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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



to back training initiatives so that workers, developers, and startups gain practical AI skills for different sectors.

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

infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI first future," Nadella tweeted. Microsoft AI investment in India underlines Asia

strategy. For Microsoft, this commitment highlighted how central India had become within its wider Asian plans. The move signalled confi-

dence in India's digital policies and growing developer base, while underlining the government's push to position the country as a major AI hub.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel Reaffirms Commitment to Antyodaya Utthaan (Upliftment of the Poorest)

Under Jhumpda Vijalakaran 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-

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 urban slum dwellers.

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 Vijalakaran 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). Since then, the scheme has been implemented by these four companies.



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 benefits both BPL and other poor, slum-dwelling families without any caste-based discrimination. To expand its reach, the state

Previously, the income limits were ₹27,000 to ₹47,000 for rural areas and ₹35,000 to ₹47,000 for urban slums, respectively.

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

Vande Mataram Debate Triggers Fiery Clash Between Amit Shah and Kharge in Parliament

(Gns). The clash over the Vande Mataram national song debate dominated Parliament as Amit Shah rejected claims that the discussion was timed for the West Bengal election. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had raised concerns in the Lok Sabha on 8 December 2025. A day later, Mallikarjun Kharge backed Priyanka Gandhi and sharply criticised the government.

During the Rajya Sabha debate, Amit Shah and Mallikarjun Kharge exchanged barbs over Priyanka Gandhi's remarks. The argument focused on why Parliament was examining the national song, and

whether the move was political. Photographs from Sansad TV and ANI showed both leaders engaged in tense exchanges.

The debate in

claims of political motives linked to the West Bengal elections, while Mallikarjun Kharge supported Priyanka Gandhi's stance and criticised the government. The discussion referenced his-



Parliament revolved around the national song Vande Mataram, with Amit Shah defending the timing of the discussion and rejecting

torical context, key dates like 1937 and 1950, and figures such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, and

Subhash Chandra Bose.

Amit Shah opened the Vande Mataram national song debate in the Rajya Sabha by defending the timing of the discussion. "Those linking the Vande Mataram discussion to the Bengal polls must reconsider their understanding," Amit Shah remarked. Shah claimed some leaders were misreading the intent and trying to attach electoral motives to it.

He said Vande Mataram was the "mantra" that awakened India's cultural nationalism". Shah accused several Congress leaders of "questioning" why Parliament should debate the national song at this stage.

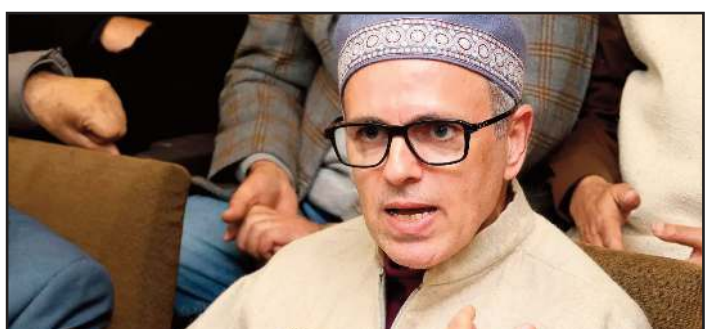
CM Omar stresses on enhancing JK's visibility to boost tourism

(Gns). Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday stressed on enhancing the Union territory's visibility and increasing visitor engagement to further strengthen J&K's tourism profile.

The CM chaired a meeting to review tourism promotion and publicity activities of the Tourism Department.

The Chief Minister directed the Tourism Department to prepare an advanced annual calendar of events to ensure better planning, effective execution and improved coordination.

He stressed the need for high-quality, meaningful designs and effective presentation at national and international travel marts,



and instructed that all stalls and promotional material must reflect the true strength and potential of J&K tourism.

Directing targeted promotional strategies, the Chief Minister said that tourism publicity and advertising should be focused on

airports in the country in terms of tourist traffic and undertake focused advertising and marketing campaigns at these locations.

The Chief Minister also called for early finalisation of dates for the Kashmir Marathon and stressed on incentivizing participation of local and national-level runners and enthusiasts by having a wide spread of prizes so that it encourages greater participation.

