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## PM Modi receives warm welcome from Indian community in Johannesburg

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday received a rousing welcome from the Indian community in Johannesburg upon his arrival for the G20 Summit. In a series of posts on handle X, PM Modi expressed his gratitude and delight, saying, "Deeply touched by the warm welcome from the Indian community in Johannesburg. This affection reflects the enduring bond between India and South Africa. These ties, rooted in history and strengthened by shared values, continue to grow even stronger!"

The Indian community showcased their cultural heritage with a vibrant performance, featuring folk dances from 11 Indian states. PM Modi praised

their efforts, saying, "India's vibrant cultural diversity on display in South Africa! Members of the Indian community took the lead in showcasing folk dances from 11 states of India dur-

ing a short cultural programme aptly titled 'Rhythms of a United India.'" The community also



young friends sang the Ganapati Prarthana, Shanti Mantra and other divine prayers with great devotion.

Such moments reaffirm the enduring bonds between our people."

The Indian community's

enthusiasm and warmth have been a hallmark of PM

Modi's visit, highlighting the strong people-to-people

ties between India and South Africa.

## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will inaugurate Tana Riri Mahotsav on 22 November in Vadnagar

**Renowned Artists will Present Classical Singing and Folk Music Over the Two-Day Event**

Gandhinagar, November 21, 2025: Tana Riri Mahotsav is celebrated every year in Vadnagar, Mehsana. This year, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will inaugurate the festival on November 22. The Tana Riri Sangeet Samman Award will be presented to Sushri Kalapini Komkali, a renowned Indian classical vocalist. Classical singing, instrumental performances and folk music programmes will

be held during the two-day event from November 22 to 23. On the second day, Shri Pravin Mali, Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Road Transport, Government of Gujarat, will be the chief guest of the event. To preserve & nurture the historic musical tradition of Vadnagar, Shri Narendra Modi, then Chief Minister & current Prime Minister, initiated Tana Riri Mahotsav in 2003 and Tana Riri Sangeet Samman Award in 2010. The festival is held in the fond memory of the legendary musical sisters Tana & Riri. The mahotsav is organised by the Gujarat State Sangeet Natak Academy, under the Department of Sports, Youth & Cultural Activities. Musical Evenings

On the first day of the

programme, at 6:30 in the evening, Sushri Kalapini

Subhadra Desai will present classical singing, Shri



Komkali will present classical singing, followed by a classical music performance by Shri Niladri Kumar, a folk music presentation by Sushri Ishani Dave. On the second day, Dr

Ninad Adhikari and his team will perform classical music and Shri Parth Oza and his team will present folk music.

Tana & Riri: A Revered Legacy in Gujarat's

Musical History Tana and Riri, the daughters of Sharmishtha (granddaughter of the revered poet and a Krishna devotee, Shri Narsinh Maheta), are remembered for their remarkable contribution to Gujarat's musical tradition. When a legendary singer, Tansen, sang Raag Deepak and suffered through intense burning, sisters Tana & Riri, soothed it by singing Raag Malhar. However, to uphold the dignity of their extraordinary art, Tana & Riri sacrificed themselves. In their memory, and to preserve, nurture and celebrate their legacy, Tana Riri Shastriya Sangeet Mahotsav has been held annually since 2003 at the Tana Riri Samadhi Sthal in Vadnagar.

## Nagar Kirtans commenced from four directions to conclude at Sri Anandpur Sahib on November 22: Harjot Singh Bains

(Gns). Education and Information & Public Relations Minister Harjot Singh Bains on Friday said that the Nagar Kirtans, in commemoration of 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, started from all four directions will be reaching at Sri Anandpur Sahib on November 22.

He said that grand welcome by showering flower petals would be extended to all nagar kirtans by large number of sangat gathered across the globe. He said that Nagar Kirtans had started from Srinagar, Gurdaspur, Faridkot and Talwandi Sabo with a total travelling of 1563 km. He said the adequate arrange-

ments had been made in view of large number of sangat expected to mark



the 350th martyrdom day.

Meanwhile, Tourism and Cultural Affairs Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond said that all arrangements had been put in place to faculties sangat reaching from across the country and foreign shores. On the directives of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann requisite preparations and arrangements

had already been ensured at holy city of Sri Anandpur Sahib by the Punjab government, he added. The religious functions and congregations would be organised from November 23 to 25 at larger scale including holding special session of Vidhan Sabha.

Pertinently, the light and sound shows depicting the great life and philosophy of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji were being organised in all 23 districts of the state and Kirtan Darbars were arranged in Baba Bakala, Amritsar and Patiala.

