hardens into memory or softens into change depends on what follows next. Healing must now move from private living rooms to public life. The challenge is no longer how to win, but how to live with the knowledge that the faces of suffering look alike, no matter which flag flies above them.

security threat. The base's proximity to Xinjiang makes it ideal for surveillance and intelligence-gathering against Chinese military and nuclear assets. It could also potentially serve as a platform for supporting anti-China elements, including separatist or extremist groups in the region. For Russia and Iran, Trump's ambition evokes memories of U.S. military encirclement and interventionist policies that have long destabilized their peripheries. Even Pakistan, despite its complex relationship with the Taliban, is unwilling to facilitate an American return that could jeopardize its strategic partnership with China or provoke internal backlash.

The U.S., of course, sees things differently. For Trump and his advisers, Bagram symbolizes not just a military asset but a lost opportunity for power projection. Its two long runways can accommodate large transport and bomber aircraft, its location provides surveillance reach across Central and South Asia, and its control could signal America's return to a region it once dominated. But this desire overlooks a crucial fact: the geopolitical map has changed. Washington's influence in South and Central Asia has diminished, while regional players have built new alignments that prioritize sovereignty, non-intervention, and regional stability over external military presence.

The U.S. withdrawal in 2021 was widely viewed as a failure of strategic patience, leaving behind both chaos and resentment. Attempting to reclaim Bagram now risks reinforcing perceptions of American inconsistency and disregard for the sovereignty of other nations. Moreover, such a move would only strengthen the anti-U.S.

bloc in Eurasia, pushing countries like India ~ one of Washington's key Indo-Pacific partners ~ into awkward diplomatic positions.

At a time when regional cooperation is being rebuilt on principles of development, connectivity, and non-alignment, the return of military coercion would be counterproductive. The Bagram controversy thus encapsulates a broader dilemma for U.S. strategy: the overreliance on military power in a world increasingly defined by economic, technological, and diplomatic competition. The real contest with China will not be won by bases or bombers but by innovation, alliances, and influence in trade, technology, and global governance.

Trump's fixation on reclaiming a base in Afghanistan may appeal to his political constituency at home, but for the region, it represents an unwelcome attempt to revive the geopolitics of confrontation. In the end, the opposition to Trump's Bagram plan reveals an emerging regional consensus rooted in pragmatism. For once, India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, and the Taliban find themselves on the same side of a security issue ~ not because of shared ideology, but because of a shared understanding that stability in Afghanistan is essential for regional peace.

The U.S. desire to regain control of Bagram, therefore, is not just about a piece of land or a military base ~ it is a test of whether the lessons of the past two decades have been learned. If history is any guide, the path to peace in this region lies not through the runways of Bagram but through diplomacy, respect for sovereignty, and genuine regional cooperation.

Corn must become India's new crude

For India to become Atma Nirbhar and achieve its ambition of a \$5 trillion economy, the solution to one of its biggest vulnerabilities ~ dependence on imported petroleum and LNG ~ is already in front of us. By adopting a focused five-year plan, India can drastically reduce its chronic energy import dependency and accelerate toward energy self-reliance, food security, and decarbonization. India's annual petroleum import bill stands at Rs 24 lakh crore and is growing at an alarming pace.

By 2030, imports of petroleum, LNG, and petrochemical feedstocks are projected to rise steeply, by ending eningthe economy and undermining national security. Nearly 85 per cent of India's petroleum demand is met through imports, a figure that will only climb with GDP growth if corrective action is not taken. Petroleum-fuelled vehicles alone contribute nearly 40 per cent of India's environmental pollution, especially in cities like Delhi, which already ranks among the most polluted globally.

Unless India shifts gears, the dual crisis of import dependency and pollution will derail its growth story. The solution is a corn revolution. India must emulate the Brazilian model, which successfully transitioned to ethanol-based fuels. Brazil has mandated flex-fuel vehicles that run on 100 per cent hydrous ethanol (92 per cent ethanol + 8 per cent water), reducing pollution and petroleum dependence for over 30 years.

