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PM Modi highlights 'Mission Shakti' as core of India's future in 'Amrit Kaal'

In a post on platform X, PM Modi stated: "Nari Shakti is at the heart of India's future. As Bharat enters Amrit Kaal, the term is no longer just a slogan; it is a national mission... A very prudent introspection by Union Minister Smt @Annapurna4BJP. Do read!"

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday amplified a detailed write-up by Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi, emphasizing that "Nari Shakti is at the heart of India's future" as the nation moves into the Amrit Kaal — the period leading up to India's centenary in 2047.

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enters Amrit Kaal, the term is no longer just a slogan; it is a national mission... A very prudent introspection by Union Minister Smt @Annapurna4BJP. Do read!"

The write-up, endorsed by the prime minister, outlined the concrete measures implemented under Mission Shakti that the government claims are "ensuring dignity and opportunity for women." These measures include One-Stop Centres, fast-track courts, helplines, and social-security hubs.

Mission Shakti, which was launched in 2015, is built on two primary pil-

lars: "Sambal" (protection & safety) and "Samarthya" (empowerment & livelihood).

Key achievements



detailed in the article include:

One-Stop Centres: 864 operational centres, aiding over 12.67 lakh

women.

Fast-Track Special Courts: 745 courts (including 404 exclusive POCSO courts), disposing

of more than 3 lakh cases.

Women Helpline (181): Active in 35 states/UTs, assisting over 93 lakh women.

Various legal, constitutional, and political issues have also emerged surrounding the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal.

The parliamentary committee has engaged in discussions with various experts from relevant sectors over the past few months regarding this mat-

authority that should be granted to the election commission has become a focal point of debate, making Thursday's meeting particularly significant.

On August 25, 1965, the 'Committee on Subordinate Legislation' of the Parliament summoned the then Chief

Election Commissioner of the country. This marks the first instance of a parliamentary committee calling upon a chief election com-

missioner.

Additionally, other senior officials of the commission will also present their statements on that day. On the same day, members of the 23rd Law Commission have also been summoned.

The Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee regarding 'One Nation One Election', MP and former Law Minister P. P. Choudhury, stated that there is a 39-member committee in the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation One Election', comprising 27 members from the Lok Sabha and 12 members from the Rajya Sabha.

From these discussions, several complex aspects have also emerged. In this context, the extent of

Social-Security Union Minister

Schemes: Programs like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, and Sakhi

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Amid SIR chaos, par panel summons CEC Gyanesh Kumar on Dec 4

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While former law minister P P Chaudhury chairs the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on 'One Nation, One Election', the panel was constituted under the chairmanship of former President Ramnath Kovind.

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Unveiling of Baba Saheb Ambedkar's statue at UNESCO headquarters a proud moment for the country: Yogi

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath issued a special letter to the people of the state, saying that the unveiling of the statue of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on Constitution Day is a moment of pride for the entire country.

The Chief Minister, in a statement here on Monday, has described it as a symbol of India's democratic traditions and global acceptance of an egalitarian society.

The CM said, inspired by Baba Saheb, the state government has implemented several schemes

prioritising the uplift of Dalits and marginalised communities. The scope of education, skill development, scholarships, and

ment's objective is to build a self-reliant framework that provides even the lowest rung of society with a secure future and opportu-

ly in the state. Under this, the benefits of schemes related to housing, rations, pensions, labour, and education are being rapidly extended to the weaker sections.

The Chief Minister said that the government is working with full commitment towards the goal of making Uttar Pradesh poverty-free by the year 2027.

Referring to the Mahaparinirvan date of Dr Ambedkar on December 6, the Chief Minister said that this day is an opportunity to pay homage to him and to pledge to adopt the basic spirit of the Constitution — justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity — in life.

He said India has voiced that assistance during biological incidents must be fast, it must be practical, and it must be purely humanitarian.

"For 50 years, BWC has stood by one simple idea: that humanity rejects disease as a weapon. But norms survive only when nations renew them. The next 50 years will demand concerted action," Jaishankar said.

"We must modernise the Convention, we must keep pace with science and strengthen global capacity so that all countries can

covers identification of high-risk agents, oversight of dual-use research, domestic reporting, incident management, and continuous training," Jaishankar said.

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Bioterrorism is a serious concern: Jaishankar

(Gns). External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said bioterrorism is a serious concern that the international community has to be adequately prepared for, adding that India remains a trusted partner to the Global South and a committed supporter of global biosecurity.

In his remarks at a conference on 50 Years of the Biological Weapons Convention: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South, New Delhi, the External Affairs Minister said, "Misuse by non-state actors is no longer a distant possibility. Bioterrorism is a serious concern that the international community has to be adequately prepared for. Yet the Biological Weapons Convention

(BWC) still lacks basic institutional structures, as we were just reminded. It has no compliance system, it has no permanent technical body, and no mechanism to track new scientific developments. These gaps must be bridged in order to strengthen confidence."

He said India has consistently called for stronger compliance measures within the BWC, including verification designed for today's world.

India supports international cooperation and

assistance, enabling the exchange of materials and equipment for peaceful use, Jaishankar said.

"We have further called for a systematic review of

scientific and technological developments so that governance does indeed keep pace with innovation," the External Affairs Minister said.

"We have proposed a National Implementation Framework that, inter alia,

deputies are busy campaigning for municipal elections. The BJP and Shinde faction are engaging in mutual sabotage. Voters are being lured with huge money, and those who accept the payment get stuck in the trap and become ready for Zindabad (long live) slogans. They have neither policy nor regulations — only money and the game of money. In such money-oriented municipal elections, ultimately nothing except five to ten thousand will reach the public," it alleged.

The Thackeray camp took a swipe at Shinde for his statement urging the BJP to adhere to the coalition 'dharma' or face conflict.

