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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

"For a stronger and more prosperous Gujarat, good governance is an essential foundation." - Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

PM Modi Conferred Oman's Highest Civilian Honour, Joins Nelson Mandela and Queen Elizabeth II

(Gns).
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday was awarded The First Class of the Order of Oman, the highest civilian honour of the Gulf nation, marking his 29th international recognition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received The First Class of the Order of Oman, the Gulf nation's highest civilian honor, on Thursday, marking his 29th international recognition, and he met with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to discuss bilateral ties and welcome the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

With this, PM Modi joins a distinguished list of global leaders that includes Nelson Mandela and Queen Elizabeth II.

The Order of Oman has earlier been conferred on several internationally respected figures such as Queen Elizabeth II, Nelson Mandela, Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, Japan's Emperor Akihito and King Abdullah II of Jordan. PM Modi's inclusion places him among a select group of leaders recognised for their contributions to bilateral ties and global engagement.

PM Modi arrived in Oman on Wednesday as the final stop of his three-nation tour. He was received by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik at the Al Baraka Palace in Muscat ahead of formal bilateral discussions.

The visit underscored the growing political and economic engagement

between India and Oman. India and Oman Sign Free Trade Agreement

During their meeting, PM Modi and Sultan

partnership. The agreement is aimed at expanding trade, investment and sectoral cooperation between the two countries.

enhance economic growth and generate employment," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"For people, CEPA means more jobs, better market access for businesses, stronger supply chains and greater eco-

nomic opportunities on both sides," Jaiswal added.

Wider Cooperation and Business Engagement

According to the MEA spokesperson, the two leaders also "exchanged views on a wide range of topics, including defense and security, trade and

investment, energy and agriculture, technology and emerging and new fields, culture and people-to-people relations, and more."

Regional and global issues were also part of the discussions, Jaiswal said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, PM

Modi addressed the India-Oman Business Forum, where he highlighted reforms introduced in India over the past 11 years that have strengthened its position as one of the world's most competitive markets, ANI reported.



Haitham welcomed the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), describing it as a key step in deepening the India-Oman strategic partnership.

"The agreement will increase the trade between India and Oman, boost investment, catalyse economic diversification, unlock opportunities in all major sectors of the economy,

Shivraj Chouhan Accuses Congress of Hypocrisy Over G RAM G, Says 'Ram on Lips, Dagger in Heart'

(Gns).
Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Congress, accusing the opposition of undermining parliamentary traditions during the passage of the G RAM G Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan criticized the Congress for undermining parliamentary traditions during the Lok Sabha passage of the G RAM G Bill, accusing them of transforming democracy into mob rule and betraying Mahatma Gandhi's ideals.

Chouhan defended the new bill, citing extended employment guarantees and increased central government funding, while responding to concerns raised by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Reacting to the chaos that followed the bill's approval, Chouhan said the conduct of opposition MPs had damaged democratic norms and reduced Parliament to disorder.

Referring to the scenes witnessed in the House after the Speaker cleared the bill through a voice vote, Chouhan said he was deeply disturbed by the manner in which the opposition protested. "I am distressed. My heart is heavy. Opposition has trans-

formed democracy into mob rule," he said while addressing reporters.

Opposition MPs, who demanded that the G RAM G Bill be referred to a



standing committee, entered the Well of the House holding photographs of Mahatma Gandhi. Some lawmakers also tore copies of the bill after Speaker Om Birla rejected further debate and proceeded with

the vote.

"Parliament is not a building of bricks and mortar... but a temple of democracy. Meaningful discussions should take place. I listened carefully to what our opposition friends said (during the debate yesterday) and today, I was supposed to answer all the questions," Chouhan said.

'Betrayal of Bapu's Ideals'

Condemning the protest, the minister said the actions of the opposition went against the very principles they claimed to uphold. "But the kind of undignified behaviour that was displayed... is a betrayal of Bapu's ideals," he remarked.

Reacting to the washout, Shashi Tharoor took to X to

highlight the stark contrast in air quality between north and south India during winter.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP pointed out that while the Air Quality Index in several north Indian cities had

crossed 411, Kerala's capital reported a far lower AQI of 68. He argued that shifting winter fixtures to the south could help prevent weather-related interruptions and spare fans from repeated heartbreak.

'How Will They Play If They Cannot See the Ball?'

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Tharoor expanded on his remarks. "How will they play if they cannot see the ball? That's why I am saying, this pollution problem is not there in South India. The ball can then be seen, we can play well and cricket fans won't be heartbroken," he said. His comments were widely shared, with many supporters echoing concerns over pollution and visibility issues in winter matches held in northern venues.

After the India-South Africa fourth T20I was abandoned due to poor visibility, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor used the moment to question winter scheduling choices and took a pointed dig at BCCI vice-

president Rajeev Shukla, suggesting that Kerala would be a better host during this season.

