Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses Parakram Diwas programme in Andaman & Nicobar Islands via Videoconferencing

(Gns).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Parakram Diwas programme in Andaman & Nicobar Islands via Videoconferencing today. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Modi stated that January 23 is the glorious date of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary. He remarked that Netaji's valor and courage inspire us and fill us with reverence for him. He highlighted that in recent years, Parakram Diwas has become an integral festival of the nation's spirit. Shri Modi said it is a happy coincidence that January 23 is Parakram Diwas, January 25 is National Voters' Day, January 26 is Republic Day, January 29 is Beating Retreat, and January 30 is the death anniversary of revered Bapu, creating a new tradition of celebrating the grand festival of the Republic. He extended greetings to all citizens on Parakram Diwas.

Noting that in 2026, the main celebration of Parakram Diwas is being held in Andaman and Nicobar, Shri Modi highlighted that the history of Andaman and Nicobar, filled with valor, sacrifice, and courage, the stories of patriots like Veer Savarkar in the Cellular Jail, and its connection with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose make this celebration even more special. The Prime Minister remarked that the land of Andaman symbolizes the belief that the idea of freedom never ends. He said that many revolutionaries were tortured here and many fighters sacrificed their lives, but instead of extinguishing, the spark of the freedom struggle grew stronger. Shri Modi stated that as a result, the land of Andaman and Nicobar became witness to the first sunrise of free India. He recalled that even before 1947, on December 30, 1943, the tricolor was hoisted here with the waves of the ocean as witness. The Prime Minister recalled that in 2018, when the 75th anniversary of this great event was marked, he had the privilege of hoisting the tricolor at the same place on December 30. Shri Modi remarked that as the national anthem played by the ocean shore, the tricolor fluttering in strong winds seemed to call out that countless dreams of freedom fighters had come true.

Shri Modi stated that after independence, the glorious history of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should have been preserved, but at that time those who came to power carried a sense of insecurity. He remarked that they wanted to limit the credit for freedom to only one family, and in this political self-interest, the nation's history was neglected. Shri Modi highlighted that Andaman and Nicobar too were left tied to the identity of colonial rule, with its islands still known by the names of British officers even seventy years after independence. The Prime Minister said that his government ended this injustice of history, and therefore Port Blair has now become 'Shri Vijaypuram', a name that reminds us of Netaji's victory. He added that similarly, other islands were renamed as Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, and Subhash Dweep. Shri Modi recalled that in 2023, 21 islands of Andaman were named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. He emphasized that today, names linked to slavery are being erased in Andaman and Nicobar, and the new names of free India are establishing their identity.

The Prime Minister further remarked that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was not only a great hero of the freedom struggle but also a visionary of independent India. He envisioned a nation modern in form yet rooted in India's ancient consciousness. Shri Modi said that it is our responsibility to acquaint today's generation with Netaji's vision, and expressed happiness that his government is fulfilling this responsibility. He highlighted that a museum dedicated to Netaji has been built at the Red Fort in Delhi, a grand statue of Netaji has been installed near India Gate, and the contribution of the INA has been remembered in the Republic Day parade. The Prime Minister added that the Subhas Chandra Bose Disaster Management Awards have also been instituted. He remarked that these initiatives are not only a mark of respect to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose but also serve as immortal sources of inspiration for our youth and future generations. Shri Modi stated that honoring these ideals and drawing inspiration from them is what fills our resolve for a developed India with energy and confidence.

Shri Modi stated that a weak nation finds it difficult to achieve its goals, and therefore Netaji Subhas always dreamt of a strong nation. He remarked that in the 21st century, India too is establishing itself as a powerful and resolute nation. He highlighted that during Operation Sindoor, India struck back by entering the homes of those who inflicted wounds on the country and destroyed them. Shri Modi emphasized that India today knows how to build power, how to manage it, and how to use power. He said that following Netaji Subhas's vision of a strong India, the country is working to make the defense sector self-reliant. The Prime Minister noted that earlier India was dependent only on importing weapons from abroad, but today India's defense exports have crossed ₹23,000 crore. He added that indigenously built BrahMos and other missiles are attracting global attention.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel's significant and compassionate decision for beneficiaries of the Rural Housing Scheme

□ Waiver of penalty interest under multiple housing schemes of the Gujarat Rural Housing Board

□ A one-time relief initiative for the waiver of penalty interest across the housing schemes of the Gujarat Rural Housing Board

□ Beneficiaries who repay the entire principal amount of housing instalments within 6 months will be exempted from paying penalty interest

□ Over 9,000 rural families will receive relief from penalty interest amounting to ₹154 crore

□ Beneficiaries who clear the full principal will be granted ownership rights and will become homeowners

Gandhinagar, 23 January 2026: Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel has taken a significant and compassionate decision in the broader interest of beneficiaries of the Gujarat Rural Housing Board's housing schemes in the rural regions of the state.

As per this decision, beneficiaries in rural areas who are willing to repay the full principal amount but are unable to afford the monthly two per cent penalty interest will be provided relief.

In response to representations made by such beneficiaries, CM has issued directives that those who repay the entire outstanding principal amount within 6 months will be exempted from the recovery of 2% penalty interest under a one-time interest waiver scheme.

As a result of this decision, around 9,029 rural families will benefit, receiving relief of a substantial penalty interest amount totalling approximately ₹154 crore.

Additionally, these rural families will receive the right to own houses, thereby becoming homeowners in the true sense.

The vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to ensure that every needy citizen has a roof of their own will be fulfilled for rural families of the state through this people-centric decision of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel.

India's Youth Today Are More Enlightened Than Ever; We Must Learn to Listen to Them: Dr Jitendra Singh

(Gns).

NEW DELHI, January 23 :Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India is witnessing a historic democratization of opportunities, creating an ecosystem where young people today have the freedom to discover their true aptitude, choose their own paths, and convert skills into sustainable livelihoods.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the "National Skill Summit 2026" organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), at PHD House, New Delhi on Friday.

Addressing the National Skill Summit 2026 of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), the Minister observed that India's youth today are more enlightened than ever before and we must learn to listen to them, while emphasising that the role of mentors and institutions must evolve from delivering long monologues to becoming active listeners and facilitators.

The Minister said that for the first time, India has built a holistic ecosystem that allows youth not only to dream but also to realise those dreams. "Young people today have the opportunity to choose what they wish to do, understand their inner strengths, and discover what they are truly meant for. This is where mentorship becomes critical, not to impose, but to guide," he said.

Highlighting the shift from degree-centric thinking to skill-centric growth, Dr Jitendra Singh said academic qualifications should not be confused with aptitude. Citing CSIR's Aroma Mission, he pointed out how thousands of young people, many without formal degrees, are earning substantial incomes by cultivating lavender and other aromatic crops. "We were once obsessed with IT alone. Today, we recognise that agriculture, traditional skills, and local strengths can generate far greater impact," he added.