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Editorial

India in Crisis

Few in authority want to acknowledge the problem of drug abuse in India. Udda Punjab, a 2016 Bollywood film portraying drug abuse in Punjab, was initially not cleared for exhibition by the Censor Board, reportedly on instructions of the Central Government. However, once exhibited, the film succeeded in making drug peddling the central issue in the 2017 Punjab Assembly Elections. It is quite another matter, that instead of decreasing, use of illegal drugs has increased over the years in Punjab, and has rapidly spread to other States also, especially Kerala. Controlling illicit drug supply has become even more difficult, with synthetic drugs like fentanyl (a synthetic opioid) and methamphetamine (a synthetic stimulant), and now nitazenes, replacing traditional plant-based drugs like cocaine and heroin. This is because synthetic drugs can be made anywhere, at any time, requiring only chemicals, lab equipment, and basic know-how. It does not help that India lies between the Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand) and the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan), two of the world's largest heroin-producing regions. Technology is being misused on a large scale for trading in drugs, orders are taken on social media and last year, the BSF intercepted 294 drones in Punjab that were carrying drugs from Pakistan. Drug traffickers are known to deploy narco-submarines to cross oceans, with their abominable cargo. India, which was earlier a transit point for drug shipments to the US and Europe, is increasingly becoming a significant consumer and producer of illicit drugs. Drug syndicates now eye India's robust chemical and pharmaceutical sector for manufacturing synthetic drugs, and as a source of precursor chemicals. Busting of an illicit methamphetamine manufacturing facility in Greater Noida, belonging to the dreaded Jalisco Cartel of Mexico, points to the involvement of international drug cartels in the drug trade in India. The methamphetamine manufacturing unit was indistinguishable from nearby chemical factories, and even workers did not know what they were manufacturing. Production of such dangerous drugs in India would mean easier access, lower prices for such drugs, and add to the number of Indian drug addicts. The presence of international cartels could pour more money and muscle into the drug trade, and encourage other criminal activity. The increasing amount of drug seizures by Indian law enforcement agencies reflects the increasing use of drugs in India; drugs worth Rs.25,330 crore were seized in 2024, an increase of over 55 per cent over 2023. The following statistics relating to drug seizures, in 2024, indicate the enormity of the problem: * A gigantic consignment of 3,132 kg of drugs valued at over Rs.2,000 crore was seized in international waters, off the coast of Gujarat. * Security agencies seized over 700 kg of contraband methamphetamine in Gujarat from an international drug trafficking cartel. * A drug consignment worth approximately Rs.900 crore was seized from a courier centre in Delhi. * Agencies under MHA destroyed 1,17,284 kg of narcotics. Drug abuse silently harms individuals, breaks families, weakens communities and encourages crime; from New York to London to New Delhi, misguided youth seek solace in drugs. According to the World Drug Report, close to 58,000 drug-related deaths were reported in India in 2019 ~ approximately 17 per cent of the global total. Drug trafficking flourishes because it generates windfall profits ~ drugs are sold at a hundred to one thousand times of their cost. Drug merchants are no more like yesteryear's drug-lords but more like modern businessmen, with sophisticated supply and distribution chains. They communicate on the dark web, and accept payments in crypto currency. The trade in illicit drugs is remarkably well organised. According to US agencies, Chinese corporations supply chemical components of dangerous drugs like fentanyl to criminal gangs in Canada and Mexico, who manufacture fentanyl, and smuggle it into the US. Concerningly, according to National Drug Threat Assessment 2024, published by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), India was also fast emerging as a major source country for chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl. The power of drug lords can be understood from the fact that despite the publicly stated resolve of US President Donald Trump to end drug trafficking, Mexican criminal gangs, known as the Sinaloa Cartel, and CJNG or the Jalisco Cartel, have penetrated deep into the US; supplying drugs even to isolated communities. To support drug trafficking, these cartels indulge in a host of other criminal activities like arms trafficking, money laundering, migrant smuggling, sex trafficking, bribery, extortion etc. Deployment of US warships off the coast of Venezuela, after the US Hellfire missiles did not deter Venezuelan drug traffickers, shows the enormity of the drug problem. Directly or indirectly, many Governments support the drug trade: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whom Trump calls a 'narcoterrorist,' appears to be linked with drug traffickers. Traditionally, use of drugs like charas and ganja was legal in India. In the 1960s and 1970s, young persons from the West came to India to achieve enlightenment ~ through drugs. However, to fulfil its international obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Parliament passed the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 1985 that prohibited the production/manufacturing/cultivation, possession, sale, purchase, transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance ~ with hefty prison terms for violators. While Western countries that motivated India to pass the draconian NDPS, have slowly relaxed drug control, we persist with total prohibition, even alcohol being taboo in many States. This approach has spawned a huge market for illicit drugs and contraband alcohol; new gangs have come up for drug and alcohol manufacture and supply, and related allied criminal activity. Before India becomes a significant player in the international drug trade, the time may have come to revisit our drug policies. Till now, official response to the increasing drug menace has been one of looking the other way, or bluster. Thrice, in 2014, 2023 and 2024, PM Modi has talked about drug addiction in his Mann ki Baat programme; at a conference in September 2025, Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated his Government's resolve to root out drug addiction. Going a step further, on 1 March 2025, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had vowed to make Punjab drug-free in the next three months. This was after his predecessor, Amarinder Singh, at the time of taking office in 2017, had promised to eradicate the State's drug problem in four weeks.

(Gns). On 26 November, India celebrated Constitution Day, a day to commemorate the adoption of its foundational legal document in 1949. This Constitution is a remarkable blend of borrowed features and indigenous wisdom, a living document that accommodates diversity and promotes inclusivity. At its core lies an inherent spirit of mediation and peaceful coexistence, deeply influenced by the ethical framework of Mahatma Gandhi and India's ancient civilizational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family). Understanding this spirit is crucial, as it offers a potent, indigenous model for addressing some of the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century.

