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## We must free ourselves from every trace of colonial mindset: PM Modi

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that India is becoming the key growth engine of the global economy, adding that in an atmosphere of geopolitical uncertainty, the country is emerging in a league of its own and moving ahead with deep self-confidence.

"In a world of slowdown, mistrust and fragmentation, India brings growth, trust and acts as a bridge-builder," PM Modi said while addressing a media summit here.

He further said that every sector today is shedding the old colonial mindset and aiming for new achievements with pride.

"You know very well that no nation can move forward without self-confi-

dence. Unfortunately, long years of colonial rule shook this very confidence in India. The reason for this was a deep colonial mindset. This colonial mentality has become a major barrier in achieving the goals of a developed Bharat. That is why today's Bharat is working to free itself from this mindset," the Prime Minister said.

"I am requesting the people of our nation to look at the coming ten years as a clear time frame. I cannot achieve this without your support. The policy of Macaulay that sowed the seeds of mental slavery in Bharat (India) will complete two hundred years in 2035," the Prime Minister said.

"This is why, within these ten years, we must free ourselves from every trace

of that colonial mindset," PM Modi said.

He said the transformation taking place in India is not merely about possibilities. It is the real story of changing lives, evolving mindsets and a nation moving in a new direction, he said.

PM Modi also mentioned India's Q2 GDP growth of 8.2 per cent and said India is emerging as a pillar of trust.

"When the world speaks of slowdown, India continues to write a story of growth. When the world faces a crisis of trust, India is emerging as a pillar of trust. When the world moves

towards fragmentation, India is becoming a bridge builder," PM Modi said.

"The second quarter GDP figures for India show

These are not just numbers. They are strong macroeco-

key growth driver of the global economy today," he said.

"Today we stand at a moment when one fourth of the twenty-first century has already passed. In these twenty-five years, the world has witnessed many ups and downs. It has seen financial crises. It has faced a global pandemic. Each of these situations has challenged the global community in some form. Amid an atmosphere of uncertainty, our nation is emerging in a league of its own. India is moving ahead with deep self-confidence," he said.

Reforms carried out in India earlier were "reactionary", but they are guid-

ed by national goals in current times, the Prime Minister said.

"At one time, reforms in India were reactionary. This means that either political interests were linked to major decisions, or they were announced to manage a crisis. However, reforms are carried out with national goals in mind. We have set targets. Each sector across the country is seeing improvement. Our growth is constant. Our intent is nation first," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister further said that the transformation of the nation becomes certain when its people contribute to development without barriers.

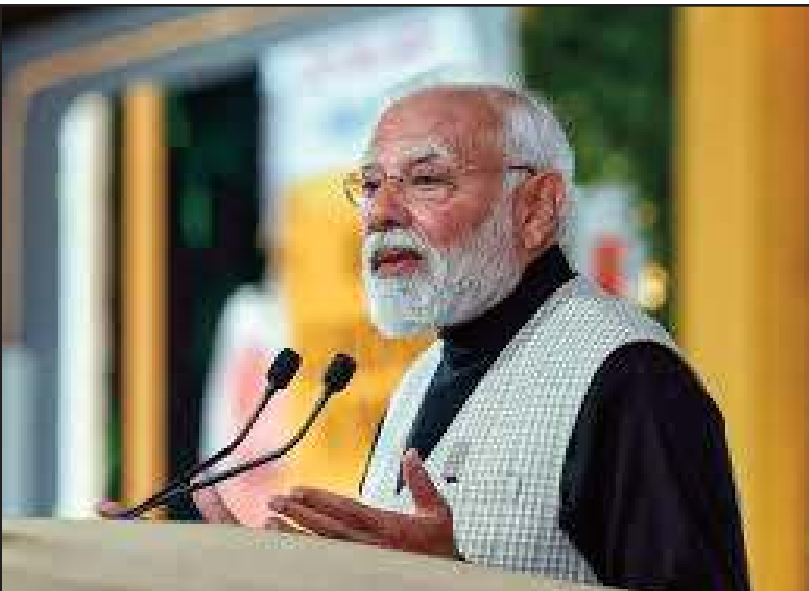
He said India was moving forward by tapping its

"vast and previously unre-

alised potential".

"A large part of India's potential remained untapped for a very long time. When this untapped potential receives greater opportunities, and when people contribute to national development with full energy and without barriers, the nation's transformation becomes certain. Our Northeast, our villages, our tier two and tier three cities all hold immense potential that could not be utilised in earlier decades. India is now moving forward by tapping this vast and previously unrealised potential," PM Modi said.

"Earlier, India's space sector was under government control only. But we have reformed the space



growth of more than eight percent, reflecting a new momentum in our progress.

conomic signals. They convey that India is rising as a

## Uddhav Thackeray lambasts Fadnavis for not appointing Leader Of Opposition

(Gns). Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray targeted the BJP-led Fadnavis government on Saturday, demanding that if the post of Leader of Opposition is not appointed in both the legislative assembly as well as the legislative council, the post of Deputy Chief Minister should be cancelled immediately.

Thackeray questioned why the Fadnavis government is afraid to give the post of Leader of Opposition to both the houses, namely the legislative assembly as well as the legislative council.

"We had demanded during the very first session of

this government that they should give him the post of Leader of the Opposition. Now a year has passed, but this government has done nothing except make announcements.

"For the first time in the history of the legislature, there is no Leader of the Opposition in both the houses. This government is strong and it is supported by the central government. Despite this, why is this government afraid to appoint the Leader of the Opposition?" Uddhav

Thackeray questioned.

"They have many corrupt people with them by covering up all their follies. Despite doing all this, why

is this government afraid of the post of Leader of the Opposition? This government should immediately announce the Leader of the Opposition for both the Houses. Also, if you are

going to cite the law, then the post of Deputy Chief Minister should be abolished immediately, because there is no provision for such a post anywhere in the Constitution.



## Education remains foundation for uplifting underprivileged sections: Piyush Goyal

(Gns). Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Saturday emphasised that education remains the foundation for uplifting underprivileged sections and reminded students of their duties towards society and the nation.

Addressing the annual convocation of Amity University in Noida, Goyal said there can be no greater contribution by a university than encouraging talented minds to return, nurturing their abilities, and providing them a platform that recognises and respects their potential.

Congratulating the grad-

uating batch of nearly 29,000 students, including online and on-campus learners, the Minister said the achievements of the students and awardees were the true focus of the ceremony.

Goyal highlighted the wide range of opportunities offered to students and lauded the university's commitment to merit through scholarships that enable need-blind admissions.

He expressed satisfac-

tion that half the student population comprises young women and praised the university's strong innovation culture, with over 450 patents held by students.