Vehicle-to-vehicle communication systems will help to reduce road accidents: Gadkari

(Gns).

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has informed the Consultative Committee of the Ministry that 30 GHz radio frequency has been allocated by the Department of Telecommunications for the development of vehicle-to-vehicle communication systems, which will help to reduce road accidents and fatalities.

The panel met under the chairmanship of Gadkari here on Thursday to address the critical issue of road safety. Harsh Malhotra and Ajay Tamta, Ministers of State for Road Transport and Highways, were also present in the meeting.

Gadkari urged members of the committee to impress upon state authorities the importance of conducting regular MPRSC meetings in their respective districts with participation from the District Collector, Police, PWD, and other agencies concerned.

The Minister further stated that road safety considerations are being duly incorporated while finalising Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

He directed the Regional Officers and Project Directors of MoRTH/NHAI to attend MPRSC meetings regularly and ensure suitable road safety interventions in ongoing projects.

Gadkari also informed that AI-based road safety applications would be shared with states and UTs and requested Members to submit detailed notes on their concerns and suggestions for further examination.

During the meeting, the Minister also showcased the Road Safety Anthem, which has been translated into 22 regional languages. He requested the Members of Parliament to promote the playing of the Road Safety Anthem in regional languages in schools, public gatherings, and other public spaces.

The Union Minister motivated all officers to continue making dedicated efforts towards building safer road infrastructure across the country and reiterated the Government's commitment to saving lives on Indian roads.ku

SIR is same as NRC: Akhilesh Yadav

(Gns).

Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav said that the BJP wants to rig the electoral roll and the SIR process is the same as the NRC (National Register of Citizens).

"The fight to save democracy continues and Samajwadi Party leaders and workers must remain vigilant. There is a difference of four crore votes between the Central Election Commission's electoral roll and the State Election Commission's voter list. Now they should explain which list is correct," he questioned while asking the party workers that the 2027 assembly elections must be fought like the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Yadav was addressing a large number of party workers from various districts of the state at the Samajwadi Party state headquarters here on Friday.

He said that the BJP is not a political party but a gang and has become a nexus of industrialists and retired officers.

"The BJP and RSS have seized control of all resources and the BJP is looting the rights of the people. The Samajwadi Party has the strength of the people, and the people trust the SP. This trust must be maintained. When the Samajwadi Party forms the government, it must live up to the people's trust," he said.

He further said that SP is committed to strengthening the PDA (Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) movement and establishing social justice. The BJP is rattled by the Samajwadi Party's agenda of social justice and that is why the BJP gang is hell-bent on hatching conspiracies, he added.

Editorial

Planned Shift

The appointment of Nitin Nabin as the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) marks a moment that is less dramatic than it appears, yet more revealing than it seems. In Indian politics, generational change is often mistaken for ideological renewal. In fact, the two rarely travel together. At 45, Mr Nabin represents a cohort shaped by liberalisation-era aspirations, expanding urban-rural mobility, and the transformation of politics from street mobilisation to system-driven organisation, one that operates comfortably in a political ecosystem driven by data, artificial intelligence and rapid communication.

His elevation, therefore, signals not novelty, but organisational confidence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's repeated assertion that he remains a "party worker" even after three terms at the helm of government is not merely symbolic humility. It is a reminder of how the party seeks to define itself ~ as an institution where authority is structured, transferable and larger than individual stature. This distinction matters because Indian political parties have often struggled with succession. Many have relied on charisma, lineage, or crisis to manage leadership change. The BJP, by contrast, continues to emphasise internal grooming and cadre legitimacy, projecting stability rather than transition anxiety. His rise also reflects a conscious organisational choice.

By elevating a leader without an independent national power base, the party reinforces central coherence, rewards organisational reliability, and ensures that authority flows from structure rather than personal charisma or regional mass following. Yet, youth here should not be confused with disruption. Mr Nabin does not represent a break from ideological direction. Instead, he embodies a managerial generation of politics ~ one focused on execution, message discipline and organisational coordination rather than ideological experimentation. Technology, in this framework, becomes an instrument rather than an idea. Artificial intelligence and digital outreach expand reach, but do not redefine political purpose.

The emphasis remains on continuity, not reinvention. The repeated invocation of tradition, culture and national identity further underlines this approach. Leadership may change, but the narrative framework remains intact. The generational shift is therefore tactical ~ aimed at energising party workers and preparing for sustained electoral engagement rather than signalling a philosophical pivot. For younger political entrants, the messaging is carefully calibrated. Politics is presented not as spectacle or shortcut, but as endurance ~ a marathon requiring patience, hierarchy, and long-term loyalty. This discourages impulsive ambition while reinforcing organisational discipline. At the same time, such stability carries its own challenge.

A generation raised entirely in the digital era may eventually demand politics that extends beyond symbolism and structure ~ seeking sharper accountability, governance outcomes, and economic mobility. For now, however, the leadership transition reflects confidence rather than uncertainty. The party appears less concerned with redefining itself than with proving that its political model can be reproduced across generations. In that sense, Mr Nabin's elevation is not a reset, but a relay. The baton has changed hands, but the track ~ carefully laid over decades ~ remains the same.

POWER WOULD BE EXERCISED WITHIN AGREED LIMITS

(Gns).

The international order built after World War II was never flawless, but it rested on a shared assumption: that power would be exercised within agreed limits. Alliances, institutions, and international law existed not to eliminate conflict, but to manage it. That assumption is now under visible strain. President Donald Trump's return to the White House has accelerated a shift already under way – from rule-based cooperation to raw transactional politics. What distinguishes this moment is not merely unpredictability, but an open rejection of the idea that restraint itself has value.

Power, in this worldview, needs no justification beyond national interest. In his second term, President Trump has dispensed with diplomatic language that once softened American dominance. Long-standing alliances are treated as liabilities rather than assets. Multilateral institutions are dismissed as obstacles. Even the sovereignty of friendly nations is increasingly discussed in terms once reserved for adversaries. This is not an impulsive departure from convention; it reflects a deeper philosophical break. Supporters describe this approach as realism ~ a long-overdue correction to decades of strategic indulgence. They argue that allies benefited from American protection while contributing too little in return. From this perspective, pressure succeeds where persuasion failed, and disruption delivers outcomes consensus could not.

Coercive diplomacy has occasionally unlocked stalemates others could not move. In a fractured world,

decisiveness can appear more effective than deliberation. Yet such gains carry costs that are less immediate but far more lasting. When power becomes personal rather than institutional, stability depends on temperament instead of principle. When alliances are conditional, trust weakens. When rules apply only until they aid the strong, smaller states begin to hedge, diversify, and prepare for a future without guarantees. Countries once anchored firmly within established strategic frameworks are quietly recalibrating. Trade routes are being diversified.

