



GARVI GUJARAT

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## 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."

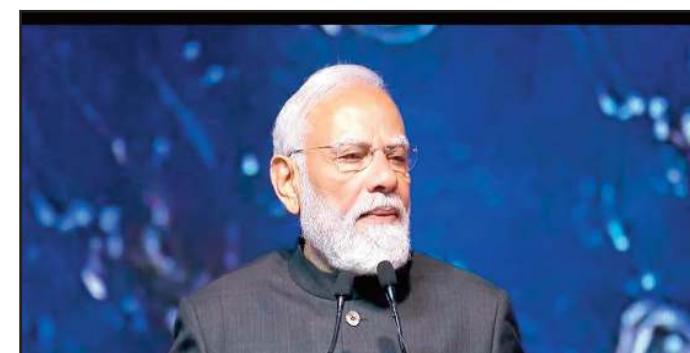
Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhwat, said that the presence of the Prime Minister, who has the rare ability to translate the spirit of India into the actions of governance, is always a moment of inspiration and significance. He added that welcoming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



Singh Shekhwat; 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

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 coffin 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

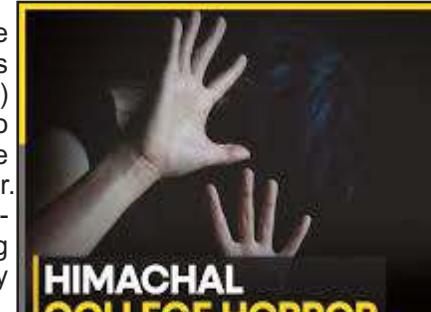
(Gns). Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration at Sri Vijaya Puram. On this occasion, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri 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

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

(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

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

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.

## 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 healthcare services at nearby locations.

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 pub-

lic health and wellness, including Ayurvedic and homoeopathic systems of



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.

## 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.



Congress leader Shashi Tharoor criticized the politicization of cricket after Kolkata Knight Riders released Mustafizur Rahman following BCCI directives amidst a debate

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

individual cricketer for events beyond his control. In a post on X, he asked whether the outrage was directed at a country, a religion, or a single athlete, and warned that dragging politics into sport without reflection could have damaging consequences. He also raised the point that the reaction may have been different had the player involved been Bangladeshi Hindu cricketers like Litton Das or Soumya Sarkar.

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,



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Jio Air Fiber Jio Tv+ Jio Fiber Daily Hunt ebaba Tv Dish Plus

DTH live OTT Rock TV Airtel Amezone Fire Roku Tv-US.UK

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

## 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.

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. Politically, pollution persists because it is a slow killer without immediate electoral consequences.

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

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 dispossess or violently 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

(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

## 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 intergenerational 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 neighbour-

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report "Overlapping Hardships: Poverty and Climate Hazards", released ahead of the COP26 climate sum-

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.

Transparent environmental impact assessments, independent monitoring, and strong judicial mechanisms are essential to deter exploitation. The formalization 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.



hoods, 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

mit 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.

Climate-induced poverty, in turn, increases reliance on cheap fossil fuels, biomass burning, and resource extraction, further degrading the environment. The 2025

Global

Breaking

## India's viral moments over the year

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

## 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,

where the Government of India appears willing to finance visible winter-time interventions that generate headlines, but unwilling to confront powerful polluters or invest consistently in preventive measures that may be politically inconvenient. As a result, public money is repeatedly spent on treating symptoms during a few months of crisis instead of curing the disease through

sprinklers, smog towers, mobile vans, and emergency-response equipment, while conspicuously failing to design or implement any serious year-round programme to control air pollution at its source.

This seasonal, optics-driven strategy reduces governance to spectacle: equipment is hurriedly showcased when AQI levels spike and media pressure mounts, only to be forgotten once winter passes, even though emissions from industries, construction, transport, waste burning, and power generation continue unabated throughout the year. Under national frameworks like the National Clean Air Programme, targets are announced but accountability is missing, funding is skewed toward short-term technological fixes rather than sustained regulatory action, and structural reforms – such as strict industrial audits, continuous emission penalties, urban planning corrections, and public transport expansion – are indefinitely postponed.

