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## Persons with disabilities deserve equality: President Droupadi Murmu

(Gns). President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said ensuring the equal participation of persons with disabilities in the development of society and the country is the responsibility of all stakeholders and should not be viewed as an act of charity.

She was presenting the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2025 on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The President said that persons with disabilities, or Divyangjan, deserve equality.

"A society can truly be considered developed only when Divyangjan participates equally in all sectors," she added.

The President also highlighted this year's theme — "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social

moving away from a purely welfare-based mindset.

She said the inclusion of Divyangjan is a vital part of India's development

tem for inclusion and empowerment. "Several national-level institutions have been established in areas such as sign lan-

She emphasised that, along with the government, society also needs to remain aware and committed to supporting the rights and dignity of Divyangjan.

"Collective efforts will help accelerate progress.

Every citizen must pledge to ensure dignity, independence, and equal opportunity for persons

with disabilities and make them partners in the country's growth," she noted.



progress" — describing it as a progressive and timely message.

She expressed satisfaction that the country is increasingly adopting a rights-based and dignity-focused approach toward persons with disabilities,

journey. "The use of the term 'Divyangjan', adopted in 2015, reflects the nation's respect toward persons with disabilities," she added.

President Murmu further said the government is strengthening the ecosys-

guage research, mental health rehabilitation, and sports training. Millions of Divyangjan have been issued Unique Disability ID cards, enabling easier access to government schemes and facilities," she added.

## Top BJP leaders hold discussions, reignite buzz on new party president

(Gns). Following a high-level meeting in Parliament on Wednesday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda, and BJP General Secretary BL Santhosh, the buzz has again started about the BJP finally getting its new national president.

According to sources, the name of the new party chief for Uttar Pradesh was also finalised at the meeting, spearheaded by Santhosh and focusing on electing Nadda's successor.

The party has been awaiting its new president since mid-2024, as the BJP's rules mandate com-

pleting elections in 50 per cent of state units before electing a national president—a process that began in August 2024 but contin-

various states. While in the current BJP setup, it is never easy to predict names, speculations continue about

Bhupender Yadav — all known for their administrative experience and organisational abilities. Other names in circulation include VD Sharma, BL Santhosh, Vinod Tawde, Devendra Fadnavis and Nirmala Sitharaman, making it anyone's guess given the BJP's track record of springing surprises while making appointments.

Today's huddle builds on recent coordination efforts in Uttar Pradesh involving Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RSS leaders, where names for the state chief were discussed. Apparently, the name of the new UP chief will be announced first, followed by the new national



ued into December 2025 because of various issues, including the long process of organisational polls in

Nadda's possible successors, including Union ministers Shriraj Singh Chouhan, Dharmendra Pradhan and

## BJP accuses Congress of 'insulting' Hindu religion, beliefs

(Gns). The BJP on Wednesday accused the opposition Congress of harbouring an "urban naxal mindset" and "systematically insulting Hindu religion, beliefs and deities". BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi cited a video of Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, allegedly discouraging children from saying 'Radhe Radhe', and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's remarks on the number of Hindu gods to make the claim.

Addressing media persons, Trivedi alleged that Reddy made "derogatory and offensive" comments about Hindu deities, which were "unacceptable" and "deeply hurtful to religious sentiments". He also

referred to Reddy's earlier remarks "supporting" the Muslim community, saying, "We have no problem with your wholehearted support

using traditional greetings...One of your alliance partners, the DMK, held a structured conference on the Eradication of



for the Muslim community. But abusing the Hindu gods and goddesses is intolerable."

"Why one Congress Chief Minister was insulting Hindu deities, while another (Sukhu) appeared to discourage children from

Sanatana Dharma. It was not a mere statement but a well-planned, well-thought-out academic conference," he said.

Addressing newly appointed District Congress Committee (DCC) chiefs and senior

leaders on Tuesday, Reddy reportedly said that Hindu dharma accommodates nearly three crore deities, with a god for every occasion and every situation. "How many gods are there for Hindus? Three crores? There is Hanuman for those who are not married. There is another god for those who marry twice. There is one god for those who drink alcohol; there are people who offer alcohol and chicken to Yellamma, Pochamma, Maisamma... There are local deities where toddy and non-vegetarian food are served during certain events and there are gods worshipped by those who eat 'dal rice' (vegetarians)," he was quoted as saying.

## Rahul Gandhi highlights Modi govt's environmental neglect as Sonia Gandhi warns against Aravalli Mining Policy

(Gns). Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday raised serious concerns over the Modi government's approach to environmental protection, accusing it of promoting reckless exploitation of natural resources at the expense of future generations. His comments echo the strong critique by Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, who, in an article published on Wednesday, warned that recent government policies threaten the fragile Aravalli hills, describing the new definition of the range as a "death warrant" for the ecologically sensitive region.

