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PM Modi Speaks to Israel PM Netanyahu on Terrorism, Gaza Conflict

(Gns).
Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on 10 December 2025, during which the two leaders discussed strengthening security cooperation, regional stability, and developments related to the conflict in Gaza.

According to the official readout, the leaders reviewed progress in the India-Israel Strategic Partnership and noted sustained growth in cooperation across sectors including defence, technology and innovation. Both agreed that bilateral engagement should continue at its current momentum to deliver tangible benefits

to citizens in both countries. On December 10, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu discussed strengthening security cooperation, regional stability, developments related to the Gaza conflict, and the India-Israel Strategic Partnership.

A significant portion of the call focused on the situation in Gaza and the wider Middle East. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's long-standing position in support

of a fair, durable and lasting peace in the region. He also expressed support for the early implementation of

Both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism, stress-



counter-terrorism cooperation remains a central pillar of the growing partnership between New Delhi and Tel Aviv.

The conversation reflected ongoing high-level political engagement between the two countries, with both sides agreeing to

maintain close coordination on strategic, security and regional issues. Officials said the exchange underscored the importance both

leaders attach to the evolving India-Israel relationship in a volatile global and regional environment.

Amit Shah Defends Voter Roll Revision, Says

Nehru And Indira Gandhi Did Vote Chori

(Gns).
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday mounted a strong defence of the Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, rejecting Opposition allegations of voter suppression and accusing the Congress of a long history of electoral manipulation, which he described as "vote chori".

Speaking during a Lok Sabha debate on electoral reforms, Shah said the current cleanup of voter lists was being carried out independently by the Election Commission and not at the direction of the government. He accused Opposition parties of spreading "one-

sided falsehoods" to weaken public confidence in the poll panel, particularly among young and first-time voters.

During a Lok Sabha debate on electoral reforms, Union Home Minister Amit Shah defended the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, rejecting Opposition allegations of voter suppression and accusing the Congress of electoral manipulation, while also addressing concerns about the process and citing historical instances. Shah emphasized that the revision, which aims to delete

deceased voters and remove duplicate entries, is being conducted independently by the Election

create mistrust about the reform exercise.

Shah framed his argument around what he called three historical episodes to support his claim that alleged electoral malpractice did not originate with the BJP. He referred to the post-Independence leadership process involving Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel, the political developments following the 1975 Allahabad High Court verdict against Indira Gandhi, and a civil court dispute regarding Sonia Gandhi's voter registration. Congress MP K.C. Venugopal objected to the allegations and challenged Shah to substantiate his claims.

According to Shah, some Opposition leaders were anxious about the removal of illegal immigrants, duplicate entries and ineligible names from the rolls. He said fear of voter deletion was being used as a political tool to

Commission.

According to Shah, some Opposition leaders were anxious about the removal of illegal immigrants, duplicate entries and ineligible names from the rolls. He said fear of voter deletion was being used as a political tool to

the vision of 'Green Gujarat, Viksit Gujarat'. Over the past three years, Gujarat has undertaken extensive plantation and reforestation

environment and improve green cover. A notable achievement is the plantation of 1,04,270 hectares of forest land by the Forest

Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) scheme, Gujarat has planted mangroves across 34,242 hectares, strengthening the mangrove belt along its coastline. The scheme, launched by the Central Government on 5 June 2023, focuses on restoring and protecting the mangrove ecosystem in coastal states. Its key objectives include promoting mangrove plantation, scientific mapping of mangrove areas, nursery development, hydrology and geographical assessment, public awareness, training, research and the promotion of eco-tourism.

Department. Gujarat is also a leading state in implementing the Central Government's MISHTI scheme. Under MISHTI, Mangrove plantation across 34,242 hectares in Gujarat. Under MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for

efforts to expand green cover, keeping environmental protection a top priority. This approach to sustainable development aligns with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. During the three years, Gujarat has taken several key steps to protect the

Department. Gujarat is also a leading state in implementing the Central Government's MISHTI scheme. Under MISHTI, Mangrove plantation across 34,242 hectares in Gujarat. Under MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for

the base of a strong India, and sports are the starting

structure across all 75 districts, including full stadiums and mini stadiums, with financial support for sports equipment in colleges and schools; this aims to enhance the state's standing in Indian sports and nurture athletes for 2030 competitions, including the

facilities has started together in all 75 districts. The state is building full stadiums at district centres and mini stadiums at every block. Officials describe this as a fast-track project expected to change access to sports in rural pockets.

