



India is an 'emerging model,' not just a market: PM Modi at Ramnath Goenka Lecture

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described India as a rising global "model of hope," emphasizing the nation's steady progress toward becoming a developed and self-reliant power despite global challenges.

Delivering the Sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture, the Prime Minister began his address by paying tribute to the Express Group's founder, Ramnath Goenka, noting his unwavering commitment to principles over political affiliations.

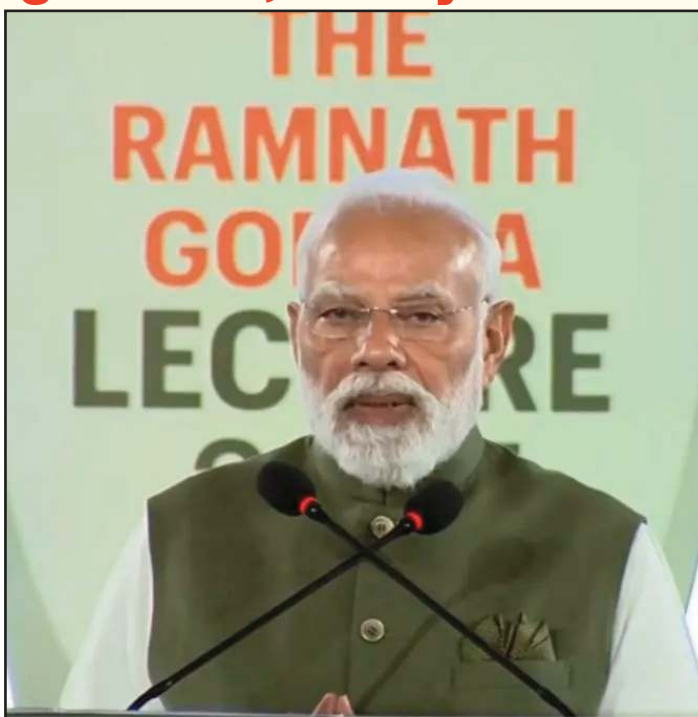
"Today, we are here to honour a journalist whose courage and vision helped guide the nation," PM Modi said, recalling Goenka's diverse political engagements during a transformative era in India's history.

PM Modi highlighted India's robust economic performance, asserting that the nation has demonstrated remarkable resilience amid global headwinds, including during the Covid-19 pandemic. "So many challenges emerged but could not derail India's progress," he stated.

"Our country proved itself by maintaining a high growth rate. Our growth rate is 7 per cent despite global instability."

He added that the world is increasingly recognizing India's distinct development trajectory. "India is not just an emerging market. India is also an emerging model," he declared. "Today, the world sees the Indian Growth Model as a model of hope."

The Prime Minister



underscored the non-negotiable importance of development, irrespective of

which party governs a state, and reaffirmed his government's focus on the poor

and marginalized.

"Regardless of which government is in power in the states, the priority must always be development," he said. "For a country to truly develop, it is essential to ensure social justice for every section of society."

Detailing the government's saturation approach to welfare, he added: "We are continuously working on the mission of saturation. Not a single beneficiary should be left out of any

scheme."

The Prime Minister noted that government efforts have lifted a significant portion of the population out of poverty, stating: "Twenty-five crore people have been brought out of poverty."

Referring to the recent Bihar election results, PM Modi described the voter turnout as a testament to the strength of Indian democracy.

"The November 14

results... no one can ignore the rising participation in the election," he observed. "Historic turnout in Bihar. The results have set a precedent for the kind of governance people want."

He also urged leaders to prioritize public welfare over constant political campaigning: "An emotional mode, not an election mode, is necessary."

Highlighting reforms in cultural and educational sectors, the Prime Minister

pointed to the new National Education Policy (NEP). "In our new National Education Policy, we have given special emphasis to education in local languages," he said.

Concluding his address with a message of aspiration and determination, the Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to achieving its full potential: "India is eager to become developed. India is eager to become self-reliant."

Sixteenth Finance Commission submits its Report for the award period from 2026-27 to 2030-31 to the President of India

(Gns).

The Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVIFC) was constituted by the Hon'ble President of India in pursuance of clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution. The XVIFC, headed by Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya, submitted its Report today to the Hon'ble President of India. Members of the XVIFC, Smt. Annie George Mathew, Dr. Manoj Panda, Shri T. Rabi Sankar and Dr. Soumyakanti Ghosh and the Secretary to the XVIFC Shri Ritvik Pandey accompanied the Chairman. Thereafter, the XVIFC also presented a copy of the report to the Prime Minister and to the Union Finance Minister today.



As per the terms of reference (ToR), the XVIFC was mandated to give its report covering a period of five years commencing on the 1st day of April, 2026 making recommendations on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes

between the Union and the States as well as the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds, grants-in-aid to States, review arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives, etc.

Accordingly, during its tenure, the XVIFC analysed the finances of the Union and States in detail and has come up with a report after wide-ranging consultations with the Union Government, State Governments, Local Governments at different tiers, Chairpersons and Members of previous Finance Commissions, academic institutions of eminence, multi-lateral institutions, Advisory Council to the Commission, and other domain experts. This report has been organised in two volumes where Volume I contains the recommendations as per the TOR and the accompanying annexures are in Volume II.

We will engage constructively with all stakeholders in Bangladesh: India reacts to Sheikh Hasina's death sentence

(Gns).

We will engage constructively with all stakeholders in Bangladesh: India reacts to Sheikh Hasina's death sentence. A file picture of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who resigned from her position, on Monday.

India on Monday said it has noted the verdict of the International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh, awarding the death penalty



to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, holding her

responsible for 'crimes against humanity' in connection with the July-August 2024 violence in the country.

"As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion, and stability in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Corruption and lawlessness at their peak under BJP rule: Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns).

Samajwadi Party National President Akhilesh Yadav has said that corruption and dishonesty are at their peak under the BJP government, which, according to him, is promoting all forms of corruption.

"The rule of the Constitution and law has ended. Corruption is rampant. The BJP's intentions are flawed, as it wants to rule by holding democracy hostage," he alleged.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Akhilesh Yadav said that the BJP is abusing power and misusing the administrative machinery.

