



SANYAM BHARAT

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Padhiye Dil Aur Shan Se...



EDIT

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PM Modi's 12 years in govt have seen historic path of farmer prosperity...

In 2047, India to be a developed, self-sufficient, and global leader under PM Modi: Minister Piyush Goyal

Prabuddh Jan Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Sammelan

Lucknow (Agency): Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in Lucknow on Thursday that the people of Uttar Pradesh will once again bless Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the upcoming elections. He said that during the last 12 years in office, Prime Minister Modi has accomplished many historic tasks to build a developed and self-reliant India, all of which will be written in golden letters.



He said that today the entire country stands with Narendra Modi. He is the first person in the country who has worked continuously from the post of Chief Minister of Gujarat to the post of Prime Minister and did not get a single day off. In October this year, both the tenures together will complete 25 years. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, from the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the abolition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the complete elimination of Naxalism and terrorism,

the provision of free rations to 800 million people, tap water supply to every household, the development of a vaccine against the coronavirus, and the safety of the people at all times, the Union Minister said that today India is the world's fastest-growing economy. Along with this, there are many schemes aimed at empowering women. Prime Minister Modi is working rapidly to preserve heritage along with development. From the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Baba Vishwanath Corridor in Kashi,

the Mahakal Corridor in Ujjain, the Somnath Temple Swabhimana programs, to the Shri Kedarnath Dham and Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand, development work is progressing rapidly, and many of these projects have already been completed.

He said that with the participation of the nation's 1.4 billion people, the country will become a developed nation, a self-reliant India, and a world leader in 2047. It was the people of Uttar Pradesh who blessed Narendra Modi from Varanasi for the first time and made him Prime Minister. The people here will once again bless PM Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Lucknow Mayor Sushma Kharwal, Padmashree Malini Awasthi, senior BJP leader Shankar Lal Lodhi, Legislative Council member Ram Chandra Singh Pradhan, Lal Ji Nirmal, Mukesh Sharma, MLA Dr Neeraj Bora, senior BJP leader Neeraj Singh, Metropolitan President Anand Dwivedi, program coordinator Satendra Singh, BJP Metropolitan General Secretary Ghanshyam Agarwal along with many other leaders and a large number of workers were present in the Prabuddh Jan Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Sammelan.

Visited the Rashtraprerna Sthal and planted a tree: Before the program, he visited the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal along with senior leaders. He paid homage to Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Pandit Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay by bowing near their statues installed here; he said that it is because of the inspiration and principles of these three great men that today BJP is contributing to the development of the country. During this, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is continuously touching new heights. It is moving rapidly towards realizing the resolve of a developed India. On this occasion, he also planted a sapling in the Prerna Sthal premises.

UAE Operator of MT Settebello junks US Navy's claim, says American forces killed Indians without warning

New Delhi (Agency): The UAE based IOS Marine that operates Motor Tanker Settebello on Thursday said that the United States Navy didn't give any warning before attacking the vessel off the Oman coast, which resulted in the death of three Indians.

In a detailed statement issued by IOS Marine, "We categorically reject claims that the Motor Tanker SETTEBELLO ignored warning calls, communications, or instructions. To the best of our knowledge and based on information available to us, no warning call, message, or communication was ever successfully established with the vessel prior to the actions taken against it. No contact whatsoever was made with the vessel as has been publicly alleged."

The UAE-based operator of the attacked vessel challenged the US Navy to make public evidence supporting its claim that the vessel was given warning prior to the attack.

"If the United States Navy maintains that communications were attempted or established, then the evidence supporting such claims should be made public," the IOS Marine statement read.

The operator held the US Navy responsible for the death of three Indian seafarers, who were part of the 24-member crew. "This was not merely a maritime incident. It was a human tragedy that resulted in the loss of life, devastated families, and caused damages and losses estimated to exceed USD 35 million. No financial loss, however significant, can compare to the loss of human life," it said.



According to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), the oil tanker was attacked in the Gulf of Oman after it "violated the ongoing blockade by attempting to transport oil from Iran."

The CENTCOM further claimed that the crew of the Palau-flagged vessel "repeatedly failed to comply with directions from American forces". However, the vessel's operator categorically rejected the US military's claim and said that MT Settebello was a civilian merchant vessel with no affiliation with Iran.

"We further state unequivocally that the Motor Tanker SETTEBELLO holds no affiliation whatsoever with Iran or Iranian oil. The vessel was a civilian merchant vessel engaged in legitimate commercial operations and should be viewed as such. Any assertions to the contrary are rejected and should be subjected to independent scrutiny as part of a transparent international investigation," it added.

According to its operator, MT SETTEBELLO had remained stationary at its position for approximately ten days prior to the incident and had made no movement whatsoever during that period. Moreover, the vessel was not transiting through the area. It neither engaged in any aggressive or evasive manoeuvres, nor was it undertaking any action that could reasonably justify the use of military force against a civilian merchant vessel.

UP plays active part in establishing 'Viksit Bharat' via empowerment of every person, foundation of progress: UP CM

Lucknow (Agency): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flew to New Delhi to



attend NITI Aayog's 11th Governing Council Meeting, which was headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The key meeting took place at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.

UP CM penned a post on X, which reads as follows: "Participated in the 11th Governing

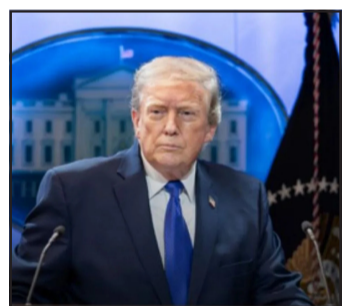
Council meeting of @NITI Aayog held today in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji. The meeting, centered on the theme 'Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @ 2047', featured meaningful deliberations on infusing new momentum into the resolve for 'Viksit Bharat' by making human development, good governance, and public participation the axes of development. In line with the Prime Minister's vision, Uttar Pradesh is also playing an active role in building 'Viksit Bharat' by making the empowerment of every citizen the foundation of development."

Trump cancels planned Iran strikes, says Iranian leadership approved 'final points of discussions'; deal 'signing' soon

New Delhi (Agency): Hours after his warning of hitting Iran "very hard", US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that he has cancelled the scheduled strikes and bombings against Tehran. Trump said the decision to cancel the strikes was made after discussions with the Islamic Republic were brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and "approved".

Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

He further stated that the discussions and final points have



been approved by all parties, including United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, and others."

"Discussions and final points have been, in both con-

cept and great detail, approved by all parties involved, including the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, and others," he said.

Trump, however, said that the US military's blockade in the Strait of Hormuz will remain in full force until the "transaction" is finalised. "Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly," he added.

"The Naval Blockade will remain in full force and effect until this Transaction is finalized — Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly," he added.

Earlier in the day, Trump had said that the United States will

hit Iran "very hard tonight" and take over the country's energy resources, including the oil-rich Kharg Island.

"The United States will be hitting Iran (Whose Navy, Air Force, Radar, Anti Aircraft, and all other forms of Defense, together with most of its offensive capability, are GONE!), VERY HARD TONIGHT," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"At some point in the not too distant future, we will be taking Kharg Island, and other oil infrastructure points, and assume total control of their Oil and Gas Markets, much like we have with Venezuela, which is working out brilliantly for both Venezuela and the United States of America," he added.

Dilaogue, diplomacy only solution to conflicts: Jaishankar

New Delhi (Agency): Emphasising that this is not an era of war, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the only solution to the conflicts in West Asia and Europe is dialogue and diplomacy.

In remarks to the media after a meeting with his Bulgarian counterpart Velislava Petrova-Chamova in Bulgaria, he highlighted how the world is passing through an exceptionally volatile and uncertain future with multiple major conflicts.

He also mentioned how as the voice of the Global South, India has highlighted concerns about energy, food and fertilizer security with a call for unimpeded maritime trade. "Where economic risks are concerned,

the answer is in supply chain resilience and in further diversification. It is important that maritime trade is neither impeded nor endangered.

On behalf of the Global South, India has also repeatedly underlined concerns of energy, food and fertilizers," Jaishankar said. "As for terrorism, the world must be clear on zero tolerance. On all these issues, there was a meeting of minds between India and Bulgaria," he added.

