



## Editorial

### Aviation Turmoil Unleashed

Every few years, India gets a reminder of just how fragile its aviation ecosystem really is. This time, it took a week-long meltdown at IndiGo, a prominent airline service, hundreds of cancellations, airports reduced to holding zones for luggage, and passengers stranded across the country, to expose a truth policymakers prefer to ignore: when a major chunk of the market is controlled by just two airlines, one company's internal crisis becomes a national emergency. IndiGo's shortage of pilots, triggered by the rollout of long-delayed fatigue-management rules, should have disrupted one airline. Instead, it paralysed India's entire aviation network.

Fares shot up to Rs40,000-80,000, refunds lagged for days, and alternative carriers simply didn't have the capacity to absorb the shock. In a competitive market, passengers would have options. In India's duopolistic one, they had none. The fatigue rules themselves were not the villain. Pilot exhaustion is a well-documented safety threat globally, and aligning India's Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) with international norms is long overdue. But the transition was mishandled on every side. Regulators announced the rules almost two years ago, then delayed and re-delayed their enforcement, only to push through implementation abruptly, leaving airlines scrambling. IndiGo, famous for tight turnarounds and a "lean-staffing" model, underestimated how many additional pilots it needed. The regulator underestimated how quickly a brittle system can collapse.

This combination, poor planning meets a market with almost no buffers, is why passengers ended up paying the price. What's missing from the conversation is the structural cause: India's aviation sector lacks depth. When just two airlines, IndiGo and Air India, hold over 90 per cent of market share, the entire system depends on their ability to function flawlessly. No modern industry should operate on this kind of razor's edge. The German aviation sector didn't collapse when Lufthansa suffered an IT system outage. The US doesn't grind to a halt when Delta faces a staffing shortfall. In those markets, multiple players create resilience. In India, passengers face a system where when "one airline falters, everyone suffers." And consumers suffered immensely.

People missed job interviews, medical appointments and weddings. Some reached airports at dawn only to discover their flights cancelled with no SMS alert. Refunds trickled in only after government orders. A country aiming to become the world's third largest aviation market cannot operate with outdated passenger protection norms. India needs a clear and enforceable Air Passenger Bill of Rights, one that guarantees automatic funds, timely alerts and fair compensation for last minute cancellations, without burdening airlines under knee-jerk regulations. But consumer rights alone won't fix a market with too little competition. For genuine resilience, India must remove barriers that make it hard for new airlines to scale: high ATF taxes that erode margins, slot allocation policies that reward in cumb ents, and regulatory unpredictability that discourages investment. The government says India has room for five major airlines.

That won't happen without policy reforms that make market entry easier and ensure a level playing field. IndiGo's crisis wasn't just about fatigue rules or rostering miscalculations. It was a stress test for the entire sector, and the system failed. India's aviation future depends on embracing what every competitive, consumer-friendly market eventually learns: choice is stability. The more players in the sky, the fewer passengers will ever be stranded because one airline miscalculated. If India wants a resilient aviation ecosystem, it must stop fire-fighting and start enabling competition. The skies need more carriers, more capacity, and more consumer choice. Otherwise, this won't be the last time passengers pay for a crisis they didn't create. (The writer is Indian Policy Associate, Consumer Choice Center.)

## Atal Netrutra, Avirat Vikas, Sushasan Thaki Samruddh Khedut

**Under Kisan Suryoday Yojana, Daytime Electricity Reaches Over 98% Villages, Benefiting More Than 19 Lakh Farmers**  
GETCO to Set Up Five New Substations and Strengthen 1,100 CKM Transmission Network in 2026-27 at an Estimated Cost of ₹1,000 Crore

**Over ₹5,000 Crore Invested by State Government in 40 New Substations, 4,640.73 CKM Transmission Lines and 3,927.72 CKM MVCC Works**

**All Farmers in the State to Receive Electricity During Daytime Hours for Irrigation by March 2026: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel**

Gandhinagar, 22 December 2025 : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasised that good governance lies in transparently delivering farmer-centric schemes, as India's progress depends on farmers being prosperous, secure, and self-reliant. Under the strong good governance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, the state government is successfully delivering farmer-centric schemes to all farmers. A prime example of this is the Kisan Suryoday Yojana (KSY), through which 17,018 villages, that is 98.66 percent of the villages in the state, are now receiving electricity during daytime hours. Under this

scheme, 19.69 lakh farmers in Gujarat are benefiting from daytime power supply.

