



# After a wait of 125 years, India's heritage has returned and the nation's treasured legacy has come back home: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

(Gns). Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today inaugurated the Grand International Exposition "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi. Organised by the Ministry of Culture, this landmark exposition brings together for the first time in over a century the most comprehensive assemblage of the sacred Piprahwa Relics, relic gems and reliquaries of Lord Buddha, including those recently repatriated to India.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said: "After a wait of 125

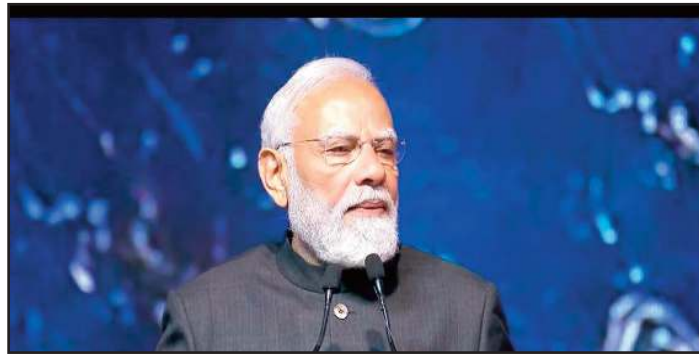
years, India's heritage has returned and the nation's treasured legacy has come back home. From today, the people of India will be able to have darshan of these sacred relics of Lord Buddha and receive His blessings."

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, said that the presence of the Prime Minister, who has the rare ability to translate the spirit of India into the actions of governance, is always a moment of inspiration and significance. He added that welcoming the Prime Minister on this historic occasion was a matter

of immense pride for all. The inauguration marks a historic moment in India's cultural and spiritual journey, commemorating the reunification of the Piprahwa relics after 127 years. The collection includes relics from the 1898 excavation at Kapilavastu, findings from the 1972-75 excavations, treasures preserved at the Indian Museum, Kolkata, and the Peppé family collection, repatriated to India in July 2025 following the decisive intervention of the Government of India that halted their auction abroad.

Upon arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta; Union

Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat; Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju; Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena; Minister of State for Culture, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh; and Minister of State for Social



Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale.

During his visit, the Prime Minister undertook a walkthrough of the exhibition and offered khataak and rose petals at the sculpture of the Seated Buddha. He consecrated an ancient seal excavated from the

Piprahwa site, planted a Bodhi tree sapling, signed the Visitors' Book, released the Exhibition Catalogue, and offered Chivar Daan to the venerable Buddhist monks present.

Curated under the theme "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One," the exposition showcases over 80 exceptional objects, dating from the 6th century BCE to the present day. These include sculptures, manuscripts, thangkas, ritual objects, reliquaries and jewelled treasures. At its core is the monolithic stone coffer in which the sacred relics were originally discovered.

The Piprahwa relics,

unearthed in 1898 by William Claxton Peppé at the ancient stupa site identified with Kapilavastu, are among the most significant archaeological discoveries related to the life of the Buddha. Their reunification today stands as a powerful testament to India's unwavering commitment to reclaiming, preserving and honouring its cultural patrimony.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's global engagement has increasingly drawn upon its civilisational and spiritual heritage. To date, 642 antiquities have been repatriated to India, with the return of the

Piprahwa relics representing a landmark achievement in cultural diplomacy and heritage preservation.

The inauguration was attended by Union Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, ambassadors, venerable Buddhist monks, senior government officials, scholars, heritage experts, members of the art fraternity, students, and followers of Buddhism from India and abroad.

The exposition reaffirms the Ministry of Culture's commitment to heritage preservation and cultural leadership, while celebrating India's unique position as the birthplace of the Buddha Dhamma.

## Shri Amit Shah today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth ₹373 crore of the Andaman and Nicobar UT Government in Sri Vijaya Puram

(Gns). Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration at Sri Vijaya Puram. On this occasion, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.) and the Union Home Secretary, Shri Govind Mohan, along with several other dignitaries, were present. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated an exhibition based on the three new laws in Sri Vijaya Puram.

In his address on the occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that on this very land, many martyred freedom fighters who fought for

tell the entire world that many great souls sacrificed their lives here. Shri Shah said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was the first to hoist the Tricolour at this



place of free India, and in his memory and honour of his words, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi named two islands as Shaheed and Swaraj. He said that Prime Minister Modi has undertaken the task of naming every island in this archipelago after heroes of the Indian freedom struggle. He said that this land is a

place of free India, and in his memory and honour of his words, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi named two islands as Shaheed and Swaraj. He said that Prime Minister Modi has undertaken the task of naming every island in this archipelago after heroes of the Indian freedom struggle. He said that this land is a

pilgrimage site for every citizen of free India, because it was here that our freedom fighters endured suffering as strength, solitude as resolve, and torture as the path to freedom. Ultimately achieving independence.

Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Modi has transformed this island into a strategic power. He said that he previous government considered Andaman and Nicobar a burden on the exchequer; under the Modi government, it will contribute to the country's treasury. He said that this transformation witnessed over the past 11 years is the result of a resolve to dedicate oneself to the service of the nation, considering every particle of the country as Mother India. He said that in line with this vision.

college student and has asked the fact-finding committee to investigate and submit a report soon.

Meanwhile, the Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission has also sought a report from the police regarding the allegations of harassment of the student with casteist remarks. The State Women's Commission has also taken cognizance of the matter. State Women's Commission Chairperson Vidya Negi has sought a report from the SP Kangra.

## HP govt orders special probe into death of girl student in Dharmshala

(Gns). Taking serious cognizance over the death of a girl student at Dharmashala, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said the professor allegedly involved in the case would be suspended and special investigation would be carried out to unravel the truth in the case.

Speaking to the media at Kandaghat in Solan, he said the professor named by the student in her video statement will be suspended immediately. He added that a more detailed investigation has been ordered

and that the government will take the strictest possible action against anyone found to be involved.

Notably, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has also decided to conduct a separate enquiry in the matter. The UGC had constituted a fact-finding committee on Friday to probe the case.

The UGC had clarified that the incident is extremely tragic and assured the family that those responsible will not be spared and will face severe punishment. The

safety of students is paramount, and any lapse in this regard will not be tolerated.