"Ever since coming to power, the Modi Government has displayed

a particularly venal streak of cynicism in relation to environmental protection, combining its proclivity to encourage reckless exploitation of natural

benefit the profit lines of a very few at the cost of the well-being of future generations and of the planet?"

Sonia Gandhi highlighted the implications of the



resources with a callous disregard for consequences on the environment," Rahul Gandhi said. "Can policymaking be so blatantly up for sale, to

Centre's revised definition of the Aravalli hills, recently accepted by the Supreme Court, which excludes hills under 100 meters in elevation from mining restrictions.

## Governor outlines vision of emerging Bihar in joint Assembly session

(Gns).

Addressing the joint session of the newly-elected Bihar Legislative Assembly and the Bihar Legislative Council on Wednesday, Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan presented a picture of an emerging Bihar moving towards establishing new milestones in employment, education, energy, infrastructure, and social justice.

In his speech, the Governor outlined the achievements of the previous NDA government and said that the new government is also working with the principle of development with justice.

He said the government's top priority is job

creation for the youth. The administration, headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has already begun efforts to create one crore new jobs over the next five years.

Highlighting the state government's ambitious "Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana," he said women whose businesses perform well will receive additional assistance of up to Rs2 lakh from the government.

The Governor also underscored the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government's initiatives for women's empowerment, noting that 50% reservation in panchayats and urban local bodies, along with

35% reservation in government jobs and the police force, has opened new opportunities for women in



Bihar.

On the education and infrastructure front, the Governor said that 27 new medical colleges are under construction in Bihar and

that every district now has access to engineering education. With the establishment of several new institutions of higher learning, students are no longer compelled to leave the state, and students from other states have also begun coming to Bihar.

He further noted that the scheme providing 125 units of free electricity every month to all domestic consumers has brought relief to millions of households. A statewide campaign to install solar panels on rooftops is set to begin soon, which will significantly enhance energy self-reliance and environmental protection.

## Mayawati will no longer visit major memorial sites on Jayantis, Punyatithis

(Gns).

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Wednesday announced her decision to stop visiting major memorials and parks dedicated to social reformers during their birth and death anniversaries. She said the move aims to prevent inconvenience caused to the public due to stringent security arrangements during her visits.

Mayawati, through her social media post, highlighted that during the four BSP governments formed under her leadership in Uttar Pradesh, the party accorded significant respect and recognition to key icons of the Bahujan

movement—including Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, Narayana Guru, Dr BR Ambedkar, and Kanshi Ram.

She said that while the earlier governments neglected these figures, the BSP initiated numerous public welfare projects and built grand memorials, parks, and cultural sites in their honour in Lucknow and Gautam Buddha Nagar, which now draw large crowds, especially on commemorative occasions.

The BSP chief said her

presence at these public sites often results in people being stopped far away due to security protocols, causing discomfort to followers



who come to pay their respects. Consequently, she has decided to offer tributes from her residence or the party office instead of visiting these sites in per-

son.

As per her directions, on Dr BR Ambedkar's upcoming death anniversary on December 6, BSP members and followers across Uttar Pradesh (except the western region) will gather at the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal in Lucknow. Supporters from Western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Uttarakhand are expected to assemble at the Rashtriya Dalit Prerna Sthal in Noida. They will pay homage to Ambedkar and reaffirm their commitment to advancing his movement for social equality and self-respect under BSP's leadership.



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



## Editorial

### “Toxic Force”

The allegations emerging from Georgia’s 2024-25 protest wave are not merely another chapter in the long, bitter contest between an embattled government and a restless citizenry. They point toward something far more unsettling: the apparent revival of an obsolete First World War-era chemical agent for domestic crowd control. If substantiated, this would represent one of the most serious erosions of global chemical weapons norms in recent years. Through months of demonstrations sparked by the government’s abrupt pause on the country’s EU accession bid, thousands of Georgians gathered outside parliament demanding accountability.

What they encountered, beyond the expected arsenal of water cannon, pepper spray and tear gas, was a burning sensation that clung to their skin and lungs long after the streets had emptied. Some described pain that intensified on contact with water ~ a hallmark far removed from the short-lived irritation characteristic of conventional riot-control agents. Others reported coughing fits, shortness of breath, fatigue, and vomiting that endured for weeks. More troubling still were abnormal cardiac readings detected in dozens of those examined. It is rare for such symptoms to linger. It is rarer still for them to appear across hundreds of individuals with such consistency. That pattern, combined with internal whistleblower testimony and inventories listing chemicals historically linked to camite ~ an agent briefly deployed in the First World War and abandoned in the 1930s ~ raises the possibility that a substance long considered too harmful for use had quietly found its way back into the hands of a police force.