Fog Forces Abandonment of Lucknow T20I

The fourth T20 match of the five-game series between India and South Africa, scheduled at Lucknow's Ekana Cricket Stadium, was called off at around 9.30 pm after dense fog reduced visibility to unsafe levels.

Players were unable to continue as conditions worsened, leaving thousands of spectators disappointed. Fans later voiced their frustration over the

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Editorial

Conditional Peace

The latest round of diplomacy around Ukraine marks a subtle but consequential shift in how the war's possible endgame is being framed. For the first time, the emphasis is less on victory or defeat and more on risk management: how to stop the fighting without freezing Ukraine into permanent vulnerability.

The offer of "Nato-like" security guarantees, even without formal alliance membership, reflects an acknowledgement that Ukraine's core demand has always been deterrence, not symbolism. This matters because the failure of past ceasefires was not rooted in ambiguity but in imbalance. Ukraine disarmed itself of leverage while Russia retained both military pressure and strategic intent. Any pause in hostilities that does not decisively alter this equation would simply reset the clock for the next assault. Strong, treaty-backed guarantees ~ especially those ratified through domestic political processes in Western capitals ~ signal an attempt to correct that flaw.

Yet the diplomatic momentum also exposes a deeper unease: security is being discussed with unprecedented clarity, while sovereignty is being deferred. The question of territory, particularly in eastern Ukraine, is increasingly treated as a technical problem to be managed rather than a political reality to be resolved. Proposals for economic zones or special arrangements may sound pragmatic, but they risk institutionalising ambiguity where clarity is essential. A ceasefire that leaves control undefined may reduce violence in the short term, but normalises coercion as a tool of territorial revision. Ukraine's apparent willingness to compromise on alliance aspirations should not be misread as surrender. It reflects a hard-earned understanding that security on paper is meaningless unless it is enforceable, and that guarantees matter more than labels.

But flexibility has limits. Asking Ukraine to accept territorial withdrawals or asymmetrical concessions without reciprocal steps from Russia undermines the logic of deterrence that guarantees are meant to create. For the United States and its partners, the challenge is credibility. Security promises that depend on political will alone are vulnerable to electoral cycles and shifting priorities. Embedding commitments in binding frameworks raises the cost of backtracking, but it also demands honesty about what guarantors are prepared to do if deterrence fails. Ambiguity may be useful in strategy, but it is dangerous in peace agreements.

Europe's cautious optimism reflects both exhaustion and urgency. Another winter of war, marked by attacks on energy infrastructure and civilian life, sharpens the desire for a pause. But peace achieved by deferring the hardest questions is postponement. A settlement that secures borders only rhetorically while leaving them militarily exposed invites future escalation under worse conditions. The emerging talks suggest that an end to large-scale fighting is no longer unthinkable. That alone is significant. But the shape of that end matters as much as its timing. If security is strengthened while sovereignty is diluted, the war may stop without being resolved. The true test of the current diplomatic effort will be whether it can deliver both deterrence and dignity ~ or whether it settles for quiet over justice, stability over principle.

Choking Normality

Delhi's annual descent into a grey, choking winter is no longer an environmental anomaly; it is a predictable civic failure.

Delhi's annual descent into a grey, choking winter is no longer an environmental anomaly; it is a predictable civic failure. Each year, the city feigns reacting with urgency once the air turns visibly toxic ~ closing schools, halting construction, and restricting vehicles ~ yet the predictability of the crisis exposes the hollowness of these responses. When emergency measures become seasonal routine, they cease to be emergencies and start resembling an admission of defeat.

The most troubling aspect of Delhi's pollution crisis is not the severity of the air, but the normalisation of it. Residents have learned to read air quality numbers like weather forecasts, adjusting daily life around danger rather than demanding its removal. Children attend school online not because of floods or earthquakes, but because the air outside is unsafe to breathe. Courts shift to virtual hearings, flights are delayed, and visibility collapses ~ yet the city continues to function as if this is merely an inconvenience, not a public health emergency unfolding in slow motion.

The science is well understood. Fine particulate matter penetrates deep into the lungs and bloodstream, increasing the risk of respiratory disease, heart conditions, and long-term cognitive harm. Hospitals report surges in respiratory illness, including among otherwise healthy adults. And yet, policy remains trapped in a

VGRC's, District-Level Programme Organised in Morbi Under the Chairmanship of In-charge Minister Shri Trikam Chhanga

New Capital Investment of Rs. 2,470 Crore to Accelerate Morbi's Development
Out of 50 MoUs, five industrialists signed MoUs symbolically on the spot

Vibrant Gujarat Summit Attracts Global Industrialists to the State
Morbi's Development Driven by Entrepreneurial Spirit, Dedicated Workforce, and Progressive Industrial Policy : In-Charge Minister Shri Trikam Chhanga
Minister of State for Energy and Petrochemicals Shri Kaushik Vekariya Graces the event

Morbi, 18 December 2025 : A district-level Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference was held at Keshav Banquet Hall, Morbi, under the chairmanship of In-Charge Minister Shri Trikam Chhanga. During this Conference, MoUs worth Rs. 2,470 crore were signed between the District Industries Centre and 50 companies, of which five industrialists signed MoUs symbolically on the spot. The Vibrant Summit organised in Gujarat has emerged as a model and subject of study for several states across the country. By organising Vibrant Conferences at the district and regional levels throughout Gujarat, the state government is providing fresh momentum to local industries while simultaneously creating enhanced employment opportunities at the grassroots level.

