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India Rejects US Claim On Trade Deal Delay Says 'PM Modi Did Not Call...'

(Gns).

India has strongly denied the recent statement made by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who claimed that a trade deal between India and the United States fell through because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not personally call US President Donald Trump.

India's government refuted US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's claim that a trade deal with the US failed due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reluctance to call President Donald Trump, asserting ongoing and professional trade talks. The External Affairs Ministry stated that India and the U.S. have been working towards a balanced agreement since

February of the previous year, with discussions and phone calls between Modi and Trump occurring, despite tariff challenges.

The Indian government called this claim "not accurate" and clarified that talks between the two countries have been ongoing and professional.

India Says Claim Is "Not Accurate"

During a press briefing on Friday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India and the US have been working seriously toward a balanced and fair trade agreement since February last year. He explained that both sides have held many rounds of discussions to find common ground and that they were close to reaching a deal on several

occasions.

"We have seen the remarks. The description of these talks is not accurate," Jaiswal said. He added that India remains committed to achieving a trade deal that benefits both nations, which have strong and complementary economies. He also noted that Prime Minister Modi and President Trump had spoken on the phone eight times in 2025 to discuss different areas of cooperation, including trade.

India's response came just hours after Lutnick claimed that the deal was delayed because Modi chose not to personally call Trump. According to Lutnick, "It was all set up, and you just had to have Modi call the President. But they were uncomfortable

doing it. So Modi didn't call."

linked to India's continued purchase of Russian oil.



How the Trade Talks Broke Down

Negotiations between India and the US reportedly stalled last year, after which President Trump raised tariffs on Indian imports to 50%. This included a 25% increase

pressure on the Indian rupee and worried investors who were hoping for progress in the long-pending trade discussions.

Lutnick said India was looking for a tariff rate similar to what the US offered to countries like the UK and Vietnam. However, he admitted that the earlier offer is no longer valid.

He also compared India's situation to that of the UK, saying British Prime Minister Keir Starmer personally called Trump before a key deadline, which helped finalize

their trade deal quickly.

Lutnick described India's hesitation as being "on the wrong side of the seesaw," meaning that timing and personal diplomacy made a difference.

Strain in India-US Relations

Relations between India and the US faced challenges last year when Trump imposed additional tariffs after India continued importing Russian oil. Reports suggested that Trump tried to reach Modi several times but did not get a response, which

added to the tension.

Despite these differences, communication between the two leaders later resumed through phone calls on occasions such as Modi's birthday, Diwali, and in December. However, the trade deal still remains uncertain, with both countries yet to agree on final terms.

India maintains that it is ready to continue discussions and hopes to reach a fair and beneficial agreement that strengthens the economic partnership between the two nations.

development of Aravalli.

On this occasion, Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stone for various projects, including Rs. 107.02 crore projects of the Roads and Buildings Department (State), various projects worth Rs. 24.49 crore of the Education Department, projects worth Rs. 19.9 crore of the Sports Department, projects worth Rs. 12.5 crore of the Roads and Buildings Department (Panchayat), projects worth Rs. 3.46 crore of the Health and Family Welfare Department. Additionally, orders for plot allotment to families of nomadic and denotified tribes were also issued, and cash credit assistance was distributed to Kishan Mission Mangalam groups.

The event was attended by District Panchayat President Priyanka Damor, MP Shobhanaben Baraiya, MLAs Shri Bhikhusinhji Parmar and Shri Dhavalish Zala, District In-charge Secretary Shri Roopwant Singh, District Collector Prashasti Pareek, District Development Officer Deepesh Kedia, District Police Chief Manoharsinh Jadeja, along with other officials and dignitaries.

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The Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation has arranged special bus services between the station and the temple, enabling a large number of devotees from Rajkot, Surat, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara to have darshan at Somnath.

With the introduction of

special train services, Shiva devotees are benefiting from timely and comfortable travel.

Under the Somnath

Swabhiman Parv, a range of facilities, including transpor-

tation, guidance, and overall management, have

been implemented smoothly for devotees.

Kejriwal, Bhagwant Mann Assure Punjab Traders of Hassle-Free Governance at State Traders Commission Meet

(Gns).

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday assured traders and shopkeepers across Punjab that they would no longer be forced to run from office to office to get their issues resolved, as the state government will now reach markets directly through the newly formed Punjab State Traders Commission.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) launched the Punjab State Traders Commission, with Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann, to address traders' issues directly, promising to resolve problems and simplify the tax system while

ensuring the welfare of shopkeepers.