The Indian Constitution

Sarvodaya Vidyalaya performed brilliantly on the international platform, brought glory to the country

Harish Dharja
History created in World Powerlifting Championship 2025

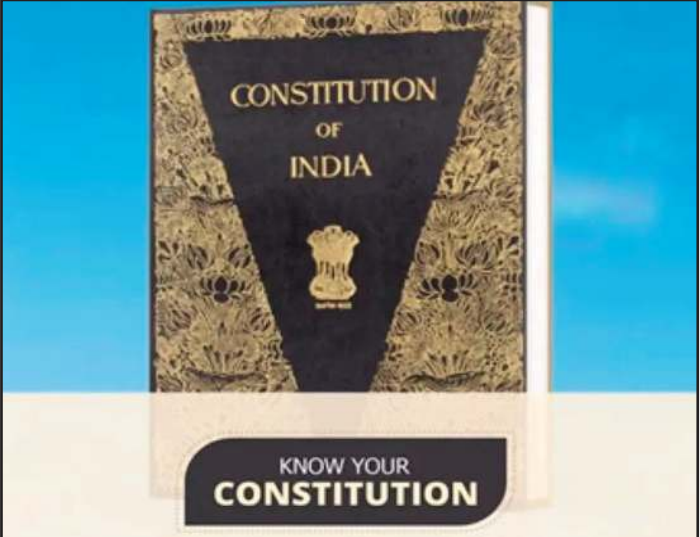
Mathura. Youth from 40 countries took part in the World Power Lifting Championship 2025 held in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. Indian youth Harish Dharja won the gold medal and made India proud. Who is a resident of Mathura township. Apart from this, physical education teacher Harish Chandra of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya and class 11 student Raman Kumar performed brilliantly.

The sports and youth welfare policy of the Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh is now giving results at international forums. The proof of this is that in the World Power Lifting Championship 2025 held in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, Harish Chandra, exercise teacher of Jayaprakash Narayan Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Itaura, Agra district, and Raman Kumar, student of class 11, have performed brilliantly. Harish Chandra won the title of world champion by winning the gold

is philosophically grounded in the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, whose ethical framework provides a moral compass for its mediatory spirit. This is evident through three core values such as 'Satyagraha (Truth Force)', which promotes a search for substantive justice through mutual adjustment and acknowledgment of the opponent's view; 'Ahimsa' (Non-Violence), which translates into the necessity for parties to communicate with mutual respect and empathy, avoiding intellectual or verbal aggression; and 'Sarvodaya' (Welfare of All), the ultimate goal of a resolution that benefits all involved, mirroring the definition of a successful, sustainable, win-win mediated settlement. Though not legally enforceable, and derived from Mahatma

Gandhi's philosophy, they serve as a moral compass for Indian governance, enshrined primarily within the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). Specifically, Article 40 man-

Swaraj' (village self-governance). His emphasis on Swadeshi and a decentralized economy is captured in Article 43, which promotes cottage industries. Furthermore, Article 47



dates the organization of Panchayats, reflecting Gandhi's ideal of 'Gram

reflects his stance on prohibition of intoxicating substances for public health.

medal in the 77 kg weight category, while young student Raman Kumar brought glory to the country by winning the silver medal

in the 56 kg weight category. Athletes from more than 40 countries are participating in the World Power Lifting Championship 2025 held in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. On this international

platform, the guru and disciple duo brought proud moments for the country. Teacher Harish Chandra won the gold medal in the 77 kg weight category and achieved the title of world champion. Student Raman Kumar performed excellently in the 56 kg weight category and won the silver medal. Yogi government is continuously encouraging sports and players in the state. Due to the sports policies of the government, both the players were selected on the basis of their strong performance in the National Powerlifting



Agra's Guru-Mathura's disciple won gold-silver in Colombo

of State for Social Welfare (Independent Charge) Aseem Arun heartily congratulated both the players on this achievement. He said that this historic achievement in Colombo is a matter of pride for the entire state and country. The performance that the students and teachers of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya Itaura have shown on the international platform will become an inspiration for the upcoming players. Yogi government is always committed to encourage sports and players. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya Itaura, run by the

“This show holds up a mirror to parents, revealing how love can slip into control,” says Sangita Ghosh from COLORS’ ‘Tu Juliet Jatt Di’

Starring Jasmeet Kaur as Heer, Syed Raza Ahmed as Nawab, and Sangita Ghosh as Gulaab, COLORS' 'Tu Juliet Jatt Di' is a fiery, new-age romance that flips the classic love story upside down. Here, marriage happens first, then college, and only later comes love. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Chandigarh Prime University, the show follows two opposites: Nawab, a carefree Jatt who lives by impulse, and Heer, a focused, ambitious girl determined to build a better life for her family. Their worlds couldn't be more different, he's spontaneous and untamed, she's disciplined and grounded, yet fate binds them together in a majboori ki shaadi before their campus life even begins. Amidst the youthful chaos and emotional sparks, stands Gulaab, a mother whose love becomes both her strength and her flaw. Sangita, who brings this complex character to life, opened up about the show, her role, and what makes 'Tu Juliet Jatt Di' such a fresh and heart-felt story.

1. Tell us about 'Tu Juliet Jatt Di' and your character Gulaab. What makes her such an integral part of this world?

A. What attracted me to Tu Juliet Jatt Di was how real it felt. Two young people being pushed into marriage before they're even ready for college sets the story on a very interesting

track from the first episode. The show has a young and raw feel, and the family dynamics look very familiar. Gulaab fits naturally into

A. What drew me to Gulaab was how real her emotions felt. Playing her made me think about the many sides of motherhood.



this. She has run her home in her own way for years, so sudden changes bother her. She speaks openly, she reacts honestly, and she stands by what she believes in. That truthfulness makes the story feel grounded. As an actor, I enjoy characters who are not trying to be perfect, and that is what makes playing Gulaab exciting.

2. What drew you to this role and what makes Gulaab stand out from the characters you have played before?

I am a mother myself, so I understand how love can make you protective without even realising it. That is where I connected to her. I have played strong women before, but Gulaab's strength comes from her motherhood. In a show that talks about how today's generation sees love, I am standing on the other side, playing a mother, whose love is intense but very different. She reacts quickly and she holds on tightly. Her biggest strengths and her biggest mistakes both

come from the same place, which is her love for her child.

3. The show explores love, freedom, and family expectations through multiple lenses. How do you see Gulaab's perspective fitting into that?

A. Gulaab is a layered character because her love has a dark side to it. She adores her son, but that love can turn controlling and overpowering. She wants every part of Nawab's life under her watch, not out of cruelty but because she truly believes she knows what is best for him. For her generation, holding on tightly felt like keeping your family safe. Today's youth see love as space and freedom, and that is where Gulaab's world clashes with Nawab's. She becomes that emotional reminder of how hard it is for parents to let go, especially when their identity is tied to their child. She is not fully right or wrong. She is simply a mother realising that love today looks very different from the love she grew up with.

