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## PM Modi Hails Indian Women's Team's Historic World Cup Triumph, Calls It an Inspiration for Future Generations

**The Indian women's cricket team's victory in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final has inspired future generations, showcasing their teamwork and resilience.**

**Prime Minister Modi commended their skills and dedication, hoping to motivate young athletes in India.**

as a "historic win," expressing hope that it would motivate future champions to pursue sports. The team's performance has been a source of pride and inspira-



tion for many, showcasing their dedication and hard work.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian women's cricket team on their victory

in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final, praising their teamwork, tenacity, and historic achievement, which is expected to inspire future

generations. Switch To Shorts Exceptional Teamwork and Tenacity

Throughout the tournament, the Indian women's cricket team demonstrated

outstanding collaboration and resilience. Their ability to work together effectively was evident in every match, contributing significantly to their success. This victory is not just about winning a title but also about setting an example for aspiring athletes across the nation.

The triumph in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final is expected to have a lasting impact on sports enthusiasts in India. It serves as a reminder of what can be achieved with determination and teamwork. The players' journey through the tournament has been nothing short of inspiring.

The win by the Indian women's cricket team is anticipated to inspire young athletes to take up sports

with renewed enthusiasm. By achieving such a significant milestone, they have paved the way for future generations to dream big and aim high in their sporting endeavors.

This victory is not only a testament to their skills but also highlights the importance of perseverance and unity in achieving goals. As more young individuals look up to these champions,

it is hoped that they will be encouraged to pursue their passions with similar zeal.

The Indian women's cricket team's success story in this tournament underscores the potential

within Indian sports. It emphasizes that with hard work, dedication, and teamwork, remarkable achievements are possible on international platforms.

## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Stands with Farmers Affected by Unseasonal Rains

**Chief Minister Visits Villages in Gir-Somnath and Junagadh Districts, Reviews Crop Damage and Listens to Farmers Under the CM's Directions, a Statewide Survey Conducted on a War Footing to Evaluate Crop Damage Caused by Unseasonal Rains**

**- Survey work has been completed in about 70% of the affected areas across the state, with over 4,800 teams engaged in the operation**

**- The entire administration is working around the clock to complete the survey in the remaining affected regions**

**Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel**  
**- The state government remains committed to supporting and standing by the farmers during this calamity**  
**- Commitment to announce a relief package very soon to help farmers recover quickly from the losses**

Gandhinagar, 3 November 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel has stood firmly with farmers affected by the unseasonal rains that began in the last week of October, damaging crops across several districts. Under his guidance, immediate survey operations



were launched to assess the extent of the loss. The Chief Minister monitored the situation in real time from Gandhinagar, held high-level meetings to review the damage faced by farmers, and instructed officials to prepare a detailed report on crop losses.

In this context, the agriculture department and other state departments coordinated efforts to promptly begin surveys in the affected areas. So far, approximately 70% of the affected regions have been covered. Under the guidance of the Chief Minister, the agriculture and related departments are working 24x7 to complete the remaining surveys at the earliest. To ensure that affected farmers receive assistance at the earliest, more than 4,800 teams have been mobilised to conduct survey operations with maximum efficiency. and urgency across the impacted districts.

On Monday afternoon,

the Chief Minister visited Kadvasan village in Gir-Somnath district and Panidhra village in Junagadh district to review the crop damage firsthand and listen empathetically to farmers' concerns. He was accompanied by Ministers Shri Arjun Modhwadia, Dr Pradyuman Vaja, and Minister of State Shri Kaushik Vekariya, who also joined him in visiting the affected areas. Reassuring the farmers, the Chief Minister affirmed that the entire government stands firmly with them and is fully committed to ensuring their swift recovery from the losses. According to preliminary estimates, unseasonal rains have caused crop damage in more than 16,000 villages across 249 talukas of the state. The Chief Minister informed that survey work in 70% of the affected regions has already been completed, and the remaining surveys will be finished soon. Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel stated that

immediately after the completion of the survey, the state government will promptly announce a generous relief package to provide maximum assistance to the farmers.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, the Ministers of the state government have also directly visited the affected areas to assess the damage caused to the crops and the complete situation. Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi in Surat district, Agriculture Minister Shri Jitu Vaghani in Bhavnagar, Tribal Development Minister Shri Naresh Patel in Tapi, Forest and Environment Minister Shri Arjun Modhwadia and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Pradyuman Vaja in Junagadh and Gir Somnath, and State Minister Shri Kaushikbhai Vekariya in Amreli district participated in the grief of the farmers by visiting the areas.

## Amit Shah urges Bihar voters to recall who ended 'jungle raj'

**Addressing election rallies in Sheohar, Sitamarhi, and Madhubani, Shah said that under Lalu-Rabri's rule, Bihar had witnessed jungle raj and complete lawlessness.**

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday urged the people of Bihar to make a conscious decision while casting their votes in the Assembly elections on 6 and 11 November, saying the future of the state lies in their hands.

Addressing election rallies in Sheohar, Sitamarhi, and Madhubani, Shah said that under Lalu-Rabri's rule, Bihar had witnessed jungle raj and complete lawlessness.

"Because of extortion, Bihar's sugar mills had closed, the Barauni factory

He added that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar brought the state out of



had shut down, the petroleum complex never came up, and power plants were not being established," he said.

lawlessness and opened the path to development.

Shah recalled that when the Congress was in power

at the Centre, several districts in Bihar were affected by Naxal violence, and polling would end by 3 pm.

"This time, for the first time, the entire state will vote till 5 pm, because Bihar has been freed from Naxalism," he said.

Urging voters to reflect before voting, he asked, "Who has given you the courage to vote fearlessly? Who freed Bihar from jungle raj? Who laid the network of roads? Under whose rule did your daughters start going to school on bicycles without fear? Who made it safe to move around even at midnight? Under whose rule did electricity reach every village?"

## Jaishankar reiterates support for Gaza peace plan

**External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday reiterated India's support for the Gaza peace plan, which, he hoped, would lead to a lasting and durable solution.**

(Gns). External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday reiterated India's support for the Gaza peace plan, which, he hoped, would lead to a lasting and durable solution.