Security relationships are being reassessed. Diplomatic language has grown more guarded, less idealistic, and more transactional. The danger is not an abrupt collapse of the global system, but its gradual hollowing out. Institutions may continue to exist, but their authority erodes each time norms are breached without consequence. Over time, international order decays not through dramatic rupture, but through repeated exception. Perhaps the most profound change lies in how leadership itself is defined. Where earlier eras sought legitimacy through example, the emerging model seeks compliance through leverage. Victory matters more than consensus. Outcomes matter more than process. The

message is blunt: strength commands respect; restraint invites challenge.

This approach may deliver tactical successes, but it reshapes global expectations. If the world's most powerful democracy no longer values predictability, others will follow ~ not out of admiration, but necessity. History suggests global systems rarely collapse from external assault alone. They weaken when those who once sustained them stop believing they are worth preserving. What the world is experiencing today is not a smooth transition between orders. It is a rupture ~ one in which the future depends less on shared rules, and more on how long raw power can stand in for them.

Modern methods aid revival of golden fibre

(Gns).

Jute has long been known as the "Golden Fibre" of West Bengal, supporting the livelihoods of farmers across districts such as Murshidabad, Nadia, Hooghly and North 24 Parganas. For generations, jute cultivation has played a central role in the rural economy of the state. However, in recent years, many farmers reduced jute acreage due to rising labour costs, uncertain market prices and competition from synthetic materials. Today, jute farming is slowly witnessing a revival, driven by modern agricultural practices, improved varieties and renewed demand for eco-friendly products.

One of the most visible changes in jute cultivation is the shift in sowing methods. Traditionally, farmers broadcast jute seeds by hand, which often resulted in overcrowded plants and uneven growth. This led to poor fibre quality and additional labour for thinning. Farmers in Murshidabad

and Nadia are now increasingly adopting line sowing with recommended spacing. Line sowing ensures uniform crop establishment, better sunlight penetration and easier intercultural operations. Many farmers have reported improved fibre quality and better prices after switching to this method. Weed infestation remains one of the biggest challenges during the early stages of jute growth.

In districts like Hooghly and North 24 Parganas, farmers often struggle with labour shortages during peak weeding periods. Earlier, manual weeding was the only option, making jute cultivation costly and time-consuming. Recent advances in integrated weed management have provided relief. By combining timely hand weeding, mechanical weeders and selective herbicides, farmers are able to control weeds effectively while reducing labour dependency. This approach not only lowers

production costs but also improves crop growth and yield. Balanced nutrient management has also emerged as a key factor in improving jute productivity.

Many farmers traditionally apply fertilizers without soil testing, often focusing

mainly on nitrogen. Research conducted by institutions such as ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore, has shown that jute responds well to sulphur and micronutrients like zinc, in addition to nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Farmers who have adopted integrated nutrient management using organic manure along with recommended fertilizers have observed stronger and finer fibres. Improved soil health

has also helped sustain productivity over multiple seasons. The introduction of improved jute varieties has further strengthened farmers' confidence in the crop.

New varieties developed by research institutions are high yielding, disease resistant and better suited to the agro-climatic conditions of West Bengal. These varieties mature earlier and produce uniform fibre, reducing the risk associated with unpredictable weather. Farmers in Murshidabad district, in particular, have reported more stable yields after switching to certified seeds of recommended varieties. Retting, the post-harvest process of separating fibre

from the jute stem, has traditionally been one of the most problematic stages of jute cultivation. Conventional water retting depends heavily on rainfall and the availability of clean water bodies, often resulting in inconsistent fibre quality.

In recent years, improved retting methods such as ribbon retting and microbial retting have been introduced in several parts of the state. These techniques reduce retting time, require less water and produce cleaner fibre with better colour and strength. Farmers adopting these methods have been able to secure higher fibre grades in the market. Market demand for jute is another encouraging sign for farmers. With increasing concern over plastic pollution, jute is gaining renewed importance as a biodegradable and sustainable alternative. Jute products are now widely used in packaging, geotextiles, handicrafts and eco-friendly consumer goods.

Government initiatives promoting natural fibres and restricting single-use plastics have further boosted demand. For jute-growing farmers in West Bengal, this shift presents new income opportunities.

Despite these positive developments, challenges remain. Climate change has made rainfall patterns unpredictable, affecting sowing and retting operations. Small and marginal farmers often lack access to modern tools, quality seeds and timely extension support. Delayed procurement and price fluctuations also discourage farmers from fully investing in jute cultivation.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of jute farming, coordinated efforts are essential. Strengthening extension services, promoting farmer training programmes, encouraging mechanization and ensuring fair and timely prices can make a significant difference. With proper support, jute can once again become a profitable and dependable crop for West Bengal's farmers. Jute farming today stands at a crucial turning point. By adopting modern practices and responding to changing market demands, farmers can improve their income while contributing to environmental sustainability. The revival of jute is not only about preserving a traditional crop but also about securing rural livelihoods and building a greener future.

Tata Play Binge Introduces 'Shots'—The World's First Destination Aggregating Micro-dramas

Lucknow, January 23nd, 2026: Tata Play Binge expands its universe with a brand-new content category: Shots, a curation of mobile-only, vertical microdramas designed for quick, immersive entertainment on-the-go. Available at no additional cost to all Tata Play Binge subscribers, Shots is a dedicated micro drama hub, bringing together stories designed for life's in between moments, showcasing content from multiple creators and partners.

Featuring 1–2 minute episodes optimized for mobile viewing, Shots transforms everyday moments such as commutes, queues, and short breaks into engaging entertainment opportunities. At launch, the category offers over 160 micro-dramas across action, drama, and thriller genres, powered by content partners including Bullet and STAGE, with more partners to be added in the coming months. Together, they contribute over 110 hours of short-format content.

The experience is built entirely for vertical consumption, with a scroll-friendly interface, auto-next playback, and intuitive discovery. Shots is accessible within the Tata Play Binge app through dedicated home-page rails and a standalone Shots section, enabling viewers to discover and watch snackable stories seamlessly, without switching apps or managing additional subscriptions.

At launch, Bullet and STAGE bring a diverse slate of micro-dramas

across Hindi and key regional languages including Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, and Marathi. Select titles on Shots include Ishq Kills, Divorce Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega, Rent A Boyfriend, and Main Hoon Aprajita (Hindi); One Last Ride

EK-EK MINUTE KE MICRODRAMAS

(Telugu); and regional micro-dramas such as 12vi Aala Pyar and Gaurav Ki Sweety (Haryanvi), along with Aafat Ya Pyar and Horror Haveli (Rajasthani).