District In-Charge Minister and Minister of State for Higher and Technical Education Shri Trikam Chhanga commanded the visionary concept of Vibrant Gujarat initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He stated that initiatives such as Vibrant Gujarat have successfully attracted industrialists from across the world to Gujarat. As investments are being realised through concrete implementation

rather than remaining confined to documentation, Gujarat has emerged as a leading state in industrial growth and employment generation. He added that the state government has systematically removed obstacles to industrial growth and positioned industries as active partners in the development process. Guided by the Prime Minister's vision, Gujarat is pursuing industrial advancement while ensuring environmental conservation. Praising the enthusiasm of Morbi's industrialists, he emphasised that such commitment is vital to realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. He informed that over the last two years, the government has provided assistance of more than Rs. 460 crore to over 1,200 industries in Morbi for the development of various sectors. He also noted that, in addition to the clock and ceramic industries, Morbi is rapidly establishing a strong presence in the toy manufacturing sector. Due to the highly enterprising industrialists and hardworking labourers, Morbi's development has gained global recognition. On this occasion, it was stated that the administration and the government are fully committed to resolving the issues faced by industrialists.

Minister for State for Energy and Petrochemicals Shri Kaushik Vekariya stated that the Vibrant Summit initiated in Gujarat under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He stated that initiatives such as Vibrant Gujarat have successfully attracted industrialists from across the world to Gujarat. As investments are being realised through concrete implementation

Narendra Modi is being effectively carried forward by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel. He emphasised that this initiative not only benefits

Morbi holds a special place in the industrial sector, and efforts are underway to attract more investment to the district. The government is ready to provide

President and industrialist Shri Jayanti Patel delivered the keynote address.

Additional Industries Commissioner (Extension) Shri R.N.Dodiya, delivered a speech and presentation, offering a detailed overview of investment opportunities in Morbi district and the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference to be held in Rajkot, and guided industrialists to take maximum advantage of it.

On this occasion, financial assistance was distributed to beneficiary industrialists by In-Charge Minister Shri Trikam Chhanga and other dignitaries. At the beginning of the programme, the dignitaries inaugurated the Local for Vocal exhibition and interacted with stall holders. A total of 18 stalls were set up, including ceramic paper cups and plates, fashion designing, electrical parts, and more. In the second session, a seminar by experts was held on GST, GEM, incentives, and labour laws. On this occasion, the attendees watched a video clip on Vibrant Gujarat.

The event was attended by MLA Shri Durlabhji Dethariya and MLA Prakash Varmora, Collector Shri K.B. Jhaveri, while welcoming the dignitaries and industrialists, said that Morbi's industrialists are full of enterprise. Nearly 3,000 factories provide employment to many people. Morbi has the potential to lead the entire state of Gujarat in the Vibrant Summit. He assured full administrative cooperation to ensure further growth of industries such as ceramics, coal, paper mills, clocks, salt, and others in Morbi. Thousands of labourers are earning their livelihoods in Morbi district. The Collector appealed to industrialists to use quality materials in machine maintenance to prevent industrial accidents.

Chamber of Commerce President Shri Jayanti Patel welcomed the confer-

alists, labourers, the state government, local office-bearers, and the administrative machinery. He further added that this Vibrant Conference provides industrialists with an opportunity to present their issues along with signing MoUs.

MLA Shri Prakash Varmora, in his keynote address, shared his views on Vibrant Gujarat and stated that Gujarat is continuously progressing due to the government's industrial policy and development vision. He said that guided by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the standard of living has improved in the state and the country. He emphasised the importance of positivity, creativity, and an active lifestyle. Additionally, he called upon the industrialists to enhance their skills, knowledge, and education.

On this occasion, Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce



In this event, 50 MoUs worth ₹2,470 crore were signed. Out of these, five symbolic MoUs totaling ₹1,024 crore were executed on-site. The five MoUs signed at the venue included a cement project with an investment of ₹500 crore, a renewable energy project worth ₹400 crore, and a fiber sector project with an investment of ₹100 crore.

Gujarat's industrial community but also creates substantial employment opportunities for local residents. Highlighting Morbi's status as a prominent industrial city, he noted that its ceramic, clock, and allied industries have earned global recognition. He further stated that the district-level Vibrant Conference would function not merely as a platform for signing MoUs with industrialists but also as an effective mechanism for addressing and resolving their pending issues. On behalf of the state government, the Minister invited citizens to participate in large numbers in the upcoming VGRC in Rajkot and encouraged the facilitation of a greater number of MoUs from Morbi district.

