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PM Modi And PM Sanchez Inaugurate India's First Private Military Aircraft Assembly Line At TATA Complex

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez officially inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex at the TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus, dedicated to the production of C-295 aircraft. The project involves a total of 56 aircraft, with 16 being supplied directly by Airbus from Spain and the remaining 40 to be manufactured in India, as reported by ANI.

covering all aspects of aircraft development, including manufacturing, assembly, testing, delivery, and



maintenance throughout the aircraft's lifecycle.

In addition to Tata, the program will see collaboration with major defense public sector units such as Bharat Electronics Ltd. and Bharat Dynamics Ltd., along with various private

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) participating in the initiative, as per ANI reports.

The foundation stone for the Vadodra Final Assembly Line was laid by PM Modi in October 2022, marking a significant milestone in India's defense manufacturing capabilities. After the inauguration, the leaders will hold bilater-

al talks at the historic Laxmi Vilas Palace, facilitated by India's Ministry of External Affairs. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is also set to meet with PM Sanchez during his visit. Their discussions will conclude over lunch before Sanchez departs for Mumbai on Tuesday, as per media report.

Sanchez's visit follows German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's recent trip to India, highlighting back-to-back meetings with European heads of state for PM Modi. This visit is expected to strengthen India-Spain relations, particularly in defense and manufacturing sectors, with Sanchez scheduled to return to Spain early Wednesday.

Vadodra City Extends a Grand Welcome to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Spain Mr Pedro Sánchez

Marking the Start of Diwali Festivities, Both Leaders Were Honoured in a Memorable Roadshow Showcasing Vadodra's Vibrant Culture and Warm Hospitality

Gandhinagar, 28 October 2024: As Diwali festivities commenced, Vadodra warmly welcomed India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Spain's Prime Minister Mr Pedro Sánchez. The leaders participated in a grand roadshow, traveling together in an open jeep from the airport to the Tata Aircraft Complex. An enthusiastic crowd lined the route, creating an unforgettable moment that show-

cased Vadodra's vibrant spirit and extended a warm welcome to the visiting for-



case dignitary. A massive gathering turned out to greet Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, as thousands of Vadodra residents lined the route from Airport Circle to the Tata Aircraft Complex, eager for a glimpse of their leader. Citizens waved the national

flag with pride and chanted 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram,' adding a



patriotic fervour to the event. Vadodra's citizens greeted both Prime Ministers with banners, traditional attire, songs, and music at various points along the path, cheering and welcoming them with enthusiasm. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi warmly

reciprocated the affection, waving to the crowd with gratitude. Throughout the



route, stages were set up at multiple locations, where artists captivated the audience with colourful cultural performances. These displays highlighted India's rich cultural heritage, infusing the roadshow with a festive and lively atmosphere.

Reasons, Why BJP Has A Clear Edge In Maharashtra and Jharkhand Elections

(Gns). As Maharashtra and Jharkhand prepare for the 2024 assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears well-positioned to retain a strategic advantage in both states.

doubts about its continued dominance in Indian politics.

In Maharashtra, the BJP has skillfully rebuilt its alliances, notably with the Shiv Sena faction led by



Eknath Shinde and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction under Ajit Pawar. These partnerships have fragmented the

Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, giving the BJP a wider electoral reach. This restructured coalition has allowed the BJP to regain political

ground lost in 2019. Additionally, the BJP has been keen to restore its traditional OBC support base in Maharashtra, particularly

after controversies like the Maratha reservation issue. By reviving outreach strategies aimed at key OBC communities, such as the Malis and Dhangars, the BJP is focusing on this critical voter bloc to ensure success.

In Jharkhand, the BJP's focus has been on tribal outreach, a crucial factor considering the state's demographic. Following a weaker performance in tribal-dominated regions in the 2019 elections, the saffron party has intensified its engagement with these communities through initiatives like the 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.'

Only BJP can stop 'state-sponsored' infiltration, crime against women in Bengal: HM Amit Shah

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that the 'state-sponsored' infiltration and crime against women in West Bengal will be stopped only if the BJP comes to power in the state in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Speaking at the party's organisational meeting to launch a membership drive in West Bengal, the Home Minister said that he wonders what Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will do once the total membership of BJP in West Bengal crosses one crore.

"We have already won in Haryana. We will also be winning in Maharashtra. Our next major target will be to win in West Bengal in the 2026 Assembly elections... Incidents like

Sandeshkhali and R.G Kar Medical College & #038; Hospital have proved how



insecure our mothers and sisters are now in West Bengal. All these will be stopped if BJP comes to power in West Bengal in 2026," he said.

tion, megastar and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty too emphasised the need

to increase the active members of the party in the state. "We need such members who will lead the party being in the forefront. They will not be scared to tell the rulers on their faces that

they are not afraid to face anything. I also want to assure the Union Home Minister that we are ready to face anything," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media persons before the organisational meeting, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari said that the protest movements by junior doctors in the state have died down because of the "influence of left and ultra-left forces" in the movement.

"Junior doctors started the movement in an excellent manner. But the finishing was not that good. However, the BJP will not remain silent and a full-fledged movement on this issue will start after Diwali," Adhikari said.

Maharashtra Election: Shiv Sena-UBT's Candidate Withdraws Nomination To Support Shinde, Says 'MVA Will Lose'

(Gns). Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Kishanchand Tanwani, the candidate from Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena-UBT in the Sambhajinagar Central constituency, has withdrawn his nomination.

elections by a large margin." There is ongoing



speculation within political circles regarding the reasons behind his withdrawal, with reports suggesting that Thackeray's faction of the Shiv Sena may field another candidate in the constituency.

He expressed concerns over a potentially unfavourable electoral sce-

nario reminiscent of the 2014 elections. In that year,

Tanwani as their candidate. However, Tanwani expressed dissatisfaction with Jaiswal's support during the campaign, stating, "I have been canvassing in this assembly segment for the past seven days and have realised that a situation similar to the 2014 elections is shaping up. I have decided not to contest this time."

Tanwani also mentioned that he withdrew from the race in 2019 for similar reasons, which ultimately aided Jaiswal in securing victory. The AIMIM, led by Asaduddin Owaisi, has announced Naser Siddiqui as their candidate for the November 20 assembly elections; Siddiqui had previously been defeated by Jaiswal in 2019.

Last week, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena had officially declared

Intiaz Jaleel of the AIMIM defeated the Shiv Sena's then-undivided candidate, Pradeep Jaiswal, in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar city, with Tanwani, who ran on a BJP ticket, finishing in third place.

With this, Sharad Pawar has brought his NCP on an equal footing with the Congress.

'Stay away from Salman Khan case': Lawrence Bishnoi gang warns Pappu Yadav; 'Sudhar jao warna dekh lenge.'

(Gns). Pappu Yadav, an Independent MP from Bihar's Purnia, reportedly received a death threat from Lawrence Bishnoi's gang. An audio clip of the threat went viral on social media on Monday.