During his visit, Jaishankar interacted with the senior leadership with discussions focusing on bilateral cooperation, partnership between India and the European Union and what the two countries can do together going forward.



At NITI Aayog meet, Bihar pushes for education, skill development and tourism projects

Patna (Agency): Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Thursday said the state is emerging as an active force in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 and sought the Centre's support for a range of projects related to skill development, higher education, tourism, industrialisation and drinking water.

Addressing the 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog, Choudhary said Bihar is no longer merely a participant in the country's development journey but is playing a transformative role in promoting inclusive human development.

Assuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the state's commitment to the goal of a developed India, the Chief Minister said the Bihar government is working continuously under the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas".

Highlighting the state's efforts in skill development, he said 1.18 lakh artisans have been trained under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. He said

the Aryabhata International Skill Hub is being set up in Patna at a cost of Rs640 crore, while Rs3,615 crore has been earmarked under PM-SETU for strengthening 75 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

The Chief Minister requested the Centre to provide Rs750 crore for the pilot project under the Integrated Scheme in Skillling Architecture (ISSA),



Rs1,500 crore for the Jananayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University, and support for establishing a National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in Bhagalpur.

Choudhary said degree colleges are being established in 211 blocks across the state. He sought Central support for setting up an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

(IISER) in Bihar and a regional Skill Hub in the School of Planning and Architecture.

The state also sought special support from the Centre to host the National Youth Games in 2028, the Hockey World Cup in 2030 and the National Games in 2031.

In the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister requested the establishment of a Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture in Bihar and sought approval for a National Makhana Board office. He also urged the Centre to facilitate the early establishment of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) after the state transferred 100 acres of land for the project.

Referring to tourism, Choudhary said Bihar has immense potential for economic growth in the sector. He said the state government is working to develop Gaya, including Bodh Gaya, as a global tourism, cultural and spiritual destination under the "One State: One Global Destination" initiative.

Historic Centre-Assam-Nagaland oil and gas exploration MoU signed; Amit Shah says major hurdle to PM Modi's Northeast vision removed

New Delhi (Agency): In a significant development, the Government of India on Thursday signed a historic tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Governments of Assam and Nagaland for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas along the border between the two northeastern states.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Chief Ministers of Assam and Nagaland.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah said that the signing of the MoU is a "historic moment" and it will enhance the prospects for oil and natural gas exploration.

"This pattern opens up possibilities for mineral mining as well. I view the entire matter from a different perspective. The Prime Minister has presented a vision of a prosperous and developed North East to the region and the nation; today, we have successfully removed a major hurdle in realizing that vision,"



Shah said.

The Union Home Minister praised Assam and Nagaland for their decision not to let these concerns hinder the extraction of India's oil resources, agreeing instead to a 50-50 sharing arrangement.

"This is national wealth, and I believe this sentiment is crucial. Today, a historic MoU has been signed between the Government of India, the Government of Assam, and the Government of Nagaland," he said.

Shah further noted that the MoU will pave the way for the economic development of both

the northeastern states. "The path opening up today will pave the way for a major highway of economic development for both Assam and Nagaland; that is my belief," he said, describing the MoU as a great example of cooperative federalism.

Highlighting the global energy crisis due to the West Asia conflict, Shah said that energy security is key to any country's development and the initiative will bolster India's self-reliance in the future.

"We are all aware of the deep crisis we are facing due to the

conflicts involving America, Iran, and Israel. It is not just us; the entire world is grappling with this, as no country's development is possible without energy. I cannot say exactly how soon this agreement will help

alleviate this specific crisis; however, I am confident that whenever such global crises arise, the initiative launched today will provide India with significant relief and bolster our self-reliance..." he added.

'North East on the forefront of PM Modi's focus'

Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept the North East at the forefront of his focus ever since he assumed office in 2014. "The efforts he has made to bring peace and development to the North East are unparalleled in the history of independent India. Since 2019 alone, around 12 different agreements have been signed, ensuring peace in the region. We are witnessing a recorded reduction of nearly 80 per cent in all forms of violence across the North East," he added.

Furthermore, the expansion of infrastructure in the region would have been impossible without these agreements. Today, tourism and investment have grown in the North East, and industrial peace has spurred an increase in private investment..."

The agreement was expected to be signed around 6:30 pm at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) office here in the national capital in the presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, as well as officials concerned in the Ministry and from both states.

Officials said the agreement aims to facilitate the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas along the Assam-Nagaland border, marking a crucial step toward regional cooperation and economic development.

EDITORIAL

Opposition's Test

The latest gathering of opposition parties in New Delhi offered a reminder that the central challenge before India's non-BJP political forces is no longer one of arithmetic. It is one of credibility. For years, opposition politics has revolved around alliance-building. The assumption was that if regional parties and the Congress could overcome local rivalries and pool their votes, they would create a formidable electoral challenge. Yet recent elections have demonstrated that political chemistry cannot be reduced to mathematics. Voters may be dissatisfied with governments, anxious about the economy, worried about unemployment or disturbed by institutional controversies, but dissatisfaction does not automatically translate into votes for the opposition. This reality appears to be dawning on opposition leaders. Their discussions reportedly ranged from examination controversies and economic concerns to questions about electoral processes and the state of democratic institutions. What ties these disparate issues together is a growing recognition that electoral contests are only one part of a broader political struggle. Winning elections requires winning public confidence. That confidence cannot be secured through press conferences, parliamentary coordination or occasional conclaves in the national capital. It must be built through sustained political work on the ground. The Bharatiya Janata Party's greatest advantage today is not merely its organisational strength or leadership appeal. It is its ability to maintain continuous engagement with voters between elections. Opposition parties, by contrast, often appear active only during campaigns or moments of crisis. The internal criticisms aired during the meeting are therefore significant.

Regional parties appear increasingly unwilling to accept a hierarchical arrangement in which the Congress is the unquestioned anchor of the alliance. Their message is simple: unity requires consultation, accommodation and mutual respect. If opposition parties cannot manage differences within their own ranks, convincing voters that they can govern together becomes considerably harder. Equally notable is the emergence of independent protest movements that operate outside traditional party structures like the Cockroach Janata Party. Whether such movements endure is less important than what they signify. They suggest that public anger does not only seek expression through established political parties. In a democracy, that should concern these parties. Citizens who are unhappy with the government but remain unconvinced by its challengers create a political vacuum that no alliance formula can easily fill. The opposition's frequent focus on the fairness of the electoral playing field reflects another dilemma. If voters come to believe that institutions are under strain, such concerns deserve scrutiny and debate. But arguments about process cannot substitute for political mobilisation. Parties that wish to govern must persuade citizens not only that the system needs reform but also that they themselves offer a credible alternative. The meeting's most important takeaway is therefore not that the opposition remains united. It is that its leaders increasingly understand the scale of the task before them. The real test lies ahead: transforming scattered discontent into organised political support. Until that happens, unity will remain a slogan rather than a strategy.

After the Headlines

A year after the Air India crash in Ahmedabad, attention is once again turning to what caused one of India's worst aviation disasters. Investigators dissect technical failures, examine cockpit decisions and scrutinise maintenance records. Those questions matter. But they are not the only questions that matter. Modern societies have become adept at investigating disasters and remarkably poor at remembering their human aftermath. The public conversation around major tragedies usually follows a familiar pattern. There is shock, saturation coverage, official inquiries and demands for accountability. Then, gradually, attention shifts elsewhere. New crises emerge. New headlines compete for space. Yet for those who survive, and for families who lose loved ones, the event does not move into the past. It becomes part of everyday life. This is particularly true in disasters that claim victims beyond their intended sphere. Far less attention is paid to those on the ground who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. An aircraft is expected to carry risk for those who board it. Yet the crash also killed 19 people on the ground, a fact that has largely faded from public memory. Workers, students, residents and passers-by often become secondary characters in the public memory of such events, even though their losses are no less profound. The Ahmedabad crash offers a reminder that the consequences of catastrophe extend far beyond casualty figures. They alter how communities experience familiar spaces. Buildings become memorials. Ordinary sounds become triggers. Daily routines acquire emotional weight. Recovery is therefore not a single event but a prolonged social process that can last years.