Speaking about Gujarat's success in providing electricity to farmers during daytime hours, Chief Minister said, "Due to the agriculture-friendly policies of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his sensitivity towards farmers, nearly 98 percent of the farmers in the state are now receiving electricity during the day. Those who are yet to be covered will also start receiving daytime electricity by March 2026, and this mission will be completed. This was a very significant decision taken by the Honourable Prime Minister, and the fact that we have been able to fulfil it is a matter of joy for all of us. With farmers receiving adequate water and electricity, the entire landscape of the state's agricultural sector has been completely transformed, leading to greater prosperity for farmers."

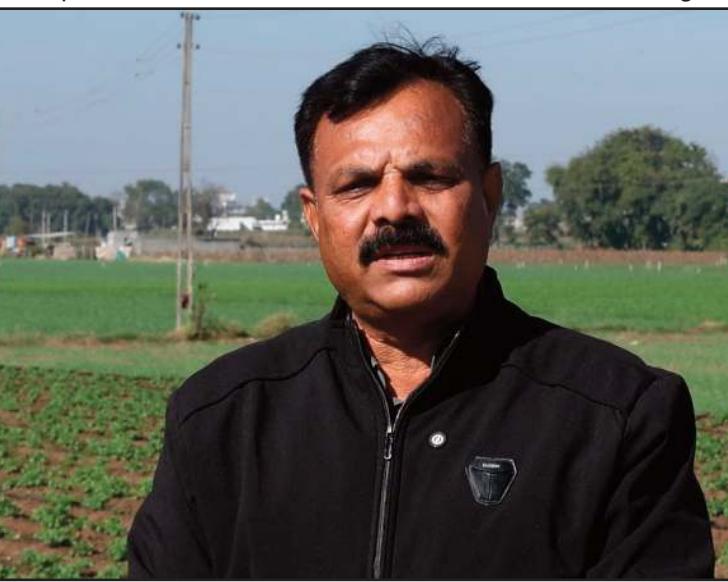
Kisan Suryoday Yojana Ensures Daytime Power Supply to Farmers with Maximum Utilisation of Daylight Hours

This scheme was implemented in 2020 with the

objective of providing electricity to farmers in two slots between 5:00 am and 9:00 pm: the first slot from 5:00 am to 1:00 pm and the second from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm. However, after the implementation of the

on the power grid during peak demand hours is reduced, ensuring a more sustainable and reliable electricity supply for agriculture.

At present, under this scheme, 17,018 villages,



scheme, it was found necessary to make the power supply schedule for the agriculture sector more efficient in alignment with daylight hours, which led to the introduction of the single-shift concept. Under this concept, electricity for agricultural purposes is provided to farmers during daylight hours, particularly from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. By integrating solar energy in this manner, the load

that is 98.66 percent of the villages in the state, are being provided electricity during daytime hours, and 98 percent of the state's substations have been shifted to daytime operations. The work of shifting the remaining 45 rotational substations to cover the remaining 231 villages under the scheme is currently in progress. Notably, under this initiative, the state government has

incurred a total expenditure of ₹5,353.62 crore for establishing 40 new substations, laying 4,640.73 circuit kilometres (CKM) of transmission lines, and strengthening the distribution network through 3,927.72 circuit kilometres (CKM) of MVCC works.

Plan Formulated to Establish New Substations and Strengthen Transmission Network in 2026-27

In 2026-27, to ensure the supply of agricultural electricity during daytime hours, GETCO has planned to set up approximately five substations and strengthen around 1,100 circuit kilometres (CKM) of the transmission network, with an estimated expenditure of ₹1,000 crore.

"Daytime power has eliminated the fear of wild animals and saved significant time" – Beneficiary of the Kisan Suryoday Yojana

Farmer Jayesh Patel of Kankrol village in Himmatnagar taluka, who also serves as Chairman of the Himmatnagar APMC, shared his experience, stat-

ing, "Earlier, farmers used to receive electricity at night, which made it difficult to irrigate fields during nighttime and leading to excessive water wastage, along with the constant fear of wild animals. However, under this scheme, we have been receiving electricity during the day for the past two years, which has resolved all these problems. Farmers can now irrigate their fields at the right time and in the right quantity, resulting in significant savings of time. On behalf of all the farmers of Himmatnagar taluka, I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel."

