



GARVI GU.

RNI No. GUJENG/2014/57876 **Published Daily from Ahmedabad** 

Issue-121

Volume-12

Dt. 04-12-2025

**Thursday** Page-04

**Rs.00.50** paisa

EDITOR: ASHVINKUMAR KESHAVLAL RAMI Regd. Office: TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnagar, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380 005. Gujarat, India.

Phone: 90163 33307 (M) 93283 33307, 98253 33307 • Email: garvigujarat2007@gmail.com • Email: garvigujarat2007@yahoo.com • Website: www.garvigujarat.co.in

# Persons with disabilities deserve equality: President Droupadi

President 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

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.

charity.

The President said that progress" — describing it journey. "The use of the guage research, mental persons with disabilities, or deserve ly message. Divyangjan, equality.

"A society can truly be considered developed only when Divyangjan partici- rights-based and dignitypates equally in all sectors," focused approach toward

The President also Droupadi highlighted this year's welfare-based mindset. theme — "Fostering disability-inclusive societies of Divyangjan is a vital part have been established in for advancing

moving away from a purely tem for inclusion and

term 'Divyangjan', adopted

persons with disabilities,"

empowerment. "Several She said the inclusion national-level institutions social of India's development areas such as sign lan-

health rehabilitation, and

issued Unique Disability ID

cards, enabling easier

in 2015, reflects the sports training. Millions of

President Murmu fur- access to government

nation's respect toward Divyangjan have been

ther said the government is schemes and facilities,"

along with the government, and dignity of Divyangjan. to ensure dignity, inde- them partners in the counsociety also needs to

She emphasised that, ted to supporting the rights Every citizen must pledge with disabilities and make

"Collective efforts will pendence, and equal try's growth," she noted.

# remain aware and commit- help accelerate progress. opportunity for persons Governor outlines vision of emerging Bihar in joint Assembly session

Addressing the joint session of the newly-elected Bihar Legislative Assembly and the Bihar Legislative Council on Wednesday, 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 develop-

ment with justice.

Bahujan Samaj Party

(BSP) chief Mayawati on

Wednesday announced her

decision to stop visiting

major memorials and parks

dedicated to social reform-

to the public due to strin-

creation for the youth. The 35% reservation in governadministration, headed by ment jobs and the police Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, force, has opened new has already begun efforts to opportunities for women in create one crore new jobs over the next five

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

The Governor also underscored the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government's initiatives for women's empowerment, infrastructure front, the noting that 50% reservation Governor said that 27 new He said the govern- in panchayats and urban medical colleges are under

from the government.

Mayawati will no longer visit major

memorial sites on Jayantis, Punyatithis

Bihar.

On the education and ment's top priority is job local bodies, along with 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 selfreliance and environmental protection.

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

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.

pleting elections in 50 per various states. Following a high-level cent of state units before in August 2024 but contin- tions

as a progressive and time-

tion that the country is

increasingly adopting a

She expressed satisfac-

she added.

persons with disabilities, strengthening the ecosys- she added.

While in the current BJP electing a national presi- setup, it is never easy to dent—a process that began predict names, speculacontinue



The party has been ued into December 2025 awaiting its new president because of various issues, sors, including Union minissince mid-2024, as the including the long process ters Shivraj Singh Chouhan, will be announced first, fol-BJP's rules mandate com- of organisational polls in Dharmendra Pradhan and lowed by the new national

Nadda's possible succes-

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

#### ers during their birth and death anniversaries. She said the move aims to prevent inconvenience caused

gent security arrangements during her visits. Mayawati, through her social media post, high- memorials, parks, lighted that during the four and cultural sites BSP governments formed under her leadership in leaders on Tuesday, Reddy reportedly said that Hindu

Uttar Pradesh, the party accorded significant respect and recognition to key icons of the Bahujan

movement—including Rajarshi and Kanshi Ram.

She said that while the earlier governments neglected these figures, the BSP initiated numerous public welfare projects and built grand

memorative occasions.

presence at these public Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, sites often results in people Chhatrapati being stopped far away due Shahuji Maharaj, Narayana to security protocols, caus-Guru, Dr BR Ambedkar, ing discomfort to followers

The BSP chief said her visiting these sites in per- BSP's leadership.

