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## Russian President Vladimir Putin To Visit India On December 4-5

(Gns). Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to visit India on December 4-5 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. Invited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this visit highlights the strengthening ties between India and Russia, especially after the US imposed tariffs over India's Russian oil imports. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed the visit, saying Putin will engage in talks with PM Modi.

The summit presents an opportunity for India and Russia to assess bilateral relations and plan future cooperation. Both nations aim to bolster their 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' and discuss regional and global matters of mutual concern.

President Droupadi Murmu will welcome Putin at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and will host a formal dinner in his honour.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to visit India on December 4-5 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, following an invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with discussions on bilateral relations and bolstering their 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'.

In recent months, the relationship between India and Russia has become more robust. Trade and investment ties have a long history, dating back to the Soviet era. Russia is a key supplier of arms to India, and India is a major importer of Russian oil.

This deep-rooted cooperation is essential for both nations.

The announcement of Putin's visit was made dur-



ing National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's trip to Moscow in August. Although the exact dates were undecided then, they have now been confirmed. PM Modi and Putin last met in September at the

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China, where they held a discussion in Putin's limousine.

Geopolitical Implications

The visit could have significant implications for India's geopolitical stance, especially as it balances its complex relations with Washington. Amidst the

Ukraine conflict, Putin has reduced international travel due to the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s arrest warrant. India, not being an ICC member, is not required to arrest the Russian leader, allowing

the visit to proceed smoothly.

Earlier in the month, PM Modi expressed his eagerness to host Putin during a meeting with Nikolai Patrushev, Putin's aide, in Delhi. The meeting further

solidified the anticipation for the upcoming summit. "Looking Forward To Hosting President Putin": PM Modi Tells Top Kremlin Aide.

Both leaders will evaluate the progress in their

countries' relations and set a course for future cooperation. This summit marks a crucial point in the Indo-Russian relationship, potentially reinforcing its resilience amidst global challenges.

## India To Procure 300 S-400 Missiles Worth ₹10,000 Crore After Operation Sindoor, RFP Soon

(Gns).

India's Defence Ministry is preparing to issue a formal request for proposal (RFP) to acquire nearly 300 missiles for its S-400 air defence systems from Russia's Rosoboronexport, in a deal worth over ₹10,000 crore. The move is aimed at replenishing missile stocks depleted during Operation Sindoor and strengthening India's overall air-defence capacity.

According to officials, the procurement will include long-range missiles capable of striking targets at 400 km, 200 km, and 150 km, along with short-range 40 km interceptors. These systems were used extensively in May 2025, when the S-400 network played a

decisive role in bringing down Pakistani fighter jets, drones, and early warning aircraft. The Defence Acquisition Council, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has cleared the pro-

Committee and the Cabinet Committee on Security are expected within the current financial year.

India's Defence Ministry is set to issue a request to Russia's Rosoboronexport



posal under fast-track procedures. Approvals from the Cost Negotiation

for nearly 300 missiles for its S-400 air defence systems, valued at over

₹10,000 crore, to replenish stocks depleted during Operation Sindoor and bolster air-defence capabilities.

Switch To Shorts  
India To Procure 300 S-400 Missiles Worth 10 000 Crore After Operation Sindoor RFP Soon

Operation Sindoor showcased the S-400's operational effectiveness, including a 314 km engagement that successfully neutralised a Pakistani aircraft. In the backdrop of continuing tensions with Pakistan and China, the missile replenishment has become a priority. India has already received three of the five S-400 squadrons ordered earlier, with the remaining two expected by 2026.

## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel visits the 'Pramukh Swami Vocational Training Center' at Dharampur: Vocational Training Center organises a felicitation ceremony for the Chief Minister.

(Gns).

Gandhinagar, 28 November 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel visited the 'Pramukh Swami Vocational Training Center (PSVTC)' at Dharampur and presented certificates to the trainee students.

On the occasion of Pramukh Swami Maharaj's birth anniversary, the Vocational Training Center organized a felicitation ceremony for the Chief Minister.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj spread the timeless message of peace, love, and compassion across the world. He added that the Swaminarayan sect has played a noble role in preserving India's ancient rich culture. Chief Minister also lauded the sect for its long-standing efforts to steer youth away from addictions, instill strong values, and make them Atmanirbhar.

There is no substitute for skill, innovation, and hard work. CM remarked that India's youth embody all three, and proudly noted that with their talent, determination, and enthusiasm, our young people have the power to achieve the seemingly impossible — even

drawing water from stone.

Two decades ago, the tribal belt from Ambaji to Umargam had no science colleges. Today, over the past twenty years, more than two dozen colleges offering science, arts, and commerce programs are thriving in the region. Highlighting the steady growth in education, infrastructure, schemes, and economic activities, the

Chief Minister said that eight state-of-the-art vocational training centers have been established in tribal areas under the PPP model. Over three lakh tribal youth have benefited from training and placement opportunities provided through these vocational centers, ITIs, and KVKs. The Pramukh Swami Vocational Training Center in Dharampur, situated in a tribal area, stands out as a shining example of this initiative.

He said that, rather than depending on the hope of degree-based jobs, Shri Narendra Modi has paved the way for youth through skill development. This

innovative approach has empowered millions of young people, making them both skilled and capable. At Dharampur PSVTC, around 30 different trades



are currently offered, and within just the first three years of its operation, over 500 trained youth have successfully secured employment.

Chief Minister urged everyone to adopt a "Swadeshi" approach and strive for Atmanirbharta, noting that the Prime Minister has called for a Swadeshi and Atmanirbhar Bharat to achieve the vision of a Viksit Bharat@ 2047. He stressed that this goal can only be realized through the collective efforts and cooperation of all.

Tribal Minister Shri Naresh Patel stated that the Prime Minister, during his tenure as Chief Minister,

launched the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana to promote the development of the tribal community, facilitating their holistic growth. The state government has been actively working to ensure that tribal youth have opportunities to become pilots, doctors, and engineers. With government support, tribal youth are now soaring to new heights as pilots, achieving remarkable success.

Finance Minister Shri Kanubhai Desai stated that the government has shown its commitment to the upliftment and development of the tribal community through the implementation of various schemes in education, healthcare, employment, and economic development.

On this occasion, prominent personalities, including MP Shri Dhaval Patel, Secretary to the Chief Minister Dr Vikrant Pandey, MLA Shri Arvind Patel, Tithal BAPS leaders Kothari Swami Pujya Vivek Swarupji and Pujya Chinmay Swami, Collector Shri Bhavya Verma, District Organization President Shri Hemant Kansara, along with other dignitaries, students, residents, and devotees, were in attendance.

## Haryana launches Digital Census 2027 roadmap

(Gns).

Financial Commissioner, Revenue and Disaster Management, Dr Sumita Misra who is also the State Nodal Officer to oversee the work of Census 2027, on Friday stated that Census 2027 will be completely in digital mode, a transformational step towards modernizing the Census process.