Addressing the maiden meeting of the commission held in SAS Nagar, Kejriwal said the initiative marked a decisive break from years of bureaucratic neglect and harassment faced by traders under previous governments. He stressed that protecting small shopkeepers and ensuring ease of doing business was essential for the country's economic progress.

"No nation can progress unless its small shopkeepers and traders are protected. Governments have traditionally treated traders as

thieves, subjecting them to tax terrorism, harassment and endless paperwork," Kejriwal said, adding that the AAP government aims to simplify the tax system, make it transparent and

political parties sought donations during elections. "On one hand, traders are harassed through taxation, and on the other, they are pressured for donations. We do not see traders as thieves. I come from a trading family and understand the struggles of shopkeepers," he said.

He announced that trader commissions would function at state, district and constituency levels, with local traders working alongside police and administration officials. These bodies will hold meetings in markets to identify individual, market-level and policy-related problems, many of which, Kejriwal said, would be resolved on the spot.

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said that NIDMS will prove to be extremely important in the coming days for the investigation of all types of terrorist incidents occurring

to connect all these data sources with one another and to develop an advanced Artificial Intelligence-based software

NIA, Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) across the country, state police forces and all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). He said that data related to any explosion or IED incident occurring at any location can be included in this system. By utilising this data, necessary guidance can be obtained during investigations in every state. He said that NIDMS will prove extremely important in investigating terrorist activities, understanding trends in explosions, and formulating effective strategies against them.

Union Home Minister said that the database available with NSG contains data related to all bomb explosions from 1999 till now. He said that through NIDMS, this data will now be made available to police forces across the country and relevant agencies.

in the country and for the analysis of their various aspects. Further, NIDMS will become the next-generation security shield against terrorism. Shri Shah said that the Ministry of Home Affairs has generated various types of data in the past years, but until now they were in silos, i.e., separate from each other. Now, we are making efforts

for their analysis. He said that today's launch of NIDMS will accelerate this process and prove to be an important milestone in the direction of making the country safe from terrorism.

Shri Amit Shah said that with the NIDMS being launched today, a two-way

comprehensive, integrated and online data platform will become available to police forces across the country and relevant agencies.

Addressing the program, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the last six years, significant work has been done to generate various types of data and collect it in a systematic manner. He

Regional Aspirations, Global Ambitions

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Editorial

After the Fall of Caracas

Venezuela was not an aberration. It was a declaration. The forcible removal of Nicolás Maduro was presented as a corrective to criminality and democratic collapse, but it has also reset expectations about how power will now be exercised. The operation's brazenness ~ a sitting head of state seized, a government displaced, an interim authority installed ~ was not merely tactical. It was signalling.

And signals, in international politics, are rarely sent without intended recipients. Those recipients are already visible. Greenland is the most unsettling case, because it collapses the distinction between strategic interest and territorial ambition. The language used ~ necessity, security, inevitability ~ mirrors justifications historically associated with expansionist powers, not treaty-bound democracies. If strategic value alone becomes sufficient rationale, alliance membership offers no immunity. Colombia sits at the intersection of ideology, narcotics and geography. A left-leaning government, persistent drug flows, and rising US frustration form a combustible mix. Historically a close security partner, it is now being rhetorically recast as a problem state.

That shift matters. When partners are redefined as liabilities, the space for coercive action widens rapidly. Mexico is more complicated and therefore more dangerous. Its proximity to the US makes restraint harder, not easier. Cartels, migration and domestic US politics combine to create pressure for action that diplomacy struggles to absorb. Any cross-border intervention, even limited, would fracture a foundational bilateral relationship. But the logic of "if they won't, we will" has already been articulated. Once that logic is normalised, execution becomes a matter of timing, not principle. Iran lies outside the hemispheric frame, but not outside the doctrine. Here the justification is moral rather than geographic: human rights, nuclear threat, regional destabilisation. The problem is that morality, when weaponised, becomes indistinguishable from convenience. If domestic repression is sufficient cause for external force, the list of eligible targets expands dramatically ~ and selectively. Cuba, finally, is the low-hanging fruit. Isolated, economically brittle, and now deprived of Venezuelan support, it is being openly described as a regime waiting to fall. That language is not analytical; it is anticipatory. It prepares audiences for an outcome, and outcomes tend to follow preparation. Taken together, these cases reveal a pattern. This is not a scatter of unrelated grievances. It is a coherent posture: strategic impatience combined with ideological certainty. Influence is no longer sufficient; control is the goal. Legitimacy is no longer negotiated; it is asserted. The danger is not that power is being used. Great powers always use power.