In the viral clip, a caller could be heard saying, "Sudhar jao warna dekh lenge hum. [Correct yourself or we will see you]."

Mint could not verify the authenticity of the audio. As per the video, the caller was identified as "ajjulowarence". He claimed to be a henchman of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and could be heard speaking about a "political" statement made by the Bihar MP. The call was made around 9:45 am on

Monday, News 18 reported.

"Why do you get involved in this trouble. Why do you give statements against Lawrence Bishnoi.

Attempts were made to talk to you several times, why are you not picking up the phone," the caller said.

The caller also claimed that "they are continuously surveying several of Yadav's locations and intend to kill him," the Times of India reported. The report quoted police sources saying that the caller warned Yadav to stay away from the Salman Khan case.

Pappu Yadav seeks 'Z' security

Following the reported threats, MP Pappu Yadav has reportedly requested increased security from the Centre, demanding 'Z' security cover. Yadav currently has 'Y' security cover.

According to a letter shared by news agency IANS, Yadav cited threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and warned that both the central and Bihar governments would be responsible for his safety.

The purported letter stated, "Today, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang is continuously committing incidents in the country.

Being a political person, I protested against the incident."

"After I opposed [Bishnoi's moves], the head of Lawrence Bishnoi gang has threatened to kill me..." the letter read. A copy of the recording reportedly attached with the letter.

Yadav also demanded that he be escorted to every district of Bihar and that special security arrangements be made at the place of any public gathering event.

Why is Bishnoi gang issuing threats to Pappu Yadav?

Yadav had met Baba Siddique's son Zeeshan Siddique on October 24. Baba Siddique was shot dead in October,

How Sharad Pawar used a feud, brought his NCP on par with Congress

(Gns). Let's start this story with a story. The fable of The Monkey and Two Cats we have all heard as kids. There's an uncanny reflection of the fable in Maharashtra politics as the partners in the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) divide the 288 seats equally among themselves.

two, and finds a piece bigger than the other. It bites the bigger piece to make it equal to the other. Now, the other piece seems bigger, and the monkey eats from it. The process continues, and at the end, the monkey has had the entire roti, while the warring cats get nothing.

Returning to Maharashtra politics, alliance partners Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) couldn't agree on seat-sharing. As the talks hit a logjam, they approached the chief of their third partner, Sharad Pawar.

Sharad Pawar, the chief of NCP (SP), ended the stalemate by giving all the three MVA partners 85-85-85 seats.

Ten seats were left for smaller allies, and a decision has been kept pending on the remaining 23 seats. There are 288 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly.

With this, Sharad Pawar has brought his NCP on an equal footing with the Congress.

That's significant as the Congress has treated the NCP as a junior partner in Maharashtra since the early 2000s. In the 2019 Assembly

election, the Congress contested 147 seats and the undivided NCP 121.

This was before Sharad Pawar's nephew split the party and joined the Mahayuti in 2022, consisting of the BJP and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena.

In the 2019 Assembly polls, the strike rate of the NCP, at 45%, was way better than the Congress's 30%. The united NCP won 55 seats while the Congress got just 44.

Despite their alliance losing to the BJP-Shiv Sena combination, Pawar got his side into power by supporting a miffed Uddhav Thackeray, the chief of the united Shiv Sena, who drifted away from ally BJP.

Values enshrined in Constitution being undermined under NDA rule: Priyanka Gandhi

(Gns). Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre saying the values enshrined in the Constitution are being undermined under its rule

Kicking off her Lok Sabha bypoll campaign in the Wayanad constituency at Meenangadi near Kalpetta, the Congress candidate said the values enshrined in our Constitution are constantly being subverted under the NDA rule.

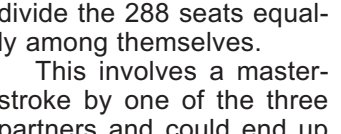
She alleged that the Modi government is crafting policies to benefit the prime minister's friends,

rather than the common people. The rights of the tribal people are disregarded, and their lands are taken and handed over to business tycoons. "There is no respect or regard for the tradition of the tribal people. Their lands are snatched from them and given to big business tycoons," she said.

Speaking on the



Manipur violence, she said minorities are subjected to attacks there and the government failed to stop it. "Fear, mistrust, and anger are spreading among different communities in the country. We have seen the attacks on minorities. We have seen attacks on minorities in Manipur," Priyanka said.



Unleashing Values

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Editorial

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

In a world marked by technological advances and digital communication, boundaries seem to blur, especially when it comes to human relationships.

The recent online marriage between Mohammad Abbas Haider, son of BJP councillor Tahseen Shahid from Uttar Pradesh, and Antleep Sara, a Pakistani woman from Lahore, has captured the attention of many, not just for its modern take on tradition but for the powerful message it sends about the potential for human connection to transcend political borders.

At a time when Indo-Pakistani relations remain fraught with tension, this marriage serves as a reminder of the people-to-people ties that continue to flourish despite the political climate. It also highlights the growing need for easing travel, facilitating smoother cross-border interactions, and reviving regional cooperation frameworks like SAARC and SAFTA. This marriage took place virtually because bureaucratic delays in visa processing, exacerbated by strained Indo-Pakistani relations, prevented the couple from meeting in person. Online platforms provided a temporary solution, but it also underscored the limitations imposed by current political realities. Visa restrictions between India and Pakistan have long been a point of contention, impeding families, couples, and friends who wish to stay connected. Imagine a South Asia where such challenges no longer exist — where visa-free travel is not just a dream, but a reality.

This is not unprecedented. India already shares such an arrangement with Nepal and Bhutan, allowing citizens to travel freely across borders, fostering not just familial ties but economic and cultural exchanges. A similar arrangement between India and Pakistan could revolutionize the relationship between the two countries. Cross-border marriages, much like the one between Abbas and Sara, would no longer be anomalies facilitated by technology, but common occurrences, bringing two historically linked nations closer together. People-to-people contact has long been seen as a way to soften diplomatic tensions.

History is rife with examples of how cultural and familial exchanges have played a crucial role in easing hostility between nations. By allowing citizens more freedom to interact, understand each other's culture, and build personal connections, India and Pakistan could lay the foundation for a future that is more collaborative and less adversarial. The online marriage between Abbas and Sara is also a timely reminder of the potential that exists within the South Asian region for greater cooperation.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), once a promising regional organization aimed at fostering economic and political cooperation among its member states, has been largely dormant in recent years due to geopolitical tensions, primarily between India and Pakistan. Saarc, along with the South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta), could serve as the perfect platform to facilitate not just trade, but also cultural and social exchanges. These regional frameworks were designed to promote cooperation in a variety of sectors, from economic development to healthcare and education. By reviving these platforms, South Asia could harness the collective potential of its member states, including India and Pakistan, to tackle common challenges like poverty, health crises, and climate change. One way to breathe new life into Saarc would be by creating special provisions for people-to-people contact, particularly for families separated by borders. Saarc could introduce a simplified visa process or even work towards establishing a visa-free regime, allowing citizens to travel across member states with minimal restrictions.

