



2nd Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) to Focus on Kutch and Saurashtra Region

Gandhinagar, 16th November 2025: Under the visionary guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the able leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, the Government of Gujarat is organising four Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conferences (VGRC) at Mehsana, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara; ahead of the next edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit to be held in January 2027. Each conference will serve as a gateway to accelerated regional growth and inclusive development. In the run up to each Regional Conference, a one-day district-level programme will be organised to highlight local opportunities and initiatives.

The Second Vibrant Regional Conference (VGRC) is scheduled in Rajkot on January 8th and 9th, 2026. With a primary focus on transforming local industries into global players, this event aims to secure broader market recognition and partnerships. The conference will include seminars addressing pivotal topics, like agriculture, Mining, Tourism, and Industrial growth. Participants will also benefit from a dedicated MSME Conclave, a dynamic Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM), exhibitions and trade fairs, making it an essential platform for establishing effective partnerships and networking. In addition, district-level programs will be organized in Amreli, Bhavnagar, Botad, Devbhumi Dwarka,

Gir-Somnath, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kutch, Morbi, Porbandar

nessed remarkable participation, with over 29,000 registered attendees and



Surendranagar in the month of December 2025.

VGRC North Gujarat was successfully held in Mehsana, resulting in the signing of 1,264 MoUs with a proposed investment of INR 3.25 lakh crore. The two-day conference wit-

more than 440 international delegates representing more than 80 countries. Demonstrating strong global and domestic collaboration, the conference hosted more than 160 Business-to-Business (B2B) and more than 100 Business-

to-Government (B2G) meetings, fostering partnerships and investment opportunities. More than 410 exhibitors showcased their innovations and products, including the active participation of more than 170 MSMEs, and startups. Udyami Mela disbursed incentives worth of more than INR 900 crore to more than 9,000 entrepreneurs. The BharatNext startup pitching festival announced INR 41.56 crore worth of investment, while the

RBSM (Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet) organised more than 2,200 meetings, with more than 850 Gujarat based sellers, and generated business inquires worth of INR 500+ crore for exports, highlighting Gujarat's entrepreneurial strength.

Kutch and Saurashtra region is marked by geographical diversity and cultural vibrancy, combining natural heritage with dynamic economic growth. The region thrives on its

maritime legacy and strategic ports, such as Kandla and Mundra, serving as a gateway for logistics, trade, and green shipping. It is a pioneer in petrochemicals, ceramics, and engineering, supported by robust infrastructure and innovation-driven initiatives. The spiritual and heritage tourism circuits create a unique balance between tradition and a business-driven market.

Focus sectors for VGRC Kutch and

Saurashtra include Ceramics, Engineering Ports & Logistics, Fisheries, Petrochemicals, Agro & Food Processing, Minerals, Green Energy Ecosystem, Skill Development, Startups, MSMEs, Tourism & Culture. The region also includes thriving business opportunities like Export (For Ceramic, Cotton and Plastic), Brass components, seafood processing, Coastal Tourism and many more.

PM Modi Hails NDA's Big Lead in Bihar, Says Mandate Reflects Trust in Development

(Gns).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed that the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) success in the Bihar Assembly election signifies voters' trust in their development agenda. In a post on X, he stated, "The NDA has ensured all-round development of the state. The people have given us a massive majority after witnessing our track record and our vision to take the state to new heights." He congratulated Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and other NDA allies for their victory.

The latest trends indicated that the NDA surpassed the 200-seat mark, significantly outpacing the Mahagathbandhan. With strong performances from both the BJP and JD(U), the alliance seemed poised

to exceed its 2010 tally of 206 seats. This outcome highlights the public's pref-

BJP and JD(U).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah remarked that this verdict underscores voters' belief in governance focused on results. He posted on X, "This is the victory of every Bihari who believes in



erence for performance-driven governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the NDA on their victory in the Bihar Assembly election, highlighting the public's trust in their development agenda and governance under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar; the NDA surpassed the 200-seat mark, with strong performances from

'Developed Bihar'. No matter in what guise those who practice jungle raj and appeasement politics come, they will not get the opportunity to loot." Shah praised BJP workers for their dedication from booth level to state level.

Shah also highlighted strong support from women voters. He assured them that with Modi's leadership, the NDA government would

fulfill its promises with greater dedication. Criticising Congress, he mentioned that each vote symbolises faith in policies against infiltrators threatening India's security and resources.

NDA's Vision for Bihar described the mandate as an endorsement of NDA's governance model. In his post, he wrote, "Heartfelt salutations to the people of Bihar. Jai Siya Ram." He emphasised that public support reflects trust in development-oriented policies under Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Nadda noted that voters rejected Mahagathbandhan while supporting NDA's focus on governance, stability, and development.

