



Spiritual organisations should contribute to nation-building: Prez

(Gns).

Lauding the preachings of spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who inspired his followers to follow the path of service, President of India Droupadi Murmu on Saturday reminded that nation-building was the duty of all organisations, including spiritual and charitable ones and NGOs.

She said that the spirit of putting the "Nation First" would ensure that India becomes a developed nation by 2047, on the centenary of India's independence.

The President attended the special session to commemorate the centenary celebration of Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, in Andhra Pradesh.

Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, the President said, "Sri Sathya Sai Baba emphasised the belief that 'Service to Mankind is Service to God.' He exhorted his devotees to follow this ideal. He oriented spirituality with selfless service and personal transformation."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba inspired millions to follow the path of service. It is a matter of satisfaction that his devotees in so many countries are serving the underprivileged and the needy. Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message of selfless love through selfless service is inspiring the Sri Sathya Sai service organisations to volunteer for service."

She spoke of the quality education imparted by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust to students, free medical care,

public welfare.

The President pointed out that nation-building was the duty of all organisations,



and finally providing drinking water to thousands of drought-affected villages in Rayalaseema of AP and Tamil Nadu. The President said Sri Sathya Sai Baba oriented spirituality towards

guided by the spirit of putting the "Nation First". Spiritual organisations, too, can make a significant contribution to this. The Government of India was taking numerous steps to

make life easier and simpler for citizens, enabling them to utilise their talents and abilities for the nation's development.

"All charitable organisations, NGOs, the private sector and citizens should contribute to these efforts

of the Government of India. Their contribution will be helpful in achieving our goal of making India a developed nation by 2047," said the President.

Earlier in the day, the President of India was received by Andhra

Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu at Puttaparthi airport as she arrived from Hyderabad. She offered prayers at Sathya Saibaba Maha Samadhi at Sai Kulwant Hall in Prasanthi Nilayam and also lit the universal

torch of peace.

In Hyderabad, Telangana governor Jishnu Dev Varma and chief minister A Revanth Reddy bade her farewell at Begumpet Airport after her day-long visit.

VP Radhakrishnan, HM Shah, other VVIPs converge in Ranakpur to attend high-profile wedding

(Gns).

A galaxy of the country's top leadership, including Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and governors and ministers from various states, converged at the Lalbagh resort on Saturday to bless Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur's granddaughter Komal on the auspicious occasion of her wedding.

Since it was a daytime marriage ceremony, the dusty yet monumental Ranakpur zone remained a

hub of hectic VVIP movement throughout the day. While Vice-President Radhakrishnan arrived at the Lalbagh Ranakpur helipad in the morning, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached the venue later in the afternoon.

Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot had been in Ranakpur since Friday, and Assam Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya also arrived early on Saturday.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade and several dignitaries, including the host, Mathur, were



present at the helipad to receive Vice-President Radhakrishnan.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Deputy CM Diya Kumari, and several minis-

ters also arrived on Ranakpur Road in the afternoon. CM Sharma personally received Home Minister Shah, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi, and other distinguished political leaders.

Elaborate security arrangements were put in place across the Pali district, especially in the Sadri-Ranakpur Road area.

Five helipads were set up in the Ranakpur Road area to facilitate VVIP movement. Drone flying was prohibited in the area on Saturday and Sunday.

Governor Mathur hails from Bedal village near Falna in the Pali tehsil of Pali district.

Uddhav Sena daily claims 35 Shinde MLAs will join BJP soon

(Gns).

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's Marathi daily morning newspaper 'Saamna' published an editorial in its Saturday edition, claiming that 35 MLAs from Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena will join the BJP soon.

"Maharashtra BJP state president Ravindra Chavan has placed a big stick of jaggery in front of Eknath Shinde and his men. Shinde's jaggery sticks to the BJP's stick."

'Operation Lotus' has begun to show Shinde his place by luring away his men. Amit Shah could not help but laugh at Shinde's complaint that 'Ravindra Chavan lured our people by paying a huge amount'.

That Shinde, who lured others and himself, should express concern about others luring his people, is indeed a big joke," according to an editorial in 'Saamna'.

"It is certain that BJP will fight elections without Eknath Shinde in the coming days. BJP created a 'party' and now BJP itself has started preparations to bury it. It is clear that at least 35 MLAs from the Shinde group will join the BJP. BJP broke Balasaheb Thackeray's original Shiv Sena through 'Operation Lotus'. Shinde was the mastermind of that split. Now Shinde's party itself is

being chipped away as part of a second Operation Lotus," the 'Saamna' editorial stated.

"The drama currently going on in Maharashtra does not need to be taken seriously. Deputy Chief



Minister Shinde met his real party chief Amit Shah

in Delhi and complained about Chief Minister Fadnavis and BJP state president Ravindra Chavan that they are breaking my party and buying my men by paying money. But Amit Shah laughed at Shinde's complaint," the 'Saamna' editorial stated.

According to the 'Saamna' editorial, after Shinde asked Shah why he laughed Shah replied, "Who is breaking whose party? Basically, your party is what we, the BJP, created by breaking it. You broke it. We recognised it as a party. So why do you use the language of 'party' etc? Whatever party you have is a sub-branch of the BJP. Shinde, please understand the chronology.

PM Modi meets South Korean President on G20 sidelines, focuses on boosting economic ties

(Gns).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday met with South Korean President Lee Jae-myung on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, reaffirming their commitment to strengthen bilateral relations.

The meeting marked the second between the two leaders this year, underscoring the growing momentum in their Special Strategic Partnership.

"We exchanged perspectives to further deepen our economic and investment linkages," PM Modi said in a post on handle X, highlighting the focus on boosting trade and investment

technology, defense, and infrastructure. India and

to increase its stake in India's growing market.

The leaders discussed ways to take their partnership to the next level, building on existing agreements like the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Modi and Lee emphasized the importance of collaboration in emerging technologies, including semiconductors and renewable energy.