There is also an institutional lesson. Hospitals, colleges and local administrations are usually judged by how effectively they respond in the immediate aftermath of disaster. Equally important is how they manage the long shadow that follows. Psychological support, rehabilitation of the injured, assistance for bereaved families and preservation of collective memory are not peripheral responsibilities. They are central to genuine recovery. India's rapid urbanisation makes this challenge increasingly relevant. Airports, highways, industrial facilities and dense residential zones now coexist in close proximity across many cities. When accidents occur, the impact is rarely confined to a single group. Entire neighbourhoods can become unwilling participants in tragedy. Disaster planning must therefore extend beyond emergency response to include long-term community healing. The anniversary of a catastrophe should not merely be an occasion to revisit the mechanics of failure. It should also be a moment to recognise the quieter burdens carried by those left behind. Technical reports may eventually establish why a plane fell from the sky. They cannot measure the empty chair at a family table, the lingering fear attached to a familiar sound or the memories embedded in a damaged building. A society demonstrates its maturity not only through its ability to investigate disasters but also through its willingness to remember those who continue living with their consequences. The headlines eventually fade. For many families, the story does not.

Fibre Economy: India's Next Big Global Opportunity

"From local abundance to global leadership in sustainable materials and future-ready" textiles

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH

India's relationship with fibre is civilisational, 5,000 years deep, woven into our villages, our traditions, and our collective identity. From the legendary muslins of Mohenjo-daro, celebrated as "woven air", to the craftsmanship that travelled across continents, fibre has always been the lifeblood of our rural economy. Today, at the cusp of a global sustainability revolution, that ancient knowledge is our greatest competitive advantage.

For decades, the banana pseudostem was discarded as waste. Today, that same biomass is premium fibre, feeding export markets, sustaining rural livelihoods, and turning agricultural residue into national revenue. From waste to wealth, from local abundance to global opportunity: this is the essence of India's New Age Fibre movement, paving the way for India's path to global leadership in green materials and future-ready textiles.

New Age Fibres are sustainable, plant-based materials that blend India's traditional knowledge with modern innovation. Fibres like Bamboo, Hemp, Banana, PALF, Flax, Ramie, Sisal, Milkweed, and Kapok have existed for centuries, but are now being rediscovered for high-value uses in textiles, defence, biodegradable composites, and

premium products. They are expanding India's natural fibre basket for a greener future.

Rising incomes, global sustainability mandates, and traceable sourcing requirements are fundamentally rewiring global supply chains and driving a new fibre economy. Consumers are seeking comfort, breathability, and sustainability in everything they wear. This structural shift is why India's fibre consumption is set to surge from 15 MMT today to 23 MMT by 2030. The world is increasingly seeking exactly what India can offer: ethical, sustainable, and high-performance natural fibres backed by centuries of expertise.

This vision is supported by a clear institutional and policy framework. Under the Mission for Cotton Productivity, with a total outlay of Rs. 5,664 crore for 2026-2031, a dedicated 7300 crore New Age Fibres component has been kept. Complementing this effort, the National Fibre Mission announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 provides the broader strategic framework, resting on four pillars: KRISHI-SUTRA for cultivation and raw material development, INFINITY for research and innovation, GRAM-SETU for infrastructure and enterprise creation, and GMPS for branding and market



development.

The strength of this policy framework lies in decades of scientific research already delivering results. Milkweed (Aak/Madar), traditionally offered to Lord Shiva, has emerged as a breakthrough after 18 years of research at the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), evolving into defence applications such as sleeping bags for soldiers operating at -20°C. These are 10% lighter than polyester alternatives, warmer than wool, and CLO/Cell certified. Grown on 55 million hectares of wasteland without fertiliser, it can generate 71.5-2 lakh per acre annually for farmers.

Banana fibre offers an estimated 1.8 million tonnes annual

production potential and additional farmer income from agricultural residue, while Bamboo can yield up to 60 tonnes of biomass per hectare, creating major opportunities for the Northeast. Hemp is also emerging as a promising global market, with cultivation already permitted in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Along with Flax, Sisal, Ramie, PALF, Nettle, and Kapok, these fibres are steadily expanding India's sustainable fibre base.

Building on this scientific momentum, the National Seminar on New Age Fibres became a platform where science, policy, and enterprise could converge. It brought together researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, farmer organisations, industry leaders,

and policymakers under one roof. Three Task Force reports covering all ten priority fibres were released, translating field science directly into scheme design and investment priorities.

The seminar also openly identified gaps in standards, processing infrastructure, and institutional financing, reflecting a mission focused on real execution. Key priorities emerged: scaling production from 10,000 MT to 10 lakh MT in five years, developing quality standards, promoting machinery indigenisation, reducing dependence on imported processing technology, and building cluster-based fibre ecosystems from cultivation to value addition. Together, these steps position New Age Fibres as a whole-of-government mission for rural prosperity and sustainable growth.

Perhaps the most transformative frontier is fibre blending. India's real strength lies not in a single fibre, but in combining them intelligently, such as milkweed for thermal lightness, wool for warmth, bamboo for breathability, and cotton for softness. A blended fabric is not a compromise; it is a performance upgrade creating fabrics that are stronger, smarter, and more sustainable, with better comfort, moisture management, durabil-

ity, and versatility across fashion, lifestyle, and technical textiles.

The benefits cascade across the entire value chain. Consumers get better comfort and functionality, manufacturers gain premium and differentiated products, and farmers benefit from diversified demand and more resilient incomes. For India, blending is more than a technical innovation; it is the bridge from raw fibre supply to globally competitive, value-added brands rooted in Indian identity.

At its core, the New Age Fibre movement is about transforming lives, creating opportunities for farmers, strengthening rural livelihoods, empowering women, and enabling entrepreneurs to build global enterprises from local resources. Anchored in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's 5F Vision: Farm to Fibre to Fabric to Fashion to Foreign, India's Green Fibre Revolution is not a distant promise. The science is proven. The entrepreneurs are ready. What India is now doing, fibre by fibre, blend by blend, region by region, farm by farm, is writing the next great chapter of its textile story.

(The author is the Union Minister of Textiles. The views expressed are personal)

BRICS and New Geography of Agri-Trade

Dr. M.L. Jat & Dr. Smita Sirohi

India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 comes at a moment when agricultural trade is being reshaped beyond tariffs and market access. Climate shocks, food-price volatility, fertiliser disruptions, sustainability standards, digital traceability requirements and the need to keep markets open during crises are now central to the trade agenda.

Why agriculture is strategic: After the expansion of membership, the grouping now represents nearly half the world's population, around 40 per cent of global GDP and about a quarter of global trade. UNCTAD's recent assessment shows that intra-BRICS merchandise trade has expanded more than thirteen-fold since 2003, reaching US\$1.17 trillion in 2024. Agriculture may be only one part of this larger trade story, but it is among the most politically and socially sensitive. When food prices rise, fertiliser supplies are disrupted or shipping routes become uncertain, the impact is felt directly by farmers, consumers and governments. This makes agriculture one of the most strategic

frontiers of India's chairship.

The agricultural complementarities within the grouping are evident. Brazil is a major exporter of soyabean, meat and sugar. Russia is important in grains and fertilisers. India has strengths in rice, marine products, spices, buffalo meat and a wide range of smallholder-based commodities. China is a large food importer and processor. South Africa connects the grouping to important African agri-food markets. The newer members add further dimensions: the UAE and Saudi Arabia bring logistics, finance and food-security investment interests; Egypt and Ethiopia represent major food-system concerns in Africa; and Indonesia adds palm oil, fisheries and tropical agriculture.

From complementarity to mechanisms: Yet scale and complementarity do not automatically create resilient trade. The forthcoming BRICS Agriculture Ministers' meeting gives India an opportunity to steer cooperation towards practical mechanisms: trusted trade infra-



structure, resilient input supply chains, market intelligence, and women- and youth-inclusive smallholder value chains.