India's demand is clear: 35 million tons/year of gasoline Growing demand for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), renewable diesel (RD), and ethylene for petrochemicals This can be fully met by producing 70 million tons of ethanol annually, requiring about 200 million tons of corn. A global comparison shows that while the USA produces 400+ million tons of corn/year; China 300+ million tons/year, Brazil (with just a seventh of India's population) 150 million tons/year, India produces

just 45 million tons/year but with a potential for 200 million tons within 5 years. With India's 2-3 crop cycles per year, hybrid dent corn seeds, and modern practices, productivity can surpass the US.

The key advantages of corn as the new crude oil are: Energy Security: Reduced reliance on



imports that are vulnerable to wars, sanctions, and tariffs. Rural Prosperity: Direct economic gains for farmers and rural India. Economic Savings: Billions saved on imports, fuelling GDP growth. Food & Nutrition Security: Corn by-products include food, animal

feed, edible oil, and beverage-grade CO2. Clean Air: Sharp reduction in city pollution ~ India hosts 10 of the world's most polluted cities. Edible Oil Independence: Corn ethanol production would yield 4 million tons/year of corn oil, cutting palm oil imports (over \$20 billion annually).

Corn can produce not only biofuels (ethanol, methanol, SAF, RD) but also protein meal for livestock; cooking oil (a healthier alternative to palm oil); beverage-grade CO2 and dry ice; ethylene and downstream polymers and green hydrogen (with minimal power input). This makes corn the most versatile and strategic crop for India's energy transition. The Ministry of Petroleum recently approved \$100 billion for petroleum-based ethylene crackers. This is counterproductive.

The same ethylene can be produced from corn ethanol at just 30 to 40 per cent of the capital cost ~ with cleaner environ-

mental impact and massive rural benefits. It is time we learnt from global successes. In the USA, 200 ethanol plants produce 60 million tons/year, nearly double India's gasoline demand. In Brazil, flex-fuel cars run on 100 per cent ethanol or blends. California promotes E85 fuel (85 per cent ethanol + 15 per cent gasoline). India's strength is that with short 110-day crop cycles, India can scale up corn production faster than any global competitor.

Past success stories show this is possible. The use of Bt Cotton (2002) turned India from cotton importer to global leader in a decade. The use of GM Brinjal in Bangladesh increased crop productivity dramatically. A similar adoption of fuel-purpose yellow dent corn seeds can transform India's economy. The following actions recommended: Establish mega bio-ethanol plants (1200-1500 KLPD) via oil sector refineries. Build 10 new corn-based green ethylene complexes at a fraction of petroleum cracker costs.

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN A WEEKLY SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS - JODHPUR

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, Western Railway will run a Special Train on Special fare between Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur stations.

According to a press release issued by Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the details of this train is as under:

Train No.	Train Name
04826/04825	Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur Superfast Weekly Special [04 Trips]
04826	Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Thursday at 21:20 hrs and will reach Jodhpur at 21:45 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 23rd October & 30th October, 2025. Similarly,

We aim to make Ayurveda Aahara an integral part of global nutrition: Union Ayush Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav

Ayurveda Aahara List to Empower Startups and Tackle Lifestyle-Related Diseases: Secretary, Ministry of Ayush Ministry of Ayush and FSSAI Advance Collaborative Efforts to Promote Ayurveda-Based Nutrition for a Sustainable Tomorrow

(Gns).

As the world celebrates World Food Day 2025 under the theme "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future", the Ministry of Ayush reiterates India's commitment to fostering a healthier and more sustainable planet through groundbreaking initiatives like 'Ayurveda Aahara' — India's unique food philosophy rooted in balance, wellness, and nature.

In a significant step forward, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in consultation with the Ministry of Ayush, has recently released a definitive list of Ayurveda Aahara products under Category A, providing the first comprehensive reference framework for authentic Ayurvedic dietary preparations. The list, based on authoritative classical texts, is expected to drive growth, quality, and global confidence in Ayurveda-based