MLA Shri Durlabhji Dethariya stated that Vibrant Gujarat has made an invaluable contribution to Gujarat's progress in many sectors.

the necessary facilities to industries. He extended best wishes for greater global recognition of Morbi's industries. District Collector Shri K.B. Jhaveri, while welcoming the dignitaries and industrialists, said that Morbi's industrialists are full of enterprise. Nearly 3,000 factories provide employment to many people. Morbi has the potential to lead the entire state of Gujarat in the Vibrant Summit. He assured full administrative cooperation to ensure further growth of industries such as ceramics, coal, paper mills, clocks, salt, and others in Morbi. Thousands of labourers are earning their livelihoods in Morbi district. The Collector appealed to industrialists to use quality materials in machine maintenance to prevent industrial accidents.

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NCPA in collaboration with Citibank announces Scholarship for Young Musicians (Hindustani Music) 2026-28.

Lucknow, 19 December 2025 – The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai, has invited applications for the NCPA City Scholarships for Young Musicians 2026–28. This initiative is dedicated to fostering emerging talent in Hindustani music. The program will support advanced training in vocal traditions such as Khayal and Dhrupad, as well as in the flute, harmonium, violin, sitar, sarod, and several other instruments. Selected candidates will be contacted and invited to auditions, which will be conducted in February 2026 based on video recordings.

The resume should include complete information, including the applicant's name, date of birth, residential address, contact number, email address, and professional qualifications. It should also include a detailed account of the candidate's musical training—names of gurus or

teachers, total years of study, achievements, awards, previous scholarships, performance experience, and other important details related to their artistic journey.

Applicants are requested not to send scanned documents or audio/video files at this stage; a well-organized resume in the format listed will suffice.

Candidates selected for the next stage will be informed via email or phone.

For any clarification

regarding the application

process, candidates can

call 9082620065 between

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM,

Monday to Friday.

To be eligible, applica-

nts for Khayal and

Melody instruments must

be between 18 and 30 years of age as of March 1, 2026, while Dhrupad applica-

nts can be between 18 and 35 years of age.

Candidates who are receiving any other scholarship or grant in the field of music during the scholarship period from April 2026 to March 2028 will not be eligible to apply. Additionally, individuals employed full-time or part-time, and professional musicians—including 'A' grade artists of All India Radio—will not be considered for this program. Only Indian citizens can apply, and applications received after the deadline of December 20, 2025 will not be accepted.

The NCPA Selection Committee will review all applications, and its decision will be final.

"My biggest fear is that the world will find out I can't even boil water," says Isha Malviya from COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'

After bringing her 'Ek Number' energy to the initial episodes, Isha Malviya has emerged as one of Team Chhuri's most charming showstopper on COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment S3'. While the kitchen thrives on chaos with partners plotting mid-task pranks, ingredients vanishing right when things get serious, and last-second rescues becoming a routine, Isha has carved out a space that feels undeniably hers. Whether she's matching Elvish Yadav's cooking game or grounding the team with her intuitive reactions, Isha's natural ease in the middle of LC's signature inconvenience but a chronic public health threat. Until then, each winter will arrive with the same warnings, the same restrictions, and the same exhausted hope that next year might be different. Delhi is not running out of data or expertise. How has it been so far?

1. This season comes with the full Kaanta-Chhuri takkar, and it's your first time stepping into the Laughter Chefs kitchen. How has it been so far?

2. Walking into this kitchen felt like being dropped into the middle of a very lively group project where everyone already

knows the shortcuts. The minute action is called, you can see both teams switch focus. Team Kaanta tries to pick up speed, Team Chhuri tries to stay one step ahead, and in between all this, someone is already planning how to distract the other side. I didn't expect the competition to be so heated and fierce; one has to keep an eye on one's dish and on what the opposite counter is up to. What I enjoy is that there's always some banter, some challenge, some moment that makes you forget you're new to this. I feel very welcomed and included.

3. You, Abhishek and Samarth are sharing the same kitchen this season

despite everything that has

happened earlier. How is

the vibe now when all of you are working together?

A. Honestly, it's absolutely normal now. I'm not someone who avoids situations, and moving on

professionally was some-

thing that had already

begun for me when I did

Pati Patni Aur Panga with

Abhishek. So, by the time

Laughter Chefs came

around, it wasn't something

new or uncomfortable for

any of us. At the end of the

day, we're artists - whatever

feelings existed earlier, you

learn to put them behind

you and focus on the work.

My responsibility to enter-

tain people is far bigger

than anything that's hap-

pened in my past. I knew

the three of us would be

sharing the same space,

and I was completely okay

with that. And once you

actually step into this

kitchen, there's no time to

dwell on anything outside

the moment. The pace and

the energy don't allow it.

You find yourself helping

one another, laughing at

small things, and just doing

him. He's patient in a way most people don't get to see. Over time, we've found this rhythm where he kind of leads the dish, and I support the flow instead of tripping it. Our partnership shows in the outcome of each cooking battle.