He directed that a title sponsor should be identified for the Kashmir Marathon on the pattern of major marathon events such as the Delhi and Mumbai Marathons.

Deepam row fallout: INDIA Bloc moves impeachment motion against Justice GR Swaminathan

(Gns). Accompanied by leader of the INDIA Bloc, DMK Parliamentary Party leader Kanimozhi submitted an impeachment notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking removal of Justice GR Swaminathan of the Madras High Court's Madurai Bench, who has stirred a hornet's nest with his orders on lighting the ceremonial Karthigai Deepam at a stone pillar near the Sikkandar Dargah atop the rocky Thiruparankundram hillock, above the famed Murugan temple in Madurai.

The impeachment motion, signed by 107 MPs, accuses Justice Swaminathan of 'judicial overreach' and acts 'amounting to misbehaviour'

besides ideological bias in his orders on lighting deepam. The delegation that met the Speaker comprised Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi,

other MPs from the INDIA alliance.

Posting a video of the meeting on her 'X' handle, Kanimozhi said Justice Swaminathan's removal



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Su Venkatesan of CPI(M), the MP from Madurai, DMK MPs, A Raja and TR Baalu, VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan as well as

had become necessary since his 'recent orders and actions have been viewed as disruptive to social harmony and detrimental to the integrity of the judiciary'. The DMK has initiated the

impeachment process even as it had approached the Supreme Court challenging the orders passed by the judge, contrary to previous verdicts of a Division Bench in 2017.

In his December 1 judgment on a petition from a Hindu activist, Justice Swaminathan had ordered the temple administration that Karthigai deepam should be lit on December 3 on the stone pillar near the dargah, also said to be a marker installed for the survey undertaken during the early British era. But, the temple authorities lit it at the Uchi Pillaiyar temple, the usual place right above the sanctum sanctorum of the rock cut Murugan temple.

Delhi Sessions Court Issues Notice To Sonia Gandhi Over Alleged Illegal Electoral Roll Entries

(Gns). A Delhi Sessions Court has issued a notice to Sonia Gandhi in connection with a revision petition filed against a magistrate's order dismissing a complaint related to her elec-

toral roll entries. The petition alleges that her name was wrongfully included in the electoral rolls before she became an Indian citizen. The court will review documents concerning the entry and subsequent dele-

tion of her name. The next hearing is scheduled for January 6. The case raises questions about the legality of electoral roll entries.

The petitioner argued that "certain documents must have been forged and

falsified to get the name in the electoral roll of 1980," pointing out that her name was later deleted and then re-entered in 1983 based on an application filed in January 1983-both events, according to him.

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

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 Rajkot

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

Authority is poised to systematically plan the entire tourism area, covering Dwarka, Bet Dwarka, and Shivrajpur. The Shivrajpur beach will also host beach festivals and events.

The Kutch-Saurashtra tourism circuit is set to be a central focus at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) in Rajkot on 10th, 11th and 12th January 2026. The world-class development of Shivrajpur Beach, includes world class hospitality infrastructure, serves as the premier model for this growth and golden opportunity for investors. Industry leaders and

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 poor. He emphasised the need to uphold 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

ther added that under the leadership of Chief Minister, the state government is carrying out significant work across various sectors. The Prime Minister has emphasised that preventive vigilance is more important than unity vigilance, and the Gujarat Government has taken major steps in this regard, including simplifying rules, large-scale reforms, ease of doing business, and amendments to revenue laws.

Delivering the welcome address, ACB Director Shri Piyush Patel said that during the last two months, the state's Anti-Corruption Bureau organised essay competitions in various schools under Vigilance Awareness Week on topics such as corruption as an obstacle to national development, aware citizen – Viksit Bharat. Elocution competitions were also held on topics such as awareness, transparency, integrity in my view, and I am an honest officer. Programmes for oath-taking of honesty were conducted by officers and employees in government offices. Additionally, public awareness activities such as street plays, marathon runs, and extensive distribution of pamphlets of the ACB helpline 1064 were carried out.

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', Saumya teams up with Aditi, 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?