This would not only help families like Abbas and Sara's, but it would also promote tourism, enhance business relations, and encourage cultural exchanges. Beyond easing travel restrictions, there is also a growing call for restoring Pakistan's "Most Favored Nation" (MFN) status with India. India revoked Pakistan's MFN status in 2019 following the Pulwama attack, dealing a significant blow to trade relations between the two countries. Restoring this status would be a vital step towards economic integration, allowing for smoother trade relations and fostering interdependence between the two economies.

Cross-border marriages, much like cross-border trade, thrive in environments where borders are porous, both figuratively and literally. Economic integration through Safta and MFN restoration could create a more interlinked South Asia, where mutual benefits are prioritized over political hostilities. A shared economy would not only reduce poverty in the region but would also foster peace. Economic ties often create a strong incentive for maintaining stable diplomatic relations. In the European Union, for example, economic interdependence has been a key factor in maintaining peace among member states. South Asia could follow a similar model, using trade and economic cooperation as a bridge to ease political tensions. The role of technology, particularly in the context of online marriages like that of Abbas and Sara, cannot be overstated.

In an era where diplomatic relations are at a low, technology offers a unique solution for maintaining human connections. The rise of online platforms has enabled couples, friends, and families separated by borders to stay connected. But while technology offers temporary solutions, it is no substitute for actual people-to-people contact. The growing trend of online marriages in the South Asian context shows that technology is filling the gaps left by diplomacy. However, it also emphasizes the need for more permanent solutions. Governments must recognize that citizens on both sides of the border are eager for closer ties.

By leveraging technology alongside political reforms such as easing visa restrictions, reviving SAARC, and restoring MFN status India and Pakistan could create a framework for more sustainable, long-term relations. Celebrity couples like Shoaib Malik and Sania Mirza have long served as symbols of Indo-Pak unity, but their relationship also highlighted the bureaucratic hurdles faced by cross-border couples. The recent separation of Shoaib and Sania has led many to speculate that visa complications and difficulties in travel between the two countries may have added stress to their relationship. Their experience, much like that of Abbas and Sara, serves as a poignant reminder of the need for easier travel regulations between India and Pakistan.

Cross-border marriages are not a new phenomenon. Many families in both countries have relatives on either side of the border, a legacy of the Partition in 1947. Yet, the bureaucratic red tape that exists today makes it difficult for such families to maintain regular contact. The online marriage of Abbas and Sara is more than just a personal story — it is a symbol of the potential for Indo-Pak relations to improve through people-to-people contact. By reviving Saarc and Safta.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Spain Mr Pedro Sánchez inaugurates Tata Aircraft Complex for C-295 Aircraft Production in Vadodara, Gujarat

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - India's defence sector has been strengthened by expanding opportunities for strategic plans and partnerships

- India's defence manufacturing ecosystem is achieving remarkable heights

- The C-295 aircraft factory represents the new work culture of New India

- The Tata Aircraft Complex will strengthen ties between the two nations and promote the 'Make in India, Make for the World' initiative

- As we advance toward the target, the route to it unfolds naturally

The C-295 aircraft manufacturing project symbolizes industrial excellence and fortifies the bond between India and Spain: Mr Pedro

Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain

Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel grace the occasion

Gandhinagar, 28 October 2024: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has remarked that India's defence manufacturing ecosystem is achieving new heights. The C-295 aircraft factory embodies the evolving work culture of contemporary India. This facility will enhance the relationship between the two countries and promote the 'Make in India, Make for the World' initiative. In this context, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized that India took significant steps ten years ago to pursue a new direction focused on increasing defence production, the results of which are now visible.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Spain's Prime Minister Mr Pedro

Sánchez jointly inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex for C-295 aircraft production at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus. The event was graced by Gujarat Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat, Union Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Shri S. Jaishankar, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, and National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Spain's Prime Minister Mr Pedro Sánchez visited the Final Assembly Line Process and Industrialization, where they reviewed future platforms and opportunities for the first Make in India Airbus C-295 produced by Tata Advanced Systems. They examined various scale models and wall posters of the aircraft and inspected the unit inducted into the Indian Air Force.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that the inauguration of Tata Advanced Systems Limited's Final Assembly Line (FAL) C-295 aircraft facility in Vadodara repre-

demonstrates how strategic planning and partnerships can turn opportunities into prosperity. Over the past decade, key decisions have driven the growth of a robust defence

industrial policies and decisions. Recognizing Vadodara's importance as a cultural city in India, Shri Narendra Modi expressed his joy in welcoming friends from Spain. He remarked, "The cultural connection between India and Spain holds great significance. Father Carlos Wallace, who emigrated from Spain and settled in Gujarat, dedicated fifty years of his life to the region. He enriched Gujarat's cultural heritage through his thoughts and writings, earning the Padma Shri for his exceptional contributions."

Shri Narendra Modi observed that yoga is highly popular in Spain, while Spanish football is equally adored in India. He mentioned that the recent match between Real Madrid and Barcelona sparked significant conversation in India, with fans from both clubs displaying the same fervour as those in Spain. He emphasized the bonds between India and Spain through food, film, and football, expressing his delight that both countries have chosen to commemorate 2026 as the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism, and AI. He stated that today's event would pave the way for many new collaborative projects between India and Spain. He invited industrialists and innovators from Spain to come to India and join in the country's developmental journey.

Mr Pedro Sánchez,

Prime Minister of Spain and the Prime Minister of Spain, Mr Pedro Sánchez, praised the progressive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, stating that the C295 aircraft production project represents industrial excellence. He stated that this initiative has strengthened the friendship between India and Spain. Suggesting future technology transfers to India, he noted that this industrial collaboration has facilitated training and the development of engineers and technicians. Indian companies are expanding in Spain, while Spanish businesses are thriving in India, leading to enhanced job creation and research opportunities. This project will significantly foster the growth of MSMEs.

Emphasizing the importance of medium and small enterprises, the Spanish Prime Minister pointed out that 99 per cent of the companies in his country are MSMEs, which play a crucial role in national development. He also recognized the cultural connections between India and Spain, particularly in music, and specifically mentioned the Indian composer Pandit Ravi Shankar, highlighting the similarities between the Spanish guitar and the Indian sitar. The Prime Minister conveyed that it is a great honour for him to participate in this project, which symbolizes the progress of India's aerospace industry and will unlock new avenues for growth.

Emphasizing that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has transformed India into an industrial powerhouse, he noted that India and Spain have been trustworthy friends for decades. This project has introduced a new dimension to the enhancement of industrial relations. He praised the Tata Group as one of the foremost leaders and highlighted the diverse industrial development in Gujarat.