The meeting reflects India's growing engagement with key partners in the Indo-Pacific region, as it seeks to bolster its economic and strategic interests.



ties.

The meeting comes amid efforts to enhance cooperation in areas like

South Korea have been working to diversify their trade and investment portfolios, with Seoul seeking

Akhilesh Yadav demands more time for SIR drive, alleges conspiracy by ECI & BJP

(Gns).

Demanding more time for the SIR drive, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday accused the Election Commission and the BJP of working in tandem to prune the SP's vote base ahead of the 2027 elections.

He also claimed that the present SIR exercise was being conducted to influence next year's assembly elections in West Bengal.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Yadav said his party has received information that preparations are underway to remove approximately 50,000 votes in the assembly constituencies where the Samajwadi Party won in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

He also claimed that an

audio clip purportedly featuring the Kannauiy SDM has gone viral, which, he said, further exposes the conspiracy. He demanded

the Samajwadi Party won in 2024. We have alerted our workers about this conspiracy. The same plan is being implemented in West



that the EC issue a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the SIR process.

Akhilesh Yadav said, "The BJP and the Election Commission are jointly preparing to cancel 50,000 votes in the seats where

Bengal as well."

The Samajwadi Party chief alleged that efforts to remove opposition voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) are not new, but are now being carried out in a more

organised manner. He said his party is conducting regular booth-level reviews, and workers have been instructed to ensure that every voter's name is correctly listed.

The SP President demanded extension of the time allotted for the SIR exercise, saying that conducting it during the wedding and farming season was inappropriate.

"BLOs aren't going door-to-door. The SIR drive is being conducted without proper preparation, and BLOs haven't even been trained. When the BJP began losing ground on issues and public opinion, they resorted to SIR to win. In Bihar, six million names belonging to RJD supporters and other opposition voters were deleted," he alleged.

Decoding Dhankhar's reemergence, cryptic 'chakravayuh' remark and RSS' praise

(Gns).

In his first public address since his surprise resignation as the country's vice-president, Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday lavished praise on the RSS, an organisation with which he has no formal past, and made a cryptic warning about dangers of being trapped in narratives—a "chakravayuh" that is difficult to escape.

Delivering the keynote address at the launch of senior RSS leader Dr Manmohan Vaidya's book Hum Aur Yeh Vishwa, he said, "I cannot skip my duty for catching the flight, friends. My recent past is proof of it," when a man approached him during the

event to remind him of his return flight to Delhi.

Dhankhar also remarked, "We live in an age where perception dictates everything, no matter how much you deny it. We are in the era of information warfare; god forbid anyone gets caught in the trap of narrative. Once one gets caught in this chakravayuh, it is very difficult to get out. I'm not citing my own example."

Dhankhar praised the RSS for its works for humanity and global welfare.

"This book is an eye-opener and dismantles the long propaganda and continuously propagated myths

portraying the RSS as ultra-right and anti-minority. They have even gone to the



extent of linking it to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. The untenability of all this now stands fully exposed, but they are still sticking to it," he said.

Last seen at the swearing-in ceremony of CP Radhakrishnan as the new

vice-president, Dhankhar being invited as key speaker at the book launch of the sahsarkaryawah of the RSS raised instant interest. Dhankhar announced his participation at the event via a post on X — a social media platform he appears to have joined only this November.

The post drew immediate attention because it marked his first public engagement since his unexpected resignation on July 21, which he attributed to health concerns.

His abrupt exit triggered intense speculation in Delhi's political circles with opposition taking on the BJP on his sudden absence from public life.



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हिन्दी



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Jio Fiber



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ebaba TV



Dish Plus



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प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Editorial

Uneasy Acceleration

The global artificial intelligence boom has entered a phase that feels both historic and unsettling. On one hand, the technology is maturing at a pace few could have imagined even three years ago. On the other, the money rushing into the sector ~ across chips, models, data centres, and speculative partnerships ~ has begun to resemble the financial manias that have punctuated earlier waves of technological change. When industry leaders themselves caution that elements of the current frenzy veer into irrationality, it is worth stepping back to examine the trajectory. The core tension lies in AI's dual identity as both a general-purpose technology and a speculative magnet.

The former is undeniable: AI is already reshaping creative work, logistics, healthcare, and education. The latter is visible in the staggering valuations placed on companies whose revenues remain dwarfed by the scale of investments pledged in their name. In some corners of the sector, the ratio of hype to fundamentals mirrors that of the late-1990s internet surge. That episode ultimately led to a painful correction, even though the underlying technology went on to transform the global economy. Drawing that parallel does not imply a perfect replay, but it does signal that exuberance and disillusion often travel together in the early years of powerful innovations. Yet one must also acknowledge the real strategic competition unfolding among the world's largest technology companies.

The players that control the full chain ~ from semiconductor design to proprietary datasets, from massive compute clusters to consumer-facing platforms ~ enjoy a structural advantage that can buffer them from market volatility. Their long-term horizon allows them to invest in frontier science and infrastructure even if the broader market cools. Smaller firms, by contrast, depend on venture capital cycles and are far more vulnerable to sudden contractions. Beyond questions of valuation, the physical footprint of AI is emerging as a challenge. The energy required to train and deploy the latest models is no longer a marginal issue. AI systems now consume a measurable share of global electricity, and the expansion of data centre capacity will intensify this demand. Governments eager to host AI investment must grapple with the reality that inadequate energy infrastructure can become a hard brake on digital ambition.

This introduces a paradox: societies want the productivity gains promised by AI, yet the energy required to power these gains risks delaying climate targets and straining power grids. The disruption to labour markets adds another layer of complexity. Jobs are unlikely to vanish, but few professions will remain untouched. The workers who learn to incorporate AI tools into daily practice will thrive; those who resist adaptation may find the ground shifting under their feet. This transition will require thoughtful policy to ensure that opportunities outweigh dislocations. What is unfolding is not simply a technology cycle but the early architecture of a new economic era. The turbulence may be unavoidable, but so too is the need for sober governance and realistic expectations.

