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Gujarat Cabinet reshuffle highlights: Rivaba Jadeja among 25 ministers; six faces retained

(Gns). Earlier today, the Chief Minister held a meeting with Governor Acharya Devvrat at Rajbhavan. The meeting was part of the formal process ahead of the cabinet expansion. Gujarat governor Acharya Devvrat on Friday administered oath to the newly elected Cabinet of Bhopendra Patel-led government. Harsh Sanghani has been sworn in as Gujarat's deputy chief minister. Barring CM Patel, Gujarat's entire Cabinet



stepped down on Thursday in anticipation of the expansion. As many as 25 BJP

MLAs were administered the oath as ministers. Of these, six members retained their positions in

the new cabinet. CM Bhopendra Patel personally contacted the newly chosen ministers to inform

them about their induction. Earlier today, the Chief Minister held a meeting with Governor Acharya

Devvrat at Rajbhavan. The meeting was part of the formal process ahead of the cabinet expansion.

President of India graces national conclave on 'adi karmayogi abhiyan'

Tribal traditions remind us that development must be in harmony with nature: president droupadi murmu
In our journey towards a developed India, we must remember that real progress of the nation and society lies in the development of all sections of society: president droupadi murmu

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that this conclave reflects our national resolve to make governance truly participatory, inclusive, and based on people's participation. She added that the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan was launched with the transformative vision of making every tribal village self-reliant and a proud village. She highlighted that this campaign aims to ensure that tribal communities participate in the nation's development journey and that the benefits of development reach all tribal areas and people. She expressed confidence that the Tribal Action Framework will play

a vital role in the development of our tribal people and the country.



The President said that the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan strengthens the spirit of public participation by empowering Gram Sabhas and community-led institutions. She stated that through meaningful participation of tribal society, national policy can be influenced and schemes can be

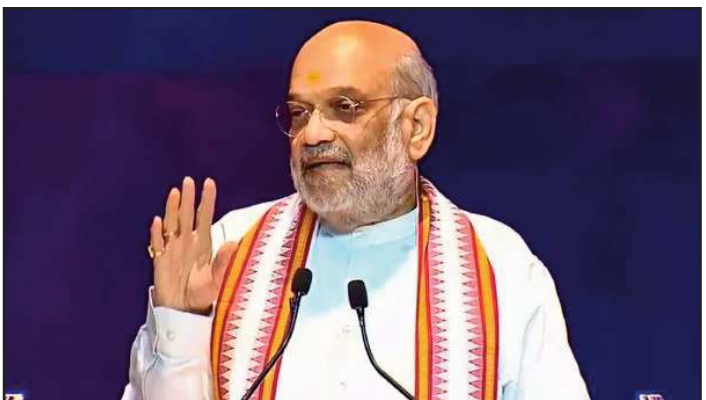
made more effective. The President said that our tribal communities are an important part of the country's socio-cultural diversity. She stated that tribal traditions remind us that development must be in harmony with nature. The President highlighted that in recent years, the Government has taken several concrete steps to ensure the overall development of tribal communities. She further said that these efforts aim not only to provide financial assistance but also to provide opportunities for education, health, employment, technical skills, and equal participation in governance.

Amit Shah Proclaims Abujhmarh And North Bastar Free From Naxal Influence Following Major Surrenders

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that Abujhmarh and North Bastar in Chhattisgarh are now free from Naxal influence. This declaration followed the surrender of 170 Maoists. Shah described this as a "landmark day" in the battle against left-wing extremism, highlighting the recent surrender of 258 extremists across different states. Since January 2024, when the BJP government assumed power in Chhattisgarh, significant progress has been made against Naxalism. A total of 2,100 Naxalites have surrendered, 1,785 have been arrested, and 477 have been eliminated. These figures underscore the government's commitment to eradicating Naxalism by

March 31, 2026. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that Abujhmarh and North Bastar in Chhattisgarh are now free from Naxal influence.

remaining efforts focused on South Bastar to eradicate Naxalism by March 31, 2026. Switch To Shorts Recent Surrenders and



ence, following the surrender of 170 Maoists after the BJP government's efforts since January 2024. Since then, 2,100 Naxalites surrendered, 1,785 arrested, and 477 eliminated, with

Government's Stance The latest surrender involved 27 Maoists in Sukma district, including members from the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion-01. Shah

praised those who chose to abandon violence and trust India's Constitution. He stated that these actions indicate that Naxalism is nearing its end due to persistent efforts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration. Shah emphasized that only remnants of Naxalism remain in South Bastar. He assured that security forces are determined to eliminate these traces soon. "Now a trace of Naxalism exists in South Bastar, which will be wiped out soon by our security forces," he added. Appeal to Remaining Naxals The Home Minister urged remaining Naxals to surrender their weapons and join mainstream society. He reiterated the government's clear policy: welcoming those who lay down

Maha Cong gives 'Black Diwali' call to farmers, Uddhav demands loan waiver

(Gns). Senior Congress leader Vija Wadettiwar on Friday urged farmers hit by unseasonal rains and floods to celebrate a 'Black Diwali', even as Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray demanded that the Fadnavis government give financial assistance worth Rs 1 lakh and waive off all their loans. Senior Congress leader from Maharashtra Vija Wadettiwar issued a call on Friday to farmers hit by unseasonal rains and floods to celebrate a 'Black Diwali', even as Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray demanded that the Fadnavis government

should give farmers financial assistance worth Rs 1 lakh and waive off all their loans. Congress leader Vijay Vadettiwar attacked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar for their "anti-farmer policies".



"The help provided by the government to farmers affected by heavy rains is just a sham. Due to this deception, it is time for farmers to celebrate this year's Diwali as a 'Black

Diwali' as a protest against this government. All farmers in Maharashtra should celebrate 'Black Diwali'. Everyone should turn off their lamps and protest against this government. I appeal to everyone to take into account the plight of farmers," Wadettiwar said. Talking to media per-

sons here on Friday, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray lashed out against the Fadnavis government and demanded complete loan waiver for disaster-hit farmers and demanded that the government must make an immediate deposit of Rs 1 lakh in the bank accounts of farmers' accounts before Diwali. "While I wish you all a happy Diwali, I remember the disaster-hit farmers of Maharashtra. Whether anyone else visits those disaster-hit farmers or not, Shiv Sena will remain with them at every step to ensure justice for them. This government is only cheating farmers and deceiving them.