"It rigs the electoral process and contests elections by distributing money. It openly delivers speeches

many places in connection with these cases. Illegal land grabs are taking place. Illegal mining and defor-



promoting communalism, while fake encounters are taking place under the BJP government. Police officers have been charged in

estation are occurring." "Corruption is prevalent in every department. Deaths are occurring in police custody.

Commissions are being demanded on investments. There is a conspiracy to destroy the Constitution. The BJP government is conspiring to eliminate reservations. It is plotting to end recruitment and employment," the SP president said.

Akhilesh Yadav further stated that the BJP is committing injustice and oppression against the PDA. He said the BJP government has no shame and has made a mockery of democracy and the law. The public is witnessing the BJP's negative actions, but in the future, the people will teach the BJP a lesson, he added.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee again urges PM Modi to revoke Gorkha Hills interlocutor appointment

(Gns).

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to reconsider the appointment of a retired IPS officer as the Interlocutor for the issues relating to Gorkhas in Darjeeling Hills.

West Bengal CM referred to her October 18, 2025, letter urging reconsideration of the appointment of a retired IPS officer as Interlocutor for Gorkha issues.

Prime Minister's Office had acknowledged the letter and advised the Home Minister to look into the matter.

Despite this, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a 10 November

2025 memo stating that the Interlocutor's office has already started functioning.

CM Banerjee called this decision "shocking", citing a lack of consultation with the State government.



She termed the Centre's move unilateral, arbitrary, unconstitutional, and without jurisdiction.

The Prime Minister noted that the Darjeeling

region is governed by the Gorkha Territorial Administration Act, 2011, enacted by the West Bengal Assembly and assented to by the President.

In her letter, she stated that under the Act, the competent government is explicitly defined as the Government of West Bengal, not the Centre.

She argued that the Central Government has no authority to appoint an interlocutor for issues covered under a valid State law.

The Chief Minister said that the November 10 order is ultra vires, colourable, and a malicious exercise of power.

She claimed the appointment violates the constitutional division of powers under Parts V, VI, and XI of the Constitution.

She pointed out that subjects under List II (State List) are exclusively under State jurisdiction.

She called the Centre's action a blatant encroachment on federalism and an "assault" on West Bengal's autonomy.

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Editorial

Malnourished India

A tragic paradox is that even while democracies are apathetic to mass starvation, they downplay and ignore the fact that the hundreds of million children and adults continue to lead lives of severe undernutrition (hidden hunger) since it hardly provokes a public outcry. A democratic government cannot afford to ignore the public outcry. Hence, India's success in preventing a famine during the period since 1947 can be attributed to the inherent force of democracy.

But its overall record in fighting hunger and malnutrition seems to be quite abysmal. Indeed, the “hungry India” situation is characterized by high levels of under-nutrition and child malnutrition, particularly stunting and wasting, with its Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranking in the serious category. For millions of people in India, hunger is an unrelenting way of life; insidious, furtive and unforgiving. It lurks not just in the teeming countryside but also in the shadows of glittering cities.

The poor response of governments is well documented. The cruel irony is that widespread hunger is reported in parallel with abundant foodgrains. Citizens get deprived of their due share while food stocks rot in the absence of proper storage facilities. Between 190 million and 200 million people in India go to bed hungry every night. Pathetically, when the wailing of hungry infants gets too much, their hungry and hapless mothers give their fingers laced with tobacco or natural intoxicants to suck, and to help them sleep at night. The painful paradox is that while wedding halls and restaurants see food wastage every single day, children in classrooms struggle to focus with their empty stomachs and hunger pains. According to the National Family Health Surveys, India has constantly been flagged as a country where nutrition gaps remain alarming despite it being one of the largest producers of food in the world.

To explain he situation Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has aptly mentioned in his book entitled Poverty and Famines: “Starvation is the characteristic of some people not having enough food to eat. It is not the characteristic of there not being enough food to eat.” Hunger is of two types: overt hunger and hidden hunger. Overt hunger necessitates filling of stomachs at regular intervals, while hidden hunger alludes to micronutrient deficiency that is fundamental in consumption of a limited quantity for the human body as well as inadequate intake of protein and calorie. This is persistent (endemic).

Indeed, there has been a drastic decline in self-reported hunger in India ~ from around 16.1 to 1.9 per cent between 1983 and 2004-05 ~ which implies a decline in food insecurity. But inadequate calorie consumption is closely linked to the socio-economic status (SES) and health status of a nation. However, to measure a nation's progress and also to evaluate its hunger status, a standard method, Global Hunger index (GHI) has been evolved. The GHI is a statistical tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels, reflecting multidimensional hunger over time. It has been developed and adopted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

The GHI score based on the values of four component indicators (undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality) is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where 0 (zero) is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low (GHI value <= 9.9), moderate (10.0-19.9), serious (20.0–34.9), alarming (35.0-49.9) to extremely alarming (GHI value >= 50.0). GHI 2025 marks an anniversary by taking stock of two decades of evidence-based recommendations: moving from productivity-focused agriculture toward right-based, inclusive and resilience-oriented approaches.

India ranks 102nd out of 123 countries in the 2025 GHI report with a “serious” GHI score of 25.8. India's rank in the GHI has varied over the years as revealed from the following table India faces a significant challenge in addressing hunger, particularly when measured against GHI. Malnutrition affects a person throughout his/her life cycle. A malnourished child becomes a malnourished adolescent and then an adult with hampered physical, cognitive and productive capacities. Around 24 per cent of Indian adolescents are thin and around 80 per cent suffer from multiple micronutrient deficiency (hidden hunger). It is quite evident that women are the worst affected by hunger because the patriarchal structures of families in India teach them to go hungry, when food is scarce. The social structures compel our women to live with starvation. It deserves mention that adolescent women are not only the future workforce but also bearers of the next generation. In the areas marked by higher levels of undernutrition, malnourished women or adolescent girls give birth to babies that are born stunted and thin. In this way, undernutrition is handed down from one generation to another as a terrifying inheritance. Children of malnourished mothers do not experience much catch-up growth in subsequent years.