Shri Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, delivered the welcome address while Mr Michael, CEO of Airbus Defense Space, delivered the vote of thanks. The event was graced by Union Minister Shri C.R. Patil, the Ambassadors of India and Spain, state cabinet members, MPs, MLAs, Chief Secretary Shri Raj Kumar, and various industrialists.



sents a historic moment for India's aerospace industry and a significant milestone for the nation's defence manufacturing sector. The PM emphasized the swift transition from idea to implementation of projects in India, noting that the facility, which had its foundation laid in October 2022, is now ready for C-295 aircraft production.

Highlighting the importance of eliminating unnecessary delays in project planning and execution, the Prime Minister recalled his experience establishing the Bombardier Train Coach Manufacturing Unit in Vadodara during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, pointing out that the factory was completed in record time. "Metro coaches made in this factory are now exported to other countries," he remarked, expressing confidence that the aircraft produced here will also find export opportunities. Quoting the esteemed Spanish poet Antonio Machado, the Prime Minister remarked that as we strive toward our goals, the path to those goals unfolds naturally. Today, India's defence production system is reaching new heights.

He noted that a decade ago, the emphasis and identity of defence manufacturing were centred on imports, and few could have envisioned that India would attain such large-scale defence production. The government has opted to pursue a new path, establishing ambitious goals for India, the results of which are now evident. The Prime Minister emphasised that India's advancement in the defence sector

industry in India. We have enhanced private sector participation in defence production, improved the efficiency of public sector units, restructured ordnance factories into seven major companies, and strengthened organizations such as DRDO and HAL.

He stated that the establishment of defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu has brought renewed energy to the regions. Citing the IDEX (Innovation for Defense Excellence) initiative, the Prime Minister noted that around one thousand defence startups have accelerated their growth in the past five to six years. He emphasized that India's defence exports have increased thirtyfold over the last decade, with the country now exporting equipment to over 100 nations. Highlighting the significance of skill development and job creation, the Prime Minister mentioned that projects like the Airbus-Tata factory will create thousands of jobs. This facility will facilitate the indigenous production of 18,000 aircraft parts, generating substantial opportunities for MSMEs across India. Currently, India is the largest supplier of parts to major aircraft manufacturers globally. This new aircraft factory will significantly advance the development of new skills and industries in the country.

The Prime Minister expressed that he views today's program as encompassing more than just the production of transport aircraft. India's aviation sector has undergone remarkable growth and transformation over the past decade. In addition to providing air connectivity to hundreds of small cities nationwide, it is also working to establish India as a hub for the aviation and MRO sectors. This ecosystem will pave the way for future Made in India civil aircraft. Shri Narendra Modi noted that various Indian airlines have ordered 1,200 new aircraft, asserting that this project will play a crucial role in the future, covering everything from the design to the manufacturing of civil aircraft to meet the demands of India and the world.

Emphasizing Vadodara as a stronghold of MSMEs, Shri Narendra Modi highlighted that the city will act as a catalyst in India's initiatives. He mentioned that Vadodara is home to Gati Shakti University, which trains professionals across various sectors in the country. The city is host to numerous companies in diverse industries, including pharmaceuticals, engineering and heavy machinery, chemicals and petrochemicals, and power and energy equipment. This entire sector is set to become a significant hub for aviation manufacturing in India. Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the Gujarat Government, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, and their entire team for their forward-thinking

Breakthrough Trust Announces Nayana Chowdhury as the New CEO

New Delhi, 28 October, 2024 — Breakthrough Trust has announced the appointment of Nayana Chowdhury as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective January 2025. As Breakthrough celebrates its 25th anniversary, Nayana's appointment marks a strategic commitment to expand the organization's impact, building on a legacy of innovation in challenging societal norms and advocating for safe, inclusive communities.

Nayana succeeds the outgoing CEO, Sohini Bhattacharya, who has led the organisation for the past seven years. Under Nayana's leadership, Breakthrough Trust aims to further its mission of fostering a gender-equal world through innovation and sustainable change.

Nayana Chowdhury, a dedicated advocate for justice and gender equality, brings a wealth of experience and commitment to her role as Breakthrough's new CEO. Growing up in West Bengal, Nayana witnessed the impacts of caste, religion, and class discrimination, shaping her journey into social work and social justice. Since joining Breakthrough in 2018 as Director of Programmes, she has

expanded initiatives addressing gender-based violence and discrimination, particularly among adoles-



cents in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, with an innovative and community-centered approach that has driven meaningful change.

Sohini Bhattacharya has been instrumental in creating a culture of openness, accountability, and bold ambition at Breakthrough. Her tenure has seen the organisation reach new heights in its advocacy for gender equality, and she leaves behind a legacy of inspiration and progress.

Breakthrough was founded in 1999 with a mission to create a cultural shift and make discrimination and violence against girls and women unaccept-

able. Breakthrough's mission is led by young people aged 11 to 25. As Breakthrough enters its next chapter under Nayana's leadership, the organization reaffirms its commitment to empowering youth to lead a cultural transformation toward gender equality, ensuring a future of dignity, justice, and opportunity for all.

About Breakthrough

Breakthrough makes gender-based violence unacceptable by transforming the culture that allows violence and discrimination. As we build capacity in young people, by fostering aspiration, leadership, agency and negotiation skills, we enable a generation to shift towards a gender-equal culture. When gender norms change, everything for the girl changes and she can aspire for more. Our work in communities is contributing to the steady rise in the age of marriage and the number of girls who stay in school. Breakthrough's mission is led by young people aged 11 to 25. As they rise against gender-based violence, we also support them with media tools that shape public narratives and inspire people to build a world of equality, dignity and justice.

Youth Potential

India's demographic dividend — a youthful, rapidly growing workforce — represents a golden opportunity to bolster economic growth and drive innovation.

However, reaping this dividend requires more than surface-level measures like skill training programmes. It demands deeper reform in education, a robust support structure for marginalised youth, and a reimagined economic landscape that bridges India's rural-urban divide and tackles systemic gender disparities. The data reveals an encouraging trend in basic literacy and digital literacy among Indian youth, with around 96 per cent able to read, write, and perform simple arithmetic. While skill programmes are in place, their success is deeply tied to foundational education quality.

If India's young workforce lacks solid foundational skills, it's akin to constructing a building on shaky ground. The quality of education needs immediate attention, as underscored by the fact that only a minority over the age of 25 have completed secondary education. This shortfall in basic schooling reveals

the barriers youth face even before entering skill training programmes. One pressing issue is the 10 per cent of children aged six to 10 who remain out of school, a significant gap despite the Right to

underserved communities. Furthermore, gender disparities continue to challenge India's progress. Young women face higher hurdles, with nearly 38 per cent of them not in education, employment, or train-

options.

India's youth have shown remarkable adaptability in digital skills. Most are familiar with smartphones and the internet, yet their potential is constrained by limited access to resources like libraries or quality vocational training centres. For young Indians, especially those who are first-generation literates, the journey through education often involves immense family sacrifices. Parents who work tirelessly to educate their children in the hope of upward mobility now face the stark reality of their adult children grappling with joblessness or underemployment. If India is to leverage its demographic dividend effectively, it must acknowledge the complex interplay of education quality, gender equity, and resource access. It's not just about training for skills but creating an environment where skills are relevant, valued, and accessible to all youth, irrespective of gender or geography. Policymakers must focus on addressing these systemic challenges holistically, translating this demographic potential into tangible economic progress and a prosperous future.