Sharing her thoughts on the debut of the new content category, Pallavi Puri, Tata Play's Chief Commercial and Content Officer said, "Short form, vertical storytelling has quickly moved into the mainstream and is now one of the most popular ways people watch content on mobile. As viewers shift toward quicker, more frequent watch sessions, we've focused on creating formats that align with these evolving habits. Shots is a natural extension of this—bringing micro dramas from multiple partners into one seamless destination. By making quality, mobile first stories available at no extra cost, we're not only supporting evolving viewer habits, but also helping our content partners reach wider audiences through a unified aggrega-

tion platform."

The launch of Shots strengthens Tata Play Binge's position as one of India's most comprehensive OTT aggregators, complementing its long-form catalogue with a short-form layer designed

also have the DTH connection.

to drive higher daily engagement and viewing frequency, all within a single app experience.

Shots will join other popular OTT platforms on Tata Play Binge like Prime Video, JioHotstar , Z5, Apple TV, Lionsgate, Fancode, Aha, SunNXT, Discovery+, BBC Player, ShemarooMe ,Hungama, Epicon, Chaupal, Stage, Waves, Klikk, ManoramaMax, Nammaflix, Istream, Times Play, PTC Play, Tarang Plus, Playflix, Docubay, Travel XP, VROTT, Animax, Hallmark+, Fuse+, Ultra Play, Ultra Jhakaas, Shorts TV, Curiosity Stream and DistroTV. Content from these platforms is available to the viewers of Tata Play Binge through a single subscription and a single user interface. Additionally, Netflix can be availed as a combo pack with DTH channels for all Tata Play DTH subscribers, whereas Amazon Prime Video content can be accessed as an add-on by all Tata Play Binge subscribers, who

New York's City Hall, Zohran Mamdani raised

(Gns).

When on a bitterly cold January afternoon outside New York's City Hall, Zohran Mamdani raised his right hand and took the oath of office as mayor of New York City, the first Asian and Muslim mayor to do so, a universal political tradition was once again being embodied in 2026: conscience in public life. Beyond the spectacle of a victory against all odds, and the accompanying pageantry of inauguration, Mamdani in office is a moral signal in America and for those who are in awe of the American way of life.

For us in India, it became an occasion to recall another young mayor in another era, when the country was subjugated under British colonial rule: Subhas Chandra Bose when he assumed office as mayor of Calcutta (now Kolkata) in August 1930. He was barely 32 at that time, hailing from a privileged, cultured family which could trace its ancestry over 27 generations in Bengal. Subhas Chandra as mayor captured the imagination of Calcutta and Bengal; for the youth it was a call to their conscience, being unafraid of facing ruthless subjugation of colonial power.

The brutality of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 was still fresh in their minds, nor was the partition of Bengal and the upsurge of the Swadeshi

movement forgotten by any means. There is a lineage of conscience which accompanies the violent history of conquest and subjugation. Zohran Mamdani's inauguration is seen in this context of the

awakening of conscience. As a Pakistani supporter congratulating the young mayor said, "logon ke dil badal gaye hain" (people's hearts have changed). What is inspiring is Mamdani's journey from Kampala where he was born, early years in Cape Town and finally in New York City where he studied. In 2014, he earned a degree in Africana Studies from Bowdoin College.

It is not the typical tearful story of a migrant: "it is the story of an American citizen formed by American schools, American cities, and American struggles, one whose worldview reflects the global entanglements the United States itself helped create," commented George Cassidy Payne, a Rochester-based

poet and writer. On his 129th birth anniversary on 23 January 2026, to use phrases like 'a born patriot and man of action' is not to be cliché-ridden but to describe Subhas Chandra Bose as the product of the

tempestuous 1920s when Bengal was seething with discontent against repressive policies of the British Empire.

To say that the young Bose symbolised the indomitable rebellious spirit of Bengal would not be an exaggeration; and his fervent patriotic attitude was that 'no sacrifice is too great in the national cause'. The intellectual foundations of young Bose were laid when he voraciously read writings and speeches of Swami Vivekananda; at age 15. It was a spiritual revolution for him. From Vivekananda, he turned to the former's master, Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, and imbibed his teachings from books, and diaries published by his disciples.

Vivekananda taught Subhas that the greatest ideal was service of humanity, including service of one's country.

Ramakrishna stressed that renunciation of lust and gold was the test of a man's fitness for spiritual life. Subhas had found a new ideal, which inflamed his soul: to effect his own salvation and to serve humanity by abandoning all worldly desires and breaking away from all undue restraints. The more his parents tried to restrain him, the more rebellious he became like a true-to-type teenager. As he approached the end of his school career, his religious impulse began to grow in intensity and studies were no longer of primary importance.

Subhas was fortunate to grow in an environment conducive to the broadening of his mind. His attitude towards Muslims in general was largely influenced by his early contacts: living in a Muslim locality, taking part in their festivals, watching his father whom Muslims looked up to as a patriarch, and having Muslim teachers and Muslim class-mates, to say nothing of devoted Muslim servants at home, wrote SA Ayer, in the introduction to 'Selected Speeches of Subhas Chandra Bose', published in 1962. Ayer was a minister in the Azad Hind Government. In Subhas's undergraduate

days, Aurobindo Ghosh was easily the most popular leader in Bengal, despite his voluntary exile in Pondicherry since 1909.

A regular reader of Sri Aurobindo's monthly journal Arya, Subhas was impressed by the mystic's deeper philosophy – how by a proper use of the different yogas one could rise step by step to the highest truth. Sri Aurobindo's simple words were a clarion call: "I should like to see some of you becoming great; great not for your own sake, but to make India great, so that she may stand up with head erect amongst the free nations of the world. Those of you who are poor and obscure – I should like to see their poverty and obscurity devoted to the service of the motherland. Work that she might prosper, suffer that she might rejoice." In his January 2026 inaugural address, Mamdani thanked his parents -"Mama and Baba"- acknowledged family "from Kampala to Delhi," and recalled taking his oath of citizenship on Pearl Street.

When he declared, "New York belongs to all who live in it," he rejected the logic that has long justified war: that difference must be governed through force. "No more will New York be a city where you can traffic in Islamophobia and win an election," is a quote echoing in the global media.

Wr's jumbo block between andheri - goregaon and Mahim - andheri stations on sunday, 25th january, 2026

Mumbai, To carry out maintenance work of tracks, signalling and overhead equipment, a Jumbo Block will be taken on UP and DOWN Harbour lines between Andheri - Goregaon from 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs and between Mahim - Andheri from 11.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs on Sunday, 25th January, 2026.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, during the block period, all CSMT – Bandra – CSMT and CSMT/Panvel – Goregaon – CSMT/Panvel Harbour train services of Central Railway and some slow services between Churchgate and Goregaon will remain cancelled. The list of cancellations will be available in Station Master's office.