Bihar assembly result will now replicate in UP during 2027 polls : Rajnath

(Gns).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday expressed his delight at the BJP's impressive performance, including the NDA's landslide victory in Bihar and claimed that the results have brought about a major change in Indian politics.

Rajnath Singh enthusiastically announced that after the Bihar results now it will be replicated in Uttar Pradesh in 2027 assembly polls.

"The hard work of the party workers has led to this landslide victory in Bihar. The BJP, unlike other parties, does not engage in politics based on caste, creed, or religion. We work for the nation's security, pride, culture, and develop-

ment," he said.

Singh was interacting with senior party workers and intellectuals at the

ple saw that the Bihar government is free from corruption and re-elected us. This time, the people have



Sanskrit Vidyalaya Hall in Sadar Cantt after his arrival from New Delhi on Saturday afternoon.

Singh said that the peo-

given the NDA a landslide majority in Bihar.

"The people of Bihar are also witnessing how our state is progressing under

Nitish Kumar's leadership. India's reputation today is elevated globally," he said.

The Lucknow MP said, "Everyone talks about eliminating corruption, but no one has made any effort or action to address how to stop it. Corruption can only be curbed by systemic change, not through speeches. Only our Prime Minister has demonstrated that corruption can be eradicated."

He said earlier, under previous governments, the aid provided for reforms didn't reach the beneficiaries in full. 40-45 paise out of every Rupee was lost to corruption. The benefits now every rupee reaches the account and is not lost to corruption.

Electoral victory and defeat both offer lessons: Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns).

Commenting on the Bihar election results on Saturday, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav said that lessons can be drawn from both victory and defeat in any poll.

He said that the BJP does not want to ensure a dignified life for women and youth by providing them with job opportunities. "After winning the Bihar elections, BJP leaders are claiming that they received more votes from women. Everyone knows that votes were purchased by giving women Rs 10,000. The BJP does not want to provide them the means to

lead a dignified life," he stated.

"The BJP lost seats in the Lok Sabha elections in an unimaginable manner. The BJP cannot equate its Bihar victory with the Samajwadi Party's victory in Uttar Pradesh," he claimed.

Speaking to the media, Akhilesh Yadav, who arrived in Bengaluru on a two-day visit on Saturday, said that the BJP manipulates election results in its favour by misusing the government machinery. He alleged that the BJP has also extensively misused the government machinery in Uttar Pradesh.

"The Samajwadi Party lost the Assembly and Lok



Sabha elections, and we learned from those defeats. The party won only five Lok Sabha seats in 2019. In 2022, the Samajwadi Party could not form the govern-

ment in the Assembly elections, but it fought the BJP strongly. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Samajwadi Party defeated the BJP's double-engine government," he claimed.

Akhilesh Yadav said that a large number of people from UP and Bihar live away from their families in other states, and the BJP government has done nothing to stop this migration. He alleged that the BJP secured votes by giving people Rs 10,000. "Just as they made rules in other states and stopped giving the money later, they will do the same in Bihar too," he claimed.

Ajit Pawar meets Shah in Delhi ahead of Pune land deal report's submission to Fadnavis on Monday

(Gns).

NCP leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence in New Delhi on Friday night and congratulated him on the NDA's victory in the Bihar assembly elections, party sources said here on Saturday, adding that the meeting lasted about 25 minutes.

Significantly, the meeting in Delhi took place just a day before the report on irregularities in the Pune land deal — allegedly involving Ajit Pawar's son, Parth Pawar — is scheduled to be submitted to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday (November 17).

The report of the committee appointed by the in-charge Inspector General of Registration to investigate irregularities in document registration will be submitted to Fadnavis on Monday.

The Pune land deal transaction, which was later cancelled, was allegedly carried out by Digvijay Singh Patil, a shareholder of Amadea Enterprises LLP owned by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar, as well as a holder of Power of Attorney called Sheetal Tejwani (who is absconding), for Rs 300 crore,

which is allegedly way below the prevailing market price of the land.

However, it became



clear that the transaction was illegal as the land was government property and reserved for the Mahar Dalit community.

So far, Joint Deputy Registrar Ravindra Taru has been suspended in this

case, and a case has been registered against him. A four-member committee appointed to investigate the entire matter is scheduled to submit its report on the Pune land deal to Chief Minister Fadnavis on Monday.

In this connection, it may be recalled that on Thursday, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena leader Ambadas Danve told media persons in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar that Maharashtra Chief Minister already knew well in advance about his NCP ally and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar's Pune land deal, but chose to go easy on it in order to keep Ajit Pawar under control.

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Editorial

Everyone loses

The reopening of the United States government after the longest shutdown in its history offers little cause for celebration. It marks not so much a resolution as it does a temporary truce ~ a pause in a political war that has left both sides weakened and the public disillusioned. While federal workers will finally receive back pay and government operations resume, the broader damage, to governance, credibility, and civic trust, will linger long after the pay cheques clear. At the heart of the shutdown was a struggle less about policy and more about power.