Giving details of series

of events to be held from November 23 to 25, Bains said that on November 23, Sri Akhand Path Sahib will be initiated at Gurdwara Sahib near Baba Budha Dal Chaunni at Sri Anandpur Sahib, in which the Chief Minister and other dignitaries will participate. Similarly, the Chief Minister will also inaugurate an exhibition depicting the life and achievements of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji at the Virasat-e-Khalsa Memorial. On the same day, an all-religion conference will be organized by the state government at the main pandal Baba Budha Dal Chaunni, where eminent religious personalities and other dignitaries will participate.

## Rajasthan adopts GCC Policy to make state global hub of innovation and investment

(Gns). The Rajasthan government has adopted the Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy-2025 that aims to project the state as an excellent global hub of innovation and investment.

However, the ultimate goal is to decentralise this process of development beyond tier-II cities, taking it down to block and rural levels, and to create lucrative job avenues at all local levels.

Accordingly, Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur will be developed as GCC hubs, and 200 Global Capability Centres — one in each of the state's 200 assembly segments — will be set up by 2030, Industries Minister

Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said.

He said that an array of



"We target to generate employment avenues for 1.5 lakh youth through these GCCs and aspire to contribute significantly to India's total GCC market of USD 100 billion," Rathore

incentives, as per the provisions and clauses of the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS-2024), would be given to GCC promoters.

These include capital

investment subsidy, land cost incentive, payroll subsidy, and rental assistance, all admissible in accordance with the prescribed terms and provisions. A number of other concessions or incentives, including training assistance and relief in taxes and duties, will also be provided, the Industries Minister said.

The state cabinet on Wednesday approved the policy for implementation in the state.

With the above sops, the government aims to attract multinational corporations and global companies to set up or expand their GCCs for functions such as IT, R&D, and finance.

## BJP's membership drive will continue: Shah to Shinde on poaching charges

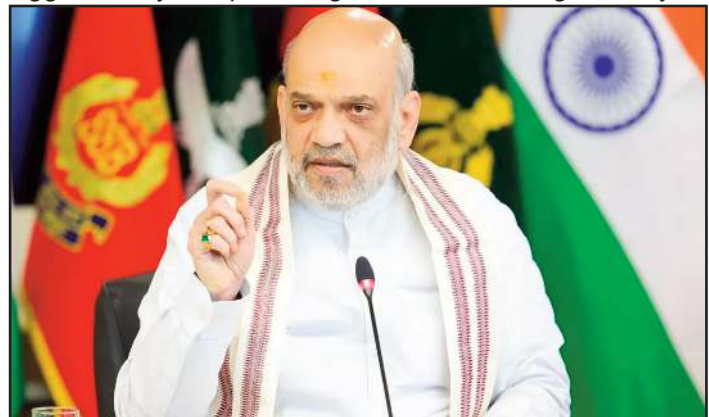
(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah reportedly told Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde that the BJP is a national party in power at the Centre, and its efforts to expand membership would not stop but only continue, after Shinde complained about "poaching", sources said on Friday.

Sources said that after Thursday night's incident where BJP leader Narayan Pawar allegedly beat up Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leaders Haresh Mahadik and Mahesh Lahane in Thane, the political relationship of the two parties is only likely to deteriorate further.

According to sources,

Shinde met Shah in Delhi and complained to him against Maharashtra BJP president Ravindra Chavan aggressively poaching

given to his ministers in the BJP-led Mahayuti government, due to which his ministers even boycotted a cabinet meeting recently.



Shinde's Sena leaders as local civic body elections are near, as well as the "step motherly treatment"

Sources said that Shah gave Shinde a patient hearing but told Shinde that if he was worried about his

men joining the BJP, then he must control his men rather than blaming the BJP. Shah also told Shinde that since the BJP is a national party which is in power at the centre and the state level, it is only natural that people would want to join the BJP.

Shinde was told that nobody can stop anybody from joining the BJP and that every party has a right to expand its membership, sources said.

Shinde was also told that the BJP's national top brass plans to form a government on its own strength after the 2029 Maharashtra assembly elections, without any support from any other party.

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देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार  
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही  
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये



## Editorial

### Toxic Shield

Every winter, as smog folds itself over north India like a thick, abrasive blanket, citizens turn to their phones for the day's most essential number: the Air Quality Index. Yet the figure they see depends less on the air they breathe and more on the monitor they choose. Official platforms stop abruptly at 500, while private and global trackers show levels climbing far beyond, into ranges that defy the imagination and certainly defy safe living. This discrepancy is not just a technical quirk; it reflects a deeper institutional reluctance to acknowledge the scale of urban air toxicity.