He was co-chairing a meeting of the fifth India-Bahrain High Joint Commission with Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani in New Delhi.

Noting that India and Bahrain share centuries-old ties of friendship underpinned by trade linkages and strong people-to-people ties, Mr Jaishankar said the two countries believe in

a common goal and commitment to promoting peace and prosperity for their people and for the common region.

He said the two countries have made significant progress bilaterally in defence, security, trade & commerce, health, culture, and people-to-people ties. "But there are new areas such as space, fintech, and technology that hold considerable promise for our partnership," he added.

The minister noted that the two countries have also seen a steady growth of bilateral trade and investments. "We welcome investors from Bahrain to come and

explore investment opportunities in India. Conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty and the establishment of a Joint Working



Group on Trade and Investment will further boost our economic ties," he added. The two nations are also working on various

initiatives to strengthen their cooperation in the field of healthcare, and their space agencies are also making progress in deepening their collaboration.

"We have a vibrant cooperation in the area of culture and strong people-to-people ties. Earlier this year, we launched the electronic visa system for Bahraini nationals. This, I hope, will encourage more visitors from Bahrain," he emphasised.

Mr Jaishankar said India has been active in the Combined Maritime Forces based in Manama. In September 2025, three Indian naval ships visited Bahrain, which helped to reinforce bilateral friendship and the Indian Navy's commitment to regional maritime security.

## Priyanka Gandhi calls for change for Bihar's progress

**The Congress leader said that today under the NDA rule, Bihar does not have any voice. She said even Chief Minister Nitish Kumar does not have any say in key decisions, as the state is being run through directions from Delhi.**

(Gns). Calling for change, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday urged the people of Bihar to vote the INDIA bloc to power to usher in an era of progress and overall development, particularly in education and employment opportunities.

Addressing a largely attended public rally in Sonbarsa, she also listed several public welfare schemes which the INDIA bloc government will implement in Bihar, similar to

those successfully introduced by Congress governments in Karnataka and Telangana.

The Congress leader said that today under the NDA rule, Bihar does not have any voice. She said even Chief Minister Nitish



Kumar does not have any say in key decisions, as the state is being run through directions from Delhi.

She also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for frequently complaining about being "insulted" by the opposition. She suggested that he should set up a "Ministry of Insults", which will keep and maintain a record of all such "insults". This, she noted, will save the precious time of the Prime Minister, which he can instead devote to addressing the country's real issues.

She suggested to the Prime Minister that the proposed "ministry" can also maintain records of the insults hurled at her family every day by the ruling party — enough, she quipped, to fill an entire library.

The Wayanad MP also alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was a very big conspiracy not only aimed at disenfranchising people, but also at denying them the benefits of various welfare schemes of the government. She said 65 lakh voters in Bihar had been disenfranchised under this conspiracy.

She expressed deep concern over the decline in the education system in Bihar, which she said was once among the best. She recalled that Bihar had produced IAS, IPS and IFS officers who served the country in different capacities. However, she lamented that the system had now been destroyed with paper leaks becoming the new normal.

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गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये



Editorial

Proceeding with caution

The latest US interest rate cut reveals a central bank attempting to steer an economy through dense uncertainty, guided more by instinct than data. With the government shutdown now stretching close to a month, crucial employment indicators have gone dark, leaving policymakers at the Federal Reserve without their usual instruments. Yet, faced with mounting signs of a softer labour market, they chose to act rather than wait – trimming the key rate by another quarter point to a three-year low.

The decision signals that the Fed now sees employment weakness as a more immediate threat than inflation, which, while still above the 2 per cent target, appears contained outside tariff-driven sectors. The US central bank's emphasis on job preservation over price stability marks a cautious but deliberate shift ~ an acknowledgment that economic confidence is ebbing faster than consumer prices are rising. Fed chair Jerome Powell's comment that the labour market has become "less dynamic" highlights an inflection point. The US job machine, long celebrated as the backbone of post-pandemic recovery, is showing visible cracks. Slower hiring, weaker wage growth, and reduced immigration are all converging to cool labour demand.

That private-sector data already point to net job losses only strengthens the case for pre-emptive monetary easing. Still, this second successive cut is not without risk. The Fed's recent actions may calm markets in the short term, but they also raise the question of whether policy is running ahead of evidence. With official jobs data missing and inflation still sticky in some categories, cutting rates while "flying blind" risks a policy overshoot. The challenge now is to avoid misreading temporary softness as structural weakness. Equally notable is the dissent within the Fed itself. Some policymakers argued for a deeper cut, others for none at all.

This divergence reflects not just differing interpretations of data but deeper philosophical divisions ~ between those prioritising employment resilience and those guarding against long-term inflation creep. The Fed's decision to pause its balance sheet reduction from December further reinforces its defensive stance, signalling readiness to support liquidity amid tightening financial conditions. This episode also unfolds against a politically charged backdrop. With presidential pressure mounting and speculation about leadership changes intensifying, the Fed must defend both its independence and credibility.

Its next steps will be scrutinised not only for their economic rationale but also for hints of political influence. In times of clear data, central banking is about calibration. In times of uncertainty, it becomes an exercise in judgement. The Fed's cautious but proactive move reflects both ~ a willingness to act before the slowdown hardens into recession, tempered by awareness of its own limitations. Mr Powell's metaphor of driving in the fog captures the moment precisely: the Fed has slowed down, headlights on and hands steady ~ but the road ahead remains unclear.

Lucknow,3 Oct 2025: As online shopping becomes second nature for millions across India, so too does the need to stay vigilant. Cyber fraudsters are constantly refining their tactics, fake websites, scam calls, and malicious apps are just a few of the tricks they use to mislead unsuspecting users.

These threats aren't seasonal. They're persistent and opportunistic, surfacing whenever there's a chance to exploit urgency or excitement. They can sneak into everyday moments, from browsing exciting deals to that quick "add to cart" click. That's why it's critical to stay alert and informed, not just during major events, but every time you shop online.

This guide lays out simple, effective actions you can take to protect your Flipkart account and safeguard your data and privacy. Whether you're facing a suspicious link or handling a shady call, here's how to stay cyber secure.