Education Act mandating free, compulsory education. These young lives are at risk of falling through the cracks in a system that prioritises higher-level skills over foundational learning. Every out-of-school child represents a lost opportunity not only for the individual but for the economy.

Universal enrollment goals cannot be achieved without targeted interventions that address the unique barriers in rural and

ing (NEET) compared to 9.9 per cent of their male counterparts. The reasons are complex: mobility restrictions, limited transport options, and domestic responsibilities, particularly for married women, add layers of difficulty. For these young women, access to skill programmes alone isn't enough — they need supportive policies that address their unique challenges, from safe transportation to childcare

WESTERN RAILWAY RUNS AROUND 200 SPECIAL TRAINS DURING DIWALI AND CHHATH PUJA

Festival Special trains being run by WR to various destinations, including around 50 special trains towards the states of UP & Bihar

WR undertakes various crowd management measures at major stations in view of ongoing festive season rush

Increased deployment of RPF & GRP personnel for crowd management as well as to streamline the movement of passengers

Railway officials deployed round the clock to monitor the situation and for crisis management

Mumbai, Every year, a large number of people from all over the country travel to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for Diwali and Chhath Puja. These festivals are not only of religious significance for the people of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar but also provide an important opportunity to reunite with their families. Due to the heavy rush of passengers during the festive season, most trains see their tickets go on the waiting list two to three months in advance. To address this, Indian Railways is once again operating special trains during the festival season this year.

According to a press release issued by Shri Vineet Abhishek - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, for the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, this year Western Railway is running 200 Special trains during the festive season of Diwali/Chhath Pooja. Out of these, around 40 trains are being run by Mumbai Division of WR to various destinations including 22 trains to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal & Orissa. The running of

extra special trains is being monitored at divisional & headquarter levels which are also planned accordingly by senior officers. Likewise, the waiting list of trains are monitored daily on real-time basis. These special trains are in addition to the regular trains run to these destinations from WR. Additional coaches are also being augmented in regular trains as per availability and demand.

WR is taking all efforts to carry passengers to their destination safely and requisite arrangements are being made in this direction. It is pertinent to mention that in order to monitor & control crowd, maximum deployment of staff has been ensured at stations with heavy footfalls like Bandra Terminus, Surat, Udhna, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, etc. Further, Western Railway has imposed temporary restrictions on the sale of platform tickets at select major stations of Mumbai Division with immediate effect until 8th November, 2024. The stations are Mumbai Central, Dadar, Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Vasai Road, Vapi, Valsad, Udhna & Surat. This step aims to manage crowding on platforms and ensure smooth passenger movement within station premises. Western Railway appeals all its valued passengers to avoid overcrowding at the stations and only the bonafide passengers to enter station premises as per the train timings.

Shri Vineet informed that Western Railway has taken several precautionary measures and various elaborate arrangements have been made for proper implementation of crowd management at these stations. A passenger holding area admeasuring 370 sq mtr with a holding capacity of around 600 passengers

has been erected at Bandra Terminus station in the East circulating area for effective crowd management. This is equipped with adequate lighting and fans for comfortable wait for the passengers. Three (3) water fountains have been provided alongwith toilet facilities. Public announcement system is available inside the holding area which will keep waiting passengers updated about train movements. This area will minimize the number of waiting passengers at the platform and allow for smooth entry of passengers to the trains ensuring safe and smooth journey for the passengers. Such Holding Areas is also available at Udhna & Surat stations. Also, a new Waiting Area has been created near PF No. 04 at Surat Station. 50 License Sahayak in two shifts are being deployed from Surat to Udhna. Information banners/Standeers displaying special train has been displayed at prominent places. Checking staff has been deployed round the clock at all the entry/exit points at Udhna. Additional ticket counters in multiple shifts and ATVM machines are being operated to cater to the extra crowd during Diwali/Chhath Puja at Bandra Terminus, Surat and Udhna stations. Extra shifts at ticket counters are being operated at Vapi and Valsad stations.

RPF & GRP personnel have been deployed round the clock, to regulate the crowd at the entry/exit points & at platforms. Additionally, RPF/GRP staff have been stationed at the gates of every coach to guide passengers. For better management, a holding area has been set up at Surat and Udhna station premises for passengers to wait comfortably in case they come

early. These areas are equipped with basic amenities such as drinking water, sanitation facilities, etc. The access area to station is regulated so that early entry to platform can be restricted. Medical Teams have also been deployed at the stations in case of emergencies. Announcements at platforms are being made to manage the passengers in the queue.

The extra RPF and GRP personnel have been deployed for trains heading toward northern states of the country, especially in General and Sleeper coaches, to manage the crowd and facilitated them for a comfortable journey. This step aims to create a safe and convenient environment for all travellers. In addition, plainclothes CPDS (Crime Prevention and Detection Squad) teams from the RPF and GRP are actively patrolling the stations to keep a watch on any suspicious activity and prevent theft. To keep a close eye on the crowd, round-the-clock CCTV monitoring has been activated across the stations. Dedicated staff have been assigned to constantly monitor the station premises, and field units will be alerted if crowd density increases in any specific areas.

Shri Vineet further informed that all efforts are taken to provide wide publicity of special trains & to ensure proper dissemination of the information to the public. Regular Tweets, Social Media posts, Newspaper publicity are being done to keep passengers informed about additional train services. Moreover, Ticket Checking staff, RPF & GRP staff are guiding passengers through the Public Announcement System.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez Arrives in Vadodara for Historic India Visit with PM Modi

(Gns). Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez arrived in Vadodara, Gujarat, early on Monday. His flight touched down at around 1:30 am, marking the start of his first official visit to India. Sanchez is set to travel to Mumbai on Tuesday before heading back to Spain. During his visit, he will participate in several key events alongside Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sanchez Arrives in Vadodara for India Visit Representative image The two leaders will kick off their engagements with a roadshow from the airport to the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) facility. This 2.5 km route will feature cultural performances along the way. Following this, they will jointly inaugurate the TASL complex, which is dedicat-

ed to manufacturing C-295 aircraft.

Manufacturing

This facility aims to develop a comprehensive



Milestone in Vadodara

The TASL facility in Vadodara represents a significant step for India's private sector in military aviation. It will be the first private final assembly line for military aircraft in the country. Under an agreement, 40 C-295 aircraft will be constructed here, while Airbus will supply 16 direct-

ecosystem encompassing manufacturing, assembly, testing, and maintenance throughout the aircraft's lifecycle. The project involves collaboration with major defence public sector units like Bharat Electronics and Bharat Dynamics, as well as private micro, small and medium enterprises.

