



PM Modi: India's youth a driving force behind building strong, prosperous nation

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday underscored that India's youth, with their unmatched energy and commitment, are the driving force behind building a strong and prosperous nation. Highlighting the spirit and determination of India's younger generation, he expressed enthusiasm to engage with the nation's youth at the upcoming Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue here on 12 January.

The dialogue will serve as a platform for young leaders from across the country to share ideas, aspirations, and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The PM will participate

in the concluding session of the dialogue on the occasion of National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. On the occasion, he will interact with around 3,000 youth from across the country, along with young delegates representing the international diaspora. Selected participants will make their final presentations to the Prime Minister across ten thematic tracks, sharing youth-led perspectives and actionable ideas on key areas of national importance.

During the programme, the PM will release Essay Compilation for Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, comprising selected essays authored by young participants on

India's developmental priorities and long-term nation-building goals.

The Viksit Bharat Young



Leaders Dialogue, now in its second edition, is a national platform designed to facilitate structured engagement between India's youth and national leadership. It aligns with the PM's Independence Day call to engage one

lakh youth in politics without political affiliations and provide them a national platform to make their ideas for Viksit Bharat a reality.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, being held from 9 to 12 January, has witnessed participation from over 50 lakh youth across the country at various levels. The young leaders converging at the national-level championship have been selected through a rigorous, merit-based three-stage selection process, comprising a nationwide digital quiz, an essay challenge, and state-level vision presentations.

The second edition of the Dialogue builds upon the success of its inaugural

edition with key new additions, including the introduction of Design for

Bharat, Tech for Viksit Bharat – Hack for a Social Cause, expanded thematic

engagements, and international participation for the first time, further strength-

ening the Dialogue's scope and impact.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Receives Warm Welcome at Somnath Helipad



Gandhinagar, 10 January 2026: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Somnath today to participate in the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' being held in the sacred

presence of Shri Somnath Mahadev, the first of the twelve Jyotirlingas, and was warmly welcomed by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel.

On the occasion of wel-

coming and felicitating the Prime Minister at the helipad, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghvi, Education Minister Dr. Pradyuman Vaja, Mandvi MLA Shri Aniruddh Dave,

Collector Shri N. V. Upadhyay, District Superintendent of Police Shri Jaydeep Singh Jadeja, and leader Dr. Shri Sanjay Parmar were present.

Diwali-like Festive Atmosphere at Somnath

As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Arrives

Prime Minister Witnesses Magnificent Drone Show Showcasing the Grandeur and Divinity of Somnath Colourful Cultural

Performances Held in Presence of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel

Devotees Mesmerised by Magnificent Fireworks Lighting Up the Sky

Gandhinagar, 10 January 2026: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived at Somnath to participate in the Somnath Swabhiman Mahotsav Parv. His arrival created a Diwali-like festive spirit and a deeply devotional atmosphere in Somnath. Devotees from Somnath and across the country welcomed the Prime Minister with great enthusiasm.

Magnificent fireworks and a grand drone show

showcasing the grandeur and divinity of Somnath mesmerised residents and devotees. Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Shri



premises, artists including Hansraj Raghuwanshi, Brijraj Gadvi, and Mayur Dave immersed the devotees in the hues of devotion to Shiva. Songs of Shiva

along with folk songs and performances, brought to life the harmony between Somnath and Shiva. The devotees danced wholeheartedly to these songs.

The drone show showcased visuals of Somnath's valour, pride, and cultural heritage, creating a deeply devotional atmosphere. Images of the Swabhiman Parv logo, Lord Shankar's Tandava, the Trishul, Om, Veer Hamirji, Ahilyabai Holkar, scenes from Somnath's history, and portraits of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi lit up over the Arabian sea.

Devotees applauded the show with chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', while the grand fireworks left everyone spellbound.

Harshbhai Sanghvi, and other ministers expressed joy after watching cultural performances and the drone show.

At the cultural programme held in the temple

devotion such as 'Mera Bhola Hai Bhandari'....., 'Bam Bam Bhole Bam Bhole Re'....., 'Aisa Damru Bajaya Bholenath Ne'....., 'Shambhu Re Mahadev Shambhu Re Mahadev'.....,

soned".