Enumerators and Supervisors will digitally collect data and submit it to the Central Server. The Census mobile apps, portal and other digital tools will be available for both Android as well as iOS versions. These apps will be in Hindi, English, as well as in 14 Regional languages, she added.

In order to immediately commence preparations for the appointment of Census functionaries at all levels. Dr Misra has designated all Divisional Commissioners as Divisional Census Officers, Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates as the Principal Census Officers, who will supervise the entire process within their jurisdictions. Supporting them, Additional

Deputy Commissioners, Additional District Magistrates, and Senior Deputy Collectors have been appointed as District Census Officers.

The organizational structure extends seamlessly to the sub-divisional and block



levels to ensure comprehensive coverage across every rural cluster and tehsil. At the sub-divisional level, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) will serve as Sub-Divisional Census Officers. Further down, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and equivalent officials are appointed as Charge Census Officers. Additionally, Naib Tehsildars have been designated as Additional Charge Census

Officers.

Officers from key departments, including Planning, Statistics, Informatics, and Education—have been appointed as Additional or Deputy District Census Officers. Their role is critical in providing technical sup-

port, data validation, and logistical coordination during the field operations. For urban areas, Municipal Commissioners and Administrative Heads are named Principal Census Officers for their jurisdictions. CEOs and Secretaries of various urban bodies will act as Charge Census Officers.

The Government has established a distinct protocol for areas under the sole

occupation of military, paramilitary, and other defense organizations (e.g., Defence Services, CRPF, BSF). The Director of Census Operations (DCO) will determine the Special Charge Officers for these exclusive areas in consultation with the respective authorities.

Importantly, areas under Cantonment Boards will be treated at par with Statutory Towns, but the exclusive defense/paramilitary areas are distinct from them. The Principal Census Officers (District Magistrates and Municipal Commissioners) are responsible for identifying these Special Charges, submitting the list to the DCO, and making all necessary arrangements for conducting the Population Enumeration (Phase-II) as per established guidelines in these specific jurisdictions.

In addition to military areas, special provisions are made for colonies under the control of Government or public sector authorities, such as those related to railways, irrigation, forest departments.

## India continues its spiritual and moral fight against terrorism: CM Yogi Adityanath at Brahma Kumaris' function

(Gns).

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that India's ancient tradition believes that the mind is the source of both bondage and liberation. Referring to Sant Ravidas, he noted that a person who channels their outward drifting mind inward not only attains inner peace but also contributes to global welfare.

He added that terrorism, disturbances, and unrest seen across the world are rooted in uncontrolled mental tendencies. Wherever disorder emerges, it is driven by these outward,

unstable impulses that lead individuals toward negativity.

While one aspect of life inspires positivity and good deeds, the other steers towards negativity. India's tradition has interpreted such destructive tendencies as a form of terrorism, and the nation continues to fight this battle—materially and spiritually.

The Chief Minister shared these remarks in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu during the state-level inauguration of meditation (yoga) for global

unity and trust at Brahma Kumaris, here on Friday.



The Chief Minister said that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, India secured global recognition for yoga at the United Nations, establishing June 21 as International Yoga

Day. The entire nation is grateful to the Prime Minister for giving worldwide recognition to the 'prasad' yoga tradition inherited from India's sage heritage.

Welcoming President Droupadi Murmu, the Chief Minister said that her life story is deeply inspiring. Beginning her journey as a teacher, she later devoted herself to public service, rising from municipal councillor to the highest office in the country. Her journey is a remarkable saga of resilience and serves as a powerful source of motivation for every Indian.



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हिन्दी



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



# Editorial

## Rural Momentum

India's consumption map is being redrawn, and this time the most decisive strokes are coming from its villages. A detailed look at household ownership of durable goods over the past decade reveals a transformation far deeper than the standard narrative of "aspirational India." Rural households are not merely catching up with urban lifestyles, they are reshaping the contours of demand in ways that will define India's economic trajectory over the next decade. Nowhere is this shift clearer than in motor-vehicle ownership. A rise from 19 per cent of rural households in 2011-12 to 59 per cent in 2023-24 is not a routine upgrade; it marks a structural change.

Better rural roads, aggressive retail credit, and dispersed non-farm jobs have created the conditions for mobility to become a necessity rather than a luxury. While urban ownership has grown too, the narrowing of the gap signals an important convergence: the village is no longer an economic periphery, and the city is no longer the sole site of modern consumption. This changing pattern is visible across other categories as well. Television ownership has plateaued or even declined in several urban centres, precisely as mobile-phone access nears universality in both cities and villages. For rural India, the extension of mobile connectivity has effectively compressed time and distance ~ delivering not just entertainment, but also banking, government services, telemedicine, and employment opportunities. It is a democratisation of access that earlier investments in television or even basic computing never fully achieved.

The slow growth of laptops and personal computers, especially in rural areas, may seem like a contradiction to this story. But it more likely reflects a transition to a mobile-first digital society than a lack of digital ambition. For many households, the phone is the computer, the newsroom, the classroom, and the marketplace. The challenge for policymakers, therefore, will not simply be to boost device ownership, but to ensure digital literacy, stable connectivity, and a regulatory environment that keeps pace with the new dependence on handheld technology. A quiet but telling shift is also taking place in how families spend their monthly budgets. For the first time, both rural and urban households now allocate less than half of their expenditure on food. Rising allocations for fuel, mobility, health, education, and durable goods signal a move towards middle-income behaviour ~ more diverse needs, more complex aspirations, and a stronger expectation of quality of life.

The rural catch-up, then, is not a temporary spike but part of a broader behavioural shift. As household choices evolve, they will shape everything from infrastructure policy to credit availability to the composition of India's manufacturing base. The country's growth story has long been told from the city outward. It may now be time to reverse that lens and recognise that the next wave of Indian demand ~ and with it, a significant share of India's economic momentum ~ is emerging from outside the city limits.

# 12th Chintan Shibir-2025: Dharampur, Valsad: Day Two

**Coordination Between Elected Leaders and Officials Strengthens National Development and Ensures Simple, Efficient, People-Centric Governance: Union Government Cabinet Secretary Shri T. V. Somanathan**

**Cabinet Secretary provides important guidance on India's economic development and the governance strategies adopted by the Government of India**

Gandhinagar, 28 November 2025 : On the second day of the 12th 'Chintan Shibir-2025', Union Government Cabinet Secretary Shri T. V. Somanathan spoke on how strong coordination between elected leaders and government officials is key to India's economic

development and effective governance. He noted that while elected leaders represent the people's will, officials ensure that rules and procedures are properly implemented, making public administration more efficient, seamless, and people-centric. Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, and senior officials attended and appreciated his insightful session.