If this is true, it represents a startling departure from international standards. Modern riot-control agents are allowed precisely because their effects are meant to be immediate, non-lethal and temporary. A chemical that causes multi-week respiratory distress and cannot be washed off the skin with water falls outside any reasonable definition of acceptable policing. It inches disturbingly close to the threshold of chemical weapon use, something explicitly prohibited under international law except in strictly defined, limited contexts. Equally distressing is the institutional response. Instead of clarity, authorities have offered denials and insults, refusing to disclose the composition of the substances used in water cannon and dismissing the growing body of evidence as fantasy. For a country constitutionally committed to European integration, transparency over the coercive power of the state should be non-negotiable.

When citizens raise credible concerns that they may have been exposed to a harmful agent, the burden of proof lies squarely with the government, not with those gasping for breath. The events of 2024-25 in Tbilisi carry a lesson for governments far beyond Georgia’s borders. A lack of oversight in the tools of crowd control creates precisely the conditions in which abuses can flourish. And once a state begins dipping into the chemical arsenals of history, the boundary between policing and warfare becomes dangerously thin. In an era where civil dissent is rising worldwide, protecting that boundary is not just a legal duty, it is a moral one.

## PNB Marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities with the launch of Braille Credit Card

03 December 2025: Reaffirming its commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society, Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation’s leading public sector bank, celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities at its Corporate Office in New Delhi under this year’s theme of “Fostering Disability-Inclusive Society for advancing social progress”.

The event was honoured by the presence of PNB MD&CEO Shri Ashok Chandra, Chief Guest Shri Munna Khalid, International Para-Badminton Player & PhD Scholar, CVO Shri Raghvendra Kumar, and senior officials of the Bank.

The event marked a significant milestone with the unveiling of PNB’s Braille Credit Card, designed to provide greater accessibility

to visually impaired customers. The Bank also extended sponsorship to the Deaf Sports



Association of Delhi for the 7th Delhi State Games and provided CSR support to The New Learning Heights Special School & Remedial Center, reinforcing its sustained commitment to empowerment and inclusive development. PNB further recognised the exem-

(Gns). India and the European Central Bank have entered the “realisation phase” of linking the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Europe’s TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS) system, in a rare moment where regulators are making life meaningfully easier for consumers. If implemented effectively, this will transform how millions of Indians in Europe send money home, how tourists pay abroad, and how small businesses transfer funds across borders. But as with every major digital-policy breakthrough, the promise will only hold if regulators resist the temptation to add new layers of fees, friction, and red tape. For years, cross-border payments have been a stubborn outlier in the blooming digital world. Sending money from Europe to India still results

## “I’ve been the intense guy all my career - it was time to switch gears to comedy,” says Vivian Dsena on COLORS’ ‘Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment’

COLORS serves another hot plate of dinner-entertainment as Season 3 of its smash hit franchise ‘Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment’ returns with a louder, wilder, and spicier kitchen. This season packs a powerhouse line-up in one fiery rasoī with Bharti Singh bringing her iconic wit, Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi steering the madness, and a cast ready to spark mayhem including Debinna Bonnerjee, Gurmeet Choudhary, Eisha Singh, Vivian Dsena, Abhishek Kumar, Samarth Jurel, Elvish Yadav, Isha Malviya, Kashmera Shah, Krushna Abhishek, Aly Goni and Jannat Zubair. Vivian gets candid admitting that Laughter Chefs is his comeback round, this time with pans and food to win everyone’s hearts.

in steep bank charges, hidden foreign exchange fees, and significantly long delays. Even the most advanced fintech solutions rely on intermediaries, which drives up prices, limits transparency, and erodes consumer confidence. UPI-TIPS has the potential to change that dynamic entirely. By linking two instant payment systems, transfers can move directly between Indian and European users in real-time, without the need for a chain of correspondent banks in the middle. For consumers, the benefits are substantial. Students, workers, and families split across continents will no longer need to wait days for remittances to settle. Immediate liquidity can make an enormous difference during emergencies, and lower fees ensure that more of the sender’s money reaches the recipient. Small and medium-sized