Historic Meeting at Laxmi Vilas Palace

After the inauguration, Sanchez and Modi will visit the historic Laxmi Vilas Palace for a bilateral meeting organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). They plan to have lunch at the palace before continuing with their respective schedules.

Sanchez's itinerary indicates he will depart for Spain at approximately 12:30 am on Wednesday. His visit underscores growing ties between Spain and India, particularly in defence and manufacturing sectors.

Prime Minister Modi had laid the foundation stone for this final assembly line in October 2022. The initiative highlights India's push towards enhancing its defence manufacturing capabilities through private sector involvement.

What Lies Ahead for Hemant Soren? A Look at the Charges Amid Election Fever

(Gns).

Hemant Soren was sworn in as Jharkhand's chief minister once again after successfully winning a trust vote in the state assembly on July 8, just as he gears up for the Lok Sabha elections.

However, an even greater challenge now looms: the upcoming state assembly elections. Currently out on interim bail, Soren faces serious allegations from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), leaving his political future hanging in the balance between the voters' ballots and a judge's verdict.

What Lies Ahead for Hemant Soren A Look at the Charges Amid Election Fever

Here's a brief overview of the money laundering charges against Soren, which are linked to an

alleged land scam in the state capital.

The Enforcement

interim bail, the ED challenged this decision in the Supreme Court.



Directorate arrested Soren under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, on January 31, following his purported involvement in the land scam. This occurred just a day after he resigned as Chief Minister. Although the Jharkhand High Court granted him

On July 29, the Supreme Court dismissed the ED's plea.

The ED argued that it had recovered ₹36 lakh in cash, along with documents pertinent to the investigation, claiming that Soren had fraudulently acquired 8.5 acres of land. The investigation uncov-

ered a syndicate, including Revenue Sub-Inspector Bhanu Pratap Prasad, involved in corrupt property transactions.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, who represents Soren, contended that the land scam was a 'fabricated' charge aimed at his arrest. He emphasized that individuals responsible for the illegal mutation of the land were being presented as witnesses rather than defendants, asserting that anyone could falsely claim Soren had unlawfully seized the land and that the ED lacked concrete evidence to substantiate its allegations.

Despite these arguments, the case has not been dismissed, and Soren still faces the challenge of proving his innocence in the PMLA case.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Claims Infiltration Behind Rising Muslim Population In Jharkhand

(Gns).

Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Assam Chief Minister and BJP's co-in-charge for the upcoming Jharkhand assembly elections, raised concerns over the demographic changes in the state, attributing the growth of the Muslim population and decline of the tribal populace to infiltration. During his campaign, Sarma emphasized the necessity of addressing what he perceives as a demographic imbalance.

He suggested that the increasing Muslim population in Jharkhand, especial-

ly in the Santhal Pargana division, is not due to natural population growth but rather the result of people moving into the state from other regions.

Sarma compared his campaign against infiltrators to the mythological act of Lord Hanuman setting Lanka ablaze, declaring a similar intent to combat infiltration in Jharkhand. He questioned the rapid growth of the Muslim popu-

lation every five years, hinting at an unnatural increase and pondered whether large family sizes or infiltration were to blame. Sarma's comments highlighted his belief in the urgent need to address these demographic changes, not

only for the electoral victory but to safeguard the interests of the tribal population and ensure justice for women.



In his statement to ANI, Sarma explicitly linked the demographic shifts to infiltration, expressing skepticism about the natural growth of the Muslim population in the state. He posed a rhetorical question about the possibility of Muslim families having an unusually high number of children, suggesting instead that migration from outside the state could be a significant factor. This stance underscores Sarma's commitment to identifying and addressing the root causes of population changes in Jharkhand.

BJP's Second Candidate List for Jharkhand Elections Features Gamliyel Hembrom in Barhait

(Gns).

In a strategic move ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly Elections, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) disclosed its second batch of candidates. Notably, the party has chosen Gamliyel Hembrom to contest the Barhait seat, directly challenging Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Hembrom, previously allied with the AJSU Party in 2019, garnered 2,573 votes from the same constituency. The announcement also includes Vikash Mahto for the Tundi seat, positioning these candidates as pivotal to the BJP's campaign in the state.

The political landscape in Jharkhand is set for a transformation as the assembly polls approach, slated for November 13 and November 20. With the vote count scheduled for November 23, this electoral

battle draws attention to the BJP's strategic candidate placements. The party has articulated a robust lineup, including former state Chief Minister Champai Soren for Saraikella and state chief Babulal Marandi for Dhanwar. Additionally, Sita Soren, the sister-in-law of JMM leader Hemant Soren, was named for Jamtara, indicating a direct contest with the ruling party's familial ties.

Amidst these electoral preparations, the first phase of elections will see 43 constituencies going to polls on November 13, spanning various regions including Kodarma, Barkatha, and Ranchi, among others. This phase highlights the inclusion of Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) constituencies, reflecting the diverse demographic participation in the democratic

process.

In the 2019 assembly elections, the JMM-led alliance emerged victorious, securing 47 seats out of the 81-seat assembly. This outcome underscored the JMM's dominance with 30 seats, complemented by the Congress's 16 seats, while the BJP secured 25 seats. The current composition of the assembly, standing at 74, demonstrates the JMM-led alliance's majority with 44 members. However, changes such as resignations and disqualifications have slightly altered the political landscape, indicating a dynamic political scenario in Jharkhand.

The BJP's strategic nominations aim to leverage its position by contesting on 68 of the 81 assembly seats, leaving the remaining slots for its allies. This approach highlights the party's intent to

strengthen its foothold in the state, amidst a competitive political environment.

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION WORKS
INVITING TENDER No. - DRM-SnT-ADI-Tele 11 OF 24-25 DRM / S and T acting for and behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No : DRM-SnT-ADI-Tele 11 OF 24-25 closing date 18.11.2024, 15:00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/revise bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) Name of Work : Elimination of level crossing gates and development of telecom facilities at Sabarmati, Chandlodiya, Khodiyar, Gandhinagar, Virangam and various locations of Ahmedabad division. (2) Estimated Cost of Work : ₹2,50,32,908.17/- (Rs Two Crore Fifty Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eight Rupees and Seventeen Paise only) (3) Earnest Deposit/Money : ₹2.75,100/- (Rs. Two Lakh Seventy Five Thousand One Hundred only) (4) Date and time of closing : Not later than 15:00 hrs of 18.11.2024 (5) Date and time of opening of Tender : Opening on 18.11.2024 at 15:30 hrs. (6) Web site of E-Tendering : www.irops.gov.in 217
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India, China Troops Withdrawal: Major Breakthrough In Border Talks Starting Today

In a crucial move to improve diplomatic relations, India and China will finalise the military disengagement process across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by October 28-29, as reported by ANI.

According to PTI, patrolling in certain LAC areas will resume once both sides have completed disengagement and dismantled temporary structures. November 2013

This development follows a key agreement between India and China aimed at resolving the border dispute. Notably, it marks the first successful resolution since the 2020 Galwan clash, which led to casualties on both sides.