What began as a standoff over healthcare subsidies for low-income Americans became a symbol of Washington's deeper dysfunction. Senate Democrats triggered the shutdown to press their case, but after six weeks of national disruption, they settled for a vague promise of a vote on the issue ~ a concession too minor to justify the scale of the crisis. For a party that had projected renewed confidence after local electoral wins, the retreat felt like strategic confusion dressed as pragmatism. President Donald Trump, on the other hand, emerges not as a victor but as the chief architect of a political culture defined by brinkmanship.

His insistence on assigning blame, rather than building consensus, reflects the unstatesmanlike and transactional nature of leadership that values optics over outcome. The temporary funding bill he signed restores normalcy only until the end of January, virtually ensuring that this episode will replay in some form. The pattern has become familiar: a crisis manufactured, a compromise claimed, and no durable progress achieved. Beyond the halls of Congress, the shutdown was a reminder of how fragile the machinery of governance has become. Around 1.4 million federal workers went without pay for several weeks. Essential services, from food aid to air safety, were disrupted. Families living pay cheque to pay cheque found themselves at the mercy of partisan posturing.

The American state ~ vast, complex, and indispensable ~ was treated as a bargaining chip in a game of ideological poker as a bemused world looked on. The deeper cost of the shutdown lies in the erosion of trust. Each such episode chips away at the notion that politics can serve the common good. Citizens are left to conclude that their government functions only intermittently, contingent upon the ambitions of those in power. This cynicism may prove harder to repair than any budgetary shortfall. For Democrats, the internal fissures exposed during the standoff may prove lasting.

Progressives are furious at what they see as capitulation, while moderates plead for pragmatism. For Republicans, the illusion of victory may mask their own drift toward a politics of perpetual confrontation. In the end, the shutdown closes without a winner ~ only a weary nation left to reckon with the cost of a dubious kind of leadership defined by spectacle. The government may have reopened, but governance itself remains in lockdown.

MOTIVE OF THE REGIONAL RURAL BANKS

(Gns).

While the motive of the Regional Rural Banks was social profits as opposed to commercial profits, some commercial losses were unavoidable and were supposed to be treated as the social cost for the benefit of financing the farmers and rural poor. The income and employment generated through bank finance were considered as the real profit of these social banks. So, in their lending, the banks were prohibited from insisting on any collateral.

Only the output/assets created out of the loans were treated as security. For instance, if a small farmer was lent money for crop production, the crop to be produced was hypothesized, not the land on which the crop was grown. So, the commercial losses were not unanticipated but were in the very design of the RRBs. True that by the early 1990s, before the reforms, 173 of 196 RRBs were in losses, and only 23 earned some profit. Then came the reforms, overwhelmed by the losses. The character of the RRBs has changed; not a simple change but a sea change. For achieving economies to scale, now the 196 RRBs are condensed into 28, one-state-one RRB as opposed to the original one district-one RRB concept. So the regional nature of regional rural banks has disappeared.

These 28 RRBs have 22,069 branches as of March 2024 ~ roughly 14 per cent of commercial bank branches. Of them, 1,766 branches are located in urban and metropolitan areas, and 20,303 in rural and semi-urban areas (20 per cent of such commercial banks' rural branches of 1,00,686). The urban and metropolitan presence of RRBs denotes their

urban interest or discarding of their rural character. More than the presence of branches in urban areas, the fund utilization of RRBs in urban areas is more worrisome; it opposes the goal of ploughing back the rural resources into rural areas themselves.

The RRBs' credit

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

deposit ratio, which used to be more than 100 per cent has come down to 71.4 per cent (the highest in the last 33 years), meaning less and less credit as a proportion of deposits is being given as loans. Similarly, the investment of RRBs in the shares and securities market is increasing; its ID (Investment Deposit) ratio during 2022-24 ranged between 48 and a little above 52 per cent (about 17 per cent above their SLR Investment Deposit ratio).

That means the rural areas are deprived of their much-needed credit to that extent. Yes, the RRBs' profitability has increased enormously, Rs. 7,571 crore net profit in 2023-24 (the highest ever); their reserves and owned funds stood at Rs. 65,701 crore as on 31 March 2024. But this profitability has its costs; there is a trade-off between commercial viability and equity goals. The RRBs have been brought on par with other commercial banks in their lending and interest rates, etc. With the interest rates being freed with a tall order of increasing profitability, the RRBs have

become more commercial than the most commercial banks in certain areas of their lending, e.g., Gold loans and SHG (Self Help Groups) lending in some RRBs.

So, all the original concepts of pure social, regional, rural, and low-cost are no longer observable in

sector, while agriculture took a 67 per cent share by March 2024. RRBs' role in SHG lending is second to none; with 41.16 lakh SHGs bank-linked with savings of Rs 19,018 crore by March 2024, they account for a 29 per cent share in total SHGs savings linked to banks in the country. In terms of credit linkage, RRBs account for 28 per cent with 19.13 lakh accounts. Instead of strengthening these performances, the focus is on further commercializing the RRBs with the proposed induction of private capital.