A senior official said that the UGC has taken suo motu cognizance of the death of the Dharmashala

## Cricket Politicisation: Tharoor Critiques Sport And Politics Amid Bangladesh Violence Debate

(Gns). Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has criticised the growing politicisation of cricket after Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman was released by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) following a directive from the BCCI, a move that has sparked a fierce political debate linking sport to recent violence against Hindus in Bangladesh.

Rahman had been picked up by KKR for ₹9.20 crore during the IPL 2026 mini-auction held in December 2025. While the signing initially drew little controversy, the mood shifted sharply as reports emerged of attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. Several BJP leaders subsequently urged the Shah Rukh Khan-

owned franchise to drop the left-arm pacer, arguing that sporting engagement should not continue amid such violence.



linking the decision to violence against Hindus in Bangladesh; Tharoor argued against targeting individual cricketers for

events beyond their control, advocating for diplomatic solutions instead of sporting boycotts.

Responding to the backlash, Tharoor questioned the logic of targeting an individual cricketer for events beyond their control, advocating for diplomatic solutions instead of sporting boycotts.

Speaking later to the media, the former diplomat said cricket should not be burdened with the responsibility of responding to communal violence. He stressed that Rahman had no connection to the attacks and argued that holding him accountable amounted to unfair collective punishment. According to Tharoor.

## Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel conducts holistic review of 10 major centrally sponsored health schemes

**Completion of Five Medical Colleges and Hospitals by End of 2026 to Strengthen and Expand Healthcare Services Across the State**

**Chief Minister directs the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-MA using transparent, fast, and AI-based technology**

**Prime Minister's Vision of Holistic Rural Healthcare Realised in Gujarat Through 7,733 Health and Wellness Centres**

**Chief Minister Provides Guidance to Strengthen Systems for Wider Reach of PM-ABHIM and PMMV Yojana at Rural and Taluka Levels**

Gandhinagar, 03 January 2026: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel conducted a holistic review of the implementation and current status of health welfare schemes reaching the state's remote, border, and rural areas as well as talukas, during a high-level meeting held in Gandhinagar.

It was stated in the

meeting before the Chief Minister that construction works of five medical colleges, hospitals, and hostels at Rajpipla, Morbi, Navsari, Godhra, and Porbandar will be completed by December 2026. As a result, people from villages in remote tribal areas and distant villages of Saurashtra will be able to easily access more advanced health-care services at nearby locations.

lic health and wellness, including Ayurvedic and homoeopathic systems of



The Chief Minister issued necessary directions during the meeting, following detailed discussions and a thorough review of the progress of key Centrally Sponsored schemes launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the public health-oriented vision of "Healthcare for All."

In particular, the Prime Minister's approach of holistic healthcare for public treatment up to the rural level, is being realised in Gujarat through an extensive network of 7,733 Health and Wellness Centres. Details in this regard were also presented in the meeting.

In this context, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of construction of 410 Urban Health Centres, modern laboratories in 33 districts, and Critical Care Blocks in 32 districts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Ayushman Bharat Health

Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), and issued directions to ensure that these works are completed within the stipulated timeframe. In addition, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Health Department informed the meeting that new buildings of 302 sub-centres and 23 Primary Health Centres in rural areas have been completed.

The Chief Minister provided guidance to ensure more accurate, holistic, and systematic implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-MA in the state through transparent, fast, and AI-based technology.

The meeting also reviewed the provision of nutritional assistance to more than 3.44 lakh mothers under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, registration of 2.69 crore members under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-"MA", and the availability of cashless treatment up to Rs. 10 lakh.

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



# Editorial

## Shifting Landscape

What the world is entering now is not a sudden crisis, but the moment when a long, uneven transition becomes impossible to ignore. The geopolitical order that shaped the early 21st century did not collapse overnight; it eroded gradually. But in 2025, enough pillars cracked at once for the illusion of continuity to finally give way. For more than three decades, global politics rested on a loose but powerful consensus: open trade would expand prosperity, institutions would arbitrate conflict, and American leadership – even when contested – would ultimately stabilise the system.

That framework survived wars, financial crises, and political shocks. It did not survive 2025. What distinguished last year was not turbulence, but intent. Long-standing norms were not merely bent; they were actively dismantled. Trade rules were weaponised. Alliances were reframed as transactions. Institutions once treated as neutral referees were openly questioned, defunded or bypassed. At home and abroad, executive power expanded at the expense of institutional restraint. By the end of 2025, the message was unmistakable: the old order was no longer being preserved, even rhetorically. As 2026 begins, the consequences of that shift are coming into focus. The world is not reorganising into a clean bipolar rivalry, nor returning to a stable hierarchy. Instead, power is fragmenting across regions, technologies, and economic systems. Military strength, economic weight, and political influence no longer align neatly.

States that once followed are now shaping outcomes in narrower but decisive ways. One defining feature of this new phase is the primacy of economic security. Trade is no longer treated as a shared good, but as a strategic vulnerability. Supply chains are being shortened, duplicated or redirected with geopolitical risk in mind. Governments are embracing industrial policy, even at the cost of efficiency, signalling a permanent shift away from the assumptions that governed globalisation in the 1990s and 2000s. Technology sits at the centre of this transformation. Control over artificial intelligence, semiconductors, data, and critical infrastructure increasingly determines national power. Unlike past industrial competitions, these struggles blur civilian and military domains, making regulation and standards as consequential as hardware and troops. Alliances, too, are changing character.

Commitments once framed around shared values are now assessed through cost, leverage, and reciprocity. This does not mean alliances are disappearing, but that they are becoming conditional and fluid – effective in some moments, fragile in others. For India, 2026 will test strategic autonomy: balancing growth, technology access and security ties while avoiding entanglement in rival blocs without forfeiting leverage. For middle powers, 2026 will be a year of sharper choices. The erosion of rigid blocs offers room for manoeuvre, but neutrality is harder to sustain when economics, technology and security are deeply entangled. The significance of 2026 lies not in dramatic realignments, but in accumulation. As these trends reinforce one another, the emerging order will become recognisable – not as chaos, but as a more competitive, less forgiving world where adaptation replaces consensus as the core test of statecraft.

Environmental pollution and poverty are often discussed as separate crises, but they are deeply intertwined, forming a vicious cycle that traps millions of people across the developing world, including India. Pollution does not merely damage ecosystems; it systematically erodes livelihoods, health, and human dignity. At the same time, poverty compels communities to depend on environmentally harmful practices for survival, perpetuating degradation. Decoding this cycle is essential if sustainable development is to move beyond slogans and become social reality.