4. How was your experience working with your co-stars Syed Raza Ahmed and Jasmeet Kaur, who play Nawab and Heer?

A. Working with Syed and Jasmeet has been genuinely refreshing. They're both very easy to be around and genuinely good people, which makes a big difference on set. I always feel it's my responsibility to make yo...

Finally, Article 51 urges the promotion of international peace and security, thereby aligning with his vision of a just world order. The foundational spirit of mediation and conciliation is deeply embedded in the Constitutional philosophy of India, even without explicit mention of the term 'mediation.' The Preamble, which is the guiding light of the Constitution, articulates commitments to Justice (Social, Economic, and Political), Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, all of which collectively mandate a socio-legal order that minimizes conflict and promotes harmonious coexistence and shared prosperity. This constitutional vision inherently advocates for dispute resolution mechanisms that transcend the adversarial model, seeking to restore relationships and assure the dignity of the individual. Thus, it lays the ideological groundwork for peaceful and amicable settlement practices. The formal recognition of mediation and other non-adversarial methods is prominently established through the Judiciary's active endorsement of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

A pivotal development was the 2002 amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), which introduced Section 89, legally empowering civil courts to refer suitable pending cases to ADR processes such as Arbitration, Conciliation, Judicial Settlement, Lok Adalat, and Mediation. This legislative step signifies a profound shift in judicial policy, acknowledging the limitations of the conventional adversarial system in providing holistic justice. The uniquely Indian innovation of the Lok Adalat further exemplifies this commitment, successfully facilitating mass-scale settlements based on Gandhian ideals of compromise and conciliation. Moreover, a major milestone in this evolution is the Mediation Act, 2023, which provides a comprehensive statutory framework for institutionalizing mediation in India.

The Act promotes pre-litigation mediation, ensures the enforceability of mediated settlement agreements as court decrees, and establishes the Mediation Council of India to regulate and standardize the practice. Its focus on confidentiality, party autonomy, and voluntary participation strongly echoes the Gandhian philosophy of resolving conflicts through dialogue, mutual understanding, and transformation of hearts, rather than through imposed judgments. It is undeniable that the formal legal adoption of mediation is, in essence, a modern institutionalization of an ancient, indigenous social practice. Conciliation has always been an intrinsic feature of India's social and cultural fabric, traditionally practiced through informal community structures like Panchayats.

Such bodies historically resolved disputes through common sense, local norms, and a primary focus on the restoration of social harmony. Therefore, the contemporary legal framework for mediation does not introduce a foreign concept, but rather legitimizes and integrates a time-honoured, organic practice of dispute resolution into the formal justice delivery system, ensuring its continuity and effectiveness in a rapidly evolving socio-legal landscape. The Sanskrit phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', derived from ancient texts like the 'Maha Upanishad', meaning 'the entire world is one family', is also inscribed in the entrance hall of the Parliament of India and serves as a cornerstone of

India's philosophical and diplomatic discourse, particularly as a guiding principle in international relations.

This also happened to be India's core theme during India's presidency of G20. This ethos does not impose uniformity but accepts and celebrates diversity, fostering a culture of mutual respect and cooperation. It emphasizes the interconnectedness of all humanity and the shared responsibility for the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants. This philosophical foundation advocates for an inclusive, collective approach to human existence. The Indian Constitution, by embracing this ethos implicitly and explicitly through its various principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, seeks to build a society where individual and group interests coexist in harmony with the larger national and global good.

In an era marked by climate emergencies, pandemics, widening economic disparities, and rising geopolitical tensions, the combined spirit of Gandhian values and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam offers a deeply relevant and unifying global paradigm. Gandhi's principles of simplicity, non-possession, and mindful consumption resonate strongly with contemporary ecological ethics, reinforcing the urgency of sustainable development. The ethos of shared responsibility embedded in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam further strengthens the call for global cooperation in protecting the planet, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and crafting policies that place environmental justice at their core. Equally vital is the role of these values in shaping international cooperation and peace-building, and India has taken a lead, from 'Operation Dost' to 'Vaccine Maitri' and its adherence to principles of peaceful coexistence under Article 51, which further exemplifies how the idea of the world as one family can bridge the gap between idealism and practical diplomacy.

At a time when global polarization is deepening, Gandhian techniques of dialogue, empathy, and non-violence provide a compelling blueprint for conflict resolution. Together, the Indian constitutional and civilizational ethos ~ with fundamental duties as an essential part of citizens' responsibilities ~ offers a powerful alternative to aggression, fostering a culture of peace, mutual respect, and collective progress. As the world grapples with fragmentation, populism, and existential threats, India's constitutional dedication to this spirit (of mediation, empathy, mutual respect and conciliation) serves as a timeless reminder that true strength lies not in the ability to fight, but in the wisdom and moral courage to reconcile, thus honouring the deep-seated wisdom of its civilization and fulfilling its constitutional promise to promote international peace and security.

As we celebrate 'Constitution Day', it becomes evident that the true strength of its constitutional vision lies not merely in its legal architecture, but in its deeper ethical foundations shaped by Gandhian philosophy and the civilizational ideal of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. The Constitution stands as a living testament to the enduring belief that justice, unity, and peace can be achieved not through force alone, but through dialogue, compassion, and the courage to seek reconciliation over conflict. For ages, India has been known for this.

BrahMos missile test-fired successfully, operational readiness reaffirmed

(Gns). The Indian Army today successfully carried out a combat missile launch of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile from a test range in the Bay of Bengal. The launch was executed in a precisely coordinated mission involving a BrahMos unit of Southern Command and elements of the Tri-Services Andaman and Nicobar Command. In a statement issued here today, the Ministry of Defence stated that the missile, equipped with advanced guidance and control systems, validated its performance, high-speed flight stability and terminal accuracy by engaging a designated target with precision. The mission met all operational objectives under simulated battle conditions, reaffirming the high state of operational readiness of the Indian Army's BrahMos units and their capability to undertake General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, lauded the successful combat launch of the BrahMos missile. This successful launch marks a major milestone in the Army's continued efforts to enhance long-range precision strike capability and reinforce deterrence. The launch once again demonstrated the accuracy, reliability and effectiveness of India's indigenous missile systems, reflecting steady progress in the nation's strategic and technological competencies, the ministry stated.