Shri T. V. Somanathan further said that with the goal of making Viksit Bharat@2047, the Union Government is taking more proactive steps toward economic development, policies to promote industries,

ease of doing business, and good governance. Policy-level efforts are

and startup founders do not face unnecessary harassment from tax departments.



being made by both the central and state governments to improve the situation so that entrepreneurs

He expressed confidence that with appropriate policies for development, improved governance sys-

tems, and strong coordination between the elected wing and the administrative machinery, India will certainly achieve the target of becoming Viksit Bharat @2047.

He further said that India's forex reserves are strong and inflation is under control. Employment generation is increasing, and the fiscal situation is stable, which are positive indicators for holistic development. Over the past 10-12 years, millions of people have risen above the poverty line. These are the outcomes of citizen welfare-oriented policies, financial management, affordable housing such as PM Awas, Swachhta

Abhiyan and social security schemes.

The establishment of numerous IITs, IIMs, and medical and nursing colleges in the country has created vast opportunities for youth employment and the startup ecosystem, which will serve as a strong foundation for development in the coming decades.

He stated that Gujarat Government's Chintan Shibir initiative is exemplary, and that the ideas and guidance presented by ministers and senior officials will act as a guiding force for policy-making and administrative reforms in the country. He congratulated the Chief Minister and all officials.

## FINALLY INDIA IS TAKING PRIVACY SERIOUSLY.

(Gns). A few days ago, the government notified the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, touted as proof that India is finally taking privacy seriously. On paper, they promise stronger citizen rights, greater trust, and real accountability in the digital economy. However, as the fine print makes clear, India's new data framework does something very different: it grants sweeping powers to the State while imposing heavy burdens on journalists, start-ups, and everyday consumers.

For a country that prides itself on being the world's largest democracy and a rising digital superpower, this should worry us. On paper, the DPDP framework promises control and consent. But for millions of Indians, especially those who rely on an independent press and the Right to Information to hold power accountable, these rules

threaten to shrink the very transparency that keeps democracy healthy. Two of the country's most important media watchdogs, DIGIPUB and the Editors Guild of India, have sounded the alarm. Their message is simple: the new rules could make journalism itself a consent-based activity. If routine news-gathering is reinterpreted as "data processing," reporters may need consent from the very people they are investigating. That's not privacy protection. That's a muzzle. And the consequences do not stop at the newsroom.

The rules weaken the RTI framework by diluting the public-interest override, a principle that enables journalists and citizens to access and publish sensitive information, when public interests outweigh potential harm caused by disclosure. This safeguard has enabled people to uncover corruption,

exposed wrongdoing, and empowered ordinary citizens for nearly two decades. At the same time, Rule 23 gives the government the authority to demand personal data from any platform or company, without notifying the user whose data is being accessed.

Companies are explicitly prohibited from telling you when the State comes knocking. So, while citizens may soon be forced to jump through more hoops to access information, the State gets an express lane.

This imbalance carries a heavy cost. India's digital economy thrives because consumers trust platforms with their information. Start-ups innovate because they aren't bogged down by compliance paperwork. Journalists investigate because they can protect their sources. RTI activists ask difficult questions

because they know the law backs them. Under the new regime, these pillars wobble. Small Firms and start-ups now face the same stricter audits, annual impact assessments, and



compliance certifications that even global tech giants follow. This is a huge blow for India's start-up ecosystem, which is already struggling funding winters and regulatory whiplash, this is not protection; it's a hurdle. When young companies are compelled to divert their scarce resources into paperwork instead of developing products, innovation suffocates, competition and consumers pay the ultimate price.

And for journalists,

researchers, and public-interest watchdogs, the chilling effect is immediate. When the line between reporting and "processing personal data" becomes blurry, over-compliance becomes the safe, and undemocratic, choice. This isn't about rejecting data protection. Indians deserve better privacy protection norms, transparent rules, stronger safeguards and greater accountability from platforms that handle our data. But privacy cannot come at the cost of undermining the institutions that defend our freedom. A law that claims to empower citizens while tightening its grip on press and limiting transparency neither safeguards democracy nor consumers. The world already shows us what happens when data laws go too far. Europe's GDPR, despite its good intentions, created a compliance maze that hurt small businesses and cemented the dominance of Big Tech.

Innovation stalled, smaller players suffered

and consumers lost out on competition and choice. India risks repeating the same mistakes, but this time it could lead to weaker transparency at home and a press that's even more constrained to question the authority. A smarter path is possible. The government must introduce an explicit journalistic exemption to protect reporters, whistleblowers, and public-interest investigations, and reinstate the RTI public-interest override that has long empowered citizens to hold power accountable.

And it must ensure that privacy safeguards don't morph into more surveillance or unchecked access to personal data. India has built bold digital public infrastructure before, UPI, CoWIN, and DigiLocker. But the success of these systems came from clarity, openness, and trust. Not opacity. Not uncertainty. Not silence in the face of democratic concerns. A fair data regime should empower the citizens, not intimidate them.

## A personal journey of nurturing talent

(Gns). Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think, said Albert Einstein. For the past six years, my work with students has been devoted to introducing and strengthening critical thinking in their learning journey. I often observe that many students struggle to achieve success in life ~ not because they lack talent or determination, but because they are shaped by an education system that prioritizes marks over real learning, memory over creativity, and conformity over individuality.

As a result, students grow up uncertain about their passions, unprepared for real-world challenges, and lacking the confidence to explore new opportunities ~ creating a gap between academic performance and true success. Too often, the emphasis on rote learning and examination outcomes prevents children from exploring ideas or understanding concepts at a deeper level. During classroom interactions, it becomes evident that students rely heavily on teachers' prompts, struggle to justify their reasoning, and hesitate to express their own thoughts. Many quietly wait for the "correct answer" rather than sharing their perspectives. When I ask, "Can you explain your reasoning behind a particular science or mathematics experiment?" several students become unsure, as the question does not come directly from the textbook.

Such interactions reveal that they have not been encouraged to question, analyse, or explore ideas independently ~ they expect information to be given, not discovered. These classroom conversations highlight the extent to which critical thinking is missing and underline the urgent need to guide stu-

dents from passive learning toward active reasoning. In today's world, critical thinking is one of the most essential skills for success, yet many students continue to learn in ways that limit their ability to question, analyse, and think independently. Recognizing this challenge, I have estab-



lished specialized Mathematics and Science Laboratories to create an experiential learning environment where students can observe, experiment, reflect, and develop the skills needed to become curious, creative, and critical thinkers. The lab has become a place where students step away from rote memorization and step into the world of hands-on discovery.

Here, they build models, test ideas, measure outcomes, and learn through active investigation. For many, this has opened a door to a kind of learning they never thought possible. Concepts that once felt difficult in the classroom suddenly make sense when experienced through experiments and practical activities. What is most remarkable is the confidence our students have gained. Children who once hesitated to speak now eagerly explain their observations. Students who struggled with abstract concepts now demonstrate them with clarity using tools, models, and experiments they designed themselves. Their ability to think critically-to question, analyze, and reason-has grown stronger with every activity. One of

the most heartwarming transformations has been the spirit of collaboration the lab has fostered.