Shopping Online? Here's How to Stay Safe and Spot a Scam Before You Click

- Beware of Scam Calls and Social Engineering: If someone calls claiming to be from Flipkart and asks you to install an app or share sensitive information (OTP, PIN, CVV), hang up. Flipkart never asks for such

Religion is the enquiry into the beyond that marks the difference between the lives of human and animals. This is how Swami Vivekananda explained the essence of religion. He said: "So if man rests content with the present and gives up all search into the beyond, mankind will have to go back to the animal plane." Religion is a complex human phenomenon encompassing various spiritual practices. It throws light into the inner world as well as engages in exploring answers to timeless, existential questions.

Religious feelings descend from one generation to the next. Swami Vivekananda held that the lowest stage of religion is the religion of fear when people turn to God and perform rituals and religious practices to protect themselves from harm. These are the external forms of devotion through which one has to pass. But according to Vivekananda "Temples or churches, books or forms are simply the kindergarten of religion, to make the spiritual child strong enough to take higher steps, and these first steps are necessary if he wants religion. "But if he is sincere, if he really wants to reach the truth, he goes higher than this, to a plane where forms are as nothing... External worship, material worship is the lowest stage; struggling to rise high, mental prayer, is the next stage; but the highest stage is when the Lord is realised...We have to analyse our own souls and find what is there...Only the man who has actually perceived God and the soul has religion...But if there is a God, He is in our own hearts.

Have you ever seen

Him?" Religion is, therefore, realization. This was the assertion of Vivekananda about the highest stage of religion. He said: "This is one great idea to learn and to hold on to, this idea of realisation. This turmoil and fight and difference in religions will cease only when we understand that religion is not in books and temples." Religion brings to man eternal life. It is the highest echelon of religion one must desire to reach. However, the vast majority of people today are more akin to perform only the basic rituals. People love to worship God, an external idea. It gives more reliance on external strength than on an eternal one.

Most people rely on external manifestation of faith often indulged in by institutions. Societal and Institutional impetus encourage people to congregate in large numbers at places of worship to perform religious practices. Therefore, a vast majority of people in India are at the preliminary stage of religion as propagated by Vivekananda. The desire to move to the higher stage of religion is visibly absent. "We often consider a man religious who can talk well. But this is not religion," said Vivekananda. "Religion is a matter of growth, not a mass of foolish words." Vivekananda added: "Wonderful methods of joining words, rhetorical powers, and explaining the texts of the books in various ways – these are only for the enjoyment of the learned, and are not religion." These words of Vivekananda are still relevant today. Vivekananda lamented: "We are all atheists, and yet we try to fight the man who admits it. We are all in dark.

Inner life and spiritual realization

Religion is to us mere intellectual assent, mere talk, mere nothing." The strong words of Vivekananda remind us – "We want everything but God. This is not religion that can promote specific religious beliefs and participation. Society is a stage of growth through which a man passes. Society is good at a certain stage, but it is not the ultimate aim, of society depends upon the independence of its individuals. Society is in constant flux. The development of society is possible only when individuals composing it can think and judge independently. So, freedom of mind is extremely significant. Practical religion, according to Vivekananda, is to get the state of freedom, the attainment of freedom. It is the renunciation of the lower senses – all temptations – through which one can attain freedom and wisdom. Vivekananda said: "Renounce! Renounce all temptations to take your neighbour's property, to put hands upon your neighbour, all the pleasures of tyrannizing over the weak, all the pleasures of cheating others by telling lies. Is not morality the foundation of society?" So, it is in daily practice. Life is the daily struggle for freedom. And one can attain freedom by reaching the highest level of religion. Society finds no end for its development. But the goal of human life is to attain wisdom. "Sense happiness is not the goal of humanity." Religion is the source of getting the 'highest wisdom' which must be 'spiritual knowledge' according to Vivekananda. In his opinion what the world wants is the thought-power of individuals. He said: "We need to have three things: the heart to feel, the brain to conceive,



that you see all around. ... They have all sorts of things for enjoyment, and unless they add a little flavour of religion, life is not all right, because society would criticize them. Society expects it, so they must have some religion." It is social compulsion that makes us religious if we recognize the words of Swami Vivekananda. However, a society does not literally force everyone to adhere to a specific religion but exerts significant pressures and influences

One may argue that people act under irresistible compulsion because an individual is fully dependent upon the society in which he lives and must therefore accept its rules and dictums. But the formulation of this idea forces us to think what extent such a concept contradicts our sense of justice. The conscience of individuals must also work. An individual can think and create new ideas and values, set new standards for society. After all, the health

Director Shri D. Surendran and Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Raghvendra Kumar.

PNB Organises Cyclothon 2025, To Mark the Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) - 2025

3 November 2025: Punjab National Bank (PNB), one of India's leading public sector banks, successfully organised an exhilarating Cyclothon 2025 as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW), held from 27 October to 02 November 2025. This year's theme, "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility," resonated throughout the event, which took place on the morning of 2 November at 7:00 AM from PNB's Corporate Office in Dwarka.

The Cyclothon witnessed an enthusiastic participation of hundreds of individuals, including general public as well PNB employees, all united in the pursuit of a common goal: promoting awareness about vigilance and embracing a healthy, active lifestyle.

The event was flagged off by Shri Ashok Chandra, Managing Director & CEO, along with Executive

Director Shri D. Surendran and Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Raghvendra Kumar.



Their presence underscored the bank's commitment to fostering a culture of integrity, accountability, and teamwork, while inspiring a broader commitment to vigilance in all facets of life.

In his address, Shri Ashok Chandra, MD & CEO of PNB, remarked, "At PNB, we believe that vigilance is not just about com-

pliance of laid down guidelines but also about the consciousness, being

PNB, further added, "Vigilance is a continuous journey, much like this ride, it requires balance, effort, and direction. Through initiative like the Cyclothon, we aimed to strengthen the message of Vigilance as a shared responsibility and every pedal counts toward building a corruption-free organization."