Trusted trade infrastructure should be an early priority. The 2024 BRICS Principles on Trade Facilitation in Agriculture already recognise the building blocks of modern agri-trade: SPS and TBT cooperation, equivalence, lower trade costs and digital trade facilitation. India's leadership can add value by moving this agenda towards implementation through interoperable digital certificates, credible traceability systems, faster regulatory communication and capacity-building for producers and exporters.

A second priority is resilient

input supply chains. Food trade cannot be separated from fertiliser, energy, feed, seed, logistics and finance. For India, this is not an abstract concern: more than half of its fertiliser and energy imports come from BRICS members, making input security central to agricultural resilience. Recent crises in West Asia have shown that production can be disrupted long before food reaches the market. Cooperation should therefore include early-warning systems for fertiliser and input markets, transparent information on stocks and prices, and mechanisms to reduce sudden disruptions in essential agricultural inputs.

A third priority is market intelligence. The BRICS Grain Ex-

change idea points to the need for better transparency, price discovery and food-security preparedness. India could build on this by proposing an agricultural market intelligence function within the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform, which is already being positioned as a "Knowledge-to-Action" hub. Such a function could track food stocks, crop prospects, SPS alerts and commodity outlooks, helping countries respond before disruptions become crises.

Making trade farmer-centred: A fourth priority is women- and youth-inclusive smallholder value chains. If agri-trade remains confined to large commodity flows, its developmental value will be limited. The Delhi Declaration emerging from the Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS) 2026 provides a useful starting point by placing women's agency and leadership at the centre of agri-food transformation. India can carry this spirit into the agri-trade agenda by ensuring that smallholders, especially women farmers and

rural youth, are supported not only to produce for markets, but to participate more effectively in value chains.

These priorities are not about creating a closed food bloc. They are about ensuring that agricultural trade works better for food security, farmers and consumers in a more uncertain world. India is well placed to shape this agenda because it brings together experience in food security management, smallholder agriculture, digital public infrastructure and agricultural research.

India's chairship offers a timely opportunity to give this agenda practical shape. Even modest but well-designed cooperation can make agri-trade more reliable during crises, more transparent in its rules and more accessible to farmers. That would mark an important step towards a more resilient, trusted and farmer-centred agri-trade order. (Director General, ICAR and Secy. DARE) (ICAR- National Professor, MS Swaminathan Chair and former Joint Sec (G20/BRICS) DAF&W)

CM Omar Abdullah meets PM Modi, seeks early restoration of J&K's statehood

Jammu (Agency): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday and discussed a range of issues con-

cerning Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on the early restoration of statehood.



cerning Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on the early restoration of statehood.

According to a post shared by the Chief Minister's office on X, the meeting covered the state of the economy, the pace of development and measures needed to accelerate growth in the Union Territory.

Omar highlighted the need for continued support from the Government of India to strengthen connectivity, generative employment, expand infra-

structure and improve public welfare across Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister is understood to have stressed that restoring statehood at the earliest

would help deepen democratic governance and support long-term development efforts in the region. He also congratulated Prime Minister Modi on completing 12 uninterrupted years in office, acknowledging his leadership at the national level.

The meeting comes amid ongoing political discussions over Jammu and Kashmir's administrative future and efforts to boost economic activity and infrastructure development in the Union Territory.

Three women killed as earth caves in at construction site in Jaipur

Jaipur (Agency): Three women were killed when earth caved in at the construction site of a building in the posh Vaisali Nagar locality of Jaipur on Thursday.

Construction work had been in progress for several months at the plot. The earth suddenly caved in while the victims were working with other labourers. Locals soon started the rescue operation and were later joined by the police. However, removing the debris and extricating the victims—identified as Sunita Devi, Aanti Kumari and Pratibha Kumari—took almost 40 to 45 minutes.

The critically injured women were rushed to Trauma Center attached to the SMS Hospital here. Despite all efforts by doctors, the trio could not be saved.

The bodies were sent to the SMS Hospital mortuary for post-mortem, the police said. The Karni Vihar police station cops have initiated probe on cause and circumstances of the mishap, the police sources said.

CJP chief Dipke met PM in US before visiting India, says Sanjay Raut

Mumbai (Agency): Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and chief Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut on Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had met Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) chief Abhijeet Dipke in the United States before the latter visited India.

Tweeting a photograph which supposedly depicts PM Modi with Dipke, Sanjay Raut said, "Somebody has sent me a photograph of a meeting which took place between Abhijeet Dipke and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They also told me that Dipke returned to India only after meeting the PM in the United States earlier. I am trying to gather more information about it."

"Abhijeet Deepke's protest is unlikely to achieve anything. Opposition parties in this country are capable of fighting against the government. The Congress organised protests all across the country against the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) question paper leak, but the media did not show these

protests," Sanjay Raut said. "I had supported the Cockroach Janata Party's movement, but after new information about it came to light, I felt it was important to share this information with everybody. So far, not a single leader from any political



party has joined the Cockroach Janata Party's movement," Sanjay Raut said.

"We supported the youth. Our party said that if they have taken to the streets to voice their concerns, our position is that the government should listen to them. But, if anyone is actually helping the government, we are keeping an eye on it," Sanjay Raut said.

Meanwhile, Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke reiterated his demand for the resignation of Union Education

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and announced the launch of a nationwide protest against examination irregularities from the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) campus in Pune on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference in Pune on Thursday, Dipke said the protest campaign would begin at the SPPU campus in Pune and then move through Jaipur, Lucknow, Amritsar and Bengaluru, before concluding at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on June 20.

Dipke said the protest campaign would be peaceful and within the framework of the Constitution of India, adding that climate activist Sonam Wangechuk is expected to take part in it.

"We will not return until we get the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is responsible for jeopardising the future of more than one crore students. We will also release an education manifesto with the launch of the movement," Dipke said.

LAND MAFIA CONSPIRING TO SAVE ITS ILLEGAL EMPIRE

Conspiracy being hatched against fourth pillar that exposes corruption!

When govt admin constantly giving instructions to take action against land mafias, then who is protecting land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra?

Due to lack of action against land mafia, question arises whether land mafia has become more influential than admin?

SANYAM BHARAT CORRESPONDENT

Bureau, Bhadohi, Gyanpur: There is a very long list of illegal activities of land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra of Gyanpur tehsil of Bhadohi district. He has got recognition for four schools in the same campus under different names. Regarding this fraud, the education department officials have demanded that a case be registered against him after investigating the matter. After investigation, it has been found that land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra, who is in connivance with the famous mafia leader of the district, has usurped the land of innocent farmers and government land in Gyanpur tehsil.

By manipulating records of land belonging to the poor, farmers, Dalits, and government land, he has taken over the land by registering it in his family's name or in the name of his organization. He has encroached upon land belonging to the village community, Panchayat buildings, PWD, power houses, public land, children's playgrounds, and other land by creating fake land

records, registering them in the names of his father, brother, and family. After illegally occupying twenty acres of land, he constructed a large school building on this land and has obtained recognition for four schools at the address of that building, even though the land is not in the name of any school. Education department officials say that unless land registration papers are submitted to the office, a school is not granted recognition. However, this land mafia has obtained recognition for several colleges on a single campus, and has not submitted land registration papers to any of the colleges.

Authorities should take cognizance of this issue, investigate, and take strict action against this education mafia. People say that this is not only a land mafia, but also a major education mafia in the region. Furthermore, he has hatched a plan to loot the remaining land belonging to the village community and is also trying to seize government land. Sources say that while posted in Gyanpur tehsil, Shankar



Mishra made his own village his working area and secured a posting as a local accountant. A lekhpal is not typically posted to the village he belongs to. How did the sub-divisional officer assign him the responsibility of his own village while serving as an accountant? An investigation into this matter could reveal the suspicious role of the SDM as well. The corruption of the accountant and kanungo, who are acting as his accomplices, has

caused an uproar in the entire Gyanpur tehsil. Despite repeated complaints against them, no action has been taken against these two, causing widespread anger among the farmers. People have demanded the District Magistrate suspend them and take strict action against them.