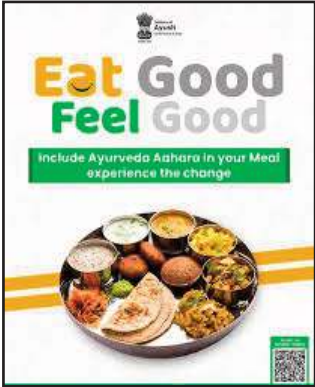
Train No. 04825 Jodhpur – Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Jodhpur every Wednesday at 17:30 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 18:20 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 22nd October & 29th October, 2025.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Phulera, Nawa City, Kuchaman City, Makrana, Degana, Ren,

sumers and food businesses have clear, validated references rooted in classical Ayurvedic knowledge.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, noted, "The growing global interest in Ayurveda-based food systems underscores India's critical contribution to holistic nutrition. The Ayurveda Aahara framework, now strengthened by the definitive list, brings clarity to manufacturers and trust to consumers. We see this as a major boost for startups and innovation in the health food sector—where Ayurveda's wisdom can help break the rising trend of diet- and lifestyle-related disorders that lead to non-communicable diseases."

Talking about the scientific and educational dimension of this initiative, Professor Anupam Srivastava of the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur, said "By integrating Ayurvedic dietary principles into mainstream nutrition



UIDAI launches Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA) to boost innovation, indigenization and codevelopment of advanced & future ready technologies in Digital Identity ecosystem

UIDAI Seeks Real-Time or Near Real-Time Attack Detection Solutions to Defeat Deepfakes, Mask Attacks, and Spoofing in Aadhaar Face Authentication Across Demographics, Devices, and Environments; Applications open till 15th November 2025

Startups, Academia and Industry urged to Advance Aadhaar Security with AI-Powered Contactless Fingerprint Authentication and Mobile-Friendly Biometric Solutions

MeitY Startup Hub and NASSCOM Sign MoU with UIDAI as Strategic Partners to Further SITAA Objectives

(Gns).

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA) to foster innovation and collaboration in the dig-

ital identity domain. The initiative aims to strengthen India's ID Tech ecosystem by enabling startups, academia, and industry to work closely with UIDAI. Through SITAA, UIDAI seeks to drive innovation, promote indigenization, and co-develop advanced and future-ready identity technologies.

The initiative will be a catalyst for collaboration, enabling the innovation ecosystem to build scalable, secure, and globally benchmarked solutions in the digital identity domain. The focus areas, among many, include biometric devices, authentication frameworks, data privacy, artificial intelligence and secure identity applications.

The SITAA scheme underscores India's commitment to building a

'Weaponisation of everything': Navy Chief warns every vessel, crane, port is a floating computer

(Gns).

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has warned that while the digital transformation of India's naval assets is driving unprecedented efficiency, it also brings new security risks.

Addressing the growing role of the Internet of Things (IoT) in naval operations, he stated that "every vessel, every crane, every port terminal is now a floating computer network," emphasizing that while IoT powers progress, the "weaponisation of everything" is what defines modern vulnerabilities.

The CNS was giving the opening address at the seminar titled 'Impact of Cyber Attacks on Maritime Sector and Its Effects on National Security and

International Relations' organised by the Indian Navy at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, here today.

Stating that maritime

gation- in a way, the seas themselves are becoming data oceans. Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) are underpinning almost every aspect of the maritime sector, ranging from machinery monitoring and collision avoidance to port operations and global fleet management," he said.

The CNS said that while



Sabarimala gold scam: BJP demands Devaswom minister Vasavan's resignation

(Gns).

BJP Kerala chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday demanded the immediate disbanding of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and resignation of state Devaswom minister VN Vasavan, in the light of the alleged gold theft in Sabarimala temple.

Inaugurating a huge protest of the women's wing of the party, Mahila Morcha, in front of the state secretariat here, against

the gold theft in Sabarimala have become objects of temple, Chandrasekhar said if Vasavan failed to resign over the gold missing row, his party would request the centre for a probe under the CBI or the Enforcement Directorate(ED).

"For them, the properties of holy places like Sabarimala march, Mahila Morcha



Cong questions increase in assets of wife of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey

(Gns).

The Congress on Thursday demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged "disproportionate" growth in assets of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's wife, Anamika Gautam.

According to the details furnished by Dubey in his election affidavits since 2009, Gautam's assets grew from Rs 50 lakhs in 2009 to Rs 31.32 crores in 2024, the Congress alleged.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinatne pointed out that Gautam's movable assets were worth Rs 50 lakhs in 2009, while she did not have any immovable assets then.