Whether solving a mathematical puzzle, testing the Bernoulli principle, or building a working model, students support one another, share ideas, and celebrate each other's achieve-

ments. The lab has become a space where teamwork and creativity shine as brightly as academic success. Parents often share stories of how their children talk excitedly at home about the experiments they performed ~ how they made a balloon-powered car, used geometric tools to create designs, or conducted simple chemistry reactions safely under guidance.

These conversations show us that the lab's impact travels far beyond the school walls. This initiative reflects my observations, the current gaps in learning, and the pressing need to transform our teaching approach to nurture strong intellectual habits. Despite my sincere efforts to develop hands-on learning experiences, another significant barrier I face is excessive mobile usage, which increasingly jeopardizes students' critical thinking abilities.

Constant exposure to quick-scroll content, instant answers, and entertainment-driven apps conditions young minds to seek immediate gratification rather than engage in patient analysis or problem-solving. Instead of exploring ideas deeply or forming their own conclusions, many stu-

dents simply "Google the answer," bypassing the cognitive struggle that builds reasoning ability. Mobile addiction reduces attention span, discourages reflective thinking, and limiting opportunities for meaningful conversations ~ elements essential for nurturing curiosity and logical judgment. As students become more dependent on digital shortcuts, their ability to question, evaluate information, and think independently weakens, posing a serious threat to their intellectual growth and long-term learning potential.

Excessive dependence on private tuition further intensifies these challenges. Tuition often reduces students' capacity to learn independently, as many rely on tutors for ready-made answers instead of developing their own problem-solving skills. It also increases academic pressure and stress, leaving little time for rest, hobbies, or healthy social interactions. Moreover, the financial burden of tuition creates inequality, leaving students who cannot afford it feeling disadvantaged. Over time, students may lose confidence in classroom learning and become less motivated to think creatively, hindering both academic and personal development.

By integrating inquiry-based methods, hands-on learning environments such as the Mathematics and Science Laboratories, and reflective classroom discussions, we can empower students to become confident thinkers and lifelong learners. Let us commit to creating a classroom culture where curiosity is encouraged, mistakes are viewed as opportunities, and every child feels inspired to explore their own ideas. The journey toward stronger critical thinking begins with us, and together.

## CONTROVERSY IN THE WAKE OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Gns). The recent controversy in the wake of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram is unjustified and unwarranted. After the ministry formation in 1937, Hindu-Muslim tension peaked in United Bengal. A K Fazlul Haq became the chief minister of Bengal and the Congress did not join his coalition government in spite of Haq's keen desire. The differences became acute, with the Muslim leadership spearheading a movement against Vande Mataram for its Hindu symbolism and the symbols of Calcutta University, Shree and lotus were at the centre of a controversy that forced the central leadership of the Congress to intervene.

Rabindranath Tagore, when consulted by the Congress leadership, approved the singing of the

first two stanzas of the Vande Mataram as the National Song. In October 1937, in an article published in the Visva Bharati News, Krishna Kriplani argued that the song Vande Mataram was totally incompatible with the Congress



as part of violence and secularism and, therefore, could not become the national anthem. Tagore, who composed the tune of the song in 1896, expressed serious reservations about the song and during the celebration of his 70th birthday gave a call of Vande Vratnam instead of Vande Mataram. The Muslims objected to the song also as it was a salutation to Goddess Durga.

Orthodox Hindus felt that the song's historical background and its total

integration with the nationalist cause made it ideal as a national anthem. In the midst of this controversy, Subhas Chandra Bose privately solicited Tagore's views on the song. The poet replied that Vande Mataram was appropriate

as part of a National Anthem. He

added in a letter to Subhas "the core of Vande Mataram is a hymn to Durga; this is so plain that there can be no debate about it. Of course, Bankim Chandra does show Durga to be inseparably united with Bengal in the end, but no Mussalman can be expected patriotically to worship the ten headed deity as Swadesh (the nation).

This year many of the special Durga Puja num-

bers of our magazines have quoted verses from Vande Mataram ~ proof that the editors take the song to be a hymn to Durga. The novel Anandamath is a work of literature, and so the song is appropriate in it. But Parliament is a place of union for all religious groups, and there the song cannot be appropriate" Subhas maintained his silence publicly much to the annoyance of the supporters of Vande Mataram. Tagore stated that he would discuss the matter with the Congress leadership. At the 1937 Kolkata session of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), which was attended by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Acharya JB Kripalani it was decided that the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram would be sung in the Congress functions, conceding to the Muslim viewpoint.

## WazirX launches WazirX ZERO for users; no more paying fees on every trade

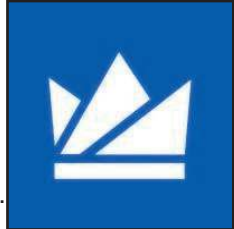
(Gns). WazirX has launched WazirX Zero, a new trading model where users no longer have to pay fees on every order. They can trade unlimited volumes across 300+ tokens for a fixed monthly charge of ₹99. Per trade transaction fees are removed completely.

Across the industry, exchanges earn more as users trade more, even when those users lose money. Fees scale with volume, not user outcomes. This creates incentives that place exchanges and users on opposite sides. WazirX Zero shifts that dynamic. The focus moves to delivering a better trading experience while allowing users

to decide when and how much they want to trade without fee pressure.

Trading fees accumulate quickly. A user who buys and sells ₹10,000 ten times a month pays around 0.5 percent on every buy and sell. This often accumulates to thousands of rupees in monthly fees irrespective of gains or losses. Over a year, the same pattern adds up to roughly ₹6,000 in fees. That is about 60 percent of the user's capital paid out to exchanges purely for trading activity. The impact grows even faster for users who trade in lakhs or crores each month. These fees

eat into capital and reduce long term returns. By removing per trade transaction fees, WazirX Zero eliminates this recurring cost. Users can trade any volume and still pay only ₹99.



WazirX Zero is built for all users - high volume traders to retail investors. The aim is to overturn a fee model that has worked against the benefit of traders for years. The shift removes per trade penalties, cuts recurring costs, lowers barriers, and reduces the friction that keeps many users from participating. The result is a trading environment where users can act on their own

terms without fee barriers or volume pressure.

Nischal Shetty, Founder of WazirX, said, "The industry has accepted a model where exchanges profit from every trade whether the user wins or loses. WazirX Zero resets the relationship. No per trade transaction fees, no complexity, one clear charge. The goal is simple: enable users to trade without barriers, giving users what they want. WazirX is on the users' side now."

WazirX Zero will be the new model for trading. Zero becomes the default trading model on the platform, giving users the cheapest way to trade crypto in India.

For more information, visit wazirx.com



## MODIFICATION IN TATKAL BOOKING SYSTEM

**OTP authentication for Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express**

Mumbai, Western Railway will be implementing an important modification in the Tatkal booking system in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Railway Board. Tatkal tickets will now be issued only after authentication of a system-generated One

Time Password (OTP). This OTP will be sent to the mobile number furnished by the passenger at the time of booking, and the ticket will be issued only after successful validation of the OTP.