The event received a tremendous response, with participants from all walks of life coming together to highlight the significance of vigilance in personal and professional conduct. Through this initiative, PNB continues to drive its mission of building a more aware, responsible, and ethically conscious society.

As part of its commitment to a healthier workforce and a transparent, corruption-free future, PNB remains steadfast in its efforts to lead by example, demonstrating that vigilance is truly a collective responsibility for all.

Fake Links, Phishing Calls, Malicious Apps: How Flipkart Recommends You Stay Safe While Shopping Online



Your Device's Health: Unfamiliar apps, sudden performance drops, or unauthorized activities are signs of compromise. Delete suspicious apps, clear browser cache and downloads, and run an antivirus scan. Reboot in safe mode or do a factory reset if needed.

- Report Suspicious Activity Immediately: Whether it's a fake SMS, call, or app, report it to the Flipkart Help Center. Your alert could help protect thousands of others.

Cyber scams thrive on urgency, confusion, and trust. The more informed you are, the harder it is for fraudsters to trick you. As Flipkart continues to improve digital safety measures, you too can play your part by staying alert, verifying sources, and reporting suspicious activity.

Details.

- Don't Fall for Too-Good-To-Be-True Offers: Fraudsters lure users with unrealistic discounts, like smartphones for ₹2,499. Always verify deals on the official app before clicking on links in messages, emails, or social media.
- Watch Out for Malicious Links — Across SMS, Email & Pop-ups: Links sent via messages or emails that promise prizes or urgent account updates may install spyware or redirect to phishing pages. Avoid clicking on unknown links and delete suspicious messages immediately.
- Trust Only Verified Platforms: Stick to official channels, the mobile app, and verified social handles. Fake websites and apps often mimic branding; always double-check URLs and developer names.
- Check for Signs of a Fake App or Website: Look out for odd spellings, smudged logos." On websites, broken carts, inactive menus, and missing security certificates (no lock icon in the address bar) are red flags.
- Strengthen and Protect Your Account: Use a strong, unique password with numbers, symbols, and uppercase letters. Change it regularly and never share it with anyone. If needed, reset using OTP via the official app.
- Keep an Eye on

Nearly a third of last

(Gns). India's unrelenting summer of 2024 was not merely another chapter in a long history of seasonal extremes. It was a warning written in heat. For the first time, science has quantified what millions of Indians already feel in their bodies ~ that climate change is not an abstract environmental concern, but a lived public health crisis. The rising mercury is no longer a matter of discomfort; it is a measure of human vulnerability.

Nearly a third of last

year's heatwave days would not have occurred without the warming effect of human activity. That single statistic reframes the story of India's climate struggle, which it is not just nature turning hostile, but the result of choices made in energy, industry, and urban growth. The consequence is staggering: an estimated 247 billion potential labour hours were lost, primarily among those whose livelihoods depend on working outdoors. The cost, nearly \$200 billion, reflects the hidden price of

a warming planet, a bill being paid most painfully by India's poorest citizens. Extreme heat amplifies existing inequities.

Those who work in air-conditioned offices or live in concrete apartments may grumble about the weather, but it is the farmer in Vidarbha, the construction worker in Gurugram, and the vendor on Kolkata's streets who faces the full brunt. Heat stress, dehydration, and cardiovascular strain are not, after all, statistics in a report – they are silent emergencies unfolding

ing daily. The elderly and children, especially in rural areas, are increasingly at risk, while medical systems remain ill-equipped to deal with the cascading health effects of prolonged heat exposure. The story does not end with temperature. Toxic air compounds the damage, turning India's climate challenge into a double burden of heat and pollution. Fossil fuel emissions, along with the burning of wood and crop residue, continue to choke cities and villages alike.

In 2022 alone, over 1.7



million deaths were attributed to air pollution, nearly half linked directly to fossil fuel combustion. This dual assault on public health ~

one from the sky above, the other from the air we breathe ~ has made climate policy inseparable from health policy. India stands at a crucial juncture. As the world prepares for another global climate summit, there is little moral or practical room left for delay. The focus must shift from declarations to implementation ~ strengthening urban heat action plans, investing in clean energy, and redesigning cities to absorb rather than amplify heat.

The urgency is not rhetorical. Each degree of warming shortens lives, erodes livelihoods, and pushes the limits of human endurance.

Uma Bharti bats for abolition of MPLAD scheme

voters will support this government," she said.

On Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "Pappu, Tappu, and Appu" remark, Bharti said, "I cannot say much on this topic. But Yogi ji is my younger brother; whatever he says is correct."

Addressing a press con-



ference here, Bharti responded to the question of Arun Govil, Lok Sabha MP from Meerut-Hapur constituency and Ram of the Ramayana serial, demanding an increase in the MP fund from Rs 5 crore to Rs 25 crore.

She stated, "I believe there should be no MP

Development Fund." Bharti stated that previously, the MP was the head of the District Mandal Scheme. At that time, the budget allocated for various schemes in the district was determined based on priority.

She added that the MP Development Fund was started during the tenure of former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and said that MPs should be made chairpersons of the District Board Scheme. Under this

system, MLAs would also propose schemes for their constituencies, she said.

Bharti, however, declined to comment on the statement by SP leader Mohammad Azam Khan that Bihar is experiencing "jungle raj." "I cannot comment on his statement," she added.

The former Union minister also congratulated the Indian women's cricket team on their victory in the World Cup.



## WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN A SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS – JAIPUR

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway will run a Special Train on Special fare between **Bandra Terminus – Jaipur** stations.

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

1.	Train No.	Train	No.
09730/09729	Bandra Terminus – Jaipur Special [02 Trips]	Train No. 09730	Bandra Terminus – Jaipur Special will depart from <b>Bandra Terminus</b> on Wednesday, 05th November, 2025 at 09:30 hrs and will reach Jaipur at 06:45 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09729 Jaipur – <b>Bandra Terminus Special</b> will depart from Jaipur on Tuesday, 04th November, 2025 at 08:10 hrs and will arrive <b>Bandra Terminus</b> at 04:55 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Ratlam, Mandso, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Mandal, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer and Kishangarh stations in both directions. This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, AC 3-Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09730 opens from 04th November, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indian-rail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indian-rail.gov.in).