The government has already cleared about ₹5 crore each for mini stadiums in government colleges in 18 districts. For the first time, this physical expansion is tied to direct financial support for basic sports equipment. Separate grants have been earmarked for colleges, junior high schools and basic schools to buy training material.

Commonwealth Games, and a sports university is under development in Meerut.

Switch To Shorts

UP sports development infrastructure push

On Yogi Adityanath's

directions, work on new

point. Young athletes in the

Under-17 and Under-19 groups were urged to target medals at the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

Uttar Pradesh, under

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is significantly

expanding sports infra-

structure, work on new

protecting rights and dignity a shared duty; call for ensuring human rights for all in the spirit of Antyodaya

Describes the NHRC, SHRCs along with the judiciary and civil society as alert sentinels of the country's Constitutional conscience

Launches NHRC Mobile App for enabling easy complaint filing, real-time tracking and access to various IEC resources

NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V.

Ramasubramanian calls for using the Human Rights Day celebration as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the cause of protecting and promoting

(Gns).

The National Human

Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised a

function today at Bharat

Mandapam in New Delhi to

celebrate Human Rights

Day in commemoration of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights (UDHR) on

this day in 1948 by the

United Nations. The

President of India, Smt

Droupadi Murmu addressed as Chief Guest

in the presence of NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice V.

Ramasubramanian, Members, Justice (Dr)

Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Smt

Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, UN Resident

Coordinator In-charge, Ms

Areti Sianni, Chairpersons

and Members of State

Human Rights Commissions, members of

judiciary, senior government

functionaries, diplo-

mats, human rights defenders, representatives of NGO, civil society, academia among other national and international dignitaries were present.

The President of India said the Human Rights Day

such conferences can prove crucial in ensuring women's safety and empowerment.

She said that the NHRC

gives expression to certain

ideals of the State and the

society. The Government of

India has been translating

such expressions into

action on a scale never

seen before. Over the last

decade, we have witnessed

our Nation move ahead

with a different approach

from entitlement to empow-

erment and from charity to

rights. The Government has

been working to ensure that

every day essential ser-

vices like clean water, elec-

tricity, cooking gas, health-

care, banking services, edu-

cation and improved sanita-

tion become available to all.

This uplifts every household

and secures dignity.

The President said that

recently, the Government

has notified the implemen-

tation of a major reform

through the four Labour

Codes related to wages,

industrial relations, social

security and occupational

safety, health and working

conditions. This transforma-

tive change lays the foun-

dation for a future-ready

workforce and more resi-

lient industries.

Smt. Murmu called upon

every citizen to recognise

that human rights are not

the sole responsibility of

governments, the NHRC, civil

society organisations and

such other institutions.

She said that protecting the

rights and dignity of our fel-

low citizens is a shared duty.

This duty rests with all of us

as members of a compas-

sionate, and responsible

society.

Commission, State Human

Rights Commissions along

with the judiciary and civil

society have functioned as

alert sentinels of our

Constitutional conscience.

She noted that over the

past few years, the NHRC

has taken suo motu cog-

nizance of numerous issues

concerning people from the

Scheduled Caste and the

Scheduled Tribe communi-

ties, as well as women and

children. She also noted

that the NHRC held exten-

sive discussions on the

subject of Human Rights of

Prison Inmates during its

Foundation Day celebra-

tions this year. She

expressed confidence that

the discussions will yield

useful results.

Editorial

Uneasy Truce

The recent diplomatic flurry ~ marked by talks in Moscow between US envoys and Russia, followed by a three-day session in Florida between US and Ukrainian negotiators ~ was meant to build momentum toward peace. Instead, it has laid bare a fundamental truth: you cannot negotiate peace while bombs keep falling, and you cannot negotiate an outcome when one side has already declared its unwillingness to compromise. On paper, the Miami discussions suggested a path forward.