The mission met all operational objectives under simulated battle conditions, reaffirming the high state of operational readiness of the Indian Army's BrahMos units and their capability to undertake real-time precision strike missions to address emerging battlefield challenges.

Farm fires down over 90% in Punjab, Haryana; CAQM credits strict enforcement

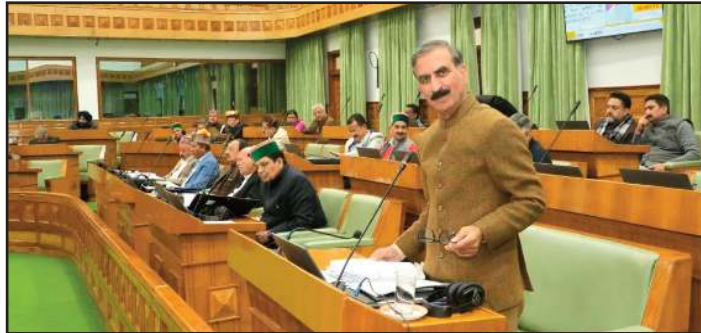
(Gns). The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Monday said farm fire incidents during this year's paddy harvesting season, officially recorded from 15th September to 30th November, have witnessed a significant decline in the last five years, particularly in Punjab and Haryana. The agency attributed the declining numbers to stricter state-wide monitoring and enforcement measures. According to government data, Punjab recorded 5,114 fires this season, registering a drop of 93 per cent from 2021 count's which stood at a towering figure of 71,304 in 2021. A similar decline was noted in Haryana, which logged 662 fires, the lowest in five years, in contrast to 6,987 stubble burning incidents and ex-situ stubble management measures. Expanding on ex-situ or briquettes in thermal power plants and brick kilns. It added that paddy straw is also being used in packaging and other commercial applications. The agency also noted ground-level inspection and enforcement by flying squads, Parali Protection Force, field officers and continuous monitoring across hotspot Districts, among other measures, reducing the stubble burning numbers. Meanwhile, fire counts in neighbouring states rose. Rajasthan recorded 2,890 fires this season, up from 2,772 last year. Uttar Pradesh logged 7,290 fires, compared to 6,142 last season. Madhya Pradesh saw the sharpest rise, with 17,067 fires this year versus 16,360 last year.



reported from the state in 2021. CAQM officials attributed the reduced farm fire events to stricter implementation of the State and District-specific Action Plans, boosting the in-situ paddy straw management, the agency said the measures now include biomass-based power generation, use of straw in industrial boilers, production of bio-ethanol, and mandatory co-firing of paddy straw pellets

Himachal's severe financial crisis to delay MLA funds, pay hike and allowances: CM

(Gns). Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Monday said that Himachal Pradesh is passing through a severe financial crisis, so much so that the government is currently unable to release the third instalment of the MLA Area Development Fund. Responding to a Point of Order raised by Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur after Question Hour in the assembly, the Chief Minister said the financial condition of the state continues to be severe. He said the MLA Area Development Fund is the privilege of every legislator, but the government is facing difficulty in releasing the next instalment due to limited financial resources. Sukhu said he fully understands the problems being faced by MLAs. However, given the strained fiscal situation, the government may not be able to pay the enhanced salaries and allowances to legislators this month as well, he added. The Chief Minister pointed out that the Himachal Pradesh Assembly is the only assembly in the country where MLAs pay their own income tax as well as electricity and water bills. He added that only if the Centre provides financial support will the government be able to release the third instalment of the Area Development Fund this month. Sukhu said the state's Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) has come down from Rs 11,000 crore to Rs 3,200 crore. After the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), the Centre also withdrew Sitharaman, who, in turn, questioned the state's decision to revive OPS when it is being discontinued across the country. Sukhu said he has already demanded a two per cent increase in the state's borrowing limit and will reiterate this demand in another meeting in January. He also said that although he has presented the state's financial condition before the 16th Finance Commission, the state should not expect major relief, considering the rise in per capita income. Earlier, raising the issue, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said the government has released only two instalments of the MLA Area Development Fund for the current year and that even sanctioned amounts are not being released as per MLAs' recommendations. The Chief Minister said he has raised the issue of reduced tax devolution and grants with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who, in turn, questioned the state's decision to revive OPS when it is being discontinued across the country. Sukhu said he has already demanded a two per cent increase in the state's borrowing limit and will reiterate this demand in another meeting in January. He also said that although he has presented the state's financial condition before the 16th Finance Commission, the state should not expect major relief, considering the rise in per capita income. Earlier, raising the issue, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said the government has released only two instalments of the MLA Area Development Fund for the current year and that even sanctioned amounts are not being released as per MLAs' recommendations. The Chief Minister said he has raised the issue of reduced tax devolution and grants with Union Finance Minister Nirmala



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BJP tightens grip in Bihar as Prem Kumar set for Speaker's chair

(Gns). Senior BJP leader and Gaya City MLA Prem Kumar is set to become the Speaker of the 18th Bihar Legislative Assembly, which commenced on Monday with the swearing-in of newly elected members. He filed his nomination papers for the Speaker's post soon after taking the oath as a member of the House. Deputy chief ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, along with several other senior NDA ministers and MLAs, were present during the nomination process. With the NDA holding 202 of the 243 seats in the Bihar Assembly, Prem Kumar's election as Speaker is almost assured. If the opposition does not field a candidate, he will be elected unopposed. After Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary was appointed the new Home Minister, giving the BJP direct oversight of law and order, political observers had speculated that the Speaker's post might go to the JD(U). However, Dr. Prem Kumar's nomination indicates a clear shift within the NDA government, suggesting that the BJP is moving closer to the driver's seat in Bihar. Dr. Prem Kumar is among the most senior leaders of the Bihar BJP. He has won the Gaya City Assembly seat nine times in a row. Over the years, he has held several key portfolios under Nitish Kumar, including Agriculture, Forest and Environment, Cooperation, PHED, and PWD. In 2015, he also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Notably, he has never been involved in any controversy. Considering his seniority and deep understanding of parliamentary procedures, the NDA has placed its confidence in him. Speaking to the media, Dr. Prem Kumar said, "Today I filed my nomination for the post of Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, and the result will be declared tomorrow. I welcome the decision of our leaders and express my gratitude to them." He added, "I have entered the Assembly after winning the election for the ninth consecutive time. For this, I express my gratitude to the people of my constituency and to the party leadership."