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## Western railway partakes in the nationwide “Digital life certificate awareness campaign for pensioners”

Mumbai, In line with the directives of the Railway Board, Western Railway is actively participating in the nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 4.0, which is being organized by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare from 1st November to 30th November, 2025.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, this campaign aims to empower pensioners through digital literacy and facilitate the seamless submission of Digital Life Certificates using the 'Jeevan Pramaan' mobile application available on both Android and iOS devices. Throughout the month of November, camps, seminars and workshops will be organized across various locations including Railway offices, banks, hospitals etc. within Western Railway's jurisdiction. These activities are being conducted in collaboration with Pension Paying Banks, Pensioners' Associations and Trade Unions to spread awareness and assist pensioners in generating their Digital Life Certificates.

Pensioners are required to submit their Life Certificates every year in the month of November to continue receiving pension benefits. The Digital Life Certificate simplifies this process by enabling online submission from the comfort of one's home.

Over the past three years, more than 4.5 crore Digital Life Certificates have been generated across State and Central Government departments. With Railways having one of the largest pensioner bases amongst Government organizations, Western Railway is undertaking a comprehensive outreach program to ensure all Railway Pensioners and Family Pensioners are covered during this campaign.

Western Railway appeals all pensioners and family pensioners to make use of this convenient digital facility for generating Digital Life Certificates. Pensioners may attend the seminars and workshops organized by Western Railway or contact their nearest Railway Accounts Office for any assistance or guidance regarding the Digital Life Certificate process.



## Dynastic politics direct threat to democracy: Tharoor targets Gandhis in new article

**Tharoor directly targeted Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, saying that the very idea that political leadership can be a birthright was cemented by the Nehru-Gandhi family.** (Gns).

Dynastic politics direct threat to democracy: Tharoor targets Gandhis in new article

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has criticised the dynastic politics in India, saying it is a direct threat to democracy and it is high time we move towards 'meritocracy'.

In an opinion piece written in the Project Syndicate portal, he directly targeted Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, saying that the very idea that political leadership can be a birthright was cemented by the Nehru-Gandhi family.

"For decades, one family has towered over Indian politics. The influence of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty – including independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, and current opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – is bound up with the history of India's struggle for freedom. But it has also cemented the idea that political leadership can be a birthright," Tharoor noted.

The disgruntled Congress leader said this idea has penetrated Indian politics across every party, in every region, and at every level.

He, however, also noted that the dynastic successions prevail across the political spectrum, and named several prominent families, including the Abdullahs (J&K NC) in Jammu and Kashmir, Akhilesh Yadav of Samajwadi Party, Chirag Paswan of LJP, Uddhav Thackeray of Shiv Sena, and Naveen Patnaik of the BJD, among others.

This phenomenon, Tharoor argued, is not limited to a handful of prominent families. "Rather, it is woven deeply into the fabric of Indian governance, from village councils to the highest echelons of parliament," he added.

He noted similar practice in other neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

"To be fair, such dynastic politics are practiced across the Indian subcontinent: the Bhuttos and Sharifs in Pakistan, the Sheikh and Zia families in Bangladesh, and the Bandaranaiques and the Rajapaksas in Sri Lanka.

But they appear particularly incongruous with India's vibrant democracy," the

from the challenges faced by ordinary people, they are often particularly ill-equipped to respond effectively to their constituents' needs. Yet there is no guarantee that they will be held accountable for poor performance," he said.

Adding "it is high time India traded dynasty for meritocracy," Tharoor called for legal reforms and concerted efforts to educate electors to choose leaders based on merit.



## Manager Beaten to Death With Dumbbell in Bengaluru Office After Light Disagreement

(Gns).

A disagreement over lights at a Bengaluru workplace turned deadly early Saturday. Bheemesh Babu, a 41-year-old manager from Chitradurga, was killed by his colleague using a dumbbell. The incident occurred around 1:30 am at Data Digital Bank's rented office in Govindarajanagar. This company is known for storing movie shooting videos.

Police reported that Babu, who was sensitive to bright lights, frequently asked coworkers to turn them off when unnecessary. Around 1 am, he requested Somala Vamshi, a 24-year-old technical executive from Vijayawada, to switch off the lights again. This request led to an argument that quickly escalated into violence.

In Bengaluru, a disagreement over office lights led to the death of Bheemesh Babu, a 41-year-old manager, who was killed by colleague Somala Vamshi, over a lighting dispute. Vamshi, a 24-year-old technical executive, attacked Babu with a dumbbell at Data Digital Bank's rented office in Govindarajanagar before surrendering to the police, with police filing a murder case.

Violent Altercation

In a moment of anger, Vamshi allegedly threw chilli powder at Babu before attacking him with a dumbbell. He struck Babu multiple times on the head, face, and chest. After Babu collapsed, Vamshi sought assistance from other employees and called for an ambulance.

Unfortunately, Babu was pronounced dead at the scene.

Following the incident, Vamshi went to the Govindarajanagar police station and surrendered himself. A murder case has been filed against him. DCP (West) Girish S confirmed that the dispute over office lighting led to this tragic event.

The altercation began when Babu asked Vamshi to turn off the lights due to his sensitivity. This seemingly minor request spiraled into a deadly confrontation. After realizing the gravity of his actions, Vamshi immediately surrendered to authorities.



## Haryana News: CM Nayab Singh Saini Urges Youth to Embrace Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's Ideals for Nation Building

(Gns).

Marking the 350th Shaheedi Diwas of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Haryana Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini virtually inaugurated state-wide essay and story narration competitions titled "Suno Kahani Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Ki" from the Haryana Secretariat today.

Haryana News CM Nayab Singh Saini Urges Youth to Embrace Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's Ideals for Nation Building

Haryana's CM Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated state-wide competitions to commemorate the 350th Shaheedi Diwas of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, inspiring youth with his teachings on justice and compassion.

Paying homage to the ninth Sikh Guru, CM Saini lauded Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's unparalleled courage, sacrifice, and supreme martyrdom, calling his life an eternal beacon of truth, bravery, and humanity. "Guru Sahib's legacy is a guiding light for generations. His teachings inspire us to uphold justice, equality, and compassion," said the Chief Minister.