Notably, with the implementation of this scheme, farmers are receiving electricity during daytime hours, enabling them to carry out irrigation at the appropriate time and improve crop productivity, thereby contributing to their economic prosperity. With the continuous strengthening of transmission infrastructure, the state government will continue the phased implementation of the Kisan Suryoday Yojana, ensuring a reliable and sustainable daytime power supply for farmers.

## Export Rebalance

India's export map is quietly, but decisively, being redrawn. Recent data reveals a geographic rebalancing that goes beyond year-on-year fluctuations and points to a deeper structural shift in how ~ and where ~ the country earns its export revenues. Southern states are emerging as the new growth poles, while long-dominant western powerhouses are showing signs of strain. The rise of states like Tamil Nadu and Telangana is not accidental.

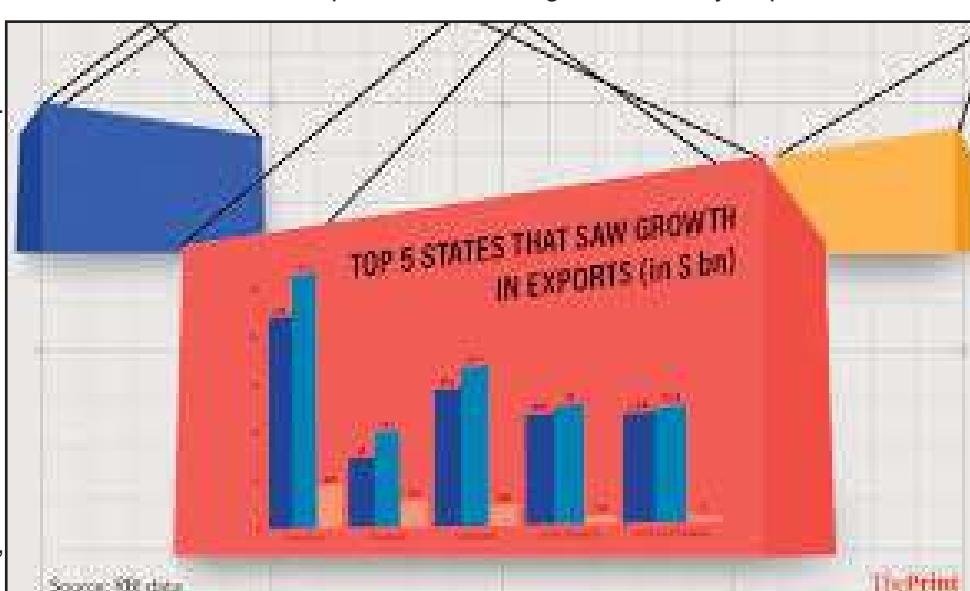
Their export growth reflects years of deliberate industrial strategy: building electronics and engineering clusters, integrating manufacturing with global supply chains, and aligning state-level policies with the needs of export-oriented firms. Tamil Nadu's steady expansion across automobiles, electronics and engineering goods shows the advantage of diversification.

It is no longer dependent on a single sector or market, making its export basket more resilient to global shocks. Telangana's surge is equally instructive. Often viewed primarily through the lens of services and technology, it is now carving out a place in traditional engineering exports.

This suggests that newer industrial states, if they invest in logistics, skilling and ease of doing business, can scale exports rapidly even without a long manufacturing legacy. Karnataka's recovery, powered by software-linked exports, reinforces the importance of embedding technology into export strategies rather than treat-

ing manufacturing and services as separate silos.

are increasingly vulnerable to global volatility ~ petro-



nal a need for reinvention. What is striking is that the southern states' gains are not coming at the cost of scale alone, but through value addition and sectoral upgrading. The shift mirrors global trade trends, where competitiveness increasingly depends on technology intensity, supply chain reliability, and product sophistication rather than low costs.

States that have anticipated this transition are now reaping the rewards. For India as a whole, this redistribution of export momentum is a positive development. A broader export base reduces concentration risk and makes national performance less hostage to shocks affecting one region or sector. However, it also raises important policy questions.