The cap at 500 was introduced more than a decade ago, on the assumption that anything beyond this point was uniformly catastrophic. The logic was simple ~ once breathing becomes hazardous for everyone, finer distinctions hardly matter. But this logic no longer holds, if it ever did. When pollution spikes to multiples of the official ceiling, the difference between bad, worse and unthinkable becomes crucial for meaningful public-health guidance. The problem is compounded by a monitoring framework that has not evolved in step with technology or scientific understanding. India's official network relies on reference-grade instruments that physically measure particulate mass.

These devices are robust but slow, expensive and limited in number. In contrast, private platforms draw on sensor-based tools that estimate particle counts using newer optical methods. While imperfect and prone to drift, these sensors offer a denser, more granular map of pollution trends. What India lacks is not data, but an updated system capable of harmonising different measurement technologies into a coherent, graded risk scale. The result is a strange, almost surreal landscape where the environment is worsening, yet the official numbers appear frozen at the top end of the scale. This flattening of extreme pollution into a single "severe" category does more than obscure reality ~ it dulls public urgency and weakens political accountability. When a city hits 900 or 1,000 on non-government monitors, the distinction is not cosmetic.

It indicates a sharp escalation in toxicity that demands proportionately aggressive responses, from emergency health advisories to temporary movement restrictions. The absence of an updated AQI also erodes trust. Citizens today are more informed, more anxious and more connected than when the AQI was first designed. They can see the sky, smell the air and cross-check readings across multiple apps. When the government's scale appears capped by convenience rather than science, the credibility gap widens. Revising the index is no longer a matter of academic debate; it is a public-health necessity. India needs an AQI that reflects current knowledge, incorporates modern sensors and removes the artificial ceiling that hides the true depth of the crisis. Transparent data will not clean the air, but it will sharpen the country's will to demand solutions. The air may have a season, but accountability should not.

When the United Nations General Assembly declared November 21 as World Television Day in 1996, it was acknowledging a simple truth: no invention in the 20th century altered human perception, politics, culture, and consciousness as profoundly as television. Today, long after its birth, the debate continues ~ is television an idiot box that numbs us or a magic box that enlightens us? Perhaps it is both, as Marshall McLuhan foresaw when he declared that "the medium is the message." Television did not merely transmit information; it transformed societies by its very existence. McLuhan famously argued that television is an extension of the human senses, especially sight and hearing, turning viewers into participants in a shared cultural experience.

He classified it as a "cool medium," one that demands emotional involvement and interpretation. Unlike the printed word, which is analytical and detached, television immerses. It pulls people in, forms communities of viewers, and creates the global village ~ a world where distances shrink, cultures converge, and information flows instantly. India witnessed this firsthand when Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana aired in the late 1980s. It became the world's largest communication experiment. Streets emptied, families gathered, neighbours sat together, and for 45 minutes every Sunday morning, a country of a billion people shared a single emotional universe. It was the arrival of mass-line communication in its purest form, long before

social media existed. Television became India's biggest informal education tool, teaching values, icons, and national identity through collective viewing.

Television did something else: it turned geopolitics into a living-room experience. The 1991 Gulf War, broadcast live by CNN, was a turning point. For the first time in world history,

aspirations on MTV, Nickelodeon, and Star World as easily as they encountered local serials on Doordarshan. A child raised on Shaktimaan quickly shifted to Captain Planet, and a generation learned American humour from Friends while still following Indian soaps. Television became a blender of cultures, often



war unfolded in real time before global audiences. Missiles streaking across Baghdad were not military secrets; they were prime-time visuals. A tea shop owner in Kerala or a bus conductor in Jaipur suddenly understood international alliances, oil politics, and the American military machine. Television shrank the globe and democratized access to world affairs. But with globalization came another phenomenon: cultural homogenisation. Concepts like "McDonaldization" and "coco-colonisation" describe how television-driven consumer culture spread everywhere ~ from food habits to fashion, language to lifestyles.

Oriental traditions encountered occidental

flattening differences into globally recognisable formats. As India liberalised in the 1990s, satellite television arrived, breaking Doordarshan's monopoly. The explosion of private channels changed everything ~ news became competitive, entertainment diversified, and ideological battles began to play out on air.

Television was no longer just a cultural force; it became a political force. And this is where Noam Chomsky's Manufacturing Consent becomes crucial. Chomsky, along with Edward Herman, argued that mass media in capitalist democracies serves not as a watchdog but as a propaganda system ~ subtly manufacturing public consent for political and

economic elites. Their "propaganda model" identified filters that shape news: ownership by corporate conglomerates, dependence on advertising, political alliances, reliance on official sources, and orchestrated flak against dissenting voices. Although conceived in the context of American media, the model fits many countries today, including India.

