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Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella Meets PM Modi, Promises To Invest \$17.5 Billion To India's AI First Future

(Gns).

Microsoft is set to pour USD 17.5 billion into India to support Artificial Intelligence growth, in what Nadella called the company's biggest investment in Asia. The funds are meant for AI infrastructure, skills programmes, and related capabilities across the country.

Satya Nadella revealed the plan after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. The discussion focused on India's long-term ambitions in AI and digital innovation, and how Microsoft could align its global strategy with

the government's technology goals.

Microsoft will invest USD 17.5 billion in India for AI-related infrastructure, skills programs, and capabilities, announced by Satya Nadella after meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. This is Microsoft's biggest investment in Asia, supporting India's digital innovation ambitions.

Microsoft AI investment in India focuses on infrastructure and skills

The investment will go towards building data centres, cloud systems,

and tools needed to run advanced AI models in India. Microsoft also aims

Nadella shared the announcement through a post on X following the



meeting at the Prime Minister's residence. The post read: "Thank you, PM @narendramodi ji, for an inspiring conversation

on India's AI opportunity. To support the country's ambitions, Microsoft is committing US\$17.5B - our largest investment ever in Asia - to help build the

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Reaffirms Commitment

to Antyodaya Utthaan (Upliftment of the Poorest)

Under Jhumpda Vijalikaran Yojana, State Government Improves Livelihoods of 10 Lakh+ Poor Families Through Free Electricity Connections
1,52,466 Slums Electrified at ₹8,499 Lakh in 5 Years; ₹1,617 Lakh Allocated for 2025-26
Annual Income Limit Increase from ₹27,000 to ₹1.50 Lakh Over a Decade

Gujarat's turnaround

began in 2001 when Shri Narendra Modi, as Chief Minister, prioritised water and power issues. Continuing PM's vision, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel is ensur-

ing free electricity connections are swiftly provided to slum dwellers across the state.

Income Limit Increased to Expand Benefits; Over 10,00,000 Slums Electrified So Far

According to the Energy Department, this Yojana

cost of ₹1,617.03 lakh. For 2025-26, ₹1,617 lakh has been allocated to further improve living standards and ease of living for slum dwellers.

What is Jhumpda Vijalikaran Yojana? How to Avail Benefits Under the Scheme

This Yojana, launched in 1996-97 by the Energy and Petrochemicals Department, was initially implemented by the Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB). In 2003, under the power sector reforms initiated by then Chief Minister and current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, GEB was restructured into four power distribution companies—Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited (DGVCL), Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited (MGVCL), Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL), and Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited (UGVCL).

Under this yojana, the state government has so far provided free electricity connections to 10,09,736 slums (till November 2025), of which 1,52,466 were electrified in the last five years. In 2024-25 alone, 25,939 slum households received free electricity at a

cost of ₹1,617.03 lakh. For 2025-26, ₹1,617 lakh has been allocated to further improve living standards and ease of living for slum dwellers.

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benefits both BPL and other poor, slum-dwelling

families without any caste-based discrimination. To

expand its reach, the state

government has gradually

raised the income limits. In

2018, the state government

set the income limit at

₹47,000 to ₹1.20 lakh for

rural slum dwellers and

₹68,000 to ₹1.50 lakh for

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Previously, the income limits were ₹27,000 to

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Editorial

Economic Equilibrium

The Reserve Bank of India's latest policy decision marks a subtle but important shift in the country's economic management. By reducing the repo rate to 5.25 per cent after two consecutive pauses, the central bank is signalling that the time is right to lean a little more towards growth without abandoning caution. This is not an aggressive pivot; it is a carefully measured step that reflects both confidence and restraint. The upward revision of the GDP growth estimate to 7.3 per cent for the current financial year is arguably the most consequential part of the announcement.

It acknowledges what the data has already begun to show: the Indian economy is running faster than earlier assumed. The July-September quarter's expansion of 8.2 per cent ~ far above the bank's own projection ~ has clearly altered the macroeconomic landscape. Robust rural demand, a steady revival in urban consumption, and improving private investment appetite have collectively nudged the central bank to rethink the contours of the growth cycle. At the same time, the dramatic downward revision in the inflation forecast ~ to a remarkably low 2 per cent ~ suggests that these pressures are no longer the central threat they were even a few months ago. Food prices have softened, supply-side interventions seem to be working, and the central bank notes that underlying inflation is lower than headline numbers indicate.