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 Lucknow. Supporters from Western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Uttarakhand are expected to assemble at the Rashtriya Dalit Prerna Sthal in Noida. They will in their honour in Lucknow who come to pay their pay homage to Ambedkar and Gautam Buddha Nagar, respects. Consequently, and reaffirm their commitwhich now draw large she has decided to offer ment to advancing his crowds, especially on com- tributes from her residence movement for social equalor the party office instead of ity and self-respect under

As per her directions, on

#### BJP accuses Congress of 'insulting' Hindu religion, beliefs referred to Reddy's earlier using traditional greet-

"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 and goddesses is intolera-Reddy made "derogatory ble." and offensive" comments about Hindu deities, which

your wholehearted support the

The BJP on Wednesday remarks "supporting" the ings...One of your alliance accused the opposition Muslim community, saying, partners, the DMK, held a Congress of harbouring an "We have no problem with structured conference on Eradication



for the Muslim community. But abusing the Hindu gods

"Why one Congress Chief Minister was insulting were "unacceptable" and Hindu deities, while anoth-"deeply hurtful to religious er (Sukhu) appeared to dissentiments". He also courage children from (DCC) chiefs and senior

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

Addressing newly appointed District Congress Committee

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 a particularly venal streak benefit the profit lines of a "The Aravalli range, which

serious concerns over the combining its proclivity to tions and of the planet?" government's encourage 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 ecologically

the

reckless exploitation of natural

Gandhi Wednesday raised environmental protection, well-being of future genera-

Sonia Gandhi highlighted the implications of the



as a "death warrant" for the resources with a callous Centre's revised definition

sensitive disregard for conse- of the Aravalli hills, recently region. quences on the environ- accepted by the Supreme ment," Rahul Gandhi said. Court, which excludes hills Modi "Can policymaking be so under 100 meters in eleva-Government has displayed blatantly up for sale, to tion from mining restrictions. local communities.

Congress leader Rahul of cynicism in relation to very few at the cost of the runs from Gujarat through Rajasthan and Haryana, has long played a significant role in Indian geography and history. The Modi Government has now nearly signed a death warrant for these hills, already denuded by illegal mining,' she wrote. She added that this policy change amounts to an "open invitation for illegal miners and mafias to finish off 90% of the range.' The Congress leader

has demanded that the government roll back amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Forest Conservation Rules, 2022, warning that the current approach jeopardises environmental sustainability and disregards the rights of



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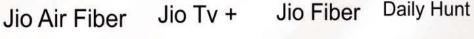
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tiveness.

tourists in Europe

## **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.

# Europe payment link mustn't be hobbled

(Gns)

India and the European Central Bank have entered the "realisation phase" of linking the Unified Payments (UPI) Interface 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 re gulators re sist 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

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

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 b o osting their cash flow and competi-

Indian

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 infrastruc-

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 sea-

son as a proper contestant,

I didn't think twice. And

now that I'm living it, it's a

hundred times more chaot-

ic than it looked from the

outside—but also a hun-

dred times more fun. You

bond over tiny disasters,

last-minute saves, and

laughing at your own blun-

ders. 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

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

deright 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 policy-

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, 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.

The first threat is fee

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 o ther 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, con-

#### makers are not careful. "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' great! The last time I also together on Bigg Boss. her million questions quite

COLORS serves another hot plate of dinnertainment 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 rasoi with Bharti Singh bringing her iconic wit, Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi steering the madness, and a cast ready to spark mayhem including 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.

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?

emphasised that belief in

one's capabilities can help

overcome even the tough-

decent cooking skills to use. A. Honestly, it feels

3. This season pairs you with Eisha Singh. You two have a great on-screen history from Sirf Tum and were my sannata and I tolerate

entered the Laughter Chefs What's that dynamic like in

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

well. She knows that I'm decent at cooking and so she trusts my instincts. Somehow, I end up doing most of the actual cooking. It's become our running joke on set. In the middle of all that banter, our teamwork just automatically kicks in.

4. What difference has Laughter Chefs made to vour life?

A. I've cooked all my life hostel days, bachelor days, I've handled my fair share of kitchens. But cooking in front of cameras, noise all around, and everyone trolling each other every two minutes... that's a whole different sport. This is my first brush with comedy, and I'm learning to navigate a new genre while strengthening my connection with the audience in a completely differ-

5. If you could describe

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 ker-

atinocytes and slow pollu-

tion-driven ageing. Green

tea extract and resveratrol

support the skin barrier dur-

ing pollution exposure.