As a result, the country will not only be unable to reap the gain of demographic dividend but also suffer from the vicious cycle of malnourishment. The 2025 GHI index score and ranking reveal that approximately 13.7 per cent of the Indian population is undernourished. Stunting is high at 35.5 per cent, wasting at 18.7 per cent and the under-five mortality rate is 2.9 per cent. India is home to about one quarter of the world's hungry people, with over 190 million undernourished. Thus, we witness that hidden hunger, a silent epidemic, perpetuates the cycle of poverty, poor nutrition, lost productivity, and dismal economic growth. The other end of the malnourishment spectrum is caused mainly by excessive intake of calories. It is called obesity, meaning that a person's weight is much too high for his/her height. It speaks volumes of the prevailing inequality in our society. Hunger is not just the outcome of a lack of food.

It is the product of an intricate network of social, political and economic issues. The country successfully implemented the green revolution in the mid-1960s. In terms of food production, the country ranks second in the world, following only China. But there remain distribution problems within the country which are increasing day by day. The immediate cause of hunger is poverty. In other words, this indicates poor access to food, the inability of poor households to earn a consistent income for purchasing adequate and nutritious food. According to the World Bank, a major percentage of India's population continues to earn below Rs. 100 per day. With rising inflation and job insecurity, the majority of households are feeling constrained to survive.

Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has stirred a diplomatic storm that may reshape the strategic balance in East Asia. Her assertion that Japan could deploy its Self-Defence Forces if China attacked Taiwan is more than a passing remark. It marks a profound shift in Tokyo's security posture, one that edges Japan closer to the frontline of a potential regional confrontation. For decades, Japan's position on Taiwan was anchored in deliberate ambiguity. It acknowledged Beijing's “One China” claim while maintaining quiet but steady ties with Taipei. The logic was simple: avoid confrontation, preserve trade, and rely on the United States' deterrence umbrella.

Ms Takaichi's statement, however, signals that this cautious equilibrium may

China's younger generation is quietly rewriting the country's economic script. Unlike the consumer-driven youth cultures of earlier decades, today's urban millennials and Gen Z in China are embracing a lifestyle defined by restraint, not indulgence. They are not the carefree spenders the government hoped would revive domestic demand, but a cohort shaped by caution, insecurity, and the lingering shadow of economic slowdown.

At the heart of this transformation lies anxiety about the future. Many recent graduates face a stark reality: jobs are scarce, salaries are shrinking, and once-dependable sectors like real estate no longer hold the promise of

The sound of truth in a noisy worl

(Gns).

I vividly recall receiving a call many years ago from a musician friend who, after seeing a WhatsApp message, wanted to confirm whether the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar had passed away. The news, coming early in the morning from someone in the field of music, came as a shock. After all, reports at the time had only mentioned that Lata ji had been admitted to hospital for a minor ailment. Yet, within less than an hour, social media platforms – including Facebook, WhatsApp groups, and Twitter – were flooded with tributes, photos, and condolence messages. I immediately contacted legendary singer Suresh Wadkar ji, who quickly reassured me that Lata ji was doing well. Indeed, she continued to grace the world with her presence for many more years before peacefully passing away at the age of 92 on 6 February 2022.

A similar (viral) episode unfolded recently, on 10 and 11 November 2025. Social media platforms and even certain news outlets prematurely announced the death of Bollywood's “He-Man,” Dharmendra, who was undergoing treatment at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital and has been discharged as I am penning this down. Several prominent personalities also took to the social media platforms to express their grief, only to later delete their posts after his wife, Hema Malini, firmly dismissed rumours and clarified that her husband was responding to treatment and showing improvement. These instances raise a crucial question: how has news, once a pillar of trust and verification, become so vulnerable to distortion in the digital age?

It is with this concern that I reflected on Public Service Broadcasting Day, observed every year on November 12 to commem-

be giving way to a new realism ~ one shaped by the erosion of trust in China's intentions and a renewed belief in Japan's own strategic agency. China's response has been predictably fierce. Any suggestion that foreign powers could intervene in the Taiwan issue strikes at the heart of Beijing's sovereignty narrative. But this time, the rhetoric turned particularly toxic, with a Chinese diplomat issuing a thinly veiled threat against Ms Takaichi. The vitriol underscores just how emotionally charged the Taiwan question has become ~ not just as a geopolitical flash-point but as a symbol of China's national pride and Japan's postwar redefinition. The underlying tensions run deeper than the current exchange of words. They are rooted in unresolved historical memories

upward mobility. Youth unemployment hovering near 20 per cent has made even the employed wary. For many, saving has become not just a habit but a form of self-preservation. When every yuan counts, frugality becomes a survival skill. This shift has birthed a new digital sub-culture where minimalism and self-reliance are celebrated. Young influencers now teach millions how to live on a shoestring budget, turning thrift into art and deprivation into virtue.

Their followers swap tips on cutting daily expenses, cooking cheap meals, or avoiding the “consumption traps” of online shopping. This is not rebellion against the system but a quiet rejection of

orate Mahatma Gandhi's historic radio address from Broadcasting House, New Delhi, in 1947. The day reminds us of radio's transformative potential and Gandhi's vision of truth-based communication, a vision that stands in stark contrast to today's epidemic of misinformation.



Speaking from the All India Radio studio (now preserved as the “Bapu Studio”), Mahatma Gandhi addressed millions during a deeply distressing period following Partition. His compassionate Diwali message sought to comfort refugees and inspire unity among a divided people.

The broadcast, arranged at the request of industrialist and Gandhiji's close associate Ghanshyam Das Birla, transformed the studio into a prayer space, reflecting Gandhi's sincerity and spiritual approach to communication. The Hindustan Times described Gandhi's speech the next day as an event that demonstrated the “miraculous power” of radio to unite hearts and minds. Gandhi recognized radio as a revolutionary tool that could transcend barriers of literacy, geography, and class. Yet, he consistently emphasized that such power must be exercised with restraint and moral responsibility. Journalism, he said, should “educate the public mind” and “fearlessly express the truth.”

The day of November 12 has gone by as another calendar date. Fast forward to today, and we are all aware that the media land-

Red Lines Recast



and competing visions of Asia's future.

China still views Japan through the lens of its wartime past, while Japan increasingly sees China as a revisionist power seeking dominance under the guise

Frugal Generation

economic excess, born of both necessity and a deep-lifestyle choices. China's economy, long powered by investment and exports, has been trying for years to transition to one driven by domestic consumption. Yet household spending remains low, contributing only a fraction of total GDP compared to other major economies.