Ukrainian and American officials emerged saying they had discussed "security arrangements" and frameworks for reconstruction ~ a serious signal that Kyiv is willing to plan for a future beyond bullets and burned cities. Indeed, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy affirmed his commitment to continued talks. But just as these exchanges concluded, Russia struck again ~ launching drone and missile attacks that hit rail hubs, energy infrastructure, and civilian-lifelines across several regions. At that very moment, the other side of the conversation was broadcasting a very different message: For Russia, peace is not the point ~ dominance is. In a blunt, public interview ahead of his visit to India, the Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that his country intends to seize full control of the eastern region commonly called Donbas ~ "either by force, or when Ukrainian troops leave." That is not an opening for compromise.

It is an ultimatum. This is the heart of the problem with the current negotiating process: it treats a war ~ one of aggression and occupation ~ as though it were a dispute over legal points on a map. It assumes parity, consent, and a shared interest in stability. But Russia, by its own words and by its own bombs, has shown it neither recognises parity nor seeks a stable mutual peace. What it seeks is victory. Yet the discourse remains framed as if Russia, Ukraine, and mediating powers sit at a round-table with equal weight. That framing is dangerous: it gives legitimacy to demands born out of force, not consent. A "peace plan" that presupposes territorial concessions is not a plan; it is a settlement imposed under duress. True peace cannot begin with a ceasefire held together solely by hope and diplomacy. It requires mutual cessation of violence, credible guarantees, and verifiable withdrawal from occupied zones, not promises of good behaviour. Attempts to talk while Russia ramps up attacks do more than delay justice: they give war criminals the veneer of diplomacy.

If the international community and Kyiv proceed with negotiations, they must condition talks on actions, not words. They must demand an immediate and sustained halt to all offensive operations. They must insist on irreversible, observable de-escalation before any discussion of security architecture, reconstruction, or territorial status. Anything less will be a dangerous illusion. The war would pause but the threat would remain. And history tells us: such truces breed future conflict, not lasting peace.

Visa roadblocks

(Gns).

The latest move by Washington to tighten screening for H-1B visa applicants marks a sharp turn in the way the United States is redefining its anxieties about immigration, technology, and free expression. What was once a visa category judged largely on skills and employer demand is now being pulled into America's domestic culture wars, with foreign workers unexpectedly positioned at the centre of a debate that was never really about them. The recently issued directive instructing consular officers to examine applicants' résumés and online profiles for any association with content moderation, misinformation control, fact-checking or online safety is more than a bureaucratic change.

It is an ideological filter dressed as a security measure. By framing such work as potential "censorship," the administration is blurring the line between legitimate enforcement of platform rules and political suppression. For thousands of Indian tech workers, many of whom occupy

precisely these roles in social media, fintech and digital compliance, the implications are immediate and unsettling. These func-

consistency. If the concern is suppression of protected expression in the US, it is unclear how consular officers ~ already under



tions are now a standard part of the digital economy.

Companies cannot operate without teams that enforce platform policies, counter fraud, remove harmful content or comply with regulatory demands.

To turn this into evidence of ideological misconduct places applicants in an impossible position: they can be penalised for performing the very jobs global companies require, simply because those tasks intersect with America's shifting definitions of free speech. The policy also raises fundamental questions about

intense workload pressure ~ are expected to judge complex decisions made in distant corporate settings or automated moderation systems.

The risk of subjective interpretation is high, and the consequences for applicants could be severe. A single keyword on a LinkedIn page may end up weighing more heavily than years of skill-building, education, and professional credibility. For India, the stakes are not merely individual but structural. The H-1B programme remains a critical bridge between

Indian talent and global innovation ecosystems. Any politicisation of this channel affects not only workers but also the Indian IT and startup sectors, which rely on cross-border mobility to maintain competitiveness.

If the process becomes unpredictable, companies may think again about sending employees to the US or hiring for sensitive roles that would later be weaponised against them in visa screenings. The broader trend is unmistakable: immigration policy is being repurposed to enforce cultural positions on speech, accountability, and platform governance.

