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PRESIDENT OF INDIA ATTENDS A PUBLIC FUNCTION AT SENAPATI, MANIPUR

Dignity, security and growth opportunities for tribal communities of manipur and ensuring their greater participation in the country's progress is a national priority: president droupadi murmu

President urges all communities to continue supporting the efforts for peace, understanding and reconciliation

(Gns).

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, attended a public function at Senapati, Manipur, today (December 12, 2025). She also laid foundation stones and inaugurated various developmental projects on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that dignity, security and growth opportunities for tribal communities of Manipur and

their greater participation in the country's progress is a national priority. The Government of India is working closely with local leaders, civil society, and communities to ensure that development in the Manipur is inclusive and sustainable.

The President said that the Government of India is committed to ensuring that development reaches every corner of the country. The government is giving special attention to the development of remote tribal regions. In recent years, the hill districts of Manipur have benefited from focused investments in areas such as road and bridge connectivity, including national highways and rural roads, healthcare, education, drinking water,

and electricity supply. Livelihood programmes such as skill training, SHGs, and Van Dhan are improv-

ing the quality of life of people.

The President said that Manipur's strength lies in its diversity — its culture,



languages, and traditions. The hills and the valley have always complemented each other, like two sides of the same beautiful land. She urged all communities to continue support-

ing the quality of life of people. These efforts are a reflection of the Government's commitment to supporting tribal communities while respecting their unique identity and tradi-

and sustainable economic ecosystems. In particular, extensive discussions and consultations were held on opportunities for cooperation and B2B engagement in sectors such as Fisheries, Ports, Dholera SIR and Tourism. The discussions also covered the strategic advantages of participating as a partner country in the VGRC, along with avenues for enhanced networking and logistical facilitation.

Industry Commissioner Shri P. Swaroop shared details of the success achieved by the first VGRC of the North Gujarat region held in Mehsana and the MoUs worth ₹3.24 lakh crore signed during the event.

Representatives from foreign missions and embassies of more than 20 countries, including Russia, Israel, Singapore, UAE, Indonesia, New Zealand, Finland, Canada, Sri Lanka, Oman, Iceland, Guyana, Rwanda, South Africa, Qatar, Tanzania.

strengths of VGRC along with discussions on potential development-oriented sectors, the State Government organised an interactive dialogue session in New Delhi on Friday, 12 December.

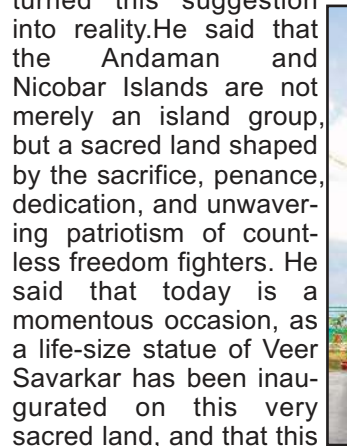
Aligned with the theme "Regional Aspirations, Global Ambitions," the dialogue session showcased Gujarat's strengths in fostering inclusive, innovative

leadership, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel has introduced an innovative approach by organising the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference to spotlight the unique strengths, capabilities and economic development potential of the state's diverse regions.

As part of the initiative to organise four editions of the VGRC to advance regional balanced develop-

ment and inclusive growth, the Saurashtra-Kutch edition of the conference is scheduled to be held in Rajkot from 10 to 12 January 2026. To attract domestic and global investors to this VGRC, and to present the

front of the global industrial map. The state has also established a prominent identity as the 'Gateway to the Future' for industries and investors worldwide. Building on this enduring success shaped by the Prime Minister's visionary



dialogue and interaction held in Delhi to promote Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference. Representatives from missions and embassies of more than 20 countries, including Russia, Canada and Singapore, participated.

A meaningful platform for dialogue on opportunities for cooperation in sectors such as Fisheries, Ports, Dholera SIR and Tourism. Gandhinagar, 12 December 2025 : Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, launched in 2003, has positioned Gujarat at the fore-

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel to Introduce an Innovative Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for Regional Balanced Development and Inclusive Growth

Inspired by the PM's Vision, the Success of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit Leads Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel to Introduce an Innovative Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for Regional Balanced Development and Inclusive Growth

The Regional Conference of the Kutch-Saurashtra region will be held in Rajkot from 10 to 12 January 2026

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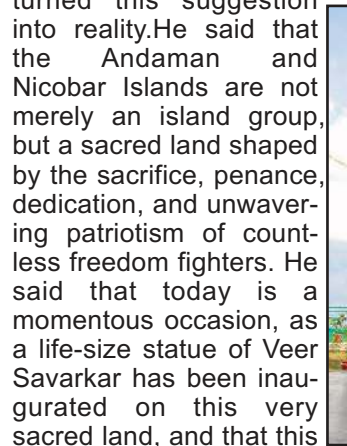
Shri Amit Shah, addresses a cultural program on the completion of 115 years of the poem 'Sagara Pran Talamalala' composed by Swatantryaveer Savarkar

(Gns).

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed a cultural program organized in Shri Vijayapuram on the completion of 115 years of the poem 'Sagara Pran Talamalala' composed by Swatantryaveer Savarkar today. On this occasion, many distinguished persons were present, including the Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Shri Mohan Bhagwat, and the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd.) Shri D. K. Joshi.