Maiden Flight of Tejas Mk1A At HAL Nashik—Can It Transform India's Air Force?

(Gns). The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A successfully completed its maiden flight on Friday at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) third production line in Nashik. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was present during the historic flight, which was followed by a ceremonial water cannon salute to mark the achievement. The event also saw the inauguration of HAL's third production line for the LCA Tejas Mk1A, as well as the second production line for the Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40), India's indigenous basic trainer aircraft developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A completed its maiden flight at HAL's third production line in Nashik, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, alongside the inauguration of the third production line for Tejas Mk1A and the second for HTT-40. The event signifies a pivotal moment for India's defense capabilities, with plans to increase annual output and procure 97 more LCA Mk1A fighter jets for ₹62,000 crore.



Key Highlights: The maiden flight and the inauguration of HAL's third production line mark a

significant milestone in India's defence capabilities, reflecting the country's push for self-reliance in aerospace and military technology. Compared to the JF-17, the Tejas Mk1A offers advanced radar systems, superior avionics, and a more comprehensive weapons suite, providing India with a strategic edge in the region. The aircraft will enhance

operational readiness by replacing ageing jets, and its features include AESA radar, electronic warfare systems, and air-to-air refuelling capabilities. HAL's third production line will increase annual output from 16 to 24 jets, speeding up deliveries to the IAF. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the event as the start of a "new era in the production of Made-in-India fighters and trainers." He emphasized the collaborative effort between the government, industry, and academia, noting that India should now aim to expand into next-generation aircraft, unmanned systems, and civil aviation.

Dhaka must undertake measures to uphold sanctity of Int'l boundary: MEA

(Gns). Reacting to an October 15 incident in Tripura that led to the death of three Bangladeshi smugglers inside the Indian territory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said the incident underscores the need for Dhaka to undertake necessary measures to uphold the sanctity of the international boundary. "A group of three miscreants from Bangladesh crossed the international border and attempted to steal cattle from Bidyabil village in Indian territory. They

attacked and injured local villagers with iron dabs and knives, and killed one villager, even as other villagers arrived and resisted the attackers," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in response to

media queries on an incident involving Bangladesh nationals in Tripura. He said authorities

rushed to the spot, where two smugglers were found dead while the third succumbed to his injuries in hospital the following day. The bodies have been handed over to the Bangladesh side. Police have also registered a case, the MEA spokesperson said. "This incident underscores the need for Bangladesh to undertake necessary measures to uphold the sanctity of the International Boundary and support the construction of fencing where needed to prevent cross-border crimes and smuggling.

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प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Joint Joy

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 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 convicted of deadly attacks, others held for years without 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, and fathers reclaimed from a system they see as 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 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.

Policybazaar sees growing preference for in-person meetings, bets big on Eastern India

Policybazaar sees growing preference for in-person meetings, bets big on Eastern India

Ranchi , 17 October 2025: Policybazaar, one of India's largest online insurance platforms, has witnessed a strong consumer preference towards physical channels, with nearly 40% of its overall sales now taking place through in-person meetings. The trend highlights how customers seek in-person advice before making important long-term financial commitments. This behavioural shift is shaping the company's strategy, with Eastern and North-Eastern India emerging as priority markets for expansion.

"Insurance is not a casual purchase, it impacts families for decades," said Pavit Laul, Head, Investments, Policybazaar.com. "That is why so many people prefer face-to-face conversations where they can ask questions, understand details,

and feel confident about the choices they make. Our growth in Eastern India is proof that this personal approach is resonating deeply with customers."

Alongside this trend,



there is an ever increasing demand for market-linked insurance plans, especially among younger investors seeking higher returns. Even among these plans there is a growing interest for plans with waiver of premium (WOP) – the only instrument in insurance industry which ensures that insurer will pay the premiums on behalf of the cus-

tomers and take the plan to maturity, even if he isn't around.

To meet this demand, Policybazaar at present is operating across 30 cities with a network of over 800

advisors. In Eastern India alone, its investment vertical has scaled rapidly, from just a 30-member team in 2022 to over 120 professionals across its five offices in big cities such as Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Patna and Ranchi.

This growth can be subjected to clear shifts in customer behaviours reflected

in the following trends:

- Monthly enquiries in 2025 are more than 50% higher compared to 2022
- High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) contribute one-fifth of the business, which is double the share in 2020
- Customers in the age group between 25–40 have grown by nearly 20% between 2020 and 2025.
- Enquiries for retirement-focused solutions have doubled since 2022
- Sales of plans with waiver of premium (WOP) have tripled between 2023 and 2025, which corresponds to nearly 30% of our business
- With enquiries continuing to rise and more people walking into its offices, Policybazaar is set to further strengthen its network in Eastern and North-Eastern India. The company believes that this blend of digital convenience and human guidance will define the future of life insurance decisions in India.

been through this in my life. The hair she donated, it's such a brave move. It's so

Overwhelmed by emotion, Hina and Sonali tear up, embrace the woman, and



praise her courage and compassion.

After witnessing this moment, Hina Khan shared, "It was so emotional for me to watch because I have

hard for so many cancer patients to afford real hair because it's very expensive. For a normal person, wearing or having a wig made of natural hair is tough; that's

places. The amount of hair she has given is going to make someone so happy, more than we can even imagine. I myself have very short hair, and whenever

why we often see them wearing synthetic wigs available in regular market-

I'm shooting, I wear a wig. Real hair is so important for every person. The one who will wear this hair on their head is going to feel truly happy. I can't thank her enough and would encourage others to take such a step whenever possible."

Nivea Body Milk Presents 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga - Jodiyaon 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.

Introduction of the New Members of the State Council of Ministers

Cabinet Ministers:
1: Shri Jitendrabhai Savjibhai Vaghani
Constituency Number: 105, Bhavnagar (West) Constituency (Bhavnagar City)
Date of Birth: 28th July, 1970, Vartej.
Occupation: Agriculture and Construction
Parliamentary Career: Was active as a member in the 13th and 14th Gujarat Legislative Assembly. During the 14th Gujarat Legislative Assembly, served as the Minister of Primary, Secondary and Adult, Higher and Technical Education, Science and Technology Department from 16th September 2021 to 9th December 2022. In addition, as a member of the 15th Assembly, he has been active as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly since 20th April, 2023.