In fact, a substantial chunk of the remaining price pressure comes from higher precious metal prices, not from broad-based, demand-driven overheating. This gives policymakers room to breathe. But the RBI's decision to maintain a neutral policy stance despite cutting rates is telling. It signals that the central bank remains wary of global volatility, unpredictable commodity cycles, and the fragility of supply chains. India's recent price stability has been achieved through persistent vigilance, and there is little appetite to risk that for a short-term burst of stimulus. The message is clear: growth will be encouraged, but not at the cost of hard-won macroeconomic stability. Looking ahead, the central bank's quarterly forecasts ~ steady growth through the next financial year and moderate inflation well within comfort levels ~ point to a maturing economy that is learning to balance ambition with prudence.

The mix of strong rural demand, recovering urban sentiment and expanding credit to the private sector suggests that investment activity could gain further traction. The real test, however, will lie in sustaining these trends without slipping into complacency. India has managed to stabilise inflation, revive domestic demand and draw new investment interest at a time when much of the world is grappling with economic uncertainty. The latest policy move indicates a belief that the growth cycle can be strengthened from here ~ provided policy discipline is maintained. In that sense, the central bank's cautious optimism may be exactly the tone India needs as it prepared to enter the new year.

₹130 Crore Coastal Flagship: Seize Opportunities in Kutch-Saurashtra's Tourism Sector

Investing in Excellence: Tourism Department of Gujarat Backs Shivrajpur Development at Vibrant Gujarat

Gujarat's ₹130 Crore Blue Flag Success Story Drives Tourism Investment Agenda at Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, Rajkot (January, 2026)

Gandhinagar, 9 December 2025: Gujarat's tourism sector is setting a new international standard, anchored by the development of Shivrajpur Beach, the state's first coveted (Global Blue Flag Beach). This flagship initiative, which perfectly demonstrates a focus on world-class sustainable infrastructure backed by a massive ₹130 Crore investment commitment from TCGL (Tourism Corporation of



Gujarat Limited). This project's success is poised to be a central theme at the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Rajkot, promoting the immense potential for profitable, policy-backed investment across Kutch and Saurashtra.

In firm support with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Dekho Apna Desh' vision, the stunning transformation of Shivrajpur Beach into a Global Blue Flag destination underscores Gujarat's dedication to providing world-class, sustainable tourism infrastructure. This flagship success story

guarantees that every Indian citizen can access an international-standard travel experience without leaving the country, powerfully validating the state's commitment to high-quality, memorable domestic tourism.

Shivrajpur Beach (Devbhumi Dwarka district) is celebrated as one of the most beautiful, clean, safe, and peaceful stretches along Gujarat's extensive 2340 km coastline. The beach has earned the prestigious status of a (Global Blue Flag Beach), a certification reflecting its commitment to the highest international standards for

environment, safety, and amenities.

The comprehensive development plan also includes Housing Department, an Arrival Plaza, Snorkeling Plaza, Cycle Track, Promenade, and critical infrastructure like a Sludge Treatment Plant and over 11 km of new road construction (₹3.930 crore of additional work by the Gujarat State's Roads and Buildings Department). Visitor convenience is paramount, with facilities like changing rooms, shower rooms, a Children Play Area. Furthermore, the Dwarka-Okha Urban Development

strategic investors are strongly encouraged to utilize this platform to secure partnerships in diverse, high-return sectors. These opportunities range from premium coastal resorts and water sports in Dwarka to eco-tourism and heritage hospitality across the cultural landscapes of Kutch and Saurashtra. The conference will specifically aim to connect capital with readily available opportunities for hotels, resorts, and adventure tourism operations throughout the region, including spiritual circuits, eco-tourism at Gir, and cultural experiential travel in the Rann.