Bihar adopted one of India's most ambitious social interventions

Nine years after Bihar adopted one of India's most ambitious social interventions, its prohibition law stands at a crossroads between symbolism and lived reality. What began as a moral and political project ~ to protect households from addiction, domestic violence and financial ruin ~ has produced a complicated legacy, one in which the goals of reform collide repeatedly with the limits of enforcement. The state's resolve is undeniable. Raids continue with clockwork regularity: officers crossing rivers at dawn, sniffer dogs leading them through sugarcane fields, and makeshift distilleries being torn down. Yet the same sites spring back to life within days. It is a pattern so persistent that officials themselves openly acknowledge it. When nearly all convictions under a stringent law are for consumption rather than production or trafficking, it becomes clear that the system is designed to trap the vulnerable while allowing the supply chains to regroup and adapt. That imbalance is partly structural. Bihar is surrounded on three sides by states where alcohol flows freely, and it shares a long, porous border with Nepal that has become a dependable route for smugglers. Geography is not destiny, but in this case it stacks the odds heavily against any clean prohibition experiment.

Even so, the political support for prohibition endures, particularly among women who witnessed firsthand how alcohol could hollow out their homes. Widows who lost husbands to toxic brews still argue passionately for an uncompromising stance. Their grief anchors the moral argument for prohibition, reminding policymakers

why the ban was introduced in the first place. For many families, reduced consumption has indeed improved financial stability, education outcomes, and day-to-day peace.

But these gains coexist with an equally stark reality: the proliferation of unsafe liquor, the deaths that periodically follow, and a thriving black market that extracts its own tax from the poorest. The question is no longer whether prohibition has noble intentions ~ it clearly does ~ but whether it has been implemented in a way that balances those intentions with practical governance. The larger Indian context offers no easy comfort. States that imposed prohibition decades ago still grapple

with bootlegging, while others such as Tamil Nadu have rolled back bans after encountering fiscal and administrative strain.

Bihar's journey is not unique; it simply exposes the deeper dilemma inherent in all such policies. As the state prepares for another term under a government committed to maintaining the ban, it must confront a difficult truth: prohibition cannot succeed through policing alone. Without addressing the incentives that fuel illicit production, strengthening institutions, and recalibrating the law to target networks rather than consumers, Bihar risks clinging to a policy that achieve less than it promise while costing more than it appears



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water that blankets our planet, nearly every drop ~ 97.43 percent

(Gns).

Of all the water that blankets our planet, nearly every drop ~ 97.43 percent ~ is saline. Freshwater, the lifeblood of civilization, makes up a fragile 2.57 per cent, and of that, rivers ~ the veins that nourish cities, crops, and ecosystems ~ account for a vanishingly small 0.002 per cent. It is this microscopic share, shimmering through our landscapes and sustaining every forest, farm, and life form, that humanity depends upon for its very survival. Despite humanity's perilous dependence on this sliver of freshwater, the world's response to deepening water crises remains astonishingly narrow.

From parched cities and vanishing aquifers to conflicts, collapsing canals, and climate-driven extremes, the planet's mounting emergencies have done little to expand our gaze beyond this tiny fraction of the Earth's reserves. Consider this: as the global population surges from 8 billion today towards nearly 10 billion by 2050, the demand for food, energy, and water will soar to unprecedented heights. Groundwater reserves, the planet's hidden lifelines, are in alarming retreat, while the strain on rivers, lakes, and reservoirs deepens by the day. UNICEF warns that half of humanity already lives under conditions of water stress. In India, the situation is especially dire: according to NITI Aayog, nearly 600 million people ~ about 45 per cent of the population ~ were grappling with severe water scarcity as early as 2020. By 2030, demand is expected to outstrip supply by nearly twofold. To make matters worse, the country's aging dams and decaying infrastructure are further choking an already dwindling freshwater reserve.

One reason humanity remains trapped within the narrow confines of freshwater dependence lies in a deep-rooted perception: that saline water ~ with total dissolved solids above 1,000 milligrams per litre ~ is inherently unusable for drinking, farming, or industry. This belief, rarely questioned, has become a global blind spot. The result is a dangerous paradox ~ an escalating crisis born from humanity's obsession with the finite, while ignoring the boundless potential of the saline. Even as the global water crisis deepens, the global collective response remains trapped in a silo ~ conserving, reallocating, and recycling the same tiny finite freshwater reserves.

Ambitious research that could liberate humanity from its dependence on freshwater remains scarce, confined largely to desalination plants or isolated trials in saline agriculture. The staggering reality that 98 per cent of Earth's water is saline has not yet triggered the paradigm shift. Instead, humanity continues to chase dwindling freshwater reserves instead of learning to replace or even partially substitute them with saline sources. This inertia, more than hydrological limits, lies at the heart of the global freshwater crisis.

The freshwater crisis, therefore, is less a failure of hydrology and more a crisis of mindset. It is not a shortage of water, but of wisdom, a crisis born not from nature's limits, but from humanity's intellectual poverty. Paradoxically, such as Porphyr, Monostroma, Enteromorpha, Laminaria japonica, kombu, and wakame have long formed the backbone of traditional diets ~ supplying essential inerals and proteins without tapping freshwater reserves.

Economically, many freshwater-dependent crops have saline-water counterparts. Mangrove species such as Rhizophora and Ceriops provide high-quality fuelwood, while salt-tolerant varieties of Prosopis offer durable timber. Halophytes are now emerging as powerful alternatives for the future of food, fuel, and industry. Thriving in saline water, they can produce grains, biofuels, and edible oils, offering sustainable substitutes for freshwater-guzzling crops like corn, sugarcane, and palm oil. Even saline-tolerant varieties in floriculture and horticulture are opening new economic frontiers.