The virtual event witnessed the interaction, CM Saini engaged with students, encouraging them to draw inspiration from Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's life. Four students presented Saakhi Vachan, ue to resonate deeply with its people.

"More than 3.5 lakh students are participating in this initiative - a testament to the growing reverence for our Gurus among the younger generation," he added. CM Saini urged students to embody the principles of tolerance, justice, and equality in their lives. He also encouraged the tech-savvy generation to use social media and digital platforms to spread messages of humanity, compassion, and brotherhood - calling it the truest tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Strengthening the Nation Through Values

In his closing remarks, the Chief Minister called upon all citizens - students, educators, and families - to contribute to nation-building through their actions and ideals. "This is not just a competition; it is a movement to awaken the spirit of service and unity among our youth," he said.



## Trump-Xi Talks In South Korea Mark Thaw In Tensions—But at What Cost For Taiwan?

(Gns).

The leaders of China and the United States met face-to-face for the first time in over six years during the 32nd APEC Economic Ministers' Meeting held in South Korea on 30 October. The much-anticipated meeting between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping, which lasted under two hours at Gimhae Air Base in Busan, marked a significant diplomatic moment-but also raised concerns over the U.S. stance on key geopolitical issues, especially Taiwan.

While the dialogue was seen as a positive development, critics have questioned the Trump administration's handling of China. During the meeting, Xi praised Trump for promoting "world peace," offered to purchase more American products, and announced a temporary reprieve on rare earth export restrictions.

However, analysts noted that China made minimal concessions, while the U.S. appeared to step back first by easing tariff pressures. Xi also hinted at more commercial cooperation in the future, effectively securing a truce in the ongoing trade war. Notably, Trump admitted Taiwan "never came up" during the discussion - a statement that drew immediate concern from foreign policy experts.

This omission came even as Beijing ramped up a propaganda campaign against Taiwan before the APEC summit. China's Taiwan Affairs Office warned that it "will not rule out force" to prevent Taiwanese independence, while Beijing revived "Taiwan's Restoration Day" (25 October), commemorating Japan's 1945 surrender in Taiwan - a symbolic move aimed at reinforcing China's sovereignty claims. Taipei condemned the act as an attempt to "belittle our country" and "fabricate claims that Taiwan belongs to the PRC."

Ukraine Discussed, Taiwan Ignored

Although Taiwan was avoided, the war in Ukraine was a key topic. Xi stated that "China and the U.S. must shoulder their responsibilities as major powers" and "work together for the good of both nations and the world."

Meanwhile, experts warned that China's military actions near Taiwan have intensified. According to K. Tristan Tang, Associate Fellow at the Research Project on China's Defence Affairs, Beijing's PLA (People's Liberation Army) has escalated air and naval operations around Taiwan throughout 2025, signaling a shift from politically motivated drills to a sustained military presence.

Tang noted record-high incursions across the median line, expanded joint combat patrols, and long-range drone missions encircling Taiwan - even during the typically calm Lunar New Year period. This, he said, highlights Beijing's focus on operational dominance and combat readiness, rather than symbolic political gestures.

Tang urged global policymakers to "recalibrate assessments" and focus on the PLA's "expanding operational footprint and long-term ambitions" rather than political rhetoric.



## Eight Cheetahs from Botswana to arrive in India in December: Environment Minister

**"They will be quarantined in Kuno as per international protocol," the minister added.** (Gns).

Eight new cheetahs will arrive from Botswana in the third week of December, Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav said on Monday. He informed about the arrival of the fresh batch of big cats after the conclusion of an event, briefing the media about the upcoming COP30 conference.

"They will be quarantined in Kuno as per international protocol," the minister added.

Highlighting the success of Project Cheetah, launched nearly three years ago, he said, "The third generation of Namibian cheetahs, Mukhi, reached adulthood recently, while the cub born to South African-origin parents will September 30, a crucial milestone for creating a self-sustaining population.

2022. While the remaining 12 came from South Africa in February 2023.

Since the inception of the Project, 26 cubs were born at Kuno, of which the 10 Indian born cubs and 9 imported adults have died, bringing down the total feline number to 27. Among the surviving population, 24 are housed at Kuno National Park and three at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Amid the losses, the Cheetah population in India has shown an upward tick with seven more Cheetahs than were initially imported. Calling it a big success, officials have managed to convince the African nation, Namibia, to send eight more.

Under the Project Cheetah, a total of 20 Cheetahs were translocated to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Eight of them were introduced in the first batch that came from Namibia in September





## Piyush Goyal Unveils Plans To Enhance Traffic Management And Sanitation Along Mumbai's Western Express Highway

Union Minister Piyush Goyal reveals a plan to ban heavy vehicles during peak hours on the Western Express Highway, alongside refurbishing public toilets to improve sanitation in Mumbai.

(Gns). Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced plans to ban heavy vehicles on the Western Express Highway (WEH) during peak hours. This measure aims to alleviate traffic congestion. Additionally, 79 public toilets along the highway will be refurbished and made fully operational soon. These updates were shared after a five-hour meeting with top officials from various agencies. During the meeting, held in Borivali West, representatives from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development



(MMRDA), Mumbai police, traffic police, Slum Rehabilitation Authorities (SRA), and other government bodies participated. An official present at the meeting mentioned that Goyal was disappointed by the lack of accessible public

Western Express Highway during peak hours, along with the refurbishment of 79 public toilets, after a meeting with officials from various agencies in Borivali West. He also addressed infrastructure projects, environmental concerns, water pipeline inspections, and lake rejuvenation efforts in Mumbai's northern regions. Goyal emphasised the need for clean and usable public toilets on city roads. He instructed authorities to identify issues with existing facilities and explore options for elevated toilet blocks due to limited land availability. Of the 79 pay-and-use toilets along WEH, major repairs are underway in 58 blocks, while minor renovations are ongoing in 21 others.

toilets along the highway. Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced a ban on heavy vehicles on the