Both contain antioxidants

that reduce oxidative stress

on surface cells. They help

neutralise pollutants that

high

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,

pollution,

like smoa

your journey on Laughter Chefs in one line, what would it be?

A. A crash course in comedy, cooking, and not taking everything too seriously.

What message would you like to give to your fans and viewers who will be watching you this season?

A. I'd say just watch the show for what it is, pure dinnertainment. We're all cooking, learning, and dealing with whatever comes our way. It's real, it's a bit messy, but it's honest You'll see a different side of everyone, including me. So, if you laugh with us or at us, that's fine. I just hope you enjoy the experience as much as we're trying to make it worth your time.

Watch 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment Season 3 airing every Saturday-Sunday at 9:00 PM only on COLORS.

### **PNB Marks International Day of Persons with** Disabilities with the launch of Braille Credit Card taineer Arunima Sinha. he

and equitable society, the 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 "Fostering theme of Disability-Inclusive Society 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 tained commitment to unveiling of PNB's Braille empowerment and inclu-Credit Card, designed to sive development. PNB fur- Martial provide greater accessibili- ther recognised the exem- Akshay Patel, and moun-

Reaffirming its commitment tomers. The Bank also cially-abled employees. to building a more inclusive extended sponsorship to Deaf Sports

03 December 2025: ty to visually impaired cus- plary contributions of spe-

Addressing the gathering, PNB MD&CEO Shri



Association of Delhi for the 7th Delhi State Games and provided CSR support to The New Learning Heights Special School & Remedial Center, reinforcing its sus-

Ashok Chandra spoke passionately about the extraordinary strength and determination displayed by specially-abled persons. Referring to the journeys of individuals such as Shri Munna Khalid, National Arts champion

"This day serves as a active lifestyle, reminder that what we have luxurious life is enough to excel, contribute, and make life and society more beautiful." Shri Chandra also highlighted several initiatives undertaken by PNB to supspecially-abled employees and announced the sponsorship of Shri Munna Khalid's participation in the upcoming BWF Para Badminton World Championship 2026 at Bahrain. CVO Shri Raghvendra

Kumar, in his address, emphasised that the International Day Persons with Disabilities is not just an annual observance but a global call to action.

### Living metropolitan cities has its perksest obstacles. He added, vibrant culture,

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 prob-

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-

Beauty in the time of pollution: Shahnaz Husain lution sources----: Usually, and overall immunity each the most effective way to Burning of solid fuels like ising damaging free radi- tains one or more antioxiwood, 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

tants. If you must go outside, try to go out during midday when the air quality may be better.

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

reduce pollution-driven oxidative stress.

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

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

They support skin, lungs,

calms the skin. Avoid day. These nutrients proharsh soaps or cleansers improve indoor air quality is tect cells and improve natucontaining sulfates, which eliminate individual ral resilience. Products can dry out the skin. sources of pollution or to with antioxidants protect After cleaning, apply a reduce their emissions. against pollution by neutral- skincare product that con-

> cals, which are caused by dants, such as Green tea Vitamin B-3 environmental stressors extract. Niacinamide. Eat plenty of antioxi-Coenzyme Q10, to protect dant-rich foods each day, the skin from damage, including fruits, vegetables, improve tone, and support nuts, seeds, legumes and

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 authror is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

#### Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, to Address Earth Summit in Gandhinagar

NABARD and IAMAI, the two-day conference will chart India's next phase of rural innovation and cooperative-led development

December 03, 2025: The second edition of the Earth Summit 2025–26, jointly organised by the Bank National for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), is scheduled to be held on December 5-6, 2025, at the Mahatma Change', will convene Mandir Convention & Centre Exhibition Gandhinagar. Shri Amit women Shah, Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of technology start-ups. With Cooperation, Government a strong emphasis on techof India, will address the nology integration and Summit. Other distin- cooperatives, the Summit guished attendees include will facilitate meaningful Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, dialogues and collabora-Hon'ble Chief Minister of tions on how digital tools,

Jointly organised by Gujarat; Shri Jitubhai AgriTech and RuralTech Savjibhai Vaghani, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Gujarat; Dr how cutting-edge technolo-

Cooperation, Government of India; and Mr Shaji K.V Chairman, NABARD.