The RRB Act has been amended to allow capital infusion from the market in such a way that the combined share of the Centre and sponsor bank can be reduced to 51 per cent against the present level of 85 per cent (50 plus 35), whereby the private players will have a role relating to their share in the business of RRBs. That means the commercial profit goal will take precedence over social profit, and banks will become purer commercial banks, which goes against the interest of small and marginal farmers who account for more than 90 per cent of the farming community, and whose protection is vital for protecting the income and employment securities in India. Will the government introspect now and use Gandhiji's talisman, "recall the face of the poorest and weakest person and consider if the contemplated action will benefit them and restore their control over life and destiny", to judge the veracity of its RRB reform policies?

If this is done, the deliberate efforts of the government over the years to distance the RRBs from their original goals will become clear to it.

and almost normalised by now; AQI indices spike, schools close, flights circle, and the usual cast of villains takes the stage ~ stubble burning, diesel trucks, firecrackers and unhelpful winds. By February, the haze lifts just enough for everyone to

out new extraction. Each loop raises productivity a little; together they create a new source of growth. The cities that master this circulation as we see in Copenhagen with its district heating, Amsterdam with circular construction and Seoul with waste-energy

of circulation remain isolated because policy still rewards disposal, not reuse. Procurement rules even today favour virgin material, not recycled; landfill contracts profit from volume, not reduction. The economy of waste persists because waste itself has

on changing that metric. The economics of circularity is clear. If even a quarter of Delhi's waste were looped back into production, the city could cut energy demand and emissions by double digits. The politics and policy however need to be reimagined. It also requires recognising the people who already keep the city's residual economy alive such as the informal recyclers who sort, clean and sell its detritus.

They are Delhi's unacknowledged circular workers, extracting value from waste every dawn while the city sleeps. The deeper obstacle is psychological. Modern India still equates modernity with the new, the fresh, the shiny, the unused. Circularity asks for something humbler: intelligence over novelty, design over scale. It means treating waste not as guilt but as potential, pollution not as failure but as feedback. In a culture that prizes acceleration, learning to loop may be the hardest virtue. Yet the alternative is visible in the air itself. Each particle of Delhi's haze is a micro-residual: a bit of carbon that could have been energy, a grain of soil that could have stayed in the field. The city's smog is its economy speaking in another language, telling us exactly where it leaks. To clear that air is to redesign the system that made it.

The outlines of such a Delhi are already faintly there. A city where demolished buildings supply their own replacements; where kitchen waste powers public transport; where treated water cools industrial parks, where the poorest recyclers are recognised as entrepreneurs of efficiency. Growth, in that city, would no longer mean burning more but wasting less. When the winter wind finally shifts and the haze lifts for a day, the capital briefly reappears and its domes and towers will be washed in weak sunlight, its roads suddenly sharp.

Graduating from “Vishwamitra” to “Vishwamitra Doctrine”

India's rising stature in the geopolitical arena, coupled with its burgeoning economic and military strength, necessitates a strategic rethink in how it perceives and secures its interests. In the present multi-polar world marred with Wars & Trade-wars, the time has come to graduate from 'Vishwamitra ~ a token terminology' to 'Vishwamitra Doctrine' which would be a foundational pillar for Viksit Bharat's national security interests.

Vishwamitra Doctrine: India's Role in a Changing World

The term "Vishwamitra" implies as friend of the world, an ancient Bhartiya philosophy that India is increasingly embracing in its geopolitical engagements. The present emergence of India is driven by its economic and technological strengths, with special focus on its defence capability. Also, the country's external engagements have become independent and assertive in the recent years. Under such a spectrum, a doctrine is necessary which mandates to build enough capability there by securing own interests, deterring conflicts and provide net security in the region. Rather this has been the case historically, where India has been a powerhouse of knowledge, technology, economy and defence. But this prowess dwindled for about past few centuries. However, the country has now unshackled its past and is moving in the right direction to re-establish itself in the global arena. This strategic glide-path needs to be backed up

with a doctrine to ensure certain Influence Projection capabilities which would prevent conflicts.

Forging Strategic Capabilities

India's commitment to protecting its economic, strategic interests and that of friendly foreign nations, along with ensuring the security of its citizens abroad, requires a credible and reliable defence capability. The Vishwamitra doctrine needs an outreach capability that can be used as a tool for creating buffers. The changing dynamics of global politics, conflicts and piracy in the Arabian-Red Seas, emphasise the need for focus on certain capability developments. India's defence forces have demonstrated their capability through various missions, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), counter piracy operations and rescue operations of Indian nationals overseas. The success of any geopolitical doctrine is dependent on tangible, credible and reliable capabilities which can fulfil the expected commitments. Under this ambit, through Vishwamitra Doctrine, Theatrisation in the Indian Armed Forces would be the first prudent option, which would ensure the necessary capability enhancements.