The irony is striking: er mistrust of the future. Many of these young Chinese see restraint not as sacrifice but as strength ~ a conscious act of control in a system they cannot fully trust, where personal caution feels safer than collective optimism. The implications extend far beyond



scape has changed beyond recognition. The emergence of digital platforms has democratized access to information. But it has also given rise to an unprecedented crisis of credibility. Fake news, defined as false or misleading information disseminated under the guise of legiti-

mate journalism, has become one of the gravest challenges of the 21st century. The World Economic Forum has repeatedly listed misinformation among the top global risks to democracy and social cohesion. In India, where over 820 million people use the internet, misinformation spreads rapidly through social media algorithms that prioritize engagement over accuracy.

False reports, morphed videos, and unverified “breaking news” can provoke panic, damage reputations, and even incite violence. It has done so in the past. While the government and independent organizations have established fact-checking portals and awareness campaigns to combat fake news, real progress depends on media literacy and a revival of the Gandhian ethics of responsibility in journalism. Gandhi's principles – verification, context, and service to truth – offer enduring guidance amid this digital turbulence. Gandhi had warned against sensationalism and distortion, believing that the press should “restrain itself from running after momentary excitement” and instead “serve the cause of truth and justice.”

Female participation in the labour force has undoubtedly risen over the past few years. Rural women's WPR increased from 17.1 per cent in 2017-18 to 38.1 per cent in 2023-24, while urban female participation rose from 20.1 per cent to 36.3 per cent during the same period. Overall female WPR grew from 19.2 per cent to 33.8 per cent. The September 2025 data also fit neatly into this upward trajectory. However, the rising labour force participation rate does not necessarily imply economic empowerment. Economists Maitreesh Ghatak, Jitendra Singh, and Mrinalini Jha (The India Forum, “Quantity vs Quality: Long-term Trends in Job Creation in the Indian Labour Market”) show that much of India's post-2017 employment growth has come from self-employment, particularly unpaid family work, while the share of regular salaried jobs has declined.

Real earnings for the self-employed have largely stagnated or fallen. They argue that rising participation in precarious and low-earning work reflects necessity-driven entry into the workforce, rather than a broader expansion of quality employment opportunities

of reunification. Ms Takaichi's hawkish lineage ~ tracing back to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's doctrine of proactive defence ~ reflects a broader Japanese sentiment that passivity is no longer an option. Regional capitals are watching closely. South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia, all wary of Beijing's growing assertiveness, see Japan's shift as a sign that Asia's balance of power is unmistakably tilting. Washington's shadow looms large over this drama. Japan's tougher tone mirrors the United States' own shift from engagement to strategic containment of China.

As the Taiwan Strait becomes the most volatile flashpoint in global politics, Tokyo's alignment with Washington deepens. Yet, this raises a crucial question: is Japan strengthening

while Western economies struggle with overconsumption and debt, China's challenge is the opposite ~ too much saving, too little spending. Deflation compounds the problem. As consumers wait for prices to fall, businesses are forced to slash costs or delay expansion, further eroding growth prospects. This creates a psychological feedback loop: pessimism fuels thrift, and thrift reinforces pessimism. Without a sense of security ~ through stable jobs, social safety nets, or affordable housing ~ no amount of state stimulus can compel young citizens to consume confidently. Culturally, thrift is not alien to China; it runs deep in its social fabric.

for women. The percentage of women workers employed as regular waged workers fell from 21 per cent in 2017-18 to 15.9 per cent in 2023-24. Correspondingly, the percentage of unpaid household helpers increased from 31.7 to 36.7 per cent.



Additionally, the percentage of female workers employed as own-account workers increased from about 20 in 2017-18 to 30.7 in 2023-24. These trends hold separately for women in urban and rural areas as well. Regular waged work is generally considered the best form of employment, because it is associated with job and wage security.

These can point at a situation where there are no new jobs being created, as a result of which women are forced to enter the workforce as own-account workers or unpaid household help. While the figures can point at an increase in employment and decrease in unemployment, a disaggregation suggests that India has not been able to adhere to the ILO agenda of decent work. Decent work developed to provide productive opportunities as a process of poverty reduction. The four pillars of decent work – employment creation, social protection, rights at work, and social dialogue – seem to be lacking in the trends where women are often distress driven into employment. As a result, much of the work women undertake may be insecure, low-paid, and lacking the protections and opportunities necessary for

deterrence or merely accelerating confrontation? East Asia today is caught in a dangerous spiral where diplomatic restraint is giving way to open brinkmanship. Each rhetorical escalation chips away at the fragile balance that has kept the Taiwan issue from exploding into conflict. While Ms Takaichi's comments may be rooted in legal nuance, their political resonance cannot be ignored. Ultimately, Japan's new assertiveness reflects both courage and peril. By invoking its right to defend regional stability, Tokyo may indeed deter aggression, but it also risks provoking the very instability it seeks to prevent. In a region defined by pride, memory, and mistrust, words can sometimes carry the weight of warships.

But what was once seen as virtue may now be a constraint. For China's leadership, encouraging consumption means not only reshaping the economy but also rewriting emotional narratives about risk, trust, and ambition. The young are not rejecting prosperity; they are redefining it. To them, stability, savings, and self-sufficiency outweigh the fleeting thrill of material display. Until that mindset changes, China's dream of a consumption-led recovery will remain out of reach. The youth may yet drive the next economic transformation, but on their own terms ~ one modest meal and one careful choice at a time.

sustainable livelihoods. This pattern is not new. Between 1999-2000 and 2004-05, rural female labour force participation recorded an unusually sharp rise, a surge documented by Vinoj Abraham (EPW, “Employment Growth in Rural India:

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and DRDO Sign MoU to Develop Smart Tech Solutions for National Security

MoU Paves Way for Joint Research in Logistics, Chip Design, and Advanced Encryption Technologies (Gns).

A Memorandum of Understanding between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) was signed on November 17, 2025 in New Delhi in the presence of Dr. Samir V. Kamat (Chairman – DRDO, and Secretary of Defence R&D). GSV and DRDO joined hands to develop smart technological solutions for national security. Dr. Samir V. Kamat said on the occasion, “the collaboration is expected to facilitate the development of technological solutions for deployment aspects of indigenous defence systems.”