He also took note of the fact that 50 faculty members are Ramalingam Swami Fellows who have returned to serve the nation.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's legacy on Mahaparinirvan Diwas, the Minister reiterated the constitutional values of equality, social harmony,

and opportunities for all.

The Minister described the graduating cohort as an important part of India's journey towards a developed nation by 2047, noting that the next 25 years will be the defining era for Viksit Bharat. He urged students to take their chosen fields to the next level, push boundaries, and contribute meaningfully to national progress.

Goyal highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, had appealed to one lakh young men and women to consider public life and politics as a vocation.



## Kerala Literature Festival 2026 from Jan 22-25; Germany to be guest nation

(Gns). The ninth edition of the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) 2026 will be held from January 22 to 25 at the Kozhikode beachfront where a bevy of philosophers, activists, filmmakers, Nobel Laureates, Booker Prize winners, writers, historians, and scientists will transcend.

The festival will be held in Kozhikode — India's first UNESCO City of Literature. It will feature over 400 speakers and 250 sessions spread across seven parallel tracks, with 10 sessions per track each day, over 6 lakh visitors, followed by evening performances and musical events on the beach.

Germany has been announced as the Guest Nation for KLF 2026, bringing with it a programme of diverse literary, artistic, and cultural expressions.

"Platforms like KLF are crucial in strengthening cross-cultural understanding and reaffirming literature's vital role in uniting diverse global voices. It is more than a festival, it is a celebration of literature's democratic spirit. In an age where divisiveness threatens to splinter our world, such cultural collaborations are also acts of quiet resistance,"

Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor said at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India, said, "The Kerala Literature Festival stands as a remarkable meeting point for cultures, ideas, and artistic expression. As the Guest Nation for KLF 2026, Germany is honoured to participate in a celebration that brings together some of the world's most influential literary voices. We look forward to presenting the depth of German literature, thought, and creativity, and to engaging with the vibrant literary community of Kerala."



## Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Reacts To Falling Rupee Vs Dollar

(Gns). Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the rupee should be allowed to "find its own level", as questions grew over the currency's slide against the US dollar. Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit (HTLS) 2025, Sitharaman was asked if the rupee was now "a little too high" against the American currency.

The Finance Minister avoided giving a specific

target for the exchange rate, but linked the current level to wider global moves. The rupee had hit a fresh record low of 90.43 against the dollar on Wednesday, December 3, before recovering on Thursday and closing at 89.89, gaining 26 paise.

Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman stated the rupee should find its own level during the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit (HTLS) 2025, avoiding a specific exchange rate target and linking the current level to global moves; the rupee hit a record low of 90.43 against the dollar on

December 3.

Rupee and currency politics

Nirmala Sitharaman accepted that the Bharatiya Janata Party had earlier attacked a falling rupee while in Opposition, but stressed that the background at that time was not the same as the current situation.

Responding to this political context, Nirmala Sitharaman noted how sensitive exchange rate commentary can be.



## New national slogan should be 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Samvidhan:' Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns). Samajwadi Party National President Akhilesh Yadav, on the death anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar proposed a new national slogan — "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Samvidhan."

Posting on his social media account on Saturday, Mr. Yadav said there should be no debate or dispute over the Constitution.

"On this one issue, everyone should stand together. The Constitution is not just a book; it is the

very foundation of our nation," he emphasized.

Mr. Yadav said the saddest situation for a democracy is when Parliament has to debate on saving the Constitution, whereas the Constitution actually mandates discussions on taking

the country forward. "A crisis for the Constitution is essentially a crisis for democracy," he said.

He added that those who wish to weaken the Constitution also wish to weaken democracy.

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## Editorial

### Contrasting Trends

Israel's announcement that the Rafah crossing will soon reopen for Palestinians seeking to leave Gaza has been framed as a gesture of support for the ongoing ceasefire. But the flurry of conflicting statements that followed tells a more complicated story ~ one in which humanitarian relief is still mediated through layers of strategic calculation, political theatre, and unresolved hostility. On paper, the plan appears orderly: exits through Rafah would resume under a mechanism involving Israeli security approval, Egyptian participation and supervision by a European mission.

In practice, even this limited arrangement immediately met with resistance. Cairo has publicly rejected any suggestion that it is coordinating with Israel. Its insistence that the crossing can operate only in accordance with the US-backed plan, and in both directions, is not merely a diplomatic clarification; it signals Egypt's determination to avoid any perception of acquiescence to Israeli control over Gaza's borders. This discord reveals how even the smallest movement at Rafah reflects much broader power dynamics. For Israel, reopening the border is tied to ceasefire compliance and the delicate hostage-return process. For Egypt, it is about asserting sovereignty and distancing itself from policies that could provoke domestic criticism or undermine long-standing regional positions. For Palestinians, it is simply about survival.

The scale of need is staggering. Tens of thousands of severely ill and wounded Palestinians are waiting for evacuation, while only a few hundred have been permitted to leave since the ceasefire began. The reopening of Rafah, even if temporary and heavily controlled, offers a narrow passage for those whose lives now depend on access to hospitals abroad. Every delay is measured in lives lost, not diplomatic talking points. Yet, the humanitarian narrative cannot be separated from the political one. Reports that Palestinian Authority (PA) personnel may assist at the crossing, but without displaying official insignia, demonstrate the convoluted compromises that define Gaza's governance vacuum. Israel's refusal to allow any formal PA role, while simultaneously relying on its quiet involvement, encapsulates the contradictions of post-war planning.

These arrangements are not steps toward a coherent political order; they are improvised fixes designed to function only for as long as the ceasefire holds. At the same time, Israel's hesitation to reopen Rafah until all deceased hostages are returned underscores how intertwined humanitarian access has become with the bargaining logic of the conflict. The partial retrieval of remains, ongoing disputes over identification and continued negotiations illustrate that even the dead have become part of the political ledger. In this context, the reopening of Rafah is not a diplomatic breakthrough but a reminder of how provisional the current calm remains. The crossing may soon open, but the deeper questions of authority, accountability and post-war governance remain unanswered. For those trapped inside Gaza, a functioning border is essential. But it cannot substitute for a political framework capable of ensuring that such openings are not forever conditional.

## Blaming the system for rejection by the people

(Gns). Indian democracy is a reflection of the world's largest public will. Here, elections are not just confined to change of power, but a sacred national ritual – where every vote serves as the pulsation of a healthy democratic system. Therefore, the accuracy of the electoral rolls is not only an administrative work of the Election Commission of India (ECI), but also a question of protecting the constitutional spirit of India.

With this basic spirit, the Election Commission launched a massive campaign of 'Special Intensive Revision' (SIR) of the electoral rolls from July 1 this year, so that no ineligible person (including infiltrators) is included in the rolls and no eligible citizen is left out. After Bihar, the process is underway in 12 more states. The previous SIR was conducted in the country during 2002-04.