Can the export-led success of the south be replicated elsewhere? And can traditional leaders adapt quickly enough to stay competitive? The answer lies in coordinated reform. Infrastructure, port efficiency, power reliability, and workforce skills must improve across regions. Just as crucial is helping older industrial hubs move up the value chain rather than relying on cyclical strengths. India's export future will not be secured by geography alone, but by how effectively each region responds to a rapidly changing global trade environment. The emerging export map suggests one clear lesson: adaptability, not legacy, now determines leadership

## Empowered but powerless

(Gns). In 1993, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment was hailed as the dawn of Gram Swaraj – village self-rule rooted in democratic decentralisation. The promise was clear: Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) would no longer be mere implementing arms of Delhi or state capitals, but genuine institutions of self-government. Three decades later, that promise is gasping for fiscal breath. India

has successfully elected millions of village representatives. What it has failed to do is give them the one thing that guarantees autonomy: control over money. A recent RBI report on the Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions presents a stark picture. Own Source Revenue (OSR) remains negligible, with Panchayats depending on state and central transfers for nearly 95 percent of their funds.

Decentralisation, in practice, has remained administrative – not fiscal. Yet this failure is not uniform. The Panchayats Devolution Index 2024 reveals that India's problem is not design, but political will. The contrast across regions is striking. The Devolution Index – which measures the transfer of funds, functions, and functionaries – shows southern states decisively ahead. Karnataka tops the list with a score of 72.23, followed by Kerala (70.59) and Tamil Nadu (68.38). The national average languishes at 43.69, while areas such as Jammu & Kashmir (27.85) and Jharkhand (27.73) remain near the bottom.

Why does the South lead? The answer lies in clarity and commitment. States like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have issued unambiguous orders empowering Panchayats to levy and col-

lect taxes. In Kerala, Panchayats are not merely civic bodies; they function as planning units with independent budgets, authority

on paper, they are throttled by bureaucratic ambiguity – unclear definitions of "commercial property," outdated property registers, and dis-



a useful model, where statutory minimum floor rates for local taxes are fixed by the state. This allows local leaders to tell residents, "The law requires this," shielding them from direct blame while ensuring revenue flows. Another vast but neglected opportunity lies in common property resources – ponds, grazing lands, weekly markets, and minor forests.

Though legally meant for community benefit, control often lies with Forest or Revenue departments. A

Amit Shah has rightly noted that Panchayati Raj cannot succeed without revenue autonomy. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has similarly called for "innovative practices" to boost Panchayat income. These statements must now translate into policy. A three-pronged approach is essential: Mandatory devolution: States must be legally bound to devolve taxation powers – especially property tax – to Gram Panchayats.

Capacity building: Scalable training programmes, such as those developed with IIM-Ahmedabad, must equip Panchayat officials with skills in valuation, accounting, and revenue management. Incentivisation: Finance Commission grants should be tightly linked to OSR performance. Panchayats that collect more should receive matching grants, creating a virtuous cycle. The 73rd Amendment delivered democratic decentralisation. But democracy without financial autonomy is hollow. Until Panchayats can pay their electricity bills without waiting for a state grant, Gram Swaraj will remain unfinished business. The southern states have shown what is possible. The rest of India must now follow.

### Lucknow's Young Borrowers Embrace Digital Credit with a Trust-Driven Approach: Reveals How India Borrows 7.0 Study

Lucknow, 22 December 2025: Gen Z in the city of Nawabs have been embracing digital credit in a faster manner compared to other cities. More and more youths in Lucknow are inclined towards online shopping also.

Home Credit India, a leading consumer finance company, today released the 7th edition of its flagship annual study, How India Borrows (HIB) highlighting the evolving role of credit in India's lower-middle class, who represent nearly two-thirds of the population and are often considered the silent drivers of India's economic growth. This year's study shows a marked transformation in borrowing behaviour and attitudes among youths - from credit

as a safety net for necessity to a catalyst for aspiration and self-reliance.