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

Mangal aur Saumya dono ko mile surprises aur shocks, but who plates up the real winner's swaad, that you'll have to watch. All I can say is, this episode



that! I'm super excited to judge the 'Pehla Swaad' ticket-to-finale challenge — yahan khaane ka taste bhi test hoga aur contestants ka patience bhi. With my full-on Farah-tadka, thodi masti, 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 fur-

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-Russia ties.

This visit also followed Russia's partial rejection of the US peace proposal on the Ukraine conflict; Moscow is aware that it holds the cards. Interestingly, India – Russia relations, especially since the Ukraine conflict, have

been facing US scrutiny on one pretext or the other. In 2022, soon after the Ukraine war commenced, the Biden administration contemplated imposing sanctions on India for procuring Russia's S400 missile systems under the Countering American Adversaries through Sanctions Act. They never questioned India's oil procurements. The Trump administration questions oil procurements without commenting on Indo -Russian defence deals.

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

(International Criminal Court), and hence the warrant issued for Putin by the ICC has no meaning. For



India, Russia has always been a stable ally, unlike the US, which changes its India policy based on the whims of the President. As EAM Jaishankar stated, "India and Russia have

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,

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.

Shri V. Somanna Flags Off Tirupati-Sainagar Shirdi Express

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

safe, comfortable and hassle-free inter-state travel option, improving the overall rail travel experience for pilgrims. A new weekly train will offer pilgrims a seamless journey with a travel time of

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



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.

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

connectivity from Maharashtra, North Karnataka, and Secunderabad. Along its route, it will also connect Parli Vajnapeth, 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

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

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

Talks seek to expedite conclusion of India-EU FTA and deepen trade relationship (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

Trade Commissioner Šefčovič carried out detailed deliberations across key areas of the



proposed agreement. Both sides took note of the steady progress achieved across various negotiating

tracks and agreed on the need to sustain the current momentum through continued exchanges.

Commissioner Šefčovič's visit to New Delhi represented a significant milestone in the ongoing India-EU trade dialogue, further underscoring India's position as a reliable partner for the European Union in advancing diversified, resilient, and future-oriented economic cooperation. Anchored in the shared principles of pros-

Both sides emphasized the strategic importance of concluding a fair, balanced, and ambitious agreement

Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia chairs the Apex Council Meeting under the Bharat 6G Mission

(Gns). The Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, today chaired the meeting of the Apex Council under the Bharat 6G Mission and reviewed the progress of the Bharat 6G Alliance.

The meeting was attended by the Union Minister of State for Communications, Dr. Chandrasekhar Pemmasani, Secretary (Telecom) Dr. Neeraj Mittal, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Sood, senior officials from key Ministries, representatives from academia, R&D institutions, Telecom Service

Providers, industry leaders and members of the Bharat 6G Alliance. The high-level



interaction underscored India's accelerating progress towards emerging as a global 6G leader by 2030. Union Minister Shri Scindia reaffirmed the Government's unwavering

commitment to accelerating 6G innovation to make India a leader in the emerging communication technologies. He stressed the importance of greater synergy among the seven working groups within the Bharat 6G Alliance and strongly urged them to meet regularly to foster collaboration, strengthen teamwork, and ensure alignment of their efforts.

Addressing the Council, Union Minister Shri Scindia congratulated the Alliance for its rapid growth and emphasised that India must

BRANDING OF INDIAN TEXTILES

(Gns). India is the world's sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel, recording USD 37.75 billion in exports in 2024-25. With a presence in over 200 global markets, India's diverse textile value chain enjoys strong international demand and growing recognition as a reliable and trusted supplier. The Government attaches due importance to all initiatives aimed at branding and strengthening the textile supply chain. The details of the initiatives being undertaken at the national and international levels to enhance the global visibility of Indian textiles, apparel and handicraft products—including unified branding, market promotion, trade facilitation and supply-chain strengthening—are mentioned below:

The Government has approved the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) which is anchored in a collaborative framework involving the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Finance, and other key stakeholders including Financial Institutions, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, industry associations, and State 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

credit enhancement support for diversification into new markets.

The NIRYAT DISHA component of the EPM focuses on non-financial enablers that enhance market readiness and competitiveness, including export quality and compliance support, assistance for international branding, packaging, and participation in trade fairs, export warehousing and logistics, inland transport reimbursements, and trade intelligence and capacity-building initiatives.