According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway Shri Vineet Abhishek, this OTP-based Tatkal authentication system will be

implemented with effect from 01st December 2025 at 00:00 hrs and will initially apply to Train No. 12009/12010 Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express.

The new system will be applicable for Tatkal bookings made through computerized PRS counters, authorized agents, IRCTC website and IRCTC mobile app. The objective of this change is to ensure

transparent Tatkal bookings and to facilitate genuine passengers in getting better access to Tatkal tickets.

Passengers are advised to provide a valid, accessible mobile number at the time of booking to ensure smooth completion of the OTP verification process. Western Railway urges all passengers to take note of this important change.

## Shiv Sena Faces Heat as Six Badlapur Tickets Go to Mhatre Family

(Gns).

The Shiv Sena's decision to allocate six election tickets to the Mhatre family for the Badlapur Municipal Council polls has sparked significant political tension in Maharashtra. This move by Eknath Shinde's faction has been criticised by its ally, the BJP, for promoting nepot. They argue that this act undermines the leadership capabilities of grassroots workers and favours familial ties over merit.

In Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena's decision to allocate six election tickets to the Mhatre family for the Badlapur Municipal Council polls has led to political tension, with the BJP criticizing the move as nepotism; the Mhatre family, including Vaman Mhatre, has had a strong presence in Badlapur politics for nearly a decade. Similarly, BJP and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) candidates also reflect this trend of family-centric politics.

Vaman Mhatre, a prominent city unit chief, along with his wife, son, brother,

sister-in-law, and nephew, is contesting in these local elections. This decision has highlighted the Mhatre family's significant influence in Badlapur, where their political involvement dates back nearly ten years. In 2015, four family members secured council seats, and now, their broader reach is a focal point in the local political discourse.

In addition to the Mhatre family's prominence, the Shiv Sena's internal discord is evident. The party also allocated three tickets to Pravin Raut, a former councillor, along with nominations for his wife, Sheetal Raut, and sister-in-law, Vijaya Raut. This wave of familial nominations has intensified dissatisfaction among veteran party members, many of whom feel increasingly marginalised, although most remain silent publicly.

The BJP is not exempt from similar practices.

Rajendra Ghorpade, the BJP's Badlapur city president, is running for a council seat, with his wife, suggest that legacy politics remains a significant aspect of the local electoral landscape.

The controversy has reignited debates on dynasty politics versus the loyalty and dedication of long-serving party workers. The BJP's allegations of nepotism against Shiv Sena underscore a broader concern about the political culture in Maharashtra. This ongoing discussion highlights the challenges of balancing familial influence with the principles of meritocracy in political nominations.

As political dynamics unfold, the focus remains on how these practices will impact the results of the Badlapur Municipal Council elections. Observers are keen to see whether the influence of political families will outweigh the demand for grassroots leadership in shaping the region's future. The outcome will likely have lasting implications for political alliances and strategies within the state.



## Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Row: YV Subba Reddy Demands Proof, Not Politics

(Gns).

YSRCP MP and former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy has sharply condemned what he describes as a "deliberate and politically driven misinformation campaign" over the alleged adulteration of ghee used in Tirumala laddus. He said that despite the Supreme Court's warning to political parties to refrain from dragging Tirumala into political disputes, the issue is being turned into a partisan controversy.

Reddy said claims suggesting adulterated ghee or the presence of animal fat are being circulated without any scientific verification. "If I were at fault, why would I file a writ petition in the Supreme Court myself?" he asked, noting that he approached the court in public interest immediately after such allegations surfaced. He pointed out that the SIT probe ordered by

the Supreme Court is still in progress and must be allowed to complete its work.

YSRCP MP and former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy condemned the misinformation campaign over alleged ghee adulteration in Tirumala laddus, emphasizing ongoing SIT probes and questioning conflicting statements about tanker movements. He highlighted mandatory laboratory testing, criticised the release of partial data, and defended his term as TTD Chairman

outlining reforms while also pointing to lapses under the previous TDP government.

Reddy also questioned conflicting statements being made about tanker movements and their use. "Two basic questions still remain: did the suspect ghee tankers ever enter the laddu production process, and was animal fat present or not?" He said the TTD must issue one clear, authoritative statement rather than releasing inconsistent numbers.

He stressed that every ghee tanker undergoes mandatory laboratory testing - a system followed under both the TDP government (2014-19) and the YSRCP government. "If the suspicious tankers were rejected, then how could adulterated ghee enter laddu production?" he asked. Citing initial information from the SIT, he said that four questioned tankers from June-July 2024, procured during Chandrababu Naidu's administration, were allegedly reused later under different supplier names.

Reddy criticised the TTD management for releasing "partial data and speculative interpretations," which, he said, led to misleading reports claiming that 20 crore laddus were adulterated between 2019 and 2024. "There is no evidence for such claims," he clarified. On ghee pricing



## CM Mann Visits Family of National Basketball Player Hardik Rathi, Demands Improved Safety in Sports Facilities

(Gns).

CM Bhagwant Mann recently visited the family of Hardik Rathi, a national basketball player, in Lakhna Majra, Rohtak. Hardik Rathi was severely injured during a practice session, causing widespread concern in the sports community. Mann expressed deep sorrow over the unfortunate incident, highlighting the serious lack of safety measures in sports facilities.

Mann emphasised that safety in sports venues and training facilities must be a top priority, as athletes represent the nation's future. He stressed the need for adequate equipment, experienced trainers, and a secure practice environment to prevent such accidents. Hardik's incident underscores the need for

immediate attention to safety arrangements that are still lacking in many places.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann visited the family of national basketball player Hardik Rathi in Rohtak, Haryana, who was injured during a practice session, and emphasized the need for improved safety measures and government support for athletes, urging both central and state governments to provide assistance.

Safety Measures in Sports

Highlighting the need for safety, Mann urged both the central and Haryana governments to provide

financial and administrative support to Hardik's family. "When a tragic incident like this occurs, it is the government's duty to stand by the family and ensure all possible help, whether it concerns treatment or future security," Mann stated.

Expressing his concerns, Mann called for prompt action to enhance the safety standards in sports infrastructure. He expressed hope that governments will take concrete steps to

improve sports infrastructure and strengthen safety standards to prevent future accidents.

Support and Responsibility

Mann also emphasised that providing a safe environment for athletes is a collective responsibility. He mentioned that athletes elevate the nation's pride and deserve protection. Mann's appeal for assistance reflects the need for better support systems for athletes facing such unfortunate events.

Such incidents highlight the importance of addressing existing gaps in safety measures. The tragic accident involving Hardik Rathi serves as a reminder that more needs to be done to ensure the well-being of athletes during their training and competitions.