3. You, Abhishek and Samarth are sharing the same kitchen this season

despite everything that has

happened earlier. How is

it like working with him?

A. Cooking with Elvish is honestly this strange

blend of comfort and chaos.

He walks into the kitchen

with this quiet confidence,

like he already has the

whole dish visualised in his

head. I, on the other hand,

walk in trying to decode

what the plan actually is. I

won't pretend there isn't pressure.

He's a former winner - people

expect things from him, and somewhere you don't want to be the reason the momentum breaks. But Elvish has never made me feel like I'm catching up to him. He's patient in a way most people don't get to see. Over time, we've found this rhythm where he kind of leads the dish, and I support the flow instead of tripping it. Our partnership shows in the outcome of each cooking battle.

ENERGY CONSERVATION WEEK 2025 CELEBRATED OVER WEST

Mumbai, ERN RAILWAY

Railways is taking significant steps to promote sustainability across its network reinforcing its commitment to energy conservation and environmental responsibility in today's rapidly evolving world. Continuing with this trend, Western Railway observed Energy Conservation Week from 08th to 14th December 2025 on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, which is celebrated every year on 14th December, with the aim of creating awareness about energy conservation and highlighting the initiatives undertaken by Western Railway.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, throughout the week-long observance, a variety of energy conservation awareness programs were conducted across all six Divisions, five Workshops and in the Western Railway Headquarters. These initiatives included seminars, distribution of pamphlets, public announcements at railway stations, SMS

alerts, display of banners etc. Participative activities such as essay writing and

the significant role played by Indian Railways and Western Railway in promot-



Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta - General Manager of Western Railway is seen along with Shri Pradeep Kumar - Additional General Manager and Shri Rajnish Kumar Goyal - Principal Chief Electrical Engineer.

painting competitions were also part of the celebration with the objective of sensitizing railway staff as well as the public about the importance of energy conservation.

As part of the Energy Conservation Week 2025 celebrations, a seminar was organized, which was chaired by Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager of Western Railway and was attended by the Additional General Manager, Principal Heads of Departments, Divisional Railway Managers, Senior Officers and staff members. This seminar highlighted

ing sustainable energy usage and supporting national and global climate goals.

Shri Vineet further added that, in recognition of meritorious work in the field of Energy Conservation for the year 2024-2025, fifteen railway officials were felicitated with Merit Certificates and Cash Awards for their outstanding contributions towards enhancing energy efficiency and implementing innovative energy-saving measures on Western Railway.

In his concluding address, Shri Gupta, General Manager, appreciated the sustained and dedicated efforts of the Electrical Department in planning, implementing and monitoring various energy conservation initiatives across Western Railway. He appreciated the department's proactive approach in adopting innovative technologies and in spreading awareness among the staff and stakeholders.

The General Manager also offered valuable guidance and suggestions to further sustain and strengthen energy conservation measures in the future. He emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring, adoption of newer energy-efficient technologies, increased use of renewable energy, and collective participation of all departments. He urged officers and staff to incorporate energy conservation into routine working practices to achieve long-term environmental as well as financial benefits.

Western Railway continues to remain committed to strengthening its energy conservation initiatives and fostering a culture of sustainability at all levels of the organization.

Western Railway continues to remain committed to strengthening its energy conservation initiatives and fostering a culture of sustainability at all levels of the organization.

Integration. Oman is an important strategic partner in the region and is a key gateway for Indian goods and services to the wider Middle East and Africa. Nearly 7 lakh Indian nationals reside in Oman, including Indian merchant families with a presence of over 200-300 years, contributing significantly to Oman's economy and society. Indian enterprises have built a strong presence in Oman, with over 6,000 Indian establishments operating across sectors. Annual remittances of around USD 2 billion further reflect the depth of economic engagement. Bilateral trade between India and Oman stands at

over USD 10 billion, with strong potential for expansion under the CEPA framework.



This is the 2nd Free Trade Agreement signed in the last 6 months after United Kingdom and is a part of strategy to sign trade agreements with

the airport, do you not show your face? You talk about Pakistan and 'Englishstan'. This is India and only Indian laws will work here. Nitish Kumar did nothing," he told journalists.

When asked about reports that the woman doctor refused to take the job following the incident, Singh responded bluntly, "Woh refuse kare yaah jahannum mein jaye (She can refuse or go to hell)," before walking away.

Opposition and Public Figures React Sharply

Singh's remarks triggered immediate backlash, particularly from Opposition leaders and activists. PDP leader Iltija Mufti, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, condemned the comments in a strongly worded post on X.

"Jahannum Mein Jaye": Giriraj Singh on Girl Refusing to Take Job After Nitish Kumar Hijab Row

(Gns).