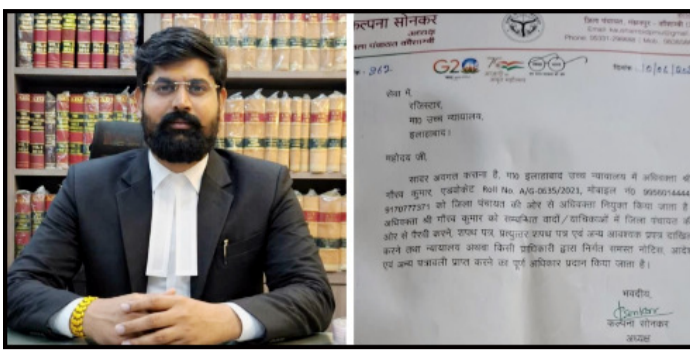
During this period, he fraudulently registered twenty bighas of land in the names of his brothers and family, including village community buildings, children's playgrounds, and public land. He illegally occupied the land of Mallu, a disabled Dalit from the village. To seize his land, he prepared a false affidavit and then, seizing Mallu's land, rendered him homeless. Dalit Mallu, who is visually impaired in both eyes, sent complaints to higher authorities. God took away Dalit Mallu's sight, and this land mafia took away his land. His tyrannical activities are increasing rapidly, and since various newspapers began publishing reports against him, he has become increasingly frustrated. He is now resorting to various tactics to protect his mafia empire. To protect his mafia empire, he is now intimidating complainants with the help of a mafia leader. This has caused widespread anger among the local people. This land mafia and his associates, including law officers and accountants, are now trying to suppress the fourth pillar and silence journalists. Since the news began publishing against him, the District Magistrate has

taken it very seriously. Education department officials are also very uneasy after reading the reports, explaining how four schools are operating under the guise of a single campus. The police administration has begun taking action against the encroached land. The local police intelligence unit is gathering information about the incident. People also say that if the ED and CBI investigate the illegal activities, a major mafia racket could be exposed.

Therefore, he has built a huge empire with black money and with the help of the illegal income he has earned through bribery and corruption, he gets the complaints against him hushed up. But this time the district administration has taken a very strict stance and the land of Gram Samaj, Gram Panchayat, children's playground, power house, public etc. should be vacated from the possession of this land mafia and the illegal occupation of people's land which the land mafia had occupied during his tenure should be removed.

Adv Gaurav Kumar to represent cases of District Panchayat Kaushambi in HC

SANYAM BHARAT CORRESPONDENT



Bureau, Kaushambi: The Kaushambi District Panchayat issued a letter stating that Advocate Gaurav Kumar has been appointed to represent cases in the Allahabad High Court. The Chairman stated in the letter that the appointment of Advocate Gaurav Kumar will strengthen the Kaushambi District Panchayat. Several advocates expressed their happiness over Gaurav's appointment.

Pasmanda Thinkers Holding Workshop in Search for Rights, Representation and Identity

Assembling for National Deliberations on June 13

Prayagraj: "A National Pasmanda Muslim Chintan Workshop will be organized on June 13, 2026, at the Press Club, Lucknow, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The workshop aims to facilitate a comprehensive national-level discussion on the political representation, social justice, religious participation, and future roadmap of the Pasmanda community. Social activists, academicians, religious scholars, administrators, public representatives, and political analysts from different parts of the country are expected to participate in this significant deliberative forum," informs senior Advocate Arif Iqbal.

"At a time when issues of social justice, equal opportunity, and inclusive development occupy the center stage of national discourse, the workshop seeks to bring the real concerns, aspirations, and challenges of the Pasmanda community into the mainstream conversation. Discussions will focus on education, employment, political participation, women's empowerment, social discrimination, representation in religious institutions, and effective access to government welfare schemes," he added.

National President Parvez Hanif stated that despite constituting a substantial segment of the Muslim population, the Pasmanda community has not yet achieved adequate social, political, and institutional representation. He emphasized that the workshop would serve as a platform to seriously address issues related to dignity, rights, equality, and empowerment of marginalized sections of society.

Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Yunus observed that challenges relating to education, employment, and leadership development continue to affect the Pasmanda community. He stressed the need for various sections of society to come together on a common platform to collectively determine a future

course of action. According to him, the objective of the workshop is not merely to identify problems but also to formulate practical solutions and a concrete action plan.

The workshop will be chaired by Parvez Hanif, while Muhammad Yunus and National Executive President Shariq Adeb Ansari will coordinate the proceedings. Prominent speakers and guests expected to address the gathering include Maulana Dr. Mufti Obaidullah Qasmi, Maulana Zafarul Hasan Jalalpur, Dr. Anees Ansari (Former IAS Officer and Former Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Masood Alam Falahi, Chaudhary Kaifulwara Ansari, Manzoor Ali Ansari (ADG, CBIC), Hifzur Rahman, Shamim Akhtar Ansari, Muhammad Junaid Ansari, and M. Rashid, along with several distinguished personalities from across the country.

According to Advocate Arif Iqbal, the workshop is expected to emerge as an important initiative toward strengthening the voice of the Pasmanda community at the national level, advancing the agenda of social justice, and developing a concrete strategy for equitable representation and constitutional rights. This version is suitable for media circulation, newspapers, websites, and institutional communication.

It is worth mentioning that All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaj has appointed Arif Iqbal as legal advisor. Parvez Hanif National President of the organisation has expressed hope that appointment of Arif Iqbal as legal advisor will go a long way in creating awareness and self-respect in the Pasmanda community. Experience of Arif Iqbal in social and professional career will promote education, health, employment and scientific outlook, to ensure social justice, political participation and economic empowerment to strengthen the spirit of religious harmony and nationalism among Pasmanda community.

Unprecedented achievements in education, innovation, digital and skill development in 12 yrs: Prof Satyakam

Lecture series at MU on completion of historic 12 years of PM Modi

SANYAM BHARAT CORRESPONDENT

Bureau, A series of lectures was organized in the Tilak Shastrarth auditorium located in the Saraswati campus of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj, as per the instructions of the Uttar Pradesh government, to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of public service, good governance and nation building. Various educational, intellectual, cultural and public awareness programs are being organized in the university from June 11 to June 21, 2026, as a special festival.



In this series, Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam, delivering the first lecture on "National Education Policy-2020: A Revolutionary Proclamation for the Education World," stated that in the past 12 years, India has achieved unprecedented achievements in the fields of education, technology, innovation, digital empowerment, skill development, and self-reliance. He stated that the National Education Policy-2020 is a visionary document to develop India's education system in accordance with global standards, ensuring the integrated development of

knowledge, skills, innovation, research, and ethical values among students. The Vice Chancellor discussed in detail the Digital India campaign, artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital education, e-content creation, online education, and the growing importance of technology-based learning. He stated that India is rapidly moving towards a knowledge-based economy, and the role of educational institutions is crucial in this transformation. He underscored the utility of the open and distance learning system, stating that open universities play a crucial and effective role in expanding higher education and increasing the gross enrollment

ratio. He emphasized that the education sector plays a central role in realizing the vision of "Developed India 2047." Every teacher, student, employee and citizen is a participant in this great journey of nation building. Describing the spirit of "not me, but we" as the fundamental basis for building a developed India, he said that only through collective effort, cooperation, participation and positive thinking is it possible to build a strong nation, a robust society and excellent institutions.

Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam called upon the people present to further strengthen their commitment to education, research, innovation, social re-

sponsibility and national interest and to actively contribute in realizing the national resolve of "Divine India, Grand India" and "Developed India-2047".

Nodal Officer Professor Sanjay Singh initially welcomed the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, and Finance Officer, highlighting the Prime Minister's monumental achievements over the past 12 years and presenting the vision of a divine and magnificent India. Dr. Sunil Kumar conducted the program, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Registrar Colonel Vinay Kumar. Public Relations Officer Dr. Prabhat Chandra Mishra stated that at the end of the program, all participants expressed their commitment to nation-building, educational advancement, and social development, pledging to actively participate in various programs to be held until June 21, 2026. The entire atmosphere was filled with patriotism, inspiration, positive energy, and development-oriented thinking. A large number of directors, officials, teachers, staff, researchers, and students from all the university's faculties attended the program.