The danger is that constraint is being discarded. When intervention becomes normalised, resistance becomes rational. Smaller states hedge, rivals harden, and institutions hollow out. Venezuela will be defended as a special case. Every intervention is. But precedents do not remain isolated. They travel. They are cited. They are eventually turned. Venezuela was the breach. The question now is whether it will remain the exception ~ or become the template as America turns brazenly rapacious.

Essence of Women Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Employment worth Rs. 9 crore is provided to 363 women annually through the Somnath Temple

252 women are effectively serving in various roles within the Somnath Temple Trust

Women completely manage the Bilva Van

55 women are engaged in prasad distribution, while 35 women serve in the temple Bhojanalya (dining hall)

Gandhinagar, 09 January 2026: The Shree Somnath Temple, a living emblem of India's ancient cultural heritage and spiritual legacy, is globally recognised as a centre of faith and devotion. Today, however, this sacred dham goes beyond worship and darshan, emerging as a powerful and inspiring hub for women's empowerment. Through the human-focused and socially responsible initiatives of the Somnath Temple Trust,



women are being guided toward greater self-reliance.

Currently, the Somnath Temple Trust has a total of 906 employees, including 262 women. This is not just a number, but a testament to the Trust's inclusive vision and commitment to equal opportunities. The active involvement of women in temple management, service activities, and daily operations brings a distinctive combination of sensitivity, discipline, and dedication to the function-

ing of the Trust. Women, a source of great pride, entirely manage the sacred Bilva Van within the temple premises. The 16 women working here maintain the temple's sanctity while promoting environmental protection, green conservation, and cleanliness. This initiative serves as a remarkable example of women's skilled management and strong sense of responsibility.

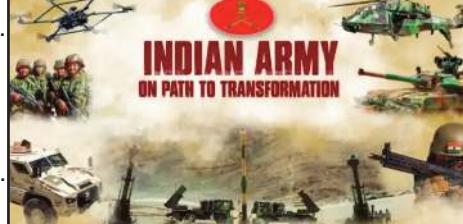
Additionally, 30 women are providing dedicated service in the temple dining hall. By serving food with care and devotion to thousands of devotees, they keep the temple's tradition of service alive. Similarly, the involvement of 65

women in the sacred task of prasad distribution highlights their discipline, commitment, and reliability.

In total, 363 women receive direct employment through the Somnath Temple Trust. Collectively, they generate an estimated annual income of around Rs. 9 crore, clearly reflecting their economic self-reliance and the positive impact on their standard of living. This income also contributes significantly to the overall development of society.

In this way, the Shree Somnath Temple Trust has established a model worth emulating, blending spiritual heritage with social responsibility and women's empowerment. From this sacred centre of faith, the essence of self-confidence, self-respect, and self-reliance is spreading far and wide.

quo, particularly against China and Pakistan, and to affect more profound changes within the three Services, envisaged at the systemic level.



Second, identifying those changes that have the potential to re-shape the force. They are systemic in nature. They are both doctrinal and structural, and invariably driven by changes in technology. Unlike those incremental changes these are somewhat different. Here, while the wider system remains

the same, the balance between these factors undergoes a change. They typically show up as doctrinal or technological preferences, to define new concepts, structures and tactics on the battlefield. For instance, India's quest for theatreisation of its armed forces has the potential to produce a systemic change, but only if it is grounded in an inspiring joint doctrine and right choice of technologies. That the Air Force wants to stick to the status quo is a different matter.

In that context, systemic changes are easy to conceive or pronounce, but these are difficult to operationalize, as most militaries are inherently resistant to change. Essentially, the inter-Service tussle boils down to who gets to define the system.

evolved. For decades, policy, protection and market design have encouraged manufacturers to look inward. High tariffs, local content rules and a vast domestic consumer base created a comfortable ecosystem where growth could be achieved without intense export competitiveness.

The result is an industry finely tuned to Indian price points, Indian regulations and Indian tastes, but only selectively aligned with global demand. This inward orientation shows up clearly in export patterns. India

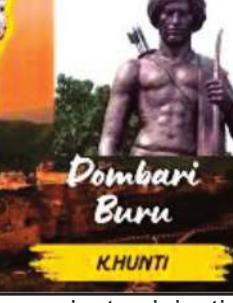
under Captain H.H. Dalton.