However, in the 2014 election affidavit, Dubey from various people, including Abhishek Jha, who allegedly lent Rs 1.20 crore to Gautam. However, Jha had reportedly denied providing any loan, and there were no records or transactions of the loan anywhere.

"The assets of Ms Dubey did not match her income during these years. This is an open and shut case of corruption as Dubey's assets possessed assets disproportionate to their income," Shrinatne said, demanding a thorough probe and clarification from the Dubey couple.



150 Maoists to lay down arms before Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai

(Gns).

Preparations are underway in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, for the country's largest-ever Maoist surrender ceremony, scheduled for Friday, October 17. Around 150 Maoists, including more than 100 from the Maad Division and cadres from Battalion No. 5 active in Kanker, are expected to lay down arms in front of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma at the Jagdalpur Police Lines.

According to intelligence inputs, DKSZC (Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee) leader and Maoist spokesperson Rupesh alias Satish alias Asanna is on his way to Bhairamgarh along with his close associates. The group will be brought to Jagdalpur under tight security arrangements.

Home Minister Vijay Sharma, speaking in Raipur, confirmed that a large number of Maoists have expressed willingness

to surrender. "We are ready to welcome them with a red carpet. Many who surrendered in Kanker yesterday will also be brought to Jagdalpur for the formal ceremony," he said.

Police sources said that Central Committee member Rupesh, Maad Division secretary Ranita, two DKSZC members, and fifteen DVC (Divisional Committee) members are among those surrendering. In total, about 140 Maoists, including several women and young cadres, have already crossed the Indravati River near Bhairamgarh and are being escorted in buses to Jagdalpur. Each of the three buses carrying the

Meanwhile, in Kanker district, Raju Salam, commander of Battalion No. 5, also reached Kamteda camp with several senior leaders, including Prasad and Meena. This group, too, will be brought to Jagdalpur for the formal surrender on Friday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the development on social media, stating, "It is heartening that regions like Abujhmad and North Bastar, once the epicentres of Maoist terror, have now been declared free of extremism. Only traces remain in South Bastar, which our security forces will soon eliminate."

He added that since the BJP government assumed office in Chhattisgarh in January 2024, the state has witnessed 2,100 Maoist surrenders, 1,785 arrests, and 477 Maoists neutralised. "These figures reflect our firm resolve to eradicate Maoism from Chhattisgarh by March 31, 2026," Shah wrote.



DRDO showcases Pinaka, Zorawar, Akash-NG, and advanced defence tech to defence panel

(Gns).

The Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, visited the Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a premier laboratory of DRDO under the aegis of Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE), on Thursday.

During the visit, the committee inspected the state-of-the-art products developed by different laboratories of the cluster. The notable products demonstrated include the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, PINAKA Rocket System, Light Tank 'Zorawar', Wheeled Armoured Platform, and AKASH-New Generation missile.

The committee was also informed of the status of the technologies being developed in the fields of

Robotics, Rail Gun, Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System, and High-Energy Propulsion Materials.

world, voicing the government's commitment to integrating this necessity into the security apparatus.

"Today is an era of technology that inspires future generations and establishes India as a global defence innovation hub," he said.

Underlining the essentiality of adopting future changes as a national mission and viewing it not just as a technical upgrade, the Defence Minister said, "We should not only be the users of technology; we should also be the creators. To achieve this, there is a need to accelerate our self-reliance efforts. Aatmanirbharta in defence is not just a goal, it is the strongest shield for national security."

"The scope of cutting-edge tech is very restricted. Sometimes, some countries resort to protectionism when it comes to disruptive technologies. Sometimes, they do not share information with other countries. India has challenged these limitations.



India-UK defence ties strengthened as UK Carrier Strike Group conducts joint exercises

(Gns). Giving a boost to India-UK defence ties, the UK-led Carrier Strike Group (CSG25) successfully conducted joint military exercises with the Indian Armed Forces during its visit to India, as part of its eight-month Indo-Pacific deployment under Operation Highmast.

The CSG visit and joint exercises further strengthen a growing military partnership with India, following a new £350 million deal, which is set to deliver UK-manufactured Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM) to the Indian Army, showcasing defence as an engine for growth, a statement from the British High Commission stated.

The deal paves the way for a broader complex weapons partnership between the UK and India, currently under negotiation between the two governments, following the Prime Minister's visit to Mumbai last week.