India has signed 15 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). These FTAs aim to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, simplify procedures, and address structural issues to make Indian Exporters more competitive in partner markets.

To strengthen the global positioning of 'Brand India' in textiles, the key initiatives include Kasturi Cotton (registered as a trademark to provide a distinct identity to premium Indian cotton, supported by traceability systems to ensure responsible sourcing and supply chain transparency for international buyers); Silk Mark (a certification mark guaranteeing purity and quality of silk products, reinforcing India's leadership in the global silk segment).

The Ministry supported Export Promotion Councils/Associations in organizing a Global Mega Textile Event i.e. Bharat TEX 2025 to showcase the

strength of the Indian textiles value chain, highlighting the latest progress/innovations in textile & fashion Industry and positioning India as the most preferred



destination for sourcing and investment in textile sector.

The Government is implementing various schemes/initiatives to boost the Indian textile and apparel sector and enhance its competitiveness. The major schemes/initiatives include RoSCTL/ RoDTEP scheme for rebating the Central and States taxes, duties and levies (not rebated under any other scheme), PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme to create a modern, integrated, world class textile infrastructure; Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme focusing on MMF Fabric, MMF Apparel and Technical Textiles to boost large scale manufacturing and enhancing competitiveness.

The Current key initiatives to promote the innovations in design etc are appended below

With a view to boost Technical Textiles in the country National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) was launched which focuses on research & innovation in the field of specialty fibres

Two miscreants who looted silver from Agra businessman injured in encounter, 4.4 kg silver recovered

Mathura. In the joint action of Refinery Police and SOG Team Surveillance Team, two accused who robbed a silver trader during the encounter have been arrested. This action took place on National Highway 19 near the CISF Cut.

Let it be known that yesterday, 4 unknown miscreants riding on two motorcycles had looted 8 kg of mixed silver from Agra resident silver trader Jatinder Kushwaha near the CISF cut on the refinery flyover. According to the police, information was received from the informer on Tuesday afternoon that the criminals who committed the silver robbery were about to pass through Aganpura. On this information, SOG team and Refinery police station jointly conducted a check-

ing operation. During this encounter, the police arrested two accused in injured condition. During



this, three other accused managed to escape through the forest while firing. The arrested injured accused have been immediately sent to the hospital for treatment. Police have recovered 4 kg 400 grams of silver, Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle, 02 country made pistols from the pos-

session of Rajat son of Chola Singh, resident of Nangla Jodhana, Police Station Kagraul, Agra and

Pramod alias Chhotu son of Biri Singh, resident of Mohalla Kushwaha Kagraul, Agra, who were involved in the silver robbery incident. CO Refinery said that silver merchant Jatinder Kushwaha, son of Sunil Kumar, resident of Nangla Padi police station, New

Agra district, Agra, was robbed of 08 kg of mixed silver by 04 unknown miscreants riding on two motorcycles on the CISF cut on the refinery flyover, in connection with which, FIR 378/2025 Section 309 BNS has been registered at the Refinery Police Stationhas been registered. On Tuesday afternoon, the informer said that the criminals who looted silver were reported to have passed through Aganpura road. During the joint checking by the SOG team and the Refinery police station, two accused were arrested in an injured condition while three of their associates fled through the forest after firing. The injured were sent to the hospital for treatment and combing is going on to search for others.

The message by NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian on the eve of Human Rights Day

(Gns). "Greetings to everyone on the eve of Human Rights Day. Each year since 1950, the world comes together on 10th December to celebrate this day. It marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the

United Nations in 1948. UDHR is a milestone document that has shaped the moral compass of humanity across the globe.

For India, this day carries special significance. Our nation's representatives played a meaningful role in shaping the UDHR, embedding in it the timeless ideals of dignity, justice and equality for all, the values that are deeply rooted in our own civilisational ethos and philosophy.