Kerala Raj Bhavan rechristened Lok Bhavan

(Gns). The Kerala Raj Bhavan, the official residence of the Governor, is officially rechristened Lok Bhavan (People's House) on Monday. The change follows instructions from the Union Home Ministry. Governor Arjendra Vishwanath Arlekar in a statement on Monday said that the change marks an important milestone from a 'colonial mindset' to a democratic one. The Governor said the the Kerala Raj Bhavan over the years has taken a series of initiatives to open its doors to the public. "The Raj Bhavan has organised lectures on important topics such as 'Operation Sindoor' by S Gurumurthy and 'Global Economic Trends: India's Challenges and Prospects' by V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India," the statement said. Governor Arlekar also workers removing the Raj Bhavan nameboard from the gate wall. In a sweeping move to shed colonial-era terminology, the Union Home Ministry On November 25, issued a directive to all States and Union Territories to rename the official residences of Governors as "Lok Bhavan" and those of Lieutenant Governors as "Lok Niwas". The proposal to rename Raj Bhavan to Lok Bhavan was proposed by Rajendra Arlekar at the All India Governor's Conference 2022, when he was the Governor of Bihar. Arlekar argued that the redesignation would help bring the Governor's establishment closer to the people. He said that the change would symbolise accessibility, transparency, and democratic participation. The proposal was examined and finalised by a committee chaired by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, who argued that the term "Raj Bhavan" carries a distinct colonial imprint and must be replaced with a more democratic, people-centric label. appealed to the people of Kerala to wholeheartedly support this initiative and uphold the spirit of Lok Bhavan. Earlier, the Governor's office released photos and videos showing



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Prithviraj Chavan hints 'Marathi man' may be PM in a month

(Gns). Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Monday claimed that if the names mentioned in the controversial Jaffery Epstein files be made public, it could cause a political earthquake in the country due to which a "Marathi man" might become the Prime Minister of India. Tweeting about the matter on his X handle, Chavan tagged the official X handles of the Maharashtra Congress, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. "If the information in the 'Epstein Files' currently circulating in America comes out, it could cause a major earthquake in Indian politics. In this political upheaval, we may see a Marathi man become the Prime Minister of the country by next month," Chavan Epstein Files issue is of global significance. "A big businessman in America called Jeffrey Epstein did a lot of illegal activities. It is an issue which involves the leaders of all political parties and he made them do questionable things. The names of all big political leaders have come up in America. President Trump's name is also in the list. Therefore, Trump may have to resign. The Election Commission has very strict criteria there," Chavan said. "The US Congress is after Trump. It is asking for the names to be revealed but Trump is not doing so because too many very high profile people will get into trouble. The US Congress has been after Trump for six months and 10,000 documents have been seized. Information in these documents could be revealed," Chavan said. According to Chavan, US President Donald Trump has signed the 'Epstein Files Transparency Act'. After this, the Justice Department will now have to release all files and information related to the investigation into Jeffrey Epstein's sex crimes and his death in prison in 2019, within 30 days, Chavan said. tweeted on X. However, when media persons asked Chavan about "Which Marathi man could become the Prime Minister during a press conference at Karad," Chavan kept the suspense alive by saying nothing more than, "You find out now". Chavan said that the



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Govt confirms GPS spoofing bid at Delhi's IGI Airport last month

(Gns). The Narendra Modi government on Monday admitted that several flights approaching the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in New Delhi reported GPS spoofing last month. In response to a question in Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said GPS spoofing incidents occurred while aircraft were using GPS-based landing procedures on Runway 10 at IGI Airport. He, however, asserted that this did not disrupt the flight operations as the flights switched to contingency procedures after receiving spoofed navigational signals. The minister said the flights used other runways as well as conventional were used for GPS spoofed flights approaching to RWY 10. There were no effects Message Switching System (AMSS) of the Air Traffic Control. The GPS spoofing was also reported at several other airports, including Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. "Kolkata, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai airports have all recorded GNSS interference incidents," Naidu added. Meanwhile, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is seeking Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO)'s help in tracing the spoofing origin. "After being mandated by DGCA to report instances of GPS jamming/spoofing since November 2023, regular reports are being received on movements of flights, on other runway ends having conventional navigational aids being operational," he stated. On November 6, around 800 flights were reportedly delayed following a technical glitch in the Automatic Contingency procedures



ground-based navigational aids. "Some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of IGLA, New Delhi while using GPS based landing procedures, while approaching on RWY 10. Contingency procedures

'A movement, not just an event': Jaju charts vision for India's global creative push

(Gns). India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector stands on the brink of extraordinary expansion even as it navigates rapid transformation driven by artificial intelligence, Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju said in Mumbai on Monday. Jaju also released CII's White Paper on priority policy reforms and stressed that as a rising economic power, India must ensure its stories reach every corner of the world. Speaking at the 12th CII Big Picture Summit, on the theme 'The AI Era - Bridging Creativity and Commerce', Jaju underscored that the industry must harness emerging technologies and India's rich creative heritage to build a globally competitive creative economy. Jaju called on the industry more than an event; it is a movement. Our Prime Minister has consistently reminded us that each wave alongside food, shelter, and clothing, remains a fundamental pillar of civilisation, integral not only to economic growth but also to societal harmony and happiness. "The true value of our sector goes beyond numbers: it connects people, fosters harmony, and links nations together," he said. India's creative economy, he noted, is now a direct or indirect livelihood source for over 10 million people, contributing approximately Rs 3 lakh crore to the national GDP. Jaju highlighted India's rich storytelling heritage, from oral traditions (Shruti) to written (Kriti) and visual forms, forming three verticals, as showcased in the Bharat Pavilion at the WAVES Summit and now in the National Museum of Indian Cinema. try to view the WAVES Summit not as a standalone event, but as part of an ongoing movement—one that continually inspires new waves of creativity, innovation, and progress. "The WAVES Summit is much in this journey builds upon the last, urging us to reflect on where we stand as an industry and how we can move forward together," he remarked. The Secretary underscored that entertainment,



try to view the WAVES Summit not as a standalone event, but as part of an ongoing movement—one that continually inspires new waves of creativity, innovation, and progress. "The WAVES Summit is much

43 monumnts in Uttarakhand protected by ASI: Shekhawat

(Gns). Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday said over 40 monumnts are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) while the Sangeet Natak Akademi is directly promoting several performing folk arts and cultural festivals in Uttarakhand.