During the visit, aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales and accompanying Indian Air Force, further demonstrating the growing strategic alignment

between both nations in the region, and helping keep Britain secure at home and strong abroad.

Operation Highmast reflects the UK's global defence ambitions, underpinned by the Government's commitment to increase defence spending to 2.6% of GDP from 2027, delivering on the Plan for Change and making defence an engine for growth, the statement read.

The release further

quoted the UK Defence Minister Lord Vernon Coaker saying, "It has been incredible to see the strength and reach of the UK Armed Forces as the Carrier Strike Group continued its deployment in South Asia this week.

"Alongside our leadership on global security, we have showcased leading-edge defence innovation which strengthens our trading relationship with India and secures British jobs.

"This strategic partnership helps keep us secure at home and strong abroad, while the trade links promise a valuable boost to the UK economy – demonstrating once again that defence is an engine for growth."

CSG25 will depart the Indo-Pacific region, bound for the Mediterranean Sea for the final phase of the deployment prior to returning to UK waters by the end of the year. Hyderabad CP warns social media influencers against using minors in indecent content

Hyderabad CP warns social media influencers against using minors in indecent content

(Gns). Hyderabad Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar has warned content creators for social media that the police would take action against those creating inappropriate content featuring children.

Calling the use of minors in the creation of such content illegal, the CP said indulging in it just to increase the number of 'likes' amounts to exploitation of children.

Addressing the issue on his social media handle on 'X', the Hyderabad CP wrote, "Such actions amount to violations under

the POSCO Act and Juvenile Justice Act. Involving minors in such content constitutes child exploitation. The Police Department will take strict action against anyone involved in producing or uploading such content with minors."

"Cases will be registered as per law against offenders who fail to remove such material immediately or engage in similar posts in future," he

added. Sajjanar wondered what kind of message they (the creators of the content) were sending to society by resorting to such "indecent" activity. He suggested that they should create content by interviewing and focusing on people who inspire children and the youth. The inappropriate videos have an adverse impact on the innocent minds. The commissioner also urged people



ple to dial helpline number 1930 or register a complaint at the National Cyber Crime Portal against such content.

Sajjanar, in the past, had also taken up issues like online betting, which took the lives of several young men who got addicted to it. He even called celebrities who promoted them cyber terrorists since these were destroying lives. His initiative later led to a crackdown by state and central agencies and cases were registered against those promoting it.

Mathura: National Nutrition Month concludes; State Women Commission Chairperson attends baby shower for five women

Chairperson of Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission performed Annaprashan Sanskar of 5 children.

Observed various stalls set up by Anganwadi workers

Mathura. The closing program of National Nutrition Month was held in the auditorium of BSA Engineering College under the chairmanship of Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan, Chairperson of Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission. In the program, MLA Baldev Puran Prakash, District Program Officer Buddhi Mishra, District Probation Officer Vikas Chandra, District Basic Education Officer Ratan Kirti, District Information Officer Prashant Kumar Suchari, Block Development Officer Farh, Neha Rawat and Mrs. Ruchi Sharma-Block Development Officer Rural, all from the Child Development Department Anganwadi workers of the district including Child Development Project Officer and Supervisor were present. Chairperson of Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan inspected various stalls set up by Anganwadi workers in the program. He visited the stalls of delicious and nutritious dishes prepared by Anganwadi workers and tasted them. District Program Officer informed that all the dishes have been made with less sugar, less oil and less salt. Various



Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan, Chairperson of Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission, while inspecting various stalls

types of nutritious dishes made from millets were also displayed in the stalls. In the closing program of National Nutrition Month, Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan organized the baby shower of 05 women. Chairperson of Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission performed Annaprashan Sanskar of 05 children in the programme. On this occasion, a competition of hand made toys of Anganwadi workers was organized, in which Shashi Saini stood first, Seema Choli stood second and Hemlata Nimesh stood third. In the recipe competition of nutritious dishes, Shashi Lata

stood first, Vimlesh stood second and Azadwati stood third. All the above winners were awarded with certificates and gifts by MLA Puran Prakash Singh.