Facing future challenges necessitate capability augmentation in terms of marine and airborne capabilities of the country. An augmentation of capabilities from the existing structure of the Amphibious and Airborne pillars of the defence forces is a step in the right direction, which

can later be amalgamated with the envisaged Theatre Command frame work. Such capability would provide India a strategic asset capable of swift engagement.

kinetic conflicts.

Geospatial Domain

Creating a buffer in the geospatial domain involves establishing a layered security architecture that

Economic Domain

At present, Indian economy is hitting new highs, yet it is important to diversify and establish enmeshed economic tie-ups with key part-

Technology Domain

Critical Technology and rare earth mineral resource spectrum is a key domain that needs to be secured and backed up with buffers. With more Indian Public Sector Undertakings and Private companies foraying into new markets across continents for these resources, it is mandatory to develop capabilities for placing such ventures under the own security umbrella. Buffers can be created for Critical Technology security, by ensuring mutual stakes and co-partnering, to ensure resilience against external shocks.

Srikumar Bharathi P

The alignment of Vishwamitra Doctrine is to maintain strategic autonomy with assuring of mutually respected relationships and partnerships with geopolitically aligned countries. The focus on Global South must be a mandate and engagement with such partner countries by application of above-mentioned capabilities would ensure equitable global governance, there by fostering goodwill and diversification. The time has arrived for India to graduate to the Vishwamitra Doctrine with serious capability developments to project itself as a transformative power across domains, as this doctrine acknowledges the complexities of the modern world. It advocates for a comprehensive strategy encompassing military modernisation, geospatial dominance, economic influence and diplomatic outreach to attain the cherished goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

ment, in contingencies ranging from securing vital locations to enhancing leverages in distant theatres. It would serve as a powerful tool in preventing conflicts thereby advancing India's strategic objective of Vishwamitra.

Buffer Creation Across Domains

In the contemporary geopolitical environment, the traditional territorial buffers are important, yet they are insufficient in the modern interconnected world. Under the visualised doctrine, apart from territorial buffers, advocacy for creating buffers across three key domains stands prime, Geospatial, Economy & Technology. These buffers serve to insulate India from hostile external pressures and provide strategic depth in non-

Indian cities need to think in circles

move on with their lives. The real affliction in Indian cities and especially Delhi runs much deeper. The city is not just polluted but it is simply wasteful. Indian cities are designed to discard value as fast as they create it.

India's urbanisation is still built and continues to be built on a linear idea of growth: extract, produce, consume, throw away. This logic perhaps made sense in the early decades of industrialisation when raw materials were cheap and land was abundant. However, as we see now, this linear growth becomes brittle as it matures. Each tonne of waste, each plume of smoke, each overflowing drain marks not expansion but inefficiency. A waste of resources burned, nutrients dumped, energy lost.

Delhi's smog is the visible form of an economic design flaw. Modern economies thrive when they learn to reuse their own leftovers. When the waste of one process becomes the input of another, output grows with-

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Tim Cook To Retire As Apple CEO By 2026: Future Leadership Insights

year with WWDC in June.

Apple's Future Growth Prospects

Despite trailing behind competitors like Alphabet, Microsoft, and Nvidia in certain areas, Apple remains optimistic about its future growth under new leadership. The company expects an exceptional holiday quarter with revenue growth projected at 10-12% year-on-year, surpassing earlier Wall Street estimates of 6%.

Cook has expressed his preference for promoting someone from within the company for the leadership role. Although no final decision has been made yet, John Ternus stands out as a leading contender due to his expertise and contributions to Apple's success.

Local residents experienced fear and chaos due to the blast's impact. Shafad Ahmed recounted hearing a loud explosion late at night, which left him shaken. He expressed concern about his relatives living near the police station but was unable to reach them due to security restrictions.

Casualties and Damage
The explosion injured 27 police officers, two revenue officials, and three civilians. They were promptly taken to the hospital for treatment. The blast severely damaged the police station building and affected nearby structures as well. Authorities are currently assessing the full

event is one of its busiest days when customers usually line up for free reusable holiday cups. The strike significantly amplified its impact due to this coincidence.

Starbucks Workers United has consistently accused the company of extensive labour violations. They claimed that Administrative Law Judges at the National Labor Relations Board found Starbucks responsible for over 400 labour law breaches, making it "one of the worst offenders" recently.

The strike has seen participation from workers in more than 25 cities, including New York, Dallas, Seattle, Ohio, Minneapolis.

... blames
voter status
...list is released. Until then,
...we don't know whether we
...are voters or not.