He was replying in the Lok Sabha while replying to a question raised by Haridwar MP Trivendra Singh Rawat on the first day of the winter session.

Replying to Rawat's question on the Centre's provisions for preservation of cultural heritage of Uttarakhand, the Union cul-

ture minister said, "Currently 43 centrally protected monumnts and sites in Uttarakhand are under care and maintenance of the ASI.

"Conservation work is undertaken as per requirement and availability of resources in accordance with National Policy for Conservation of heritage monumnts. All these sites are presently in good shape."

Union minister added that Sangeet Natak Akademi is also playing an active role in promoting folk,

traditional and tribal performing arts in the Himalayan state. He

in Almora.

He added that the government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country.

"The ZCCs organise various cultural activities and programmes on a regular basis in their member States. Cultural festivals and art promotional activities in Uttarakhand are organised by cultural festivals and art promotion in Uttarakhand are organised by North Zone Cultural Centre (NCZC) Patiala and North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC) Prayagraj," he added.



Global Gita recitation held with 21,000 children during International Gita Mahotsav at Kurukshetra

(Gns). As part of the International Gita Mahotsav, a grand and historic Global Gita Path, was organized on Monday at Keshav Park in Dharmakshetra-Kurukshetra. During this mass recitation, 21,000 children chanted verses from the Gita in unison, creating a divine spectacle that filled the atmosphere with knowledge, devotion, and spirituality. This unprecedented participation reflected the Indian principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attended the event and announced a special holiday on Tuesday for the school students who took part in the Global Gita Path in Kurukshetra. Yoga guru Baba Ramdev and Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Maharaj were also present on the occasion.

Extending greetings on the auspicious occasion of Margashirsha Shukla Ekadashi and Gita Jayanti, the chief minister prayed to Lord Krishna to illuminate the lives of citizens with the light of knowledge. He said on this sacred date, 5,163 years ago, Lord Krishna imparted the divine message of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna — teachings that continue to guide humanity even today. He noted that the sky echoed with the chanting of the Ashtadashi verses by 21,000 students, and expressed pride that these verses were being recited simultaneously across various regions of India as well as in many other countries.

The chief minister further

said that it is due to the guidance of the Karmayogi Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Gita Jayanti is now celebrated globally. He

in spreading yoga across the world. It is due to his efforts that International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on June 21. He

Kurukshetra. He called it a privilege to celebrate Gita Jayanti in Kurukshetra, the very place chosen by Lord Krishna for imparting his divine teachings. For the past ten years, the International Gita Mahotsav has been celebrated on a grand scale, and he credited Union Minister Manohar Lal and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for this achievement.

Yoga guru Swami Ramdev said that the entire world is receiving knowledge and values from Kurukshetra, the sacred land of the Gita. The holy book the Gita provides a path toward heritage, development, knowledge, and even modern science. Therefore, every individual should think big and work diligently to progress. He added that the Gita also offers a roadmap for making India a developed nation by 2047, and that the young generation will play a decisive role in realizing this vision.

To instill strong values in the youth, the state government is organizing major events such as the International Gita Mahotsav and the Global Gita Path. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, he said, deserves commendation for consistently promoting initiatives like the International Gita Mahotsav. He further said that thousands of years ago, Lord Shri Krishna delivered the message of karma on this sacred land, and today's youth should embrace the teachings of the Gita to awaken the wisdom within themselves.



On Radhakrishnan's felicitation, Congress versus BJP on Dhankhar

(Gns). The Winter Session marks the first Parliamentary session over which the new Vice President, C P Radhakrishnan, is presiding as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. However, his felicitation on the first day also witnessed a heated exchange between the Leader of Opposition in the House, Mallikarjun Kharge, and BJP members over the "sudden exit" of Radhakrishnan's predecessor, former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

The exchange followed when, during his welcome address to Radhakrishnan, Kharge referred to Dhankhar's "completely unexpected and sudden exit from the office of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha."

"I hope you will not mind that I am constrained to refer to your predecessor's completely unexpected and sudden exit from the office of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha," he said, amid objections from BJP members, on behalf of the entire Opposition, a very healthy life."

moment?" Rijiju said.

Leader of the House J P Nadda also sharply reacted, urging members to maintain the dignity of the occasion. Referring to the Opposition alliance's loss in the recent Bihar Assembly elections, he suggested that Kharge should express the pain of losing polls to a doctor."This programme is a pious occasion. We should maintain its dignity. The issue that the Leader of Opposition raised—if we start discussing it, it is irrelevant. We will also have to mention that you brought a no-confidence motion against him twice. It is an obstacle to the good and congenial environment of the debate taking place," Nadda said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, congratulating Radhakrishnan on assuming the Chair, described it as a proud moment for the House. He praised Radhakrishnan's journey from a farmer's family and his lifelong dedication to public service.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju slammed Kharge for mentioning Dhankhar's resignation on a "solemn occasion" meant for welcoming Radhakrishnan "This is a very solemn occasion. The Prime Minister has made very dignified remarks as part of the felicitation event. Why did the honourable Leader of Opposition refer to a matter that was not necessary to raise at this



Three killed, 25 injured as jeep skidded off in Rajasthan

(Gns). Three persons were killed and 25 others injured when the overloaded jeep they were travelling in skidded off in a Khud along the road in the Pali district on Monday.