Hobbies: Reading, Social Service, Folk Literature, Sports, Travel.
2: Shri Nareshbhai Maganbhai Patel
Constituency Number: 176, Gandevi (Scheduled Tribe) Constituency (Navsari District)
Date of Birth: 1st June, 1969, Mograwadi, Navsari.
Occupation: Agriculture, Trade
Parliamentary Career: Was active as a member in the 12th and 14th Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Served as the Minister of Tribal Development, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department in the 14th Gujarat Legislative Assembly.
Hobbies: Reading, Writing, Music, Cricket.

3: Shri Arjunbhai Devabhai Modhwadia
Constituency Number: 83, Porbandar Constituency (Porbandar District)
Date of Birth: 17th February 1957, Modhwadia, Porbandar.
Occupation: Social

Ganubhai Vaja
Constituency Number: 92, Kodinar (SC) Constituency (Gir-Somnath District)
Date of Birth: 18th August 1969, Kutiyana.
Occupation: Doctor
Parliamentary Career: Was active as a member in

2nd February, 2011 to 25th December, 2012, held the Independent Charge of the Cooperation Department from 7th August, 2016 to 25th December, 2017, and took charge as the Minister of State for Cooperation, Sports, Youth Services and Cultural Activities

Social Service, Travelling, Sports, Cricket, Tennis, Swimming
9. Shri Rameshbhai Bhurabhai Katara
Constituency No.: 129, Fatepura (Scheduled Tribe) Constituency (Dahod District)
Date of Birth: 4th May

Constituency (Tapi District)
Date of Birth: 1st June 1975, Katarvan, Taluka Uchchhal (Tapi)
Profession: Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
Activities: President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Tapi District
Hobbies: Writing, Reading, Cultural Programs
14. Shri Trikambhai Bijalbhai Chhanga
Constituency No.: 4, Anjar Constituency (Kutch District)
Date of Birth: 1st June 1962, Ratnal, Taluka Anjar District Kutch
Profession: Retired Principal
Activities: Served as a Member of the Anjar Taluka Panchayat from 2000 to 2010, and later as a Member and President of the Kutch District Panchayat from 2010 to 2015.

Hobby: Reading
15. Shri Kamleshbhai Rameshbhai Patel
Constituency No.: 113, Petlad Constituency (Anand District)
Date of Birth: 12th April 1970, Santokpura, Taluka Borsad
Profession: Agriculture and Service (Principal, Shahpur High School)
Activities: Served as President of the Petlad Taluka Bharatiya Janata Party, Secretary of the Kelavani Uttejak Trust, and Member of the Petlad Education Trust.
Hobbies: Reading and Social Service
16. Shri Sanjaysinh Vijaysinh Mahida
Constituency No.: 118, Mahudha Constituency (Kheda District)
Date of Birth: 20th October 1979, Tranja, Taluka Matar
Profession: Agriculture and Business
Activities: Served as President of Nadiad Taluka Panchayat, Former Chairman of the Executive Committee of Taluka Panchayat, and Taluka Organisation General Secretary until 2020. Also serves as Trustee of Mahida Meldi Mataji Mandir Seva Samaj Trust, Former Treasurer of District Yuva Morcha, and is actively involved in service activities at Shivaji Foundation.

Hobbies: Reading and Music
17. Shri Punamchand Dhanabhai Baranda
Constituency No.: 30, Bhiloda (Scheduled Tribe) Constituency (Aravalli District)
Date of Birth: 1st June 1959, Vankatimba
Profession: Agriculture
Activities: Served as General Secretary of the State Tribal Morcha, Bharatiya Janata Party
Hobbies: Reading and Sports
18. Shri Swarupji Sardarji Thakor
Constituency No.: 7, Vav Constituency (Banaskantha District)
Date of Birth: 1st June 1979, Baiyak
Profession: Agriculture, Business
Activities: Vice President, Gujarat Kshatriya Thakor Sena
Hobby: Reading
19. Smt. Rivaba Ravindrasinh Jadeja
Constituency No.: 78, Jamnagar (North) Constituency (Jamnagar District)
Date of Birth: 5th September 1990, Rajkot
Profession: Social Service
Activities: Founder and Managing Trustee of Matrushakti Charitable Trust. Actively involved in activities related to girls' education, women's empowerment, and implementation of various central and state government schemes to reach the community.
Hobbies: Reading, Travelling, and Social Service

1975, Hingla
Profession: Agriculture
Parliamentary Career: Served as a Member of the 13th and 14th Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Additionally, from September 2021 to December 2022, he served as the Deputy Chief Whip of the Legislative Assembly.
Activities: Member, District Panchayat – Dahod
Hobbies: Reading, Social Service
10. Smt. Darshnaben Mukeshbhai Vaghela
Constituency No.: 56, Asarwa Constituency (Ahmedabad City)
Date of Birth: 5th September 1972, Ahmedabad
Profession: Former School Principal
Activities: Served as a Corporator in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for two terms. From 2010 to 2013, she served as the Deputy Mayor of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. She has also served as the Chairperson of the Safai Kamdar Nigam and is currently associated with the Valmiki Foundation.

Hobbies: Reading, Public Speaking
11. Shri Kaushikbhai Kantibhai Vekariya
Constituency No.: 95, Amreli Constituency (Amreli District)
Date of Birth: 9th June 1986, Village Khicha, Taluka Dhari, District Amreli
Profession: Agriculture, Business (Shri Droneswar Petroleum)
Parliamentary Career: Serving as Deputy Chief Whip in the 15th Gujarat Legislative Assembly since 12th December 2022.