Passengers are requested to please take note of the above arrangements.

Shashi Tharoor Upset Over Kochi Incident, to Miss Important Congress Meet

(Gns). Congress leader Shashi Tharoor is staying away from a crucial strategy meeting on the Kerala Assembly elections, after feeling "insulted" at a Mahapanchayat in Kochi where Rahul Gandhi was present, according to party sources. The move highlights tensions inside the party ahead of the high-pressure state contest.

Congress insiders said Tharoor has conveyed deep frustration with both the Kerala unit and the central leadership. Sources claimed the Mahapanchayat episode reinforced Tharoor's belief that the party does not properly recognise long-time contributions, and that this perception strongly influenced the decision to miss the Kerala elections review.

At the Kochi Mahapanchayat, confusion over the speaking line-up reportedly triggered the dispute. Tharoor was told that after the speech, only Rahul Gandhi would address the gathering. However, several other leaders later took the stage, which party sources said appeared to undercut Tharoor's senior standing within the Congress.

Rahul Gandhi's speech also drew attention among observers. During the address, Rahul Gandhi did not mention Shashi Tharoor by name, despite Tharoor's profile within Kerala politics and the national party. Congress workers privately said this lack of acknowledgement deepened the sense of slight already felt over the speaking order issue.

The upcoming meeting, called by the Congress high command, is meant to evaluate preparations for the Kerala Assembly elections and streamline the party's campaign. Tharoor's refusal to attend is seen by many party members as a signal of unresolved internal strains that could complicate planning for the state polls.

Despite skipping the Congress review, Tharoor is still keeping public commitments. Sources confirmed that Tharoor is scheduled to attend the Kerala Literature Festival on 23 January 2026. Party cadres noted the contrast between the willingness to join a public cultural event and the decision to stay away from an organisational discussion.

US Deploys Record Military Force Around Iran, More in Middle East Than Past Gulf Wars Combined

(Gns). The United States has quietly positioned more military forces in the Middle East than it deployed during the First Gulf War, Second Gulf War and the Iraq War combined, marking one of the most significant escalations in regional military posture in decades.

The United States has significantly increased its military presence in the Middle East, deploying more forces than during the Gulf and Iraq Wars combined, including C-17 aircraft, various military assets, and naval power, indicating preparation for potential sustained operations, likely related to Iran.

In a span of just 36 hours, Washington deployed its 12th C-17 Globemaster aircraft to bases surrounding Iran, a rapid airlift capability designed to move massive volumes of weapons, equipment and personnel. Each aircraft can carry up to 77 tonnes of military cargo, underlining the seriousness of the operation.

Military planners say the scale and speed of the deployment point to preparation for sustained operations rather than routine deterrence.

Rapid Airlift Signals Long-Term Readiness

C-17 Globemasters are primarily used for large-scale logistics and war preparation, not symbolic shows of force. The arrival of multiple aircraft in such a short timeframe suggests that the US is stockpiling munitions, air defence systems and operational supplies across the region.

This level of logistical readiness indicates that Washington wants the capability to respond immediately to any escalation without waiting for reinforcements from the mainland.

Full-Spectrum Forces Deployed Across the Region

The airlift is supported by a broad range of military assets now active across the Middle East. These include intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, AWACS platforms, electronic warfare systems, drones, fighter jets, strategic bombers and aerial refuelling tankers.

Naval power has also been reinforced, with aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines operating in regional waters. Together, these assets allow the US to conduct air superiority missions, missile defence, long-range strikes and sustained maritime operations.

Military analysts note that such a comprehensive deployment is typically associated with preparation for high-intensity conflict rather than limited engagements.

Iran at the Centre of Strategic Planning

While US officials have not publicly named Iran as the target of the buildup, the positioning of forces around Iranian territory leaves little ambiguity. The deployment enhances Washington's ability to strike Iranian military infrastructure, respond to proxy attacks and defend regional allies if hostilities escalate.

The encirclement also sends a clear deterrent message, signalling that any aggressive move would face an immediate and overwhelming response.

Rising Risks of Escalation

The concentration of military assets increases the risk of miscalculation. With forces operating in close proximity, even minor incidents could escalate rapidly, leaving limited time for diplomatic intervention.

At the same time, the buildup may push diplomatic efforts behind the scenes, as all sides attempt to avoid a direct confrontation that could spiral into a wider regional war.

A Warning, Not Routine Movement

This is not a standard troop rotation or routine military exercise. The scale, speed and scope of the deployment indicate that the United States believes the region is entering a highly volatile phase.

Whether the buildup succeeds in deterring conflict or becomes the foundation for direct action will depend on developments in the coming days. For now, the message from Washington is unmistakable: it is prepared for the most serious scenarios.

ICAR– Borlaug Institute for South Asia Jointly Organise NICRA Review and ACASA–India Launch Workshop

NICRA Workshop Reviews 15 Years of Progress, Charts Data-Driven Roadmap for Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems

On Basant Panchami, Dr. Jat Reflects on India's Climate Resilience and Launches Key Knowledge Portals

(Gns). The Review Workshop of National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) and the Launch-cum-Use Case Workshop of the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA–India), jointly organised by the ICAR and the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA), was inaugurated today in New Delhi by Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary(DARE) & Director General (ICAR).

The workshop aimed to synthesise 15 years of learnings from NICRA, assess India's gains in climate resilience, and chart a convergent, data-driven roadmap to strengthen climate-resilient agri-food systems through integrated science, policy alignment, and targeted investments.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jat stated that Basant Panchami, symbolising knowledge and renewal, was an apt occasion to reflect on India's climate resilience journey and to launch key national knowledge platforms, including the Akasha Atlas and NICRA portals. Marking 15 years of NICRA, he said that the programme stands at a critical juncture requiring clear strategic direction and a long-term vision. Despite recurring climatic stresses, Indian agriculture particularly in rainfed regions has demonstrated notable resilience and productivity gains, underscoring the effectiveness of climate-resilient technologies, enabling policies, and institutional convergence.

He emphasised that India's climate resilience is built on an integrated ecosystem of science, policy support, technological innovation, safety nets, human capital, and coordinated implementation, with initiatives such as NICRA, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and livestock and fisheries missions collectively enhancing adaptive capacity and farmer livelihoods. Highlighting the way forward, Dr. Jat called for deeper synthesis of data, learnings, and investments into a unified national climate action platform, supported by a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and a centralised data ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the DG (ICAR), reiterated that India's experience presents a strong global narrative on science-led, policy-aligned solutions for securing agri-food systems under climate stress, positioning NICRA as a potential global model for climate-resilient agriculture.