On January 9, over 400 unarmed Munda tribals ~ men, women, and children ~ had assembled peacefully at Dombari Buru for a meeting. Without warning, British forces opened fire, unleashing a hail of bullets that turned the hill into a slaughter ground. Reports describe the nearby Taja River running red with blood, as hundreds were mowed down in cold blood. This atrocity, which claimed over 400 lives, predicated the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 by nearly two decades and was far bloodier in its brutality against an indigenous population. It is appropriately called the "Jallianwala Bagh of Jharkhand" because, like Amritsar's tragedy, it exposed the ruthless face of colonialism, targeting defenceless people in a confined space with no escape.

Munda himself evaded capture briefly but was arrested on 3 February 1900, and died in Ranchi jail on 9 June 1900, under suspicious circumstances at the age of 25. As the nation celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the time could be right to consider Dombari Buru being declared a national memo-

rial, not just for the martyrs of 1900, but as a tribute to all tribal freedom fighters across India. Such a memorial would serve as a sacred site of pilgrimage, educating visitors about the often-forgotten contribution of the Adivasi community to India's independence. It could include museums, memorials, and cultural centres that highlight tribal histories, fostering national unity by integrating indigenous narratives into the mainstream freedom story.

This recognition would honour the sacrifices made in remote hills and forests, ensuring that the legacy of Adivasi resistance is preserved for posterity. Designating Dombari Buru as a national memorial could be the finest homage to India's tribal freedom fighters, spanning from Raghunath Mahato's revolt in 1769 to Jaipal Singh Munda's advocacy in the 1940s. Raghunath Mahato, a leader from the Jungle Mahals, spearheaded a rebellion against the East India Company's exploitative policies, mobilizing local communities in a fierce uprising that challenged early colonial dominance. His efforts laid the groundwork for future resistances.



ance against injustice, inspiring generations to uphold their heritage and fight for their rights. The events leading to the Dombari Buru massacre unfolded amid escalating tensions in the late 1890s. Birsa Munda's movement gained momentum as tribals resisted the British zamindari system and forest laws that deprived them of their ancestral lands. On 5 January 1900, Birsa's followers clashed with colonial forces, killing two police constables in Etchedih. Two days later, on January 7, they stormed a police station in Khundi, resulting in the death of another constable. Fearing a full-scale uprising, the British mobilized troops

Auto Paradox

performs well in motorcycles and tractors, categories where it has cost advantages and established manufacturing depth.



But these segments form a relatively narrow slice of world trade. In contrast, the global automotive market is driven by passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and now, increasingly, electric vehicles. It is

here that India lags ~ despite having the engineering base, supplier networks and labour scale to compete. The electric vehicle transition makes this imbalance starker. While global EV trade has surged, India's participation remains marginal. This is not for lack of policy intent, but because EV ecosystems are built on deep integration: battery supply chains, power electronics, software, charging infrastructure and global platform manufacturing.

Without scale in these critical inputs, exports cannot take off. Domestic assembly alone does not create export competitiveness.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurates Rashtriya Khanij Chintan Shibir in Gandhinagar

Guided by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this Chintan Shibir will act as a robust platform to chart a strategic roadmap for the mining sector in shaping a New India: CM Chief Minister:-

The Prime Minister has implemented holistic reforms across all sectors to make the country Atmanirbhar

Gujarat holds a strategic position for key minerals, including lignite, limestone, and bauxite.

Leveraging its mineral wealth, Gujarat is committed to advancing the "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" vision, promoting vocal-for-local and Atmanirbhar Bharat

India's mining sector is set to become a key pillar in realising the vision of a "Viksit Bharat@2047": Union Minister of Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy

Mineral resources form the backbone of our economy:- Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil

Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and Ministers of Mines from various states participate

participation from Ministers of Mines, officials, and stakeholders representing various states across the country.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the three-day Chintan Shibir in the presence of Union Ministers Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Shri C.R. Patil, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, the Union Minister of State for Mines, and other dignitaries.

CM added that the mining sector is a key pillar of India's industries and economy. By strengthening this pillar, the Chintan Shibir aims to accelerate national development through collective strategic deliberations.

He noted that the Prime Minister has introduced holistic reforms across all sectors to make India Atmanirbhar, with the mining sector reflecting these reforms—enabled by clear policies, strong political will, and transparent governance.

Shri Bhupendra Patel emphasised that the Prime Minister's approach prioritises sustainable development in harmony with nature, and in mining, this is being achieved through green mining, scientific reclamation, and technology-driven monitoring.