At the heart of the pollution-poverty nexus lies inequality. Poor communities disprop or tionately inhabit environmentally hazardous spaces – along polluted rivers, near landfills, industrial zones, highways, or mining belts. These locations are not chosen freely but imposed by unaffordable housing, insecure land tenure, and social marginalization. In urban India, slum settlements often emerge on floodplains or beside drains, exposing residents to contaminated water, toxic air, and recurring disasters. In rural areas, land degradation, pesticide overuse, and deforestation affect small farmers and landless labourers the most, stripping them of productive assets. Environmental pollution directly deepens poverty through health impacts.

Air pollution, contaminated drinking water, and chemical exposure cause


# Environmental pollution and poverty

respiratory illnesses, cancers, neurological disorders, and chronic diseases. For poor households lacking access to healthcare or insurance, illness translates into lost wages, mounting debt, and inter-generational poverty. Children growing up in polluted environments suffer from stunting, cognitive impairment, and reduced educational outcomes, undermining their future earning potential. Pollution thus functions as a silent tax on the poor, extracting value from their bodies while remaining invisible in economic calculations. Livelihoods are another major casualty. Fisherfolk lose income when rivers and coastal waters are polluted by industrial effluents and sewage.

Farmers face declining soil fertility and water scarcity due to chemical-intensive agriculture and climate stress. Informal workers – ragpickers, waste sorters, construction labourers – work in toxic conditions without safety nets. Ironically, many of the poor survive by engaging in environmentally harmful activities such as illegal mining, sand extraction, forest logging, or waste burning, because safer alternatives are unavailable. Poverty pushes them into ecological destruction, even as it destroys their own long-term prospects. The cycle is intensified by weak governance and environmental injustice. Regulatory failures allow polluting industries to operate with impunity, often targeting regions with limited political voice.

Environmental laws exist on paper, but enforcement is selective and uneven. When pollution affects affluent neighbourhoods, protests, litigation, and media attention follow. When it affects the poor, it is normalized as collateral damage of “development.” This unequal distribution of environmental harm reflects deeper power imbalances within society. Climate change acts as a multiplier of both pollution and poverty. Extreme weather events – floods, droughts, heatwaves – disproportionately affect vulnerable populations who lack resilient infrastructure or adaptive capacity.

Polluted rivers overflow into slums during floods, spreading disease. Heat stress reduces labour productivity among outdoor workers. Crop failures push marginal farmers into distress migration. Climate-induced poverty, in turn, increases reliance on cheap fossil fuels, biomass burning, and resource extraction, further degrading the environment. The 2025 Global



Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report or “Overlapping Hardships: Poverty and Climate Hazards”, released ahead of the COP30 climate summit in Brazil, presents clinching evidence that the climate crisis is not only reshaping global poverty but intensifying it.

By overlaying climate hazard data with multidimensional poverty data for the first time, the findings reveal a world where poverty is not just a stand-alone socio-economic issue but one that is deeply interlinked with planetary pressures and instability. The Report reinforces the assumption that exposure to climate hazards exacerbates the daily challenges faced by people living in poverty, reinforcing and deepening their disadvantages. The report finds that among those assessed to be living in acute multidimensional poverty – spanning health, education, and living standards – an overwhelming 651 million endure two or more climate hazards, while 309 million face three or four hazards simultaneously. Breaking this cycle requires rethinking development itself.

Traditional growth models prioritize GDP expansion while externalizing environmental and social costs. Industries pollute, ecosystems degrade, and the poor pay the price. A more just approach demands integrating environmental protection with poverty alleviation. Clean air, safe water, and healthy ecosystems must be recognized as basic human rights, not luxuries. Policy interventions must be locally grounded and socially inclusive. Investing in clean cooking fuels, renewable energy, and sustainable public transport can reduce pollution while creating jobs.

Decentralized solar power, for instance, can transform rural livelihoods without ecological damage. Sustainable agriculture practices – organic farming, water conservation, agroforestry – can enhance food security and farmer incomes simultaneously. Urban planning must prioritize affordable housing away from hazardous zones, with access to sanitation and green spaces.

Equally important is empowering communities. When people participate in environmental decision-making, outcomes improve. Community-led water management, waste segregation, and forest conservation initiatives across India demonstrate that environmental stewardship and livelihood security can go hand in hand. Education and awareness play a crucial role in enabling such participation, helping people understand the long-term costs of environmental degradation and the benefits of sustainable alternatives.

Corporate accountability is another critical pillar. Polluters must pay – not merely through fines but through restoration, compensation, and structural reform.

Transparent environmental impact assessments, independent monitoring, and strong judicial mechanisms are essential to deter exploitation. The informalization of risk – where profits are privatized and pollution is socialized – must end. Finally, addressing the pollution-poverty cycle demands a moral shift. Environmental degradation is not an unfortunate side effect of progress; it is a symptom of unjust systems that value profit over people.

The poor are not enemies of the environment; they are often its first victims and most committed protectors when given the chance. Sustainable development will remain elusive unless social justice and ecological responsibility advance together. Decoding the link between environmental pollution and poverty reveals an uncomfortable truth: environmental crises are also crises of inequality. Solving one without addressing the other is not only ineffective – it is ethically indefensible. The path forward lies in policies that heal both people and the planet, recognizing that a healthy environment is the foundation of a dignified life.

Air pollution in Delhi has reached a critical and almost irreversible stage, turning the city into one of the most polluted capitals in the world and posing a serious threat to public health and environmental sustainability. For a significant part of the year, especially during winter, the air becomes a toxic mix of PM 2.5 and PM 10, vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, construction dust, and smoke from biomass and stubble burning, often pushing the Air Quality Index into the “severe” category.

Dense smog reduces visibility, disrupts daily life, and leads to a sharp rise in respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, particularly among children, the elderly, and outdoor workers. I wish to record my deep grievance over the chronic and almost normalized failure of India’s air-pollution governance, where responsibility has been systematically avoided by scientists, politicians, institutions, and society together. Scientific data produced for agencies like the Central Pollution Control Board accumulated year after year, but without moral pressure or unified scientific resistance, it failed to translate into enforceable action.