MERCANTILE CO-OP. BANK LTD.
...ads, Ahmedabad-380006 Gujarat

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
...of The Bhuj Mercantile Co-op Bank
...Body Meeting of Shareholders will
...ads Ahmedabad on **26-11-2025** at
...concerning the Bank:
...posal Amalgamation of The Amod
...od, Dist. Bharuch, Gujarat, into our
...rd of Directors of the bank and pass
...approve the Revised Scheme of
...t (with clarifications) and to give
...rd of Directors / Chairman / CEO /
...on of the Chairman.
...the time appointed in the meeting, the
...be held on the same date and same
...rd of Byelaws of the Bank / MSCS
...ormation may contact undersigned
...per provisions of the MSCS Act, all

order of the Board of Directors
Manoj A. Gor, I/c CEO



BMCBK
BANK
Multi-State Bank

THE BHUJ MERCANTILE CO-OP. BANK LTD.
H.O. Mithakhali 6 Roads, Ahmedabad-380006 Gujarat

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

This is to inform all the Share Holders of The Bhuj Mercantile Co-op Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad that a Special General Body Meeting of Shareholders will be held at Lions Hall, Mithakhali Six Roads Ahmedabad on **26-11-2025 at 03:30 PM** to transact following Business concerning the Bank:

- To consider and approve the proposal Amalgamation of The Amod Nagric Co-operative Bank Ltd, Amod, Dist. Bharuch, Gujarat, into our bank as recommended by the Board of Directors of the bank and pass the necessary resolution to approve the Revised Scheme of Amalgamation and DDR Report (with clarifications) and to give necessary authorities to the Board of Directors / Chairman / CEO / General Manager.
- Any Other matter with the permission of the Chairman.

Note: 1. If Quorum is not present at the time appointed in the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned and will be held on the same date and same place at 03:30 pm as per the provision of Byelaws of the Bank / MSCS Rules.

2. Any Shareholders asking further information may contact undersigned on or before 3 days of the meeting. As per provisions of the MSCS Act, all members should attend the meeting.

Date: 09-11-2025
Place: Ahmedabad

By the order of the Board of Directors
Manoj A. Gor, I/c CEO

Odisha gears up to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities in a big way

(Gns). A preparatory meeting was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Parul Patawari, Director of the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, regarding the celebration of the State-Level International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025. The meeting was organised at the conference hall of the State Institute for Persons with Disabilities. Director Patawari sought the cooperation of everyone to make this event successful. Based on the experiences of previous years, she advised the attending officials to make this year's event more organised and

more accessible for persons with disabilities. Emphasising the need to

dination meeting with university authorities responsible for the successful exe-

been deemed suitable for organising cultural programmes as well. A cricket tournament for visually impaired women will be held at the sports ground on the SOA campus. On this occasion, stalls will also be set up by persons with disabilities, self-help groups, and various organisations. An app has been made available on the departmental website for stall registration. Participants who excelled in the district-level competitions will take part in the state-level competitions.



deployment of officers for different departments to ensure the smooth conduct of the programme, she urged everyone to work in coordination with one another.

Additionally, departmental officials visited SOA University and held a coor-

cution of the event. This year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be held from December 1 to 3 at the conference hall of SOA University.

Since the auditorium has sufficient space to seat over 1,500 people, it has

The meeting was attended, among others, by Additional Secretaries Deepak Routai, Bhaskar Raito, and Santosh Pradhan, along with officials, representatives of SOA University, and departmental officers.

Municipal Corporation team running encroachment free campaign

Mayor and Municipal Commissioner launched cleanliness, easy traffic and encroachment free environment campaign in the city.

Mathura. In compliance with the instructions of Mayor Vinod Aggarwal and Municipal Commissioner, the following important actions were taken today by the enforcement team of Municipal Corporation Mathura-Vrindavan to ensure cleanliness, smooth traffic and encroachment free environment in the city. In view of the Sanatan Hindu Ekta Padyatra, a special campaign was conducted at Chardham

Temple, Chhatikara and Highway Service Road. During the campaign, tem-



porary encroachments were removed with immediate effect. Also, stray animals were caught and sent to Kanha Animal Shelter Cowshala. The Mayor said

that about 35/40 persons had encroached on the public road by building

R.K. In the presence of Singh, the team made the road completely encroachment free by removing all the ramps and stairs with the help of JCB. On the instructions of the Mayor, permanent encroachment on the drain in Manoharpura was removed. There was permanent encroachment by the local residents by building slabs, platforms etc. on the drain, due to which the regular drain cleaning work was getting affected. The enforcement team, with the help of JCB, removed all these permanent encroachments and completely cleaned the drain

Wrestling dance organized in memory of late Palendra Singh wrestler

The final wrestling match ended in a draw between Shyamveer and Kuldeep Fauji.