The MoU shall be a medium for collaborative studies and R&D directed toward the areas of Logistics Management, Operational logistics at tactical, operational and strategic level for analysis of concepts and validation of operational logistics plan, Chip Design & Hardware Security and Homomorphic / Block Chain based Encryption.

The key focus shall be to build capacities of researchers and scientists in the operational and military science domain, logistics management and technical research. Both organizations will be involved in conducting research, hold joint seminars/conferences, capacity building and round table workshops. Prof. Manoj

Choudhary (Vice Chancellor, GSV) and Dr. Lal Chand Mangal, (DS & DG(TM)) were the signatories.



The university already has strong collaboration with all the 3 defence forces viz. Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy for Logistics and Supply chain research and education. Therefore, the MOU with DRDO enables GSV to enhance its value

proposition for the sector through cutting-edge research.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's first University in the Transportation and Logistics sector, was established as a Central University by the Act of Parliament in 2022. Working under the Ministry of Railways (Govt. of India), the University covers the entire transportation sector including Railways, Highways, Ports, Aviation, Maritime, Shipping, Inland Waterways, Urban Transport and complete Logistics and supply chain networks. The university is headed by Sh. Ashwini Vaishnav (Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology) as the University Chancellor.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal Holds Bilateral Meeting with New Zealand Trade Minister to Further India-New Zealand FTA Negotiations

(Gns). Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal today held a bilateral meeting with New Zealand's Minister for Trade, Todd McClay, in Mumbai to advance discussions on the proposed India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The engagement marked an important step in the ongoing negotiations, with both Ministers focusing on convergence across key disciplines relating to trade in goods and services.

Both sides acknowledged that the recent round resulted in substantive progress, with closure



achieved on several elements and a clear shared understanding emerging on pathways to an early and

mutually satisfactory conclusion of the agreement.

The Ministers noted that bilateral merchandise trade between India and New Zealand reached USD 1.3 billion in FY 2024–25, registering a strong growth of nearly 49 percent. They emphasized that a comprehensive and well-balanced FTA would not only accelerate trade flows but also deepen investment linkages, strengthen supply-chain resilience, and

provide a transparent, stable, and predictable framework for businesses in both the countries.

Reaffirming their shared commitment to an ambitious and forward-looking partnership, both Ministers expressed confidence that the FTA has the potential to unlock significant opportunities across a wide range of sectors, including services, innovation, and technology collaboration. They agreed to sustain the constructive momentum and to intensify efforts in the coming weeks to facilitate an early, balanced, and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

First General Body meeting of the Earth System Sciences Council (ESSC), chaired by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in his capacity as President of the Council

5 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences brought under a single umbrella by merging five separate Societies into one
The days of working in silos are over, this exercise is in the spirit of 'Whole of the government' approach, often reiterated by PM Narendra Modi, says the Minister

Dr. Jitendra Singh Calls for Unified Governance and Stronger Public Outreach
Move Toward Single Annual Report Under Study as ESSC Reviews Streamlining of Parliamentary Submissions (Gns).

5 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences have been formally brought under a single umbrella by merging five separate Societies into one single called "Earth System Sciences Council" (ESSC). Expressing satisfaction over this development, Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the days of working in silos are over, this exercise is in the spirit of 'Whole of the government' approach, often reiterated by PM Narendra Modi.

The first General Body meeting of the Earth System

Sciences Council (ESSC), chaired by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in his capacity as President of the Council, focused on stream-



lining governance across India's earth sciences institutions and strengthening their public identity. During the meeting, senior officials discussed the transition of five separate institutes 5 autonomous bodies into a single coordinated framework under ESSC, a move aimed at improving efficiency, reducing administrative overlap and enhancing the visibility of earth system science initiatives.

Officials briefed the Minister on the ongoing inte-

gration process, noting that five autonomous institutions—earlier functioning with separate governing bodies, finance committees

emphasised the need for consistency and clarity in the new structure, particularly in how committees, designations and organisational charts are presented. He advised that official documents should prominently highlight ESSC to reinforce the Council's identity and ensure uniformity across institutions. He also encouraged the use of functional designations rather than individual names when listing committee members, especially for positions that may change frequently.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on improving public communication. Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that many institutions possess unique strengths—whether in ocean science, cryosphere research or atmospheric systems—but their identities often do not reach the public effectively. Citing examples from other scientific bodies, he suggested theme-based outreach campaigns that highlight specific achievements and help individual institutes build a stronger national presence.

Dr. Jitendra Singh

Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) can play crucial role in storing surplus green power, says Shri Manohar Lal; underscores role of state governments in development of PSPs

Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament for Ministry of Power discusses PSPs

224 GW PSP potential identified and projects at various stages of development (Gns).

The Ministry of Power convened today a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament at Pinnapuram, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh. The meeting that focussed on Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) was chaired by Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power. It was attended by Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Power, Members of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Power from Lok Sabha and

Rajya Sabha, senior officials from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and CPSUs.

Addressing the members, Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power emphasized that PSPs can play a critical role by storing surplus green power and meeting electricity demand during non-solar hours.

On the issue of evaporation losses from PSP reservoirs, the Minister suggested deploying floating solar power projects as a viable solution. He further underscored the pivotal role of State Governments in facilitating PSP development through timely site allocation, water allocation, and expeditious clearances. He

urged the Members of the Committee to engage with State Governments to consider withdrawal of charges



such as Green Energy cess, water tax, and reservoir lease fees, to accelerate the development of PSPs.

The Members of the Committee were informed that a nationwide PSP potential of approximately 224 GW has been identified. Of this, ten PSPs with a total capacity of around 7 GW have been commis-

sioned, another ten PSPs of about 12 GW capacity are under construction and fifty-six PSPs with a capacity of about 78 GW are at various stages of planning and development.

The Members were apprised of the key policy initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to accelerate Pumped Storage Project (PSP) development. These include the issuance of Guidelines for PSP development outlining modalities for site allotment, exemption from free power and Local Area Development Fund obligations etc., and a full waiver of Inter-State Transmission (ISTS) charges for 25 years for projects awarded on or before 30.06.2028.