## Court bars Carmicheal mine opponent from pursuing Adani's confidential data

(Gns).

The Supreme Court of Queensland has issued permanent orders preventing an anti-fossil-fuel activist from seeking or using confidential information belonging to Adani's Carmichael coal mines in Australia, concluding a multi-year legal dispute between the company and one of its most persistent opponents.

Court Orders Against Activist Ben Pennings

Under the orders, Ben Pennings must cease all attempts to obtain confidential business information from Bravus employees, contractors or prospective contractors, and is barred from encouraging others to disclose such information, according to a statement issued by Bravus Mining and

Resources. Bravus, part of the Adani Group, agreed not to pursue its legal costs. The firm operates the Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin. It produces about 10 million tonnes of coal each year for the export market.

The Supreme Court of Queensland has ruled against the activist Ben Pennings, prohibiting him from seeking confidential information from Bravus Mining. This decision concludes a lengthy legal dispute and aims to protect the company's operations and employees.

Switch To Shorts

The permanent orders prohibit Pennings from

seeking or promoting the disclosure of confidential information, including through "direct action" campaigns aimed at eliciting insider leaks. They do not restrict his ability to engage in lawful protest or advocacy.

Bravus had lodged a civil claim against Pennings, the national spokesperson for the group Galilee Blockade, alleging he sought to disrupt the operations of the Carmichael coalmine, its suppliers and contractors.

Its chief operating officer, Mick Crowe, welcomed the outcome, saying the company's objective had always been to stop conduct it characterised as



harassment and intimidation. "We started this legal action in the Supreme Court to stop Mr Pennings from harassing and intimidating our employees and contractors," he said. "This damages claim was never about money. All we wanted was for Mr Pennings to stop trying to get our confidential information and using it to harass and intimidate our contractors and suppliers to pressure them to stop working with us."

According to evidence filed in court, Pennings' campaigns - including blockades, office incursions and targeted pressure on suppliers - contributed to several major businesses cutting ties with Bravus, while others were forced to invest in additional security. Pennings himself was pre-

## Cyclone Ditwah wreaks havoc in Sri Lanka: 56 dead, dozens missing; Indian Navy steps in for rescue

(Gns).

At least 56 people were killed and 14 others injured as Cyclonic Storm Ditwah wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka. Another 14 are reported missing after the storm completely destroyed four houses and damaged more than 600 others.

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), nearly 44,000 people have been affected by the extreme weather conditions caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

Ditwah, which began as a deep depression, has intensified into a cyclone over coastal Sri Lanka and the adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal.

Schools were shut and train services remained suspended in the Island nation as Cyclone Ditwah triggered heavy rains and landslides in and around Colombo. Flight services were also disrupted and some of them were diverted to South Indian cities.

Five international flights have been diverted from Colombo to

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

Authorities have reportedly sounded a red-level flood alert for low-lying areas of Kelani River Valley for the next 48 hours.

As the flood-like situation gripped the nation, Sri Lanka sent an SOS to Indian Navy's INS Vikrant, requesting assistance in the rescue operations, local media reported.

Sri Lankan authorities submitted a formal request to the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

Following the request, India agreed to deploy helicopters from the aircraft carrier currently docked in

Colombo to support the rescue and relief operations.

Meanwhile, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for several districts in Tamil Nadu.

The IMD has predicted light to moderate rain and thunderstorms in isolated areas in Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and others.

The Cyclonic Storm Ditwah is very likely to continue to move north-northwestwards across Sri Lanka ccoastand adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal and reach over southwest

Bay of Bengal near North Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts by early morning of November 30.

PM Modi offers condolences, expresses solidarity with Sri Lanka

In a social media post on X, PM Modi said expressed his heartfelt condolences to the people of Sri Lanka who have lost their loved ones due to Cyclone Ditwah.

He said that India has launched 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' to help Sri Lanka as it reels under Ditwah storm.

"In solidarity with our closest maritime neighbour, India has urgently dispatched relief materials and vital HADR support under Operation Sagar Bandhu. We stand ready to provide more aid and assistance as the situation evolves. Guided by India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, India continues to stand firmly with Sri Lanka in its hour of need," Modi said.



## CEC Gyanesh Kumar and team have 'blood on their hands': TMC delegation slams ECI for BLO fatalities during SIR exercise

(Gns).

CEC Gyanesh Kumar and team have 'blood on their hands': TMC delegation slams ECI for BLO fatalities during SIR exercise

A 10-member Trinamool Congress delegation led by party MP Derek O'Brien Friday met with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to raise their grievances related to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal.

During the meeting, the TMC delegation prominently raised the issue of reported "suicides" by several Booth Level Officers (BLOs) allegedly due to intense pressure to meet their SIR targets within a tight deadline.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, TMC MP Mahua Moitra,

who was part of the delegation, said, "We held a two-hour meeting and began by presenting a list of 40 people, 17-18 of whom were BLOs whose deaths were directly linked to the SIR process."

However, Mahua claimed that Election Commissioners dismissed these deaths as mere "allegations".

She said the delegation raised five key questions, but did not get any answers to their questions.

"We then raised five key questions. First: if the SIR exercise was meant to identify non-citizens, what was the final count in Bihar? Despite earlier claims of 'lakhs', not a single confirmed case has been reported.

"The same applies to Bengal, while other states like Tripura, Meghalaya, and those bordering Myanmar also face infiltration concerns, SIR is being conducted only in West Bengal, suggesting Bihar was merely a trial and West Bengal the real target," she said.

The TMC delegation also asked why Assam is undergoing only a special revision and not an intensive one.

She also asserted that if the ECI itself says the existing electoral rolls are

unreliable, the validity of the entire Lok Sabha comes into question as the general elections were held based on the same voter list.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien also echoed his party colleague Moitra, saying the ECI failed to answer any of their questions during the meeting.

Referring to the deaths of BLOs part of the SIR exercise, O'Brien said that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and his team have blood on their hands.

"We have a list of almost 40 dead officials because of the SIR process...The Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and his team have 'blood on their hands'," he added.



## INS Vikrant makes maiden overseas deployment for Sri Lanka's International Fleet Review 2025

(Gns).

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, along with the indigenously built frigate INS Udaygiri, is representing the Indian Navy at the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025 being hosted by the Sri Lanka Navy in Colombo.

The event, which will culminate on 29 November, is part of the Sri Lanka Navy's 75th anniversary celebrations and features participation from naval ships, delegations and observers from several countries.

In a statement issued here today, the naval spokesperson said that the visit marks the maiden overseas deployment of both ships and underscores India's commitment to strengthening regional maritime cooperation.

The maiden participation of indigenous-built INS Vikrant for an International Fleet Review highlights India's continued

engagement with partner navies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and reflects India's emphasis on promoting peace, stability and security through collaboration and interoperability.

The participation of the



recently commissioned INS Udaygiri further showcases India's advancing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and its balanced, expanding naval presence in the IOR, the spokesperson said further.