By folding these debates into visa decisions, Washington risks undermining the economic rationale of the H-1B system itself. Skilled mobility workers when decisions are made on competence, not conjecture. Turning visa vetting into an ideological loyalty test serves neither American innovation nor its relationships with countries like India that have long supplied the talent the US economy relies on.

salaries, research autonomy, and clear career paths. Recognition and reward systems also need reforms. The newly launched Rashtriya Vigyan

remains pending.

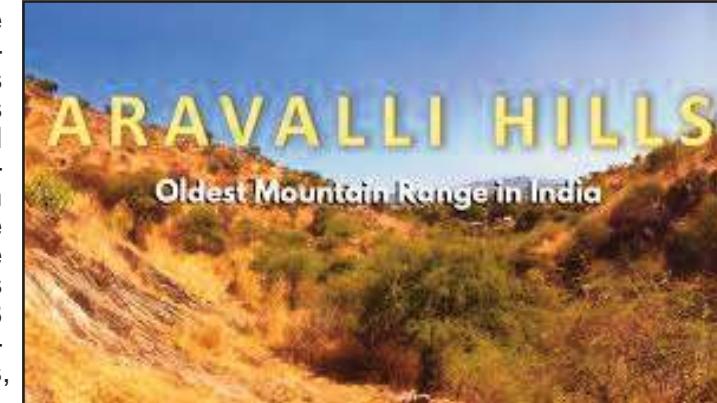
Following pressure from the National Green Tribunal, Delhi is now set to notify the southern ridge for the first time.

If past violations and

Aravalli belt as a priority zone for restoration to combat desertification. In this context, excluding hills below 100 metres from protection is not a minor technicality but a

further increases. It is no surprise that Delhi has not yet been desertified yet; without the Ridge acting as a barrier, dust from the western part of India would have transformed Delhi NCR into a desert. A single legal interpretation has not driven the decline of the Aravallis; it reflects long-standing human greed and regulatory failure across all four Aravalli states, which have benefited at the ecosystem's expense. The current interpretations may inadvertently narrow the definition in ways that could be seen as favouring past land-use patterns. Surveys by the FSI, the Central Empowered Committee, non-profits and environmental litigation records have documented the costs of chronic state inaction in the Aravalli landscape. Decades of Supreme Court intervention for a landscape disappearing from India's map should be reminder enough.

Even the Ministry promotes a Green Wall restoration for the Aravallis, yet a new scientific definition is being recognised within legal frameworks. This is a fundamental contradiction that needs to be harmonised. Allowing histor-



ecological damage are not startling enough, the 2021 Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas raises alarms about a broader national crisis. The report estimates that 97.85 million hectares, nearly 29.7 per cent of India's total area are undergoing land degradation. Analysis shows that

Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Goa have more than 50 per cent of their land affected by desertification or degradation. The Aravalli Green Wall project, an ambitious plan to create a 1,400 km-long, 5 km-wide green buffer along the range, identifies the

direct threat to the Aravalli ecosystem's remaining functional areas, as shown by extensive eco-hydrological research. Studies demonstrate that microtopography and modest hillslopes significantly influence soil moisture retention, infiltration pathways and groundwater recharge, especially in arid and semi-arid regions.

These rolling hills also affect wind patterns and dust transport; local terrain in roughness, including vegetated hillocks, reduces erosion intensity and downwind dust loads. When covered with trees or shrubs, their ecological function

India's favourite comedians Kapil Sharma & Krushna Abhishek reunite on COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Entertainment Unlimited'

LR

Indian television gets its biggest nostalgia jolt of the decade as COLORS pulls off the reunion fans had stopped expecting. Kapil Sharma and Krushna Abhishek, the duo that redefined an entire era of Indian comedy, share the screen once again - they're detonating pure chaos on 'Laughter Chefs Entertainment Unlimited'.

It's a landmark moment with Kapil Sharma returning to the channel after 11 years, this time as a special guest promoting his upcoming movie. But the second he walks onto the set of Laughter Chefs Entertainment Unlimited,

the kitchen undergoes a seismic shift.