It is ironic that those political parties and their top leaders who were trying to project themselves as the 'protectors' of the Constitution by waving copies of it, are now raising baseless questions on this statutory electoral reform process inside and outside the Parliament. Several petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court against the nationwide SIR by opponents, including opposition parties as well as self-proclaimed "protectors of the Constitution and democracy". Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal and Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi are representing them as senior advocates.

The top Court has rejected their argument that SIR is an unnecessary process and that the ECI has no authority to conduct it. Moreover, the Court, in

its hearing on November 26, also noted that none of the ineligible voters whose names were removed during the SIR in Bihar had filed any objection. The ECI, in the second phase of SIR, covering around 51 crore voters in 1,843 assembly constituencies in 321 districts of 12 states, is reviewing the accuracy of the rolls. As of 3 December, 99 per cent of SIR forms have been distributed and over 93 per cent of them have been digitized.

To ensure a free, fair, and transparent process, the Commission has already held over 4,700 all-party meetings, attended by 28,000 political representatives. The final rolls will be published on 16 February 2026. Those whose names are removed from the list will have full opportunity to file claims and objections within one month. So, what is the point of being nervous about such a transparent process? In fact, first casting aspersion on EVMs and then levelling accusation of 'vote-chori (vote theft)' by opponents is nothing but 'a bad workman blaming his tools'.

The Congress has unsuccessfully tried to blame 'vote chori' for its debacles in last year's Haryana and Maharashtra elections and recently concluded Bihar elections. Of the 61 seats it contested in Bihar, Congress bagged only six receiving just 8.7 per cent votes. It should be remembered that Congress's vote share drastically dropped to 6 per cent in 2005, that too when the UPA government was at the helm. Will the Congress be able to explain who committed the 'vote chori' then? Congress' performance has been steadily declining for the past three

decades in Bihar. In the 1990 assembly elections, it received approximately 24.7 per cent votes, which dropped to 16.2 per cent in 1995, 11 per cent in 2000, a meagre 8.3 per cent when



contesting alone in 2010, 6.7 per cent in 2015, and 9.48 per cent in 2020. This decline of the Congress is not just confined to Bihar.

After independence, the Congress ruled the country, directly or indirectly, for 50 years. During this period, Congress lost power in Tamil Nadu (1967), West Bengal (1977), Uttar Pradesh (1989), Gujarat (1990), Maharashtra (1995), Odisha (2000), Goa (2012), and Delhi (2013) and has not been able to return to power on its own. In Delhi, it even failed to open its account in the 2015, 2020 and 2025 elections. Its vote share in the Maharashtra assembly elections has dropped from

21 per cent in 2009 to a mere 12 per cent in 2024. Will this steady erosion – or in the words of the Congress leadership, 'match-fixing' and 'vote chori' – also be blamed on

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ECI? The last four Lok Sabha elections clearly underscore India's changing political landscape. In 2009, the BJP bagged 18.8 per cent votes and 116 seats.

In 2014, the same BJP surged to 282 seats with 31 per cent votes in its kitty. On the contrary, the Congress slipped from 206 to 44 seats with its vote share dropping from 28.5 per cent to 19.3 per cent. During both elections, the Congress-led UPA government was in power at the Centre. Public support for the BJP surged further in 2019 and the party secured a majority again with increased vote share (37.3

per cent) and seats (303). The party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, fought the 2024 Lok Sabha elections amid anti-incumbency, opposition consolidation, plots by anti-India forces, and negative propaganda. It witnessed a drop in its seats (240) and vote share (36.5 per cent), but managed to form the government.

It is also worth noting that during the last 11 years of the Modi government at the Centre, opposition parties also won elections in many states. These mainly include Trinamool in West Bengal, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand, Congress in Karnataka and Himachal, National Conference in Jammu & Kashmir and the Left in Kerala, etc. Even in the 70-member Delhi assembly elections, AAP won 67 seats in 2015 and 62 in 2020 and it also won 80 per cent of the seats in Punjab in 2022. Would these results have been possible if the Election Commission had been "biased" toward one party? In fact, most of the opposition, including the Congress leadership, have

lost the ability to see and understand their core problem.

Arrogance and a sense of dynastic entitlement have deprived them of introspection. They are living in a fantasy, completely disconnected from reality, and are unnecessarily blaming Prime Minister Modi and the Commission for 'vote chori' for every electoral debacle. Another bitter truth is that if for some reason voters get disillusioned with the BJP they look for other alternatives instead of the main opposition, the Congress. In fact, most of the opposition parties – SP, RJD, Trinamool, DMK, NCP, AAP – have strengthened their roots by making inroads into the political base of the Congress. The truth is that when the 'people', i.e. the voters, repeatedly reject the Congress, then as part of an organised political strategy, the 'system' – institutions like the Election Commission – are put in the dock. The only objective is to somehow maintain its declining political relevance amidst the alienation from the public, even if it means damaging the credibility of the country's constitutional institutions.

### “I didn’t prepare to ‘act’ like a mother...I just felt it,” says Mahhi Vij about playing Kausar in COLORS’ ‘Seher Hone Ko Hai.’

Starring Mahhi Vij as Kausar and Rishita Kothari as Seher, COLORS' Seher Hone Ko Hai brings a stirring new spin to a mother-daughter battle for freedom. In the heart of Lucknow, Kausar fights to give her sixteen-year-old daughter the education and choices she herself was denied, while Parvez pushes to marry Seher into the powerful Mufti family. Caught in the middle is Mahid (played by Parth Samthaan), a privileged young heir carrying hidden emotional wounds. In an exclusive conversation, Mahhi Vij got candid about what drew her to the show, the emotional weight of playing Kausar, and why this mother-daughter journey feels so personal to her.

1. Tell us about the show.

A. Seher Hone Ko Hai is the story of a mother and daughter trying to break a cycle of oppression and patriarchy that's been handed down for generations. Kausar brings her sixteen-year-old daughter, Seher, to Lucknow because she wants her to have the freedom and education, she herself never got the chance to fight for. But Seher's father, Parvez, is firmly against it and is determined to marry her off to Mahid, who belongs to the powerful Mufti family. As Seher slowly begins to understand what it means to stand up for her own dreams, Mahid enters her life, a boy who looks privileged from the outside but carries wounds no one sees, knowing he's far from perfect. And while destiny nudges them toward each other, the mother and daughter quietly start a rebellion of their own, leaving viewers wondering if they can finally break free

from the cage they were born into.

2. What drew you to your role in particular?

A. Playing Kausar felt like a tribute to mothers, to their strength and the battles they fight so their chil-

ries inside her. What I focused on instead was understanding the quieter, internal parts of Kausar, the exhaustion of fighting the same battles again, the guilt of not being able to give her daughter more, and the tiny

Muslim-backdrop shows on TV?