The two-day Gandhinagar edition, themed 'Empowering Rural Innovation for Global industry leaders, policyin makers, agri-enterprises, entrepreneurs, local communities, and

Ashish Kumar Bhutani, gies can enhance produc-Secretary, Ministry of tivity, create sustainable

innovations can unlock new

avenues of growth across

rural India. It will showcase

livelihoods, expand market linkages, and drive inclusive development across the rural economy. The Summit will also underscore the critical role of cooperatives in powering India's rural growth engine.

With an expected footfall of over 5,000 and 80 exhibitors, 30+ knowledge sessions, 200+ participating cooperatives, 150+ AgriTech and RuralTech innovators, and multiple live technology demonstrations, the Gandhinagar Summit will spotlight technology-driven across India's rural ecosys-

Mr Manikumar S., Chief

General Manager, NABARD, said, "India's rural economy is entering a decisive phase where technology, innovation and the cooperative network can together accelerate meaningful change. At NABARD, we are focused on becoming a tech-enabled catalvst—enhancing digital infrastructure, equipping Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) with modern capabilities, and creating an environment where farmers, cooperatives and rural entrepreneurs can grow with confidence. The Earth Summit is an important platform that brings all stakeholders together to shape a development

settle on the skin. are indoors. 3---Skin Care Strategies Avoid outdoor exercise: -----To protect your skin Reduce outdoor physical during activity during high pollucleanse thoroughly twice a tion periods to prevent day to remove pollutants.. breathing in more pollu-Nighttime is your skin's prime time to repair itself,

Antioxidants help

Vitamin C rich foods,

Lemon, orange, amla,

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

oils.

and premature ageing.

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

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

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 US Richard Nixon and his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger were huddled over the telephone discussing the beginning of the 1971 India- Pakistan

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 (Indian Minister Indira Gandhi) ..."

The conversation at 10.45 am Washington time was dutifully recorded and released as part of historical documents for the perimany decades later.

Air Force bases, including Pathankhot, but did not at the United Nations and

cause much damage President as India had already moved its air assets to forward secret locations. While Pakistan troops advanced into India across the cease-fire line Kashmir.

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

Kissinger also 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) od by the State Department without going to the Security Council it would be Before India counter- a confession of poverty."

On this day, 54 years Force launched what it to know who would object. ago, when Indian Air Force called Operation Chengis Kissinger "India and Soviet and bombed eleven Indian union ... no one else." In the event many other coun-Srinagar, Amritsar and tries rallied to India's cause



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 14day 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.

Prime The Indian Minister made it clear that

President Nixon wanted "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

engaged in door-to-door

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

Following 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.

5548 titles and 21 gold and 21

silver medals were awarded in

the ceremony.

vocation of GLA University

was concluded with great

dignity and gaiety. A total

of 5548 degrees including

medalists from undergrad-

uate and postgraduate

courses were awarded in

The ceremony

was

Chief

gold and 21 silver

Mathura. The 14th con-

The app is secure and following uproar inside as purely meant to help citicyber world, the govern-



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 and are providing the app whenever they want. This has been clarified by Government," the release stated.

14th convocation of GLA University

well as outside Parliament zens from bad actors in the yesterday over the initial order, Scindia had on Tuesday evening clarified while that pre-installa-

tion had been made mandatory, it did not mean that users cannot delete uninstall the

said application. Further, the minister said, the app would not

until the user registered on it, notwithstanding the fact that the application was

चतुर्दश दीक्षांत समारोह

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

"The number of users has been increasing rapidly It may be recalled that 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," release further said.

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

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.

concluded

Chief Guest, Chancellor,

Vice-Chancellor, Registrar

and Dean Academic, Chief

Controller of Examinations

Dr. Atul Bansal along with

the members of the

### **Booth empowerment is the real strength of BJP:** said that BJP workers are

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 President Panchayat Kishan Choudhary, MLA Thakur Meghshyam, BJP President Harishankar Raju Yadav cessful. Door-to-door con- activism of the workers in and other workers gave tact of every worker is the the entire Mathura metrophim a grand welcome. The was seen at its peak as that our work does not they welcomed them by presenting them with bouquets. The entire area sion is not just about numechoed with slogans of BJP bers, but through dedica-Zindabad. After reaching tion and efforts. The enthu- President the venue, Brijesh Pathak siasm with which the work- Chaudhary and BJP took a detailed overview of ers are engaged in Metropolitan President the progress of the SIR Vrindavan today is a guar- Harishankar Raju Yadav including Sharma, Nitin

process. Appreciating the antee of the successful

work being done by the future of this campaign. He booth teams, he gave told the workers that every instructions to carry for- worker is the identity of BJP. ward the campaign in a It is our common responsimore effective and organ- bility to convey the governized manner. He said that ment's schemes and the SIR process is the party's message to the pub-