International Anti-Corruption Day celebrated under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel with the slogan "Vigilance : Our Collective Responsibility"

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi graced the ceremony

The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister honoured police personnel and officers of the ACB for outstanding performance, along with courageous citizens who lodged complaints against corrupt officials and helped bring them to justice

Twelve winning students of the elocution and essay competition, held as part of the social awareness campaign against corruption, received certificates

Chief Minister - Not taking anything beyond one's right is a

value rooted in our cultural heritage

- True duty and sincerity lie in performing our responsibilities in a way that gives inner satisfaction

- The Anti-Corruption Bureau must carry such a reputation that wrongdoers constantly fear wrongdoing and refrain from it

Historic Compulsory Retirement Records Underscore Chief Minister's Firm and Zero-Tolerance Approach to Combating Corruption: Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi

Gandhinagar, 9 December 2025: On the occasion of International

Anti-Corruption Day, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, addressing the ceremony organised by the Gujarat State Anti-Corruption Bureau, stated that the ACB operates with a commitment to supporting the cultural value of not taking anything beyond one's

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given the mantra of 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi'. As the nation progresses, he emphasised the need to uphold the cultural value of not taking anything beyond one's

Over the past three years, corruption cases have been filed by setting up traps against 34 Class-I and 98 Class-II officers. This year, 194 cases have been registered, and 277 accused have been arrested. Referring to the



sised the need to foster an environment where sincerity and integrity are so deeply ingrained that the observance of an Anti-Corruption Day becomes unnecessary.

In the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, the Chief Minister also honoured nearly 10 ACB personnel and officers for their exemplary performance at the event held in Gandhinagar. Furthermore, four courageous citizens who raised their voices, exposed corrupt officials demanding bribes, and filed complaints that led to their arrest by the ACB were also felicitated. Additionally, certificates were presented to 12 students who emerged as winners in the essay and elocution competitions held during Vigilance Awareness Week as part of the anti-corruption social awareness campaign.

Deputy Chief Minister commended the ACB for curbing corruption, noting that Gujarat's Anti-Corruption Bureau has taken strict action across all levels, from junior staff to senior officials, without regard to class or rank.

rightful due and to seek inner satisfaction through honest work. He added that the Prime Minister is committed to building a Viksit Bharat with zero tolerance for corruption, and that creating a Viksit Gujarat requires the ACB's strict and decisive action to ensure a corruption-free state. Commending the ACB's efforts, he said the Bureau must maintain a vigilant image that deters wrongdoing and accelerates Gujarat's development. He highlighted karmayoga through Lord Ram's exile and Valmiki's transformation to underline the value of righteous conduct.

Chief Minister's compassionate yet firm leadership and the state's Operation Gangajal, he stated that Chief Minister is taking decisive action guided by an aggressive, zero-tolerance policy toward corruption. The historic number of compulsory retirements stands as clear evidence of this commitment. Emphasising the importance of technology, he noted that the Anti-Corruption Bureau is a technocratic team and should further expand its use of advanced tools, including AI, to strengthen application processing and enforcement against corruption.

Chief Secretary Shri M.K. Das stated that corruption is a global issue, not limited to India, and remains a major barrier to national development, causing significant hardship for the poor. He further

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The event was attended by Gujarat Vigilance Commissioner Shri Sangeeta Singh, DGP CID Crime and Railways Dr. K.L.N. Rao, NFSU Vice Chancellor Dr. J.M. Vyas, along with ACB officers and employees, citizens who showed alertness by filing complaints against corruption, and students.

Farah Khan & Dilip turn up the tadka in COL-ORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi' Pehla Swaad Challenge

With her iconic humour and trademark spice, filmmaker Farah Khan enters COLORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi' alongside internet favourite Dilip for a special episode where the kitchen turns into a lively fusion of dance and offbeat cooking tasks. In the ongoing track, the Pehla Swaad competition hits its most crucial stage with the Ticket to Finale challenge, where Bhabhiji (Neelu Waghela) as the new head chef pushes Mangal and Saumya into unexpected cooking tests. As Farah and Dilip introduce a thrilling 'jodi challenge', Mangal teams up with Adit, leaving Mangal to face the heat alone. And now, with the finale within reach, will Mangal be able to deliver a dish that not only wins the judges' hearts but seals her place in the competition?