Activities: Director, Gujarat State Co-operative Housing Finance Board since 29/03/2016. Former Director, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Amreli.
Hobbies: Reading biographies of great leaders and the political history of the world, social activities, public relations, travelling, and lion sightseeing.
12. Shri Pravinkumar Gordhanji Mali
Constituency No.: 13, Deesa Constituency (Banaskantha District)
Date of Birth: 8th March 1985, Deesa
Profession: Agriculture and Business
Activities: Coordinator, State Bharatiya Janata Party Documentation Department; Trustee, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Education Trust, Deesa
Hobbies: Reading, Cycling, Volleyball
13. Dr Jayrambhai Chemabhai Gamit
Constituency No.: 172, Nizar (Scheduled Tribe)

Department with Independent Charge and Transport Department from December, 2017 to September, 2021. Furthermore, he has also served as a member/chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings, the Panchayati Raj Committee, and the Committee on Government Assurances of the Legislative Assembly. Hobbies: Reading, Exercise, Travel, Sports, Social Service, Tree Plantation.

7. Dr Manisha Rajivbhai Vakil
Constituency No.: 141, Vadodara (Scheduled Caste) Constituency (Vadodara City)
Date of Birth: 25th March 1975, Vadodara
Profession: Supervisor and Teacher, Bright Day School
Parliamentary Career: Served as a Member of the 13th and 14th Gujarat Legislative Assembly. From September 2021 to December 2022, she served as Minister of State with Independent Charge for the Women and Child Development Department and as Minister of State for the Social Justice and Empowerment Department.

Hobby: Reading
Ministers of State:
8. Shri Kantilal Shival Amrutiya
Constituency No.: 65, Morbi Constituency (Morbi District)
Date of Birth: 8th March 1962, Jetpur, Taluka & District Morbi
Profession: Agriculture, Industry, Education
Parliamentary Career: Served as a Member of the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

Hobbies: Reading, Activities Department from

Sonali Bendre and Hina Khan break down on COLORS' 'Dhamaal with Pati Patni Aur Panga – Jodiyaon Ka Reality Check' after an emotional hair donation moment

What began as a light-hearted Diwali celebration on COLORS' 'Dhamaal With Pati Patni Aur Panga' turns into one of the most emotional moments of the season. The festive special, featuring Mallika Sherawat introducing a 'Truth and Dare' challenge, promises fun revelations and quirky tasks, but what unfolded next brought tears, compassion, and a powerful reminder of the true spirit of Diwali. When it's Rubina Dilaik's turn, she is given a dare to convince someone to let her cut their hair. What seemed like an impossible challenge soon transformed into a moving act of generosity. After a few hesitant exchanges, Rubina finally found a volunteer from the audience. The woman not only

agreed to have her hair cut but added that she wished to donate it to cancer patients.

That declaration changed the atmosphere instantly. The set fell silent as Rubina, visibly emotional, took the scissors in trembling hands, chanting God's name before snipping the first strand. The selfless gesture hits close to home for Sonali Bendre and Hina Khan, both of whom have bravely battled cancer. They know firsthand how body image takes a huge hit after hair loss post-chemotherapy and what it means for someone to give a part of themselves to help another

heal.

praise her courage and compassion. After witnessing this moment, Hina Khan shared, "It was so emotional for me to watch because I have

places. The amount of hair she has given is going to make someone so happy, more than we can even imagine. I myself have very short hair, and whenever

Western railway’s mumbai central division holds “amrit samvaad” to connect with passengers

Mumbai, **A Conversation for Change, A Commitment for Service – Jan Samvaad Se Jan Vikas**

In alignment with the national vision of Amrit Kaal and inspired by the guiding principles of Panch Pran as articulated by Hon’ble Prime Minister, Western Railway’s Mumbai Central Division organised a dynamic “Amrit Samvaad” on 16th October 2025 at the Concourse Area of Mumbai Central Station. The initiative, held under Special Campaign 5.0, aimed to foster direct engagement between railway authorities and passengers to drive transformative progress through collective participation.

According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the event was led by Shri Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, who, along with other Senior Railway Officers, interacted directly with passengers in an open Question & Answer session. Passengers enthusiastically participated, raising queries and sharing suggestions regarding public security, station amenities, CCTV cameras in coaches, as well as introduction of premium sleeper long-distance express trains.

DRM Shri Pankaj Singh attentively addressed each query, assuring passengers of sustained efforts towards augmenting passenger amenities, strengthening safety systems, and delivering modern, technology-driven travel experiences. He further encouraged passengers to join hands with Railways by maintaining cleanliness, adopting responsible travel habits, and contributing positively to the nation-building journey.

The Amrit Samvaad initiative seeks to build a collaborative platform where citizen feedback translates into meaningful action, paving the way towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047, fully aligned with the vision of Amrit Kaal and Panch Pran.

In the 1st picture Shri Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, is seen engaging in an interactive session with passengers during Amrit Samvaad at Mumbai Central station.

Western railway sportspersons excel at national & international sports arenas

Mumbai, Seen in the picture is Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager, Western Railway; Shri V. A. Malegaonkar, Principal Chief Operations Manager, Western Railway & President, Western Railway Sports Association; and Shri Rajneesh Kumar Tomar, Chief Rolling Stock Engineer (Coaching), Western Railway & General Secretary, Western Railway Sports Association, along with members of the medal-winning Wrestling & Hockey teams.

Western Railway has once again demonstrated its sporting prowess with remarkable performances across Wrestling and Hockey at both National and International championships, bringing pride and recognition to the organisation.

According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the Western Railway Greco Roman Wrestling Team clinched the Championship Title at the 66th Men All India Inter-Greco Roman Wrestling Championship 2025 held at NRSA, New Delhi from 7th to 9th October 2025. The team produced an exceptional medal tally with 3 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals and 4 Bronze Medals.

In the Free Style Wrestling category, Western Railway secured 4 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals, further demonstrating the depth of sporting talent within the organisation.

Adding further pride at the international level, Western Railway Women Hockey players Ms. Navneet Kaur and Ms. Manisha Chauhan represented India at the 2025 Women’s Hockey Asia Cup held at Hangzhou, China, where the Indian Team secured the Silver Medal. Continuing their outstanding form at the domestic level, Ms. Navneet Kaur went on to represent the Indian Railways Team, winning the Gold Medal at the 5th Hockey India Senior Women Inter-Department National Championship.

Energy conservation measures initiative by western railway

Mumbai, Railways’ is taking significant steps to promote sustainability across its network in today’s world, where energy conservation and environmental responsibility are more important than ever. Western Railway’s Electrical Power Department of Mumbai Central Division, has rolled out energy-saving initiatives aimed at reducing electricity consumption, improving operational efficiency and adopting eco-friendly technologies.