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

no campaign can be suc- Durvijay Singh said that the enthusiasm of the workers mission. We have to ensure 64 is noteworthy. We have remain incomplete at any booth. Organization expan-

backbone of the organiza- lic. This enthusiasm of tional strengthening of the Vrindavan will create new Bharatiya Janata Party. energy in the entire Braj Unless the booth is strong, region. Brij area president key to the success of this olis including booth number resolved to give the Brij region including Mathura metropolis the top position in the state in the SIR campaign. District Panchayat Kishan

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 incharge Shyam Sharma that 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 comeOn this occasion, MLA Meghshyam Singh, MLA Rajesh Chaudhary, District President Kishan Singh Chaudhary, former MLA Karinda Singh, former block chief Pannalal Gautam, Niranjan Singh Chandrapal Dhangar, Kuntal, Kunj Bihari Chaturvedi, Vineet Sharma, Ram Kishan Pathak, Mandal President Jitendra Varshney, Metropolitan Media Incharge ShyamA large number of workers

#### the ceremony. Apart from Mathura this, merit certificates were awarded to 24 stuinaugurated by 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 Panchayat Kanpur and Cipla Health

Ltd. Mumbai Managing Director and CEO Shivam Puri and GLA Vice India is in the golden age of innovation, youth should move ahead with confidence: Pankaj Choudhary Mathura. Addressing the life of the students. their lives, the Minister said



Pankaj Chaudhary, Chancellor Narayan Das Aggarwal and others inaugurate the 4th convocation ceremony of GLA University, Mathura by lighting the lamp.

lamp in front of the picture program started with the Chancellor Prof. Anoop of Mother Saraswati and arrival of the academic Kumar Gupta, Registrar inspiration Shri Ganeshilal procession, in which the

Ashok Kumar Singh lit the Agarwal ji. Before this, the

Governing Body, Executive Council and Academic Council of the University were welcomed in the main auditorium. Thereafter the Chancellor announced the commencement of the convocation ceremony. Chief guest at the ceremony, Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Choudhary, started the convocation address by encouraging all the students who received degrees and congratulating all the teachers and students. Vice Chancellor Prof. Anoop Kumar Gupta presented a report on the progress as well as future plans of the university. Chancellor Narayandas Aggarwal nonored the chief guest, Union Minister of State, Finance Ministry, Pankaj Chaudhary by presenting him a memento. Chancellor Prof. Anoop Kumar Gupta presented a memento to Chancellor Narayandas Aggarwal. On this occasion, Chief Executive Officer Neeraj Aggarwal, Chief Finance Officer Vivek Aggarwal, COE of GLA Dr. Bansal, Atul Dean Academic Prof. Ashish Sharma, Governing Body member Rajesh Garg

# 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 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, Chandra Magistrate Prakash Singh also honored 50 BLOs of Tehsil

Sadar area who completed

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

Gauri Shankar, Pushpa Rani, Pintu Kishore, Rashmi Sharma,



**District Magistrate addressing BLO** 

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.

Preeti Sharma, Neha Daya Chandra, Netrapal Dayal Aggarwal, Dev Kant with full dedication and District Sharma, Ashok Chauhan, determination from now on.

Dampier Nagar. BLOs and area by presenting them Lalita Saini, Ram Hari, with citations and placards. 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 In BLO, Man Singh, ensure the mapping of all the voters. If you do not do Sharma, Archana Parashar, the mapping, you will face difficulties in the future, Rajouria, Habib Khan, Dau hence get the work done Shivangi Gupta, Ram He said that all of you Charan, Jaya Gaur, Geeta, should thoroughly study the Mukesh, Sheela, Haripal, voter list of your area and Praveen Bharti, Rajkumar, prepare the list by double-Ritu Rajouria, Madhu, checking the details of

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 Mehar, Sushil Municipal Assistant Rakesh Commissioner Tyagi and other Sadars were present in the programmeAll the BLOs

and supervisors of the area

were present.

deceased,

transferred,

permanently

#### students, Union Minister of State for Pankaj Finance, Chaudhary, 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 aca-

religion of man and if you way. He said, "Today you important rite of passage in to keep learning throughout lence.