To avert the looming water catastrophe, humanity must break its fixation on freshwater domain and embrace the vast saline reserves that envelop the planet. A conceptual tool to guide this transformation is the "saline water footprint" ~ the total volume of saline water employed in producing goods and services. With agriculture consuming 80 to 90 per cent of global freshwater, substituting freshwater-intensive crops with saline-tolerant analogues, advancing saline-based alternatives from staple crops to culinary delicacies and industrial products could dramatically expand the saline water footprint while conserving precious freshwater within its finite 2.5 per cent share.

Nearly 38 per cent of the world's population ~ some 2.9 billion people ~ live within 100 kilometers of a coastline, and with the global shoreline stretching over 2.4 million kilometers (excluding Antarctica), the potential to harness saline water is immense. Climate change is further expanding salinity's reach. So, clinging exclusively to freshwater is no longer a viable path for humanity. However, realizing this potential requires a fundamental paradigm shift ~ a collective reorientation of policymakers, governments, researchers, investors, and citizens alike to recognize saline water not as a limitation, but as a vast, untapped asset.

Global water policies must move beyond fragmented trials and integrate diverse strategies ~ desalination, seafood consumption, halophyte cultivation, saline-based agriculture into a unified saline water footprint framework. Such an approach would enhance, monitor, and scale saline water use while driving research and innovation. So, as long as humanity remains fixated on a narrow 2.5 per cent slice of freshwater while ignoring the oceans at its doorstep, the freshwater crisis will remain insolvable. With over 11,000 kilometers of coastline and confronting its own mounting water challenges, India has an opportunity to lead the world toward a "saline century," setting an example for resolving freshwater scarcity once and for all.



Chhattisgarh school heads asked to monitor stray dogs, DPI order triggers widespread criticism

(Gns).

A directive issued by the Chhattisgarh Directorate of Public Instruction (DPI) placing the responsibility of monitoring stray dogs on school principals and headmasters has triggered sharp criticism from educators and political representatives, who have termed the move impractical and misdirected.

As per the order, the head of every government school has been designated as a nodal officer responsible for identifying and reporting the presence of stray dogs within school premises and surrounding areas. The instruction requires school authorities to coordinate with municipal bodies and submit periodic reports to facilitate preventive action wherever required.

The DPI has defended the decision by citing concerns over the increasing movement of stray dogs during midday meals, which, according to the department, has led to a rise in dog-bite incidents. Officials maintain that the measure is in line with Supreme Court observations that called for urgent steps to curb stray dog academic management and student welfare.

The issue has also drawn political response. Senior Congress leader Sushil Anand Shukla criticised the move, stating that the responsibility of managing stray dog populations lies with civic bodies, not educational institutions. "Despite having trained personnel and infrastructure, municipal authorities are shifting their duties onto teachers. After BLO and SIR assignments, now educators are being asked to monitor stray dogs. This reflects a serious disconnect from the basic priorities of the education system," he said.

The order has since generated significant debate on social media platforms, with several teachers questioning the logic behind the decision and viewing it as another example of administrative overreach. Many have argued that while campus safety is essential, the solution lies in strengthening municipal animal control mechanisms rather than burdening school functionaries.

It is noteworthy that the Supreme Court has previously flagged the rising presence of stray dogs in public places and institutions as evidence of systemic failure and directed the concerned authorities to take firm and immediate corrective measures.

With opposition growing and voices urging reconsideration, the directive has reignited a broader conversation on the expanding scope of non-academic duties imposed on teachers and the impact this trend could have on the quality of schooling in the state.



CPI(M) says SC advisory on Governor's powers 'disappointing'

(Gns).

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has expressed strong disappointment over the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on the powers of Governors under Article 200 of the Constitution.


In a statement, the party's Polit Bureau said the opinion will only encourage the "assault on the rights of states" due to the over-centralisation of powers in the hands of the Centre, the statement read.

The party took particular exception to the suggestion that Governors have discretionary powers in dealing with bills passed by state legislatures and that no time limits can be set. "By stating that Governors have discretionary powers... the opinion will only encourage the extra-constitutional powers Governors are exercising in opposition-ruled states," the CPI(M) said.

The party also criticised the suggestion that a Governor is not bound to give assent to a bill adopted a second time by a state legislature, saying this could lead to indefinite delays. "The Governor can instead refer the bill to the President and thereby get it indefinitely delayed," the statement said.

The CPI(M) welcomed the limited relief given by the Supreme Court, which allows for judicial intervention in cases of prolonged inaction by Governors on pending bills. However, it described this as "ambiguous and vague" due to the lack of definition on what constitutes prolonged inaction or delay.

The party concluded that the Supreme Court advisory "is devoid of any constitutional checks and balances on the arbitrary functioning of Governors who are acting as political agents of the Centre."




electoral politics has entered a phase where welfare and populism have fused so tightly

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

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



electoral politics has entered a phase where welfare and populism have fused so tightly

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, 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 commitment.

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.

Western railway cracks down on fraudulent ticketing, multiple cases detected during october & november 2025

Mumbai, Western Railway has intensified its vigilance against fraudulent ticketing to ensure safe, transparent, and fair travel for all passengers. During October–November 2025, Western Railway’s alert Ticket Checking Staff detected four significant fraud cases involving forged mobile tickets, fake reserved tickets and misuse of concessions.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, strict action was taken in all cases and the passengers involved were handed over to the Government Railway Police (GRP) for further

legal proceedings.

In the first case, Pradeep Kumar, Ticket checking staff, detected a digitally altered mobile ticket in an AC suburban local, where a Rs. 15/- ticket had been fraudulently altered using digital editing tools and made in to a season ticket. The manipulation was identified during routine checking, and the passenger using the forged ticket was detained and handed over to the GRP.