Krushna Abhishek,



already a riotous constant on the show, instantly senses the brewing storm and decides to stoke it further. He makes his grand entrance dressed as a woman, as a nod to the characters that once made

the most distracting, unapologetically hilarious, and deliberately unhelpful "support system" a person could have in a kitchen. He roasts, he interrupts, he breaks into characters - and Kapil turns every derailment into gold, proving why both are the country's most loved comedy stars.

Watch 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited' Season 3 Co-Powered by Envy Perfumes & Catch Masale, Pour Home Air Freshener, LuxInferno, Special Partner Caratlane and Pet Shuddhi, airing every Saturday-Sunday at 9:00 pm only on COLORS!

Your Hair Deserves Its Own Perfume-Shahnaz Husain

Love smelling great from head to toe, but find your regular perfume fades quickly or feels wrong for your hair?

Hair perfume is a specially formulated fragrance designed for hair health, for moisture and shine.

It's become a popular addition to beauty routines, offering a unique way to carry fragrance and add a touch of elegance and freshness to your hair throughout the day.

While traditional perfumes contain high concentrations of alcohol that can severely dry out and damage your hair strands over time, hair perfumes typically contain less alcohol or none at all. Hair perfume can be safer for people with allergies because they're generally made with natural

ingredients and lighter scents, rather than heavy synthetic fragrances.

Most hair perfumes are made of ingredients that are gentle on the scalp; they can be used on the body as well, just like traditional perfume.

Alcohol-free versions are particularly popular because they minimise hair dryness and damage, meeting modern haircare needs.

As environmental awareness grows globally, hair perfumes featuring sustainable, vegan, and organic ingredients have surged in popularity, cater-

ing to a growing eco-conscious consumer segment.

Hair perfumes contain ingredients like lightweight silicones for shine, natural oils (like Argan or Jojoba) for hydration, panthenol (Vitamin B5) for moisture retention, and UV filters to help protect hair from sun damage.

Hair perfumes are formulated to be gentle on hair and scalp. They not only provide a captivating scent but also offer additional benefits, such as nourishing hair and protecting it from environmental factors.

It's a hair care product usually offered as a spray and intended to give your hair a delightful fragrance.

It's also great for quickly masking environmental odours (like smoke or food) that hair can absorb, acting as a quick refresher.

Hair perfume is an emerging trend in the world of hair care and has caught the attention of many looking for a way to make their hair smell delightful as well.

Technically, you can apply hair perfume to wet hair, but it's best to wait until your hair is completely dry. Water can act as a barrier and prevent your hair from absorbing the scent. This will result in the scent fading too quickly. Focus on the ends rather than the scalp to avoid buildup.

NURTURING SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE IS THE CULTURE OF RESEARCH ITSELF

(Gns). Perhaps the most important factor in nurturing scientific excellence is the culture of research itself. In India, scientists are often encouraged to pursue safe, incremental projects that guarantee results and funding. This discourages risk-taking and innovation. Nobel-worthy research usually involves bold ideas that challenge existing paradigms. It may take years to bear fruit and often faces initial scepticism. To foster such work, India must create grant schemes that support high-risk, high-reward projects.

Scientists should be given the freedom to explore unconventional ideas without fear of failure. Bureaucratic

hurdles must be minimized, and research management should be streamlined to allow scientists to focus on discovery. Just like spotting talent in sports early helps children become champions, recognizing a child's interest in research and innovation is key to shaping future Nobel Prize winners. When children show curiosity, ask questions, and enjoy solving problems, it is a sign of a scientific mind. Encouraging this from a young age ~ through experiments, reading, and creative thinking ~ builds a strong foundation. With the right support, these children can grow into scientists who make big discoveries.

The Nobel Prize often goes to those who have spent years exploring ideas, so nurturing talent early is important for creating future leaders in science and innovation. Another critical issue is brain drain. Many of India's brightest scientists leave the country for better opportunities abroad. In 2024, more than six lakh people emigrated from India to countries like the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and UAE. A significant portion were highly educated professionals ~ including scientists, doctors, and engineers. Further, India has only 260 scientists per million people, ranking 81st globally. In contrast, countries like the United States

and the United Kingdom have over 4,000 scientists per million. This gap is not just about numbers ~ it reflects the lack of infrastructure, funding, and career prospects for researchers in India. Talented scientists often find it difficult to secure grants, set up labs, or pursue independent research.