"The hate that you are spreading against Muslims, this will not go on for long. Those who spread hate will come to an end. When love becomes common, then they will realise how people's mind was poisoned," he added.

After his remarks, the BJP said that first, Owaisi must make a "Hijabwali" the president of his party.

"Hijabwali will become PM, says Miyaan Owaisi. Miyaan Owaisi – constitution stops nobody, but I challenge you to make a Pasmanda or Hijabwali as your president of AIMIM first," said BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on X.

becoming the Prime Minister of India. "Baba Sahib's constitution says that any citizen of India can become Prime Minister, CM, or mayor. It is my dream that a day will come when a hijab-clad daughter will become the Prime Minister of this country," the AIMIM leader said at a rally in Maharashtra's Solapur on Friday.

Asaduddin Owaisi's 'hijab-clad woman as PM' remark draws political

pushback across parties. He further added that while he may not be around

to see this, such a day will come in the future when this will be possible.

He also slammed those spreading hatred against the Muslim community, saying that when this will end, people will realize how their minds were "poi-

soned".

Opening the discussion, Shri Harsh Malhotra emphasized that Delhi, as

the nation's capital, must reflect the spirit of "Viksit Bharat" through modern, safe, seamless and environment-friendly mobility systems.

Shri Malhotra reiterated that the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is to transform Delhi into a model city that is decongested.

Chief Secretary, Delhi, NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and senior officers from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Government of



JJ Hospital at Ghatkopar, Rajawadi Hospital at Mulund, Jaslok Hospital at Belapur, LTMG Sion Hospital at Vashi, and Tata Hospital, Kamothe at Panvel station. It is noteworthy that Nai Udaan has previously organized various successful events of different categories.

Nai Udaan Organization Aims for Large-Scale Blood Collection at Donation Camps on 12th January

Mumbai, 10th January. Nai Udaan, an organization doing remarkable work in the fields of art, literature, and culture in Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, has decided to organize blood donation camps at various railway stations in Mumbai on 12th January, 2026, as part of a special social initiative.

Giving this information, Nai Udaan's Trustee Shantilal B. Jain and President B.C. Bhalawat stated that this unique campaign, organized with the cooperation of the leading GM trade group, at total 13 railway stations including 8 major stations under Central Railway and 5 stations under Western

Railway, aims for large-scale blood collection. They informed that the participating hospitals include Jagjivan Ram Hospital of Western Railway at Churchgate & Dahanu Road, KEM Hospital at Dadar station, Nair Hospital at Andheri station, Shatabdi Hospital at Borivali, Red Cross Hospital at Bandra,

JJ Hospital at Ghatkopar, Rajawadi Hospital at Mulund, Jaslok Hospital at Belapur, LTMG Sion Hospital at Vashi, and Tata Hospital, Kamothe at Panvel station. It is noteworthy that Nai Udaan has previously organized various successful events of different categories.

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Editorial

New Chapter in Dhaka

India's diplomacy in South Asia has often been accused of being overly personality-driven, tethered to familiar interlocutors and legacy relationships. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's short visit to Dhaka a few days ago suggests a conscious attempt to break from that pattern at a moment when Bangladesh's political landscape is unsettled and emotionally charged. The immediate reason for the visit ~ the funeral of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia ~ was ceremonial.

But ceremonies in diplomacy are rarely just that. By meeting Tarique Rahman, the acting head of the BNP and Begum Zia's son, Mr Jaishankar crossed a political threshold that New Delhi had avoided for years. Since the fall of Sheikh Hasina, India's closest partner in Dhaka, such engagement was not inevitable. It was a choice. That choice reflects a recognition that Bangladesh has entered a transitional phase where political legitimacy, street sentiment, and institutional authority are in flux. India's previous strategy ~ anchored firmly in one leadership ~ delivered stability but also bred resentment among sections of Bangladeshi society that saw New Delhi as a partisan actor.