The second case was detected by Mohammad Zahid Qureshi, Ticket checking staff, during checking in a long-distance train. Two non-eligible passengers were found travelling on tickets booked under the Handicapped

(HP) quota. The fare details had been tampered to avail concession benefits despite being ineligible. Both passengers were immediately deborded and handed over to GRP officials.

The third case was jointly detected by Mohammad Zahid Qureshi and Abdul Aziz, Ticket checking staff, in a mail/express train. A fake Tatkal reserved ticket, purchased at an inflated rate from an unauthorized agent, was identified during checking. The passenger admitted to having procured it through illegal means and was consequently handed over to the GRP.

In the fourth case, Sai

Prasad, Ticket checking staff, detected a digitally edited mobile ticket in an AC suburban local. The QR code and key ticket details were found to be tampered using unauthorized graphic tools. The fraudulent nature of the ticket was confirmed upon inspection, following which the passenger was detained and handed over to GRP personnel.

Western Railway urges passengers to purchase tickets only through authorised channels such as the UTS App, IRCTC App, PRS/UTS booking counters etc. This ensures genuine travel documents and protects passengers from falling prey to fraudulent elements.

Central agencies can intervene in Sabarimala gold loot case : George Kurian

(Gns). Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Minority Affairs, George Kurien on Saturday said the central investigation agencies can legally intervene in the Sabarimala gold loot case.

Speaking to the media in Kozhikode on Saturday George Kurian said central investigation agencies can legally intervene in the Sabarimala gold robbery case, if a black money connection is detected in it and that that he believes that they will intervene in the case ,in view of the recent FIR filed over the gold theft in the shrine

The union minister alleged that the CPM leadership looted the gold so that there is no poverty in the party.

Expressing faith in divine justice,he emphasized that Lord Ayyappa

would not spare the culprits. “Lord Ayyappa will not spare the culprits who plundered gold in the hill shrine,”

CPM’s Adevu Nayam(tactical policy) that K Jayakumar has been made the Travancore



Kurian said

Stating that there is nothing surprising in what happened in Sabarimala, the union minister said all those arrested are members of the CPM and atheists. “All those who were arrested in the Sabarimala gold heist case, were seen leaving with a smile on their faces. They believe that they have done their ideological duty,”he said.

He said it was a part

Devaswom(TDB) President “Jayakumar narrowly escaped now because he is a devotee of Ayyappa,” Kurian said

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the gold heist at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, on Thursday arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president and CPM leader A Padmakumar. Earlier on Ovember 12 , former

Devaswom Commissioner and TDB President , N Vasu was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). Vasu,who was close to CPM leadership, including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was arrested by the SIT for his alleged involvement in the disappearance of the gold from the Sanctum Sanctorum of door frames of the Sabarimala temple in 2019

The arrests of Padmakumar and N Vasu are major developments in the high-profile case involving the alleged theft of gold used for plating the temple’s sanctum Sanctorum doors (sreekovil) and the ‘dwarapalaka’ idols at Sabarimala temple in 2019.These two arrests have significant political implications in Kerala. Padmakumar’s and Vasu’s connection to the ruling CPM have put the left party in a difficult position.

In a first, Vijay to address party workers and public at hall meeting

(Gns). In a first, actor-turned politician and Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam president Vijay is addressing 2000 party workers and public at a hall meeting being held at a private engineering college in neighboring Kancheepuram district on Sunday (November 23, 2005).

Interestingly, only the 2000 participants with the invite having ‘QR’ code, will be allowed entry, party general secretary ‘Bussy’ N Anand said in a statement, posted on ‘X’.

This is the first time he is meeting party supporters along with the public and after the September 27 killer stampede at his Karur

rally, which claimed 41 lives, including women and children.

individually met them at an hotel.

Though Vijay had con-



Having extended a solatium of Rs 20 lakh each to the families of the victims, the film star had invited them to Mamallapuram and

vened a special general council of the TVK, which declared him as the Chief Ministerial candidate and authorised him to take deci-

sions on alliance, this is the the first time addressing supporters, that too at a hall meeting.

The TVK is deploying its in-house security volunteer force, trained by retired police officers. This hall meeting is seen as a precursor for resuming his public rallies suspended following the Karur stampede, after which the party turned into silent mode.

Meanwhile, Vijay resuming his public campaign from Salem on December 4, has been postponed as the police have suggested to have the programme on an alternative date in view of local festivities.

37 Maoists, including 3 state committee members, surrender in Telangana

(Gns). Days after key leaders of the CPI (Maoist) were gunned down in Andhra Pradesh, 37 members of the outfit, including three state committee members, surrendered before the Telangana police and returned to the mainstream.

Seven members of the Kumaram Bheem Divisional Committee also handed over eight firearms, including one AK-47 rifle, two SLRs, .303 rifles and one G3, along with a G3 rifle and live ammunition of various calibres.

According to the Telangana DGP Shivadhar Reddy, the large-scale surrender of Maoist cadres was prompted by the change in circumstances in Chhattisgarh, disillusionment with the cause, as well as health concerns of a

few.

Key state committee

member, Muchaki Somada alias Erra, was also the



members included 49-year-old Koyyada Sambaiah, alias Azad, who had been underground for 31 years and 70-year-old Appasi Narayana, alias Ramesh, who remained underground for 32 years.

Another state committee

South Bastar DVC secretary. These leaders carried bounties on their heads. The rest of the cadres who surrendered were mostly in their 20s.

The DGP said, “Among the 37 people who surrendered, three are quite

important ones. This includes Appasi Narayana, who was there for 32 years and was also in charge of their technical team. Sambaiah alias Azad, who was also in the party for 32 years, has come out. He had two or three districts of North Telangana under his grip. Erra is another key leader from South Bastar, has also left the outfit. This is a significant achievement for the police and serious damage to the CPI (Maoist).”

The DGP further added that still 59 people were underground, but the majority of them were above 70 years of age. He reiterated the call to surrender before the police and join the mainstream. In 2025 alone, 465 Maoists have surrendered so far.