Accountability is diluted through blame-shifting between central and state governments, seasonal excuses, and symbolic emergency measures that vanish once winter ends. Though regulatory agencies issue notices, they rarely translate into closures, penalties, or long-term deterrence, especially

(Gns). India’s viral moments over the year gone by offer more than a light-hearted rewind of what trended online. Taken together, they reveal how the country now

# Throttled city


these, I want to strongly highlight the deeply flawed approach in which the government spends huge public funds every winter to procure and install pollution-monitoring gadgets, performs, negotiates, and asserts its identity in a hyper-connected public sphere where national confidence is increasingly shaped by visibility rather than validation. Consider



the rapturous response to Shah Rukh Khan making his debut at a global fashion event. The excitement was not simply about celebrity glamour. It reflected a long-simmering belief that Indian cultural icons no longer need to wait for permission or timing to be deemed “global”.

The reaction online carried a tone of inevitability rather than surprise – an assertion that such recognition was overdue, not aspirational. A similar sentiment surrounded India’s triumph at the Women’s Cricket World Cup under Harmanpreet Kaur. The victory was celebrated not as a feel-good underdog story but as a corrective moment. For decades, women’s sport in India existed in the margins of public attention. The scale and intensity of the online response suggested a broader cultural shift: sporting excellence, regardless of gender, is now central to national pride rather than an adjunct to it. Perhaps the most telling viral moment, however, came from outside stadiums and red carpets. When Shubhanshu Shukla stepped aboard the International Space Station, the achievement travelled across social media through short videos and informal explanations.

This was not the distant, reverential space triumph of an earlier era. It was intimate, accessible, and deeply personal – science recast as something Indians could emotionally inhabit, not merely applaud. The message was clear: ambition in India today is not just about scale, but about participation. Then there was the chessboard drama involving Gukesh Dommaraju and Magnus Carlsen. The viral spread of that moment owed as much to humour as to victory.



Indians did not just celebrate a teenage prodigy beating a global great; they revelled in the collapse of old hierarchies. The memes that followed suggested a society confident enough to laugh at power rather than simply revere it.

What stood out was how quickly these moments crossed class, language and regional lines. Virality became a rare common currency, briefly aligning disparate audiences around shared emotion, shared humour, and a shared sense of national presence in a fragmented public sphere. What unites these episodes is the way social media has become India’s most democratic national stage. Algorithms now sit alongside institutions in deciding what matters. Moments once filtered through official narratives are instantly reinterpreted, parodied and claimed by the public. Pride is expressed horizontally, through collective participation, rather than vertically through sanctioned symbols. In this sense, India’s viral year was not about distraction but definition. It showed a country increasingly comfortable with its contradictions – glamour and grit, tradition and irreverence, achievement and mockery. The real story is not that these moments went viral, but that India recognised itself in them, and liked what it saw.



## FBI Arrests 18-Year-Old Over ISIS-Inspired Plot to Attack on New Year's Eve

(Gns). Federal authorities arrested 18-year-old Christian Sturdivant in North Carolina, preventing a suspected ISIS-inspired New Year's Eve terror plot after a nearly two-year investigation that revealed plans to use knives and hammers. Sturdivant, who was in contact with undercover law enforcement posing as extremist sympathizers, is charged with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

Officials said the suspect was taken into custody before any violence could take place, preventing what could have been a deadly attack.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said the accused, Christian

Sturdivant, had been under scrutiny since January the instructions included wearing all black and using



2022, when he was still a minor. Investigators claimed he was in touch with an ISIS-linked individual based overseas and had received guidance on how to carry out an assault.

According to the agency,

basic weapons such as hammers to attack people in public places.

In an official statement, the FBI said, "The FBI and our law enforcement partners thwarted a potential terrorist attack on New

Year's Eve in North Carolina. The subject was directly inspired to act by ISIS."

Court records show Sturdivant allegedly planned to use knives and hammers to carry out the attack. Prosecutors said he openly discussed his intentions with undercover law enforcement officers who were posing as extremist sympathisers online.

The suspect reportedly told one of the undercover officers that he considered himself a "soldier of the state" and intended to strike on New Year's Eve.

FBI Director Kash Patel credited inter-agency coordination for stopping the plot in time. "Thanks to our great partners for working with us and undoubtedly saving lives," Patel said.

## Punjab Provides Over 61,000 Government Jobs to Youth in Four Years Under CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

(Gns). Continuing the Punjab Government's flagship Mission Rozgar, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday distributed appointment letters to 606 newly recruited candidates of the Education Department at a ceremony held at Tagore Theatre. With this, the state has crossed a historic milestone of providing more than 61,000 government jobs to Punjab's youth within four years.

The newly appointed candidates include 385 Special Educator Teachers, 157 Primary Teachers, eight Principals and 56 employees recruited on compassionate grounds. Extending New Year greetings to the appointees, the Chief Minister said this achievement reflects the government's firm commitment to merit, transparency and fairness in public recruitment. He said that since assuming office in April 2022, the state government

has provided 61,281 government jobs purely on merit. Notably, none of these appointments has



been challenged in court, which he described as a matter of pride for the government and the youth of Punjab.

Punjab's Mission Rozgar progresses as 606 new education appointments are handed to candidates, bringing the total government jobs to 61,281

since 2022. The move includes 385 Special Educator Teachers and the creation of a dedicated

cadre for students with special needs, reinforcing merit, transparency, and education reform across the state. Switch To Shorts Recalling past practices, the Chief Minister said earlier governments distributed jobs among their sons, nephews and favourites, ignoring deserving candi-

dates. Qualified youth were forced to wait endlessly for appointment letters, but those days are now over. "Today, deserving and capable youth are getting jobs based solely on merit, and the government itself honours them by personally handing over appointment letters," he said.

Highlighting social equity, CM Mann said the current system has opened doors for youth from ordinary families. "Traditional political parties treated their families as Punjab, but for me, the entire state of Punjab is my family," he added.

Announcing a major reform in the education sector, the Chief Minister said a separate cadre of Special Educator Teachers has been created for children with special needs studying in government schools. Around 48,000 such students are currently enrolled across the state, and to ensure quality education.