These efforts align with Indian Railways’ commitment to environmental stewardship and operational efficiency.

Under this initiative, almost 12,500 energy-efficient Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) fans have been installed at stations and service buildings across Mumbai Central Division. These BLDC fans consume about 40% less electricity than traditional ceiling fans, while offering quieter operation, longer lifespan and superior performance. In addition, the Division has achieved a complete transition to energy efficient LED lighting with more than 1,48,700 LED fixtures installed across stations, offices and service areas. This initiative has significantly reduced power consumption and maintenance costs.

To enhance passengers convenience with maintaining energy efficiency, 10 natural water coolers have been installed at major stations including Dadar, Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Bhayandar, Surat, Udhna, Nandurbar and Vapi. These coolers work without compressors and have a cooling capacity of 45 litres per hour and store up to 150 litres, maintaining a temperature between 23°C and 27°C while using minimal energy.

Additionally, across Mumbai Central Division more than 1,200 occupancy sensors have been installed to optimize the air-conditioning systems more efficiently. These smart sensors detect human presence and automatically adjust the air-conditioning, reducing unnecessary energy usage in empty rooms.

Through these consistent efforts, Western Railway is setting a strong example by adopting innovative and eco-friendly technologies, further supporting the vision of a greener and more energy-efficient future.

Special meeting of Dr. Ammar Nigrami with Palestinian Ambassador Abu Shawish

New Delhi: A delegation of All India Muslim Intellectual Society met the Palestinian Ambassador to India, Abdullah Abu Shawish, at the Palestinian Embassy in New Delhi, where the Palestinian Ambassador warmly welcomed the delegation. In this important meeting, led by the General Secretary of the Society, Dr. Ammar Nigrami, the All India Muslim Intellectual Society discussed with the Palestinian Ambassador the positive and long-standing relations between the two countries. What did Dr. Ammar Nigrami said that the All India Muslim Intellectual Society expresses deep sorrow, shock and strong condemnation at the loss of innocent lives in Gaza, especially the brutal massacre of children and women deprived of basic food and medicine. He spoke about the international community’s provision of safe corridors for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Seeing this, the ambassador expressed his gratitude to the society. Dr. Ammar Nigrami told the ambassador that the Indian peace-loving people stand with the Palestinian people. Because India has also seen the period when the country was in the era of slavery, so we know your pain very well. Abdullah Abu Shawish, the ambassador of Palestine, praised the Indian government on this occasion and said that India has always been a supporter of Palestine.

Has adopted a sympathetic attitude towards the Palestinian people. The ambassador added that India’s Ministry of External Affairs remains accessible to Palestine at all times. He highlighted that Palestine sees India from a broader perspective. Apart from this, India has always provided support in the form of education, health, information technology and financial aid for the development and welfare of the Palestinian people, which is proof of the maturity of the long-standing relationship between the two nations. On this occasion, Indira Gandhi along with the Palestinian Ambassador Abdullah Abu Shawish. The supervisor of Yasir Arafat Cultural Center, Dr. Iman Muhabdeen was also present. When Abu Shawish expressed his desire to come to Lucknow, the society invited him to which the ambassador expressed his happiness. In the delegation of the society, in addition to general secretary Dr. Amar Nigrami, other former chairman of Uttarakhand madrasa board and Haj committee, Maulana Zahid Raza Rizvi, director of Valencia International School, Naveed Ahmed and members of the society.

Chirag Paswan Announces 15 LJP Candidates, Highlights ‘Bihar First, Bhari First’ Vision

(Gns). The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), led by National President and Union Minister Chirag Paswan, has announced its list of 15 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections 2025. Paswan congratulated all nominees and reiterated the party’s commitment to the vision of "Bihar First, Bhari First," urging candidates to secure a decisive victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Chirag Paswan’s Message to Party Cadre

Sharing his message on social media, Paswan extended his best wishes to every LJP (Ram Vilas) candidate and emphasized the importance of collective effort in achieving a historic win for the double-engine

NDA government in Bihar. He stressed that the party’s campaign will prioritize progressive development, good governance, and the empowerment of all Biharis.

Chirag Paswan, National President of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), announced 15 candidates for the Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections 2025, with a focus on 'Bihar First, Bhari First' and fielding four women candidates. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has released a list of 243 candidates, including 35 women, for the upcoming elections.

Switch To Shorts

Chirag Paswan Announces 15 LJP Candidates

Candidates Highlights Bihar First Bhari First Vision

Focus on Inclusivity: Women Candidates

Demonstrating a commitment to gender inclusivity, the party has fielded four female candidates, including Seema Singh. Party sources highlighted that this selection reflects Chirag Paswan’s emphasis on balanced participation and the promotion of women leaders in Bihar’s political landscape.

‘Bihar First, Bhari First’ Campaign Theme

The central theme of LJP’s campaign, "Bihar First, Bhari First," aims to position Bihar as a state of opportunity, growth, and self-reliance. Paswan has reiterated that this vision aligns with the aspirations

Hon’ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurates Third Agro-Processing Centre in Kalyana Karnataka Region on World Food Day

(Gns). Oct 17, 2025: Continuing her journey through Kalyana Karnataka to usher in a new era of transformation, Hon’ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the third Farmers’ Training and Common Facility Centre for Agro Processing (FT-CFC) at Konchigeri village, Ballari, Karnataka. The project has been funded through the Minister’s MPLAD scheme, in convergence and collaboration with the Government of India and NABARD, underscoring the government’s strong commitment to inclusive, technology-driven, and sustainable rural development.

The Union Minister flagged off the first consignment of Chillii Powder and Chillii Flakes from the newly inaugurated Spices Processing Center in Konchigeri, Ballari. The launch coincides with World Food Day 2025, themed “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future”, highlighting the importance of collaboration and innovation in creating sustainable, nutritious, and resilient food systems. She interacted with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and toured the stalls showcasing locally processed products. This landmark event was graced by Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Government of India, Shri B. Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Hon’ble Minister of Housing, Wakf & Minority Welfare and District Managing Director, NABARD, Shri K.V. Ravi Kumar, MLA, Shri Y.M. Satish, MLC, and Shri B.M. Nagaraju, MLA, along with senior officials from the state government, NABARD, and the farmers community.