J&K: SIA arrests another person linked to ‘white collar’ terror module

(Gns).

The Jammu and Kashmir Police’s Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday arrested a Srinagar man allegedly linked to the ‘white collar’ terror module case.

The arrested person has been identified as Tufail Niyaz Bhat. A resident of Batamaloo area in Srinagar, Bhat is currently being interrogated by the SIA.

According to the officials, his arrest was part of the ongoing investigation into the ‘white collar’ terror module that was busted by the Jammu and Kashmir police from Haryana’s Faridabad.

The module was busted after posters threatening

the security forces were found in the Bunpora area of Nowgam last month.

Following his investigation, the police found credible leads and raided the Al-

were also arrested.

The module was also behind the Red Fort bomb blast in New Delhi earlier this month. Dr. Umar Un Nabi, who worked at the Al-Falah University, detonated a car bomb near the Red Fort on November 10, killing at least 15 people and injuring over 20 others.

He was arrested as part of the ongoing investigation into the ‘white collar’ terror module case, the officials added.

The entire module was busted after Srinagar Police began an investigation into posters — threatening police and security forces — pasted on walls in Bunpora, Nowgam, in mid-October.



During the investigation, the Jammu and Kashmir police nabbed a doctor, who was reportedly caught on CCTV camera from a site where posters were pasted on a wall.

Falah University in Haryana’s Faridabad and arrested a doctor named Muzammil Ganaie.

Later, several more doctors, who were linked to the ‘white collar’ terror module,

Special Intensive Revision schedule will not be changed: Kerala CEO

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Rathan U. Kelkar, on Saturday said the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls schedule will not be changed and the draft list will be published on December 9 itself.

Addressing political party representatives at a weekly review meeting here on Saturday, CEO Kelkar said the targets given to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are intended not to create pressure, but to ensure that the

Special Intensive Revision is completed within the stipulated time-frame.

Kelkar said around 1,19,315 voters have been found untraceable during Kerala’s ongoing Special Intensive Revision(SIR)

and that election officials are embarking on an effort to track down voters found untraceable during the enu-



meration phase.

In the meeting, political parties other than the BJP demanded an extension of

the schedule of the revision of the electoral rolls. When the CPM alleged that the death of BLO Aneesh George was due to work stress, the BJP demanded that the party provide security to BLOs working in the party villages.

The Congress said that if the schedule is not changed, many eligible voters will be left out of the list. BJP alleged that the CPM and Congress are trying to sabotage the SIR using service organizations.

Flag to be hoisted at Ram Temple on Nov 25 worshipped as per rituals

(Gns).

The religious rituals for the Ram Temple flag-hoisting ceremony, scheduled for November 25, concluding on Saturday with a ritualistic aarti.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hoist the flag.

During Saturday’s ritual, the focus was primarily on the worship of the flag that will be hoisted atop the Ram Temple.

Dr. Anil Mishra, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra and the chief host of the Ram Temple flag-hoisting ceremony, performed the ritual with his wife and worshipped the flag. Other hosts invited to

the ceremony also participated in the flag worship along with their wives.

The religious rituals for the Ram Temple flag-hoisting ceremony, conducted by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth

culminate on November 25 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoists the flag at the Ram Temple.

Dr. Anil Mishra is the chief host of the Ram Mandir flag-hoisting ceremony, and along with him,

as hosts for the flag-hoisting ceremonies at the fort and other temples within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple complex.

Other hosts for the Ram Mandir flag-hoisting ceremony include Shailendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, associated with the Ayodhya royal family; homeopathic doctor Chandra Gopal Pandey; BJP district general secretary Shailendra Kori; gas agency owner Shashi Priyadarshi; former proctor of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, Dr. Ajay Pratap Singh; prominent businessman Piyush Singhal; businessman Nirankar Maurya; and Dr. Nanak Sharan, who is performing the puja along with his wife.



Kshetra, commenced on November 20 with the Kalash Yatra and Prayashchit Pujan and will

23 other hosts, including Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trustee Krishna Mohan, are serving

Special repair of vulnerable locations on NH-154A in Himachal gets Centre’s sanction

(Gns).

Following repeated representations to the Centre, the Himachal Pradesh government had secured major sanction for National Highway-154A.

The Centre has approved Rs 93,55,59,489 for the special repair of embankments at vulnerable locations on NH-154A.

Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh said the state had been consistently pursuing the matter due to repeated damage caused to the highway during the monsoon. He said losses were assessed after the monsoon disaster in Chamba district.

Singh stated that he personally visited the affected areas and, after discussions with the local administration and concerned authorities, the issue was taken up with the government of India for the immediate release of financial assistance.

The state government repeatedly highlighted the need for strengthening embankments because of frequent landslides, ero-

sion and risks to commuters, he maintained.

“The Union Ministry of

pletion in 2026–27, followed by structured maintenance up to 2031–32.



Road Transport and Highways has issued technical and administrative approval after examining the detailed proposal submitted by the Public Works Department. The project will be executed under close monitoring to avoid delays and cost overruns for special repair of embankments at vulnerable locations on the Chakki-Banikhet-Chamba-Bharmaur road in the Chamba district,” he said.

Vikramaditya Singh said the work plan includes 30 percent completion in 2025–26, full physical com-

This phasing aims to ensure long-term protection of vulnerable stretches and enhance the durability of the highway.

He added that such long-term maintenance approval is a significant step secured after persistent representation by the state government.

He said NH-154A is a crucial route for tourism, trade, and daily connectivity for local residents, and strengthening its embankments will help reduce road closures and disruptions during heavy rains.

The state repeatedly

stressed that frequent slip-pages on the highway not only posed risks to commuters but also affected essential services and economic activities, he added.

He said the sanction will strengthen the state’s efforts toward improved road safety and disaster preparedness.

“The government remains committed to securing similar approvals for other vulnerable stretches on national highways to ensure smooth movement across the hill state,” he said.