Child Development Project Officer Chaumuhan Mrs. Vandana Sharma and Child Development Project Officer Chhata Mrs. Kiran Gupta were honored with citations. Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan said that National Nutrition Month is a campaign celebrated by the Government of India every year in September, which aims to eliminate malnutrition and promote better nutrition and health

care. It was started in 2018 and is organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The main objective of the said campaign is to reduce malnutrition, increase nutrition awareness and improve health services. Under the campaign, programs like nutrition counseling session, baby shower, food distribution, cleanliness campaign, nutritious food exhibition, hand made toys, etc. are organized. The campaign benefits pregnant women, children up to 5 years of age, lactating mothers and adolescent girls, and plays an important role in the fight against malnutrition.

Celebrate a star-studded Diwali with Mallika Sherawat & Ekta Kapoor on COLORS' 'Dhamaal With Pati Patni Aur Panga'

This Diwali, COLORS' 'Dhamaal With Pati Patni Aur Panga' is lighting up your screens with laughter, love, and a little panga! The festive weekend episode is the full pataka platter with jalebi twists, laddu temptations, and relationship crackers ready to burst!

The episode opens with Mallika Sherawat making a sizzling entry to 'Jalebi Bai' and the temperature in the studio instantly goes up a few notches. Abhishek, ever the flirt, can't resist showering her with attention until Mallika shuts him down with her signature sass. Even after an ego bruise, he channels his inner Raghav Juyal, he recreates the funny 'Kaho Na Kaho' moment because what's Diwali without a little dramatic declaration of love. Meanwhile, Pawan confesses that Haryana is secretly obsessed with Mallika, leading to a full-blown Haryanvi-style movie



ousy brews, and Debinna fumes when Mallika dares to touch Gurmeet's famous abs. Abhishek storms off in a jealous huff only to return with a rife.

In true Diwali spirit, Mallika arrives bearing desi ghee laddoos for all the couples, but there's a twist. To earn their sweet rewards, they must shoot balloons marked with numbers that decide how many laddoos they get. The

competition is on, but the fun doesn't stop there; the

wives get a shopping challenge, Mallika cranks up with heat with her belly dance. The set erupts in laughter as she tries and fails to tempt fitness freak Gurmeet into having one bite of samosa.

Adding her star power to this Diwali bonanza is Ekta Kapoor, the television czarina herself. And she's not alone; she's brought her trusted astrologer Harshavardhan Shukla,

who makes jaw-dropping predictions about the celebrity couples' futures. And if that wasn't enough drama for one night, Fahad and Swara set the stage (and Instagram) on fire with a live performance on 'Bheege Hoth Tere' while Munawar takes his turn at serenading his fans online. From sizzling dance-offs to surprising predictions, this festive episode is pure entertainment ka pataka you wouldn't want to miss!

Nivea Body Milk Presents 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga - Jodiyon Ka Reality Check' Co-Powered by Sugar Free Green, Cadbury Dairy Milk, Pour Home Air Fresheners, Envy Perfumes, L'Oréal Paris Hyaluron Pure, and Amazon Great Indian Festival. Special Partners Colgate and HDFC Life, airing every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00PM, only on COLORS.

Everyone was made aware about mental health in Sanskriti University.

Mathura. A unique program was organized on Mental Health Day by the Department of Psychology at Sanskriti University. During the programme, serious discussions were held regarding mental health. The students made everyone aware of this serious topic by performing a simple and easy drama. Chief guest of the program, CAPS Director Dr. Rajneesh Tyagi called for being conscious about mental health and said that it is often seen that people do not take mental health seriously. They take their irritation, frustration and irritability as normal and hence their real reason is not revealed. Being mentally unhealthy is also a big reason for this. Our mental negativity stops us from doing good work and results in inefficiency at the workplace. We all have to pay attention and



A scene of the drama presented by the students during the program organized in the auditorium of Sanskriti University.

understand this. Dr. Monica Abrol said that there are many misconceptions regarding mental health which it is our responsibility to remove. He stressed the importance of mental health and the need for open dialogue about it. Various

programs prepared by the students were presented during the program. An emotional presentation of the play "Mata Nahi, Mental Health Hai" was given by the students. Through the play, it was told that mental health problems should not be

linked to superstition or beliefs like wandering of spirits, but should be cured through understanding and treatment. An emotional poem was presented by Varsha, a postgraduate student, in which mental conflicts and emotional strength were expressed in beautiful words. In the end, first year students presented a mental health podcast skit. It effectively presented the various pressures that young people face including temporary stress, complexities of relationships, social expectations and the importance of self-care. At the end of the program, Mokshata and Jasleen gave closing speeches. He briefly presented the significance of the entire program and expressed his gratitude to all the participants and the organizing team. In the end, Dr. Monica Abrol expressed her gratitude to all the guests