On this occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, said that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have today become a pilgrimage site for all Indians because it is here that Veer Savarkar spent the most difficult period of his life. He said that this place is also associated with the memory of another great freedom fighter of our independence struggle, Subhas Chandra Bose. He added that when the Azad Hind Fauj attempted to liberate India, the first place they freed was the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where Subhas Chandra Bose also stayed for two days. Shri Shah said that it was Subhas Chandra Bose who sug-

gested naming this group of islands 'Shaheed' and 'Swaraj,' and it was Shri Narendra Modi, who, after becoming Prime Minister, turned this suggestion into reality. He said that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are not merely an island group, but a sacred land shaped by the sacrifice, penance, dedication, and unwavering patriotism of countless freedom fighters. He said that today is a momentous occasion, as a life-size statue of Veer Savarkar has been inaugurated on this very sacred land, and that this inauguration has been done by Shri Mohan Bhagwat, the Sarsanghchalak of the organization that truly carries forward Savarkar Ji's ideology. He said that this land, as well as the memory of Veer Savarkar, is holy, and the unveiling of this statue by Shri Mohan Bhagwat makes the occasion all the more memorable.



Shri Amit Shah said that the statue unveiled today will, for many years, remain a symbol of Veer Savarkar's sacrifice, resolve, and unwavering devotion to Mother India. He said that for decades to come, this statue will inspire future generations to draw lessons from Savarkar Ji's life. He added that this place will become a major center for young

people to internalize the call made by Veer Savarkar. Shri Shah said that this will become a significant place for imparting to the youth



Savarkar Ji's message of courage, his sense of duty towards the motherland, his qualities of determination, and his vision of national unity, security, and a prosperous nation. He said that Veer Savarkar Ji's 'Sagara Pran Talamalala' is the pinnacle of expressing patriotism. He said that one sentence of Savarkar Ji is very important for his followers: that 'valor is not the absence of fear, but the conquest over fear.' Those who do not know fear are brave, but true heroes are those who know fear and have the courage to overcome it — and Veer Savarkar embodied this truth in his life.

Union Home Minister said that today a coffee table book was also released here, and an attempt has been made to

encapsulate all the qualities of Savarkar Ji in it. He said that today, many people who have carried forward Savarkar Ji's ideas have also been honoured here. He said that just as no one can dam the ocean, similarly it is extremely difficult to capture Savarkar Ji's qualities, the height of his life, and his multifaceted personality in a book, film, or poem. He said that several efforts made at different levels have provided a very important means for future generations to understand Savarkar ji. He said that a person's existence is not formed only by the body, but also by the ideology he follows, the culture that his soul considers supreme, and his actions, and, only India can truly recognise these three qualities of Veer Savarkar ji.

Shri Amit Shah said that today there is no need for anyone to become immortal or a martyr for the country, but there is still a need to live for the country, and only then can we build the India of Savarkar Ji's vision. He said that if our youth want to create the India envisioned by Savarkar Ji, then they should live their lives in their respective fields of work in accordance with the inspiration of Savarkar Ji, and their goal should be to build a secure and the most prosperous India. He said that when we look at Savarkar ji's life, it feels that such a

ing the efforts for peace, understanding and reconciliation. The Government of India recognises the

aspirations of the people of Manipur. She reiterated the Government of India's commitment to the well-

being and progress of the people of Manipur, including the people of this region. She said that we should

continue working together for a peaceful and prosperous Manipur.

Census 2027: Union Cabinet approves Rs 11,718 cr for gigantic exercise

(Gns).

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday approved the proposal to conduct the Census of India 2027 at a cost of Rs 11,718 crore, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a press statement.

Hailed as the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world, Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, with house listing and housing census from April to September 2026 and population enumeration in February 2027.

"For the UT of Ladakh and snow-bound non-syn-

chronous areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and states of Himachal Pradesh

2026," the ministry said.

According to the release, about 30 lakh field functionaries will complete the "gigantic exercise" of national importance.

The government will use a mobile application for data collection and a central monitoring portal to ensure better quality data. Field functionaries will visit each and



and Uttarakhand, PE shall be conducted in September

every household and have a separate questionnaire

MEA Urges Protection Of Preah Vihear Temple Amid Cambodia-Thailand Border Clashes

(Gns).

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has urged strong protection for the Preah Vihear Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, following reports of damage to conservation facilities during the ongoing clashes between Cambodia and Thailand. Responding to media queries, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen reports regarding damage to conservation facilities at Preah Vihear during the ongoing Thailand-Cambodia border clashes. Any damage to conservation facilities is unfortunate and is a matter of concern."

Taking note of the situation, the MEA appealed to both countries to exercise restraint, halt hostilities,

and prevent any further escalation. The ministry underlined that the Preah Vihear Temple is a shared cultural heritage of humanity, and India has been deeply involved in its preservation efforts. The official statement expressed hope that all necessary steps would be taken to fully protect the temple and associated conservation structures.



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has urged strong protection for the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Preah Vihear Temple, amid reports of damage to

conservation facilities due to ongoing clashes between Cambodia and Thailand; the MEA has appealed for restraint and cessation of hostilities, emphasizing India's involvement in preservation efforts.

The appeals come amid reports of rising tensions along the Thailand-Cambodia border, where clashes that began on December 10 involved artillery and rocket attacks targeting civilians. Both sides have accused each other of initiating the violence, according to local media.

Reaffirming its stance,

the MEA spokesperson said, "We once again reiterate our appeal to both sides to exercise restraint and to take measures for cessation of hostilities and prevention of further escalation. We urge them to return to the path of dialogue and peace."

UNESCO has also issued a call for urgent measures to protect the site, expressing strong concern over renewed hostilities between the two countries. The Paris-based UN agency reminded all parties of their obligations under international law, including the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

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Editorial

Thin Barriers

Australia's decision to bar under-16s from social media is rooted in an anxiety that now spans continents: parents feel they are losing the battle to keep their children safe online. The stories that propelled this move ~ relentless cyberbullying, algorithm-driven spirals of harmful content, and the inability of tech giants to meaningfully self-regulate ~ reflect genuine anguish. But as the law takes effect, its flaws are already visible. The ban promises order, but in practice it may offer little more than an illusion of control. The first cracks appeared even before enforcement began on Tuesday.