1. Vivian, what made you say yes to Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment this season? A. I wanted to do something lighter this time. I’ve been the intense guy all my career – it was time to switch gears to comedy. So, Laughter Chefs felt like the right kind of mess, just me in a kitchen, figuring things out as they happen. It’s unpredictable, it’s goofy, and it lets me breathe a little. Reality TV and I have a history - I nearly won the last time, so I’m here to settle that score. This is my comeback round...just that now the fights are replaced with frying pans. 2. You made a brief appearance in the previous season too. How does it feel to be back this time as a full-fledged contestant? A. Honestly, it feels

businesses, which are often hit hardest by costly and slow international payments, stand to gain from lower transaction costs (reducing the effort in time and money to arrange deals), thereby boosting their cash flow and competitiveness. Indian tourists in Europe will also feel a tangible difference. Paying for meals, transport, or accommodation directly through UPI eliminates the need to rely on expensive card networks or to carry large amounts of cash. It mirrors the convenience Indians enjoy domestically, instant, secure, and familiar. And for European merchants, accepting UPI payments opens a door to one of the world’s largest consumer markets. This interlinking also strengthens India’s position as a global leader in digital infrastructure.



UPI has already expanded to Singapore, the UAE, Mauritius, Bhutan, Nepal, and parts of France. Linking with TIPS, Europe’s most extensive payment system, marks a milestone in India’s effort to globalise its digital public goods. Coming on the heels of the G20’s push for faster and cheaper remittance corridors, it signals that India’s model for payments innovation is gaining global trust. But while the economic gains and consumer benefits are obvious, they will only materialise if both sides remain committed to the system’s openness and low-cost design. Global payment reforms often begin with bold promises, but are besieged by creeping fees, compliance burdens, and regulatory turf wars. The India-EU link will be no exception if policymakers are not careful.

The first threat is fee creep. Banks, card networks, and legacy remittance players have strong incentives to protect existing revenue streams. Even small “processing fees” or widened foreign exchange (forex) spreads can undermine the affordability that makes UPI transformative. Ensuring transparent and competitive pricing will be critical to preventing monopolistic behavior. Second, regulatory overreach can inadvertently slow adoption. Europe’s privacy framework, while well-intentioned, has at times imposed heavy compliance costs on small businesses. India’s instinct toward data localisation can create its own rigidities in the form of multiple compliance layers, twofold infrastructure, laggy integration between cross-border payment networks.

When two regulatory systems overlap, complexity multiplies. The UPI-TIPS link must avoid this trap by designing a framework that protects user data without restricting legitimate financial flows or delaying transactions. Third, the system must remain genuinely interoperable. Consumers should be able to use the payment apps they prefer, whether operated by banks, fintech companies, or other providers. A close d, government-only rail may deliver political symbolism, but it will not provide the convenience and uptake necessary for global scale. Finally, policymakers must shield the project from the growing geopolitical push to build digital “walled gardens.” India and Europe both talk about digital sovereignty, but if this principle turns into a barrier to openness, consumers lose.

great! The last time I entered the Laughter Chefs kitchen for a task with Rubina and Rahul, I thought it’d be a quick in-and-out. Instead, it was loud, messy, completely unplanned—yet somehow we were laughing through all of it. So, when they asked me to join this season as a proper contestant, I didn’t think twice. And now that I’m living it, it’s a hundred times more chaotic than it looked from the outside—but also a hundred times more fun. You bond over tiny disasters, last-minute saves, and laughing at your own blunders. Waking up early to shoot this doesn’t feel like work at all. I look forward to trying out something new and exciting, putting my decent cooking skills to use. 3. This season pairs you with Eisha Singh. You two have a great on-screen history from Sirf Tum and were

also together on Bigg Boss. What’s that dynamic like in



the kitchen? A. Eisha and I have known each other for a while, so there’s already comfort and understanding that makes working together easy. She understands my sannata and I tolerate

## Beauty in the time of pollution : Shahnaz Husain

Living in metropolitan cities has its perks—vibrant culture, active lifestyle, luxurious life, and rapid urban development. The only flip side of its growth is the increase in pollution, which most people do not realise until it stares back at them in the mirror.

Healthy skin is not just about what you put on it, but also about how you protect it from the world around you.

Pollution isn’t just a problem for the planet – it can harm your health, skin and hair as well.

Our bustling cities, while vibrant and full of opportunity, expose us to a complex mix of pollutants that can wreak havoc on our complexions.

Tens of millions of people living in India’s metro cities are exposed to toxic air that can weaken the skin and trigger inflammation. Air pollution and skin have a direct correlation, with pollutants contributing to many skin problems.

This pollution can wreak havoc on your skin, causing irritation, dryness, dark spots and premature ageing. Pollution also accelerates hyperpigmentation and increases the risk of discolouration, dullness, roughness, acne, hives, and eczema.