A. What makes Seher Hone Ko Hai different is that it's not built on surface-level drama. This story is about a mother who wants her daughter to



dren can live a better life. Returning to fiction with a character who carries such dignity and courage just felt right. She's a chikankari artist who creates beauty even on days when life tests her spirit. She won't let her daughter inherit the darkness she endured; she chooses to pass down love instead of fear. As a mother, that truth goes straight to the heart. I'm fighting for my daughter's Seher, even if I've lived in shadows. Wanting better for your child is instinctive, protecting their sunrise even when you've spent years in shadows is something every mother understands.

3. How did you prepare for this show?

A. For me, the mother-daughter bond in this show didn't need heavy preparation, it needed honesty. I'm a mother in real life, so I instantly connected with Kausar's instinct to protect her child from everything she herself has suffered. I didn't have to imagine that fear or that desperation; it's something every mom car-

moments of strength she gathers just to push through one more day. I didn't prepare to 'act' like a mother, I just felt it.

4. How is your bond with Rishita off screen?

A. Honestly, I've become her mother off screen too. I'm always fussing over her, asking if she's eaten, if she needs anything, if she's tired. I keep telling her she should tell her mom to disown her because I'm ready to adopt her! That's the kind of bond we've developed. She's such a sweet, calm energy on set, and because this is her debut, I automatically feel protective of her, the way you do for your own child who's stepping into a big new world. We have a lot of fun together, but we also learn from each other. She teaches me her little Gen-Z things, and I guide her where I can. It's a very natural, pure bond, nothing forced and it genuinely feels like family.

5. How is this show different from earlier

have the education and opportunities she never got. Her past hasn't made her bitter, it has made her determined. Wanting a better life for your child is a universal instinct, and the show captures that with honesty. It focuses on a mother's quiet courage as she fights for her daughter's future. That honesty, that truthfulness and courage, is what makes Seher Hone Ko Hai very different from other shows.

6. If you had to sum up Kausar's life in one line, what would it be?

A. If I had to sum up Kausar's life, I think it would be, 'Kausar isn't trying to change the world, she's just trying to change her daughter's world.'

7. What is your message to the viewers?

A. Now that Seher Hone Ko Hai has entered your homes, all I want to say is thank you. Every person on this team, from the writers to the crew, has put so much heart and honesty into bringing this world alive, and seeing viewers connect with it means everything to us. As actors, we've tried to keep the emotions real and grounded, and we hope you continue to stay with Seher and her journey. Let the characters grow on you, let their flaws and fights feel familiar. Your support truly keeps us going, and we're grateful for every bit of love you've shown the show so far. We hope Seher Hone Ko Hai becomes a small part of your everyday life, and we can't wait for you to experience what's coming next.

Watch 'Seher Hone Ko Hai' Monday to Friday at 10:00 PM on COLORS and JioHotstar.

## From Punjab’s Platter To Nation’s Menu - Know the Story of Bonn

New Delhi , 6 Dec 2025: Every story's first chapter begins with a firm belief to become big. For the Bonn Group, that belief led with passion, persistence, and purpose. What started as a small dream in the bylanes of Ludhiana soon transformed into a legacy of excellence.

In 1985, Bonn laid its foundation brick with humble bread offerings, serving homes with warmth, trust, and taste. Over the years, every slice gained acceptance in the heart of households - in Punjab followed by North India.

To own nation's choice, Bonn rose by shaping stories that made a home in people's hearts. As a family member, it served happiness on every plate. With Wholewheat Bread for health-seekers, Brown Bread for the mindful ones, Prime-time Sandwich Bread for on-the-go, it made the nation believe in one truth, Bread Matlab Bonn.

Decades later, that vision was reinvented with the birth of Americana in 2016, a premium biscuit brand under the Bonn Group's umbrella. Americana wasn't just another product, it was a leap into India's fast-growing snacking culture, blending indulgence with innovation.

Americana brings a world of flavours under one roof, from crunchy cookies, to cheese crackers to healthy digestive to melt-in-mouth creme biscuits, its range delighted every plate. Be it kids or adults, it added a smile on every face.

And went ahead with impactful narratives that infused the flavour of Punjab in the entire nation.



With the launch of India's first Coconut Cookie, the OG Coconut Cookie, Americana instantly captured hearts and taste buds. It wasn't merely a biscuit, it was a Crunchy, Aromatic and Iconic experience from the platter of Punjab to the snack-time menu of India.

The brand's positioning and storytelling deepened with its campaigns. The much-loved "Taste jo karde deewana" featuring Sonam Bajwa positioned Americana with emotion and authenticity. Bajwa's charm mirrored the soul of the brand with Punjabi essence.

Then came 2024, the year Americana turned a new page of glamour. Superstar Katrina Kaif joined as the celebrity face of its national campaign, "Crunchh Bole Toh Americana Coconut Cookies."

Her modern, pan-Indian appeal became the perfect expression of Americana's evolution, from a regional favorite to a nationwide premium biscuit.

Mr. Amrinder Singh, Director of Bonn Group, believes in a customer-cen-

tric and partnership-oriented approach and confidently carries the legacy of Bonn Group on his shoulders.

As per him, "In the evolving landscape of the market, the voices of consumer choices hold the key power. And partnerships make that power rule.

We don't just acknowledge this, we are fueled by it.

Consumers and partnerships carve a path of progress in leading with new milestones and leav-

ing an inspirational legacy.

We lead for our consumers. We grow through new business partnerships."

Today, Bonn continues its journey with business growth and social responsibility. The story of Bonn and Americana is more than a business, it's a saga of continuity, reinvention, and vision of an Indian brand that respects its roots while dreaming global. Because when belief is shaped right, the world opens boundaries for limitless growth.

### Deepti Sharma credits her brother on KBC: "He recognized the cricketer in me before anyone else."

Mumbai: In the upcoming episode of "Kaun Banega Crorepati," Indian women's cricket team all-rounder Deepti Sharma revealed the moment that changed her life. She explained that her elder brother was the first person to recognize her talent and inspire her to play cricket. Speaking to Amitabh Bachchan, Deepti explained how his support and belief played a crucial role in shaping her early journey. Recalling her childhood days, Deepti said, "I started playing



cricket because of my brother. I would go to the

ground with him just to watch him play. One day, I

was sitting on the stairs when suddenly a ball came towards me. I threw it back from a distance of about 40-50 meters, and it hit the stumps. People present there immediately said, 'This girl should play cricket.' From that moment on, I never looked back and started playing seriously." The episode also featured a touching moment when her brother, who was present in the audience, expressed his pride. Acknowledging the immense success she had achieved, he said, "I feel

proud to be called Deepti's brother." He also recited a heartfelt poem dedicated to Amitabh Bachchan, adding warmth and charm to the episode. Deepti's story on KBC is a reminder of how a single moment of discovery—and the unwavering support of family—can change the course of a young athlete's life. Don't miss this heartwarming moment on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati,' streaming this Friday only on Sony Entertainment Television and SonyLIV.



# WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SEVEN PAIRS OF SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway will run seven special trains on special fare between Mumbai Central – New Delhi, Mumbai Central – Bhiwani, Mumbai Central – Shakur Basti, Bandra Terminus – Durgapura, Valsad – Bilaspur, Sabarmati – Delhi & Sabarmati – Delhi Sarai Rohilla stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of these trains are as under:

1. Train No. 04001/04002 Mumbai Central – New Delhi Superfast Special [02 Trips] Train No. 04001 Mumbai Central – New Delhi Special will depart from Mumbai Central on Sunday, 07th December, 2025 at 23:30 hrs and reach New Delhi at 20:50 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 04002 New Delhi – Mumbai Central special will depart from New Delhi on 06th December, 2025 at 22:40 hrs and arrive Mumbai Central at 21:00 hrs, the next day. Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Kota and Mathura stations in both directions.

This train comprises of First AC, AC- 2 Tier and AC – 3 Tier Coaches.

2. Train No. 09001/09002 Mumbai Central – Bhiwani Superfast

(Bi-Weekly) Special [14 Trips]

Train No. 09001 Mumbai Central – Bhiwani Superfast Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Tuesday and Friday at 10:30 hrs and will reach Bhiwani at 13:00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 09th December to 30th December, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09002 Bhiwani – Mumbai Central Superfast Special will depart from Bhiwani every Wednesday and Saturday at 14:35 hrs and will arrive Mumbai Central at 16:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 10th December, to 31st December, 2025.

Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Mandasor, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhi Nagar Jaipur, Bandikui, Alwar, Rewari, Kosli and Charkhi Dadri stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC - 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

3. Train No. 09003/09004 Mumbai Central – Shakur Basti Superfast Special [04 Trips] Train No. 09003 Mumbai Central – Shakur Basti Special will depart from Mumbai Central Sunday, 07th December & Monday, 08th December, 2025 at 10:30 hrs and will

reach Shakur Basti at 08:00 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09004 Shakur Basti – Mumbai Central Special will depart from Shakur Basti on Monday, 08th December & Tuesday, 09th December, 2025 at 10:15 hrs and will arrive Mumbai Central at 10:30 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bharatpur, Mathura, Kosi Kalan and Delhi Safdarjung stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC -3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

4. Train No. 09730/09729 Bandra Terminus – Durgapura Superfast Special [02 Trips] Train No. 09730 Bandra Terminus – Durgapura Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Monday, 08th December, 2025 at 10:00 hrs and will reach Durgapura at 05:30 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09729 Durgapura – Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Durgapura on Sunday, 07th December, 2025 at 12:25 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 07:00 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar,

Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagda, Bhawani Mandi, Ramganj Mandi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur and Banasthali Niwai stations in both directions.

This train comprises of First AC, AC - 2 Tier, AC - 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

5. Train No. 08244/08243 Valsad – Bilaspur Special (Weekly) [08 Trips]

Train No. 08244 Valsad – Bilaspur Special will depart from Valsad every Friday at 16:50 hrs and reach Bilaspur at 13:50 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 19th December, 2025 to 09th January, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 08243 Bilaspur - Valsad Special will depart from Bilaspur every Thursday at 16:00 hrs and arrive Valsad at 13:50 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 18th December, 2025 to 08th January, 2026

Enroute this train will halt at Bhestan, Chalthan, Nandurbar, Amalner, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Malkapur, Akola, Badnera, Wardha, Nagpur, Gondia, Dongargarh, Raj Nandgaon, Durg, Raipur and Bhatapara stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC-2 Tier, AC - 3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

6. Train No. 09497/09498 Sabarmati – Delhi Superfast Special [04 Trips]

## Mega camp today at all the polling stations of 05 assemblies, DM-SSP inspected the open meeting

**District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police inspected the polling station of Tehsil Sadar area, Jain Ideal Junior High School and Justice Level Primary School, Aurangabad in connection with the special intensive revision campaign.**

Mathura. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar inspected the mega camp/open meeting organized at the polling booth Jain Ideal Junior High School and N.P. level primary school Aurangabad of Tehsil Sadar area in connection with the special intensive revision campaign. The BLOs, supervisors, sub-sector and sector magistrates present at the centers and other officers and employees deployed for help were motivated by the District Magistrate to collect, digitize and map maximum number of census forms. The District Magistrate has informed that today also



District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar while inspecting the mega camp/open meeting organized at the polling station Justice Level Primary School, Aurangabad in connection with the special intensive revision campaign.

ters of 05 assemblies of the district. The District Magistrate has requested the voters to fill their counting forms soon and provide them to the BLO. He said that with the cooperation of all the residents of the district, the work of special intensive review will be completed in time. In the mega camp/open meeting organized today, BLOs, supervisors, sector magistrates, regional account-

ants, regional employees of the concerned municipal bodies in urban areas like tax collectors, sanitary

school (remainings other than the duty of BLO) etc. should be present. The District Magistrate has informed that for the successful organization of the said mega camp/open meeting, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma has been given Govardhan, Additional District Magistrate Judicial Surendra Kumar has been given Mahavan, Additional District Magistrate Administration Amresh Kumar has been given Sadar, Additional District Magistrate Namami Gange has been given Mant to Rajesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner MNREGA Vijay Kumar Pandey was made the nodal officer of the umbrella area. All the officers were on tour and inspected the centers and were encouraged to collect, digitize and map the maximum number of calculation forms.

inspectors, sanitation leaders, sanitation workers, councilors etc., Panchayat members in rural areas, Panchayat assistants, employment servants, etc. Village head, Gram Panchayat member, BC Sakhi, NREGA Mahila Meth etc., ration dealer, self-help group, line man and meter reader of electricity department, Asha, ANM, Anganwadi worker, all teachers of regional

## Mass Shooting At South African Bar Leaves 11 Dead, Many Injured

(Gns). At least 11 people have been killed in a mass shooting at an unlicensed bar in Saulsville township, west of Pretoria. Police say three of those who died are children. The attack happens in the early hours of Saturday, 6 December 2025, when many customers are still inside the venue.

South African Police Services confirm that another 14 people have suffered gunshot wounds and are taken to hospital. Officials have not yet released the ages of the injured. Investigators remain at the crime scene, documenting bullet casings, gathering witness statements and securing evidence from inside and outside the bar.