Teenagers, supposedly the targets of this sweeping reform, needed only minutes to bypass the system. Age-verification tools designed to underpin the law ~ facial scans, age inference, and digital ID checks ~ are inconsistent, easy to fool, and loaded with privacy risks. A parent's photograph held up to a camera, a cheap mask, or a VPN is often enough to defeat the very architecture meant to keep children out. What was envisioned as a robust digital checkpoint is shaping up to be a leaky sieve. Yet, the deeper question is not whether teenagers can outsmart the system ~ they can, and many will ~ but whether this model of protection meaningfully reduces harm. Forcing children off major platforms may push them toward less-regulated apps, anonymous chat sites, and fringe online spaces with weaker safety nets. The unintended consequence could be to expose them to precisely the dangers this law seeks to avoid. Larger platforms are imperfect, but their moderation systems, imperfect though they are, offer more protection than the digital back alleys young people may now explore.

The ban also risks overlooking the complex role social media plays in young lives. For many children, especially those who are isolated, neurodivergent, or questioning their identity, online spaces can be lifelines. Cutting off access without creating alternative avenues for connection risks compounding their vulnerabilities. A single age threshold ~ 16 ~ cannot capture the nuances of adolescent development, nor can it substitute for digital education that equips children to navigate modern life. What Australia's experiment ultimately demonstrates is the danger of mistaking a blunt instrument for a comprehensive strategy. Safety will not come from drawing a hard line at the login screen.

It will come from compelling platforms to redesign the mechanics of engagement, curb predatory algorithms, invest in moderation, and build guardrails that operate regardless of age. It will come from equipping young people with the literacy, self-awareness, and support systems needed to handle an online world they cannot realistically be kept away from. Australia's move reflects a society desperate for action and unwilling to accept tech companies' inertia. But real progress will require more than exclusion. It will require reshaping the digital environment itself ~ because the answer to online harm is not simply keeping chil

Defining Citizenship

The United States is once again confronting a question that cuts to the heart of its democratic self-understanding: who belongs, and on what terms? The Supreme Court's decision to hear the challenge to birthright citizenship ~ ignited by the Trump Administration's attempt to deny automatic citizenship to children born to undocumented migrants and temporary-visa holders ~ represents far more than a procedural dispute. It is a moment of reckoning with the country's own constitutional promises, its anxieties about immigration, and the political rhetoric that has transformed a settled principle into a fresh battleground. For over a century and a half, the framework has been clear.

The 14th Amendment of the US Constitution enshrined a sweeping guarantee of citizenship for anyone born on American

soil, save for the narrow and historically specific exceptions of children of diplomats and occupying foreign forces. This guarantee was designed to end the ambiguity surrounding the status of formerly enslaved people, ensuring that the circumstances of one's birth could not be wielded to deny full membership in the national community. Yet the amendment's clarity has not shielded it from reinterpretation by those who view the modern immigration landscape through a lens of threat rather than integration. The administration argues that the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" excludes those born to parents who lack lawful status or permanent ties to the country. That interpretation upends both longstanding legal precedent and the pragmatic understanding of jurisdiction that courts have

applied since Reconstruction.

More importantly, it singles out a subclass of American-born children for diminished recognition, not because of anything they have chosen but because of the legal identity of their parents, a move that risks normalising inherited inequality. The stakes could not be higher. Demographic analyses already indicate that ending birthright citizenship would expand the undocumented population sharply over the coming decades. Rather than deterring irregular migration, it could entrench a multi-generational category of people living in legal limbo, destabilising communities and stretching public institutions without offering any coherent solution to the systemic challenges of immigration enforcement. It would also unsettle the long-held assumption that the

Constitution restrains the state from constructing hierarchies of belonging based on ancestry or administrative status. The Court's eventual ruling will be pivotal.

Upholding the executive order would signal a profound retreat from the inclusive logic of the post-Civil War constitutional settlement. Striking it down would reaffirm that citizenship is a civic, not hereditary or bureaucratic, identity ~ one rooted in the nation's historical commitment to equal birthright. At a time of intense political polarisation, the decision will speak not only to constitutional interpretation but to the kind of society the United States chooses to be. The question before the Court is, in essence, whether foundational principles bend under contemporary pressures or remain anchor points in turbulent times.

One Country, Many Divisions

(Gns). Ahead of the visit of the President, and all European Union Commissioners, to India in February 2025, the Economist ran a leader "How India became an unexpected role model for Europe," that compared India favourably with the European Union (EU), which according to the Economist, had a 'sclerotic economy' and 'gridlocked politics'. There are, indeed, a number of similarities between EU and India: both are polyphonic and pluralist democracies, both are the antithesis of the modern nation state, which requires a common religion, a common language and a common enemy.

While India has twenty-eight States, EU comprises twenty-seven countries. Both have a common currency, a common flag and a national anthem ~ but the feeling of nationhood is missing in the EU. Also, like the EU, there are vast differences in income and productivity amongst Indian States. And much like the EU, inefficient regions of



the Indian Union, are heavily subsidized by hard-working States, courtesy the Finance Commission. As an aside, both Pakistan and Bangladesh are perfect examples of a modern nation state with a common religion (Islam), common language (Bangla and Urdu, respectively) and a common enemy (India), but both are on the verge of becoming failed states, while India and the EU are commendable success stories.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel distributes scholarship assistance of ₹370 crore to 13 lakh students under various education schemes

The Chief Minister noted that there was a time when very few village schools offered the science stream; today, that number

ment has provided over ₹1332 crore in assistance to more than 13.50 lakh children through these schemes.



has risen to 2,834. He further highlighted that Gujarat had only 775 colleges in 2001, whereas the state now has over 3,200 institutions shaping the future of students. He added that earlier, students pursuing the science stream in Std 12 had access to just 139 engineering colleges, a figure that has now grown to 288. Similarly, when Shri Narendra Modi assumed office as Chief Minister, Gujarat had only 1,175 medical seats, which have since expanded to more than 7,000. The Chief Minister also shared that, to support girls pursuing medical education, over 24,000 students have benefitted so far under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Kelavani Nidhi Yojana.