Shooting for a special

episode of COLORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi', Farah Khan said, "Arre bhai, jab kitchen ka maha-yudh ho raha ho Mangal Lakshmi mein, mujhe toh aana hi



tha! I'm super excited to judge the 'Pehla Swaad' ticket-to-finale challenge — yahan khaane ka taste bhi test hogा our contestants ka patience bhi. With my full-on Farah-tadka, thodi mashti, thoda masala, and my cook Dilip joining the madness, the kitchen is guaranteed to get garam.

serves flavour, fun, and full-on fireworks."

Deepika Singh on Sharing screen space with Farah ma'am in COLORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi', "Mangal Lakshmi is at a phase where the pulse of the story is a woman finally rising for herself and for the business she built alongside other

women; and the audience has showered a lot of love to the show throughout Mangal's journey. That's why creating a special Pehla Swaad episode with Farah Khan is a landmark moment, because the legend stands for everything my character aspires to. We've all admired her work, and having her on set instantly lifted the energy of an already thrilling challenge. Performing the cooking-and-dance act and then hearing her genuine words of encouragement is something I'll cherish my entire life. I'm grateful to Farah Khan for her entire life. I'm grateful to COLORS, Panorama Entertainment and, above all, our viewers, whose love drives the show from one milestone to another."

Watch Mangal Lakshmi every Monday to Friday at 9:00 PM only on COLORS.

India's deft diplomacy on show during Putin's visit

(Gns). President Vladimir Putin's recently concluded visit was high on optics while deliverables were intentionally kept low key. This was Putin's first visit to India since the commencement of the Ukraine war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he had last met just about three months ago on the sidelines of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) summit in China. The photograph of them travelling together for their bilateral in Tianjin displayed the depth of Indo-Russian ties.

Both the Biden and Trump governments assume Indian procurements have helped fuel Russia's war machinery. This is despite the US too procuring raw materials from Russia. These threats compelled India to reconsider its procurements. India diversified its defence

purCHASES and enhanced its Aatmanirbhar Bharat policies. It is doing the same with its oil procurements. Indo-Russia ties have also been criticized by Europe. An article written jointly by diplomats of three European nations in a major national daily just prior to the visit, accused Russia for the 'war in Ukraine and disregard for human life.' This displayed Europe's mindset. The Indian MEA rightly criticized the article.

Interestingly, Putin's visit to India comes barely six weeks before German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and the EU's Ursula Von Der Leyen and Antonio Costa arrive as chief guests for the Republic Day as also to participate in the EU-India Summit. The world watched as India rolled out the red carpet for

Putin, the likes of which are rarely seen. PM Modi received him at the airport and they drove together to



the PM's residence. There was scant concern of India being impacted by Western criticism. India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, the treaty which established the ICC

been amongst the steadiest big relationships in the world."

The messages conveyed by the visit were multiple, even though deals inked were fewer than expected. Firstly, it displayed close bonding between the two countries. Each has stood by the other despite changing global orders. Secondly, India confirmed it will continue to follow its strategic autonomy. New Delhi refused to be cowed down by Western criticism of Putin. Thirdly, India does not join the West in blaming Russia for the Ukraine conflict but rather supports a negotiated settlement. As PM Modi mentioned, 'India is not neutral, India is on the side of peace.' Fourthly, while defence deals were not inked, offers were made which would be fol-

lowed up. The message from Russia was that we will adhere to your policy of self-sufficiency. For Moscow too there were outcomes. Firstly, the visit displayed that Putin can never be isolated.

His recent visits to Alaska, China and now India displays he is still in demand, despite all sanctions. This would also augur well with the Russian populace. Secondly, Indo-Russia ties remain steadfast. Thirdly, both nations are pushing for a multipolar world rather than a bi-polar one as China desires or a unipolar one that Washington seeks. Finally, Russia conveyed that despite its growing partnership with China, which avoids sanctions, its ties with India remain unaffected. The absence of announcements on

defence and oil was intentional. While lucrative defence and oil offers were made, there was no official acceptance. The Russian defence industry is currently catering to the ongoing conflict while India seeks to avoid further US sanctions.