In Saulsville, west of Pretoria, South Africa, a mass shooting at an unli-

censed bar on December 6,

boy, a 12-year-old boy and



2025, resulted in the deaths of at least 11 people, including three children aged 3, 12, and 16, with 14 others injured. Police are searching for three suspects, and the incident occurs amid high violent crime rates in South Africa, which recorded over 26,000 homicides in 2024.

Police say the children killed include a 3-year-old

a 16-year-old girl. Officers confirm they are searching for three suspects believed to be involved in the shooting. No arrests have been announced so far, and investigators have not shared any possible motive for the attack.

The shooting takes place at an unlicensed drinking spot in Saulsville, a township close to Pretoria,

South Africa's administrative capital. The gunmen open fire during the early morning period, when the bar is still busy. Local residents describe deep shock as news of the deaths spreads, and the community waits for answers from authorities.

Pretoria mass shooting and South Africa violent crime context

The incident comes as South Africa struggles with very high rates of violent crime. Police statistics show the country records more than 26,000 homicides in 2024. That figure equals an average of over 70 killings every day, highlighting the pressure on law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Data released by police underline how deadly violence remains a persistent threat across the country.

## 4 Sabarimala pilgrims killed in TN road accident

(Gns).

In a ghastly road accident, five people, including four Sabarimala pilgrims from Vizianagaram in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, were killed and seven others injured when a speeding car lost control and crashed into the vehicle parked on the roadside at Keezhakarai in Ramanathapuram district about 520 km south of Chennai, in the small hours on Sunday.

Police in Ramanathapuram said the accident occurred when the

five pilgrims returning from Sabarimala had parked their car on the roadside and slept in the vehicle after midnight along the East Coast Road near Keelakarai.

A speeding car, in which a local DMK functionary Mustaq Ahmed (34), was on the wheels, crashed into the stationary vehicle, resulting in the tragedy, police quoting preliminary investigation said adding that negligent driving and over speeding had

caused the accident.

While Mustaq and three



pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh, Ramachandra Rao (35), Appavu Naidu (35) and Bandara Chandru Rao (45) died on the spot, another pilgrim, Ramu (60) succumbed to the injuries

## At Gandhinagar edition of Earth Summit, Shri Amit Shah says “We Are Digitally Strengthening India’s Villages”

Sri Amit Shah, Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, launches Sahakar Sarathi, a Shared Service Entity for Rural Cooperative Banks in India, along with 14 technology products for Rural Cooperative Banks, to boost India's rural cooperative banking sector

· Rural India to become a decisive force in achieving Viksit Bharat, says Shri Shah, adding that 50 crore Indians, as active cooperative members, will increase the nation's GDP three-fold.

· Cooperatives, digital innovation & rural transformation take centre stage at the Gandhinagar edition of the Summit.

· Under the able Hon'ble Prime Minister's leadership, our rural economy budget has grown from 1 lakh 2 crore in 2014 to a 3.75-times increase today.

· World must solve grameen problems to solve global problems.

· India to have 50 crore active cooperative members, one of the largest cooperative networks in the world.

· To work in the true spirit of 'cooperation among cooperatives' to strengthen cooperatives.

December 6, 2025: In a landmark moment for India's cooperative and rural development landscape, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation, Government of India, inaugurated the second edition of the Earth Summit at the Mahatma Mandir Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar. Marking a decisive step toward digitally empowered cooperatives, he launched Sahakar Sarathi Private Limited, a pioneering shared-services technology platform aimed at transforming the rural cooperative banking ecosystem.

Reinforcing the Summit's focus on future-ready rural finance, Shri Shah also released the NABARD–BCG report, The Future of Rural Banking, which presents strategic pathways to strengthen rural credit access, enhance service delivery, and boost the institutional

efficiency of India's rural banking sector.

Delivering the inaugural address, Shri Shah, who graced the event as Chief



Guest, said, “Our rural economy budget has grown 3.75 times since 2014, a clear reflection of the government's unwavering commitment to India's villages. Cooperatives, Rural Development and Animal Husbandry remain central to our development approach, and NABARD will continue to strengthen them. We are building a future where 50 crore Indians participate in cooperatives and their contribution to the nation's GDP will increase threefold, making rural India a decisive force in achieving Viksit Bharat.

Earth Summit is a reminder that the world must solve grameen problems to solve global problems.”

Launches in EARTH Summit, Gandhi Nagar Hon'ble Union Minister for Home & Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, unveiled 14 pioneering digital services under Sahakar Sarathi at the EARTH Summit, marking a major step in modernising India's cooperative sector and enabling a secure, transparent, tech-driven cooperative ecosystem.

Key launches include Sahakar Setu, a unified digital loan platform; digiKCC, a fully automated Kisan Credit Card system; ePACS, a national ERP for PACS with 25,000 units being rolled out; and the Cooperative Governance Index, the first national framework to assess governance quality across cooperative banks. The Minister also launched the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan Portal to digitally monitor storage infrastructure nationwide.

To strengthen cyberse-

curity, compliance, and operations, the Minister announced Expert-as-a-Service platforms—CISO Sarathi, Tax Sarathi, CBS

Sarathi, and Regulatory Compliance Sarathi—as well as staff training through Shiksha Sarathi and sector-wide collaboration forums for CTOs and CISOs. Additional services such as bank.in migration, AI-driven Cross Sell Sarathi, Campaign Sarathi, and a unified Collections Sarathi call-centre service were also introduced.

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat and Guest of Honour, highlighted the state's commitment to rural innovation and cooperative-driven progress, stating, “Gujarat is India's growth engine, and it is ready to take lead in rural tech sectors covered by Earth Summit.”

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shaji K.V., Chairman, NABARD, said, “Sahakar Sarathi is not just a digital platform. It is a new future for our cooperative banking sector - a future where every PACS, every dairy and agricultural government organization and every rural community will get better technology, better services, and a strong network.”

Shri Shankarbhai Lagdhirbhai Chaudhary, Hon'ble Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Shri Jethabhai Ghelabhai Ahir, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly; Dr Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India; Dr. Anju Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary - Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Co-operation Department, Government of Gujarat; and Mr Ajay Bhai Patel, Chairman, Gujarat SCIB joined the

at the Ramanathapuram Government Medical College Hospital, where the injured, including one more pilgrim, Sri Ram and others are admitted and being treated.

Six others injured, Frsizhar (20), Thivyan (19), Praveen (19), Jameel Rahman (15), Harshath (32) and Madeswaran, who were travelling in the SUV with Mustaq, were admitted to hospital. Of them, the condition of Madeswaran is stated to be critical, police added.

## At Gandhinagar edition of Earth Summit, Shri Amit Shah says “We Are Digitally Strengthening India’s Villages”

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To strengthen cyberse-

## Man impersonating Home Department Secretary defrauds brothers of ₹40 lakh in Lucknow

(Gns).