Sharing her vision for strengthening the agricultural value chain, Hon’ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said, "It gives me immense satisfaction to see the establishment of the Ballari Chillii Processing Centre under the MPLAD scheme, which reflects the spirit of true collaboration between the Central and State Governments, NABARD, ITC, and the Siddagangasree FPO. What makes this project special is

Girl Locked by Parents at 15 with Toys, Reported Missing, Freed 27 Years Later

(Gns). In a shocking revelation from Swietochlowince, Poland, a 42-year-old woman was discovered living in confinement by her own parents for nearly three decades. Mirela, who vanished from public view in 1998 at the age of 15, was found in July this year after police responded to a call about a domestic dispute.

In Swietochlowince, Poland, a 42-year-old woman named Mirela was discovered in July after being kept confined by her parents for almost three decades, since 1998, as a teenager; she was severely malnourished and required hospitalization. Her parents claimed she was allowed outside, and she initially resisted help, while local residents and neighbors are now supporting her medical care after doctors warned she was close to death due to a severe infection.

Childhood Frozen in Time

When authorities entered Mirela’s room, they were confronted with a scene reminiscent of a child’s bedroom. A small bed, scattered toys, and a flower-shaped table filled the space. Despite the innocent-looking surroundings, Mirela was severely malnourished and physically debilitated. Doctors later stated that even a short delay in her rescue could have been fatal. She struggled to stand or walk, and her legs were visibly swollen, necessitating urgent hospitalization.

Parents’ Baffling Explanation

Mirela’s parents provided bewildering accounts when questioned by authorities. Her mother claimed she occasionally let her daughter into the garden to see friends and insisted the toys were awaiting disposal. "I will throw them away, but I haven’t had time yet," she told police. Shockingly, Mirela herself initially resisted help, highlighting the deep psychological impact of decades-long isolation.

Public Awareness and Recovery Efforts

Although Mirela was rescued months ago, her story has only recently drawn public attention. Neighbors and local residents have been helping support her medical care. A fundraiser organizer shared that doctors warned Mirela was mere days away from death due to a severe infection, and she has now been hospitalized for over two months.

Pakistan’s Defence Minister Warns of Two-Front War, Points Finger at India For Afghan Clashes

(Gns). Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has stirred controversy by once again blaming India over the country’s escalating border tensions with Afghanistan.

In a televised interview with Samaa TV, Asif warned that India "could play dirty at the border" and asserted that Pakistan is prepared to face simultaneous threats from both its eastern and western frontiers.

Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif stated in interviews that India could be involved in escalating border tensions with Afghanistan and asserted Pakistan’s preparedness for simultaneous threats, following accusations against the Taliban for acting as an Indian proxy amid cross-border violence and a recently brokered ceasefire.

Responding to a question about potential Indian provocations, Asif said, "No, absolutely, you cannot rule we are prepared for any eventuality."

Asif’s remarks follow earlier claims that Afghanistan’s Taliban government is acting as a proxy for India. In a separate interview with Geo News, he alleged that decisions made by the Taliban are "being sponsored by Delhi," casting doubt on the durability of a recently brokered ceasefire.

"Kabul is fighting a proxy war for Delhi," Asif claimed, despite Pakistan’s own history of supporting militant groups within its borders.

The Defence Minister’s comments come in the wake of intense cross-border violence between Pakistan and Afghanistan. A 48-hour ceasefire was agreed upon late Wednesday after deadly skirmishes claimed the lives of both soldiers and civilians.

The Taliban reportedly launched attacks along its southern border with Pakistan, prompting Islamabad to threaten a forceful response. Pakistan has accused Kabul of sheltering members of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a charge the Afghan government denies.

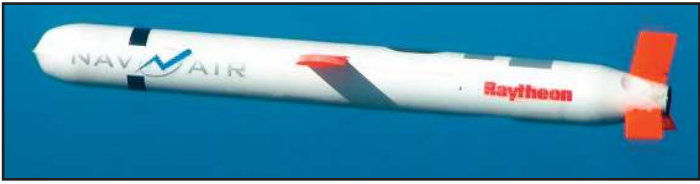
Why Ukraine Wants, And Russia Fears, Tomahawk Missiles

(Gns). Recently US-made Tomahawk missiles have been a hot topic in Washington and Kyiv. US President Donald Trump says he has not ruled out supplying Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine if Russia continues to refuse a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine — this started in 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine.

The US is considering supplying Ukraine with Tomahawk missiles, which could escalate tensions with Russia, as discussed by US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. These missiles, developed in the 1970s, have a range of up to 1,600 kilometers and could hit Russian military targets; however, the exact number Ukraine might acquire is uncertain.

Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he and Trump had discussed the long-range missiles in a phone call although he did not provide



further details.

Zelenskyy believes Tomahawk missiles could help bring an end to Russia's war on Ukraine. "We see and hear that Russia is afraid that the Americans may give us Tomahawks — that this kind of pressure may work for peace," the president said on October 12.

Zelenskyy said if the US were to supply these weapons, Ukraine would only strike Russian military targets with them.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, mean-

while, said the missiles posed no serious threat to his country but added that supplying them to Ukraine would still mark

"an entirely new, qualitatively different, escalation" in US-Russia relations. Putin's spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, told Russian state television that Tomahawk deliveries to Ukraine were causing "extreme concern" in Moscow.

Zelenskyy is expected to meet his US counterpart in Washington on Friday. Talks there should focus on Ukrainian air defenses and long-range weapons, he said.

Tried and tested

Tomahawks are high-accuracy, subsonic cruise missiles, come in many variants, can carry different warheads, including nuclear ones, and can be launched from various platforms.

"The Tomahawk is a fairly old missile, developed in the 1970s," Ukraini (EN): Why Ukraine want... an military expert Kostiantyn Kryvolap told DW. "The Americans originally designed it as a delivery system for nuclear warheads in three variants: air-launched, land-based and seaborne." Initially, the nuclear-armed Tomahawk had a range of up to 2,500 kilometers (1,554 miles). As nuclear warheads were replaced with conventional ones, Tomahawk missile ranges were reduced to 1,600 kilometers, though Kryvolap says some variants still have a 2,500-kilometer range.