This year's theme, "Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials," reminds us that human rights are not distant dreams. They are the foundation of our daily lives. This theme reaffirms that human rights are not luxuries, but necessities that sustain hope and humanity. Human rights allow us to speak freely, live with dignity and dream without fear. By reconnecting people to these values, we seek to inspire awareness, confi-

dence and collective action. Today, humanity faces unprecedented challenges



including climate change, environmental degradation, conflict and terrorism, all of which test our shared commitment to equality and justice. Addressing them requires solidarity across borders and generations.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening this vision. Drawing upon India's rich legacy of empathy, compassion and respect for human dignity amidst diverse cultural traditions, the Commission works tire-

lessly for the cause of human rights within the country besides promoting advocacy for them at international forums and across the Global South. Through its outreach, research and capacity building initiatives over the past three decades, the NHRC has remained steadfast in protecting the rights and voices of all people and particularly the vulnerable segments.

On this solemn occasion, I call upon every individual to stand up for human rights to nurture a culture that upholds the spirit of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" i.e. let there be happiness for all.

Guided by the Protection of Human Rights Act and inspired by the values of both the Constitution of India and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Commission reaffirms its unwavering commitment to uphold the dignity and equality of every person."

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



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

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.

60th half yearly meeting of City Official Language Implementation Committee, Mathura concluded

Mathura. The 60th half yearly meeting of the City Official Language Implementation Committee (NARAKAS), Mathura was held on Tuesday at the Employees Club of Mathura Refinery Nagar under the chairmanship of Mukul Aggarwal, President, NARAKAS Mathura and Executive Director and Refinery Head. Dr. Chhabil Kumar Meher, Deputy Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Regional Implementation Office (North-2), Ghaziabad participated as the chief guest in the meeting. The meeting started with Vande Mataram song and lighting of lamp by senior officials. Mukul Aggarwal, while addressing the heads of the member offices and their representatives present in the meeting, said that the Department of Official Language has an important role in compliance with the Official Language Policy and promoting the use of Hindi in government work. We all are well aware of the official language policy of

the Government of India, yet there is a need to constantly review the status of use of the official language in the functioning of offices.



Members of Employees Club of Mathura Refinery Nagar and Mukul Aggarwal, President, Narakas Mathura and Executive Director in the 60th half yearly meeting.

He said that Narakas is a joint platform of all the member offices located in Mathura district, the objective of which is to promote the progressive use of the official language in the member offices and to remove the difficulties coming in the way of implementation of the official language policy. Earlier, welcoming everyone in the meeting, Anil Kumar, Chief General Manager (Human Resources) said that attachment towards the official language is a form of patriotism and it is nec-

essary to follow the official language policy, rules and acts in the offices and undertakings of the Central Government as per the target. Dr. Chhabil Kumar Meher reviewed the progress being made towards the implementation of the official language on the basis of reports received from the member offices. He said that it is the responsibility of every office head to implement the annual program of the Official Language Department and fully comply with the official language policy of the Union. Expressing satisfaction over the progress made in Hindi in the committee

offices in the half year, he asked to follow Section 3(3) in letter and spirit. In the meeting, Rajbhasha Shield was awarded to the member offices for the year 2024-25 for their excellent performance in the field of official language, in which Canara Bank, Regional Office, Mathura got first, State Bank of India (Main Branch) got second, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited got second. Mathura was awarded the Third Official Language Shield and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. Mathura and Union Bank of India, Mathura were awarded incentive certificates. In the meeting, a latest special initiative was taken at the city level by the President's Office, Narakas Mathura, in which the office heads of the member offices of Narakas Mathura, who participated continuously in the last three meetings of Narakas Mathura, the annual program of the Official Language Department, literal observance of Section 3 (3) and the official language policy of the Union Fully complied

Free health camp in Govardhan, hundreds of patients benefited, oral cancer screening

Mathura. Giving priority to the health of the villagers, a free health camp was organized in the native village Gantholi of Shri Kant Sharma, former Energy Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government. This camp was organized by the expert team of KM Hospital, Keshav Madhav Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi in joint collaboration of District Panchayat President Kishan Chaudhary KM University and Shri Anant Virya Das Prabhu Akshay Patra Foundation and Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir, in which moderOral cancer was diagnosed with Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. The program was completed under the guidance of Anant Virya Das Prabhuji. Former Energy Minister and Mathura-Vrindavan MLA Shrikant Sharma was present as the chief guest. He

said that the central and state governments are continuously working to expand



Shri Anant Veerya Das Prabhu and MLA Shrikant Sharma taking stock of the health camp.