The protests outside Indian missions and allegations of interference did not emerge overnight; they accumulated quietly under the surface of an otherwise functional bilateral relationship. Mr Jaishankar's language during the visit was tellingly restrained. There were no grand declarations, no ideological signalling, and no visible attempt to shape Bangladesh's internal political trajectory. Instead, the emphasis was on continuity, shared interests, and pragmatic cooperation. This tone matters. For India, the subtext is unmistakable: neighbourhood diplomacy cannot be frozen in past equations. Managing Bangladesh now requires patience, emotional intelligence, and an acceptance that influence flows less from proximity than from credibility and restraint.

It signals that India is prepared to deal with political realities as they are, not as it might prefer them to be. Equally significant was the brief, almost incidental, exchange with the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly. Coming months after a serious military confrontation, the interaction underscored India's effort to maintain diplomatic civility without diluting its security posture. In the Bangladeshi context, it reinforced a broader message: New Delhi is capable of separating protocol from policy, symbolism from strategy. Still, this recalibration is not without risk. Engaging all sides in Dhaka may be read domestically as hedging, or even as a retreat from moral clarity.

But South Asian diplomacy rarely rewards rigidity. Bangladesh's importance to India ~ geographically, economically, and strategically ~ demands adaptability rather than nostalgia for a vanished political order. Ultimately, the Dhaka visit should be read less as a reset and more as a correction. India is signalling that its neighbourhood policy is institutional, not transactional; long-term, not leader-centric. Whether this approach rebuilds trust will depend on sustained engagement beyond moments of mourning. But for now, New Delhi appears to have grasped a crucial truth: in a changing neighbourhood, staying relevant requires listening as much as leading.

Green Gold Animation Advances Chhota Bheem's Licensing Journey with Landmark Faber - Castell India Partnership

January 10, 2026: Green Gold Animation, India's leading animation and character entertainment company, today announced a landmark licensing partnership with Faber-Castell India, marking the global stationery major's first-ever licensed character collaboration. The partnership brings India's most loved animated character, Chhota Bheem, to a specially curated range of student art and creative products, blending creativity, learning, and a deeply loved Indian icon.

This association marks a significant step in Green Gold Animation's strategy to further strengthen Chhota Bheem's presence beyond screens, reinforcing its position as one of India's most powerful and enduring homegrown IPs with relevance across generations.

As part of the first phase, Faber-Castell India will introduce Chhota Bheem themed products across key student art categories, including watercolour cakes, wax crayons, poster colours, sketch pens, oil pastels, and specially designed creative bundling kits. The range is aimed at encouraging imagination and artistic expression while leveraging Chhota Bheem's strong emotional connect with children across India.

Rajiv Chilaka, Founder & CEO, Green Gold Animation, said, "Chhota Bheem has evolved from a television character into a cultural phenomenon that is deeply embedded in childhood across India. This partnership with Faber-Castell India is a meaningful extension of our vision to take Chhota



highlights Green Gold Animation's continued focus on building a robust consumer products and licensing portfolio, with Chhota Bheem already spanning animation, films, gaming, merchandise, and live entertainment experiences.

Commenting on the collaboration, Sonali Shah, Director-Marketing, Faber-Castell India, said, "This collaboration with Green Gold Animation marks an exciting new chapter for Faber-Castell India. Chhota Bheem is not just a character; he is a cultural icon for children across the country. By bringing him onto our trusted art and stationery products, we aim to make creativity more engaging,

Bheem into everyday moments of learning and creativity. Collaborating with a globally respected brand allows us to build a stronger, purpose-led licensing ecosystem around our IP while inspiring young minds."

The collaboration also

tional: can the state, having failed to conduct a trial within a reasonable time, continue to justify incarceration merely by pointing to the severity of the accusation? Article 21 does not guarantee freedom only to the innocent. It guarantees dignity, fairness, and proportionality to every person, including those accused of grave crimes. The right to a speedy trial is not a procedural luxury; it is an integral part of the right to life and personal liberty. In

several earlier rulings, the Supreme Court recognised this clearly. It held that statutory restrictions on bail cannot override constitutional obligations when incarceration becomes prolonged and the trial shows no realistic prospect of

Drone visuals depicted the Trishul, Om, Veer Hamirji, Ahilyabai Holkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and PM Modi

Grand Fireworks Display Lights Up Seashore Near Somnath Temple After Drone Show

Gandhinagar, 10 January 2026: As part of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, a grand drone show was organised at the Somnath Temple premises, creating a festive and joyful atmosphere at the sacred Somnath Dham. Using

around 3,000 drones, stunning images were created in the sky over the Arabian Sea, becoming the main attraction for the public.