Referring to the teachings that the education received of Geeta, he said that when on campus was the initial there is doubt in life or the chapter, now the whole path is not clear, then world will be their new "doing duty" is the greatest classroom, where experiences will become their move ahead with courage, biggest teachers. Finally he success itself paves the concluded his thoughts with an inspiring message all are setting out on a new from Geeta. "Man is creatjourney in your lifeThis ed by his faith. As he degree is not just a certifi- believes, so he becomes." cate of your education, but He wished all the students a symbol of a huge respon- the very best to achieve the demic program but an sibility." Inspiring the youth highest heights of excel-

**Executive Council member** Narendra Aggarwal and heads of departments of various departments and other officials were present.

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

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 Kumar, 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. be any excuse. There have Diwali. According to CPCB Several local singers per- even been reports of AQI formed at the venue to data being manipulated,

motivate and energise the yet the figures fall in the



Neha, 26, one of the protesters, noted that We will continue to protest despite the BJP being in until effective measures are power both at the Centre and in the MCD, the authorities failed to bring pollution she asserted. under control. "Earlier, there was always a blame remained in the "very poor" though stubble burning

knows what the real AQI is? taken against air pollution. ing is the main cause of air It's our fundamental right,"

Delhi's air quality largely game, but now there can't to "severe" range since continued.

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 solu-

Chief Justice Surya Kant, sitting alongside Justice Joymalya Bagchi, challenged the long-standing belief that stubble burnpollution, pointing out that skies stayed clear during the COVID-19 period even

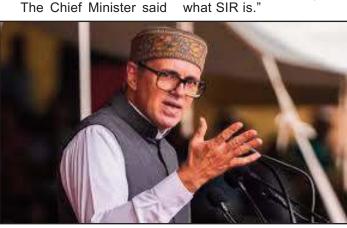
## **Omar Abdullah urges Election Commission to brief par**ties on electoral roll revision to ensure transparency

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday Election the Commission to brief all political parties on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying such a step is essential to dispel persistent concerns and ensure complete transparency in the electoral process.

He stressed that elections must be fair, transparent and free from any doubt or complaint, a responsibility that rests squarely with the Election Commission.

sions regarding the SIR, the EC should call all political parties, brief them about the exercise, and address all concerns," the Omar told reporters on the Assembly seats after the sidelines of a function here. abolition of J&K's special

raised by several non-NDA Jammu to benefit one party. parties over the SIR exer-



"If there are apprehen- he had never cast doubt on electronic voting machines because "I do not believe that these machines can be manipulated." Referring to delimitation His remarks come in the status, he added, "You backdrop of objections increased six seats in all seats be reserved for

Asked about a BJP delegation from J&K meeting Union Health Minister JP Nadda over the controversy related to MBBS admissions in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra and demanding that

It would be better if the EC

calls all of us and explains

Hindu students, the Chief Minister said, "If you want to distribute seats on the basis of religion, then reserve the institute for minorities. The grant-in-aid given by the government can be used elsewhere; we have no issue with that. Find out the value of the land allotted to you, stop accepting the grant-in-aid, change your status and become a minority institution." he said.

"But until now, you have been accepting admissions through the NEET exam and in NEET, selection is based solely on merit. If any student fails to secure a place in the merit list, how can you blame someone else for that," Omar added.