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Café Akasa's fourth edition of its Yoga Day special meal

VARANASI: Café Akasa, the onboard meal service of Akasa Air, has launched the fourth edition of its Yoga Day Special Meal to celebrate International Day of Yoga. Thoughtfully curated to reflect the principles of wellness, balance, and mindful living that underpin yoga, the special meal combines wholesome ingredients with re-



freshing flavors to create a nourishing in-flight dining experience.

The Yoga Day Special Meal features fresh Millet Salad with Avocado, Anar and Basil, paired with a Berry Muesli Yoghurt Parfait and served with a beverage of choice. Bringing together the goodness of nutrient-rich millets, fresh fruits, yoghurt, and vibrant seasonal ingredients, the meal is designed to offer travellers a light yet satisfying option that celebrates mindful eating without compromising taste.

Available throughout June 2026 across the Akasa Air network, the special meal can be

conveniently pre-booked on Akasa Air's website www.akasaair.com and mobile app. As yoga continues to inspire healthier lifestyles and conscious choices around the world, this specially curated offering embodies the spirit of the occasion by encouraging travellers to embrace wellness even while on the move. The inclusion of millets, recognised for their nutritional value and deep-rooted connection to Indian food traditions, further reflects a growing preference for wholesome, balanced meals that nourish both body and mind. Now in its fourth year, the Yoga Day Special Meal continues Café Akasa's tradition of commemorating cultural and seasonal occasions through thoughtfully curated culinary experiences.

Since launching operations in August 2022, Akasa Air has been committed to offering specially curated meal options that reflect regional specialities associated with various celebrations. From Makar Sankranti to Valentine's Day, Holi, Eid, Easter, Mother's Day, International Yoga Day, Navroz, Onam, Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra, Diwali, Children's Day and Christmas, Café Akasa continues to enhance the flying experience with festive meals.

BJP busy diverting public attention from imp issues: Mona

Congress Legislature Party leader attacks govt over paper leak, inflation and power supply failures

SANYAM BHARAT CORRESPONDENT

Bureau, Lalganj, Pratapgarh: Regional MLA and Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra Mona, during a day-long visit here on Thursday, reviewed the Organization Creation Campaign with party workers. At the workers' meeting, she stated that the BJP's central and state governments are diverting attention from issues instead of prioritizing the resolution of basic public problems. She added that the suicides of Madhya Pradesh student Akanksha Chaturvedi and Maharashtra student Maithili Sonawane over the NEET paper leak have raised serious questions across the country about the Modi government's examination system. She stated that the BJP, while shying away from the paper leak, has failed to even force the resignation of the country's Education Minister, who is directly responsible for it. CLP leader Aradhana Mishra urged party workers to be vigilant and cautious against the



BJP's undemocratic tactics to retain power.

She added that the forced rejection of Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination in the Rajya Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh has exposed the BJP's seat-stealing. He said that the BJP, which is raising the

issue of women's reservation, has resorted to undemocratic tactics to send a third candidate to Parliament despite not having a sufficient number of MLAs there. Congress MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona said that by increasing the price of cooking gas cylinders, the BJP

has inflicted the pain of cooling the kitchens of the poor and middle class through inflation. She said that the steep rise in the prices of diesel, petrol, LPG commercial cylinders, and CNG has made essential commodities expensive in the market. MLA Mona said that despite the scorching heat in the state, electricity supply has been disrupted due to the mismanagement of the government and the Power Corporation. She said that the BJP is taking undemocratic steps to hide its failure to address these fundamental public issues. Afterward, she addressed public grievances at her camp office.

MLA Aradhana Mishra was warmly welcomed by party workers at Agai Mor. MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona, during public interaction in Agai, Umapur, Pure

Chattu, Bhatni, Lohangpur, and Narayanpur, assured the people of the continued development of Rampurkhas. She said that she, along with MP Pramod Tiwari, would continue efforts to beautify Rampurkhas by connecting it with all necessary development schemes. Present on the occasion were Chief Amit Pratap Singh Pankaj, Chairperson representative Santosh Dwivedi, Media in-charge Gyanprakash Shukla, representative Ashish Upadhyay, former Chief Bhuvaneshwar Shukla, Mantu Upadhyay, Sureshchandra Patel, Dharampal Gautam, Ebadurrahman, Ashish Kaushal, Dara Singh, Shriram Verma, Rakesh Chaturvedi, Tribhu Tiwari, Preetendra Ojha, Atul Shukla, Abhinav Shukla, Chhote Lal Saroj, Rajkumar Mishra, Jagdish Narayan Tiwari, Dayaram Verma, Ashok Singh, Rakesh Singh, Anand Pandey, Makdoom Singh, Mahadev Mishra, Raju Mali, Vidyadhar Pandey, Shashindra Shukla, Muralidhar Tiwari, Guddu Singh, and others.

Christian community demands Impartial CBI Investigation on charges against Bishop Morris Edgar Dan

Lucknow: Bishop Morris

Edgar Dan is the head clergyman of the Church of North India, Lucknow Diocese. Under his leadership, more than a dozen schools, colleges, churches, and other institutions are run across the state. Headmistress Priyadarshini of Bishop Johnson Katra Extension School has been accused of orchestrating an attack on lawyers with the help of a male associate. Following this incident, she was granted leave to protect the school's reputation. However, during her leave, she returned to the school and created a disturbance, which led to her removal from the post. Subsequently, Priyadarshini filed a case of exploitation against Bishop Dan and three others at Colonelganj police station. Later, she lodged another FIR alleging threats.



Meanwhile, David Andrew Luke, the dismissed acting principal of Boys' High School and College, along with his family members, faces charges of em-

bezzling Rs. 10 crore, registered with the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Lucknow Sector. Investigations revealed that between 2014 and 2021, tuition fee funds were siphoned off through three construction companies. Investigating officer Narendra Singh's report charged them under IPC Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B. Earlier, David Luke had also faced allegations of a fake M.A. degree and embezzlement of Rs. 3.25 crore, which led to his dismissal. Despite this, he did not vacate his position and continued to remain in the school.

Sources suggest that under pressure from David Luke and Ravinandan, Priyadarshini filed a false gangrape case against Bishop Dan, Secretary Rakesh Chhatri, Allen Dan, and others. Opponents are actively trying to remove Bishop Dan from his position, while Bishop Dan has openly challenged that if he has committed any wrongdoing, an investigation should be con-

ducted. He has stated that if the gangrape charges are proven, he and his associates should face the harshest punishment, but if the FIR is found to be false, then action should be taken against those who filed it.

Rockwell Amar Moses remarked that Bishop Dan is a clergyman and the current dispute is merely the result of internal differences within the mission. As a result, the reputation and image of the CNI Church are being damaged. He further emphasized that in the public interest, it is essential that both sides undergo impartial investigation so that the truth may come out and misconceptions in society may end. The Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, Lucknow Bench, in Criminal Miscellaneous Repetition 1793/2025 (Arvind Yadav vs. State of Uttar Pradesh) dated March 5, 2025, directed that cases of false FIRs filed for blackmailing should be investigated by the CBI. In light of this order, it is considered necessary in the interest of justice that the cases filed against Bishop Dan be investigated by the CBI.

UP village mourns death of man killed in US strike on oil tanker near Strait of Hormuz

US strike Shivanand Chaurasia killed

Deoria (Agency): An attack thousands of kilometers away at sea has snatched the joys of a family in the Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh. Shivanand Chaurasia (35), son of Ramjeev Chaurasia, a resident of Surauli village in the Surauli police station area, died in an attack on a commercial ship off the coast of Oman. When news of the incident reached the village on Thursday, the family was plunged into mourning. Shivanand was working as a sailor for a Singapore shipping company. He had left home about seven months ago to pursue a better future and support his family. It is reported that his ship was passing through the Strait of Hormuz when it was attacked. Shivanand lost his life. Shivanand was the eldest son of his family.