DGCA begins auto-generation of computer numbers for flight crew through Pariksha website

Initiative aimed at utilising DigiLocker facility, streamlining application process and enhancing ease of doing business

(Gns). Directorate General of Civil Aviation has introduced auto generation of Computer Numbers for Flight Crew (FC) candidates applying through the Pariksha website/portal, with effect from 16th October 2025.

This initiative is aimed at utilization of DigiLocker facility, streamlining the application process, enhancing ease of doing

business and eliminating manual document submission and verification.

The implementation will be carried out in a phased manner:

Phase I: Auto-generation of Computer Numbers will be available for candidates who have passed 10th and 12th examinations from CBSE Board, subject to successful verification through DigiLocker.

Subsequent Phases:- The facility will be extended to candidates from other

recognized Board whose 10th and 12th mark sheet/certificate are avail-



able in DigiLocker.

The Auto-Generation system will automatically allot a Computer Number immediately upon success-

ful submission of online application on DGCA Pariksha Portal, as per the eligibility criteria prescribed by DGCA.

This step is part of larger initiative and directions given by Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Rammohan Naidu Kinjarappu to digitise all the processes in DGCA/BCAS offices through eGCA and other platforms to ensure ease of flying and the approval processes for students/pilots/and stakeholders with quick response and no human intervention.

India Hosts Successful 8th Session of CCSCH, Finalizes Codex Standards for Vanilla, Coriander, and Large Cardamom

(Gns). The 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8) concluded successfully in Guwahati, marking a significant milestone in global spice standard-setting.

A key highlight of the session was the finalization of three new standards for large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander, which have now been recommended for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Established in 2013 at India's behest, the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs operates under the Codex Alimentarius Commission — a joint body of the FAO and WHO. India, represented by the Spices Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, serve as the Committee's Secretariat, playing a key role in shaping global standards for spices and culinary herbs. With the finalization of three new standards in the current session, the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs has finalised standards for 19 spices including

pepper, turmeric, cumin, nutmeg, cardamom, and saffron.

The vanilla standard, in particular, had been under discussion across multiple sessions due to the technical complexity of flavour chemistry and processing variations. Its successful finalization reflects the spirit of international collaboration prevalent in this committee, in the interest of ensuring quality and safety in spices without compromising scientific rigour.

"With uniform benchmarks in Codex now established, farmers, processors, and exporters of large cardamom, vanilla and coriander around the world will have globally accepted reference points enabling them to operate with greater clarity and confidence, which also benefits the global consumer in turn" said Smt. P.

Hemalatha IAS, Secretary, Spices Board.

"These new standards carry substantial significance for the global spice



trade. India, a leading producer and exporter of large cardamom and coriander, is expected to benefit from harmonized global benchmarks, which will facilitate smoother market access and strengthen export competitiveness. While vanilla is largely imported into India, the establishment of uniform quality standards ensures consistency for global trade and consumer confidence" she added.

"The 8th session of CCSCH had active participation from 30 countries and

observers and it reflects the growing international awareness of the importance of ensuring quality, safety, and authenticity in the global spice trade. Such broad representation signifies the shared commitment of producing and consuming nations alike to develop harmonized, science-based standards that protect consumers and support fair trade. The strong engagement also highlights the rising global consumer demand for verified quality and traceability in food products, with spices, being among the most widely traded commodities. At the forefront of this movement" said Dr Hilde Kruse, Senior Food Safety Officer of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Being the host country for CCSCH, India has been coordinating scientific and regulatory inputs while enabling participation from all Codex member countries to ensure that the collective global standards for spices reflect both international best practices and India's long-standing excellence in this field.

CEC issues strict directives for smooth conduct of Bihar polls

(Gns). The Election Commission is taking a strict stance regarding the Bihar elections: The Chief Election Commissioner held a meeting with the heads of law enforcement agencies in Delhi.

Ahead of the upcoming two-phase assembly elections in Bihar, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar issued stern directives on Friday, making law enforcement agencies aware of their role in ensuring active and preventive measures during the elections in the state.

Gyanesh Kumar has convened a meeting here at the Election Hall with the heads of law enforcement agencies, including Sukbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek

Joshi.

The heads of various law enforcement agencies, such as CBDT, CBIC, ED, DRI, RBI, NCB, RPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, BASAS, AAI, and the Postal Department, participated in the meeting. The Chief Secretary of Bihar, the DGP, the State Police Nodal Officer (SPNO), and the Chief Election Officer participated in this meeting online.

During the meeting, extensive discussions were held regarding the preparation of a comprehensive roadmap to combat the detrimental effects of cash and other inducements in the Bihar elections. There

were also discussions on imposing controls on the secret expenditures of candidates and political parties, fostering cooperation

among law enforcement agencies for effective measures, and the exchange of confidential information related to economic crimes.

Furthermore, during the discussions, strict orders were issued to monitor measures aimed at halting the transportation of cash, including smuggled goods, drugs, alcohol, and counterfeit currency across interstate and international borders.

The Chief Election Commissioner has issued a strict directive emphasising

that there should be collaboration among law enforcement agencies and the exchange of intelligence regarding economic crimes for effective measures. He has highlighted the importance of inter-agency coordination at the national, state, and district levels for each enforcement agency.

The Chief Election Commissioner has instructed the relevant agencies to conduct mapping of electoral areas to monitor the transportation of smuggled goods, drugs, alcohol, and cash (including counterfeit currency) across interstate and international borders. He has also directed the assurance of a 'Zero Tolerance' policy for free and fair elections in Bihar.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Unveils Curtain Raiser for 4-day India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025 beginning December 6 at Chandigarh, Calls It a Celebration of Science and Innovation

IISF 2025 to Focus on 'Vigyan Se Samridhhi – For Atmanirbhar Bharat', Showcasing India's Innovation, Self-Reliance and Knowledge Traditions

IISF 2025 to Spotlight Five Themes from Atmanirbhar Bharat to Bio-economy; Focus on Region-Specific Innovations

Every major address by Prime Minister Modi over the past decade — from Independence Day speeches to policy announcements — has carried a strong message underscoring the importance of science and technology in national development, says the Minister

Dr. Jitendra Singh says,

initiatives such as Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) will democratize

research funding by extending support to universities and institutions

Dr. Jitendra Singh today launched the curtain raiser for the India International



across states
स्वास्ति लिखि: 17 OCT 2025 5:24PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions,

Science Festival (IISF) 2025, describing it as a "celebration of science" that complements the country's growing spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the festival will serve as a platform to showcase India's scientific achievements and inspire greater

public participation in science-driven progress.