# IIT Dhanbad's 100-year legacy vital to India's growth, says PM Modi's Principal Secretary

positive social impact," he renewable energy. He Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary, P K Mishra, on Wednesday inaugurated the centenary foundation week of the Indian Institute Technology (Indian

emphasizing the institute's crucial role in India's journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047. Paying homage to IIT Dhanbad's 100-year legacy, Dr Mishra praised its pioneering contributions to mining education and its ongoing support to key national institutions such as

Coal India, ONGC, GSI,

CMPDI, and NTPC. "This

centenary is a testament to

how sustained commitment

to knowledge can drive

Dr Mishra linked the role of India's youth and School of Mines), Dhanbad,

> institute's accomplishments innovation ecosystem in to India's broader developmental goals under PM Modi's vision, highlighting advancements in digital payments, social protection, like Mission Karmayogi and

this progress.

underscored the critical

Reflecting on the evolution of civil services, Dr Mishra lauded initiatives space exploration, and the iGOT-Karmayogi plat-

formed capacity building for public servants through collaboration, adaptability, and continuous learning.

Looking ahead, he called on IIT Dhanbad to prioritize research in climate resilience, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, and public welfare, while nurturing values of humility, teamwork, and

ethics among its students. Expressing confidence in the institute's alignment with India's national objectives, Dr Mishra added, "The next 25 years will shape how we harness knowledge and technology to build a proud, capable, and equitable nation." He extended his best wishes to the faculty, students.

## Yoga, knowledge, leadership: Ramdev's message to Patanjali Gurukulam students

(Gns). guru at Acharyakulam University Upanishads, called Gurukulam. His

visit was a journey through a blend of ancient Indian traditions and today's modern education. During

interaction with students, Ramdev highlighted how help them become capable heirs of India's age-old wisdom.

Tradition meets modern knowledge

Ramdev recently took a leadership. Here students dive into the learning world are taught the Vedas, Patanjali Indian philosophical tradi-

this institution is nurturing tions. But they also study young minds in order to modern subjects such as science, technology, mathematics with equal empha-

Beyond academics, students learn over ten lan-Patanjali Gurukulam is guages and more than a not just about degrees or hundred skills. Ramdev certificates. Its main aim is stressed that India needs

sonalities excelling in ed in their cultural values Swami knowledge, values, health, yet equipped to face mod-

ern challenges. Healthy body, clear Sanskrit, mind, strong character

> During his visit, Ramdev engaged with students about yoga, meditation, and pranayama practices. He emphasised that life at the Gurukulam goes far beyond classrooms. The discipline, daily routines, environment help in building students' complete personality.

Yoga and Ayurveda form the foundation of learning here. Students start their day with yogic exercises in order to to boost focus and mental strength. Meals are carefully planned to be sattvic and health-promoting ensuring that both body and mind remain pure and

#### to shape well-rounded per- young people who are root- energised. Congress Slams BJP's 'Sanchar Saathi' App Mandate as 'Orwellian' Overreach, Demands Rollback

erupted on Wednesday as directive, which states that Congress launched a the pre-installed app canscathing attack on the BJPled government's directive mandating the pre-installation of the 'Sanchar Saathi' app on all new mobile phones. The move, intended to enhance digital security, has sparked sharp criticism over privacy concerns and alleged government surveillance.

Congress leader and AICC Media Chief Pawan not be removed or disabled, Khera condemned the calling the government's mandate as an "Orwellian defence a "blatant lie" intrusion," challenging the aimed at "feeding misinforgovernment's claim that the app is optional and can be removed. "The BJP government has been brazenly date as a severe violation snooping on citizens, but of the Supreme Courtwhen caught red-handed affirmed Right to Privacy. this time, it attempted to "In the BJP's dictionary, IT mislead the entire nation no with a false and deceptive 'Information Technology'; it

He pointed to Section 7(b) This diktat is a chilling A fierce political storm of the government's own



mation to 140 crore

Indians." Khera framed the manlonger means 'clarification,'" Khera said. stands for 'Identity Theft.' every six hours.

attempt to normalise mass surveillance, compromising personal data and intruding into the most intimate aspects of citizens' lives,' he asserted.

Responding in the Lok Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has dismissed the allegations, insisting the app cannot monitor users and only activates upon registration. "Snooping is neither possible nor will it ever happen through the app," he said, defending the government's position amid escalating political debate.