## In fresh attack on PM, Congress claims Modi playing tricks to completely sideline Nitish in Bihar

(Gns). The Congress on Monday once again tried to corner Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party over the reported absence of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at the PM's election campaign events. Addressing a press conference in Patna today, Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge asked why the Janata Dal (United) leader was absent from PM Modi's roadshow in the state capital yesterday. "There was a road show here yesterday. I saw a lot of photos, with impressive photos (of PM Modi). I didn't see Nitish with him. Even at the rally, Nitish was

nowhere to be seen. They (the BJP) made him disappear to the point where they wouldn't even mention him as Chief Minister. So, this is what is going on," the senior Congress leader



alleged. Kharge accused the PM of playing tricks and cornering Nitish Kumar from campaign events. "What will happen after

this election? I can't predict, but PM Modi is playing a trick. He's trying to make Nitish Kumar invisible... Nitish Kumar thinks he's been sworn in as Chief Minister nine times and will

ment had done nothing for Bihar and he and PM Modi were trying to mislead the people of the poll-bound state.

"Nitish Kumar deposited 10,000 rupees into women's accounts. They think they will get votes because of this. The people of Bihar are smart. Forget Rs 10,000, even if you deposit 10 lakh rupees, they will vote after thinking about it.

Giving 10,000 rupees to women didn't cross their minds for 20 years? And didn't it cross PM Modi's mind for 11 years? These are all election promises... PM Modi and his friend Nitish Kumar are misleading people," the Congress president alleged.

## Flower petals greet CM Omar Abdullah as 'Darbar Move' returns to Jammu after four years

The vibrant welcome to Omar, a first for any head of government during the traditional 'Darbar Move', came as the 153-year-old practice started by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1872 was formally restored after a four-year hiatus.

(Gns). Amid excitement among the people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was greeted with a shower of flower petals as he walked about 2 kms through Jammu's iconic Raghunath Bazar on Monday to the Civil Secretariat, marking the reopening of government offices after the revival of the biannual 'Darbar Move'. Traders and members of civil society welcomed him warmly at Shahidi Chowk, Residence Road, and Raghunath Bazar. The warm floral wel-

come stood in stark contrast to the hostile reception his grandfather, Sheikh Abdullah, faced 49 years ago in 1976, when stones were hurled at him and his deputy, Mirza Afzal Beg, as



the offices shifted from Srinagar to Jammu for the first time after he became Chief Minister following the Indira-Sheikh Accord.

The vibrant welcome to Omar, a first for any head of government during the traditional 'Darbar Move',

came as the 153-year-old practice started by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1872 was formally restored after a four-year hiatus.

Omar was accompanied by Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary and the president of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Arun Gupta.

The biannual shifting of the Civil Secretariat between Srinagar and Jammu—paused in 2021 by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha—citing logistical and financial reasons—was revived by Omar Abdullah's government earlier this year as a gesture of administrative continuity and regional balance.

Residents and traders of Raghunath Bazar lined the route, showering petals and greeting the Chief Minister amid tight security. Many described the moment as "historic", marking not just the reopening of offices but also a revival of a cherished tradition linking the two regions of the erstwhile state. 'Rangolis' of flower petals were made outside the Raghunath Temple to greet Omar.

Traders said that their business had suffered due to the halting of the 'Darbar Move' and now they hope their losses might be covered.

Talking to mediapersons, Omar said, "This was not just about reopening offices; it symbolised the return of an old tradition and the beginning of a new chapter."

## DCNS flags urgent need for cooperation to tackle maritime threats in Indian Ocean

(Gns). Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS) Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti has stated that even though the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is indeed critical to the prosperity of nations worldwide, it is also beset with numerous maritime challenges.

"Issues such as piracy and armed robbery, irregular human migration, contraband smuggling, IUU fishing, hybrid maritime security threats and environmental degradation are ever-present threats to our shared security," he said while speaking at the third edition of the Maritime Information Sharing Workshop, hosted by the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram on Monday. The IFC-IOR network includes liaison officers from 15 partner nations and linkages with more than 75 maritime agencies and

international fusion centres. Stating that the developments in the Middle East



have escalated tensions in one of the world's most vital maritime chokepoints, demonstrating the vulnerability of global shipping lanes to attacks by non-state actors, Sobti said that these incidents, coupled with the resurgence of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, have heightened the urgency for us to adapt to an evolving maritime threat landscape.

"The ripple effects of these disruptions are far-reaching. The re-routing of

maritime traffic, necessitated by security concerns in the Red Sea, has led to an

regional maritime dynamics and sharing information, we can strengthen our collective capacity to safeguard the maritime commons."

The workshop, which is being conducted from November 3-5 is based on the theme "Enhancing Real-Time Coordination and Information Sharing Across the Indian Ocean Region."

MISW 25 features thematic sessions tailored for BIMSTEC, IORA, and DCoC/JA participants, with contributions from UNODC, ReCAAP ISC, RMIFC, IFC, Singapore, RCoC, and leading shipping companies.

Speaking about the workshop, the DCNS said that in an era dominated by virtual connectivity, the importance of face-to-face interaction cannot be overstated. "Workshops such as this one are essential enablers of our mission.

## Uddhav says local polls must be held only after cleaning up voters' list

"We haven't asked for voter roll correction based on anybody's religion. We will move the court asking for correcting voters' lists," Uddhav Thackeray said. (Gns).

Shiv Sena (UT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said here on Monday that the local civic body elections in Maharashtra must be held only after voters' lists are cleaned up.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Uddhav Thackeray dismissed the BJP's allegations of "appeasement politics" and "vote jihad" regarding voters' lists irregularities, saying that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) opposition never referred to any bogus voters by their religion.

"We haven't asked for

voter roll correction based on anybody's religion. We will move the court asking for correcting voters' lists,"

has set a cut-off date of July 1 to be eligible to vote in the local civic body elections.



Uddhav Thackeray said.

He said the Election Commission and the central government were "scared of Gen Z", adding that voters turning 18 years after July 1 will be deprived of their right to vote since the Election Commission

"The Election Commission should rectify errors, including duplicate and bogus names, in the voters' list. Neither Shiv Sena nor any other opposition party ever referred to any bogus voter by religion. We are not opposing elec-

tions, but we want them to be held only after the rolls are cleaned up," Uddhav Thackeray said.