His younger brother works abroad in Dubai. At home, he is survived by his wife, Sushila Devi, five-year-old son, Rajveer, and two-year-old daughter, Vanika. Sushila Devi fainted upon receiving the news of her husband's death, while the children are still struggling to grasp the loss of their father. According to villagers, Shivanand was

a hardworking and friendly person. His earnings were the sole support of the family. Following the incident, the village is in mourning, and a stream of people is flocking to his home. The family is awaiting the completion of the process to bring Shivanand's body back to India. The villagers have demanded that the government and administration provide all possible assistance to the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, Rajveer, five, and his sister Vanika, two, are too young to comprehend the catastrophe that is happening around them. Confusion clouded their expressions as shouts resonated through their small house in Surauli village, Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh. Their mother, grandparents, relatives, and neighbours mourned bitterly. The kids continued glancing around; possibly looking for the one person everyone appeared to be mourning. Shivanand Chaurasia (31), their father, never came home. Shivanand was one of three Indian sailors killed when a US military attack targeted the Palau-flagged oil tanker MT Settebello off the coast of Oman.

in the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz. The three sailors were first reported missing following the incident, but were subsequently confirmed deceased, according to Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

When the strike occurred, the tanker was carrying 24 Indian crew members. While 21 sailors were saved, Shivanand and two others died in the event, turning a routine work mission into an unspeakable sorrow for their families. Shivanand's family received sad news thousands of miles distant from the seas in which he had been operating. His younger brother, Ram Pravech Chaurasia, who works in Dubai, received the first piece of information. He called home on Thursday morning to notify his family. A phone call disrupted the family's peace.

Shivanand, the oldest of two brothers, had left his home about six months ago to work on a Singapore-managed vessel. He began on his adventure with the hope of providing a better future for his family, as did many other Indian mariners. Instead, his family is currently waiting for his mortal remains.

PM Modi's 12 years in govt have seen historic path of farmer prosperity leading to national wealth: UP CM



Lucknow (Agency): The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his emphasis on farmers as the NDA government marked its 12-year anniversary. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised the Central government's measures, claiming that they had improved farmers' dignity, security, and prosperity. The administration led by Narendra Modi has now been in office for 12 years. On June 10, he became the Prime Minister who had been elected for the most consecutive terms. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed his term, noting development achievements, governance changes, and social programs carried out during this time.

In a post on X, he mentioned, "Under the illustrious leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri @narendramodiji, the past 12 years have added new chapters of dignity, security, and prosperity to the lives of the nation's annadatas, the farmers. Policies crafted with the farmer at the center from 'seed to market' have infused agriculture with new strength and endowed farmers with fresh confidence. PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi has provided financial stability, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has instilled assurance of protection. PM-KUSUM has paved the way for energy self-reliance, and digital platforms like e-NAM have connected farmers to new opportunities and markets. These 12 glorious years, dedicated to the upliftment of our annadatta brothers, stand as witnesses to the historic journey of 'farmer prosperity leading to national prosperity.'

Fallout of KGMU conversion incident: UP Governor orders setting up "Special Surveillance Cell" in medical institutions

KGMU CONVERSION UP GOVERNOR

Lucknow (Agency): To effectively curb the ongoing illegal religious conversions and apostasy activities in Uttar Pradesh's medical institutions, Governor and Chancellor of State Universities Anandiben Patel has taken a major step. She has issued strict orders to establish a "Special Surveillance Cell" to identify and apprehend the networks and individuals involved in the conversions using inducements and pressure in the state's medical and dental colleges.

This decision was taken in light of the seriousness of the alleged religious conversion cases that surfaced of female medical staff at King George's Medical University (KGMU) and Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) in the state capital Lucknow in 2025.

Following this decision by the Raj Bhavan (now Jan Bhavan), the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University has issued an order to all its affiliated institutions to immediately constitute this "monitoring cell" and submit a detailed report. According to Dr. Sudhir M.

Bobde, Special Officer to Governor and Chancellor Anandiben Patel, this special monitoring cell in medical and dental colleges will primarily focus on preventing religious conversions, monitoring college campuses, and monitoring suspicious activities. It will also conduct awareness campaigns among students, resident doctors, and medical staff (especially women). This will include immediate investigation of any complaints, reporting the facts to the relevant legal authorities, and implementing legal action. The Governor has directed that this cell be effective in all institutions and that compliance reports be sought in a timely manner.

A female doctor of KGMU had accused him of physical exploitation and conversion after trapping her in a love affair. It is noteworthy that in December 2025, a female resident doctor at KGMU accused her colleague, Dr. Ramizuddin Malik, also known as Rameez Malik, of sexually abusing her and then pressuring her to convert. The victim informed the institute's higher authorities about the matter,

but according to the victim, no action was taken against the accused doctor. This led to her attempting suicide. Later, an investigation into the case revealed the involvement of blackmailing, forging documents, and a large gang.

Additionally, a case of a man's sudden disappearance was reported at Sanjay Gandhi PGI Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in Uttar Pradesh's capital, Lucknow. This incident further increased the administration's concern. These two major incidents have made it clear that it is crucial to improve security within the state's medical and dental colleges and to closely monitor ongoing activities there. Consequently, it is crucial to establish "special monitoring cells" within them to prevent religious conversions.

Regarding the Governor's decision to monitor religious conversion activities, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state spokesperson Hero Bajpai stated that this step was necessary to maintain the dignity of medical education and protect young candidates, especially women. The opposition is also opposing this decision, fearing it will impact their vote bank.

Scholar Summit 2026 concludes at Chandigarh University, UP; CUCET scholarship recipients from UP, Bihar, and Jharkhand honored

CU Scholar Summit 2026 saw meritorious students from various states across the country attend; 1,500 meritorious students honored during two-day summit

Lucknow (Agency): Chandigarh University, Uttar Pradesh, the country's first AI-augmented multidisciplinary university, hosted the two-day CU Scholar Summit 2026. Over 1,500 meritorious students attended the summit, primarily from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand.

In fact, the university announced scholarships worth up to Rs 50 crore through the CUCET (Chandigarh University Common Entrance Test) for the 2026-27 academic year. Students who excelled in this exam have received scholarships of up to 100 percent.

The CU Scholar Summit has been organized to honor these talented students.

Yogendra Upadhyay, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, attended the final day of the program as the chief guest. Also present were Rajya Sabha MP and Chancellor of Chandigarh University, Satnam Singh Sandhu, Prof. (Dr.)

Vineet Kumar Nair, Vice Chancellor, CU UP, and Prof. Dr. TP Singh, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Chandigarh University UP, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Yogendra Upadhyay, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, said, "I am proud to be in Chandigarh University, Uttar Pradesh.

It is not just a university, but a center of excellence for discovering talent, nurturing talent, and preparing them for nation-building. I am speechless to see the innovations and research models presented by the students here today. Innovative ideas like generating electricity from footprints demonstrate that India's youth are not only learning, but also creating solutions for the future."

The National Education Policy 2020 aims to integrate education with technology, employment, and values, and Chandigarh University is effectively realizing this vision. I have seen in the students here a sense of dedication to the nation, along with a passion for technology. Patriotism isn't limited to defending the country at the border; advancing the nation through knowledge, innovation, and action is also a form of national service. Sandhu ji and his team are preparing young people for the future with this spirit.

Today, Uttar Pradesh is emerging as the nation's emerging hub of higher education, and the presence of world-class institutions like Chandigarh University is fueling this transformation. I am confident that its students will play a leading role in realizing the vision of a developed India and, through their knowledge, research, and innovation, will elevate India to new heights of global leadership.

Speaking on this occasion, Rajya Sabha MP and Chancellor of Chandigarh University, Satnam Singh Sandhu, said that

CUCET is not just an entrance exam, but a powerful tool to identify talent and ensure access to quality education by removing financial barriers. This scholarship initiative aims to ensure that no deserving student has to compromise on their dreams due to financial reasons. We all want to see our children realize the dreams we cannot fulfill in our own lives.

Therefore, investing in children's dreams is the most important investment. Today's Gen Z dreams are bigger, more global, and more ambitious than ever before. AI is transforming every sector of the world, and in the future, technology will be so powerful that a single person will be able to run an entire company. In such a time, Chandigarh University, Uttar Pradesh's goal is not just to award degrees, but to prepare future leaders who will harness the power of AI and emerging technologies to play a vital role in the development of society and the nation.

IIT-K recruits Nisarga Adhikary, who identified significant weaknesses in CBSE's OSM site

Kanpur (Agency): Nisarga Adhikary, a cybersecurity researcher, has been hired as the OSINT and Threat Intelligence Engineer at C3iHub, IIT Kanpur's cyber defense research lab. The child recently gained attention after he discovered severe security flaws in the Central Board of Secondary Education's Online Submission of Marks (OSM) system.