According to the study 64% of Lucknow's borrowers shop online and use mobile banking. This shows high digital adoption in Lucknow. In Lucknow 55% prefer online loan channels, signalling growing

comfort with digital borrowing. While 54% check EMI affordability before taking a loan, showing prudent financial behaviour. In the city of Nawabs 37% value lender reputation, reflecting the city's trust-driven credit mindset. However among youths 51% prefer fast, stress-free loan processes

**HOME CREDIT**

through online lenders. This mix of digital comfort and trust-based decision-making highlights Lucknow's emerging position as a city where credit is not just about access, but about smart, transparent, and responsible use.

In the study younger borrower base indicates the city's tilt toward digital-first financial habits. "How India Borrows 7.0" reflects a shift in India's credit culture - from borrowing for survival to borrowing for success," says Ashish Tiwari, Chief Marketing Officer, Home Credit India. "Gen Z, Millennials, women,

and smaller cities are leading the digital lending revolution, valuing speed, simplicity, and personalisation. Embedded finance is driving frictionless borrowing, where trust, technology, and value converge to redefine how India borrows. The lower middle class is increasingly strategic in its ambitions, using credit as a bridge to entrepreneurship, homeownership, and education. At Home Credit India, we see them as Prudent Planners and Confident Builders. We go beyond transactional lending and empower our customers with a transparent financial journey that fuels personal progress, national growth, and financial inclusion, making every borrower's life hit.

It is because, in many states, they are never properly asked. In Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, Gram Panchayats have either not been fully authorised to levy property tax or lack the operational ability to do so. Even where powers exist

over property taxes, and freedom to levy user charges without constant state approval. Decentralisation here is institutionalised, not rhetorical. Elsewhere, Panchayats remain trapped in a structural bind. Property tax – the most reliable source of local revenue – accounts for nearly 40 per cent of OSR nationwide. Yet India's property tax-to-GDP ratio is just 0.2 per cent, among the lowest globally. This is not because rural citizens refuse to pay.

It is because, in many states, they are never properly asked. In Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, Gram Panchayats have either not been fully authorised to levy property tax or lack the operational ability to do so. Even where powers exist

on valuation.

Compounding this is a deeper flaw: states often retain the power to assess property values while pushing the politically unpopular task of tax collection onto Panchayats. A village Sarpanch, without technical staff or surveyors, cannot realistically assess the value of a new warehouse or commercial complex. Beyond structure lies a behavioural challenge – the proximity paradox.

In villages, the tax collector and taxpayer are neighbours. A Sarpanch who enforces property tax or hikes water charges risks immediate social backlash and electoral consequences. Successful states have addressed this by letting the state play the "bad cop." Maharashtra (Index score: 61.44) offers

But technology cannot substitute political intent. State governments must recognise that hoarding fiscal power at the capital is inefficient. Home Minister

## 11 EMPLOYEES OF WESTERN RAILWAY FELICITATED WITH GENERAL MANAGER'S SAFETY AWARD

**Mumbai, 02 Employees of Mumbai Central Division received General Manager's Safety Award**

Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta - General Manager of Western Railway, felicitated 11 employees at the Western Railway Headquarters in Mumbai for their exemplary performance that contributed to safe train operations. These employees



Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta - General Manager of Western Railway is seen along with Principal Head of Departments and the recipients of GM's Safety Award.

were recognized for their alertness and dedication during duty, which played a crucial role in preventing untoward incidents in November, 2025. The awardees included employees from the Mumbai Central, Vadodara, Ratlam, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Bhavnagar Divisions.

## India and New Zealand Announce Conclusion of Landmark Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

(Gns). India and New Zealand have concluded a comprehensive, balanced and forward-looking Free Trade Agreement (FTA) under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, marking a major economic and strategic milestone in India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.

The Agreement stands out as one of India's fastest-concluded FTAs aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The negotiations were formally launched on 16 March 2025 during the meeting between Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble Minister for Trade and Investment of New Zealand Mr. Todd

Speaking on the conclu-

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, 2 employees from Mumbai Central Division, Shri

who were being awarded and mentioned that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate.

During a routine examination on 18th November, 2025, Shri Sudam Patil,

Train Manager, on 10th November, 2025, while taking charge of train observed the Brake Power Certificate was invalid. He also observed that the locks of the rear container of wagon was out of the lock holes. He inspected the entire train to confirm his observation and reported the anomalies to the Deputy

Station Superintendent, Vasai Road. Failing to detect this issue could have caused a major incident.