Union Minister Giriraj Singh has stepped firmly into the political storm surrounding Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar after a controversy erupted over an incident involving a veiled woman doctor at a government event.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh defended Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's actions regarding his interaction with a veiled woman doctor at a government event, sparking controversy, while opposition leaders like Iltija Mufti condemned Singh's remarks, and the incident involved appointment letters for over 1,200 AYUSH doctors.

Singh not only defended Kumar's actions but also sparked fresh outrage with his sharp remarks aimed at the woman who reportedly

refused to accept her appointment letter.

The controversy has intensified political sparring between the ruling alliance and the Opposition, while



drawing strong reactions from leaders across party lines and civil society.

Giriraj Singh Backs Nitish Kumar, Sparks Outrage

Speaking to reporters, Giriraj Singh reiterated his support for Nitish Kumar, asserting that the Chief

Minister had done nothing inappropriate. Drawing parallels with routine identity checks, Singh said face verification is a basic requirement in many official

processes.

"Nitish Kumar has done nothing wrong," Singh said.

"If anyone goes to take an appointment letter, should they not show their face? Is this an Islamic nation? Nitish ji was acting as a guardian. If you go to take your passport, or go to

India and Oman sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

(Gns).

India and Oman have taken a significant step in building a stronger economic partnership with the signing of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement today under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion H.E. Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef signed the agreement.

This Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) marks an important milestone in India's engagement with the Gulf region and reflects the shared commitment to deepen bilateral economic

developed economies that are not competing with our labour-intensive interests and provide opportunities for Indian businesses.

The CEPA secures unprecedented tariff concessions for India from Oman. Oman has offered zero-duty access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports to Oman. All major labour-intensive sectors including Gems & Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and Automobiles receive full tariff elimination. Out of the above, immediate tariff elimination is being offered on 97.96% Tariff Lines.

Journalists mobilized over the indecent remarks made by narrator Anirudracharya towards the media, submitted a memorandum to the District Magistrate.

Mathura. Recently, there is deep anger in the journalist community over the indecent, derogatory and indecent remarks made by the narrator Anirudracharya towards the media and journalists while narrating the story from the public platform.

In this regard, on

Thursday morning, under the joint aegis of Uttar Pradesh Shramjeevi Journalist Union and Vrindavan Media Club, hundreds of journalists of the district took out a procession at the District Magistrate's office carrying placards in their hands with enthusiastic slogans of "Anirudracharya Murdabad", "Journalist Unity Zindabad" along with narrator Anirudracharya while raising slogans against, a letter has been sent to the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh Government

through the District Magistrate, Mathura, informing them about the whole matter and demanding appropriate and strict action against the culprit, so that such indecent statements are not repeated in future. In this

regard,

President of

Uttar Pradesh

Shramjeevi

Journalist

Union,

Narendra

Bhardwaj said that media is the fourth pillar of democracy and this kind of comment on its role is not only

against decorum, but is also an insult to democratic values. He said that if Anirudracharya did not apologize, there would be agitation in the entire state.

Vrindavan Media Club

President Premendra

Asthana said that

Anirudracharya's absurd

statement has hurt the sentiments of journalists which is unbearable.

Journalist society has

made it clear that there will

be no compromise on the dignity and respect of journalism and the administration is expected to take the matter seriously and take necessary action soon. District Magistrate



Chandraprakash Singh said that freedom of expression does not allow anyone to indulge in obscenity. He said that considering the memorandum sympathetically, further strict action will be taken. Prominent among those who gave memorandum were journalists Narendra Bhardwaj, Pawan Navratna, Ajay Sharma, Kishan Chaturvedi, Vineet Mishra, Dr. Vijay Vidyarthi, Dilip Chaturvedi, Nitin Gautam, Omar Qureshi, Anupam Acharya, Manmohan Pareek, and others.

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Chandraprakash Singh

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Maha Sports Minister Kokate resigns as Bombay HC set to hear plea to stay conviction today

(Gns). Maharashtra Sports Minister Manikrao Kokate, who has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment in a 1995 forgery and cheating case, resigned from his post on Thursday.

Kokate has also sought a stay on his conviction to continue serving as an elected representative, and the Bombay High Court has agreed to hear his plea on Friday, December 19.

The Representation of the People Act, 1951, mandates the disqualification of elected representatives sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more in a criminal case.

After accepting Kokate's resignation on Thursday, NCP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar tweeted from his X account, "Maharashtra cabinet minis-

ter and my party colleague Manikrao Kokate submitted his resignation to me after the court's decision. In keeping with our party's long-standing philosophy that the rule of law is supreme and above all individuals, the resignation has been accepted in principle."



upholds democratic values and public trust."

The development came after Kokate was stripped of his portfolios on Wednesday, after which Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat resigned these to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

In a letter addressed to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Governor Devvrat said, "I have received your letter dated December 17, 2025, recommending that the portfolio of Sports and Youth Welfare, Minority Development and Aukaf held by Adv. Manikrao Saraswati Shivaji Kokate be allocated to Shri Ajit Ashatai Anantrao Pawar,

Deputy Chief Minister (Finance and Planning, State Excise). I hereby convey my approval to your abovementioned recommendation."