Over time, this pollution weakens the skin’s natural defence system, disrupts its moisture barrier, and promotes inflammation.

Pollution is everywhere, so there’s no way to completely avoid it. The good news is that you can defend your skin from pollution.

1---Minimise indoor pol-

lution sources-----: Usually, the most effective way to improve indoor air quality is to eliminate individual sources of pollution or to reduce their emissions. Burning of solid fuels like wood, coal, dung, and agricultural waste releases particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Use Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems with HEPA and Carbon Filtration.

Wear N95 or N99 Respirators in high-pollution environments and limit time in poorly ventilated spaces. Limit activities that can add pollutants to your indoor air, such as cooking with high heat, using harsh cleaning agents. Do not smoke, vape, or burn incense or candles indoors, as this releases harmful particles and chemicals. Natural ventilation, like window shading, opening windows and doors, can also improve indoor air quality by reducing pollutants that are indoors.

Avoid outdoor exercise: Reduce outdoor physical activity during high pollution periods to prevent breathing in more pollutants. If you must go outside, try to go out during midday when the air quality may be better.

2----- Eat a skin-protective diet----

Antioxidants help reduce pollution-driven oxidative stress.

Vitamin C rich foods, jaggery and drink loads of fluids rich in antioxidants. Antioxidants can neutralize the effects of pollutants.

Lemon, orange, amla, green vegetables, grapefruit, tomatoes and potatoes are some examples of Vitamin C rich foods

They support skin, lungs,

and overall immunity each day. These nutrients protect cells and improve natural resilience. Products with antioxidants protect against pollution by neutralising damaging free radicals, which are caused by environmental stressors like smog.

Eat plenty of antioxidant-rich foods each day, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, legumes and whole grains. Studies show that following a plant-based, antioxidant-rich diet lowers oxidative stress in your body. . Vitamins C and E help neutralise free radicals from polluted air. These antioxidants protect skin from oxidative damage caused by PM and ozone. They reduce stress on keratinocytes and slow pollution-driven ageing. Green tea extract and resveratrol support the skin barrier during pollution exposure. Both contain antioxidants that reduce oxidative stress on surface cells. They help neutralise pollutants that settle on the skin.

3---Skin Care Strategies -----To protect your skin during high pollution, cleanse thoroughly twice a day to remove pollutants..

Nighttime is your skin’s prime time to repair itself, so always cleanse your face before hitting the bed. To remove the day’s buildup of makeup, dirt, oil, and pollutants, which prevents clogged pores, breakouts, and premature ageing.

Please be sure to look for a gentle, non-abrasive, alcohol-free cleanser to remove dirt and impurities without stripping essential oils.

Look for ingredients like:Glycerin: A humectant that attracts moisture, Ceramides: Help restore the skin barrier. Or Aloe Vera which Soothes and

calms the skin. Avoid harsh soaps or cleansers containing sulfates, which can dry out the skin.

After cleaning, apply a skincare product that contains one or more antioxidants, such as Green tea extract, Vitamin B-3, Niacinamide, and Coenzyme Q10, to protect the skin from damage, improve tone, and support collagen.

4---Protect your hair ----- -Every time you step outside —on your way to work, to go for a run, to walk the dog— soot and grime can settle with smoke and other airborne chemicals on your hair and scalp, drying it up, making it brittle, and prone to breakage.

. As these pollutants build up, they can cause the scalp to become inflamed and your hair to become dry, dull and brittle

As pollution can compromise your hair quality, you must treat it with extra care. When detangling, use a wide-toothed comb and start at the ends of your hair, working your way up to the roots. Giving your hair a break from heat styling

Wearing a hat,cap or scarf over your head to shield your hair from dust and smoke when you’ll be outside for a long period of time is a fail-safe way to keep your strands shielded from pollution. Avoid exposing hair to direct sunlight and polluted air for long periods.

Even pulling your hair back into a knot or bun will provide some protection, as the hair wrapped in the bun is largely unexposed.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India



## Nixon after India counter-attacked Pak in 1971: ‘Pakistan thing makes your heart sick’

(Gns). On this day, 54 years ago, when Indian Air Force flew across the border to attack Pakistan's bases after a pre-emptive strike by PAF's F-86 Sabrejets and F-104 Starfighters on India, US President Richard Nixon and his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger were huddled over the telephone discussing the beginning of the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

As Kissinger told President Nixon that "it appears West Pakistan has attacked (India) because situation in East is collapsing", the latter exploded and told his principal aide, "Pakistan thing makes your heart sick. For them to be done so by the Indians and after we have warned the bi\*\*\*\* (Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) ..."