During their stay in Colombo, the ships will participate in key IFR events, including the ceremonial fleet review, city parade, community outreach activities, and professional naval interactions. As part of public outreach initiatives, the ships will also be open to visitors during IFR 2025.



## AAI's pavilion earns gold award at IITF 2025

(Gns). The Airports Authority of India (AAI) concluded its vibrant participation at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025, New Delhi, with a grand closing ceremony by bagging the prestigious gold award under the PSU category for the pavilion's outstanding design, immersive digital experience, and impactful representation of India's evolving aviation ecosystem.

Vipin Kumar, Chairman, Airports Authority of India, received the award from Neeraj Kharwal, Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), for his innovative approach in showcasing India's aviation advancements.

Built around the theme "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat," the pavilion drew strong appreciation and

marked the celebration of 150 years of Vande Mataram by inspiring visitors and students with patriotic enthusiasm.

Throughout the fair, the pavilion captivated attendees with its futuristic LED



archway, dynamic anamorphic display walls, and interactive touch kiosks featuring key initiatives such as UDAN, the Start-up Policy, AAI-Routes Asia 2025, and India's Air Connectivity Map. A digital flip book highlighting airports as cultural and architectural icons added to the

pavilion's appeal.

Visitors were further engaged through activities like the Air Quiz and an AI-powered Selfie Zone that allowed them to transform into digital avatars of aviation professionals. The

dedicated Briefing Zone also hosted informative sessions for students and media, offering deeper insights into AAI's operations and vision.

Major highlights of the pavilion were ATC Demonstration, state-of-the-art ATC-CNS Console, and exhibits showcasing

modern Communication, Navigation, and Surveillance technologies. The demonstration underscored India's progress in advanced air traffic management.

As IITF 2025 comes to a close, AAI's award-winning pavilion, inaugurated by Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, stands as a testament to its commitment to innovation, technology, safety, and sustainability. The Airports Authority of India continues to play a vital role in advancing the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, with aviation serving as a key catalyst for connectivity, economic development, and inclusive growth. State govt marks one year with mass appointment drive as opposition raises questions

## State govt marks one year with mass appointment drive as opposition raises questions

(Gns). The Jharkhand government marked the first anniversary of its second term with a large public ceremony at Morabadi Ground, where Chief Minister Hemant Soren handed appointment letters to 8,792 newly selected candidates. The event was presented as a sign of the administration's focus on job creation, even as the opposition described it as an exercise in self-congratulation.

Speaking to the gathering, the Chief Minister said the past year had been dedicated to expanding employment opportunities and strengthening welfare programmes. He said more than 16,000 young people had secured government jobs this year and around 8,000 others had found

work in the private sector. He urged the new recruits to guide at least one young

He also paid tribute to Jyotiba Phule on his death anniversary. He said the



person wherever they are posted and said that collective effort would help reshape the state.

The Chief Minister said the day carried mixed emotions because Shibu Soren was not present at the ceremony. He described him as a mentor for the state.

government's schemes were beginning to show visible results and cited the Mukhyamantri Mayinya Samman Yojana as an example of how women were becoming financially independent. According to him, women now account for 40 percent of assistant

professor appointments and 30 percent of selections in the JPSC civil services.

A detailed list of appointments was released at the event. The new recruits include 197 deputy collectors, 35 deputy superintendents of police, 55 state tax officers, two jail superintendents, eight education service officers, one district sports officer, eight assistant registrars, 14 labour superintendents, six probation officers and three excise inspectors from the 11th to 13th Combined Civil Services Examination. The government also handed 8,291 appointment letters to assistant professors. Family members of 84 police personnel who died on duty received jobs on compassionate grounds.

## Athrise Championship 2025 Successfully Held in Lucknow for the First Time

Lucknow, November 28, 2025: A grand athletic championship was held in Lucknow today, November 28, 2025, marking a significant step towards promoting sports at the school level. Over 2,000 students from over 150 schools participated, showcasing not only their talent but also a powerful message about the city's emerging sports culture. The event, held on the modern 8-lane synthetic track at 35 Battalion PAC, Mahanagar, provided participants with high-quality sports facilities at national standards.

The competition was organized by the Lucknow Athletics Association. A team of trained officials and volunteers were deployed to ensure technical accuracy, athlete safety, and fairness

at every stage of the event. This well-organized effort created an atmosphere of trust and enthusiasm among all participants, parents, and schools. The competition offered students the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic events across



different age groups. These included sprint races, relay races, middle-distance running, long jump, shot put, javelin throw, and several other field events. In each event, the children displayed remarkable discipline, energy, and dedication to the sport.

Chief Guest Mr. G.S. Naveen Kumar, Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, addressed the athletes, saying, "Sports teach us discipline, and discipline is the foundation for building better citizens and a better



society. Such events at the school level inspire confidence, concentration, and a healthy lifestyle in children." His address also informed the students and parents present about the broader social importance of sports. The most exciting moment of the event was

the distribution of over 650 medals, which recognized not only the performances of the winners but also the efforts and dedication of all the participants who took to the field with complete dedication. This scene became a moment of pride and inspiration for the schools, families, and students.

A large number of school principals, senior coaches, representatives of sports organizations, and administrative officials attended the event. Everyone hailed this initiative as a meaningful step towards strengthening the sports infrastructure in the city and providing children with professional exposure. It was also believed that such events would encourage more children to take up sports in the future. About Atherise:

## PNB Inks MoU with Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Ltd. to Strengthen EV Credit Ecosystem

28 November 2025: Punjab National Bank (PNB), Nation's leading public sector bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited (MLMML), India's No.1 electric commercial vehicle manufacturer to enable seamless financing options for sustainable connectivity.

The signing ceremony took place at New Delhi, in the presence of distinguished dignitaries. PNB was represented by Shri Ashok Chandra (MD&CEO), Shri Firoz Hasnain (CGM), along with senior executives

from the Bank, while MLMML was led by Shri Sourabh Mishra (VP & Head, Front end operations) along with other senior officials.

Under the MoU, PNB will offer a suite of customised finance schemes, easy repayment schedules, streamlined credit processing and enhanced digital as well as in-person customer experience across all its branches.



with Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited to make eco-friendly transportation solutions more accessible. This partnership reflects

our dedication to sustainable practices and customer-centric financial offerings. Together, we aim to simplify the purchase journey for customers and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in India.

Smt. Suman Mishra, MD&CEO, MLMML, said: "Our collaboration with PNB demonstrates our commitment to making advanced last mile mobility solutions accessible and affordable for all. Together, we aim to provide robust financial support to our valued customers thereby simplifying their purchasing journey."

## UP to celebrate Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav in 1.32 lakh schools from Dec 4-11

(Gns). A vibrant cultural stream of stories, poems, and dialogues will flow for seven days from December 4 to 11 in council schools. As per the instructions of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, this event will be organized in approximately 1.32 lakh council schools of Uttar Pradesh, with nearly 1.48 crore children participating.