Western Railway commends all awardee employees for their quick thinking and alertness, which played a key role in preventing untoward events.

Sudam Patil, Fitter and Shri Rakesh Ashok Ghodichor, Goods Train Manager, Vasai Road, were awarded for their high level of commitment and dedication towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety. Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta appreciated the alertness of all eleven employees

Fitter, noticed that the centre pivot of brake van was broken and he immediately informed his senior without delay. After examining, the wagon was marked unsuitable for onward journey preventing an untoward incident and ensuring the safety of passengers. Shri Rakesh Ashok Ghodichor, Goods

## MoSPI is set to convene a Pre-release Consultative Workshop on the Base Revision of GDP, CPI and IIP on 23rd December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

(Gns). The Ministry for Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is organizing the Second Pre-release Consultative Workshop on the Base Revision of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) on 23rd December, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The First Pre-release Consultative Workshop was held on 26th November, 2026 at Mumbai.

The primary objective of the workshop is to share the proposed methodological and structural changes

100% of its tariff lines, provides duty-free access for all Indian exports. This market access enhances the competitiveness of India's labour-intensive sectors including textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, engineering goods and automobiles, directly supporting Indian workers, artisans, women, youth and MSMEs and integrating them deeper into global value chains.

The FTA delivers New Zealand's best and most ambitious services offer in any of its FTAs to date. India has secured commitments across a wide range of high-value sectors including IT and IT-enabled services, professional services, education, financial services, tourism.

Elimination of tariffs on

McClay. The agreement was concluded by holding continuous and intense discussions spread over 5 formal negotiation rounds, several in-person and virtual intersessions. The FTA establishes a high-quality economic partnership that promotes employment, facilitates skill mobility, drives trade and investment-led growth, fosters innovation for agricultural productivity, and enhances MSME participation to strengthen long-term economic resilience.

Speaking on the conclu-

sion, Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal said, "Today this Free Trade Agreement is about building trade around people and launching opportunities – for our farmers, for our entrepreneurs, for our students, for our Women and for our innovators. Boosting yields and farmer incomes, the agreement drives modern agricultural productivity. It opens doors for Indian businesses in the region through well-integrated directional exports and gives our youth choices to learn, work and grow on a global stage."

Elimination of tariffs on

the conclusion of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will bring significant opportunities for both countries.

India and New Zealand announced the conclusion of negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, marking a major economic and strategic milestone in India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.

The Agreement stands out as one of India's fastest-concluded FTAs aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The negotiations were formally launched on 16 March 2025 during the meeting between Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble Minister for Trade and Investment of New Zealand Mr. Todd

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## 'Divine Intervention' Saved Pakistan After India Launched Op Sindoor: Asim Munir

(Gns).

Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir has claimed that "divine intervention" played a role in Pakistan's confrontation with India earlier this year, a viral video shows.

The clip, widely shared on social media platforms, shows Munir invoking religious imagery while reflecting on the military standoff that followed India's Operation Sindoor in May.

In a viral video from the National Ulema Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir claimed divine intervention aided Pakistan during its confrontation with India following Operation Sindoor in May; he also urged the Taliban government in Afghanistan to choose between supporting

the TTP and maintaining ties with Pakistan.

The video, reportedly recorded on December 10

conflict, describing the intervention as something that was "felt." His remarks, couched in faith-based lan-



During the National Ulema Conference in Islamabad, captures Munir quoting a verse from the Quran: "If Allah helps you, none can overcome you."

He suggested that Pakistan had experienced divine support during the

guage, implied that unseen forces aided Pakistan at a critical juncture.

However, Oneindia could not verify the authenticity of the video.

Operation Sindoor Munir's comments refer to the events of May, when

India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives. The Indian Air Force carried out precision strikes on multiple terror camps located deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

According to officials, the targets included camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke in Punjab province-areas long associated with Pakistan-based terror outfits-as well as facilities in Muzaffarabad and Kotli in PoK. These camps were reportedly used for recruitment, weapons training, and infiltration planning. Indian authorities described the operation as a calibrated effort to degrade terror networks without escalating into a broader conflict.