The conversation at 10.45 am Washington time was dutifully recorded and released as part of historical documents for the period by the State Department many decades later.

Before India counter-

attacked, Pakistan Air Force launched what it called Operation Chengis and bombed eleven Indian Air Force bases, including Srinagar, Amritsar and Pathankhot, but did not cause much damage as India had already moved its air assets to forward secret locations. While Pakistan troops advanced into India across the cease-fire line in Kashmir.

In response, the IAF launched a massive retaliatory raid on Pakistani airfields at Chaklala, Murid, Sargodha, Chandar, Risalewala, Rafiqui, Masroor and Shorkot.

Kissinger also told Nixon, that the US must approach the UN Security Council to stop the retaliatory war by India. "State (Department) believes and I agree that we should take it to the Security Council once actions are confirmed. If a major war (develops) without going to the Security Council it would be a confession of poverty."

President Nixon wanted to know who would object. Kissinger "India and Soviet union ... no one else." In the event many other countries rallied to India's cause at the United Nations and



against the genocide that the Pakistan Army perpetuated in Bangladesh before it was liberated by the joint forces of India and Mukti Bahini after a punishing 14-day lightning war.

Two days before the war started, the then US Ambassador Kenneth Keating called on Indira Gandhi to deliver a message from Nixon asking India to stop mobilisation on the borders, the papers released revealed.

The Indian Prime Minister made it clear that

"Pakistan had been the first to move its troops to the border and no one had asked them to withdraw."

She made it clear that Pakistan's dictator Gen Yahya Khan's problems had been self-created and "we are not in a position to make this easier for him." She pointed out that India was being asked to allow the misdeeds of Gen Yahya to stand and "we are not going to allow that."

When Keating observed that her position was "very firm", the prime minister replied that it was "a little harder" than it had been before and went on to say that her patience had worn thin. She did not know how she could tell the Indian nation that it must continue to be patient and added, "I can't hold it."

Keating started to comment about the recent alleged Indian military incursions, she cut him off by saying, "We can't afford to listen to advice which weakens us."

In a message sent to Washington the same day, the US Ambassador made

## Booth empowerment is the real strength of BJP:

**BJP members including District Panchayat President welcomed the Deputy CM**

Mathura. Bharatiya Janata Party Mahanagar organized a special program in Vrindavan on Wednesday with the aim of strengthening the SIR process, in which Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Brijesh Pathak reached booth number 64, Kailash Nagar Tanki Wala Park and participated as the chief guest. The Deputy Chief Minister also participated in door-to-door awareness programs under the campaign and interacted with the workers.

As soon as the Deputy Chief Minister reached Vrindavan Cut, District Panchayat President Kishan Choudhary, MLA Thakur Meghshyam, BJP Metropolitan President Harishankar Raju Yadav and other workers gave him a grand welcome. The enthusiasm of the workers was seen at its peak as they welcomed them by presenting them with bouquets. The entire area echoed with slogans of BJP Zindabad. After reaching the venue, Brijesh Pathak took a detailed overview of the progress of the SIR

process. Appreciating the work being done by the booth teams, he gave instructions to carry forward the campaign in a more effective and organized manner. He said that the SIR process is the



Addressing the program, Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak is present on the stage along with District Panchayat President Kishan Choudhary.

backbone of the organizational strengthening of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Unless the booth is strong, no campaign can be successful. Door-to-door contact of every worker is the key to the success of this mission. We have to ensure that our work does not remain incomplete at any booth. Organization expansion is not just about numbers, but through dedication and efforts. The enthusiasm with which the workers are engaged in Vrindavan today is a guar-

antee of the successful future of this campaign. He told the workers that every worker is the identity of BJP. It is our common responsibility to convey the government's schemes and party's message to the pub-

said that BJP workers are engaged in door-to-door contact and public awareness even in difficult circumstances. This dedication is the biggest strength of BJP. The metropolitan organization will become fully active up to the booth level and strengthen election preparation and membership work. Media in-charge Shyam Sharma said that Mathura Metropolitan BJP is committed to taking the SIR campaign to the top level in the state with full solidarity and activism. The enthusiasm with which the workers are working will provide new heights to the organization in the times to come. On this occasion, MLA Meghshyam Singh, MLA Rajesh Chaudhary, District Panchayat President Kishan Singh Choudhary, former MLA Karinda Singh, former block chief Pannalal Gautam, Niranjani Singh Dhangar, Chandrapal Kuntal, Kunj Bihari Chaturvedi, Vineet Sharma, Ram Kishan Pathak, Mandal President Jitendra Varshney, Metropolitan Media Incharge ShyamA large number of workers including Sharma, Nitin

## Mega camp will be organized at all the booths on 6th and 7th December 2025: District Magistrate

**Voters are requested to fill their counting forms soon and provide them to the BLO.**

**District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh honored 50 BLOs of Tehsil Sadar area.**

**Training of all BLOs and supervisors of Tehsil Sadar area completed**

Mathura. In connection with the special intensive revision campaign, training of all the BLOs and supervisors of Tehsil Sadar area was completed in the auditorium of Panchjanya Auditorium located in Dampier Nagar. BLOs and supervisors were given training regarding digitization and mapping.