To retain talent, India must offer competitive

salaries, research autonomy, and clear career paths. Recognition and reward systems also need reforms. The newly launched Rashtriya Vigyan

Puraskar is a step in the right direction, aiming to honour excellence in science and innovation. However, its credibility depends on transparent selection processes and independence from political influence. Awards should be based on scientific merit, citation impact, and peer recognition. Showcasing Indian scientists who are

already making waves globally ~ such as those listed in Stanford's top 2 per cent of cited researchers ~ can inspire others and build a culture of excellence. A total of 5,352 Indian scientists featured in the 2024 edition out of 223,252 scientists worldwide with China having the highest number of 10,687 ~ twice that of India ~ across all disciplines from physics and medicine to engineering and social sciences.

Innovation scheme aim to bridge the gap between laboratory research and commercial viability by using public procurement to create demand for indigenous technologies. Digital platforms like LabStack are also being developed to streamline R&D processes and improve collaboration across institutions. However, these efforts need to be scaled up and supported by a broader policy framework that prioritizes original research, industry partnerships, and global engagement. Over the past five years, Nobel Prizes in science and medicine have honoured discoveries that deeply reshaped our understanding of nature and health.

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WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN A SUPERFAST SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS - AJMER

Mumbai,
For the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passengers for the Urs Festival at Ajmer, Western Railway will run special train on special fare between Bandra Terminus - Ajmer station.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of this train is as

under:
Train No. 09063/09064 Bandra Terminus - Ajmer Superfast Special [02 Trips]

Train No. 09063 Bandra Terminus - Ajmer Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Wednesday, 24th December, 2025 at 12:15 hrs and will reach Ajmer at 06:15 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09064 Ajmer - Bandra Terminus Special will depart from

Ajmer on Thursday, 25th December, 2025 at 11:40 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:20 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Nadiad, Sabarmati, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Pindwara, Falna, Rani, Marwar, Sojat Road and Beawar stations in both directions.

WR TO RUN THREE PAIRS OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Mumbai,
For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, Western Railway will run three pairs of special trains on special fare between Bandra Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin, Vadodara - Kottayam and Sabarmati - New Delhi stations.

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

1. Train No. 04005/04006 Bandra Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Special [02 Trips]

Train No. 04005 Bandra Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Friday, 12th December, 2025 at 14:40 hrs and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin at 11:10 hrs,

the next day. Similarly, Train No. 04006 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Bandra Terminus special will depart from Hazrat Nizamuddin on Thursday, 11th December, 2025 at 13:35 hrs and arrive Bandra Terminus at 11:00 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam and Kota stations in both directions.

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

2. Train No. 09124/09123 Vadodara - Kottayam Weekly Special [08 Trips]

Train No. 09124 Vadodara - Kottayam Special will depart from Vadodara every Saturday at 09:05 hrs and will reach Kottayam at 19:00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 20th December, 2025 to 10th January, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 09123 Kottayam - Vadodara

Special will depart from Kottayam every Sunday at 21:00 hrs and will reach Vadodara at 06:00 hrs on Tuesday. This train will run from 21st December, 2025 to 11th January, 2026.

Enroute this train will halt at Surat, Vapi, Vasai Road, Bhiwandi Road, Panvel, Roha, Khed, Chiplun, Sangameshwar Road, Ratnagiri, Rajapur Road, Kankavli, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road, Thivim, Karmali, Madgaon, Karwar, Kumta, Murdeshwar, Bhatkal, Mookambika Road, Byndoor, Kundapura, Udupi, Surathkal, Mangaluru Jn., Kasaragod, Kannur, Thalassery, Kozhikode, Tirur, Shoranur, Thrissur, Aluva and Ernakulam Town stations in both directions.