The identity of Malla Vidya Braj is to keep it alive: Upmanyu Mathura. A wrestling fight was organized in the memory of late Palendra Singh in village Nagla Bhima Tirwaya of Raya town. The last wrestling match was between Kuldeep Fauji and Shyamveer, which ended in a draw. The wrestling dangal was inaugurated by Braj Press Club President and National Vice President of National Union of Journalists India, Dr. Kamalkant Upmanyu Advocate by shaking hands with the wrestlers. He said that late Palendra Singh had brought fame to his region far and wide in the wrestling dangal. The life of wrestlers is one of sacrifice and penance. The state and central government should provide facilities to



Braj Press Club President and National Vice President of National Union of Journalists India Dr. Kamalkant Upmanyu Advocate and others shaking hands with wrestlers in wrestling dance.

the wrestlers, while social organizations should also come forward to promote wrestling. Mallya Vidya is the identity of Braj, Mallya Vidya is the identity of Brij, the era of Akhara Baji is going on with Dauji Maharaj, it has to be kept alive by the people of Brij.

MLC Yogesh Nauhwar said that wrestling dance is an ancient tradition of Braj region. Such events provide opportunities for talents to emerge. In the wrestling match, Aji wrestler Visavali and Mohit wrestler Manshadevi won by defeating their rival

wrestlers. The wrestling match ended in a draw between Manish wrestler Saras and Harsh wrestler, Honey wrestler Rohtak and Vishwajeet wrestler Vichpuri, Sabir wrestler Palwal and Sachin wrestler Tirvaya. The final wrestling match took place between Shyamveer Agra and Kuldeep Fauji Akola, which ended in a draw after a thrilling contest. On this occasion, Assistant Commissioner of Cell Tax Chandrapal Singh Punia Advocate, Pushpendra Sharma Ramhari Pradhan, Mukesh Pradhan, Aji Pehalwan, Vipin Pehalwan, Ran Singh, Kamal Aggarwal, Harendra Chaudhary, Pappu Pradhan, Digambar Singh, etc. were present. At the conclusion of the dance, the dance coordinator Kehri Singh Pehalwans congratulated all the attendees. Expressed grati-

PhonePe Announces Strategic Collaboration with OpenAI to Bring ChatGPT to Indian Users at Scale

Lucknow, 15 Nov 2025: PhonePe today announced a strategic collaboration with OpenAI, a leading global AI company, aimed at accelerating consumer adoption of ChatGPT in India and fostering mutual business growth. This collaboration will enable PhonePe users to explore ChatGPT's features on the PhonePe platform, helping more Indians experience the potential of advanced artificial intelligence (AI). The collaboration has the potential to further enhance the user experience on the PhonePe platform by offering smarter and relevant information on everyday needs from planning their

travel to shopping. This collaboration will make ChatGPT discoverable across PhonePe's consumer app and the PhonePe For Business app,

Speaking on the launch, Rahul Chari, Founder, Whole-time Director and Chief Technology Officer, PhonePe said, "At PhonePe, we have spent



while drawing upon the functional strength of the broader PhonePe ecosystem, including the Indus Appstore. As the adoption of generative AI increases in the country, this collaboration will help open up potential use cases for users.

years building the foundational layers for digital services at population scale. This strategic alliance demonstrates that collaborations between innovative companies in this space can help expand the reach of cutting-edge technology to the broader population.

We are excited to partner with OpenAI to begin this journey."

Oliver Jay, Head of International at OpenAI, added, "Our collaboration with PhonePe is a significant milestone in our mission to make AI more accessible to people throughout India. India is a global hub for innovation, and PhonePe's deep understanding of the country's fabric and its user base make them the ideal partner. This partnership will demonstrate the immense value of consumer AI across India, helping millions of users enhance their daily lives."

Prayas celebrates 37 years of empowering children and marginalised communities

(Gns). Prayas, the renowned national organisation dedicated to child rights, rehabilitation, and social justice, marked its 37th Foundation Day on Friday with a vibrant celebration at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre.

The event brought together leaders from the government, police, civil society, and the arts to honour the organisation's enduring commitment to marginalised communities.

The celebration was made even more special by the presence of celebrated actor and humanitarian Randeep Hooda, Prayas' long-time patron ambassador, who charmed hundreds of children and participants with his warmth and encouragement.

Hooda, an actor known not only for his craft but also for his dedication to children's causes, spoke warmly about his association with Prayas and praised the young performers for their dedication.

The event also honoured former Police

Commissioner Raja Vijay Karan, the first Founder President of Prayas, for his pioneering leadership and

tree today, nurtured from the seeds sown by visionaries such as Raja Vijay Karan and Mr Amod Kanth,"



crucial role in shaping the organisation's mission.

Mr Amod Kanth, Founder and Mentor of Prayas, lauded Raja Vijay Karan for his early vision and unwavering support, noting that his guidance laid the foundation for Prayas' growth into a national movement for children and marginalised communities.