health services, so that every citizen can have access to modern medical

facilities. While praising the organizer KMU and other institutions, he said that

gies like Artificial Intelligence is proving to be a boon for the society. He appreciated such public welfare events. A large number of villagers participated in the camp. Health checkup of a total of 423 people was done and they were consulted by specialist doctors Dr. Gayatri, Dr. Shubham, Dr. Jaya, Dr. Urvashi, Dr. Yashi and other doctors. The doctors also informed the villagers about the importance of timely testing and awareness. On this occasion, the presence of Jitendra Sharma (Public Relations Officer, Administrative), Madhusudan Kaushik (former village head) and Ravikant Kaushik (village head representative) was notable. The organizers said that such health camps will continue to be organized in the future also, so that better health services can be provided to the rural areas

Over 70 % voter turnout in first phase of Kerala local body polls

A record voter turnout of over 70 per cent was recorded in the first phase of polling of the local body elections held on Tuesday in seven districts of Kerala. As per the figures till 6 pm, Ernakulam district recorded the highest voter turnout (73.36 per cent). Alappuzha recorded 72.74 per cent and Idukki 70.26 per cent.

Thiruvananthapuram- 65.93 per cent, Kollam- 69.32 per cent, Pathanamthitta- 65.91 per cent and Kottayam- 69.77 per cent voter turnouts.

A total of 11,167 wards spread across 595 local bodies went to the polls on Tuesday. This includes 8,310 wards in 471 grama panchayats, 1,090 wards in 75 block panchayats, 164



divisions in seven district panchayats, 1,317 wards in 39 municipalities and 232 wards in three corporations.

Governor Rajendra Arlekar cast his vote at Jawahar Nagar LP School in Thiruvananthapuram, Union Minister Suresh Gopi MP and his family cast their votes at Sasthamangalam School in the state capital. CPM general secretary MA Baby cast his vote at a booth at Sanskrit College, Thiruvananthapuram.

How Did a Chinese Tourist Travel Across Ladakh and Kashmir Without Permission?

(Gns). A 29-year-old Chinese national has been detained in Budgam after travelling for over two weeks across Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir without mandatory clearances, prompting a wider security review in Srinagar and fresh checks on how hotels, houseboats and guest houses record and report foreign visitors staying in the Kashmir valley.

The traveller, identified as Hu Congtai from Shenzhen in Guangdong province, entered India on a tourist visa that restricted movement to select Buddhist pilgrimage centres, yet visited remote areas in Ladakh and several locations in Kashmir that were not on the approved route, leading investigators

to examine both Hu's actions and local compliance with immigration rules.



A 29-year-old Chinese national, Hu Congtai, was detained in Budgam for travelling through Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir for over two weeks without proper clearances, violating his tourist visa that was meant for specific Buddhist sites; this triggered a secu-

city review in Srinagar and inspections of guest accommodations under the Immigration and Foreigners Act.

Switch To Shorts Chinese national Hu Congtai visa route, travel pattern and background Authorities state that Hu landed in Delhi on 19 November on a visa listing Buddhist sites such as

Varanasi, Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, Sarnath, Gaya and Kushinagar, but instead flew to Leh on 20 November, then journeyed through restricted stretches of Leh and Zaskar before entering the Kashmir Valley without notifying immigration authorities. During questioning, officials learnt that Hu describes himself as a travel enthusiast, holds a physics degree from Boston University and has reportedly lived in the United States for the past nine years, with passport stamps showing visits to the US, New Zealand, Brazil, Fiji and Hong Kong over recent years. Chinese national Hu Congtai movements in Ladakh and Kashmir Investigators say Hu's

India Shouldn't Be In Delusion...: Asim Munir In First Address As Chief of Defence Forces

(Gns). Pakistan's newly appointed Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Asim Munir, used his maiden speech to issue provocative warnings against India and Afghanistan, once again revealing Islamabad's obsession with hostility rather than peace. Speaking at the inauguration of Pakistan's Defence Forces Headquarters (DFHQ), Munir claimed that "the concept of Pakistan is invincible, protected by faith-filled warriors." He went on to caution India against what he called "self-deception," threatening that Pakistan's response in any future confrontation would be "swifter and more severe". The Print reported.