These will be pursued shortly. India would have highlighted its concerns on delays in defence supplies, especially of the S400 missile systems. There was an agreement to boost bilateral trade, which is the need of the hour for both as they remain impacted by sanctions. Ninety per cent of Indo-Russian trade is being conducted in local currencies, bypassing the Western led financial system, a concern for the US. The joint statement sent out a message that India is no longer just a purchaser of Russian equipment.

Wr collects almost ₹140 crore as fine through intensive ticket checking drives during the period from April to November 2025

More than ₹2.40 crore recovered as fine from AC Suburban locals

Western Railway continues its steadfast efforts to curb ticketless and irregular travel through extensive and sustained ticket checking drives across its network. In line with its commitment to revenue protection and passenger discipline, the Ticket Checking staff of Western Railway has shown exemplary performance during the current financial year.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, a highly motivated team of ticket checking staff, under the active supervision of Senior Commercial Officers, has undertaken rigorous checks in Mumbai Suburban locals, long-distance Mail/Express trains,

Shri V. Somanna Flags Off Tirupati-Sainagar

New Train to Promote Pilgrimage Tourism, Economic Activity, and Regional Development
Indian Railways Connects Regions and Cultures, Acts as Lifeline of the Country. V. Somanna

(Gns.)

Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna flagged off the Tirupati-Sainagar Shirdi Express through video conferencing from Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, today.

The launch of the Tirupati-Sainagar Shirdi Express delivers multiple far-reaching benefits by significantly strengthening rail connectivity across four states—Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra. It introduces the first direct train service to Shirdi from the south coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh for devotees. By directly linking two of India's most prominent pilgrimage destinations, Tirupati and Shirdi, the service enhances convenience for pilgrims.

The new train is also expected to boost pilgrimage tourism, promote economic activity along the route, and support regional development. Additionally, it provides passengers with a

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal holds high level dialogue with European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security

Talks seek to expedite conclusion of India-EU FTA and deepen trade relationships
(Gns.)

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, held discussions with H.E Maroš Šefčovič, European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security during 8-9 December 2025. The discussions were aimed at providing strategic guidance to the FTA negotiating teams as both sides work towards concluding the agreement at the earliest.

The visit takes place against the backdrop of the technical discussions held from 3-9 December 2025 in New Delhi across key chapters of India-EU FTA covering Market Access for Goods, Rules of Origin, Services, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade and Sustainable Development etc. The visit of the European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security was preceded by high-level discussions between Commerce Secretary and Director-General Trade, European Commission in New Delhi on 7th December 2025, emphasizing the shared commitment to intensify dialogue and collaboration, with a focused determination to advance the negotiations towards a timely and mutually beneficial conclusion.

During their engagement, Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and the EU

passenger services, and holiday special trains. The objective has been to minimize revenue leakage and enhance travel discipline.

During the period from April to November 2025, more than 21.70 lakh ticketless/irregular passengers, including unbooked luggage cases, were detected, resulting in the realization of an amount to the tune of almost ₹140 cr, marking a 50% increase over the corresponding period last year. In the month of November, 2025, more than 2.80 lakh cases of ticketless travel/irregular passengers were detected and an amount of ₹18.25 cr was recovered, registering more than 40% increase over the previous year.

Western Railway has also maintained focused checking drives in AC suburban local trains. Frequent surprise checks were con-

ducted to prevent unauthorized travel by general ticket holders. Between April and November 2025, around 75,000 penalty cases were booked in AC local services, resulting in recovery of more than ₹2.40 crore as fine, registering an increase of 85% over the corresponding period last year.

Shri Vineet further stated that, Ticket checking is a continuous responsibility that demands tactful skill and courteousness and Western Railway is proud of its dedicated ticket checking staff. One such Ticket Checking Staff is Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, posted as Dy. Chief Ticket Inspector, in the Flying Squad at Headquarters, Churchgate. He possesses excellent knowledge of rules and regulations and over the past 18 years, he has worked with unwaver-

ing zeal and enthusiasm.