Kirari To Be Free From Waterlogging In Six Months, Situation Will Completely Change: Parvesh Verma

(Gns). The Delhi government has set a six month deadline to permanently resolve the long standing sewer overflow and waterlogging crisis in Kirari and surrounding areas of outer Delhi. Water and Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Verma on Thursday presented a white paper and a detailed master plan, promising visible on ground change before the next monsoon season.

The Delhi government has set a six-month deadline to resolve sewer overflow and waterlogging issues in Kirari and surrounding areas, promising visible changes before the next monsoon season.Water and Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Verma presented a detailed master plan and stated that corrective work has begun to redesign sewer lines and install new pumping stations.

Verma said Delhi's infrastructure had remained limited to advertisements for nearly a decade, while residents continued to suffer.

Citing Kirari Assembly constituency as a key example, the minister said residents had endured severe hardship over the past 11 years.

"Over the last 11 years, the people of Kirari have lived in hell-like conditions. Sewer lines were laid, but their slope and technology were so flawed that dirty water started entering people's homes," Verma said.

He added that faulty planning and poor execution led to repeated sewer overflows, forcing contaminated water onto streets and into houses, especially during the monsoon.

Six Month Deadline to End Sewer Overflow Completely

The minister announced that corrective work had begun on a war footing to fix Delhi's drainage system. Faulty sewer lines are being redesigned and relaid, with new lines installed above ground level in Kirari and other affected localities.
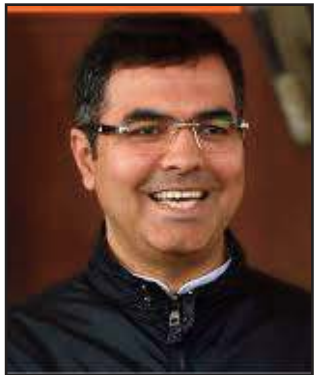
Verma said the government is confident of eliminating the overflow problem entirely. "Within the next six months, sewer overflow issues in Kirari and nearby areas will be resolved 100 percent," he said.

New pumping stations are also being installed to double drainage capacity before the monsoon arrives.

Responding to viral videos showing sewer contaminated water flooding parts of Kirari, Verma said, "There are five to six such large drains on which our department has started working. I wanted to bring all this to your attention."

'Not a Single Drop of Untreated Water Should Enter Yamuna'

Issuing strict instructions to Delhi Jal Board officials, the minister said sewage treatment capacity would be increased across the city.

Indian Railways Deploys Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Railway Station

(Gns). In a significant step towards improving passenger safety, security and service delivery, Indian Railways has introduced a humanoid robot named "ASC ARJUN" at Visakhapatnam Railway Station.

This deployment marks a first-of-its-kind initiative on the Indian Railways network. It reflects the organisation's commitment to adopting new and emerging technologies for public convenience and safety. The humanoid robot will work alongside RPF personnel to support station operations, particularly during peak passenger movement.

The robot was unveiled by Inspector General (RPF) Shri Alok Bohra and Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra in the presence of Senior Divisional Security Commandant (RPF) Shri A.K. Dubey. The occasion highlighted Indian Railways' emphasis on innovation-led solutions and indigenous development.

ASC ARJUN has been fully designed and developed in Visakhapatnam using home-grown technology. A dedicated team worked continuously for more than a year to bring this project to fruition, demonstrating Indian Railways' growing capabilities in integrating advanced systems into day-to-day operations.

The humanoid robot is equipped to assist in intrusion detection through Face Recognition System (FRS), AI-based crowd monitoring, and real-time alerts to RPF control rooms. It can make automated public announcements in English, Hindi and Telugu, helping guide passengers and improve awareness on safety and security matters.

With semi-autonomous navigation along predefined paths and obstacle avoidance, ASC ARJUN can patrol platforms round the clock, supporting effective surveillance while optimising manpower deployment. The robot also features fire and smoke detection systems to enable timely response in emergency situations.

Meeting of the Technical Committee of Direction for the Improvement of Animal Husbandry & Dairying Statistics held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Measures to Eliminate Data Gaps, Statistical Methodologies for Surveys and Best Practices among States Discussed during Meeting

(Gns). The annual meeting of the Technical Committee of Direction (TCD) for the Improvement of Animal Husbandry & Dairying Statistics was successfully organized in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, during January 22-23, 2026. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri B Rajshekhar, IAS, Ex-Oficio Special Chief Secretary, Animal Husbandry Dairy Development & Fisheries, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in the presence of Shri Kal Singh, Director General (Statistics), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman-TCD, and Shri Jagat Hazarika, Advisor, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying along with other senior official and representatives from all the 36 states/UTs and institutions like RBI, MoSPI, ICAR-IASRI, ICAR-NIAP, NDDB.

The Committee's primary objectives are to identify key data gaps, recommend corrective measures, deliberate on statistical methodologies for implementation by central and state bodies, and provide guidance on conducting related sample surveys and census. The committee reviewed major livestock product estimates and set targets for 2025-26, Subsequently, 5 states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttarakhand & Mizoram presented their best practices in statistical data collection framework and also shows innovative strategies of Andhra Pradesh for livestock growth. A roadmap was charted for the continued adoption of the Integrated Sample Survey & Livestock Census across India, with open discussions leading to consensus on improving data quality and technological integration. The meeting reaffirmed India's commitment to building a robust, transparent, and tech-driven livestock data system critical for policy, livelihoods, and nutritional security.

The TCD meeting concluded with several key advancements. Highlights included the demonstration of IASRI's eLISS software for real-time, digital data capture in the Integrated Sample Survey, presentations on best practices from leading states.

INFORMS Announces Six Finalists for the 2026 Franz Edelman Award; Department of Food and Public Distribution among the Honorees

(Gns). The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) is among the six finalists for the prestigious 2026 Franz Edelman Award for its initiative, "Anna Chakra" an operations research (O.R.) based decision support solution that strengthens India's Public Distribution System by optimizing state-specific logistics. Developed in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, the initiative stands alongside other finalists including Chewy, NVIDIA, Google, Microsoft Chakra' on the international stage as a model of analytical innovation in public systems, government reform, and large-scale logistics optimization.

Launched by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri and ECCO Shoe.

Widely regarded as the "Nobel Prize of Operations Research and Analytics", the Franz Edelman Award recognizes the world's most impactful, high-value applications of advanced analytics. Being named among the top six global finalists positions 'Anna Pralhad Joshi in December 2025, 'Anna Chakra' was developed through a strong Government–UN–Academia collaboration and it uses advanced optimization models to strengthen the movement of food grains across India. Its national deployment has generated:

Strategic Diversification of NMDC - Commencement of Coal Mining in Tokisud North Coal Mine, Jharkhand

(Gns).