Through drone lights, images of the Trishul, Om, Lord Shankar's Tandav, Veer Hamirji, Ahilyabai Holkar, the attack on Somnath, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the



Narendra Modi were displayed, reflecting Indian culture, self-respect, and national pride. The grand drone show was smoothly conducted by 40 trained operators and, over 15 minutes, left the spectators mesmerised. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel witnessed the magnificent drone show at the Somnath Temple courtyard and expressed their joy, while the audience also felt pride and happiness while watching this show. Immediately after the drone show, a grand fireworks display lit up the nearby seashore, filling the sky with colours.

Shiva sama rahe mujhme aur mein shunya ho raha hoon

Thousands of Devotees Immerse in Shiva Bhakti at Somnath Swabhiman Parv with Hansraj Raghuwanshi's Devotional Songs

Devotees Nationwide Welcome Gujarat Government's Cultural Programme

Gandhinagar, 10 January 2026: On the third day of the cultural programme at the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, thou-

sands of Shiva devotees at the Somnath temple premises were immersed in devotion while reverently listening to the Shiva bhakti songs of renowned singer Hansraj Raghuwanshi.

Tourists and devotees were deeply immersed in devotion while listening to Shiva bhajans and songs including Shiva sama rahe mujhme aur mein shunya ho raha hoon,

Jaykara bolo, Jaykara, Mera Bhola hai Bhandari, and Bhole Nath ki shaadi hai to nachenge.

On the third day of the Swabhiman Parv, celebrat-

ing in the inspiring presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the cultural

Delhi must bite the bitter pill

tries which contribute 2 to 29 per cent. Power plants contribute about 3-11 per cent of Delhi's pollution and the fifth largest source is construction (8 per cent). As President Emeritus, International Road Federation (IRF), a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide, I would like to suggest a few practical and workable solutions to the Government of Delhi and its Pollution Control Board, as well as the Central Pollution Control Board, to tackle hazardous air pollution.

To ensure a sustainable planet for future generations, emphasis should be on cutting off pollutants at the source rather than looking at quick-fix and short-

term solutions. Tackling the air pollution menace is not about the number of plans but in the proper implementation and monitoring of the measures adopted.

Keeping high-polluting vehicles away from cities is essential. Well-conceived and operational public transportation systems are



Coordination between Delhi and its surrounding States is critical to forge effective and long-lasting solutions. As mature and experienced administrators and professionals, it is time to act – to take up priority measures including promoting ways and means of cutting down on use of fossil fuels and investing in electrical power and solar

adopting zigzag technology within a fixed tenure of say one year is vital and those who do not do so should be closed down. Penalties must be enforced on construction sites for not following pollution control measures.

Efficient waste management covering all waste, providing necessary guidance and the budget, and imposition of heavy penalties on burning of garbage must be adopted within the next 6 to 9 months. Proper and effective control on polluting industries and assisting them with technological solutions is vital. To achieve this, financial assistance at low interest rates should be made available. Any industry found not to be taking corrective action should be closed down. We must promote use of technologies in the agricultural sector to dissuade farmers from burning agricultural stubble. Development of Green

Corridors along roads, vertical gardens on tall buildings, and implementation of enhanced parking rates in graded air pollution scenarios to discourage use of vehicles are other steps that must be taken.

Adoption of international best practices – ranging from congestion pricing to deployment of suitable and effective strategies to continually monitor and contain air pollution – must be explored. We must identify and replicate Vehicle Free Zones such as the Karol Bagh market area. Data transparency would enable all elements of the society to participate in achieving environmental objectives of clean air. Engaging the public and all stakeholders to strengthen environmental protection measures is crucial. We are confident that the implementation of these measures simultaneously and monitored for effectiveness, will bring relief.

Lessons from past tragedies

(Gns).