The political economy of television reveals that most major news channels are owned by large business houses, corporate groups, political allies, or religious organisations. In such a system, the newsroom does not operate in ideological isolation.

Editorial lines often reflect the priorities of owners, advertisers, and political patrons. The agenda-setting function of television ~ deciding which issues dominate public discourse ~ becomes a powerful tool. Media may not tell people what to think, but it certainly tells them what to think about. This agenda-setting power is visible in the way television frames debates, highlights controversies, sensationalises events, or ignores inconvenient truths. Channels sometimes function as echo chambers of partisan narratives, and the line between journalism and propaganda blurs. The rise of "Murdochism" ~ named after Rupert Murdoch's media empire ~ captures this phenomenon: sensationalism, polariza-

tion, and political influence blending into a single communication model. Yet despite criticism, television retains a unique emotional power that no other medium can replicate.

It creates national moments that bind people together ~ a cricket victory, a moon landing, an election result night, a natural disaster broadcast live, a leader addressing the nation. These are moments of unity, empathy, and shared civic experience. McLuhan's global village comes alive in these flashes of collective emotion. Television also reinvented intimate political communication. Franklin Roosevelt's fireside chats showed how leaders could speak directly to citizens, bypassing intermediaries. In India, similar moments are visible in televised addresses from national leaders where millions tune in simultaneously. Television becomes not just a medium but a mass-line link connecting rulers and the ruled. However, the rise of OTT platforms and web series has disrupted traditional TV. The magic box has moved from the living room to the pocket. Streaming services offer global stories, uncensored creativity, and cinematic quality.

A viewer in Chennai binge-watches a Korean drama; a student in Delhi explores a Spanish thriller; a family in Bengaluru watches a Malayalam web series trending in Canada. OTT platforms have liberated content from geographical boundaries and time schedules, personalizing the television experience. Artificial Intelligence has accelerated this transformation. Recommendation

engines curate what viewers watch. AI-generated graphics dominate newsrooms. Virtual anchors are emerging in many countries. Automated translation and dubbing make multilingual content instantly accessible. Television is no longer a single screen ~ it is a distributed digital ecosystem. Yet traditional television still matters. Rural India continues to rely heavily on TV for information, entertainment, and education. Election campaigns still revolve around prime-time debates.

Major sporting events are still mass television experiences. In crises ~ wars, pandemics, natural disasters ~ television remains the primary source of live, trusted updates for millions. Television's future lies in a hybrid world where satellite TV, OTT platforms, AI-driven content, and interactive technologies coexist. But its responsibility remains unchanged. In a noisy era of information overload and political polarization, television must strive to uphold truth, pluralism, and credibility. Calling television an "idiot box" misses the deeper truth. It can certainly dull minds when consumed unthinkingly. But it can also enlighten, educate, unite, and empower. It can be a teacher, a storyteller, a mirror, a cultural archive, and yes, sometimes a manipulator.

When around 1.42 billion people watched the last World Cup football final live in crystal-clear clarity, television proved once again that it remain the wo world's most powerful window to shared human emotion. On this World Television Day, as screens glow across cities and villages, it is worth remembering that television has not merely shown us the world ~ it has shaped the world. It has brought wars, epics, revolutions, science, entertainment, heartbreaks, and hope into our lives. It has influenced public opinion, shaped political destinies, and created cultural history. It has made us global citizens and informed participants in a rapidly changing world. Television remains both a mirror and a magnifying glass ~ reflecting society while enlarging its truths, myths, aspirations, and anxieties. The box may evolve, the medium may transform, but its magic remains as luminous as ever, one frame at a time.

## India's new labour codes presents a critical opportunity to strengthen domestic resilience and advance inclusive

(Gns). Amid growing global economic uncertainty, the implementation of India's new labour codes presents a critical opportunity to strengthen domestic resilience and advance inclusive growth. As the world's fourth-largest economy, India stands at a juncture where realising the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat will depend not only on expanding manufacturing or technological capacity but also on building inclusive and resilient institutions. True self-reliance lies in creating an economy where every citizen, particularly women, can participate meaningfully in the growth story. India has made notable strides in this direction.

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24, the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for women aged 15 and above has increased from 22.0 per cent in 2017-18 to 40.3 per cent, while the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has climbed from 23.3 to 41.7 per cent over the same period. These figures mark a significant narrowing of the gender gap in labour market participation and signal a shift towards greater economic inclusion. Yet, a substantial share of women remains excluded from the workforce, and many of those employed continue to be concentrated in the informal sector, facing low wages, limited job security, and minimal access to social protection. From agriculture and domestic work, to home-based enterprises and gig platforms, informal employment often reinforces economic vulnerability and inequality. The recent codification of India's labour laws into four comprehensive codes offers a unique opportunity to address these gaps.