A man posing as a senior Home Department official at the Uttar Pradesh Secretariat has allegedly defrauded two brothers of ₹40 lakh by promising government tenders and jobs. The fraud came to light after the victims filed a formal complaint, prompting police to launch an investigation.

According to the police complaint, Itesh Kumar, a resident of Dehradun, met the accused — identified as Sarvesh — in July 2024 at a rented house in Vinit Khand, Gomtinagar. Sarvesh allegedly claimed to be a Home Department Secretary and moved around in a Swift Dzire, Aura and Scorpio — each displaying the Uttar

Pradesh government emblem. He lived on the upper floor of the same building with his wife and children, frequently changed drivers, and claimed to be from Gorakhpur.

Sarvesh reportedly lured the victims by promising contracts for government canteens, parking tenders, and even government jobs. Trusting his claims, the brothers transferred ₹40 lakh to various accounts provided by him. To build confidence, Sarvesh initially issued a cheque for ₹1 lakh, which was later found to be invalid. Police said the accused had the money

deposited into accounts belonging to his acquaintances.

The victims also stated



that Sarvesh would call them to rooms in Uttarakhand Bhawan (Vibhuti Khand) to create an impression of official work, accompanied by two associates — Sandeep Awasthi, whom he introduced as a Review Officer, and Ankit, whom he presented as his personal

assistant. The trio allegedly displayed government files to convince the victims of their legitimacy.

When no work materialised, Sarvesh began avoiding their calls. By April 2025, he had vacated the rented house and stopped responding altogether. After the victims pressured him, he issued two more cheques, which bounced when deposited on June 21, 2025. Bank officials confirmed that Sarvesh's HDFC account had been closed for a year and had no balance.

Inspector Brijesh Chand Tiwari of Gomtinagar Police Station said an FIR has been registered and a detailed investigation is underway.



# L-G, CM face-off triggers uncertainty ahead of JKPSC preliminary exam

(Gns). With just hours left for the J&K Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination for the Jammu & Kashmir administrative and police services, the offices of the Lt Governor and the Chief Minister on Saturday traded allegations over the delay in granting age relaxation to aspirants. The delay in approving or rejecting the proposed age relaxation has caused concern among candidates, as the examination is scheduled for tomorrow (Sunday, 7 December). Aspirants have been demanding an increase in the upper age limit from 32 to 37 years, as similar relaxation had been granted in the past four years. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday blamed the Raj Bhavan for the prevailing uncertainty. The Chief Minister's Office wrote on X: "The Chief Minister expressed deep concern over the travel chaos caused by ongoing airline disruptions, compounded by the uncertainty resulting from Raj Bhavan's delay in approving age relaxation, a provision granted multiple times in the past. He urged the JKPSC to take note of the unprecedented stress on aspirants and consider postponing the exam in the interest of fairness and equal opportunity for all." Soon after, the Lt. Governor's Office issued a counter-statement, asserting that the file had been promptly returned to the Secretariat with a query. In a series of posts on X, the Lt. Governor's Office wrote: "Social media posts regarding the JKPSC exam are misleading. Raj Bhavan received the file on 2 December 2025, which specifically pertained to age relaxation. The file was returned the same day, 2 December 2025, with a query on whether it was logistically possible to conduct the exam on 7 December after incorporating modifications in eligibility criteria at such a late stage. "Despite the lapse of four days, Raj Bhavan did not receive any response. I fully sympathise with the young aspirants." "The advertisement notice for the examination was issued by the J&K Public Service Commission on 22 August 2025. The exam was scheduled for 7 December 2025 through a notification on 6 November 2025," the LG's office posted. Meanwhile, opposition leaders also sharpened their attack on the National Conference government. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti urged both the LG and the CM to resolve the issue without further delay. "Aspirants of the JKPSC CCE are caught in a tussle between the LG and the CM. In this freezing cold, they are out on the streets asking for nothing more than basic fairness age relaxation and a reasonable exam schedule," she said. People's Conference president Sajad Lone termed the standoff a "classical case of passing the buck at the cost of young aspirants."



# NCC cadet showed enthusiasm and passion in Sanskriti University

Mathura. 78th NCC Day was celebrated with great pride and enthusiasm at Sanskriti University. On this occasion, NCC cadets hoisted the NCC flag and gave guard of honor while marching past. Apart from the NCC in-charge and other officers, the NCC unit of Sanskriti University participated during the program. The chief guest of the program was Vice Chancellor of Sanskriti University, Prof. Dr. M.B. Chetty was warmly welcomed by the NCC jawans. The cadets displayed a spectacular Guard of Honor displaying discipline, cooperation and mastery of the marchpast. After the guard of honour, the flag was hoisted as a symbol of respect, duty and unity. Vice Chancellor Prof. Chetty praised the hard work of the cadets and inspired them to continue serving with dedication. He said that I admire your dedication and dedication. Hard work makes us all prosperous and strengthens our foundation. NCC cadets will not have to go anywhere else for the fruits of their hard work. NCC jawans have brought glory to the nation on many occasions with full enthusiasm. Cultural activities were also organized on this occasion. The activities related to patriotism and values of NCC were full of patriotism. A friendly but competitive Kabaddi match was also organized among the cadets, which inculcated the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork on the occasion. During the programme, selected cadets were given ranks on the basis of their discipline, leadership ability and stellar performance. Apart from the guests, Dean of Student Welfare Dr. DS Tomar, Registrar Mishra, Administration Rampal etc. were present on this occasion. The ceremony ended with refreshments and a group photograph



Officers awarding their ranks to cadets for their excellent performance on the 78th NCC Day at Sanskriti University.