The ill-fated jeep was heading for Bali in the Pali district after one of its wheels detached and the imbalanced vehicle skidded off the road. The jeep was carrying a group of 28 people from Panchbor Sayra village of Udaipur to Bali in the Pali district to attend a condolence meeting. The accident took place near Kundal village in Bali region around 12:00-noon.

Onlookers called the police and the ambulances to take the injured to a hospital in Bali. Twelve of the injured were referred to the Higher Center Hospital, the



Red alert for Chennai, remnant of cyclone Ditwah stays close to coast as deep depression

(Gns). With the deep depression, a remnant of the weakened cyclone Ditwah, staying close to the Chennai coast in the Bay of Bengal, a red alert for extremely heavy rainfall for the next 12 hours has been issued to Chennai and the neighbouring Tiruvallur district on Monday evening.

The system is so close to the city that the centre of the system from Chennai coast is about 30 km and it is moving at a slow pace of 3 kmph, the Regional Meteorological Centre said in its latest update, adding that it is moving parallelly northwards toward south Andhra Pradesh coast. Under its influence, the Tirupati and Nellore districts would receive heavy rains accompanied by squally winds up to 60 kmph, before the deep depression is likely to fizzle out gradually on Tuesday.

A private weather blogger, citing strong cloud cover and moisture content which triggered the heavy rains, has predicted that the deep depression instead of weakening might possibly stay close to Chennai and the possibility of it intensifying back into a cyclonic storm could not be ruled out.

Chennai and its suburbs as well as neighbouring Tiruvallur and parts of Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram districts have been receiving continuous heavy spells since the morning, throwing normal life out of gear. With water-logging in many low-lying areas, the Greater Chennai Corporation has deployed motor pumps top drain water. Corporation personnel were also engaged in clearing fallen trees on roads and in residential areas besides cutting ones posing a threat of falling down in the heavy rain.

At the arterial Greenways Road, housing the residential quarters of Ministers and High Court Judges, a massive tree had fallen crushing two cars. It



Two linked to cross-border smuggling module held with sophisticated weapons in Punjab

(Gns). The Amritsar Commissionerate Police has dismantled a Pakistan-linked cross-border arms smuggling module with the arrest of its two operatives and recovered seven sophisticated pistols—three PX5 and four .30 bore pistols—from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Monday.

Those arrested have been identified as Balwinder Singh (32), a resident of village Bhindi Nain in Amritsar and Jugraj Singh alias Jagga (29), a resident of village Mulla Behram in Amritsar. The latter has a criminal background with cases pertaining to murder, the Arms Act and the NDPS Act registered against him.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were acting on the directions of Pak-based handlers, who communicated with them through WhatsApp, assigning pick-up points and delivery routes for illegal arms circulation.

The DGP said that further investigation is ongoing to establish forward and backward linkages in this case.

Sharing operational details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said that acting on intelligence inputs, a police team, while checking in the Cantonment area, intercepted suspect Balwinder Singh and five illegal pistols from his possession.

Based on Balwinder's disclosure, police conducted a raid and arrested his associate Jugraj Singh alias Jagga and recovered two .30 bore pistols from his possession, he said.

The CP said that the initial probe has revealed that both accused lived in close proximity to the international border, which made it convenient for them to support the cross-border smuggling chain. Investigation has further established that Balwinder Singh and Jugraj alias Jagga were active in the Amritsar Rural sector, assisting in the movement and distribution of smuggled arms, he said.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 247 dated 22-11-2025 has been registered under Sections 25 and 25 (6, 7 and 8) of the Arms Act at Police Station Cantonment in Amritsar Commissionerate.



Assistant BLO dies in sleep amid mounting work pressure; eight BLO deaths reported in UP so far

(Gns). An assistant Booth Level Officer (BLO) Arvind Kumar (40), deployed on SIR duty in Sambhal, died in his sleep early Monday morning. At around 4 am, his wife, Pratibha, went to wake him but found no response despite repeated attempts. Fearing the worst, the family rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Kerala CM, ex-finance min served ED notice in masala bond case

(Gns). The Enforcement Directorate has issued a show-cause notice under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and former finance minister Thomas Issac over alleged irregularities linked to the state's 2019 masala bond issue.

KIIFB CEO K M Abraham has also been named in the notice, which pertains to transactions amounting to approximately Rs 468 crore.

The case centres on funds raised by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), which became the first state entity to issue rupee-denominated masala bonds overseas in 2019, listing them on the London Stock Exchange.

The bond issuance raised around Rs 2,150 crore, intended for major infrastructure projects under a wider state development plan.

The ED's notice alleges violations of foreign exchange regulations, focusing on the purported diversion of bond proceeds. The agency claims that a portion of the funds, specifically barred from such use, was directed toward land acquisition.

Reacting strongly, Issac dismissed the notice as politically motivated, citing its timing ahead of elections.

"This is part of ED's election campaign for the BJP and the UDF," he stated. He defended the bond issue, asserting it had received necessary approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Echoing past criticisms, Opposition Leader V.D. Satheesan questioned the financial terms of the bond, noting the high interest rate of 9.732% and the resulting substantial interest burden on the state.

"About half of the amount has gone as interest in five years," he claimed, arguing that alternative borrowing with a state guarantee could have secured cheaper funds.

The ED had earlier summoned Thomas Issac in January as part of its ongoing probe into the end-use of the bond proceeds and compliance with FEMA regulations.

Arvind Kumar's brother-in-law and colleague Lal Singh said he had been under intense pressure due to his SIR-related duties in Amroha's Fayyaz Nagar area. "There was a lot of urgency and workload. He was stressed," he said.

Lal Singh added that although the Election Commission later extended the SIR deadline, "If they had done this earlier, incidents like this could have been prevented."

With Arvind's death, the number of BLOs who have died during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SIR) exercise in the state has risen to eight.

Earlier, three BLOs reportedly committed suicide, three suffered heart attacks, and one died due to a brain hemorrhage.

In the Banda district, more than 20 BLOs, who completed over 90% of their SIR work, have been felicitated. Meanwhile, salaries of 67 BLOs accused of negligence have been withheld, and 202 BLOs have been issued show-cause notices.