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi said that today, scholarship assistance of over ₹370 crore has been directly transferred through DBT to the bank accounts of more than 13 lakh students under four flagship schemes of the Education Department. He added that so far, the state govern-

who want their children to pursue the science stream are not burdened financially, the State Government introduced this important scheme, which has since benefitted thousands of students across Gujarat.

On this occasion, Education Minister Dr. Pradyuman Vaja stated that the Government of Gujarat is committed to building an educated and empowered society as the foundation for a Viksit Bharat through a Viksit Gujarat. He added that the Education Department is determined to guide the children who represent the nation's future in the right direction through quality education. The government's investment in education, he said, is not merely financial support but a robust foundation for Viksit Gujarat in the years ahead. These significant initiatives will open new pathways, new opportunities and new aspirations for students across the state.

Speaking about the transformative impact of the four major schemes prioritised by the Government of Gujarat, the Minister said that these schemes are shaping the bright future of lakhs of students. The Namo Lakshmi Yojana has become a powerful means of girls' empowerment. Under this scheme, assistance of ₹1033 crore has been paid via DBT to 10.49 lakh girls so far. As a result, there has been a significant rise of 73 percent in girls' attendance, and an increase of 13.59 percent in the number of girls enrolling in Std 12.

The Minister shared

that under the Namo Saraswati Vigyan Sadhana Yojana, assistance of Rs. 151.84 crore has been provided to 1.5 lakh students to enhance interest in the science stream, resulting in a 6.34 percent rise in enrolment. The other two schemes promoting merit- and quality-based education ~ Mukhyamantri Gyan Sadhana Merit Scholarship Yojana has provided assistance of ₹86.14 crore to 50,000 students, and Mukhyamantri Gyan Setu Merit Scholarship Yojana has provided assistance of ₹61.27 crore to 60,000 students. Minister said that these four scheme are building a bridge of knowledge (gyansetu) for the bright future of lakhs of students in Gujarat.

On this occasion, Minister of State for Education Smt. Rivabaa Jadeja said that education is the most powerful medium for bringing positive change in society and empowering every child, as affirmed by Prime Minister. Fulfilling this vision, today's programme stands as a historic and proud milestone, with the State Government extending assistance of Rs. 370 crore through DBT to more than 13 lakh students. She said that every child in the country embodies the dream of a bright India. Under the leadership of Chief Minister, the State Government is working tirelessly through initiatives such as Namo Lakshmi and Namo Saraswati to ensure the holistic development, education and well-being of children. The key objectives include providing

Ather Rizta hits 2 lakh sales milestone

~ Rizta accounts for over 70% of Ather's total sales

Lucknow, 12th December 2025: Ather Energy, one of India's leading electric two-wheeler manufacturers, today announced that its family scooter, Rizta, has crossed the 2 lakh sales mark. The milestone comes just six months after Ather marked the sales of its first lakh across India.

Since its launch in April 2024, Rizta has helped broaden Ather's reach beyond its southern strongholds, with newer markets responding strongly to the family scooter. The introduction of new options like the Terracotta Red and the Rizta S variant with 3.7 kWh battery, have also significantly contributed to the sales, further fueling this momentum. Ather's Middle India* expansion has come

largely on the back of Rizta, which has helped fill the gap to unlock demand in Middle India's consumer base. Rizta now accounts for over 70% of Ather's total sales.

Moreover, Ather has nearly doubled its market share in key states such as Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, which have grown from 7% in Q1 FY26 to 14% in Q3 FY26 (till Nov'25), Punjab grew from 8% to 15%, and Uttar Pradesh from 4% to 10%, in the same time period.

Given its wide acceptance, Rizta has played a significant role in accelerating Ather's sales and retail expansion across the country. Ather recently surpassed a major retail milestone of over 5 lakh electric scooters sold

across India, according to Vahan and Telangana Vehicle Online Sales data. Additionally, since Rizta's launch in April 2024, Ather has rapidly scaled its footprint, adding Experience Centres (ECs) across the country, to reach 524 ECs as of 30th September 2025.

Speaking on the milestone, Ravneet Singh Phokela, CBO, Ather Energy, said "Rizta has been on a roll from the very beginning, expanding our addressable market and enabling us to expand distribution aggressively, especially in Middle and North India. Going forward, our focus remains on strengthening product accessibility through deeper distribution, and building on this strong base."



Athrise Badminton & Chess Championship 2025 Kicks Off in Lucknow with High Energy and Massive Participation

Lucknow, 12 December 2025: The Athrise Badminton & Chess Championship 2025 commenced today at BBD Badminton Academy, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, marking the start of one of Lucknow's largest school-level sports celebrations. With over 1,500 players from 150+ schools competing in badminton and chess, the opening day displayed exceptional talent, high energy, and growing enthusiasm for structured school sports.

Lucknow is witnessing a remarkable rise in school-level sports participation, and the Athrise Championship stands at the heart of this transformation. From athletics to badminton and chess, the championship showcases the city's commitment towards creating a healthier, sport-oriented generation. In the qualifying U-19

Girls Doubles category, Aanamandita Shree and Prayaga Yadav from CMS



Gomti Nagar clinched the gold medal, displaying exceptional coordination, skill, and grit on court. Across other age categories, shuttlers in both boys and girls divisions played their Round 1 and Round 2 matches, featuring competitive singles and doubles encounters. The courts witnessed close battles, decisive smashes, and standout performances from emerging young tal-

ents.

The badminton as well as chess events will continue.

ue on 13th and 14th December 2025, with more matches and finals lined up.

Recognized by the Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association, the event showcased top-quality officiating and intense competition across age categories, reinforcing Athrise's mission of cultivating discipline, skill, and sportsmanship among young athletes.