Khera further criticised another recent government order requiring platforms WhatsApp like Telegram to link user accounts to active SIMs and enforce automatic logout of web sessions

#### Faridabad terror module tried to copy Hamas' October 7 tactics, reached out for drone expertise: Report

Fresh findings by central which left 1,195 Israelis

operation.

agencies suggest that the and foreign nationals dead group and saw 251 people taken Faridabad-based behind the Red Fort blasts hostage, has emerged as a was attempting to reach out model for several radical to Hamas operatives, hop- outfits worldwide, accordguidance to mount a major terror strike in India. Investigators say the module had been studying the tactics used during Hamas' 7 October 2023 assault on Israel and believed similar methods could help them pull off a high-impact

Officials familiar with the Bureau investigation said the group held several internal discussions on replicating elements of the Israel attack, particularly its drone-led strikes. While the members had researched the modus operandi, they lacked the technological depth to build the advanced weaponry required. This gap pushed believing that Hamas engithem to repeatedly attempt neers could help them contact with Hamas spe-

officer.

viewed it as a blueprint for a spectacular attack on Indian soil. Drone ambitions and

Faridabad module, too,

failed overseas outreach Investigators revealed that some members of the group were prepared to travel abroad for training, design more potent drones gliding

The 7 October strike, Agencies also suspect that Pakistan's ISI might eventually have arranged such a meeting, given its ongoing links with Hamas members who frequently transit through Pakistan to coordiing to secure technical ing to an Intelligence nate with local terror outfits, reported news agency

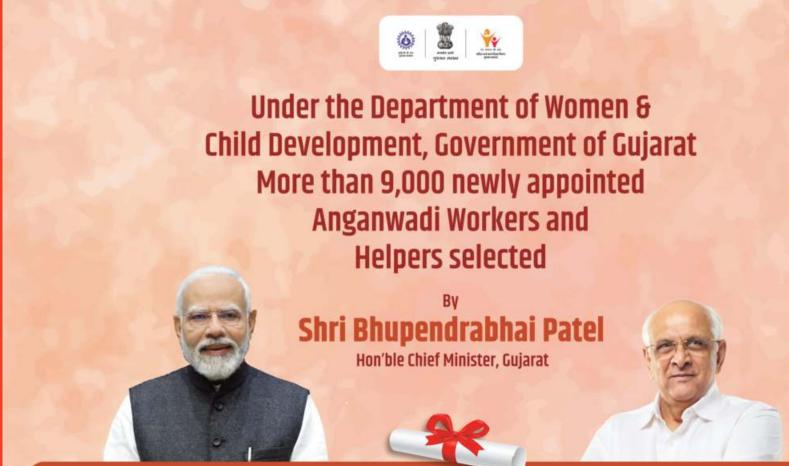
IANS.

However, with Israel launching sustained retaliatory strikes post-October 7, Hamas operatives were deeply tied up in the conflict, leaving the Faridabad group unable to establish meaningful contact.

module, however, remained committed to its drone-centric plan.

Key role of Danish and the tech trail

A central figure in this operation, investigators say, was Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish. Tasked with pushing the drone project forward, he repeatedly stressed that consulting Hamas experts was essential to perfect a surprise rockets. aerial attack.



# **Appointment Letter Distribution Ceremony**

Date: 04-12-2025 | Time: 10:30 AM Venue: Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar

**Distinguished Presence** 

## Dr. Manisha Vakil

Hon'ble Minister of State, Women & Child Development (Independent Charge), Social Justice & Empowerment (MoS)

> ICDS services will now be strengthened and made more effective

Holistic development of children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls through nutrition, healthcare, and pre-primary education

#### **Special Guests**

Smt. Meera Patel Hon'ble Mayor, Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation

**Smt. Shilpaben Patel** Hon'ble President, District Panchayat, Gandhinagar

Shri Laxmanji Thakor Hon'ble MLA (Kalol), Gandhinagar

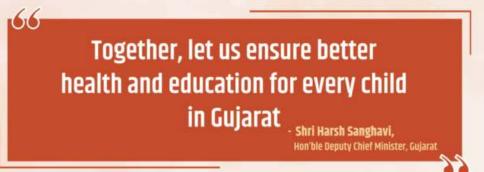
Shri Jayantibhai Patel Hon'ble MLA (Mansa), Gandhinagar

Shri Balrajsinh Chauhan Hon'ble MLA (Dehgam), Gandhinagar

Shri Alpesh Thakor Hon'ble MLA (Gandhinagar South),

Gandhinagar

**Smt. Ritaben Patel** Hon'ble MLA (Gandhinagar North), Gandhinagar



Live broadcast of the program: X CMOGujarat (f) CMOGujarat (o) CMOGujarat (o) CMOGujarat