NHAI Takes Initiative to Publish Updates for Under Bidding Projects on its Website

(Gns). Showcasing its commitment to enhance transparency, NHAI has published comprehensive updates detailing National Highway projects for which bids have been invited on its website. The details comprise of 55 projects, spanning around 2,269 km with a combined capital cost of Rs. 1,19,359 crores. By proactively disclosing this information on the public platform to the bidders and other stakeholders, NHAI aims to promote transparency in its project award process that will include public disclosure of approval and clearance related details. This initiative will ensure a level playing field for all bidders and will help to enhance Public Private Partnerships, more clarity in processes as well as lesser disputes and litigation.

The updated information

about the projects provides critical insights into key metrics such as project length, mode of implementation BOT/HAM/EPC, total

information will help in establishing clear status of the project, leading to realistic bidding and timely awarding of the projects. It



capital cost, approval status, land acquisition progress, as well as updates on environment, forest, and railway clearances of projects.

The project information will be updated every two weeks on the NHAI website, sharing approval and clearance details publicly. The

will also provide real-time access to upcoming opportunities and information on projects where bids have been invited, encouraging broader participation from the contractors and developers. Also, it will provide data-driven monitoring that will enable industry stakeholders and investors to

monitor project progress, strengthening oversight and confidence by demonstrating the scale and pace of National Highway infrastructure development.

The initiative will also strengthen public trust in National Highway development and regular updates will serve as a tool to monitor the advancement of projects, reflecting the Government of India's commitment to open governance and creating an efficient National Highway infrastructure.

The display of information about the projects on public platform underscores NHAI's focus on timely project roll-out and driving National Highway infrastructure growth in the country. By fostering transparency and accountability, NHAI continues to set higher benchmarks in National Highway development.

NABARD, IMAI, Join Hands for Earth Summit 2025-26 Earth Summit will serve as a dynamic global platform to drive policy outcomes

November 17th, 2025: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) have partnered to

across sectors will explore ways to bridge gaps between technology, finance, agriculture, and climate action, shaping a more sustainable and inclusive rural economy for the

progress. Our partnership with IMAI reflects NABARD's belief that inclusive development in villages can become the cornerstone of global transformation."

the series will be held at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, on November 20-21, 2025. The second edition of the conference-series will take place at Mahatma Mandir,



host the first edition of the Earth Summit 2025-26. The annual initiative, aimed at redefining the future of rural development, will feature a series of three conferences to be held in Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, and New Delhi between November 2025 and February 2026.

Centered around the theme 'Empowering Rural Innovation for Global Change', the Earth Summit will serve as a dynamic global platform to drive policy outcomes, investments, and collaborations that accelerate rural transformation. Visionaries and industry leaders from

world.

Sharing his perspective on the initiative, Shri Shaji K.V., Chairman, NABARD said, "The Earth Summit is a step towards building a future where rural innovation drives sustainable global growth. NABARD's vision has always been to strengthen the rural economy by connecting knowledge, technology, and finance to empower communities at the grassroots. Through this initiative, we aim to create a vibrant platform for collaboration, bringing together ideas, investments, and policy insights that can turn rural potential into real-world

Dr. Subho Ray, President, IMAI said, "The primary idea behind the Earth Summit is to chart a way forward to turn local innovation into lasting change, shaping a rural economy that is sustainable, equitable, and globally relevant. Anchored in India's phenomenal success with the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the conferences will demonstrate how inclusive innovation can scale across geographies, especially across the Global South. We are thankful to NABARD for being our partner in this unique annual initiative."

The first conference of

Gandhinagar, on December 5 and 6, 2025. Finally, the all-India final event of Earth Summit 2025-26 will be hosted in New Delhi in February 2026.

Over its three conferences the Earth Summit 2025-26 will convene policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, investors, innovators, startup founders, NGOs and members of the academia.

Besides speaking sessions, all three conferences under the summit will have a plethora of ancillary activities such as hackathons, startup-investor connect programmes, exhibitions, and product showcases.

Annual function held by shemford futurise school !

Saharanpur(report) famous school of district saharanpur shemford futuristic school Last night organised annual school function, according school principal madan vandana the annual function is a most impressive performance by many school students were musical stage show participate by loyal student Ayaan Khan(class vth b) with some school



student .shemford Futuristic School, a renowned school in saharanpur, held its annual function actually brav Ayaan Khan, a Class 5th b student, won accolades for his participation in a musical stage show.School Principal Mrs. Vandana and class teacher Madam Shweta Jain encouraged all the children who participated in the program.

FundsIndia Launches Digital Campaign #SmartParentMove to Promote Early Financial Planning for Children

17th November: On the occasion of Children's Day, FundsIndia, one of India's leading online investment platforms, has launched a digital campaign titled #SmartParentMove to encourage parents to start planning early and invest smarter for their child's financial future.

The campaign is built on FundsIndia's core philosophy and expertise in financial planning and investment, empowering parents to plan their child's future smartly through quick onboarding, single-login account management, and long-term, tax-efficient investing.

The campaign draws from a simple yet powerful insight: while parents dream big for their children, many delay financial planning until it's too late, often finding themselves caught between education and personal loans when major expenses arise.

#SmartParentMove reframes this narrative by positioning early investment as the true expression of love and foresight, emphasising the urgency of this responsibility. Through engaging

financially beneficial but also emotionally fulfilling, inspiring parents to take this step.

Mr. Akshay Sapru, Group CEO, FundsIndia, quotes, "We have all heard stories of parents who look

And sometimes, when loans aren't an option, it's the child's dreams that get sacrificed.We want to change that.

This campaign is created to help parents take charge early, to understand that small, consistent investments today can secure a stress-free tomorrow. Investing in your child's future now isn't just smart planning; it's one of the greatest gifts you can give them."

By combining emotional storytelling with practical financial insights, SmartParentMove reassures parents of the benefits of early planning, instilling confidence in their decisions. The campaign aims to create awareness among parents, inspiring them to transform their children's lives through wise financial choices and shift their focus from last-minute borrowing to long-term empowerment.



social media content, a short video, and podcast streaming, FundsIndia showcases the advantages of opening a Minor Investment Account, enabling parents to invest in their child's name, track goals, and enjoy seamless management under a single login. The campaign also highlights the tax benefits and power of compounding, which make early planning not just

back with regret, wishing they had started investing earlier for their child's future. Often, in the rush of daily life, parents postpone planning for their child's education. But time flies, and before you know it, your child is ready to chase his or her dreams. That's when many parents find themselves forced to take personal loans, pledge gold, or fall into debt just to make those dreams possible.