NMDC today marked the commencement of coal mining operations at the Tokisud North Coal Mine in Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand. The inauguration on 23 January 2026 signifies NMDC's formal entry into coal mining and represents a major milestone in the company's strategic expansion beyond iron ore, strengthening its footprint in eastern India.

The Tokisud North Coal Mine is a key step in NMDC's strategic diversification journey, complementing its established presence in iron ore mining, diamond mining, and overseas gold projects. The addition of coal mining capacity is expected to augment domestic coal availability, support the power sector, and reinforce India's energy security in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The strategic direction of NMDC's diversification aligns with the national vision articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his address on August 15, 2025, the Hon'ble Prime Minister underscored the importance of mineral self-reliance, stating that "Self-reliance in critical minerals is very essential for us too. Be it the energy sector, industry sector, defence sector or any other technological minerals play a very important role in technology and hence we have launched the National Critical Mineral Mission. Exploration campaigns are underway in more than 1,200 locations, and we are moving towards becoming self-reliant in critical minerals as well."

Emphasising the importance of strategic diversification, H. D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, stated that "NMDC must transition from a single-mineral focus to a strategically diversified, future-ready mining company. NMDC needs to align its investments with national policy priorities by expanding into coal, critical minerals, and other strategic resource domains. This diversification is essential to strengthening India's resource security and long-term economic resilience."

The Tokisud North project underscores NMDC's proven capabilities in the development and operationalisation of large-scale greenfield mining projects. Drawing on its long-standing legacy of responsible and sustainable mining, NMDC remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety, environmental stewardship, and community engagement at the mine.

The coal mine is also expected to contribute significantly to inclusive regional development in Jharkhand through employment generation, infrastructure development, and socio-economic growth in the surrounding areas, reinforcing NMDC's role as a key driver of national development through strategic mineral diversification.

Famous doctor and social worker Saeed Akhtar passed away, Parvez Alam Bhutto attended the funeral

Jaunpur. A wave of mourning ran in the entire district due to the demise of Jaunpur's famous and renowned doctor and social worker Dr. Saeed Akhtar. The news of his demise is deeply saddening not only in the medical world but also in the social sector.

Senior Congress Party leader and former candidate Pervez Alam Bhutto attended the funeral of Dr. Saeed Akhtar. Expressing grief on this occasion, he said that the demise of Dr. Saeed Akhtar is an irreparable loss for Jaunpur. He said that the late doctor was not only a skilled doctor but also a true social worker, who always served the needy selflessly.

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved family, Pervez Alam Bhutto prayed to God for forgiveness of the departed soul and to grant patience to the family.

A large number of distinguished citizens, doctors, social workers and local people were present at the funeral, who bid their last farewell to Dr. Saeed Akhtar with tearful eyes.

Mussoorie gets its first snowfall of the season

(Gns).

The weather in the mountains of Uttarakhand took a sudden turn on Friday morning as several high-altitude areas, including queen of hills Mussoorie and nearby hills experienced the first snowfall of the season. Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines, along with other hilly areas, witnessed heavy snowfall plunging the temperature to sub-zero level.

The temperature plummeted across the state, especially in the high altitudes of the state following heavy showers resulting in the hills, roads, and deodar trees draped in a white blanket of snow. As Mussoorie hill town witnessed the first snowfall of the season, the queen of hills became the most hunted and trending search in the social media on Thursday. On the other hand, Dehradun and other low-lying areas witnessed continuous heavy rainfall throughout the day.

KGMU's New Approach: Ignoring Traffic Jams and Illegal Markets, a Notice Pasted on a Shrine!

Is a Conspiracy Being Hatched to Tarnish the Yogi Government's Image by Attacking Religious Faith?
Correspondent Mohammad Saif,

Lucknow. In the city of Nawabs, famous for its culture and Hindu-Muslim brotherhood, a recent move by the administration has sparked outrage among the public. Questions are now being raised about the notice pasted on an ancient shrine located near the King George's Medical University (KGMU) campus. People and experts believe that this move is not just an attack on religious faith, but could be an administrative conspiracy to tarnish the image of the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh.

It is argued that this shrine has existed since before many of KGMU's modern buildings were even constructed. It is not merely a structure of bricks and mortar, but a center of faith for thousands of people. Therefore, suddenly classifying it as an encroachment and issuing a notice raises questions about the working methods of the authorities.

The Pandeyganj area of the city is still plagued by heavy traffic jams and illegal encroachments. Years ago, orders were given to shift Dalmandi to Mullapur, the new grain market, but the shopkeepers are still operating there. The administration has failed to remove these illegal markets, forcing the public to grapple with traffic problems every day. Citizens are troubled by illegal encroachments and haphazard construction in many commercial areas of the city. Why don't bulldozers or notices reach those places?

Lucknow is known for its unity. At a time when the government is focusing on development and law and order, some officials are creating anger among the public by raising such sensitive issues. This raises suspicion that some officials are deliberately creating such controversies to force the public to think against the government.

The government needs to intervene; this is not just a matter of the shrine, but of the city's communal harmony. Before taking any action against any old religious site, the government should respect its historical significance and public sentiments. The administration should focus on addressing the real problems plaguing the city, such as traffic congestion and illegal markets, instead of taking steps that tarnish the government's reputation and spoil the city's atmosphere.

Confluence of Nawabi taste and culture: Great start of 'Lucknowi flavour' in Jaunpur

Jaunpur. The famous culinary tradition of Nawabi city Lucknow will now spread its fragrance in Jaunpur also. The grand inauguration of the new restaurant 'Lucknowi Zaika' opened near the historic Shahi Fort was done by senior journalist Dr. Nasir Khan. This restaurant is a new and ambitious business initiative of his younger brother Dr. Sajjad Mehndi alias "Raja".

During the inauguration ceremony, the religious and spiritual atmosphere became more dignified when Hazrat Maulana Mahfooz Hasan Khan Sahib offered special prayers for the success, blessings and progress of the establishment.

Chief Guest Dr. Nasir Khan in his address said that 'Lucknowi Zaika' is not just a restaurant but is the identity of Lucknow's culture, hospitality and traditional taste, which will make the people of Jaunpur experience pure and authentic Lucknowi cuisine.

He said that in today's era when the trend of fast food is increasing, promoting traditional food is like cherishing cultural heritage. With this initiative of Dr. Raja, high quality food will be available to the local people as well as the tourists.

Distinguished citizens of the city, journalists, social workers and well-wishers were present in the ceremony. Everyone appreciated the decoration, cleanliness, services and menu of the restaurant and wished for its bright future.