Through his devotion to duty and hard work, he has achieved the highest ever ticket checking collection of almost 1.08 crore by detecting more than 9200 cases during the period from January 2025 to November 2025, in a span of just 11 months. His daily average collection stands at around Rs. 40,000/-, with an average of 34 cases of ticketless or irregular travel detected per day. Notably, on 18th October, 2025, he recorded the highest single day collection of Rs. 2.24 lakh by detecting more than 150 cases. Such an exceptional performance by Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh sets an inspiring benchmark for other ticket checking staff.

Western Railway appeals to the general public to travel with proper and valid tickets.

Shirdi Express

₹93,000 crore. Since 2014, Andhra Pradesh has added 1,580 km of new track with 100% electrification. The state now has 73 Amrit Stations (₹3,125 crore). He also mentioned construction of 800 flyovers and bridges, installation of 110 lifts, 40 escalators, as well as the introduction of 16 Vande Bharat (8 pairs) and 6 Amrit Bharat (3 pairs) train services.

Shri V. Somanna stated that in Tirupati, Indian Railways is executing projects including the Tirupati Amrit Station valued at ₹312 crore. Major ongoing projects include the Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi doubling, 105 km costing ₹1,215 crore, Gudur-Renigunta 3rd line, 83 km costing ₹875 crore, and the Nadikudi-Srikalasti new line, 310 km costing ₹5,900 crore. Governments.

The NIRYAT PROTSAHAN component of the EPM focuses on improving access to affordable trade

finance for MSMEs through a range of instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, and

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the Vijayawada-Gudur 3rd line, 287 km costing ₹6,235 crore, and the Yerpedu-Pudi bypass line, 25 km costing ₹490 crore, are underway.

Shri B. C. Janardhan Reddy Garu, Minister for Roads & Buildings, Infrastructure & Investments, Government of Andhra Pradesh joined the event as the Guest of Honour.

Shri V. Somanna said that Tirupati and Shirdi are now connected by a direct train with 31 stops at important places, including Nellore, Guntur, Secunderabad, Bidar, Manmad, and others. He

added that the service will boost pilgrimage tourism, connectivity and stimulate economic activity along the route and in surrounding regions. He said that this new train will provide direct connectivity from Maharashtra, North Karnataka, and Secunderabad. Along its route, it will also connect Parli Vaijnath, an important Shiva temple.

The Union Minister of State highlighted that Andhra Pradesh has witnessed remarkable growth in rail infrastructure since 2014. He noted that while the average rail budget during 2009-14 for AP and Telangana was ₹886 crore, it has risen to ₹9,417 crore in 2025-26, an eleven-fold increase. Ongoing projects in the state are worth over

about 30 hours each way.

Shri V. Somanna described the launch of the Tirupati-Sainagar Shirdi Express as a historic day for devotees of four states. He added that Indian Railways not only serves as a transport medium but also connects regions and cultures, acting as the lifeline of the country.

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Inaugural meeting of India-Brunei Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation held in New Delhi to further strengthen bilateral ties

(Gns). The inaugural meeting of India-Brunei Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation took place in New Delhi on December 09, 2025, marking a significant milestone in advancing the bilateral partnership between the two nations. Key areas that were discussed include expansion of military-to-military exchanges and joint training, maritime security collaboration, with focus on safety of sea lanes and Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief, capacity building, opportunities for defence industry collaboration and technology cooperation.

The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Shri

Amitabh Prasad and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Brunei Ms Poh Kui Choon. Prior to the

new era of bilateral defence cooperation. The JWG serves as a constructive platform to review ongoing defence engagements and

cooperation under the JWG mechanism. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintaining peace, stability, and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

The visiting Deputy Permanent Secretary also called on Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi, as part of his two-day visit.

Ms Poh Kui Choon also visited DPSU Bhawan which is a new, state-of-the-art facility recently inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi as a central hub for all 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings to foster collaboration, innovation, and showcase India's defence manufacturing capabilities to the world.

meeting, the co-chairs signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the establishment of JWG on defence cooperation.

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