The disengagement will occur at two points of friction along the LAC - Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh.

An Indian Army source

informed ANI, "The latest agreements will only apply to Demchok and Depsang and not to other areas. This agreement does not cover



other friction zones. Troops from both nations will revert to positions held before April 2020, and will patrol areas they previously covered until April 2020."

Indian troops have begun withdrawing equipment to rear areas in line

with the agreement. It is unclear if a symbolic gesture will mark the disengagement's completion at these two points, as unre-

solved issues remain. S Jaishankar on the disengagement External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described the military disengagement at the two friction points along the Ladakh border as a first step, with de-escalation as

to each other, and the possibility of something happening is there." The second, he noted, is "de-escalation," followed by the "larger issue of how to manage the border and negotiate the boundary settlement."

The next. He highlighted the need for time to rebuild trust and cooperation between the nations. "The border situation has been very disturbed, with a very negative impact on the overall relationship," the Union Minister remarked on Saturday. The Foreign Minister pointed out that the agreement addressed three main issues, the first being disengagement, as troops of both nations were "very, very close up

to each other, and the possibility of something happening is there."

The second, he noted, is "de-escalation," followed by the "larger issue of how to manage the border and negotiate the boundary settlement."

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Women Voters Set To Influence Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024

Women voters in Jharkhand outnumber men in 32 constituencies, influencing assembly elections on November 13 and 20. Political parties are targeting this demographic with tailored promises.

(Gns).

In Jharkhand, women voters are set to have a significant impact in 32 assembly constituencies, including those of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and former CM Champai Soren. In these areas, women outnumber men on the electoral roll. Of these constituencies, 26 are reserved for sched-

uled tribes. The elections for the 81-seat Jharkhand assembly will occur in two phases on November 13 and November 20.

The counting of votes is scheduled for November 23. Hemant Soren has submitted his nomination from Barhait, where female voters surpass male voters. Barhait has over 2.25 lakh registered voters, with women accounting for 1.15 lakh and men for 1.09 lakh. Similarly, in Saraikela, there are over 3.69 lakh electors, with women slightly outnumbering men.

Women Voters' Influence

Champai Soren, a former chief minister and BJP candidate, is contesting from Saraikela. He joined the BJP on August 30 due to feeling "insulted" by JMM leaders. Both Barhait and Saraikela are among the constituencies where women voters exceed male voters. This trend highlights the potential influence of female voters in the upcoming elections.

Jharkhand's assembly consists of 28 tribal reserved seats, nine for scheduled castes, and the remaining are general category seats out of a total of 81 constituencies. The Majhgaon

constituency in West Singhbhum district has the highest number of female voters compared to males, with 1.21 lakh women against 1.12 lakh men as per the electoral roll.

To attract female voters, political parties are actively campaigning with targeted promises. The BJP has introduced Gogo Didi Yojana to counter the JMM-led alliance's Maiyan Samman Yojana aimed at appealing to women voters. Under Maiyan Samman Yojana, ₹1,000 is credited monthly to over 50 lakh women's accounts in Jharkhand.

"BRICS' Bid For Economic Independence

(Gns). The recent BRICS Summit already saw discussions at high levels about reducing dependence on the U.S. dollar and Western financial structures, sparking fresh debates on global economic sovereignty. For instance, proposals for a BRICS common currency and a new financial messaging system to compete with SWIFT stood atop the range of these conversations, proving that BRICS wish to reduce the influence of the Western financial world. However, such ideas are theoretically very promising but deeply involve many challenges concerning political alignment, economic diversity, and operational integration. The incentives to have one BRICS currency would presumably wash out the use of the dollar for the transactions between Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and eventually therefore advance a block-supported currency that could ease regional trade. Its leaders, like Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, have envisioned this as the way to further spur international economic independence. Lula summed it by asking, "Why can't a BRICS institution have a currency to finance trade relations between Brazil and other BRICS countries?"

BRICS Bid for Economic Independence

Russia too sees this shift as vital for its economic sovereignty, more so given the perceptions of U.S. sanctions that deprive it of access to global financial systems. But many say that such an easy transition

is hard since BRICS lacks "a unified economic policy of the bloc and its political cohesion in the process." The Rise Of A Global



Mediator: India's Evolving Role In Balancing BRICS And G7 Interests

The Rise Of A Global Mediator: India's Evolving Role In Balancing BRICS And G7 Interests

While such a currency would remain a "medium-to long-term ambition" for NDB, NDB's CFO Leslie Maasdorp said that integration of such different economic policies into a functional monetary system may be difficult to overcome. A substitute financial messaging network, informally known as the "BRICS Bridge," would not use the West-dominated global transaction system SWIFT. In this system, BRICS countries will be able to settle trades with one another in their national currencies, thereby reducing the risk of possibly being brought under financial strangulation from the United States.

Since Russia's disconnection from SWIFT following the invasion of Ukraine, a BRICS system can bring much-needed comfort to countries facing sanctions. Nonetheless, growing and

implementing this platform requires high levels of cooperation; Russia is currently leading the effort. If the BRICS Bridge proves

successful, developing countries in the Global South could have an alternative for financial transactions free from U.S. control. This vision, however, does require crucial infrastructure and policy coordination and support from the major financial institutions. The critics say that this elaborate scheme has more practical hindrances than idealistic ones.

Intra-BRICS trade dynamics are complex. India's reluctance to settle Russian oil payments in yuan reflects concerns over potential Chinese economic dominance. Furthermore, the bloc's internal economic conditions vary widely; China's industrial economy differs significantly from Brazil's agrarian focus, while South Africa faces unique regional trade issues. A new currency may inadvertently increase dependence on the Chinese yuan, a fear of those like India and South Africa, who fear Beijing's economic might in BRICS.

As financial analysts have noted, a common currency that covers different

economies is bound to present volatility and inflation discrepancies, as the early years of the Eurozone have demonstrated. Adding buoyancy to BRICS' aspirations is the enthusiastic response from more than 30 nations eager to join the bloc, mostly from the Global South.

BRICS 2024: PM Modi Meets Xi Jinping, Pushes For Peace At Indo-China Border, Mutual Trust And Respect

BRICS 2024: PM Modi Meets Xi Jinping, Pushes For Peace At Indo-China Border, Mutual Trust And Respect

The BRICS alliance has tentatively welcomed this enthusiasm with Russia's foreign minister proclaiming that it is examining modalities for new membership carefully in order not to rush integration at the cost of stability. A sign of potential expansion for BRICS opens up an opportunity to further strengthen its sway but raises questions about how to keep it coherent as it grows. Ultimately, it may lead to a shift in the global economic balance of powers in favour of the initiatives that BRICS intends to undertake so that developing nations have better control of their economies and avoid the need to rely on Western systems.