The 19-year-old previously stated that identifying weaknesses in the CBSE platform took him only 20 minutes. Adhikary said that answer sheets and question papers kept on an AWS bucket were publicly available online, which raised serious concerns about the CBSE's digital infrastructure. Adhikary's nomination is undoubtedly a big step forward in his professional career, highlighting the country's growing acknowledgment of ethical hacking and responsible vulnerability disclosure. CBSE-affiliated schools utilize the OSM site to post and manage their students' examination results. It is a crucial part of the board examination process, allowing schools to submit marks online for compilation and result preparation.

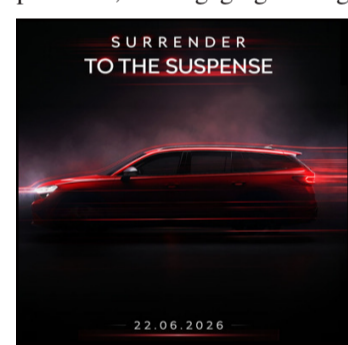
Škoda Auto announces launch of new Kodiaq RS SUV

Prayagraj: Škoda Auto India is set to elevate its high-performance RS portfolio with the all-new Kodiaq RS. Building on more than 50 years of RS legacy and over 125 years of motorsport heritage, this latest addition underscores the brand's performance DNA. With bookings opening on June 22, 2026, the Kodiaq RS combines exhilarating performance with unmistakable motorsport character, the versatility of seven-seat luxury, and enhanced all-terrain capability powered by 4x4.

Commenting on the announcement, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "The RS badge carries over 50 years of global performance legacy and a fiercely loyal following in India since the Octavia RS arrived more than two decades ago. The latest Octavia RS, launched last year, sold out in just 20 minutes, highlighting its cult status among enthusiasts. Now, we're taking that legacy forward with the Kodiaq RS, our first-ever iconic RS badge and the quickest Škoda yet in the country. It blends performance, space, and

4x4 capability into a bold, unmistakable expression of our racing DNA."

Kodiaq RS: Performance at its core - The RS badge, short for Rally Sport, symbolises Škoda Auto's commitment to performance engineering. Globally, RS models are synonymous with dynamic capability, precision, and engaging driving



experience. With the Kodiaq RS, this philosophy now enters the luxury SUV segment in India, delivering a sharper and more exhilarating drive within a versatile, all-terrain package. The Kodiaq RS also reflects the brand's focus on its key strategic pillar of differentiation, further strengthening its portfolio with an SUV designed for every aspiration.

Ministry of Skill Dev & Entrepreneurship completes 12 Yrs of Skills, Scale and Transformation

New Delhi: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), under the leadership of Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, marks twelve years of Skills, Scale and Transformation, highlighting the growth of one of the world's largest skilling ecosystems and its contribution to India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Over the past twelve years, the Ministry has built a comprehensive skilling ecosystem that integrates vocational education, industry-led training, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship development, digital public infrastructure and international workforce mobility into a unified national framework. Through sustained reforms, institutional strengthening and deep collaboration with industry, academia and state governments, Skill India has evolved into one of the world's largest and most diverse skilling ecosystems.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, said, "The journey of the last twelve years reflects India's growing recognition that skills are among the most powerful enablers of opportunity, productivity and economic transformation. The Ministry has worked to create an ecosystem where skills are viewed as an integral part of learning, employability and lifelong growth, alongside formal education. As technologies reshape industries and the nature of work continues to evolve, our focus is on preparing India's youth not only for existing opportunities, but also for jobs and enterprises that will emerge in the years ahead. Through stronger industry partnerships, digital innovation, entrepreneurship support and global mobility pathways, we are building a workforce that is confident, competitive and ready to contribute to India's development journey."

The Ministry's impact is visible across every stage of the skilling lifecycle. India's vocational training infrastructure has expanded significantly, with the number of Industrial Training

Institutes growing from 9,776 in 2014 to more than 13,888 today. Together with National Skill Training Institutes, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras and Jan Shiksha Sansthan, these institutions have expanded access to quality skill development opportunities across the country. The Ministry has also established three Indian Institutes of Skills (IIS) in Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Kanpur, creating state-of-the-art centres of excellence to deliver industry-aligned, future-ready training.

Apprenticeship has emerged as one of the strongest bridges between education and employment. More than 56.08 lakh apprentices have been engaged since 2016, supported by reforms that have improved participation from both industry and youth while strengthening on-the-job learning opportunities.

The Ministry has also driven large-scale short-term skilling interventions through flagship programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, under which more than 1.64 crore candidates have been trained. Simultaneously, entrepreneurship development initiatives led through the National

Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) have trained over 25 lakh beneficiaries under Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), creating pathways for enterprise creation, self-employment and livelihood generation across urban, rural and aspirational districts.

A defining feature of the Ministry's transformation journey has been the creation of a digital-first skilling ecosystem. The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) has emerged as an integrated digital public infrastructure for skills, bringing together skilling, jobs, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship opportunities on a single platform. Today, more than 1.5 crore candidates are registered on SIDH, with over 1,000 courses available in 23 languages. Programmes such as SOAR (Skill for AI Readiness) have further accelerated AI awareness and preparedness among learners and educators with 50+ AI Courses and Qualifications across sectors, recording over 4.5 lakh enrolments since launch across emerging technology domains.

DYING POTTERS' TRADITION Crisis for Culture and Livelihoods Rooted in Clay, says Dr. Mani Shankar Dwivedi

Prayagraj: "India's identity has long been shaped by its rich cultural diversity, folk traditions, and traditional occupations. Among these, the art of pottery-creating earthenware from clay has been an integral part of Indian life for centuries. There was a time when village mornings began with cool water stored in clay pots and evenings glowed with the light of earthen lamps. Every household used clay products such as pitchers, pots, surahis, kulhads, and diyas. However, with changing times, this age-old tradition is gradually fading away. The livelihood that has sustained generations of potter families is now facing a serious crisis. From an economic perspective, pottery is no longer as profitable as it once was. Producing earthenware requires immense labor, time, and skill, yet the income earned is often insufficient. The process of sourcing quality clay, preparing it, shaping the products, drying them, and firing them in kilns is both demanding and costly," opines Dr. Mani Shankar Dwivedi, Principal of Motilal Nehru P.G. College, Kaundhiyara.

Seventy-six-year-old Ram Lal Prajapati of Chaka village in Karchhana, who has been practicing this craft since the 1970s, believes that pottery products do not receive fair market value, forcing many potter families into financial hardship. The greatest impact is being felt by the younger generation, which is increasingly losing interest in carrying forward this traditional art.

Similarly, Nand Kishore from Dandi identifies access to quality clay as one of the biggest challenges facing potters today. He explains that a significant amount of time and money is spent merely arranging suitable clay, while both government and society remain largely indifferent to their struggles. Potter Gameraj points out that most artisans are still confined to local village markets, while modern commercial networks dominate the economy. He also notes that the widespread use of plastic products has severely damaged the demand for traditional earthenware.

Ram Bharose of Kaundhiyara expresses hope that access to electric pottery

wheels, quality clay, improved iron kilns, and participation in modern marketing systems could bring transformative changes to the lives of potter families. Such support, he believes, would not only improve livelihoods but also contribute significantly to environmental sustainability. The reality is that clay products are more relevant today than ever before from an environmental perspective.

At a time when the world is struggling with plastic pollution, earthenware offers a completely natural, biodegradable, and eco-friendly alternative. The challenges faced by potters are not merely the concerns of one community; they are closely linked to the preservation of our cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems. The need of the hour is for governments, corporations, non-governmental organizations, and society at large to join hands and take meaningful action. Potters should be provided with modern design training, technical support, financial assistance, easy access to credit, digital marketing opportunities, and sustainable market linkages.

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68A/61A, Mahaveeran Gali
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FB / Instagram: @aiiprwa
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Editor
Shrikant Tiwari
Mob-9415030710

Email-
sanyambharatmedia@gmail.com

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