## Making Farmers' Lives Easier is the Government's Top Priority: Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda

(Gns). With the objective of implementing the Government of India's policies with farmers at the center, ensuring the timely availability of fertilizers, and improving soil health, the Department of Fertilizers organized a day-long Chintan Shivir in New Delhi today.

The session witnessed the participation of senior officials from the Department of Fertilizers and State Governments, scientists, and industry's representatives, who engaged in dialogue with Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and Minister of State Smt. Anupriya Patel.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda emphasized that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always kept farmers at the core of governance. Therefore, our

policies and decisions must aim to make the life of the farmer easier and better. Shri Nadda noted that



despite various challenging circumstances, the Department has successfully met the fertilizer requirements of farmers. He highlighted that due to the farmer-friendly measures taken by the Department of Fertilizers, the country has achieved record production along with necessary imports this year.

The Union Minister further stated that various departments of the Government of India will

work in coordination to tackle issues such as the balanced use of fertilizers and the diversion or misuse

of fertilizers for non-agricultural purposes. Minister of State Smt. Anupriya Patel remarked that the Prime Minister envisions India becoming the hub of the global food basket. This 'Chintan Shivir' will generate ideas that will aid in making India a developed nation by 2047, she said.

Fertilizer Secretary Shri Rajat Kumar Mishra stated that the Government, PSUs, and the Private Sector have

all placed the farmer at the center of their brainstorming during the session. We have kept this Shivir so interactive that every idea can find a place on the table for deliberation and we expect better outcomes from the collective wisdom, he added. During the one-day camp held at the National Agricultural Science Complex, New Delhi, 15 different groups engaged in extensive deliberations and provided effective suggestions to the Government. The Union Minister, Minister of State, and Fertilizer Secretary sat with each group individually to listen to their suggestions.

These groups discussed 15 key topics, including new age fertilizers, self-sufficiency in fertilizer production, outreach and farmer awareness, improving the fertilizer ecosystem through digital means, and Nutrient Based Subsidy etc.

## Jalandhar Man killed in Russia-Ukraine war, family alleges forced recruitment

(Gns). A 30-year-old man from Jalandhar district of Punjab has died in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, with his family alleging that he was forcibly recruited into the Russian military after being misled by travel agents.

The deceased has been identified as Mandeep Kumar, a resident of the Goraya area.

According to family members, Mandeep had travelled abroad in search of employment after being assured of job opportunities by agents. He initially left India in September 2023, along with a relative

and a few acquaintances, and reached Armenia, where the group reportedly worked for several months. In December 2023, they moved to Russia, after which contact with Mandeep gradually ceased.

Relatives said that while others returned to India, Mandeep remained in Russia under unclear circumstances. The family later learned that he had allegedly been inducted into the Russian army

against his will and subsequently lost his life during the conflict. They also claimed that Mandeep was physically challenged, raising questions over how he could have been recruited.

Following his disappearance, the family

approached local authorities and sought assistance from both state and central governments.

Mandeep's brother said he also travelled to Russia to gather information and is now seeking answers from the Ministry of External Affairs and Russian authorities.

After months of uncertainty, officials confirmed Mandeep's death, and his mortal remains have been brought back to India. The family said the body will be taken to Jalandhar for the last rites, as the community mourns the loss and demands accountability in the case.

## US Strikes Rock Caracas as Trump Says Venezuelan President Maduro, His Wife Captured and Flown Out

(Gns). US President Donald Trump claimed overnight that American airstrikes on Caracas led to the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, saying both were removed from the country during a coordinated military operation.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the United States had "successfully carried out a large-scale strike against Venezuela and its leader." He asserted that Maduro and Flores were taken into custody and flown out following the air assault, but offered no immediate evidence to support the claim.

Former US President Donald Trump alleged that American airstrikes on Caracas led to the capture of Venezuelan President

Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, although Venezuelan authorities have not confirmed these



claims, and details are to be shared at a conference on January 3, 2026.

Venezuelan authorities acknowledged that attacks struck the capital but stopped short of confirming any arrests or detentions of the country's leadership. Officials blamed US forces for the strikes on Caracas

while remaining silent on Trump's assertion that Maduro had been captured. Trump said more details



would be shared at a news conference scheduled for 11 am at Mar-a-Lago on January 3, 2026, leaving key questions about the operation unanswered.

Residents in Caracas reported that explosions began around 2 am local time, with low-flying aircraft heard across several dis-

tricts. Multiple blasts shook buildings, forcing people into the streets amid confusion as fires broke out and thick smoke rose over parts of the city.

Videos circulating on social media showed burning structures and heavy smoke, while witnesses reported at least seven loud explosions. Power outages were reported in neighbourhoods near a major military base in the southern part of the capital during and after the strikes.

With no independent verification from international observers and Venezuelan officials declining to confirm Trump's claims, the status of President Maduro and the country's leadership remained unclear as the situation continued to unfold.

## Unable to Get Married? Get a Girl from Bihar for Rs 20,000: Uttarakhand Minister's Husband Sparks Controversy

(Gns). A controversial remark allegedly made by Girdhari Lal Sahu, husband of Uttarakhand minister Rekha Arya, has triggered political outrage and sharp reactions from women's bodies and opposition leaders.

Girdhari Lal Sahu, husband of Uttarakhand minister Rekha Arya, sparked outrage with a comment allegedly made in Almora, suggesting women from Bihar could be obtained for marriage for a sum, leading to condemnation from the public, opposition, and the Bihar State Women Commission, while the BJP distanced itself.

The comment, linked to an event in Almora last month, suggested that girls from Bihar could be arranged for marriage for a

fixed sum, prompting widespread condemnation.

Controversial remark at Almora event sparks backlash

A purported video circulating on social media shows Sahu telling an audience, "Will you get married in old age? If you are unable to get married, we will bring a girl for you from Bihar... you can get one there for Rs 20,000 to 25,000." In the same clip, he is heard adding, "Come with me, we'll get you married."

The video is reported to be from a public gathering in Almora. Soon after it surfaced, the remark drew criticism for portraying women as commodities and rein-

forcing harmful stereotypes. Apology issued as BJP distances itself

Following the outrage, Girdhari Lal Sahu released a video statement claiming his words were being misrepresented. He said he was referring to the marriage of a friend and added, "If my words have offended or hurt anyone, I apologise with folded hands."