He urged potential voters to visit the nearest Shiv Sena office to verify whether their names are listed correctly or if any errors or omissions have occurred.

"We are opening special centres for voters' convenience. People must check whether they can vote in their polling stations so that we know how many youngsters are being deprived of voting rights," Uddhav Thackeray said.

He ridiculed BJP leader and Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar for unknowingly admitting at an earlier press conference on Monday that there is indeed a problem with vot-

## Mandaviya to lead Indian delegation to World Summit for Social Development

He will participate in the Opening Plenary Meeting of the Summit, delivering India's National Statement and joining world leaders in adopting the Doha Political Declaration. (Gns).

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will lead the Indian delegation to the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD-2) to be held in Doha, Qatar, from November 4-6.

He will participate in the Opening Plenary Meeting of the Summit, delivering India's National Statement and joining world leaders in adopting the Doha Political Declaration.

He will also address the High-Level Round Table on "Strengthening the Three Pillars of Social

Development: Poverty Eradication, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All, and Social Inclusion", sharing India's transfor-

mative journey toward inclusive and digitally enabled growth that prioritises decent work and social protection.

As India takes the global stage at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, it does so as a nation that has achieved a remarkable milestone in poverty reduction.

Between 2011 and 2023, 248 million Indians were lifted out of multidimensional poverty, reducing the share of people living below the international

poverty line to just 2.3% in 2022-23. These gains are driven by flagship programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna



Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, and the Jan Dhan financial inclusion initiative.

Equally notable is India's rapid expansion of its social protection system, now among the largest in the world. Verified by the International Labour Organization (ILO), India's

social security coverage has surged from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, benefitting over 940 million citizens.

This has been made possible through the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) architecture, ensuring efficient, transparent, and direct benefit delivery to millions of households.

A key highlight of India's engagement will be a side event hosted by NITI Aayog on "Pathways Out of Poverty: India's Experience in Empowering the Last Mile", scheduled for 5 November. The session will showcase India's achievements in poverty reduction, women's economic empowerment through Self-Help Groups and cooperatives.

## 'JMM is not a traders' party': Hemant Soren appeals to tribal voters in Ghatshila for support

The rally, attended by Singhbhum MP Joba Majhi, Minister Deepak Birua, and several JMM legislators, included tributes to the late Ramdas Soren and political appeals highlighting tribal identity and local development. (Gns).

Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday told voters in Ghatshila that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is "not a traders' party" but represents those who toil and endure. Addressing a public meeting at Kuylisuta village under Musabani block, he urged support for JMM candidate Somesh Chandra Soren, son of the late MLA and former minister Ramdas Soren, framing the bypoll as a contest between economic elites and the state's indigenous

communities.

The rally, attended by Singhbhum MP Joba Majhi,

"This is not a traders' party. It belongs to those who toil, not those who



Minister Deepak Birua, and several JMM legislators, included tributes to the late Ramdas Soren and political appeals highlighting tribal identity and local development. Hemant Soren described the bypoll as not merely an election but a continuation of Ramdas Soren's work for the region.

trade. On one side are those who exploit, on the other are those who endure," the chief minister said, urging voters to see the election as a choice between the interests of ordinary tribal communities and economic elites.

Recalling Ramdas Soren's contributions to

education, health, and employment, Hemant Soren announced plans to set up a Tribal University in Ghatshila and an engineering college in Musabani. He described Somesh Chandra Soren as "a blank page on which Ghatshila's people will write their future," asking voters to bless the young candidate as they had his father.

Minister Deepak Birua credited the late MLA for initiatives in industrial growth, including the reopening of Hindustan Copper Limited mines, which sustained local employment. "Because of his efforts, leases for the Rakha and Siddheswar-Chapri mines were renewed for 20 years. His vision for industrial growth and tribal education must now be carried forward,"

## Himachal govt optimises 913 power connections, saving Rs 6.72 crore annually

The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in Shimla earlier had a contract demand of 1350 kVA, which was brought down to 858 kVA, saving about Rs 24 lakh per year, he added. (Gns).

The Himachal Pradesh government has achieved an annual saving of Rs 6.72 crore by rationalising the contract demand (load capacity) of electricity connections provided to various government buildings across the state in the first phase.

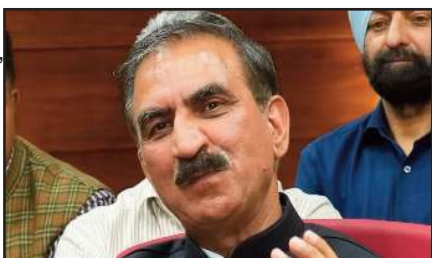
"A total of 913 government electricity connections, covering categories such as agriculture, bulk supply, commercial supply, Jal Shakti Vibhag, large industrial supply, non-domestic non-commercial, small industrial and tempo-

rary supply, were optimised. This reduced total demand charges from Rs 2.05 crore to Rs 1.49 crore per month, resulting in substantial savings to the state exchequer," informed a state government spokesperson here on Monday.

The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in Shimla earlier had a contract demand of 1350 kVA, which was brought down to 858 kVA, saving about Rs 24 lakh per year, he added.

He further said that Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu observed that several departments were paying higher demand charges compared to their actual consumption. Acting on his

directions, the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd. (HPSEBL) undertook a comprehen-



sive exercise to align the contract demand with the actual load capacity of government buildings, he added.

As per the Chief Minister's instructions, the process, usually handled at the electrical sub-division level, was expedited under the supervision of the then Chief Secretary, he stated.

"A series of meetings

between HPSEBL and departmental representatives led to a one-time, state-wide review coordinated by the Chief Electrical Inspector, who compiled a list of all government electricity consumers.

The contract demand for each connection was capped at 10 percent above the maximum recorded demand observed during the previous year, considering both summer and winter peaks," he said, adding that a specially designed Application and Agreement (A&A) form was jointly executed by authorised government and HPSEBL officials, enabling the IT Wing of HPSEBL to implement the revised limits.