DM-SSP took stock of the security of Shri Krishna's birthplace regarding Diwali

Mathura. In view of the Diwali festival, security arrangements at Shri Krishna's birthplace have been tightened. Last night, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar reached the Janmabhoomi complex and took stock of the security arrangements. During the inspection, both the officers took information from the security personnel deployed at the duty point and instructed them to remain alert. He stressed that the number of devotees increases in Braj during festivals, hence no laxity in security will be tolerated. DM and

SSP took detailed information about security prepa-

Kapil Sharma, Secretary of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi



District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and SSP Shlok Kumar while inspecting

rations from subordinate officers and issued necessary guidelines on the spot. During this, he also met

Seva Samiti and took information related to the security management of the temple complex. Officials

said that the safety of the devotees coming to Braj is the top priority. Police and administration are together strengthening security measures.

Additional police forces are being deployed at temples and major religious places, and surveillance has been increased with CCTV cameras and dog sleds. He warned that strict action would be taken against those spreading any untoward incident or rumour. The aim of the administration is to ensure that festivals like Diwali, Govardhan Puja and Bhैया Dooj are celebrated in a peaceful and respectful manner

HDFC Bank Advises Citizens About Actions To Take Post A Digital Fraud Incident

Mumbai. HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, urges citizens to follow a simple three-step action in case they fall victim to digital frauds. The 'LBW' actions proposed are vital to helping customers act swiftly and decisively to mitigate their losses', draws inspiration from cricketing terminology. The acronym, 'LBW' being an easy to remember one, is a reminder for the following actions to be taken in case of an incident of digital fraud: • Law Enforcement Agencies: Customers should file a complaint by calling 1930 helpline number started by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as well as submit a complaint on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal <https://www.cybercrime.gov.in>. Citizens should also report suspicious call/message on the Chakshu portal on www.sancharsaathi.gov.in. Reporting to authorities

immediately increases the chance of recovering lost money and helps prevent further incidents of fraud. • Bank: Persons should immediately report the unauthorised transactions to their respective Bank and get the payment channel blocked, i.e., Cards/UPI/Net banking to safeguard against future losses. • Wipe: Citizens should completely wipe their devices (mobile/tabs/laptops) clean, clear all cookies and reset all net banking/device passwords. This ensures your device is clean and secure. Commenting on this, Mr. Manish Agrawal, Senior Executive Vice President – Credit Intelligence and Control – HDFC Bank said, "We urge all customers to stay vigilant while transacting digitally. Fraudsters are constantly evolving their methods and use sophisticated tactics to exploit their emotions. There are times when the citizens fall prey to

the innovative social engineering techniques. Post an unfortunate incident of a digital fraud, following some simple but key steps by customers helps in not only improving the chances of recovering funds but also in protecting themselves from future incidents." HDFC Bank urges customers to remain vigilant against scams, such as "digital arrest" fraud, where fraudsters impersonate law enforcement or government officials and threaten victims with a digital arrest warrant for reasons that could range from alleged tax evasion, regulatory violations, financial misconduct among others. Other frauds commonly seen include investment scams, where fraudsters promise unusually high returns on investments in stocks, IPOs, cryptocurrency, etc. via fake automated investment platforms and promoted via social media platforms. APK scam, where

fraudsters typically use social engineering tactics by impersonating bank employees or government officials and send a malicious APK file claiming to be from trustworthy sources. Once the file is installed, it gives fraudsters full control of victim's phones. Fraudsters target the emotions of victims to perpetuate frauds by using the GTH – Greed, Threat and Help method. HDFC Bank remains committed to strengthening cybersecurity awareness among customers and continues to work closely with regulators, law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders to promote safe digital banking practices. HDFC Bank has been conducting cyber fraud awareness workshops pan India as part of its secure banking initiative to promote safe digital banking practices.