Dr Shahin key contributor in terror modules in India, say investigators

(Gns). As investigations by the Central probe agencies and the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) go deep into the Faridabad terror module and the Delhi blast case, officials claim that Dr. Shahin has emerged as a key alleged contributor in developing terror modules in India.

According to investigators, she is being examined for a potentially significant role in the Red Fort blast conspiracy.

Over the past two days, the UP ATS has reportedly questioned more than 24 individuals, with several suspects still in custody. These interrogations are focused on gathering information about Dr. Shahin and her brother, Dr Parvez, who is also under the scanner.

Sources here on Monday suggest that Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed allegedly funneled Rs 20 lakh to Dr. Shahin through hawala channels. Investigators are now attempting to identify the handlers and operatives who facilitated these transfers.

According to preliminary findings cited by officials, Dr. Shahin is believed to have traveled to Turkey in March 2022, where she allegedly met with foreign terror coordinators. Shortly after this trip, the hawala funds reportedly reached India. These funds were allegedly meant to help set up terror training centers and safe houses in Hapur and Saharanpur, sources claim.

Investigators have identified seven bank accounts linked to Dr. Shahin, three in Kanpur and two in Lucknow. Together, these accounts recorded transactions totaling Rs 1.55 crore, officials say. Agencies are now examining all individuals and entities involved in these financial exchanges.

In the last two days alone, UP ATS teams have questioned more than two dozen individuals in Kanpur, Lucknow, and other districts.

According to sources, the agencies have also intercepted chats show Dr. Shahin was referred to by the code name "Madam Surgeon" by alleged terror handlers.

She reportedly maintained contact with two women saved in her phone as Madam X and Madam Z, both using WhatsApp numbers without profile photos. Investigators are attempting to establish whether these women are based in India or Pakistan.

One WhatsApp message sent by Madam X in July allegedly mentioned arranging a meeting between Dr. Shahin and others. Another message showed Dr. Shahin telling Madam X that the "medicine" she requested would arrive soon. According to investigators, these terms were code words — "medicine" for explosives and "operation" for a terror attack.

In a separate message, Madam Z allegedly instructed Dr. Shahin to focus on "Operation Hamdard", which sources say referred to recruitment of women operatives.

Despite the serious allegations, those who have known Dr. Shahin described her as quiet and reserved person. Former colleagues recall she rarely spoke about her personal life, including her divorce, and worked long hours without taking leave. Officials say this contrast between her reserved public persona and the alleged covert activities has prompted them to closely analyze every aspect of her life.

The probe into the Faridabad module and the Red Fort blast case is ongoing. Teams continue to conduct searches, question suspects, and trace financial as well as digital communication trails. Agencies believe more arrests may follow as they identify the broader network linked to Dr. Shahin, Madam X, and Madam Z.



UP showcases GCC Policy in Mumbai, wins Investor confidence

(Gns). Invest UP convened a high-level investor outreach roundtable in Mumbai on Monday to showcase Uttar Pradesh's Global Capability Centres (GCC) Policy 2024 and its robust investor-facilitation ecosystem.

The meeting brought together industry leaders, real estate investors, multinational companies, and financial stakeholders to explore opportunities in GCCs, R&D centres, data centres, and advanced service hubs.

The session underscored Uttar Pradesh's competitive advantages—a powerful mix of fiscal incentives, abundant talent, world-class connectivity, and hands-on facilitation. Investors noted that this combination significantly reduces the time from intent to operations, positioning Uttar Pradesh as India's next major GCC hub.

Alok Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development, said: "Uttar Pradesh is uniquely positioned to drive India's next wave of high-value growth. With a young population, modern infrastructure, and competitive costs, the state offers a future-ready environment for investors. Our vision is anchored in a deep talent pipeline and seamless facilitation that ensures friction-free execution."

Shashank Chaudhary, ACEO, Invest UP, added, "The UP GCC Policy 2024 is designed to attract knowledge-intensive and R&D-led investments. From payroll subsidies and IPR reimbursements to capital and land support, the policy lowers early-stage risks while enabling scale. Coupled with our single-window Nivesh Mitra system and dedicated relationship managers to streamline approvals and enhance ease of doing business, investors experience faster decision cycles and predictable governance."

Industry leaders, including Anuj Chopra, COO of Haier India, praised Uttar Pradesh's emphasis on innovation and technology-driven growth. Participants reaffirmed their interest in co-developing campuses, data centres, and talent-linked facilities, noting that policy clarity and proactive facilitation are transforming investor curiosity into concrete commitments.

Rajiv Goyal, Senior Vice President at Havells India, expressed strong appreciation for the progressive investment climate in Uttar Pradesh. Several other GCC players were also present and highlighted their interest in the state's job-ready talent pool, robust infrastructure, and the incentives offered by the government.

By connecting financial institutions, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), occupiers, and service-sector leaders with Invest UP teams, the Mumbai outreach leveraged the city's corporate ecosystem to translate strategic discussions into land and project-level commitments—reinforcing Uttar Pradesh's emergence as a future-ready destination for global capability centres and innovation-led growth.



SP leader Azam Khan, son get seven-year jail term in fake PAN card case

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 each on them. Following the verdict, police detained Azam Khan and Abdullah in the courtroom.

(Gns). A Special MP-MLA court here on Monday dealt a major blow to Samajwadi Party leader Mohamnad Azam Khan and his son, Abdullah Azam, sentencing them to seven-year jail term in the fake PAN card case.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 each on them. Following the verdict, police detained Azam Khan and Abdullah in the courtroom.

Special Judge Shobhit Bansal delivered the verdict after reviewing documentary evidence, bank records, and the testimony of income tax officials.

The court verdict is one of the 104 cases filed against Azam Khan. So far, the court has delivered verdicts in 12 cases. Azam Khan has been convicted in seven of these cases and the two at the Civil Lines police station. He alleged that Azam had obtained two PAN cards based on two different birth certificates to enable his son Abdullah to contest the elections.

Based on his original date of birth, January 1, 1993, Abdullah was ineligible to contest the 2017 elections. He had not yet attained the age of 25. Therefore, Azam obtained a second PAN card, showing his birth year as 1990.