Earlier, the athletics edition of the championship

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

Mumbai, 12th December, 2025

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. 09027/09028 Bandra Terminus – Ajmer Superfast Special [04 Trips]

Train No. 09027 Bandra Terminus – Ajmer Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Monday and Thursday, 22nd & 25th December, 2025 at 12:15 hrs and will reach Ajmer at 07:20 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09028 Ajmer –

Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Ajmer on Tuesday and Friday, 23rd & 26th December, 2025 at 10:25 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:20 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Palghar, Dahanu Road, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Ratlam, Mandso, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Bijainagar and Nasirabad stations in both directions.

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

The booking for Train No. 09027 will open from 14th December, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme Strengthens India’s Manufacturing Capacity and Export Performance

PLI Schemes Drive ₹2 Lakh Crore Investment, Boost Production and Employment Across 14 Sectors

(Gns).

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) programme, rolled out across multiple priority sectors, has materially improved domestic manufacturing capacities, attracted large-scale investments and supported export growth in participating sectors. As on September 2025, PLI schemes across approved sectors have resulted in realised investments and measurable increases in production/sales and employment — figures monitored and reported in periodic reviews.

Actual investment of Rs. 02 lakh crore have been realized till September 2025 across 14 sectors, which has resulted in incremental production/sales of over Rs. 18.7 lakh crore and employment generation of over 12.6 lakhs (direct and indirect). The impact of PLI Schemes has been significant across various sectors in India. It has also resulted in significant reduction in gap between the domestic manufacturing capacity and demand of critical drugs. Under the PLI Scheme for medical devices, 21 projects have started manufacturing of 54 unique medical devices, which include high end devices such as Linear Accelerator (LINAC), MRI, CT-Scan, Heart Valve, Stent, Dialyzer Machine, C-Arm, Cath Lab, Mammograph, MRI Coils, etc. India's position in the global pharmaceuticals market has expanded and it is the third-largest player by volume. Exports now account for 50% of production, and the country has reduced reliance on imports by manufacturing key bulk drugs like Penicillin G.

Domestic production of Mobile phones increased from ₹18,000 crore in 2014–15 to ₹5.45 lakh crore in 2024–25, a 28-fold rise. Import substitution of 60% has been achieved in the Telecom sector and India has become almost self-reliant in Antennae, GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) & CPE (Customer Premises Equipment. Global tech companies have set up manufacturing units, turning India into a major exporter of 4G and 5G telecom equipment. 84 companies under the PLI Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED Lights) are set to bring investments of ₹ 10,478 crore, strengthening domestic capacity in AC and LED segment.

Cumulative incentive amount of Rs. 23,946 crore have been disbursed as on 30.09.2025 under PLI Scheme for 12 sectors, namely Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM), IT Hardware, Bulk Drugs, Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals, Telecom & Networking Products, Food Processing, White Goods, Drones & Drone Components, Specialty Steel, Textile products and Automobiles & Auto components.

India's merchandise exports during April to October 2025 have demonstrated resilient performance despite challenging global conditions. Several



Department of Posts and BSE Sign Landmark MoU to Expand Mutual Fund Access Across India

(Gns).

In a major step towards strengthening financial inclusion and expanding access to investment products across the country, the Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, and BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12 December 2025 in New Delhi. The initiative is in line with the Budget 2025–26 announcement, which emphasized leveraging India Post's vast postal network as a catalyst for economic activity in rural and semi-urban regions. With its extensive presence across the country, India Post continues to play a pivotal role in deepening financial access and enabling inclusive growth.

This strategic partnership enables India Post to act as a distributor of mutual fund products through its vast postal network, significantly benefiting citizens in rural, semi-urban, and underserved regions. By combining India Post's unmatched last-mile presence with BSE Star MF, the country's largest mutual fund distribution platform, the initiative aims to democratize access to investment opportunities and promote wider participation in financial markets.

The MoU was formally signed by Ms. Manisha Bansal Badal, General Manager (CCS & RB), Department of Posts, and Shri Sundararaman Ramamurthy, MD & CEO, BSE, in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.

Under the agreement, selected postal employees will be trained and certified as mutual fund distributors, enabling them to provide investor services and facilitate mutual fund transactions through the BSE STAR MF platform. The MoU will remain valid for three years from 12.12.2025 to 11.12.2028, with provisions for renewal.



20th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage Successfully Concludes in New Delhi

(Gns).

20th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) successfully concludes at Red Fort New Delhi today. Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture in his address expressed India's deep satisfaction at hosting the prestigious global meeting and reaffirmed the country's sustained commitment to the protection, promotion, and celebration of living heritage.

Shri Vivek Aggarwal stated that the past days of deliberations and interactions allowed delegates not only to engage with the working mechanisms of the Convention but also to experience India's cultural richness, inclusiveness, and diverse traditions. He underscored India's long-standing civilizational view of culture as a collective inheritance, guided by the ethos: “संस्कृतो रक्षणं, लोकस्य रक्षणम्” in protecting culture, we protect humanity.

One of the highlights of this year's Committee session was the inscription of Deepavali on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Secretary noted that Deepavali, celebrated widely across India and beyond, symbolises light, hope, and renewal, and its inscription further reinforces the global recognition of India's vibrant living traditions. He congratulated all Member States whose elements were approved for inscription during this cycle.

Reflecting on the discussions held during the Session, Shri Aggarwal emphasised that intangible cultural heritage plays a vital role in sustaining communities, strengthening social bonds, and ensuring continuity of traditions, especially during times when globalisation, conflict, and climate-related pressures are impacting cultural ecosystems worldwide.

The Secretary noted that many countries expressed concrete interest in multinational intangible heritage nominations, acknowledging that numerous traditions naturally transcend national borders. India welcomed this collaborative spirit and affirmed



Cabinet approves Minimum Support Price for Copra for 2026 season

(Gns).