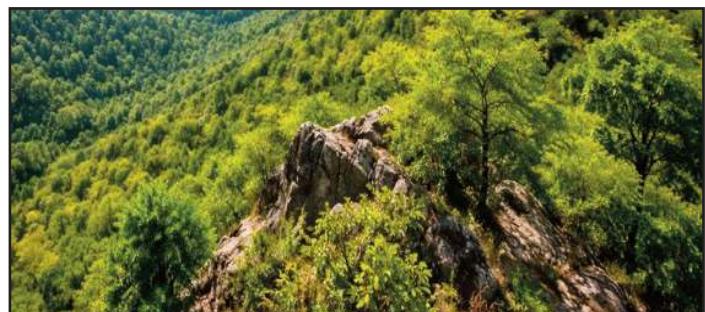
Environmental concerns on already-scarred Aravallis remains to be seen.

The latest row intensified after years of inconsis-

tency, about exploitation of hills less than that.

Along with the ministry

issuing background notes and supporting material,



Facing mounting political attacks, activist protests and environmental outrage, the Centre on Sunday issued a detailed clarification on the Aravalli hills, dismissing allegations that it had diluted mining protections following the Supreme Court's November 20 acceptance of a new definition of the ecologically-sensitive range proposed by the Environment Ministry. Whether the Centre's response will put to rest decades-long debate and

tent state-level definitions prompted the apex court to seek a uniform standard. Under the new definition, an "Aravalli Hill" is any landform in designated Aravalli districts with an elevation of 100 metres or more above its local elevation. This raised concerns

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav asserted that more than 90% of the Aravalli landscape remains under strict protection and that it was "completely wrong" to claim that mining had been opened up across the region. There is an explicit



giving instructions during the meeting

that those colleges and schools whose logins have not been locked yet by their managers, should be immediately investigated.

He made it clear that special care should be taken

that no student should be troubled due to the negligence of any college or school. While reviewing the progress of the Marriage/Marriage Grant Scheme, the District

Magistrate directed that this scheme should be expedited and by identifying the eligible beneficiaries, it should be ensured that more and more couples get the benefit of the scheme. Apart from this, the District Magistrate while giving instructions to the concerned officers said that the benefits of all the schemes run by their respective departments should be extended 100% to the eligible beneficiaries and it should be ensured that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of any scheme

## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will chair the State SWAGAT Online Public Grievance Redressal Programme on December 24

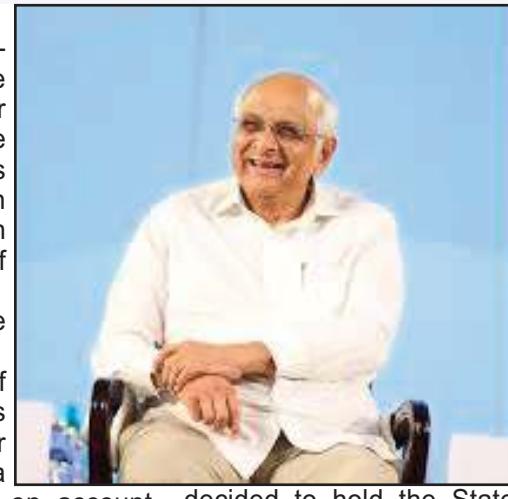
State SWAGAT Program for December 2025 To Be Held On Wednesday Due to Christmas Holiday

Gandhinagar, 22 December 2025 : The State SWAGAT online public grievance redressal programme, organised every month in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, will be held for December 2025 on Wednesday, December 24.

Inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the SWAGAT online public grievance redressal

programme has been conducted since 2003, under which the State SWAGAT is organised on the fourth Thursday of every month.

As the fourth Thursday of December falls on December 25, which is a public holiday on account of Christmas, it has been decided to hold the State SWAGAT for December



2025 this time on Wednesday, December 24. Citizens can submit their representations for this SWAGAT programme in person at the Chief Minister's Public Relations Unit, Swarnim Sankul-2, Gandhinagar, on Wednesday, December 24, between 8:00 am and 11:00 am. The Chief Minister will personally attend the State SWAGAT on Wednesday afternoon and directly hear the representations of citizens.

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to arrive in Lucknow tomorrow on a two-day visit

(Gns). Lucknow MP and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be in his constituency on Wednesday. According to BJP City President Anand Dwivedi, the defense minister will arrive at Lucknow Airport at 4:05 pm tomorrow.