BJP MLA Akash Saxena, who was present in the court when the verdict was delivered, told media persons that "I consider this a victory of truth. All the cases against Azam are based on paper evidence. There is no case without evidence against him. That is why the court sentenced him. Whoever has done wrong will be punished."

Azam and Abdullah have been sentenced to seven years in prison under Section 467. They also received one year in prison under Sections 120B, three years each under Sections 468 and 420. The court also sentenced them to two years in prison under Section 471.

Azam's lawyer appealed for the case to be dismissed, calling the allegations of fake PAN cards baseless.



Rajasthan seeks share of surplus Ravi water from Makoura barrage and Pong dam

Addressing the 32nd meeting of the North Zone Council in Surajkund, Faridabad, CM Sharma also urged the Centre to ensure the development of a digital elevation model to assess the additional flow of Sutlej-Beas waters into the Pong Dam downstream, following the increase in the reservoir's gauge (capacity) from 1000 ft to 1400 ft.

(Gns). Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said that the surplus Ravi water proposed to be stored in the upcoming Makoura Pattan Barrage in Punjab's Gurdaspur district should be shared with Rajasthan in accordance with the 1981 Interstate Water Agreement.

Addressing the 32nd meeting of the North Zone Council in Surajkund, Faridabad, CM Sharma also urged the Centre to ensure the development of a digital elevation model to assess the additional flow of Sutlej-Beas waters into the Pong Dam downstream, following the increase in the reservoir's gauge (capacity) from 1000 ft to 1400 ft.

He also emphasised the inclusion of works aimed at bringing Yamuna water from Hathni Kund to Rajasthan—under the Renuka Ji, Lakhwar, and Kishau National Projects—and requested central funding for these works.

The Chief Minister also outlined target achievements of his government and assured that Rajasthan would make all necessary contributions toward realising the national goal of "Viksit Bharat by 2047."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah presided over the meeting. Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, in his capacity as Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh; Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha; Delhi Lt Governor V. K Saxena; Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta; Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini; Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann; Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu; Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta participated in the meeting.



Salkhan's Billion-Year-Old story comes alive as scientists begin field study in UP's Sonbhadra district

(Gns). A two-day scientific study has begun at Salkhan Fossil Park in Sonbhadra, where some of Earth's oldest traces of life lie exposed on sunlit rock surfaces.

A team from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow, is documenting stromatolites, layered structures formed by ancient cyanobacteria that are considered among the earliest fossils on the planet. The visit is part of the MoU between the UP Eco-Tourism Development Board and BSIP, State Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said here on Monday.

With support from the DFO Kaimur, BSIP's Centre for Promotion of Geoheritage and Geotourism, led by Dr Shilpa Pandey, recorded stromatolite formations nearly 1.4 billion years old. She engaged with villagers and tourists, highlighting why this site is globally significant and needs careful conservation.

Team member Dr Sanjay Singh guided university students through the park, explaining how stromatolites formed, their scientific importance, and their rarity worldwide. The interaction aimed to spark curiosity among young learners about geoheritage.

Minister Jaiveer Singh said that Salkhan Fossil Park, set amid Sonbhadra's natural landscapes, is one of India's most important geological heritage sites. The UP Eco-Tourism Development Board has recently developed interpretive signage, fencing, a nature trail, resting points, and drinking water facilities to balance visitor access with the protection of delicate fossil surfaces.

Salkhan Fossil Park is already on the global map. In June 2025, it was added to UNESCO's Tentative List under the Natural Heritage category, and efforts are underway to advance its nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List, which would bring international recognition to this rare pre-historic treasure.



Himachal seeks permanent BBMB membership, reasserts 7.19% Chandigarh share

He was speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, held in Faridabad, Haryana, on Monday, which was chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.

(Gns). Reasserting Himachal Pradesh's rightful claim in hydropower governance, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu urged the Centre to appoint a permanent member from the state to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), calling it essential for transparency, equitable benefits, and safeguarding Himachal's legitimate interests.

He was speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, held in Faridabad, Haryana, on Monday, which was chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.

The Chief Minister reiterated Himachal Pradesh's entitlement to a 7.19 per cent share in Chandigarh's Sukhu sought the immediate release of BBMB's pending dues and pressed agenda for the Council's next meeting.

He further urged that hydropower projects in the state that have completed 40 years be handed over to Himachal Pradesh. He sought full central funding for the power components of the Kishau and Renuka dam projects and demanded equal sharing of electricity between Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand once the projects become operational.

Raising concerns over the growing vulnerability of hill states, the Chief Minister called for revising disaster relief rules and updating pre- and post-disaster management norms.

He emphasised the need for a unified and sustainable development framework for northern states, given the rising frequency of climate-induced natural disasters and the resulting economic and human losses.

A coordinated and region-specific strategy, he said, was essential to protect the fragile mountain ecosystem and the livelihoods dependent on it.

Highlighting Himachal's strategic location and tourism potential, Sukhu sought expanded air connectivity across the state.

He said the government was working to upgrade Kangra Airport to international standards and urged the Centre to bear the land acquisition costs, fully fund the project, and prepare a dedicated master plan for developing small airports and heliports.

The Chief Minister also proposed establishing a high-altitude research centre, an ice hockey stadium, an adventure sports centre, and other specialised facilities.



Significant improvement on border situation with China: Army Chief

(Gns). Issuing a blunt warning to Islamabad, Army Chief General Upender Dwivedi on Monday declared that India will respond decisively to anyone supporting terrorism. Without directly naming Pakistan, he remarked that even if the Army receives a bairang chitti (anonymous letter), it is enough for them to know "whom to respond to."

Emphasising that India has consistently prioritised development and cooperation, the Army Chief said that state-backed terrorism leaves New Delhi with no option but to act.

"We are talking about progress. We are talking about moving forward together. So whatever obstacle comes in our way, we will have to deal with it. terrorism cannot go hand in hand."

Urging Pakistan to choose peace, he added, "We are simply saying that you should adopt the path of peace. We will support it too. Until that happens, terrorists and their leaders will be treated equally by us."

General Dwivedi stressed that India will not succumb to coercion of any kind. The COAS asserted that India is strong enough not to fear blackmail.

Calling Operation Sindoor just a trailer, he said, "The movie hasn't even started. Only the trailer was shown. The trailer ended in 88 hours.