By focusing on formalisation, protection, and equal access, these

reforms aim to lay the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient labour market. India is not alone in this pursuit. Several developing countries including Vietnam, Indonesia, Egypt, and Mexico have undertaken significant labour law reforms to enhance women's participation. These include expanding

gender-based discrimination in both pay and working conditions, directly impacting women's participation in the labour force.

The Code on Wages (2019) reinforces the principle of "equal pay for equal work" by explicitly prohibiting gender-based discrimination in recruitment and wages. Importantly, it uni-

their male counterparts. For instance, states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab, Bihar, Goa, Himanchal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh etc. have already lifted the night shift bans, resulting in an increase in female employment without negatively affecting male employment, particularly in larger, export-oriented firms. This suggests that the inclusion of women in night shifts could significantly expand opportunities for formal sector employment.

However, working during night hours presents unique challenges, especially concerning safety. Acknowledging this, the OSH Code ensures that women are only employed for night shifts with their consent and that adequate safeguards are in place. Employers are required to provide safe transport, separate toilets, and other safety mechanisms, including measures to prevent sexual harassment. This shift represents a move away from the traditional, paternalistic approach that restricted women's work hours under the guise of protection. Instead, it empowers women by offering them choice and autonomy within a framework that prioritizes their safety and dignity. Another key factor that impacts women's ability to work in the labour market is the double burden of work they face, having to balance both paid work, and domestic and child care responsibilities.

According to estimates by the International Labour Organisation in 2023, 748 million people (aged 15 or older), most of whom were women, were unable to participate in the global labour force because of

care responsibilities. Additionally, there is a need for women-friendly infrastructure that addresses the differential gender-specific needs of women and men at the work place. The OSH Code establishes minimum standards for health, sanitation, restrooms, and creche facilities across sectors, addressing longstanding infrastructure gaps that have deterred women from employment, particularly in manufacturing, mining, and construction. In particular, the provision for mandatory creche facilities in establishments employing more than 50 workers, while not new, gains enforceability through codification.

## India's electoral politics has entered a phase where welfare and populism have fused

India's electoral politics has entered a phase where welfare and populism have fused so tightly that it is increasingly difficult to distinguish social protection from strategic inducement. The just-concluded Bihar elections offer the clearest evidence yet. The ruling alliance's Rs 10,000 cash transfer to women ~ credited directly into over one crore bank accounts ~ effectively reshaped the political landscape. The scheme's estimated cost, reportedly exceeding Rs 12,000 crore, was justified as empowerment.

But the timing, scale, and electoral impact left little doubt that it was also designed as a decisive political instrument. On top of this, Bihar's broader package of pre-poll promises ~ including free electricity, enhanced pensions, and youth support schemes ~ pushed the total estimated outlay to roughly Rs 33,000 crore. For India's poorest state, already grappling with a high debt load and a widening fiscal deficit, this was a political gamble financed by shrinking



developmental elbow room. This is not an isolated trend. Last year, Maharashtra attempted a similar political calculus through the "Ladki Bahin" scheme, which promised Rs 1,500 per month to eligible women. While presented as a boost for household incomes, the scheme's financial architecture proved fragile from the outset. Its projected annual cost ~ estimated by some researchers at up to Rs 46,000 crore ~ was decidedly beyond what a fiscally stressed state could sustain.

The aftermath revealed deeper governance problems: an audit uncovered more than 26 lakh ineligible or duplicate beneficiaries,

implying over Rs 1,000 crore in questionable payouts. Once the electoral cycle ended, the programme had to be pared back, quietly acknowledging a mismatch between political ambition and financial reality. These episodes illuminate a structural problem: welfare has become the battleground on which elections are won, but without the financial discipline required to keep states solvent. India's social needs are vast and real, and targeted support to women can indeed strengthen economic agency. Yet the emerging pattern shows handouts expanding not in response to policy assessments but to political com-

petition. As a result, state budgets are contorted to accommodate one-time gifts rather than long-term investments. Money that could support public health, rural infrastructure, irrigation, or school quality is increasingly diverted into headline-grabbing giveaways that offer immediate but fleeting political dividends. The greatest danger is not the existence of welfare, but its distortion. When every election triggers a new escalation in cash transfers, states lose the ability to plan, invest, and build.