The train will comprise First AC, AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

Gujarat MPs Unite for a TB-Mukt Bharat: Union Health Minister Calls for Stronger Grassroots Action

MPs from both the Houses, representing Gujarat, programme ownership—

holds the potential to



Addressing the parliamentarians, Shri Nadda highlighted India's remarkable progress in the fight against tuberculosis under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He noted that the country has achieved an approximate 21% reduction in TB incidence between 2015 and 2024, along with a treatment success rate of nearly 90%, surpassing global averages as reflected in recent WHO assessments.

The Union Minister underscored that Gujarat—owing to its strong health systems, rapid adoption of innovations, and robust

emerge as a leading State in implementing the next-generation TB elimination strategies.

Calling upon MPs to anchor constituency-level interventions, Shri Nadda outlined a set of specific parliamentary stewardship actions. These included:

Regular constituency scorecard reviews of TB indicators

Convergence with State departments to strengthen implementation

Institutionalisation of TB reviews through District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meetings

Time-bound resolution of

Other initiatives taken towards providing improved facilities for elderly, disabled and sick passengers include the following:

(i) In the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) there is a provision to allot lower berths to Senior Citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above automatically, even if no choice is given, subject to availability of accommodation at the time of booking.

(ii) A combined quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in Sleeper class, four to five lower berths per

coach each in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC)

classes (depending on the number of coaches of that class in the train) has been earmarked for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.

(iii) Instructions have been issued for earmarking a minimum of 07 seats for senior citizens in 1st and last 2nd class general compartment for entire period



of local train services on suburban sections of all Zonal Railways.

(iv) After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train and if any person with disability booked on the authority of handicapped concession or a senior citizen or a pregnant woman, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the on board Ticket Checking Staff has been authorized to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

(v) The following reservation quota for Divyangjan has been earmarked in all Mail/Express trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi type trains irrespective of the availability of concessionary facilities to Divyangjan:-

196 Battery Operated Vehicles Available at 79 Major Railway Stations, Prioritising Divyangjans, Senior Citizens, Sick Passengers, and Pregnant Women

Concessional Online Ticket Booking Extended to Divyangjan and Patients with Certain Illnesses; One Escort Also Eligible for Same Concession

Posted On: 10 DEC 2025 4:57PM by PIB Delhi

Wheelchairs are provided by Railways and are given to attendants of the Divyangjan, Senior Citizens etc free of cost to escort them from and to the trains. However, whenever attendants are not available, licensed porters (Sahayaks) can be hired on pre-fixed nominal rate to escort the Divyangjan etc. Information in this regard is

Strengthening of PACSs in Telangana

(Gns).

(a): Telangana has not been a part of the Computerisation of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) of Govt. of India so far, however, as per information received from the State, 830 PACS are covered under the Computerisation of PACS scheme/project of the Telangana State.

(b): As per information received from the State, non-Credit business turnover (Paddy Procurement in PACS is 14.45 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMTs) and Value of Business is Rs. 13,974 Cr. Sale of Fertilizer and Seed Distribution in PACS is 13.25 Lakh Metric Tonnes and value of business is Rs.29,390.37 Crore.

Ground Level Disbursement through PACS during 2023-2025 is Rs. 14,651 Cr.

(c): Yes. Audit for every

ducted by the Chief Auditor as per the information received from the State.

(d): As per the information received from the State,

ect. Total project cost incurred for computerisation of PACS was Rs.43,36,49,066/- in State Project. For establishment of Data Center/Data Recovery (DC/DR) and network connectivity for integrating the PACS software, Govt. of Telangana have released an amount of Rs. 2,46,88,000/- during the year 2018-19 and NABARD has also released a grant of Rs. 500.00 lakhs, as stimulus grant / assistance for the Computerization of PACS in the State. Cooperative Training Institute (CTI) of TGCAB has played an active role by imparting regular training to the PACS staff by conducting special sessions to train the PACS staff for technology adoption.



Awareness, Infrastructure and Enforcement Support

DoT is promoting digital safety and preventing telecom-related fraud through widespread awareness campaigns under Sanchar Saathi

Sanchar Mitras, who are student volunteers, have been engaged to educate citizens about digital safety, fraud prevention, and the use of the Sanchar Saathi portal and app

(Gns).

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has notified the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025 on 22nd October 2025.