Pakistan's new Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Asim Munir, issued warnings against India and Afghanistan, highlighting Islamabad's focus on hostility, while also discussing military restructuring and modern warfare capabilities after the 27th Constitutional Amendment. He used this opportunity to express threats against India, which the nation views as reaffirming Pakistan's disregard for regional stability and peace.

Switch To Shorts India Shouldn't Be In Delusion Asim Munir In First Address As Chief of Defence Forces For Indian readers,

India gearing up for next telecom leap: Scindia

(Gns). Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya M Scindia, on Tuesday reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to accelerating 6G innovation to make India a leader in the emerging communication technologies.

Chairing the meeting of the Apex Council under the Bharat 6G Mission, Scindia stressed the importance of greater synergy among the seven working groups within the Bharat 6G Alliance and strongly urged them to meet regularly to foster collaboration, strengthen teamwork, and ensure alignment of their efforts.

The meeting was attended by the Union Minister of State for Communications, Dr Chandrasekhar Pemmasani, Secretary (Telecom) Dr Neeraj Mittal, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Sood, senior officials from key Ministries, representatives from academia, R&D institutions, Telecom Service Providers, industry leaders and members of the Bharat 6G Alliance.

The high-level interac-

these remarks are neither new nor surprising. Pakistan's military estab-



lishment has long relied on aggressive rhetoric to distract from its internal crises-economic instability, political turmoil, and rising militancy within its own borders.

Munir's attempt to project strength only underscores Pakistan's insecurity. India, by contrast, has consistently demonstrated restraint and maturity, responding to provocations with a firm but measured approach that prioritises national security and regional stability.

Pakistan's Contradictions on Peace Munir described Pakistan as a "peace-loving country," yet his speech was filled with threats and warnings. This contradiction highlights the gap between Islamabad's words and actions. While Pakistan claims to value peace, its record of sponsoring cross-border terrorism and sheltering extremist groups tells a different

story. India has repeatedly exposed these double standards at international forums, ensuring that Pakistan's narrative finds little credibility on the global stage.

Also Read Indian Navy Chief Explains Why Pakistan Navy Was Forced to Stay in Port During Operation Sindoor

Indian Navy Chief Explains Why Pakistan Navy Was Forced to Stay in Port During Operation Sindoor Military Restructuring in Pakistan Munir's appointment as the first CDF follows the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which centralised military authority under a single office. The amendment abolished the position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, dismantling the tri-service coordination system in place since 1976. While Pakistan hails this as a "historic" reform, experts note that such centralisation reflects the military's



and emphasised that India must now move with confidence toward global leadership.

He outlined four key priorities for the 6G Mission: to continue leapfrogging, to examine the entire value chain end-to-end, to break down complex technological challenges into solvable components, and to set measurable quarterly targets for each Working Group.

Scindia emphasised the importance of close coordination with the Bharat 6G Alliance, regular progress reviews, and independent evaluations to ensure that the benefits of 6G reach

every citizen across the country, including rural communities, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Union Minister also noted that with strong col-

laboration among industry, entrepreneurs, and academia, India is confidently advancing towards becoming a global leader in 6G intellectual property and standards. India is determined to shape the future of telecom technologies, rather than simply follow global trends, he said.

MoS Pemmasani highlighted the B6GA's release of eight technical reports and whitepapers covering spectrum, AI-native networks, green telecom, emerging applications, and RF sensing. "These achievements signify India's historic transition from a technology imple-

menter to a technology creator," he noted.

In a post on X, Scindia said, "Bharat is gearing up for the next telecom leap..."

Chaired the quarterly review meeting on the advances of the Bharat 6G Alliance to fast-track R&D, strengthen indigenous capabilities & drive deeper international partnerships. The Bharat 6G Mission remains anchored in clear phase-wise goals, close alignment with the Alliance, regular progress reviews and independent evaluations, ensuring that 6G benefits every citizen across the length and breadth of our nation, including rural communities, as envisioned by Hon'ble PM @narendramodi ji."

"With all stakeholders including industry, entrepreneurs and academia, collaborating effectively towards this shared vision, we are forging ahead confidently toward becoming a major force in global 6G IP and standards. India stands determined to shape, rather than follow, the next wave of telecom technologies," he further said in his post on X.