The celebration commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr Kalyan Sachdeva, Vice President of Prayas, who reflected on the organisation's journey since its inception in 1988.

"Prayas is a full-grown

he said.

The gathering also heard from social activist and former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, who congratulated Prayas on 37 years of impactful work.

He encouraged children to pursue their dreams with determination, recognising the organisation's wide-ranging contributions to education, rehabilitation, skilling, health, and social inclusion.

The event showcased vibrant cultural performances by children associated with Prayas, highlighting themes such as social jus-

tice, women's empowerment, environmental responsibility, and unity in diversity.

These performances were met with enthusiastic applause and stood as a testament to the resilience and talent found within marginalised communities.

Awards were presented to young achievers by dignitaries including Mr Hooda, Mr Khurshid and Mr Amod Kanth, celebrating their extraordinary accomplishments despite challenging circumstances.

With 789 co-workers and a direct outreach to approximately 50,000 individuals daily across 12 states and union territories, Prayas continues to serve the most vulnerable sections of society with dedication and compassion.

The Foundation Day celebration not only honoured the past but also reaffirmed Prayas' commitment to empowering children and marginalised communities, nurturing dreams, and building a more compassionate society.

Sanatan Ekta Yatra received tremendous welcome at Sanskriti University

Mathura. Sanatan Ekta Yatra reached Sanskriti University on Friday night. At the entrance of Sanskriti Ayurveda Medical College, Chancellor of the University Dr. Sachin Gupta and CEO Dr. Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma welcomed Bageshwar Dham's Peethadishwar Pandit Dhirendra Krishna Shastri with Indian traditions.

The Sanatan Ekta Yatra, moving forward in the Umbrella area with lakhs of people raising deafening slogans of Jaishree Ram, reached the resting place around

Kapoor along with Sachin Gupta, CEO Dr. Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma etc. After this, he rested for the

standing at the border and the farmer standing in the fields. He said that all of us Sanatanis have to unite by eradicating untouchability.



University Chancellor Dr. Sachin Gupta and CEO Dr. Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma giving an emotional welcome to Bageshwar Dham's Peethadishwar Pandit Dhirendra Krishna Shastri with Indian traditions.

Gupta and CEO Dr. Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma were also present on the stage.

Had food and rest at Sanskriti Wellness Center Mathura. Pandit Dhirendra Krishna Shastri, the founder of Sanatan Ekta Yatra, Peethadishwar of Bageshwar Dham, had his Satvik dinner at Sanskriti Wellness Center with Mahant Rajju ji of Hanuman Garhi, Rajpal Yadav, Chancellor of Sanskriti University Dr.

night at the Sanskriti Wellness Center equipped with world-class facilities. Pandit Dhirendra Krishna Shastri, the head of Bageshwar Dham, who was overwhelmed by the welcome of Sanskriti University, while thanking him said that all the arrangements here were very beautiful and good. He told the students who were waiting for him for a long time that there are only two real heroes of this country, remember, the soldier

Indian Coast Guard conducts regional maritime search and rescue exercise at Paradip

(Gns). A Regional Level Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Sea Exercise was conducted by Coast Guard Regional Headquarters (North East) and coordinated by Commander Coast Guard (Odisha) at Paradip, recently.

The exercise conducted on 14-15 November, included participation of local Search and Rescue Board (SAR) stakeholders and resource agencies of

Odisha, viz., OSDMA, District Administration Officials, Ports, Customs, Indian Navy, Marine Police, Odisha Police, CISF, Departmental of Fisheries, Forest Department and District Medical Department.

In a statement issued here, the ICG spokesperson stated that the Indian Coast Guard, the National Maritime SAR service provider of vast Search and Rescue Region under the aegis of NMSAR board,



organized and productively indulged SAR workshop

participants in professional nuances of SAR protocols and Mechanism, Construct, Procedures and SOPs validation and enhanced cooperation in all real time SAR coordination.

Workshop included table top exercise, wherein, different SAR scenarios and collaborative responsibility of agencies were simulated. During Sea Exercise off Paradip, SAR lead agency ICG and rescue agencies assets demonstrated near real time Mass Rescue Operation, Medical Triage and rescue techniques towards ensuring safety of life at sea for both Aeronautical and Maritime SAR.

Stage set for CLF Literati 2025, a three-day celebration of stories, ideas and imagination

(Gns). Chandigarh Literary Society (CLS) Chairperson and senior IAS officer Dr Sumita Misra here on Saturday formally unveiled the detailed schedule of CLF Literati 2025, the city's flagship literary festival.

Dr Misra, also Festival Director, said at a media conference that the festival's theme this year, "Worlds Within Words," reflects the limitless universes that imagination can unlock.

She announced that 27



authors, poets, ad-filmmakers and artistes from across India and abroad will participate in 15 sessions, four book launches and one creative writing workshop over the three-day festival.

The main literary discussions will unfold on