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for 2026 season. In order to provide remunerative prices to the cultivators, Government had announced in the Union Budget of 2018-19, that MSP of all the mandated crops will be fixed at levels of at least 1.5 times of all India weighted average cost of production. The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs.12,027/- per quintal and for ball copra at Rs.12,500/- per quintal for 2026 season.

The MSP for 2026 season is an increase of Rs.445/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs.400/- per quintal for ball copra over the previous season. The Government has increased MSP for milling copra and ball copra from Rs.5,250 per quintal and Rs.5,500 per quintal for the marketing season 2014 to Rs.12,027 per quintal and Rs.12,500 per quintal for the marketing season 2026, registering a growth of 129 percent and 127 percent, respectively.

A higher MSP will not only ensure better remunerative returns to the coconut growers but also incentivize farmers to expand copra production to meet the growing demand for coconut products both domestically and internationally.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) will continue to act as Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) for procurement of copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS).



Group of professionals and artisans offer prayers at Hanuman Ghat

Delegation visits Mahakavi Subramania Bharati's residence and learns about his legacy

(Gns).

The fifth batch of delegates, comprising professionals and artisans from Tamil Nadu, visited Hanuman Ghat today under Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0. They offered prayers and sought blessings for prosperity and well-being. After taking a dip in Maa Ganga, the delegates visited ancient temples along the ghat and learned about their historical and architectural significance.

Delegates then visited the residence of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati at Hanuman Ghat. They interacted with individuals associated with the residence and expressed interest in Bharati is acknowledged for his major contributions

After visiting Bharati's residence, the group proceeded to Kanchi Math, where they learned about its historical background. The delegates expressed enthusiasm at seeing a South Indian temple in the heart of Kashi.

V Chandrasekhar Dravid Ghanapathi, who guided the group, explained that the neighbourhoods around Kedar Ghat and Hanuman Ghat have housed South Indian families for generations. He noted that many families have lived in Kashi for five or even ten generations, embracing local traditions while preserving their own, creating a unique blend of North and South Indian culture in the city of Lord Shiva.



DFS streamlines and strengthens grievance redressal mechanism in banks, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sectors

Citizens to directly raise concerns against BFSI sectors thereby building greater customer trust in the financial sector

15 review meetings held; 300 grievances analysed to ensure high-quality resolution

CPGRAMS workshops with PSBs, PFRDA and RBI enables qualitative resolution with addressal of root cause

DFS boosts customer service by using digital feedback, performance rankings and NBFC outreach initiative

Posted On: 12 DEC 2025 5:31PM by PIB Delhi

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance has been undertaking several key initiatives aimed at streamlining the process of grievance redressal mechanism in Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) Sector.

Secretary (FS) has been personally reviewing twenty (20) grievances selected on random basis every month, wherein, the citizens are given an opportunity to raise their concerns against BFSI sector in the presence of Chairman/ MD & CEOs/Senior managements of the organisations concerned. Such an exercise had a salutary impact and helped in building greater customer trust in the financial services sector.

Till date, fifteen (15) such meetings have been held and three hundred (300) grievances have been analysed to ensure the quality of the resolution. Similar meetings are also held by Joint Secretaries of the department. Drawing from the experience, Chairman/MD&CEO of financial institutions are also conducting similar exercise at their level for their organizations. Objective is to assess the efficacy of grievance resolution through a 'dip-stick survey' at the top most level in the Department.

First round of Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) workshops on effective grievance redressal mechanism with all the Public Sector Banks were successfully completed for the year 2025. Workshop with Regulators i.e. PFRDA was held on 04.08.2025

which were attended by Grievance Redressal Officers, Senior Management and Ombudsmen across the Country. Such an exercise helped the Organizations to effectively tackle root cause of grievances thereby reducing & ensuring its qualitative resolution. Workshop with IRDAI and Grievance Redressal Officers of Insurance Companies are scheduled on 19.12.2025 at Hyderabad.

To ensure that branch staff of Public Sector Banks



DST hosts foreign media delegation, familiarises them with India's Science & Technology Advancements

(Gns).

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, hosted an interactive session with a visiting delegation of over 40 foreign media journalists from Central Asia, Europe, and North America, who are on a familiarization visit to India, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) from 9–18 December 2025.

The engagement was organised to highlight India's rapid progress, emerging leadership, and global collaborations in Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology Prof. Abhay Karandikar, took them through a presentation on India's evolving S&T ecosystem, major national missions, and the country's vision for Viksit Bharat @2047.

The Secretary emphasised India's integrated, mission-driven approach to strong research foundations, and expanding global collaborations, India is positioning itself as a future-ready innovation leader.

This was followed by an open discussion with DST's leadership on the areas ranging from India's progress in new technologies like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity to India's efforts to bring back Indian researchers back to science and technology, calling it “a whole-of-government engine powering India's innovation-driven growth.” India's science and technology ecosystem is undergoing a historic transformation. With mission-driven programs,



EXPORTS AND GLOBAL COMPETITION IN TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRY

(Gns). The Ministry is regularly monitoring India's export of Textile & Apparel including Handicrafts to the world. India's export of textiles & apparel (including handi-crafts) was US\$ 37,755.0 Mn in FY 2024-25 exhibiting a growth of 5.2% compared to the previous year (FY 2023-24). Further, India's Textiles & Apparel exports, including handi-crafts, stood at US\$ 20,401.95 million during April-October 2025, reflecting a marginal decline of 1.8% compared to the same period in the previous year (US\$ 20,728.05 million), yet indicating overall stability in export performance despite global tariff-related and other external challenges. (Source- Quick

Estimates, Department of Commerce). During April-October 2025, India's exports recorded positive growth in more than 100 countries compared to the previous year including key markets such as the UAE, U.K., Germany, Spain, France, Italy, China, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Japan-reflecting the resilience and diversification efforts of the Indian textile industry. (Source-DGCIS)

The combination of different factors such as product differentiation, demand, quality, contractual arrangements etc. would determine the impact of reciprocal tariffs on India's exports of textiles sector in global market. The

Government continues to work to mitigate the impact of the US tariff measures on Indian exports through a comprehensive multi-



pronged strategy encompassing intensive engagement with the US Government for a mutually beneficial India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, immediate relief through Trade relief measures of RBI, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters, enhancement of domestic demand through next generation GST reforms,

Export Promotion measures such as the new Export Promotion Mission which provide support and assistance to our exporters, pursuing free trade agreements (FTAs) with new countries and better utilization of existing FTA. Further, the Ministry is in regular consultation with exporters, export promotion councils (EPCs) and all other stake holders including MSMEs to assess the impact of US tariff on India's textiles & apparel export and other challenges.