Fiscal deficits widen, borrowing rises, and development slows ~ ironically hurting the very citizens these schemes claim to uplift. As more states head to the polls next year, the incentives to outspend rivals on pre-election largesse will only intensify. India must confront this new reality honestly. A democracy that spends beyond its means to buy consent today risks diminishing the opportunities of tomorrow.







# Delhi blast probe reveals plans to use J-K hospitals as weapon hubs

(Gns). A disturbing strategy to use hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir as safe havens for storing arms and explosives has been uncovered by investigative agencies probing the November 10 Delhi blast case, sources said on Friday.

They added that the tactic bears a direct resemblance to Hamas's documented use of medical facilities in Gaza.

According to sources in the National Investigation Agency (NIA), a module of the Jaish-e-Mohammad terror group, linked to the Red Fort blast, was actively conspiring to establish major weapon storage centers within hospitals in technical support from Hamas to the Jaish module.

confirmed during the interrogation of Dr. Adil Rathar, arrested by the NIA in connection with the Red Fort blast. The so-called "doctor terror module" was allegedly planning to convert hospitals in Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramulla, and Nowgam into storage sites for deadly weapons.

Following this crucial disclosure, security forces conducted significant raids on several hospitals in the Union territory. These operations led to the recovery of weapons from the lockers that belonged to the accused doctors, confirming the Intelligence, the sources added.

The probe was initiated after intelligence inputs pointed to growing proximity between cadres of the two terrorist organizations. The plot was further



Baramulla, Anantnag, and Budgam districts. This major revelation emerged during the ongoing NIA investigation, which is also examining potential

# Geetanand Maharaj : Geetanand Maharaj's 21st death anniversary on 23rd

Mathura. The 21st death anniversary of national saint Geetanand Maharaj will be celebrated with grandeur on 23rd November at Geeta Ashram located on Gandhi Marg, Vrindavan.

Geetanand Maharaj became famous across the country by donating Rs 11 lakh to the Prime Minister's Fund during the Kargil war and Rs 11 lakh through his trust to help the victims during Covid. In the program, KN Govindacharya, former think tank and general secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party's organization, will come to Vrindavan to pay floral tributes to SS Kulshrestha, former High Court judge and well-known religious leader Brahmalin Rashtra Sant Geetanand Maharaj. Mahamandaleswar Dr., head of Mumukshu Mandal and Geeta Ashram VrindavanSwami Rishikanand Maharaj told that a large number of disciples and followers of Maharajshree living in countries like America, England, Canada etc. will participate in this grand event. On this occasion, woolen clothes, blankets etc. will be given to thousands of sadhus and the needy. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, November 23 from 10 am to 11:30 am. After that Bhandara will start from 11:30 am. Dr. Swami Rishikanand told that Brahmalin Saint Geetanand Maharaj had tried to help every section of the society through public welfare works at the last moment of his life. He was a great saint of North India who had darshan of God from time to time and whose area of work extended beyond the ashrams established by him in different parts of the country as well. The basic mantra of his worship was Prabhu Tum Harau Janan Ki Peer. Swami Geetanand Maharaj told the society through sermons on Geeta how man can serve mankind through his work and sadhana. Whoever came to Maharajshree got such peace of mind that Anupayati Geeta Ashram of Vrindavan became a place of pilgrimage for him.



ciples and followers of Maharajshree living in countries like America, England, Canada etc. will participate in this grand event. On this occasion, woolen clothes, blankets etc. will be given to thousands of sadhus and the needy. A memorial service

# At Hyderabad edition of Earth Summit 2025-26, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister reiterates government's firm commitment towards prosperity of farmers

Earth Summit is an initiative by NABARD & IMAI to empower rural innovation and showcase transformative solutions from innovators, farmer collectives, women entrepreneurs, and local communities.

November 21, 2025: Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, speaking at the inaugural session of the Hyderabad edition of Earth Summit 2025-26 on the topic 'Towards an Inclusive Economic Future: Empowering Rural India through Reform and Innovation', said that the Telangana government's investments in irrigation, digital crop records, and post-harvest systems are helping restore confidence among rural families. "These steps reflect our government's commitment to stand with the farmers not only in times of crisis, but also in their everyday journey towards prosperity," he added.

Talking about the government's vision towards rural growth, he further added: "All our efforts in Telangana, including digital infrastructure, agritech, fintech, renewable energy, and incubation networks, are part of one integrated vision - Rural growth must be exponential not incremental."

Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Marketing, Co-operation, and Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Telangana, reaffirmed the government's unwavering support. He said, "Agriculture is the foundation of our economy, and for India's progress, we must strengthen our farmers through innovation, technology, and collective effort. The state government is ready to provide all necessary support to build a strong cooperative and new imaginations, to create exponential growth.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. Their involvement reflects a coordinated effort to strengthen rural development through technology and policy alignment.