The Minister said the Regional Officer of the Ministry posted in Shimla will act as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for the project, and the work will be carried out as per the technical note issued by the Ministry. He reaffirmed that the State Government is continuously working to upgrade road infrastructure and that its persistent follow-up has resulted in major sanctions from the Centre, including approval for NH-154A.

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj dissolves all party units, begins organisational reboot after poll defeat

(Gns). After its crushing defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Jan Suraj Party has dissolved its organisational structure from the panchayat level up to the state level with immediate effect. A new organisational setup will be created over the next one-and-a-half months.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's National Council held on Saturday in Patna in the presence of party founder Prashant Kishor. The meeting was chaired by State President Manoj Bharti. Party spokesperson

Syed Masih Uddin said that the dissolved committees would continue to perform

responsibility for all 12 divisions of the state to its senior leaders, who will rebuild

under their jurisdiction.

This team will also hold extensive discussions to identify the reasons for the election defeat and will submit a report to the party leadership on leaders found guilty of indiscipline or internal sabotage.

A general body meeting has been convened in Patna on 21 December. At this meeting, the top leadership will hear detailed accounts from key district leaders regarding the elections and organisational issues, followed by in-depth deliberations on preparing a revised roadmap for the future.



their duties until the new organisation is formed.

The party has assigned

an effective and active organisational structure from scratch in the districts

District Election Officer held a meeting with the principals

Urge all principals to motivate parents of students

Mathura. District Election Officer/District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh held a meeting with the Principals of various schools and colleges regarding the Special Intensive Revision Campaign 2026. The District Magistrate urged all the Principals to cooperate in the work of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) by coordinating with the Booth Level Officer (BLO) of their respective areas. The District Election Officer said that you should motivate the parents of the students of your schools and colleges to fill all the calculation forms given under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign on time and provide them to the BLO. He said that with the initiative of all the principals, the work of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign will be expedited and success will be achieved by quickly completing the work of distribution and collection of calculation forms with simplicity and ease.

The District Magistrate



District Election Officer/District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh addressing the principals

said that all of you should go door to door in your areas and make people aware about the process of filling the census form correctly. Special Intensive Review (SIR) campaign is an important task, in which we all have to work with responsibility and dedication. The District Magistrate said in the meeting that those teachers/principals who will do excellent work in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign and will collect all the calculation forms through BLO in their area before 30

November 2025, will be given a special leave of 05 days.

The District Magistrate has informed that under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign, through the district heads, secretaries, Kotedars, teachers etc., awareness is being continuously created to fill the census form promptly and get the BLO. He has appealed to the residents of the district to fill the information in their census forms and get it sent to the concerned BLO before 4th

A morale booster : BSP winning a seat in Bihar in the recently concluded assembly elections

(By Sangita Bakaya) Lucknow Nov 22

Despite remaining on political sidelines in its stronghold state of Uttar Pradesh for long, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) winning a seat in Bihar in the recently concluded assembly elections, has come as a morale booster and given the party the much needed push for preparations for the 2027 assembly polls in UP.

The result of Bihar has also proved to be a dampener for BSP's political rivals who had been writing it off, specially after the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2022 assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, when the party had performed dismally.

BSP's Satish Kumar Singh Yadav won the Ramgarh seat in Bihar narrowly defeating BJP's Ashok Kumar Singh by a razor-thin margin of 30

votes. Yadav polled 72,689 votes against the might of the ruling NDA alliance.

Ramgarh, a seat known for frequent political swings, was won by Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the BJP in the past. It had elected RJD's Sudhakar Singh in the last election and BJP's Ashok Kumar Singh earlier.

The BSP contested the Assembly election on around 190 seats out of 243, affecting the prospects of the candidates of Mahagathbandhan on about 57 seats. BSP chief Mayawati has claimed that her party would have secured many more seats in the elections if the polls had been 'free and fair'.

Interestingly, Mayawati's direct involvement in Bihar election was restricted this time while Akash Anand addressed

the rallies and campaigned for the party candidates and also organized foot marches.

Akash Anand was appointed by Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief to lead party's campaign in Bihar as the chief national coordinator and national convener. The Bihar elections were a key assignment for him to lead from the front and connect with the youth.

Party sympathisers feel that this outcome will not only embolden and enthuse its cadres in Uttar Pradesh but will also decide the future of the party which they expect will eventually project Akash Anand prominently. Party workers believe that Akash Anand is the actual successor to the BSP Supremo Mayawati and he will take the centerstage soon.

They believe that she

has already indicated that a bigger responsibility would be given to Akash Anand to strengthen the party for its future outings.

The BSP had earlier allied with Samajwadi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh to form government.

However in 2007, Mayawati's party gained majority on its own and she formed her government which completed its term successfully.

Later however her party lost to Samajwadi Party in 2012 when Akhilesh Yadav (SP) came to power. Its fortunes witnessed a downward slide with BJP gaining ground in the state.

In 2022, BSP won only one seat in Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh and performed dismally in the Lok Sabha elections held in 2024.

Tharoor cites Trump-Mamdani meet to urge 'Mature Cooperation' in Indian politics

(Gns). Congress Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor has reignited the national debate on political civility and post-electoral cooperation, drawing inspiration from a recent cordial interaction between former US President Donald Trump and New York Mayor-designate Zohran Mamdani.

Sharing visuals of the surprising White House exchange between the sharply opposed political figures, Tharoor took to

social media to deliver a subtle but potent message to India's polarized political ecosystem.

The incident Tharoor highlighted involved an unexpectedly warm meeting between Trump, a Republican figurehead, and Mamdani, a newly elected, Indian-origin Democrat Mayor-designate of New York City. The interaction, widely circulated in

political circles, seemed to transcend the bitter electoral rhetoric that often defines their respective parties.

Following the meeting, Trump himself publicly endorsed his former rival, stating, "I believe Mamdani would make a very good mayor of New York," and adding a personal note, "I would be happy to live in the city during Mamdani's tenure."