This pattern reflects a deeper political failure, a

itself deliver cleaner air. It demands coordinated field action, strict enforcement on roads, construction sites, industries, landfills, and agricultural regions, along with sustained public awareness so that citizens become active participants rather than passive sufferers.

Equally essential is strong political will to take

scientifically guided but often unpopular decisions, instead of relying on short-term announcements and media-driven publicity that highlight political visibility rather than real outcomes. It is pertinent to mention here that PM2.5 can be generated within an already polluted atmosphere, and in my view this secondary formation is one of the most underestimated reasons for persistently high pollution levels in cities like Delhi. Even when direct emissions are reduced, polluted air rich in precursor gases such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, and volatile organic compounds can chemically react in the atmosphere to form new fine particulate matter.

Under conditions common to Delhi – high humidity, low wind speed, fog, and temperature inversion – these gases undergo complex photochemical and aqueous-phase reactions, producing secondary PM2.5 such as sulfates, nitrates, and organic aerosols. In such stagnant conditions, pollution effectively "self-generates," meaning the atmosphere itself becomes a factory for fine particles rather than just a carrier of emissions. This explains why PM2.5 levels often remain critical even when visible sources appear limited or temporar-

ily controlled. This PM2.5 formed within a polluted atmosphere (secondary PM2.5) is often more harmful, or at least equally harmful, than PM2.5 emitted directly from point sources. Secondary PM2.5 is rich in sulfates, nitrates, ammonium, and secondary organic aerosols, which are often more acidic and oxidative.

These particles can trigger stronger inflammatory and oxidative stress responses in the lungs and bloodstream. It is important to note that during the Covid-19 lockdown, when most transport systems and industries were shut down, AQI levels in Delhi often remained high, which clearly demonstrates that air pollution is not controlled by emission sources alone. Secondary formation tends to produce ultrafine and highly hygroscopic particles that grow in humid air, allowing them to penetrate deep into the alveoli and even enter the bloodstream, and in some respects, it can be more dangerous.

Therefore, focusing only

on direct emission sources without reducing precursor gases and unfavourable atmospheric conditions fails to address this hidden but powerful mechanism of pollution build-up, reinforcing the need for preventive, year-round control strategies. In my view, unless pollution control strategies are designed around

Delhi's geographical disadvantage and meteorological reality, and focus on permanently lowering baseline emissions rather than reacting after pollution peaks, clean air will continue to remain an unfulfilled promise despite repeated emergency measures.

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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 Shubhangi 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.



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## 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 Vasantda 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



Manoj Gharat is so big that anybody's eyes will pop. Bags were filled with cash and distributed to opposition candidates in Jalgao".

"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."

to Rs 10 crore was paid to elected 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)

## 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 Mamkootathil'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 Sahita (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

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.

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



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

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.

Naresh 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, Sata Vikas is a joint venture between Vikas Group and Sata

Spa (formerly known as

Martinelli) of Italy, a leader in the niche landscape of precision machining a global player. Motor vehicle.

Anand Kumar Tiwari, officer of Sanskriti Placement Cell, said that the company has appointed Sanskriti University Mechanical Diploma stu-

dents Shahid, Mohan, Yogesh, Narendra, Guddu, Hemant, Shivprakash, Bhola, Akash Kumar, Mohit, Premchandra, Naresh Kumar, Gaurav Singh, Bhudev Singh, Bharat, Krishna Gopal, Jaykesh, Mohit Kumar, Vivek, Omprakash Offer letters have been given to Manoj, Satyam, Akash, Rahul Rajput, Bhavishya, Naveen, Hemraj, Pradeep and Deepak.

Expressing 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.

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, 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 state-

ment, Bhagwat said social 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

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

(Gns).

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## 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 apolo-

gize 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.

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

she shines today on

Laughter Chefs.

Jannat Zubair shares,



"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.

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

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, Raja 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