The Government is implementing flagship schemes of PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks to create a modern, integrated, world class textile infrastructure.

V.C.E. (Village Computer Entrepreneur) will now receive a minimum payment of 20 rupees per unit for any task assigned by State Government departments

A compassionate decision by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel during the e-Gram Vishwagram Society's Governing Body meeting

Gandhinagar, 12 December 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel has adopted a compassionate approach to ensure rural youth working as V.C.E. (Village Computer Entrepreneur) earn better. He has decided that V.C.E. will receive a minimum of 20 rupees for every task assigned by the State Government departments.

To provide rural citizens with e-services similar to those available in urban areas through information technology, the State Government has implemented the e-Gram Vishwagram Scheme.

Services like providing copies of 7/12, 8-A, and

rights records, farmer registration, procurement of farm produce at support prices, issuing birth and

State Government departments assign data-entry tasks for different schemes to Village Computer

have led to a lack of uniformity in V.C.E. wages.

When this issue was brought to the attention of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, he promptly directed during the 12th Governing Body meeting of the e-Gram Vishwagram Society in Gandhinagar that V.C.E. wages should be made uniform.

Following the Chief Minister's directive, the Panchayat Department has issued a circular instructing all State Government departments to pay V.C.E.s a minimum of 20 rupees per unit for any task assigned to them.

Moreover, before assigning any work to V.C.E.s, the respective departments must inform the Panchayat Department and the e-Gram Vishwagram Society.



death certificates, income certificates, and filling forms for changes in ration cards are provided to rural citizens at the village level through Village Computer Entrepreneurs (V.C.E)

Entrepreneurs (V.C.E.). For each task, the respective department decides the commission to be paid per unit.

As a result, different tasks and varying rates set by different departments

Saral Jeevan India Foundation, Frontier Markets and Microsoft Partner to provide AI Skills to 30,000 Rural SHG Women under She Leads Bharat Initiative

Building a Scalable Model for India's 100 million SHG Women

Lucknow,— Frontier Markets and Saral Jeevan India Foundation today announced a landmark partnership with Microsoft India to empower 25,000 rural women entrepreneurs and 5,000 women trainers with AI skills, increasing their agency, growing their businesses, and unlocking new income opportunities in the emerging digital and AI economy. This initiative represents the first phase of a long-term joint vision to build an AI-enabled rural entrepreneurship ecosystem that can scale to 1 million women entrepreneurs and 100 million rural households by 2030, in partnership with the Government of India to bring the SHG ecosystem into the AI economy.

Under the NRLM, India's SHG network comprises nearly 9 million SHGs, with close to 100 million rural women as members — making it one of the largest women-led community networks globally. While rural smartphone ownership has surged in recent years — a 2023 survey showed ~74.8% of rural households had a smartphone, and a 2025 national survey found that 85.5% of Indian households now own at least one smartphone. This rapid digital adoption under-

scores the readiness and potential of rural women to engage with AI-enabled services, commerce, and financial inclusion at scale. While smartphone access

Saral Jeevan India Foundation and Frontier Markets, which has cumulatively empowered more than 40,000 rural women entrepreneurs, enabling

the Meri Saheli App, enabling existing women entrepreneurs to grow their income, diversify revenue streams, and build long-term business resilience through the productive use of AI.



has increased significantly in rural India, women entrepreneurs are not yet fully participating in the digital economy—especially in AI-led opportunities. This partnership is designed to bridge this digital divide and ensure that rural women are not left behind as AI adoption accelerates globally. By equipping women with AI capabilities and practical tools, the initiative aims to make them digitally confident, AI-savvy entrepreneurs capable of competing and thriving in today's markets.

The partnership builds on the work of She Leads Bharat:Udyam, India's leading rural women entrepreneurship initiative led by

access to over 10 crore essential solutions for 43 lakh rural households across more than 5,000 villages in five states over the last five years. The initiative was recently recognised by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and has been supported by Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth as Transformational Partner and other partners including 360 ONE Foundation, SAP, Apollo Tyres, Saint Gobain and others.

The partnership with Microsoft will further elevate and strengthen She Leads Bharat's existing network by integrating AI skills and use cases into

Through this partnership, Saral Jeevan India Foundation, Frontier Markets, and Microsoft will localize and integrate AI-skilling content and resources from Microsoft. This content will be translated into Hindi and Telugu and contextualized to meet the unique needs of rural women entrepreneurs in India, and delivered directly through the AI-enabled Meri Saheli App of Frontier Markets and WIDB platform. The developed assets will be shared with national and state rural development, skilling, and entrepreneurship departments and integrated into existing government systems, including the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and state-level SHG programs, which collectively reach over 100 million rural women mobilized across 9 million self help groups across India as of January 2025 as per Ministry of Rural Development .

Speaking on partnership, Ajai...