The provisions for re-verification and disconnection of numbers existed prior to these rules and were governed by licensing conditions and instructions issued thereof. DoT has developed a citizen centric initiative Sanchar Saathi

which provides facilities including suspected fraud reporting, block your lost/stolen mobile handset, check mobile connections in your name & report unauthorized ones and check genuineness of mobile handset.

Based on report of citizens as 'Not My Number', 1.44 crore mobile connections have been disconnected after failing re-verification. Further, DoT through its ASTR tool detects mobile connections that were acquired through forged documents and has disconnected more than 86 lakhs such connections after they failed re-verification.

DoT is promoting digital safety and preventing tele-

com-related fraud through widespread awareness campaigns under Sanchar Saathi. Its outreach includes multilingual news articles and ads, digital screens and hoardings in public spaces, TV and radio messages, local-level activities by DoT field units, SMS campaigns with Telecom Service Providers, and extensive social media content such as explainer videos and infographics.

Sanchar Mitras, who are student volunteers, have been engaged to educate citizens about digital safety, fraud prevention, and the use of the Sanchar Saathi portal and app

(Gns).

Under the Government of India Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centers under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready, equipped with industry relevant skills.

To ensure the skills imparted through various scheme of MSDE are aligned with the industry requirements and technological advancements, the following specific steps have been taken:

(i) National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has been set up as an overarching regulator establishing regulations and standards to ensure quality in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) space.

(ii) The Awarding Bodies recognised by NCVET are expected to develop the qualifications as per the industry demand and map them with the identified occupations as

per the National Classification of Occupations, 2015 and obtain industry validations.

(iii) NCVET has approved 8693 qualifications as per the industry requirements, out of which 2266 qualifications are valid and active, and 6427 qualifications are archived for being not relevant.

(iv) 36 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), led by industry leaders in the respective sectors, have been set up which identify the skill development needs of respective sectors as well as to determine skill competency standards.

(v) Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of MSDE is

(vi) Under PMKVY, the new age/future skills job-roles have been specially aligned with Industry 4.0 requirements in areas like AI/ML, Robotics, Mechatronics, Drone Technology, etc. for upcoming market demand and industry requirements.

(vii) DGT has introduced new age /future skills courses in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) under CTS to provide training in emerging areas such as 5G Network Technician, Artificial Intelligence Programming assistant, Cyber Security Assistant, Drone Technician etc.

(viii) DGT has signed

MoU with IT Tech companies like IBM, CISCO, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Auto Desk and Future Skill Rights Network, to ensure industry linkages for the institutes at the state and regional levels. These partnerships facilitate the provision of technical and professional skills training in modern technologies.

(ix) MSDE has launched Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) a unified platform that integrates skilling, education, employment, and entrepreneurship ecosystems to provide a life-long array of services to key stakeholders. Details of the trained candidates are available on SIDH portal for connecting with potential employers. Through SIDH, candidates can have access to jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

Under PMKVY, real-time labour market information guides curriculum updates through the Labour Market Information System (LMIS), continuous industry consultations by Sector Skill Councils, and employer feedback collected after placements. These inputs help update Qualification Packs and National Occupational Standards to match emerging job roles and sector demand.

To ensure quality education and holistic development of tribal students, various facilities have been provided in these schools like Smart Classrooms and Modern Libraries, Science and computer labs, residential facilities for students and staff, facilities for extracurricular activities like sports, art and music, regular health check-up and vocational training. Regular training programs and workshops for Principals as well as teachers are also conducted to enhance their capability.

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Ukey informed that out of the 111 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) sanctioned in the State of Odisha, 47 EMRSs are functional and 64 are at different stages of construction.

Main reasons for the delay in the construction of EMRSs are non-availability of encumbrance-free land, lack of proper approach roads, topography chal-

lenges etc.

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) carried out its first drive for direct recruitment of 10391 posts through EMRS Staff Selection Exam (ESSE)-2023 on all India basis and selected teaching and non-teaching staff have been posted in various EMRSs. The notification of ESSE-2025 for filling of 7267 teaching and non-teaching

staff on deputation as well as on outsourcing basis so that academic activities are not hampered.