In the program, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh has informed that a mega camp will be organized at all the booths on 6th and 7th December 2025. All BLOs will be present at their respective booths during the camp. The District Magistrate has requested the voters to fill their counting forms soon and provide them to the BLO. In the program, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh also honored 50 BLOs of Tehsil Sadar area who completed

100 percent special intensive vetting work. The District Magistrate honored 50 BLOs of Tehsil Sadar

Gauri Shankar, Pushpa Rani, Pintu Khare, Harishankar, Ravind, Nand Kishore, Rashmi Sharma,



District Magistrate addressing BLO

area by presenting them with citations and placards. He extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to everyone for their excellent work. He said that your work has been completed, now you can also help your fellow BLOs, so that they can also complete their form collection and digitization work on time.

In BLO, Man Singh, Preeti Sharma, Neha Sharma, Archana Parashar, Daya Chandra, Netrapal Rajouria, Habib Khan, Dau Dayal Aggarwal, Dev Kant Sharma, Ashok Chauhan, Shiwangi Gupta, Ram Charan, Jaya Gaur, Geeta, Mukesh, Sheela, Haripal, Praveen Bharti, Rajkumar, Ritu Rajouria, Madhu,

Lalita Saini, Ram Hari, Gopal Prasad Sharma, Dinesh etc. were honored with citation and patuka. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh told all the BLOs to collect the counting forms from the voters of their respective areas immediately and ensure their digitization and along with the digitization, also ensure the mapping of all the voters. If you do not do the mapping, you will face difficulties in the future, hence get the work done with full dedication and determination from now on. He said that all of you should thoroughly study the voter list of your area and prepare the list by double-checking the details of

deceased, permanently transferred, unknown, absent, already enrolled etc., so that it will be easier for them in the coming days. The District Magistrate also motivated the BLOs and supervisors to complete the work of special intensive review without any stress. He said that all the BLOs, Supervisors, Sub Sector Magistrates, Sector Magistrates and Zonal Magistrates engaged in the work of special intensive review should work with a team spirit and ensure the collection, digitization and mapping of the calculation forms. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh, Deputy District Election Officer/Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma, Additional District Magistrate Administration Amresh Kumar, Deputy District Magistrate Sadar Abhinav J Jain, Deputy Collector Usha Singh, Narendra Yadav, Deepika Mehra, Sushil Kumar, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Rakesh Tyagi and other Sadars were present in the programme. All the BLOs and supervisors of the area were present.

## Govt backtracks on Sanchar Saathi app mandatory pre-installation decision following uproar

(Gns). Following nationwide uproar over its earlier directive to make the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app mandatory on all new mobile phones to be sold in India, the Union government on Wednesday withdrew its previous order. In a fresh announcement, the Centre said pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on mobile phones is no longer mandatory.

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had earlier in the day sought to assuage concerns in Parliament and said that the app does not have any surveillance capability and will not be activated unless a user decides to register.

"Snooping is neither possible nor will it happen with the Sanchar Saathi safety app," he told Parliament.

In its latest order issued Wednesday afternoon, the Centre said it had made the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app mandatory in order to empower citizens with the necessary cybersecurity.

The app is secure and purely meant to help citizens from bad actors in the cyber world, the government reiterated.



Govt clarifies: 'Sanchar Saathi App optional, can be uninstalled'

"It helps in 'Jan bhagidari' by all citizens in reporting on such bad actors and actions while protecting users themselves. There is no other function other than protecting the users in the app and they can remove the app whenever they want. This has been clarified by Government," the release stated.

It may be recalled that

following uproar inside as well as outside Parliament yesterday over the initial order, Scindia had on Tuesday evening clarified

that while pre-installation had been made mandatory, it did not mean that users cannot delete or uninstall the said application. Further, the minister said, the app would not get activated

until the user registered on it, notwithstanding the fact that the application was pre-installed.

Backing its fresh decision to make pre-installation non-mandatory, the government stated that around 1.4 crore users have already downloaded the app and are providing information on about 2,000 fraud incidents every day.