CM underscored Gujarat's strategic significance for key minerals like lignite, limestone, and bauxite, adding that the state has set an example not just in production and auctioning but also in trans-

parency, discipline, and regulatory compliance.

11 years, noting a 190% increase in mineral explo-

a global processing hub. The Minister also urged initiatives like "Urban Mining" and "Waste to Wealth" to promote environmental sustainability and resource reuse.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil emphasised the critical coordination required between the mining sector and water management in achieving "Viksit Bharat @ 2047." As India progresses toward a Viksit Bharat under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, mineral resources remain the backbone of the economy, providing essential raw materials for technological and infrastructural development.

He stressed the importance of environmental and water resource conservation during mining, advocating the principle of "Mining with Mindfulness." Recycling and reusing water during mining is essential, and modern technology must be applied to protect groundwater levels.

To achieve the vision of a Viksit Bharat, the central government is emphasising critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and tungsten. Shri Reddy stated that India is now focusing on the full value chain, including extraction, refining, recycling, and reprocessing, with special programs in place to recover critical minerals from e-waste by 2030.

The primary objective of Chintan Shibir is to develop a strategic plan for the coming years, aiming to minimise the time from mineral block auction to operation, enhance the use of next-generation technologies and digitisation, focus on R&D and skill development, and position India as

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Munda himself evaded capture briefly but was arrested on 3 February 1900, and died in Ranchi jail on 9 June 1900, under suspicious circumstances at the age of 25. As the nation celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the time could be right to consider Dombari Buru being declared a national memo-

rial, not just for the martyrs of 1900, but as a tribute to all tribal freedom fighters across India. Such a memorial would serve as a sacred site of pilgrimage, educating visitors about the often-forgotten contribution of the Adivasi community to India's independence. It could include museums, memorials, and cultural centres that highlight tribal histories, fostering national unity by integrating indigenous narratives into the mainstream freedom story.

This recognition would honour the sacrifices made in remote hills and forests, ensuring that the legacy of Adivasi resistance is preserved for posterity. Designating Dombari Buru as a national memorial could be the finest homage to India's tribal freedom fighters, spanning from Raghunath Mahato's revolt in 1769 to Jaipal Singh Munda's advocacy in the 1940s. Raghunath Mahato, a leader from the Jungle Mahals, spearheaded a rebellion against the East India Company's exploitative policies, mobilizing local communities in a fierce uprising that challenged early colonial dominance. His efforts laid the groundwork for future resistances.

Military Transformation

(Gns).

Warfare today is witnessing a massive change. But when we analyse some ongoing wars, it is hard to decipher what is changing, and what is not. In this age of media-hype, every new idea or technology is touted as a game-changer, leaving little room for honest understanding on the future of warfare. Understanding where warfare is headed can help political leaders, defence policy makers and military practitioners to make informed decisions, and take control of their strategic choices.

Three aspects of recognising change are important. First, recognising those changes that are transactional or incremental in nature. For example, India buying additional fighter jets to supplement

its air warfare capabilities. Or, buying tanks, guns and warships. These are useful increments, but nothing spectacular in terms of altering the balance of power. They simply enhance operational efficiency.

The capacity might improve, but not the broader concept to fight the adversary. Newsmakers and analysts tend to obsess over such transactional changes as it produces a constant flow of news-worthy content and hype. They fail to ask 'how' and 'why' each change can, or cannot, cause a fundamental shift in India's overall war-fighting capacity. Notwithstanding this, the incremental change is necessary to maintain status

quo, particularly against China and Pakistan, and to affect more profound changes within the three Services, envisaged at the systemic level.

Second, identifying those changes that have the potential to re-shape the force. They are systemic in nature. They are both doctrinal and structural, and invariably driven by changes in technology. Unlike those incremental changes these are somewhat different. Here, while the wider system remains

the same, the balance between these factors undergoes a change. They typically show up as doctrinal or technological preferences, to define new concepts, structures and tactics on the battlefield. For instance, India's quest for theatreisation of its armed forces has the potential to produce a systemic change, but only if it is grounded in an inspiring joint doctrine and right choice of technologies. That the Air Force wants to stick to the status quo is a different matter.

Dombari Buru became the epicentre of this resist-

(Gns).