Centered around the theme 'Empowering Rural Innovation for Global Change', the Hyderabad edition is being held at HITEX Exhibition Centre on November 20-21, 2025. It will host 2,000+ attendees, 80+ speakers and panelists, 50+ exhibitors, 25+ sessions, participation from 15 States and UTs, and 1 flagship hackathon.

Day 1 of Earth Summit in Hyderabad will feature an expansive line-up of keynotes, fireside chat, panel discussions and impact sessions with notable voices from the government including Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu (Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana), Mr. Tummala Nageswara Rao, (Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Marketing, Co-operation, and Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Telangana), Mr. Shaji KV, Chairman (NABARD), Mr. Subho Ray, President (IAMAI), Mr. G S Rawat, Deputy Managing Director (NABARD), Mr. Chinmoy Kumar (Regional Director, RBI, Hyderabad), Mr. Ashish Choudhury (Chief Investment Officer, NAB-VENTURES) etc.

Earth Summit 2025-26 Highlights: Estimated Delegates – 10K; Speakers – 500+; Exhibitors – 250+; Workshops / Masterclasses / Showcases – 30+; Hackathons – 2



marketing system that benefits every farmer." Highlighting the need for a resurgence in the cooperative ecosystem and talking about next-gen agricultural needs, NABARD Chairman, Mr. Shaji KV, said, "Rural Finance 2.0 architecture is being devised and driven by NABARD." This will be integrated with digital real-time Kissan Credit Card and loans will be underwritten by data and not physical files. "We are working with the Government of India and the state governments, including the Telangana Government in digitising the cooperative ecosystem," he added.

Talking about the potential of the rural economy, Mr. Shaji KV, said, "Rural India today has to become the real engines of growth. But for this, we need to fix two things - Developmental challenges, which can't be solved just by incremental changes, and the opportunities that cannot be unlocked by old tools or traditional thinking." He emphasized the requirement of new systems, new institutions, new digital architectures, new partnerships, and more importantly,

# BJP slams Cong for honouring ex-UN head Michelle Bachelet

(Gns). The BJP on Friday reacted sharply to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi presenting the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development to former Chilean president and ex-UN Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet.

Criticising the Congress, party spokesman Gaurav Bhatia accused it of being "an army of traitors".

He also objected to the presence of Congress leader Jagdish Tytler at the ceremony, questioning if Sonia felt any empathy for the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

"The Congress' DNA is anti-India. It presented the award to Michelle Bachelet, who attacks India's sovereignty. This is not Mahatma Gandhi's Congress. This is the Congress party that stands with anti-India forces and murderers," he said, calling the opposition party "an army of traitors"

Bachelet received the 2024 prize from Sonia Gandhi at an event in Delhi on Wednesday.

The BJP's opposition to honouring Bachelet stems from comments she made in 2019 expressing concern about the security lockdown in Jammu & Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370.

Describing the Congress as "anti-India," Bhatia questioned why Sonia and Rahul Gandhi overlooked the fact that the NRC process in Assam was carried out under a Supreme Court directive. "Who is this woman (Bachelet) to say that this NRC will spread unrest if implemented," he asked.

Criticising Sonia Gandhi's decision to present the award, Bhatia said she had honoured someone who "insults the Indian Constitution" and engages in "anti-India activities." He also went on to allege that the act showed Gandhi valued "her birthplace" over India, adding that "the religion she follows is everything for her."

Bhatia alleged that the party was endorsing someone who had undermined India's sovereignty. Bachelet had criticised both the removal of Article 370 on human-rights grounds



2024 prize from Sonia Gandhi at an event in Delhi on Wednesday. The BJP's opposition to honouring Bachelet stems from comments she made in 2019 expressing concern

# Entrepreneurs participate in RCM's Transformation Yatra; overwhelming public support in Lucknow

Lucknow, November 21: Since the launch of RCM's nationwide Transformation Yatra, millions of entrepreneurs have joined, marking a significant milestone in the company's people-driven growth journey. The Yatra's latest stop was Lucknow, where thousands of citizens actively participated in various community activities promoting health, service, and values.

Given the participation of millions of people in Lucknow and several cities previously organized, it is estimated that this 75-city Yatra could reach approximately one million people by the time it concludes on December 23, 2025.

Youth, women, and families enthusiastically participated in the Lucknow event. They donated blood and learned about healthy lifestyles and self-reliance. The collective enthusiasm of the people was a testament to their coming forward not just to attend, but to contribute selflessly—a testament to how the Yatra is inspiring people to act on the three core pillars of Swasthya (Health), Seva (Service), and Sanskaar (Sanskara).