At the end of the program, a prayer was made to Allah that 'Lucknowi Zaika' should continue to progress and create a new identity in the food culture of Jaunpur through its excellent taste.

National Level Brainstorming Workshop for the revision of MPLADS guidelines and eSAKSHI Portal

Posted On: 23 JAN 2026 6:51PM by PIB Delhi

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) Guidelines and to enhance the functionalities of the eSAKSHI Portal, based on feedback and suggestions received from various stakeholders, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) organised a national-level Brainstorming Workshop on 23 January 2026 at Le Méridien, Kochi, Kerala. The workshop provided a platform to deliberate on proposed enhancements to the eSAKSHI Portal and to examine revisions to the MPLADS Guidelines, with the objective of improving the effectiveness of implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The workshop witnessed participation of approximately 120 representatives from all States and Union Territories, including officials associated with the implementation and monitoring of MPLADS.

The workshop deliberated upon modalities for the convergence of the MPLAD scheme with new schemes, new functionalities proposed in the eSAKSHI Portal and proposed revisions in the guidelines for improved digital monitoring and end-to-end management of MPLADS works. The discussions focused on ensuring greater transparency, improving operational efficiency, strengthening monitoring mechanisms, and enhancing overall effectiveness of the Scheme.

The workshop was inaugurated by Ms. Puja Singh Mandol, Additional Secretary, MoSPI. The event was also attended by Shri C. F. Joseph, Deputy Director General, MoSPI and Smt. Priyanka, District Collector, Ernakulam, Govt. of Kerala, Shri Mohd. Shafiq, Deputy Secretary & Director, Programme Implementation Evaluation & Monitoring Department, Govt of Kerala along with officers from State/UT Governments, district authorities, and officials of the Ministry.

Fit India Sundays on Cycle 58th edition to commemorate with nationwide celebrations from Karaikal to Amritsar

Sundays on Cycle to celebrate National Voters' Day through #MYBharatMYVote
Eminent athletes and Fit India Ambassadors will be celebrating nationwide the celebration of 'young voters of Viksit Bharat' under the campaign 'MyBharatMyVote' and urging youth to join the ride across digital platforms

(Gns).

The 58th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle is set to unfold on January 25 with a powerful national spread that reflects how the movement has grown from a weekly fitness initiative into a people's movement cutting across regions, institutions and communities. Leading this week's edition will be Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who will ride with citizens in Karaikal, Puducherry, underlining the Centre's continued emphasis on fitness, sustainability and active lifestyles.

Taking forward the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consistent emphasis on youth-led nation building, the National Voters' Day celebrations this year draw inspiration from his address to the youth of the country, where he called upon MY Bharat to take the lead in creating awareness about the importance of voting and democratic participation.

The Prime Minister recalled that when he first took oath as Chief Minister, many young citizens of today had not yet been born, and when he assumed office as Prime Minister in 2014, most of them were still children. Despite the passage of time, he emphasised that his trust in the younger generation has remained constant and unwavering. "Your capability, your talent, I have always drawn energy from your dynamism. And look at today, all of you are holding the reins of the goal of a Developed India," Shri Modi noted.

Taking this message forward, the National Voters' Day celebrations this year will mark the celebration of the 'Young Voters of Viksit Bharat under the campaign #MYBharatMYVote, with Fit India Sundays on Cycle providing a nationwide platform to integrate fitness, youth participation and democratic values.

From the southern coast, the focus then shifts to the nation's western frontier, as Sundays on Cycle makes a symbolic and spirited stop at Attari near Amritsar.

NHRC, India holds a meeting of its Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors

Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian commends them as not only the 'eyes and ears' but also the 'heart and soul' of the NHRC
Stresses the role of Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors as foot soldiers of the Commission

(Gns).

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised a meeting of its Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors in New Delhi. Chairing the meeting, NHRC Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian commended their dedication to serving societal interests over self-interest and emphasised the importance of their roles in reaching out to society and ensuring that the benefits of development reach the common citizen.

The Chairperson said that appointments followed strict standards and a transparent shortlisting process based on credentials, field expertise and alignment with areas of interest. He said this approach ensured that domain experts were matched to relevant thematic areas, strengthening the quality of monitoring, reporting and advisory functions. He reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to integrity, transparency and public service in its institutional processes. The Chairperson urged them to work as the Commission's foot soldiers and focus on small incremental improvements, noting that even aiding a single household fulfil the purpose of their appointments. alt

NHRC, India Member, Smt Vijaya Bharathi Sayani said that the appointment as Special Rapporteurs and Special Monitors of the NHRC carries not only authority but also a profound ethical responsibility. She said that, based on field-level observations, several persistent concerns continue to demand attention. These include overcrowding, medical negligence, lack of gender and child sensitivity, delayed grievance redressal and a lack of follow-up mechanisms, among others. Therefore, reports must go beyond documentation and evolve into instruments of accountability.

First woman RVC Officer Captain Harshita to lead special Animal Contingent at R Day

(Gns).

Blending a lifelong passion for animals with professional expertise in veterinary science, Captain Harshita has created history by becoming the first woman officer to be inducted into the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) of the Indian Army. A graduate in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc & A.H.), she will lead the RVC contingent at the Republic Day parade, marking a significant milestone for the Corps and the Army.

For the first time, the RVC of the Indian Army, tasked with the breeding, training and care of all military animals such as horses, mules and dogs, will deploy a specialised animal contingent, underscoring the Army's high-altitude operational requirements. The contingent will comprise Bactrian camels, Zanskar ponies, raptors, and indigenous military canines.

Speaking with the UNI, the young Captain said that joining the RVC fulfilled her childhood dream of being an army officer and being close to the animals as a veterinarian.

Hailing from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the young captain is second among three siblings. "Unfortunate," she says on a lighter note. "Being the first woman officer in the Corps was indeed a moment of pride for me and my family back home. Army is a gender-neutral force and here an officer is an officer irrespective of the gender," said the proud Contingent Commander.

Providing details about the preparation which went into grooming and training the animals for their appearance for the upcoming Republic Day parade, Capt Harshita said it requires a lot of neuro science. "They are highly trainable and were made operation ready through a series of intensive training routine," she said, adding that the animals are subjected to 56-minute grooming routine on daily basis.

The Corps' canine units, comprising both indigenous and standard breeds, perform a wide spectrum of operational tasks, including explosive detection, tracking, avalanche response and counter-terrorism duties. Indigenous breeds now extensively inducted include the Mudhol Hound, Rampur Hound, Chippiparai, Kombai and Rajapalayam.

The Bactrian camels, or better known as double hump camels, are the force's next-generation