SIR will be conducted nationwide, says Union Minister Gajendra Singh

(Gns). Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has dismissed the Opposition Congress' criticism of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 States and Union Territories (UTs), despite the pendency of petitions challenging the process.

Speaking to the media at the airport here on Saturday, Shekhawat reiterated that "SIR will be conducted in all states of the country. At present, the exercise is underway in nine states and three Union Territories. The task will be

taken up in the remaining states after the completion

India (ECI) has simply been exercising the powers vest-



of the ongoing phase." "There is nothing wrong in it. In conducting SIR, the Election Commission of

ed in it by the Constitution. The ECI is duty-bound to ensure free and fair polls through a duly sanctioned

process and to maintain the sanctity of the electoral rolls," he said.

Rejecting the Congress' objections to the ongoing process in the 12 states and UTs, Shekhawat said, "Congress criticises with petty and vested political interests in mind. The party has never cared for the nation or national interests."

"Their views and actions have always been motivated by power politics," the Union Minister alleged. The Opposition party has repeatedly opposed the move, terming the matter sub judice and questioning the government's intent.

Pledge taken to strengthen startup and innovation in Sanskriti University

"Manthan India' Industry-Tech Conclave 2025"

Mathura. The historic Manthan Indiaru Industry-Tech Conclave 2025 was organized by Sanskriti University at its Santosh Memorial Auditorium. The brainstorming brought together policymakers, industry experts, innovators, academics and new entrepreneurs to advance India's innovation and technology ecosystem. The conclave reinforced the university's resolve to promote research, foster industry collaboration and strengthen skill development to create a future-ready workforce.

The churning started with Saraswati Vandana and lighting of the lamp. Dr. C.S. of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, who was present at the Manthan. Yadav elaborated on specific national initiatives aimed at strengthening India's start-up and innovation land-

scape. He also told the students and the audience how his department supports startups and innova-

fits of DPIIT registration for early stage start-upstold.

In his presidential



Guest sitting on the stage presenting the check of funds given to the selected startup in Santosh Memorial Auditorium of Sanskriti University.

tion. Ms. Shipra Lavania, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (PIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, gave a very informative statement on Aatmanirbhar Bharat, in which she talked about the importance of indigenous innovation and the bene-

address, Dr. Sachin Gupta, Chancellor of Sanskriti University, stressed the importance of building a strong entrepreneurial mindset, understanding the challenges faced by early stage start-ups and adopting effective strategies to overcome them. He encouraged the young

innovators to remain adaptable, solution-oriented and purpose-driven in their journey.

The brainstorming was started by the Vice Chancellor of Sanskriti University, Prof. Dr. M.B. Chetty, who explained the vision behind this initiative and highlighted Sanskriti University's mission of linking academic excellence with industry-linked learning. The highlight of the program was the awarding of an initial ignition grant of ₹11 lakh to the selected start-ups, further highlighting Sanskriti University's commitment to supporting early-stage innovators and accelerating their entrepreneurship journey.

Dr., CEO of Incubation Center of Sanskriti Universityt ended with a vote of thanks by Gajendra Singh, who expressed his gratitude to the eminent speakers, industry partners, start-up founders and participants for making the conclave a grand success

India reaffirms commitment to disaster risk reduction in Asia-Pacific

(Gns). India on Saturday reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing regional collaboration and implementing innovative strategies for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking at the 10th Session of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) on Inclusive Disaster Risk Data Governance here, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Disaster Management Nityanand Rai emphasised India's commitment to regional disaster resilience and cooperation.

He highlighted that under India's Chairmanship

and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India will champion a com-

resilient infrastructure planning.

He reaffirmed the coun-



prehensive capacity-building agenda covering risk assessment, geospatial applications, impact-based forecasting, early warning dissemination, and climate-

try's dedication to working closely with APDIM and regional partners to reduce disaster and climate risks across Asia-Pacific.

The partnership with the

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), APDIM, and other multilateral forums is guided by PM Modi's 10-Point Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction, he said.

This agenda emphasises investments at the local level, leveraging technology, fostering networks among universities and research centres, strengthening risk data, and promoting regional cooperation, he said.

The session concluded with a shared commitment to enhance regional collaboration and implement innovative strategies for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

Congress announces mega-rally against 'Vote Chori' on Dec 14 in New Delhi

(Gns). The Congress party Saturday announced a massive rally in the capital, titled the 'Vote Chor Gaddi Chhod Maha Rally', on December 14 at Ramlika Maidan, as it intensifies its accusations of large-scale electoral manipulation and a "blatantly partisan" Election Commission of India (ECI).

The announcement was made by Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal, who declared that the "spectre of Vote Chori is the biggest danger looming over our democracy today."

The party's campaign focuses on allegations of voter list manipulation, including the addition of "bogus voters" and the "deleting of opposition-

inclined voters."

The Congress is presenting the rally as a culmination of a nationwide sig-

Maha Rally on December 14th (1.30pm onwards) at Ramlika Maidan, New Delhi," Venugopal stated.



nature campaign against alleged irregularities.

"To send a message across the nation against these attempts to destroy our Constitution, the Congress will be holding the Vote Chor Gaddi Chhod

He further alleged that the ECI has abandoned its neutral role, becoming a complicit actor in undermining the democratic process.

"We have received crores of signatures from every corner of India,

rejecting the BJP-ECI's nefarious tactics like adding bogus voters, deleting opposition-inclined voters, and manipulating voter rolls at a mass scale. Not only that, every Indian has seen how the ECI bends rules, ignores MCC violations, and indulges in daylight bribery to help the BJP rig elections," the General Secretary asserted.

The 'Vote Chori' allegation, which translates to 'vote theft,' has been a central and escalating point of criticism from the Congress and its senior leaders for several months, often focused on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The party claims that the ECI, which was historically seen as an impartial umpire,