The climate upheavals of 2025 were a stark warning for India; it was the year when the frequency and severity of climate-related risk hazards were no longer aberrations but part of a new normal. Climate resilience is no longer optional but foundational for ensuring India's ambitions are realised. As we move further into 2026, extreme vulnerability to hazard events will undoubtedly occur, but are our state-level systems resilient enough to absorb shocks, protect livelihoods, and recover without deepening inequities? The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

2025 (CRVA) report, prepared by the Institute for Climate Resilience, provides a



comprehensive picture of which states are exposed, most sensitive, and least prepared for such events.

The CRVA assessment also reveals a troubling pat-

tern: climate vulnerability in India is systematically higher in states with lower GDP primary health centres per lakh population, among the lowest in the country, sharply limiting its ability to respond to climate-related health emergencies. Deficiencies in water and sanitation compound this vulnerability, with just 47 per cent of households having access to improved sanitation, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks during floods. Communication infrastructure is another critical weakness, with its tele-density being the lowest in the country at 55.8 per cent, constraining the dissemination of early warnings and coordination of relief during extreme events.

Macro-level assessments, such as the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), identify where exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity are weakest. However, it is micro-level assessments at the household level, as undertaken by Megh Abhiyan, that reveal what climate risk actually means in lived terms: the assets lost, livelihoods disrupted, the failure of early warning systems and the coping strategies exhausted that remain invisible in aggregate datasets. The gap becomes clear when we examine Bihar's experience during the 2024 floods.

A household-level flood assessment conducted by Megh Pyne Abhiyan, which surveyed 2290 households across 21 panchayats in seven of the worst-affected districts, combined GIS-based flood mapping with detailed household questionnaires, participatory flood mapping. The state has only 1.4

Umar and Sharjeel Conditional Liberty

early conclusion. Delay, in those judgments, was not a peripheral consideration – it was determinative. The logic was straightforward: if the state cannot prosecute in time, it cannot punish in advance. That principle

delay is downgraded as a constitutional factor, the precedent travels downward, affecting countless undertrials with far fewer resources. This is not an argument for indiscriminate bail. Courts must assess risk, evidence, and public interest.

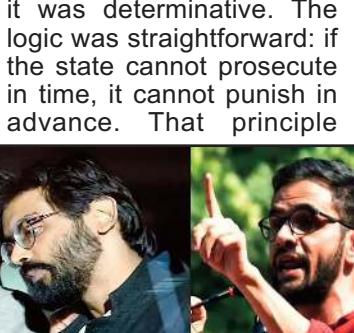
But they must also defend first principles.

If Article 21 is to remain meaningful, it cannot be selectively applied. The Constitution does not recognise a hierarchy where liberty yields automatically to suspicion. Until the Supreme Court reconciles its conflicting strands of reasoning, bail under special laws will remain uncertain terrain – governed less by settled doctrine and more by judicial mood. That is not how constitutional guarantees are meant to function.

Liberty now depends not only on law, but on judicial perception of threat. That is a precarious foundation for any constitutional democracy. Such an approach carries systemic risks. It weakens incentives for investigative agencies to expedite trials. It normalises the idea that undertrials can be warehoused for years if the charge is serious enough. And it blurs the line between accusation and punishment. Once

was not framed as an exception, but as a constitutional safeguard.

The recent ruling departs from this clarity. By acknowledging delay yet refusing to treat it as decisive, the court appears to have re-ranked constitu-



tional values. National security concerns and the alleged role of the accused have been allowed to eclipse the temporal reality of their imprisonment. This does not merely narrow the scope of liberty; it makes it conditional.

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“ 2026 marks 1000 years since the first attack on Somnath took place. Despite repeated attacks subsequently, Somnath stands tall! ”

– Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF 11TH JANUARY

10:00 AM

In remembrance of the indomitable valour and sacrifice of countless devotees of Somnath, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will lead the Shaurya Yatra from Shankh Circle to Hameerji Circle

10:30 AM

Hon'ble Prime Minister's address at the Shaurya Sabha

Maha Abhishek | Maha Aarti

Live on DD News from 10:00 AM