"The number of users has been increasing rapidly and the mandate to install

the app was meant to accelerate this process and make the app available to less aware citizens easily. Just in last one day, 6 lakh citizens have registered for downloading the App which is a 10x increase in its uptake. This is affirmation of faith by citizens on this App for protecting themselves provided to them by the Government," the release further said.

"Given Sanchar Saathi's increasing acceptance, Government has decided not to make the pre-installation mandatory for mobile manufacturers," it concluded.

While the government mandated pre-installation of the app on all new mobile phones, for devices already sold it said manufacturers would push the app via future software updates. The government had set a 90-day deadline to comply with the order.

Following the order, several opposition leaders had expressed concerns about privacy and the possibility of government snooping on personal data.

## 14th convocation of GLA University concluded

**5548 titles and 21 gold and 21 silver medals were awarded in the ceremony.**

Mathura. The 14th convocation of GLA University was concluded with great dignity and gaiety. A total of 5548 degrees including 21 gold and 21 silver medalists from undergraduate and postgraduate courses were awarded in the ceremony. Apart from this, merit certificates were awarded to 24 students.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Choudhary, Chancellor Narayan Das Aggarwal, and as special guests, Padmashree HC Verma, former Professor of Physics Department, IIT Kanpur and Cipla Health Ltd. Mumbai Managing Director and CEO Shivam Puri and GLA Vice Chancellor Prof. Anoop Kumar Gupta, Registrar



Chief guest, Union Minister of State, Finance Ministry, Pankaj Choudhary, Chancellor Narayan Das Aggarwal and others inaugurate the 4th convocation ceremony of GLA University, Mathura by lighting the lamp.

Ashok Kumar Singh lit the lamp in front of the picture of Mother Saraswati and inspiration Shri Ganeshilal

Agarwal ji. Before this, the program started with the arrival of the academic procession, in which the

## India is in the golden age of innovation, youth should move ahead with confidence: Pankaj Choudhary

Mathura. Addressing the students, Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Choudhary, the chief guest of the 14th convocation held at GLA University, said that the future of India is in the hands of the youth and they will take the country to new heights in the coming years. This convocation ceremony organized at the birthplace of Lord Shri Krishna is not just an academic program but an important rite of passage in

the life of the students. Referring to the teachings of Geeta, he said that when there is doubt in life or the path is not clear, then "doing duty" is the greatest religion of man and if you move ahead with courage, success itself paves the way. He said, "Today you all are setting out on a new journey in your life. This degree is not just a certificate of your education, but a symbol of a huge responsibility." Inspiring the youth to keep learning throughout

their lives, the Minister said that the education received on campus was the initial chapter, now the whole world will be their new classroom, where experiences will become their biggest teachers. Finally he concluded his thoughts with an inspiring message from Geeta. "Man is created by his faith. As he believes, so he becomes." He wished all the students the very best to achieve the highest heights of excellence.

## University students join anti-pollution protest at Jantar Mantar, demand right to clean air

(Gns). As Delhi continues to grapple with persistent 'very poor' air quality, students joined an anti-pollution protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday, demanding urgent action to ensure clean air for the residents of the city.

Students from Delhi University (DU), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and Jamia Millia Islamia took part in the demonstration led by members of the Congress-backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI).

The protesters, with placards reading "Delhiites deserve an AQI below 50", "Clean air is a fundamental right", and "Everyone has the right to breathe" in their hands raised slogans against the government's failure to contain air pollu-

tion in the national capital. Several local singers performed at the venue to motivate and energise the

be any excuse. There have even been reports of AQI data being manipulated, yet the figures fall in the



crowd.

Neha, 26, one of the protesters, noted that despite the BJP being in power both at the Centre and in the MCD, the authorities failed to bring pollution under control. "Earlier, there was always a blame game, but now there can't

'very poor' category. Who knows what the real AQI is? We will continue to protest until effective measures are taken against air pollution. It's our fundamental right," she asserted.

Delhi's air quality largely remained in the "very poor" to "severe" range since

Diwali. According to CPCB standards, an AQI of 301-400 is classified as "very poor", while 401-500 falls under the "severe" category.

The crisis has drawn the attention of both Parliament and the Supreme Court. On Monday, the apex court, stating that air pollution in Delhi-NCR cannot be treated as a "customary" seasonal issue, ordered that the matter be listed twice a month to monitor both short- and long-term solutions.

Chief Justice Surya Kant, sitting alongside Justice Joymalya Bagchi, challenged the long-standing belief that stubble burning is the main cause of air pollution, pointing out that skies stayed clear during the COVID-19 period even though stubble burning continued.