The BJP's Uttarakhand unit condemned the remark and made it clear that Sahu has no association with the party. State BJP media in-charge Manveer Singh Chauhan said the party strongly denounces such thinking and reiterated that Sahu does not hold any



position within the organization.

Congress calls remarks an insult to women

The opposition Indian National Congress launched a sharp attack, calling the statement deeply offensive. Congress state president Ganesh Godiyal said, "This statement by minister Arya's husband is an insult to the daughters of India, whether she is from Bihar, Kerala, or Uttarakhand."

He added that the comment exposed the BJP's mindset on women's dignity and demanded an apology from the party. Congress Mahila Morcha state president Jyoti Rautela also condemned the remark, calling it shameful, particularly because Sahu's wife holds the women and child welfare portfolio.

## Massive enforcement inspection conducted in Nuh, Haryana; 105 units/sites inspected by CAQM

(Gns). The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) undertook a major inspection operation in Nuh, Haryana, on 02.01.2026, as part of the ongoing enforcement drive to ensure strict compliance with statutory directions and prescribed environmental norms in the National Capital Region (NCR). A total of 10 flying squad teams of the Commission were deployed for the operation.

The enforcement action was conducted in both conforming and non-conforming industrial areas of the district. The inspection was led by the district administration, including deputy commissioners (DCs) and duty magistrates, along with officials from the

Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB). Police personnel were also present during the inspec-



tion to support and facilitate smooth operations. The inspection areas were allocated to the flying squads by the district administration.

A total of 105 inspections were carried out, including across five construction & demolition (C&D) sites and remaining 100 were industrial units.

The industries inspected included 86 stone crushers, 05 tyre pyrolysis plants, 05 ready mix concrete plants

and 03 hot mix plants and 01 screening and washing plant. It is to be noted that the inspections were carried out when all actions up to Stage-III of the extant GRAP were in force in NCR. In compliance with the extant schedule of GRAP Stage-III almost all of the industrial units and C&D

sites were found non-operational/closed/dismantled. Violation of Direction No. 76 of the Commission, which pertains to diesel generator (DG) sets, was reported in 03 units.

The Commission stated that such strong enforcement of actions under the extant GRAP are essential to curb non-compliance, reduce emissions at source and provide relief to the citizens residing near such non-compliant entities. These enforcement efforts are aimed at ensuring that industries and C&D sites follow the prescribed norms and do not contribute to air pollution in the region.

This inspection operation conducted in Nuh is part of the larger enforcement initiative of CAQM to intensify on-ground monitoring.

## Congress announces 45-day 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram'

(Gns). In a major political offensive against the government, the Congress on Saturday announced a 45-day nationwide protest titled "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram."

The campaign, scheduled to run from January 8 to February 25 aims to force the withdrawal of the newly enacted VB Gram G



### WESTERN RAILWAY

CONSTRUCTION WORK  
Dr. Chief Engineer (Construction) II,  
Western Railway, Pratanagar,  
Vadodra-390004, invites E-Tender No.  
DYCE-C-II-BRC-CYI-BJW-01, Date:  
31.12.2025. Name of the work:  
Execution of P way works including laying  
and linking of BG track for Main line, loop  
lines including points & crossing at yards,  
Supply and spreading of ballast,  
transportation of P way materials,  
Tamping of track and other miscellaneous  
works in connection with multi tracking  
between Chhayapuri - Bajwa (2 Km).  
Approximate cost work: ₹  
4,27,91,948.53. EMD: ₹ 3,64,000/-  
Date of opening of bid: From: 08.01.2026  
to: 22.01.2026 up to 15:00 hrs. For further  
details please visit our website  
www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not  
be considered. 0967  
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY				
Senior Divisional Commercial - Manager, Mumbai Central Division, Western Railway Divisional Railway Manager, Commercial Department, NFR section, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008.				
Work - Display of Advertisement through various NFR media over Mumbai Division.				
Auction Catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-ADVTH25-01		22-01-26 15:00:00		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & Time of e-Auction
1	HyB-OnB-99674-25-1 (Hybrid NFR - On-board Hybrid)	Contract for Procurement and Supply of Linen Cover Bags with Advertisements in Reserved Coaches of nominated Mail/Express Trains of Mumbai Division, Western Railway for a period of 03 years.	1096	22-01-26 15:30:00
Auction Catalogue No.		Auction Start (All Lots)		
MMCT-ADVT-25-67		22-01-26 15:00:00		
Sr. No.	Lot No	Location / Area	Days	Close Date & Time of e-Auction
1	ADVT-BCT-VGN-OSN-464-25-1 (Advertising - VGN Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Vangaon (VGN) station for a period of 3 years.	1096	22-01-26 15:30:00
2	ADVT-BCT-UOI-OSN-182-24-1 (Advertising - UOI Station Premise (Non-Digital))	Bulk Advertising Rights at Umroli (UOI) Station for a period of 3 years.	1096	22-01-26 15:40:00
3	ADVT-BCT-CCG-OSD-465-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Digital))	Bulk advertising rights at Churchgate (CCG) station, non-ticketing area for a period of 5 years.	1826	22-01-26 15:50:00
4	ADVT-BCT-NSP-OH-351-25-2 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Bulk advertising rights for display of advertisement by erection of new hoarding structures at	2557	22-01-26 16:00:00
Nallasopara (03 Hoardings of Size 20' X 10' at North East circulating area adjacent to queuing area of Booking office) of total area admeasuring 600 sq. ft. for a period of 07 years.				
Contact details: Landline no.: 02267644212. Email ID: acmadvtbct@gmail.com Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The lot wise details are available there in under the mentioned catalogue. 0970				
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: X.com/WesternRly				



## Sanjay Raut questions record ‘unopposed’ civic poll victories in favour of BJP-led Mahayuti

(Gns). Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and chief party spokesperson Sanjay Raut criticised the record number of “unopposed” victories of BJP-led Mahayuti candidates on Saturday, even before elections to 29 municipal corporations scheduled for January 15 are held.

Directly attacking both Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Raut told media persons, “Elections will be held only on January 15, but even before voting could take place, 68 BJP-led Mahayuti candidates have been elected. What great work have these candidates done? If people get elected unopposed, why then are elections being held? What should voters do? Never in the history of the world have so many people been elected unopposed”.