Orders have been issued to organize the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav-2025, based on the theme 'Many Languages, One Emotion,' under the leadership and direction of Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Minister Sandeep Singh.

On the occasion, Minister Sandeep Singh said here on Friday, "The aim of this initiative is to ensure that children feel proud of their local language and mother tongue, develop respect for other Indian languages, and understand the emotional

strength of multilingualism." Concluding on the birth anniversary of the great poet Subramania Bharati, this festival will not only introduce students to India's multilingual traditions and literary sensibilities, but in accordance with the spirit of the National Education Policy-2020, it will further strengthen mother tongue-based education, multilingual learning, and cultural unity within the school environment and take them to new heights.



Each day throughout the seven-day festival will be dedicated to a different theme, through which children will explore the diversity of languages and various forms of expression. On December 4, language trees and linguistic heritage walls will be created

in schools, where children will present the languages spoken at their homes, in their region, and across the country.

On December 5, poems and songs in various languages will be presented under the theme of poetry and music.

On December 6, cultural programs related to festivals of various Indian languages and the Voice of Language Podcast will be organized.

On December 8, through 'Unity in Proverbs', children will learn the message of unity embedded in proverbs across the country, while under 'Cooperation in Bhasha Mitra', students will teach each other words from their languages.

On December 9, 'Bhasha Bandhu Letters'

and a multilingual story series will be held.

On December 10, language exploration clubs will be activated in schools, where children will discover languages through games, stories, word trails, and dialogue-based activities. The festival will conclude on December 11 with an interactive language fair and language theatre presentations.

"Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav-2025 will strengthen students' emotional connection with their mother tongue and their respect for Indian languages. This initiative will enhance children's linguistic understanding, cultural sensitivity, and multilingual competence and will effectively establish the spirit of the National Education Policy-2020 in schools," said Monika Rani, Director General of School Education.

## India-Vietnam joint peacekeeping exercise VINBAX 2025 concludes in Hanoi

(Gns). The sixth edition of the Vietnam-India bilateral army exercise on United Nations peacekeeping operations (VINBAX 2025) concluded at the Mieu Mon Training Centre, Hanoi.

In a statement issued on X today, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information of the Indian Army stated that the joint military Exercise Vin2025 between the Indian Army and the Vietnam People's Army was conducted at the Mieu Mon Training Centre.

The closing ceremony was attended by Tshering

Sherpa, Ambassador Designate of India to Vietnam, Senior Lieutenant

Army, and Major General Rajdeep Singh Rawal, Chief Engineer, Western



General Phung Si Tan, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Vietnam People's

Command. The three-week exercise significantly enhanced joint military

capabilities and interoperability between both Armies for Peacekeeping Operations.

The exercise reflects the shared vision and commitment of India and Vietnam towards global peace, stability, and upholding the UN mandate. 'Uniting for Humanitarian Excellence,' the post read further.

The exercise, which commenced on 11 November, saw the participation of 300 personnel from both countries, including engineers, medical, peacekeeping, and military observer elements.

## Samajwadi Party spreading confusion, fear about SIR in UP: BJP

(Gns). Strongly criticizing Samajwadi Party's move to announce compensation for families of the deceased BLOs during special intensive revision in Uttar Pradesh, the ruling BJP on Friday said that the opposition is spreading confusion and fear about the electoral exercise.

BJP state spokesperson Harish Srivastava made these remarks while targeting Akhilesh Yadav. He said that the opposition is completely frustrated and disappointed. The public's trust remains with the government.

Srivastava in a statement here on Friday said, "The Samajwadi Party is

A BJP spokesperson said that the opposition has failed to spread confusion.



"Akhilesh Yadav can give compensation to whomever he wants. However, the government operates according to rules and regulations. The government will take whatever steps are necessary in accordance with the rules," he said.

It is noteworthy that SP President Akhilesh Yadav had announced a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh each to

the dependents of deceased BLOs in the state. He has also appealed to the Election Commission to provide compensation of Rs. 1 crore each to the dependents of BLOs who died due to work stress.

Targeting the government, Akhilesh Yadav had said that the mental pressure being exerted on BLOs by setting impractical SIR targets is condemnable and highly objectionable. The BJP regime has provided nothing to anyone except various forms of harassment and unrest, SP president had said.

## Sexual assault case: Suspended Cong MLA Mamkootathil 'on the run' after registration of FIR

(Gns). The sexual assault case against suspended Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil has taken a serious turn, with chilling details emerging from the complainant's confidential statement to police.

The young woman has alleged that Mamkootathil not only sexually exploited her under the promise of marriage but also forced her to undergo an abortion by sending abortion pills through a friend.

The complainant claimed that she consumed the pills after Mamkootathil allegedly threatened her over a video call, leading to severe health complications.

She reportedly sought treatment from a gynaecologist at a government hospital, which police have now identified.

Based on her statement, police have intensified their efforts to trace Mamkootathil, who is believed to have gone into hiding soon after the FIR was registered at Valiyamala Police Station, here. Investigators suspect

that he may have left Kerala.

His mobile phone, which had remained switched off since her complaint, was switched on in the morning, even as search operations were underway in Palakkad and Pathanamthitta.

Police are also probing a businessman from Adoor, a close associate of Mamkootathil, who is believed to have delivered the abortion pills to the complainant.

The Thiruvananthapuram City Police Commissioner is directly supervising the investigation.

The case, registered as a zero FIR at Valiyamala, has now been transferred to Nemom Police Station, as the alleged offences occurred within its jurisdiction.

The charges include sexual exploitation under false promise of marriage and forced abortion.

Meanwhile, Mamkootathil has reportedly initiated legal steps to secure anticipatory bail. He held discussions

with a lawyer in Kochi and is weighing options to approach either the Thiruvananthapuram District Sessions Court or the Kerala High Court.



Police are set to move the Neyyattinkara Court on Friday to record the complainant's confidential statement under Section 164 CrPC.

If approved, the statement will be recorded the same day, adding another key layer to a case that is fast turning politically and legally significant in the state.

Top Congress leaders on Friday said that the party had suspended Mamkootathil in August when allegations of a similar nature surfaced. "Now

let the law take its course," said CWC member and veteran legislator Ramesh Chennithala.

Kerala's first woman IPS officer, who retired from the post of Director General of Police R. Sreelekha and is presently a top State BJP office bearer and also a candidate to the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, wrote in her social media page, "I am always with the survivor, standing only with the truth... The only sadness is - why didn't she file the complaint earlier? Why didn't she initiate legal action all this time?"

"And now, the only concern people raise is - why did she directly approach the Chief Minister? Was it to give the accused time to switch off his phone, disappear, and apply for anticipatory bail? Or is it to prevent the arrest of bigger names involved in the Sabarimala gold heist case? I am a mother, and I am a former police officer. I firmly believe that when it comes to protecting victims, there should never be delay or failure," wrote the former IPS official.