Uttar Pradesh holds a special place in RCM's development journey. The state has always demonstrated a strong affinity towards RCM's initiatives, reflecting the faith and social commitment of its people.

Since the launch of the Transformation Yatra on September 16, 2025, more than 20,000 people have joined the RCM family, further strengthening the company's network of over two million active Associate Buyers. This number is expected to grow further as the Yatra progresses to other cities. This expansion of the company's network not only reflects people's growing trust in affordable and high-quality products, but also reflects RCM's efforts to provide sustainable self-employment opportunities to women, youth, and entrepreneurs.

The special blood donated served nutritious and delicious dishes from RCM

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lions across India and pave the way for a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come."

As the Transformation Journey moves towards its next milestone, the energy and inspiration it has left in Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh will continue to drive new development and community well-being. RCM will maintain this positive momentum and continue its people-centric initiatives in Lucknow.

About RCM Consumer Products Pvt. Ltd.: Starting with a single textile product in 2000, RCM has today grown into a ₹2,400 crore enterprise. The company currently offers over 400 products and has a network of over two million active associate buyers. The company's distribution network spans over 10,000 retail stores and 170 depots.

RCM has three state-of-the-art manufacturing plants located in Bhilwara, Guwahati, and Roorkee. These plants are supported by a dedicated Research and Development (R&D) wing, ensuring that each product meets the highest standards of health and safety.

The company's popular brands include Health Guard, Keysol, Vyomini, Swichha, Naisa, Shinol, Cavigo, Ena, Pear-It, Authenza, Ovira Paints, Pixi, Trikara, Revito, Nutricharge, Good Dot, Harit Sanjivani, Gamma Oryzanol, Petron, etc. These brands are available across various categories such as food and grocery, healthcare, personal care, home care, fashion, cosmetics, lingerie, hygiene, footwear, paints, nutritional supplements, and agricultural products.

RCM actively contributes to society through its "RCM Seva" initiative. Under this initiative, many social activities like value-based education, women empowerment, water and energy conservation, drug de-addiction awareness, blood donation camps etc. are organised.

maintain unity and focus within the party ranks.

His statement comes amid rumors about leadership changes within the Karnataka Congress, as the party seeks to maintain stability and project confidence ahead of upcoming electoral challenges.

The Congress party in Karnataka has been grappling with internal tensions and widespread speculation about its leadership, as swirling rumors of a "November Revolution" dominate headlines. However, senior party leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have sought to quell the unrest, reinforcing their commitment to stability and governance.



tion camp saw overwhelming participation, surpassing 2,000 donors so far during the Yatra. The program also included public awareness activities to encourage citizens to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. The Yatra was given a grand welcome by the people of Lucknow. Thousands attended the event held at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School Ground, Kanpur-Hardoi Link Road, near Shakuntala Mishra University, Sarosa, Lucknow. The impact of the Yatra is reflected in the stories shared by the participants. One participant, who donated blood after two decades, described it as a highly satisfying experience. Another participant shared that learning about the health benefits of rice bran oil was a new learning for them. The event was held in two parts: health and service-related activities were held in the morning, while celebrations and cultural performances were held in the evening. A transformation fair was also organized to introduce people to the diverse experiences of RCM. Visitors experienced RCM's extensive product portfolio through interactive booths, including a health zone with Nutricharge and Gamma products, and a Keysol pavilion for women's apparel and footwear. The food court

# Cong accuses K'taka BJP, media of running maligning campaign

Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress General Secretary in charge of Karnataka, Friday accused the Karnataka BJP and certain sections of the media of orchestrating a deliberate campaign of tarnishing the image of the Congress government in the state.

He made these remarks following discussions with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, emphasizing the resilience of the Congress-led administration despite political challenges. His observations come following rumors and speculations in some sections of the media of a leadership upheaval.

Surjewala stated on his official X handle, "Had a discussion with Karnataka CM and Deputy CM and they agreed that a decisively defeated and faction-ridden Karnataka BJP, along with a section of the media, are designedly running a maligning campaign against Karnataka and its Government. The sole idea is to undermine the stellar achievements and 5 Congress Govt Guarantees, which have become an outstanding model of inclusive development and distributive justice."

He also addressed internal party dynamics, noting, "The needless statements of some Congress leaders and MLAs have added to the speculation. INC has sternly warned them from making any public statements on the issue of leadership or falling for the agenda being propagated by vested interests."

Surjewala further added that the leadership has taken note of opinions from various party functionaries, signaling ongoing efforts to



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