# Paper industry driving rural jobs and MSME growth, set for major expansion by 2030: Shripad Naik

(Gns). Indian Paper Manufacturers Association President Pawan Agarwal said the paper industry deregulate bamboo transportation from the north-eastern states. Paperex was organised today utilises nearly 25 to 50 per cent bamboo in its total wood-pulp blend—a significant increase made possible by the Union Government's decision to by Informa Markets in India in collaboration with IARP, MA and supported by the World Paper Forum. Discussing emerging trends, Pavan Khaitan, President of the Indian Pulp & Paper Technical Association (IPPTA), said that packaging, tissue, specialty grades, and recycled-fiber innovations are reshaping market demand, while digital mills, AI-enabled quality systems, barrier coatings, and energy-efficient technologies are setting new benchmarks in the industry. Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director of Informa Markets in India, said the paper and packaging industry is undergoing rapid transformation driven by innovation, sustainability, and the country's fast-expanding demand landscape. He highlighted that the BJP, driven by fear, is rushing the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) of the electoral roll. He claimed that this undue haste has created enormous pressure on the employees handling the process, resulting in multiple deaths due to stress. "Despite this, the BJP's double-engine government remains silent. Even the Election Commission has failed to respond to the concerns raised by the opposition," he added. He highlighted that the families of employees who died during SIR duties have not received adequate compensation from the government. Referring to the recent death of assistant teacher Sarvesh Kumar Gangwar, Rai said the deceased leaves behind two young children who need support. Rai also met the family of Ajay Agarwal, a teacher at MB Inter College who was serving as a supervisor for the SIR process and passed away on Saturday. He offered condolences to Agarwal's son, Prakhand Agarwal, and brother, Tushar Agarwal. The Congress leader reiterated the party's demand to postpone the SIR exercise, stating that there is still ample time before the Assembly elections. He said the government should provide ₹1 crore compensation and a government job to one family member of every BLO or employee who dies during SIR-related duties. District President Mirza Ashfaq Saklani, Metropolitan President Dinesh Dadda, State Vice President Prem Prakash Agarwal, District Vice President Zia-ur-Rehman, former Metropolitan President Ajay Shukla, and other officials were present during the visit.



# Vijay to resume mass outreach in Puducherry on Dec 9 amid tight police restrictions

(Gns). Moving past the Karur stampede that claimed 41 lives and pushed the fledgling Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) onto the defensive, party president and film star Vijay is set to resume his mass outreach from Puducherry on December 9. However, this time there will be neither a roadshow nor a typical public gathering. The Puducherry Police have denied permission for roadshows requested by the TVK, citing security concerns following the tragic incident during Vijay's rally in Karur on September 27. Since this will be Vijay's first public event after the tragedy, Chief Minister N. Rengasamy has also aligned with the police decision, despite senior TVK leaders meeting him twice seeking approval. The public meeting, scheduled at Oupalam near Puducherry town, has been capped at 10,000 attendees. The TVK is making around 45 minutes. Earlier, the TVK had planned a roadshow and public meeting in Salem, the All India Professionals Congress. The meeting took place at a time when the Congress leadership had formed a five-member panel to negotiate seat-sharing with the DMK, which heads the INDIA bloc in the state. This led to speculation that the Congress was exploring alternative political options, causing unease within the party since Chakravarthi is considered close to Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi. "Only the committee constituted by the AICC is authorised to hold alliance talks. The INDIA alliance remains intact, and the Congress-DMK relationship is strong," the TNCC chief told the media after paying floral tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on his death anniversary. Her remarks came at the launch of the Nehru Centre India at Jawahar Bhawan, where Gandhi addressed party leaders, researchers and students. She argued that Nehru is being singled out repeatedly in political speeches and public debates, especially since the Bharatiya Janata Party formed the government at the Centre. Sonia Gandhi, addressing the launch of the Nehru Centre India in New Delhi, accused the ruling establishment of targeting Jawaharlal Nehru through deliberate distortion of his life and ideas, particularly since the BJP formed the government. Gandhi's remarks followed recent political controversies, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks, and she linked these attacks to an attempt to destroy the social, political, and economic foundations of India. Sonia Gandhi Nehru legacy debate and ruling party attacks Without directly naming the BJP or the RSS, Gandhi said the intention behind the campaign is transparent. She declared, "Let there be no doubt whatsoever that the project to vilify Nehru is the main objective of the ruling establishment today. Their goal is not just to erase him; it is actually to destroy the social, political, and economic foundations on which our nation has been founded." Gandhi stressed that she supports serious examination of Nehru's work, but rejects what she called deliberate misrepresentation. At the event, she said that honest analysis and criticism are part of a healthy democracy, yet twisting Nehru's writings and speeches for political gain crosses a clear line. Sonia Gandhi Nehru controversy and recent Rajnath Singh's remarks Her speech followed a fresh political row involving



# Bihar unveils CCTNS Citizen Service portal for faster, transparent policing

(Gns). Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Samrat Choudhary on Saturday launched the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) Citizen Service Portal and App at the Police Headquarters in Patna. The portal will allow citizens to file complaints from home and access information related to their cases. The portal is being seen as a significant step toward strengthening Bihar's law and order system by providing faster, more transparent, and technology-driven services. It is also expected to curb arbitrary practices within police stations and help reduce negligence. Speaking at the launch, Choudhary said the Portal and App would reduce the gap between the public and the police while increasing transparency. He noted that citizens will now be able to file complaints directly through their mobile phones, after which the police will carry out the investigation. Once a case is registered, all updates and information related to the investigation and other processes will be available online through the Bihar Police portal, enabling complainants to track their cases with ease. The portal features e-complaints, missing person and missing property complaints, police verification for students and other purposes, tenant verification, servant verification, driver verification, and senior citizen registration. Additional services will be added in the future to ensure that citizens can access police services without visiting police stations. After the launch, Choudhary held a review meeting with the DGP and senior police officials at the Police Headquarters. He is scheduled to hold another review meeting with senior officers of the state police department in Purnia on 14–15 December. The district police have begun preparations for the state-level police conference, which Union Home Minister Amit Shah may also attend. No clear official reason has been given for organising such a large event in Purnia. However, it is believed that the government is placing particular focus on the Seemanchal region, as highlighted during the election campaign. The region shares borders with Nepal, West Bengal, and Jharkhand.



# SMS discusses India's development through Bharat @ 2047: Vision for a Developed Nation

Lucknow, December 6, 2025. The School of Management Sciences successfully organized the second Model Parliament, SMS Sansad-25, on the theme Bharat @ 2047: Vision for a Developed Nation, in the school auditorium today. Participants, faculty members, and experts from various colleges in Lucknow and surrounding areas participated in the program. Through the Model Parliament, students presented India's potential development journey in a parliamentary format as it celebrates 100 years of independence. Inaugurating the program, SMS Lucknow Director Dr. Ashish Bhatnagar said that platforms like Model Parliament play an important role in developing leadership skills, policy understanding, and innovative thinking among youth. Chief Guest Parliament play an important role in developing leadership skills, policy understanding, and innovative thinking among youth. He encouraged students to engage in constructive discussion, critical thinking, and understand the nuances of policy-making. He encouraged students to play an active role in the country's development. More than 20 teams participated in the second SMS Sansad-25, with participants portraying the roles of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leaders of the Opposition, and Members of Parliament. Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Medical Education, Medical and Health, Family Welfare, and Mother and Child Welfare, said that the Model Parliament provides students with an opportunity to engage in constructive discussion, critical thinking, and understand the nuances of policy-making. He encouraged students to play an active role in the country's development. More than 20 teams participated in the second SMS Sansad-25, with participants portraying the roles of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leaders of the Opposition, and Members of Parliament. 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