National Lok Adalat today, District Judge gives green signal to publicity vehicle

Mathura. District Judge/District Legal Services Authority Chairman Vikas Kumar flagged off two publicity vehicles from the District Court Complex, Mathura for the success of the National Lok Adalat to be organized today on Saturday. District Legal Services Authority employees and paralegal volunteers were present along with the campaign vehicle. Publicity vehicles spread the publicity of Lok Adalat in the city and rural areas. On this occasion, Ram



District Judge/District Legal Services Authority Chairman Vikas Kumar flagging off Kishore Pandey, Additional District Judge, Surendra

Prasad, Additional District Judge/Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Mathura and other judicial officers were present. The National Lok Adalat organized on 13.12.2025 is being publicized in the entire district. Surendra Prasad, Additional District Judge/Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Mathura has appealed to all the people to mark their case in the National Lok Adalat held today on Saturday and present themselves or with their advocate to get it resolved.

Tribute meeting of film actor Dharmendra to be held in Vrindavan today, BJP workers will pay tribute

Mathura/Vrindavan. Bharatiya Janata Party will organize a tribute meeting in Vrindavan in the memory of Dharmendra, husband of senior film actor and Mathura MP Smt. Hema Malini, after his demise.

This program will be held on Saturday, December 13 from 3 pm to 5 pm at Shri Krishna Janmashtami Ashram, Chandrodaya Mandir (opposite Akshaya Patra). MP Smt. Hema



Malini reached Mathura on Friday, she will attend the tribute meeting. BJP metropolitan media in-charge Shyam Sharma said that BJP workers will be present in large numbers and pay tribute to Dharmendra ji

Judicious use of Artificial Intelligence can be a boon for healthcare: Dr Jitendra Singh

Government and industry partnership key to India's biotech future, Minister highlights growing public-private collaboration in gene therapy and biotechnology

(Gns). NEW DELHI, December 12: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today emphasized that judicious use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be a boon for healthcare pharma sectors, while underscoring the gov-

ernment's strong collaboration with the private sector in emerging biotechnology and gene therapy projects.

Addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Pharma & Life Sciences Summit 2025, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the biggest transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has been that the government reaches out to the industry with equal enthusiasm, reflecting a true whole-of-government, whole-of-industry approach.

The Minister highlighted that AI is no longer a choice but an essential tool in diagnostics, drug discovery, and healthcare delivery. He, however, said that its use has to be human-centric. "The real challenge is how

effectively we integrate AI in a hybrid model that balances technology with human empathy," he remarked.

Citing examples from healthcare innovation, he said AI-based diagnostic models are now reducing time for culture testing from days to minutes, and telemedicine projects driven by AI are extending medical services to remote villages in local dialects, significantly improving patient confidence and outcomes.

Highlighting India's growing scientific and industrial capabilities, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the government is actively partnering with the private sector in frontier areas such as gene therapy, biotechnolo-

gy, and vaccine development. He mentioned that several Department of Biotechnology (DBT) initiatives now operate in collaboration with leading private firms to develop indigenous solutions in areas like synthetic antibiotics, DNA and HPV vaccines, and bio-manufacturing.

Referring to the government's broader research push, the Minister invited industry leaders to leverage the recently announced ₹1 lakh crore R&D Fund, which supports deep-tech projects across health, agriculture, and other sectors. "For the first time, the government is financing private companies for innovation — marking a paradigm shift in India's R&D ecosystem,"

Two lakh Anganwadi Centres located in Government buildings @ 40,000 AWCs per year are strengthened as Saksham Anganwadis under Mission Poshan 2.0

Poshan Tracker supported by dedicated Poshan Helpline no. 1515

(Gns). Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) is a Centrally Sponsored scheme being implemented to address the challenge of malnutrition. Central Government is responsible for policy and planning and the State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for day-to-day program implementation.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy is undertaken to educate people on nutritional aspects

as adoption of good nutrition habit requires sustained efforts for behavioural change. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under Jan Andolans during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively.

Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, two lakh Anganwadi Centres located in Government buildings @ 40,000 AWCs per year are

strengthened as Saksham Anganwadis for delivery of improved nutrition and for Early Childhood Care and Education in the 15th Finance Commission cycle. Saksham Anganwadis are provided with better infrastructure than the conventional Anganwadi centres with LED screens, water filtration system, Poshan Vatika, ECCE material and BALA paintings.

Under PM JANMAN for the targeted development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), a total of 2,500 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) has been sanctioned for construction across the country.

Under Dharti Abha Janjati Gram Unnat Abhiyan, to improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities, 875 AWCs have been sanctioned for construction across the country.

In order to improve the infrastructure facility of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) various steps have been undertaken by the Ministry that, inter alia, include increasing the fundings for drinking water facilities and toilets at

Anganwadi Centres from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.17,000/- and Rs.12,000/- to Rs.36,000/- respectively.



Poshan Tracker an ICT tool has been implemented for monitoring and tracking of infrastructure and service delivery at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and beneficiaries on defined indicators. Poshan Tracker is leveraged for dynamic identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence among children. It has facilitated near real time data collection for Anganwadi Services such as, daily attendance, ECCE, Provision of Hot Cooked Meal (HCM)/Take Home Ration (THR-not raw ration), Growth Measurement, Monthly Progress Reports (MPR) providing detailed insights into program performance, Daily tracking of AWC activities with photo capture for monitoring etc.

Poshan Tracker is supported by a dedicated Poshan Helpline no. 1515; a multilingual support system which ensures accessibility and complaint mechanism for beneficiaries and Anganwadi Workers across diverse regions of India.

Through sustained engagements and meetings at regular intervals, States and UTs have been requested to optimize coverage of beneficiaries including child beneficiaries and ensure efficient implementation of the scheme.

In convergence with Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education Guidelines for Co-locating Anganwadi Centres within Government Primary Schools have been jointly launched on 3rd September, 2025 to strengthen ECCE and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) services. The Guidelines specify the manner in which co-location of these AWCs can be done, wherever possible. In places where physical co-location is not possible, AWCs are to be mapped with the nearest primary school. This approach aligns with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to build a strong foundation for young and healthy learners.