Incidentally, among those who got elected “unopposed” are 45 BJP candidates, 19 Shinde-led Sena candidates and two Ajit Pawar-led NCP candidates. The highest number of such “unopposed” candidates are from Kalyan Dombivali Municipal Corporation, from where 15 BJP candidates and six Shinde-led Sena candidates were elected “unopposed”.

“Even great leaders have never been elected unopposed. Great leaders like Vasantdada Patil, Barrister Nath Pai, Ram Manohar Lohia, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and even Narendra Modi were never elected unopposed. So, what great work did these people do that got elected unopposed,” Raut asked.

“The fact is that anywhere between Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore was paid to rival candidates to get elected unopposed. They were made to withdraw their candidature. Money and pressure were used on a large scale to make rival candidates withdraw their candidatures. The figure given by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena’s (MNS) Manoj Gharat is so big that anybody’s eyes will pop. Bags were filled with cash and distributed to opposition candidates in Jalgaon”.

“Returning officers of the Election Commission were ordered to accept withdrawal of candidature applications even after 3 pm. Phone calls came from the Chief Minister’s Office and Deputy Chief Minister’s Office. Call records of returning officers should be checked. That will solve the mystery of unopposed election victories,” he said.

“If candidates are being sold, what should voters do? The Election Commission has now asked for a report, but will the Municipal Commissioner give them a true report? The entire election machinery has been purchased.”



Manoj Gharat is so big that anybody’s eyes will pop. Bags were filled with cash and distributed to opposition candidates in Jalgaon”.

## “Sata Vikas Group” gave jobs to 29 students of Sanskriti University.

Mathura. 30 students of Mechanical Engineering Diploma of Sanskriti University have been selected for jobs by Sata Vikas Group, a world famous company in the field of machining product designing, during campus placement. The university administration expressed happiness over this selection and congratulated the students for a bright future.

Nareish Deshwal, head of HR department from the company, said that established in 2007 with a vision to capture the emerging Indian and Asian automotive markets, Saata Vikas is a joint venture between Vikas Group and Saata SpA (formerly known as



During campus placement at Sanskriti University, officials of “Sata Vikas Group” company giving information about the working style of the company to the students.

Martinelli) of Italy, a leader in the niche landscape of precision machinings a global player.Motor vehicle. Anand Kumar Tiwari,

officer of Sanskriti Placement Cell, said that the company has appointed Sanskriti University Mechanical Diploma students Shahid, Mohan, Yogesh, Narendra, Guddu, Hemant, Shivprakash, Bhola, Akash Kumar, Mohit, Premchandra, Nareish Kumar, Gaurav Singh, Bhudev Singh, Bharat, Krishna Gopal, Jaykesh, Mohit Kumar, Vivek, OmprakashOffer letters have been given to Manoj, Satyam, Akash, Rahul Rajput, Bhavishya, Naveen, Hemraj, Pradeep and DeepakExpressing happiness over this selection of students, University CEO D. Meenakshi Sharma and Vice Chancellor Prof. MB Chetty have congratulated. He also advised them to work diligently with the company and bring glory to the university.

## A conspiracy to burn the Constitution, democracy, and social justice! - Sudarshan

Lucknow/Samajwadi Party's National General Secretary of the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Vahini, Ram Babu Sudarshan, said that the burning of the picture of the architect of the Constitution, Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao

Ambedkar, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, is not only shameful but also clear proof of the BJP's anti-Dalit and anti-Constitution mindset. This incident is not just about burning a picture, but a conspiracy to burn the

Constitution, democracy, and social justice. Insulting the creator of the Constitution, which gave rights and respect to crores of deprived people, Dalits, backward classes, and minorities, is part of a well-planned conspiracy. This

incident shows how emboldened the forces spreading hatred in the state and the country have become, and the government's silence is giving them a free hand because they are receiving protection from those in power. Is the BJP government protecting those who insulted Baba Saheb?

Mr. Sudarshan said that the BJP waves the book of the Constitution on its platforms, but on the ground, Baba Saheb's ideas and symbols are being insulted. This double standard has now been exposed before the country. The increasing atrocities against Dalits, backward classes, and deprived communities, and now incidents like the burning of Baba Saheb's picture, expose the BJP's true mentality. The double-engine government should apologize to the people of the country. The insult to Baba Saheb will not be tolerated. To protect the Constitution, the Samajwadi Party will wage a decisive struggle against the BJP, from the streets to the Parliament.



The accused is in police custody

cards, seven SIM cards and a total of 14 ATM cards have been recovered.On the basis of the recovery, the police registered FIR No. 003/2026 under Section 318(4), 338,336(3), 340(2) at Surir police station and took necessary legal action

## Hearing on claim of ‘existence of ancient Shiv Mandir under Ajmer Dargah’ deferred

(Gns). The hearing in the case on the belief that “remains of a Shiv Mandir” beneath the premises of Dargah of Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chisti in Ajmer was deferred until February 21 next month.

The case, filed by chief of outfit Hindu Sena Vishnu Gupta was listed in the Ajmer Civil Court’s cause list on Saturday. However, the hearing could not be held due to “work-boycott” by lawyers.

In his case, Plaintiff The Anjuman Committee, one of the respondents, has prayed for summary dismissal of the case, calling it a sort of — remnants of which are still buried beneath the earth in the Dargah premises,” he claimed and prayed before the court to order for special survey by Archeological Survey of India (ASI) for ascertaining the existence of (claimed) Shiv Temple.

The



gimmick aimed at garnering cheap publicity. The organisation has also stated in its application that the case is not main-

## Survivor’s husband lodges complaint against rape accused MLA Rahul Mamkootathil

(Gns). The husband of the survivor, linked to the first rape case against Rahul Mamkootathil, alleged, in his complaint, that the MLA established an illicit relationship with his wife despite knowing that the woman was married. He not only tarnished the reputation of the family but also ruined the complainant’s family life, he said.

He stated that Mamkotathil’s claim in the court that he became close to the man’s wife after he intervened to resolve their family issues is not true as claimed by the accused in his application for anticipatory bail to the court.

The husband explained that if Rahul really intended to mediate or assist, he should have contacted him directly, which never occurred. “He did not once, at any point during this period, reach out to me to initiate mediation talks,” the complaint states.

He detailed that after the woman made her allegations, several individuals circulated the husband’s photograph on social media, resulting in a severe violation of his privacy.