The festival, scheduled to be held from December 6 to 9, 2025, at Panjab University, Chandigarh, will bring together scientists, researchers, innovators, and students to showcase India's progress in science, technology, and innovation. This year's edition will be themed "Vigyan Se Samridhhi – Science to Prosperity", reflecting the government's emphasis on harnessing science for national growth and self-reliance.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is witnessing its most dynamic phase in scientific creativity and technological innovation.

MSDE mid Campaign Progress of Special Campaign 5.0

(Gns). The Government of India has announced Special Campaign 5.0 from 2nd October to 31st October, 2025. The Special Campaign 5.0 places a greater emphasis on field/outstation offices in addition to the Ministries, Departments, and their subordinate offices under the aegis of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

With a preparatory phase from 15th to 30th September, 2025, the campaign aims to institutionalize Swachhata (Cleanliness) in Government offices, improve office environment, Space Management, Efficient Record Management and more importantly dispose of

pending references/files such as MP references, Inter-Ministerial references, State Govt. References, Public Grievances and



Parliamentary Assurances, etc. Focus is placed on e-Waste Disposal (unserviceable computers, printers, LED display etc.) following e-Waste Management Rules, 2022.

A VC meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Shri M. Subramanian, Joint Secretary with all the nodal officers of all institutions of MSDE to sensitize

them about the Campaign. Each Division in the Ministry/Department/Subordinate office is required to identify cleanliness sites,

pending files, redundant materials, documents, and reduce pending references, 'before' & 'after' scenarios, report daily progress via SCDPM portal and best practices including waste to wealth/art etc.

From 2nd October, MSDE has been actively participating in Special Campaign 5.0 and have already identified action-

able activities i.e. (Cleanliness sites, files for Record/weeding out and reduce pendency). A workshop with National Archives of India was also organised to sensitize the officers of Ministry and attached/ field offices on the necessity of Record Management.

During the ongoing Special Campaign 5.0, progress is being monitored on day-to-day basis. As on 16th October, 2025, 79% of Public Grievance cases have been disposed. 634 old files, that is, 51% of files targeted have been Reviewed, Recorded and weeded out and in addition to 1,900 Cleanliness Target Units have been transformed. MSDE is diligently and proactively trying to dispose of all the pending matters much before the target date of 31.10.2025.

India Engages in Trade from a Position of Strength, Focusing on Non-Competitor Nations for Balanced and Beneficial Partnerships: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal

(Gns). Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, emphasized that India has undergone a significant shift in recent years and that it now negotiates from a position of strength, reflecting the country's growing economic confidence and global stature in terms of India's approach to Free Trade Agreements and other trading arrangements.

The Minister said that at the Annual Conference and 105th Annual General Meeting of ASSOCHAM in New Delhi today. He said that the country is now engaging primarily with nations that are not competitors to India, ensuring that trade partnerships are balanced and mutually beneficial.

He noted that this strategic approach allows India to safeguard its

domestic industries, promote exports, and create opportunities for investment and technology collaboration, while avoiding a position of weakness are over, and that the Indian passport now commands respect and value across the world. Shri Goyal pointed out that while

the world is facing challenging global times, India continues to demonstrate resilience and remains the fastest-growing economy. He referred to the recent IMF projection that raised India's growth forecast from 6.4 to 6.6 percent and also mentioned that retail inflation in September had been the lowest in eight years at 1.54 percent.

The Minister stated that the world today recognises India as an important trad-

ing partner and a trusted country to work with. He observed that the days when India used to negotiate trade agreements from a position of weakness are over, and that the Indian passport now commands respect and value across the world. Shri Goyal pointed out that while

the world is facing challenging global times, India continues to demonstrate resilience and remains the fastest-growing economy. He referred to the recent IMF projection that raised India's growth forecast from 6.4 to 6.6 percent and also mentioned that retail inflation in September had been the lowest in eight years at 1.54 percent.

The Minister stated that

gone are the days when India entered into imbalanced free trade agreements without recognising its own strengths. He said that the Indian economy has been systematically prepared to address present and future challenges, guided by a clear vision and a strong commitment to the nation-first philosophy. He recalled the five principles, the Panch Pran, articulated by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2022, which he said encapsulate the pathway towards making India a developed nation by 2047.

The Minister elaborated that the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed with Mauritius, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries mark a new chapter in India's trade engagement with the world.

Cong demands ban on RSS-ABVP in educational institutions

(Gns). The Congress on Friday called for a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its student wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), in educational institutions, accusing them of promoting a divisive ideology.

The demand comes amid allegations against ABVP activists for attempting to film girl students while changing costumes at a government college in Mandasaur, Madhya Pradesh.

At a press conference addressed by Congress leaders Alka Lamba and Varun Choudhary, National Students' Union of India President, the party criticized BJP leaders for defending the accused ABVP activists.

"It is shameful that BJP leaders are defending those who tried to violate the dig-

nity of young girls," said Alka Lamba. "We will not allow the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh to let

recent reported sexual assault case at South Asian University in Delhi, demanding accountability



these activists go scot-free. The dignity and honour of our girls cannot be compromised."

She further referenced a

from Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

Varun Choudhary demanded a strict crack-

down, stating, "RSS and ABVP must be banned from educational institutions as they spread a divisive and harmful ideology. Additionally, Deepika Jha, an ABVP leader and DUSU joint secretary, should be rusticated for physically assaulting a professor at a Delhi University-affiliated college."

Highlighting wider concerns, Choudhary cited a tragic incident in Kerala where an IT professional committed suicide after revealing years of sexual exploitation within RSS 'shakhas' and training camps.

He also alleged that NSUI activists face systematic victimization and intimidation in BJP-ruled states such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh for opposing the RSS's divisive agenda in educational settings.