Earlier, the Nashik Sessions Court upheld Kokate's two-year sentence in a 1995 fraud and forgery case, as well as issued an arrest warrant against him.

Manikrao Kokate is currently undergoing treatment at Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai. It is not immediately known whether Kokate will be arrested from Lilavati Hospital itself.

Nashik Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik has sought detailed information on the matter from senior police officers, and various options are being examined, sources said.

In a manner that

pivotal role in promoting transparency, financial discipline and good governance. He said it was a

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Shukla noted that the institution has been regarded

administration.

"As auditors, your role goes far beyond financial scrutiny. Every audit you conduct opens doors for systemic improvement, strengthens governance and enhances the quality of public service delivery," the Governor said.

He added that the credibility of governance largely depends on the integrity and effectiveness of audit institutions.

Referring to the global stature of the CAG of India, the Governor said the institution's responsibility for auditing major international organisations, such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization, reflects India's credibility and growing influence on the global stage.

matter of pride for trainee officers to receive professional training from such a prestigious institution, which has shaped generations of officers committed to upholding public accountability.

Highlighting the constitutional importance of the

as one of the most vital constitutional offices since the framing of the Constitution.

He reminded the trainees that they were joining an organisation entrusted with safeguarding public resources and ensuring accountability in public

Themed "Inspiring Health Innovation for Odisha and Beyond", the event engaged over 150 healthcare entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, academicians, professionals, aspiring entrepreneurs and students, strengthening the state's path to becoming a healthcare innovation hub.

The participants showed gratitude towards Startup Odisha for organizing such an inspiring and informative event and expressed their excitement for the Conclave.

Dr. Amit Kumar Dinda, former Chief Coordinator of

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel holds review meeting to assess the State Government departments' budget expenditure

CM Directs Departments to Strengthen Planning and Meet Timelines: Also to Implement Quality Assurance similar to Urban Development's Quality Cell

Gandhinagar, 18 December 2025: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel conducted a high-level meeting in Gandhinagar to review the expenditure incurred by all State Government departments against the 2025-26 budget up to November 2025.

During the review, the Chief Minister conducted a comparative assessment of departmental expenditure under the budget up to November 30, 2025, and expressed satisfaction over the increase in spending against this year's budget provisions compared to the previous year.

Furthermore, he directed all departments to strengthen their planning to ensure that prescribed procedures are completed within stipulated timelines and that further improvements in expenditure are achieved in the first quarter of the coming year.

Finance Minister Shri

Kanubhai Desai, Minister of State for Transport and Forest-Environment Shri Pravin Mali, Principal Advisor to the Chief

suggestions made was conducted.

He specifically recommended systematic testing and quality monitoring for

ly manner. Advocating that the concerned departments utilise the data available with them to ensure smooth implementation of such schemes, CM instructed that emphasis should also be placed on timely expenditure against provisions of centrally sponsored schemes and that necessary follow-up be undertaken by completing subsequent allied processes to secure maximum funding from the Government of India.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel also instructed senior secretaries of the concerned departments to function in a manner that ensures benefits genuinely reach the beneficiaries and to expedite the completion of projects at the planning stage so as to ensure effective implementation.

Principal Secretary of the Finance Department expressed gratitude to all those present at the review meeting and assured that the Finance Department, together with all other departments,

Minister Dr Hasmukh Adhia, Chief Secretary Shri M. K. Das, Advisor to the Chief Minister Shri S. S. Rathore, and Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and Secretaries of all departments attended the meeting.

In this earlier meeting

held as part of the initiative launched by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel to review departmental expenditure against budget allocations and provide necessary guidance, a comprehensive review of the steps taken by departments to improve the quality of spending based on the

Healthcare Startup conclave envisions Odisha as future hub of impactful healthcare solutions

(Gns).

The two-day Healthcare Startup Conclave 2025, organized by Startup Odisha, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Department concluded here on Thursday, catalyzing connections and knowledge-sharing in positioning Odisha as a future hub for affordable and impactful healthcare solutions.

All India Institute of Medical Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIMIE),

Scalable and Sustainable Health Innovations", moderated by Dr. Abhishek

Experiences: Lessons from the Field," featuring founders Dr Padmaja Mohanty (Elmentoz Research), Dr Soubhagya Ranjan Kar (Prime Oral Care India LLP), and Dr Ashok Kumar Badamali (Infinity R&D Pvt. Ltd.), who shared candid challenges on funding, regulation, and scaling.

Throughout the conclave, the interactive "1 Problem 1 Solution Wall" fostered collaborative problem-solving, while the Mini Product Display showcased innovations from healthcare startups, sparking engagements between founders, investors, and clinicians.