India today stands among the world's largest automotive producers, yet remains a minor presence in global automotive trade. This is not a contradiction of scale, but of strategy. The country builds millions of vehicles each year, employs tens of millions of people across the value chain, and anchors a vast ecosystem of steel, rubber, electronics, and services. And still, in the segments that truly shape global demand ~ passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and electric mobility ~ India's footprint is surprisingly small.

The explanation lies in how the industry has

evolved. For decades, policy, protection and market design have encouraged manufacturers to look inward. High tariffs, local content rules and a vast domestic consumer base created a comfortable ecosystem where growth could be achieved without intense export competitiveness. The result is an industry finely tuned to Indian price points, Indian regulations and Indian tastes, but only selectively aligned with global demand. This inward orientation shows up clearly in export patterns. India

performs well in motorcycles and tractors, categories where it has cost advantages and established manufacturing depth.

But these segments form a relatively narrow slice of world trade. In contrast, the global automotive market is driven by passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and now, increasingly, electric vehicles. It is

here that India lags ~ despite having the engineering base, supplier networks and labour scale to compete. The electric vehicle transition makes this imbalance starker. While global EV trade has surged, India's participation remains marginal. This is not for lack of policy intent, but because EV ecosystems are built on deep integration: battery supply chains, power electronics, software, charging infrastructure, and global platform manufacturing.

Without scale in these critical inputs, exports cannot take off. Domestic assembly alone does not create export competitiveness.

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Shri Dharmendra Pradhan chairs meeting on Samagra Shiksha 3.0 - 'Reimagining Samagra Shiksha' in New Delhi

Schools must be entrusted to society - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Union Education Minister calls for a nationwide, unified plan to drive Samagra Shiksha 2026-27

Consultations to shape a clear roadmap to strengthen school education and reimagine Samagra Shiksha in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat

Posted On: 09 JAN 2026 5:12PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, chaired a day-long consultation meeting with the stakeholders on Samagra Shiksha 3.0, titled 'Reimagining Samagra Shiksha', at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi, today.

The meeting aimed to

develop a strategic, consultative, and implementable roadmap for Samagra Shiksha 3.0 through collaborative deliberations with Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and

Territories; representatives from various Ministries and eminent experts from the education sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pradhan said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has outlined a vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, which can be realised only when every child in India has access to quality education and the country achieves 100 per cent enrolment up to Class XII. He emphasised that bridging learning gaps, reducing dropouts, improving learning and nutrition outcomes, strengthening teacher capacity, fostering critical skills, and moving the 'Amrit Peethi' beyond the Macaulay mindset are collective responsibilities for building a strong human capital base.

States, UTs, and sectoral stakeholders. The discussions focused on emerging challenges, best practices, and priority interventions required to strengthen governance, infrastructure, teacher training, and student entitlements in the next phase of the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Shri Jayant

Education; Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education and Literacy; Dr. Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Higher Education; Additional and Joint Secretaries of the Ministry; State Education Secretaries and State Project Directors (SPDs) of Samagra Shiksha from 11 States and Union

biggest hindrance in traffic is being caused by e-rickshaws. To prevent this, immediate notices were issued to e-rickshaw owners and instructions were given to make vehicle registration mandatory. It was also decided that boarding and deboarding of passengers would be allowed from one direction only. For this, it will be made mandatory to get the fabrication done by permanently welding a rod on one side of the e-rickshaw or installing a lockable permanent door. In the meeting, Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar, Vice President Mathura-Vrindavan Development Authority Lakshmi N, Municipal Commissioner Jag Pravesh, Chief Executive Officer Uttar Pradesh Brat Teerth Vikas Parishad Suraj Patel, Chief Development Officer Manish Meena, Additional Superintendent of Police Rural Suresh Rawat, Additional District Magistrate Administration Amresh Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police Traffic informed that the

section was identified as the most complex traffic jam point requiring immediate attention. In this regard, it was agreed that to solve the problem of Narhuli intersection, all the concerned agencies including traffic police, police department, municipal corporation, NHAI, electricity department will work in coordination.

Instructions were given to make Govardhan Square, Chhatikara Square and Mandi Square more suitable for quick action. Under this, instructions were given to complete the works like shifting of the police post located near the intersec-

tions, trimming of trees, line marking on the routes, shifting of the high-mast to the divider near Govardhan

intersection, scheduling for the movement of heavy vehicles and widening of service lanes on priority.

pay a callAlso, the removal of encroachments made during the festival at Chhatikara Square, Mandi Square and Govardhan Square and immediate strictness on the operation of e-rickshaws was reviewed.

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