From the airport, the defence minister will proceed directly to the Atal Convention Center, where he will participate in a "solo poetry recitation" program



organized to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Following the program, he will return to his residence on Kalidas Marg at around 6 pm.

On Thursday, at 1:50 pm, he will reach the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal and attend the inaugural ceremony of the Sthal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

After the programme, the defence minister will leave for the airport at 4:05 pm and will depart for Delhi at 4:40 pm.

## SIT submits final report on codeine syrup racket, major crackdown and ₹50 lakh seizure in Etah

(Gns). The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the high-profile codeine-based cough syrup trafficking case in Uttar Pradesh has submitted its final report to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The report exposes a vast network involving drug trafficking, hawala transactions, and alleged political links.

According to the SIT, the kingpin of the racket is Vibhor Rana, who was granted a licence in 2016 during the tenure of the then Samajwadi Party government led by Akhilesh Yadav.

The investigation reveals that after strict action against madrasas near the Nepal border, traffickers panicked. Fearing arrest, Vibhor allegedly requested pharmaceutical company Abbott to take back nearly one crore bottles of cough syrup.

The report further states that the smuggled consignments were distributed through warehouses in

local transactions were conducted through illegal hawala channels. Following the submission of the



Varanasi with the help of associates such as Shubham Jaiswal and Manoj Yadav. The SIT has also highlighted the involvement of the "Chhangar Baba" network, which was allegedly active in both religious conversion activities in border areas and cough syrup smuggling.

Investigators found that the smuggling routes extended across Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Jharkhand, while all finan-

cial transactions were conducted through illegal hawala channels. Following the submission of the

Mishra, along with local police under the supervision of CO Aliganj Nitish Garg, cordoned off a village and raided a tobacco warehouse.

During the raid, 47 cartons of cough syrup were recovered from the warehouse. Four people — Pramod Shakya, Jitendra Yadav, Jitendra Shakya, and Punjab Singh including a retired Army personnel, were arrested, while several others managed to flee.

Preliminary questioning revealed that the accused had been involved in cough syrup smuggling for a long time and supplied the contraband to drug dealers across nearby districts. The recovered bottles carried the name of the "Wing" company, but their batch numbers had been scratched off, raising suspicion that the syrup was meant for illegal narcotics use.

## The big Aravalli storm: Decoding fault lines, mistrust and Centre's reply

(Gns).

It is easy to thrash criticism from rival parties as "politically motivated", but not public anger or movements that sharpen perceptions, as seen in several past controversies.

Facing mounting political attacks, activist protests and environmental outrage, the Centre on Sunday issued a detailed clarification on the Aravalli hills, dismissing allegations that it had diluted mining protections that followed the Supreme Court's November 20 acceptance of a new definition of the ecologically-sensitive range proposed by the Environment Ministry. Whether the Centre's response will put to rest decades-long debate and

about exploitation of hills less than that.

Along with the ministry issuing background notes and supporting material,



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## 'Leglessness in post-tenth scholarship scheme will not be tolerated: District Magistrate'



giving instructions during the meeting

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that no student should be troubled due to the negligence of any college or school. While reviewing the progress of the Marriage/Marriage Grant Scheme, the District

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## Aam Aadmi Party took out Save Vote-

### Save Constitution Padyatra



Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in Vote Bachao - Constitution Bachao Pad Yatra started from Rampur.

struggle and talks about nationalism. The tricolor was not hoisted at the RSS office for 52 years and action was taken against

those who went to hoist it. With what mouth do such people talk about Vande Mataram? He said that earlier cycle thieves, gold

thieves, vehicle thieves etc. were heard of, now vote thieves have started being heard of. Former District President of Aam Aadmi Party, Ravi Prakash Bhardwaj said that despite the dense fog, people participated in the public meeting in large numbers and showed that the public still has faith in the present Constitution and its protection and is alert to save their votes. The padyatra which passed through the main markets of Rampur was warmly welcomed by the local people by garlanding Sanjay Singh ji and showering flowers at various places. Thousands of people spontaneously joined the yatra. During the yatra, mainly party officials from Mathura were present including District President Bhagat Singh, District Vice President Rakesh Aggarwal and Provincial Secretary of Farmers Cell Chetan Krishna



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