The event concluded by affirming the conclave's role in building a supportive community for healthcare innovators. Startup Odisha announced plans for follow-up sessions to provide continued sector-specific support, leveraging Odisha's strengths in medical institutions and biodiversity.

illuminated emerging biotechnology opportunities and the BioE3 Policy. Dr. Sandeep Goyal, Venture Capitalist and Associate Vice President, decoded the investment landscape, outlining pathways from prototype to market. Dr. T. Pavan Kumar, Principal Scientist at INTEC, IMMT, provided a masterclass on Intellectual Property protection, guiding startups on patents and strategy. The day culminated in a dynamic panel on "Building

Gautam, Founder of Ambula, and featuring Dr. Dinda, Dr. Goyal, and Dr. Pavan Kumar.

Day Two shifted focus to clinical collaboration and entrepreneurial journeys. Dr. Kanhaiya Agrawal, Head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, delivered a special address, emphasizing the importance of clinical partnerships for innovative solutions. The highlight was an insightful panel, "Early-Stage Health Startup

Himachal Guv stresses Centre-State coordination to strengthen public accountability

(Gns).

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Thursday inaugurated the induction training programme of the 2025 batch of Officer Trainees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS), along with officers from Bhutan and the Maldives, at Yarrows in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.

Emphasising the importance of close cooperation between the Centre and State Governments, he highlighted the critical role of financial accountability in strengthening governance and contributing to nation-building.

Recalling the rich legacy of the National Academy of Audit and Accounts (NAAA) since its establishment in 1950, the Governor said the Academy has played a



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as one of the most vital constitutional offices since the framing of the Constitution.

He reminded the trainees that they were joining an organisation entrusted with safeguarding public resources and ensuring accountability in public

On the second day, the cold is expected to persist across large parts of the state. Many districts may continue to experience cold-day conditions, with some even seeing serious cold-day situations. Dense fog in the morning could affect traffic. On the third day, chances of relief from cold and fog remain low, particularly in the Terai region, where very dense fog and chills are likely to persist.

The Meteorological Department has advised the general public not to go out unnecessarily in the morning and late at night, wear warm clothes, and take special care of the elderly and children. Drivers have been asked to drive at a slow speed during fog, use fog lights, and maintain a safe distance.

According to the IMD, from late night to early morning, most parts of the

can be less than 50 metres in many places. This may affect road, rail, and air traffic. The Meteorological Department says that on the first day, cold weather conditions are expected in many districts of east and central Uttar Pradesh, along with dense fog. Dense fog may also cover some districts.

Interlocking (EI) alterations at six stations—Haripurgram, Sakhigopal,

of the upgraded signalling architecture.

Since the award of the tender in November 2024, the project has recorded substantial progress. Commissioning has already been completed at Khurda Road, Haripurgram, Motari and Delang stations, along with three level crossing gates at KP-5, KP-9 and KP-11 in the section.

The entire Double Distant Signaling work in the Khurda Road-Puri section is targeted for completion by January 2026. Upon completion, trains will be able to operate safely at enhanced speeds of up to 130 kmph, resulting in reduced travel time, improved punctuality.

IMD sounds alert for severe cold, cold day and dense fog in UP

(Gns).

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted severe cold in Uttar Pradesh over the next three days.

According to the Meteorological Department, intense cold may prevail in most parts of the state from December 18 to December 21, and visibility may be very low in the morning.

Dr AK Singh, Scientist at the Meteorological Department, said that due to adverse conditions in the lower atmosphere, northwesterly cold winds, and the effect of Western Disturbance, the minimum and maximum temperatures are being closely monitored across the state. The cold will be felt especially in the Terai region and the plains.

According to the IMD, from late night to early morning, most parts of the



to 10 degrees Celsius or lower and is below normal by 4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius, it is called a cold day. On the other hand, if the maximum temperature drops to 6.5 degrees Celsius or lower, it is considered a serious cold day.

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Khurda Road-Puri Rail tourist corridor logs significant progress in distant signaling works

(Gns).

East Coast Railway has achieved noteworthy progress in the ongoing "Provision of Double Distant Signaling (DDS) Work in the Khurda Road-Puri section of Khurda Road Division," a critical safety and capacity enhancement project sanctioned during the financial year 2024-25.

This important initiative is aimed at enhancing passenger safety, improving operational efficiency and enabling higher permissible train speeds on this vital rail corridor.

The Double Distant Signaling System is being implemented to facilitate an increase in sectional speed up to 130 kmph. By providing

interior and exterior view of the train, the system will help in better anticipation of signal aspects, smoother speed regulation and safer high-speed train operations, especially on a busy passenger and pilgrim route like Khurda Road-Puri.

The Signaling & Telecommunication (S&T) component of the project involves extensive upgrading across the section, covering 08 stations, 10 level crossing gates and one Intermediate Block Hut. As part of system integration, major signalling modifications have been undertaken, including Electronic



Jio Air Fiber

Jio Tv +

Jio Fiber

Daily Hunt

ebaba Tv

Dish Plus



DTH live OTT



Rock TV



Airtel



Amezone Fire



Roku TV-US.UK

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