Rahul was exploiting the situation. Taking advantage of minor issues, he acted with criminal intelligence, the husband said in the complaint . He sexually harassed the young woman and forced her to have an abortion by making false promises, the survivor’s husband states in the complaint.

Voice messages and pictures were released by Rahul Mamkootathil in a way that could identify the young woman. He is trying to portray him in a bad light in cyberspace. The complaint also seeks action against the defamatory remarks against him.

The complainant demands that a case be registered against the Palakkad MLA under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) (enticing, taking away, or detaining a married woman with criminal intent).

The woman filed a complaint against Rahul Mamkootathil on November 27, 2025, after approaching Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Based on her statement, The Nemom



The woman filed a complaint against Rahul Mamkootathil on November 27, 2025, after approaching Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Based on her statement, The Nemom

Police registered an FIR in the case the following day, charging Rahul with rape, causing miscarriage without consent, criminal intimidation, and offences related to the unauthorised recording and sharing of private images. At present, Kerala Police have registered two FIRs against the Palakkad MLA.

The second FIR, filed on December 3, 2025 also alleges rape.

In August, Rahul resigned as Youth Congress president after Malayalam television channels aired multiple audio clips and chat records in which women accused him of coercion and misconduct. On December 4, 2025, the Congress expelled him from the party after a second complaint alleging rape was filed against him.

## RSS chief Bhagwat calls for support to the last person to end conversions

(Gns). Contending that religious conversions would not end until the weakest sections of society were heard sensitively, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday stressed the need to bring even the last person into the mainstream.

Addressing a meeting focused on social harmony at Bhopal, Bhagwat called for sustained efforts to eliminate discrimination in society by embracing the most marginalised. He warned that the society would gain nothing if it failed to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the weakest sections.

He said conversions would continue unless the last person in society was supported, heard, and respected. “If we do not stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the last person, it will not benefit society or the country, and conversions will not stop,” Bhagwat told the participants of the event.

Praising Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya for articulating the philosophy of “Integral Humanism” (Ekatma Manavata Vad) with the central tenet of Antyodaya. He with Antyodaya, the RSS leader and ideologue of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the forerunner to the BJP, the RSS Chief, meant the “upliftment of the last person” or “serving the last person in the queue,” focusing on prioritising the welfare of the most marginalised.

As per an RSS statement, Bhagwat said social



harmony was intrinsic to Indian society and stressed the need for sustained dialogue and collective effort to strengthen it. Attempts were being made to create divisions by spreading confusion among tribal and other communities, while

people living in the subcontinent for thousands of years shared the same DNA.

The RSS chief underlined the need for continuous engagement and mutual understanding and said the strong must support the weak, it added.

Representatives from various social groups and organisations from 16 administrative districts of the RSS’s Madhya Bharat prant participated in the meeting, which was held in two sessions. The meeting ended with a resolution that society would address local issues through collective efforts without waiting for government intervention, with speakers emphasising the goal of strengthening society as a whole, the

## Jannat Zubair gets candid about growing up with COLORS as she shares her inspiring journey on Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment

Every success story has a beginning, and sometimes, all it takes is a moment of reflection to appreciate how far one has come. In this weekend’s episode of COLORS’ ‘Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment’, amidst the fun banter and playful exchanges, the spotlight briefly turns to Jannat Zubair for a heartfelt yet uplifting moment. During a cook-off, Krushna Abhishek invites Jannat to share her story, as she opens up about her journey from years of auditions and rejection to her first life-changing breakthrough with ‘Phulwa’ on COLORS. In that moment, she reflects on how the channel has stood by her through every phase of her growth, continuing to be a constant companion as



“Everyone sees the smiles, the confidence, and the stage, but very few see how early this journey really began for me. I started auditioning when I was just six, and for almost two years, rejection was all I knew. That phase taught me patience, discipline, and what hard work truly means.

And then Phulwa happened. COLORS believed in a little ten-year-old girl when it

mattered the most, trusted me with a role that changed my life, and gave me my first real identity as an actor. From being a child artist, to slowly finding my footing, to standing here today with confidence shaped by years of learning and growing, COLORS has always been a part of my story. Shows

like Phulwa, Khatron Ke Khiladi, Tu Aashiqui and now Laughter Chefs mark different chapters of my life, each shaping me not just as an artist, but as a person. COLORS has always felt like family to me, a space that supported me and let me grow at my own pace. And today, with Laughter Chefs, it has given me another family, filled with laughter, warmth, and real, genuine bonds.”

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

## TMC MP Mausam Noor returns to Congress after seven years

(Gns). In a politically significant development ahead of the 2026 Assembly election, Rajya Sabha MP Mausam Benazir Noor on Saturday formally returned to the Congress, seven years after she quit the party to join the Trinamul Congress (TMC) in January 2019.

She completed the rejoining formalities at the Congress headquarters on Akbar Road in New Delhi, marking a reunion of the influential Gani Khan Choudhury family under the Congress banner in Malda. Senior Congress leaders, including party general secretary Jairam Ramesh, West Bengal Congress observer Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Pradesh Congress president Subhankar Sarkar and Malda North MP Isha Khan Choudhury ~ who is also Mausam’s elder brother ~ were present during the joining programme.

Addressing the media after Mausam’s return, Isha



Malda. Mausam was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Malda North in 2009 on a Congress ticket and retained the seat in 2014. However, her decision to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a TMC ticket proved costly, as Malda North slipped out of her hands in a triangular contest, with BJP candidate Khagen Murmu emerging victorious. Subsequently, the TMC nominated her to the Rajya Sabha. She was not fielded in the 2024 elections, nor was she given a

ticket in the 2021 Assembly polls, despite speculation. Political observers note that the Gani Khan Choudhury legacy remains central to Malda’s politics, and Mausam’s political identity has largely been tied to the family name. With Isha Khan Choudhury currently serving as a Congress MP from Malda South, her return is seen as a strategic move to consolidate the family’s influence within the party.

Notably, Suwendu Adhikari, Leader of Opposition, had played a key role in facilitating Mausam’s entry into the TMC in 2019, when he was the party’s observer for Malda and Murshidabad and had introduced her to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. While the Congress hopes Mausam’s return will revive the party’s fortunes in Malda, opinions within the party remain divided over the actual electoral impact. The TMC, meanwhile, has down-