Whether BRICS can continue with these ventures will depend on its ability to harmonise economic and political policies of its members. In the near term, a new financial messaging system may be possible but a single currency is a very distant if ambitious objective.

charge has ever been proved against the DMK. The charges are baseless," he said and defended dynastic succession in the

government in the past. Reacting to the actor singling out the DMK as corrupt, party veteran and senior minister S

DMK dismisses Vijay as BJP's 'C Team'; ally VCK welcomes 'power sharing' remark

(Gns). Stung by actor Vijay's frontal attack on the DMK as a 'family looting Tamil Nadu with the mask of Dravidian model', the ruling Dravidian major on Monday dismissed him as the 'C team' of the BJP.

The DMK's crucial ally, the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), however, welcomed his commitment to power sharing in the government.

While identifying the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the ideological enemy, Vijay, addressing the first state-level conference of his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Sunday evening, said "Our political enemy is a selfish family that is looting Tamil Nadu which wears the mask of Dravidian model and invokes the names of 'Periyar' EV Ramasamy (rationalist Dravidian icon) and Anna (DMK founder CN Annadurai)."

Then, he dropped the bombshell of 'power sharing' with allies while forming the government in the 2026 assembly elections. With both the DMK and the AIADMK, steadfastly opposed to power sharing with allies, this has kindled a fresh debate since the state never had a coalition

charge has ever been proved against the DMK. The charges are baseless," he said and defended dynastic succession in the



Regupathy said, "Vijay's party is neither the 'A' team or 'B' team but the 'C' team of the BJP. Strengthening of the saffron party by weakening the AIADMK is his sole agenda. He has trained his guns on the DMK in order to poach the AIADMK votes. That's why he has avoided any criticism of the AIADMK."

Speaking to reporters in Pudukottai, he also dismissed his announcement on power sharing, saying "Let him first win the election and capture power."

Another DMK leader, TKS Elangovan likened the TVK as yet another party challenging the DMK in its 75-year-long history. "The DMK has seen many parties which have fallen by the wayside. No corruption

charge has ever been proved against the DMK. The charges are baseless," he said and defended dynastic succession in the

MP, said "Vijay had just stepped into politics and conducted his party's first conference which is akin to a trailer of a movie. Let's wait to see how he walks the talk. Elections are more than a year and a half away. Neither there is a need for celebration nor for discrediting him."

Another Dalit leader K Krishnasamy of the 'Puthiya Thamizhagam' which is a constituent of the AIADMK front, while congratulating Vijay for the successful conduct of the conference, has welcomed Vijay on the issue of power sharing. "In the past 75 years, no political party has said it is open to sharing power with others," he said.

The BJP too is dismissive of Vijay's party though it is happy about the actor's attack on the DMK and naming it as the TVK's political enemy. But, it is unable to digest the actor naming the saffron parivar as his ideological enemies and reiterating that it is a fascist.

"The hollowness of your politics has been exposed within a day. Your speech was nothing but a script, written by someone and delivered in filmy style," said R Sreenivasan, state BJP general secretary.

explaining "Udhayanidhi is proving himself through hard work." However, the VCK of Thol Thirumavalavan, MP, is not in sync with big brother DMK on Vijay's political plunge and his assertion on power sharing in the government.

VCK deputy general secretary Aadhav Arjuna has welcomed it in an 'X' post, saying "Voices in support of our stand on share in power and in government has started coming. The future trajectory of Tamil Nadu politics is dependent upon it and Vijay had spoken about it realizing that it is a basic democratic right."

Measured in his reaction, senior VCK leader and ideologue, D Ravikumar

altered the initial report of the Waqf Board and further alleged that the Chief Minister's approval in the matter was not sought.

The Opposition MPs protested, alleging that "fake presentations" were being discussed, specifically questioning the validity of the Delhi Waqf Board's report.

They cited a letter from Delhi Chief Minister Atishi Marlena to JPC Chairman Jagdambika Pal, requesting that the report be disregarded due to alleged irregularities concerning Waqf properties.

altered the initial report of the Waqf Board and further alleged that the Chief Minister's approval in the matter was not sought.

Another stormy meeting of JPC on Waqf Amendment Bill

(Gns). A meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which was called to review the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, witnessed another stormy sitting on Monday as Opposition MPs walked out alleging biased proceedings.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aims to bring significant reforms, including digitization of records, stricter audits, increased transparency, and legal mechanisms to reclaim illegally occupied Waqf properties.

The JPC is holding a



series of meetings to gather input from government officials, legal experts, Waqf Board members and community representatives from different states and Union Territories, aiming for the most comprehensive reform possible.

In the meeting which was chaired by JPC chairman BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, the Opposition MPs alleged that the commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Waqf board CEO, Ashwini Kumar, completely

altered the initial report of the Waqf Board and further alleged that the Chief Minister's approval in the matter was not sought.

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KTR takes dig at Rahul Gandhi over Revanth-Adani deal

(Gns). BRS working president K T Rama Rao on Monday took potshots at the Congress over Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent dealings with Gautam Adani at a time Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi released another video titled 'Adani Bachao Bachao syndicate?'

Rao posted a photograph of Gautam Adani's recent meeting with Reddy when he donated Ra 100 crore to Young India Skills University through Adani Foundation. His son Karan Adani was also present on the occasion.

Rao took to 'X' and wrote, "Heard of a good cop-bad cop routine. But what is this Good Adani - Bad Adani thing Rahul Gandhi? Can you please add this image to the Adani

Bachao syndicate?"

While Gandhi has been seeking to relate SEBI chairperson Madhavi Buch and Gautam Adani, the

Reddy had signed an MoU with the Adani Group in Davos early this year in which investments worth Rs 12,400 crore was prom-

Rao met the family of Buchamma, who allegedly committed suicide fearing action by HYDRABAD against houses she had given to her daughters at the time of marriage. He said it was not a suicide but murder due to anarchist measures of the government. He also met other families who were left homeless due to demolitions.

Rao's brother in law, Raj Pakala, whose farmhouse was recently raided, was served a notice by Mokila police to appear before it for questioning. He has also filed an emergency petition before the High Court claiming that false cases have been filed against him. The BRS has maintained it was a house-warming dinner with family and friends which the cops have claimed to be a rave party.



BRS working president too has been dogging the chief minister, particularly over the Adani issue and consistently drawing the attention of the Congress High Command.

is also one of the first industrialists to donate such a large sum for the skills university that is being established in Telangana. Meanwhile, K T Rama

Ajay Thakur Launches Vision to Victory: Unleashing India's SME Platform

Mumbai, 28 October 2024: Over 1,000 industry experts, business leaders, and influencers gathered at the esteemed Sahara Star, Vile Parle, Mumbai, to celebrate the highly anticipated launch of Vision to Victory: Unleashing India's SME Platform, authored by renowned financial expert Ajay Thakur. This event held on 23rd October brought together luminaries from the financial and SME sectors, who lauded the book as a visionary blueprint for India's economic growth through the empowerment of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Ajay Thakur wrote Vision to Victory to inspire and empower India's small and medium enterprises (SMEs), drawing on his extensive experience, including establishing the BSE SME platform. Recognizing SMEs as vital to India's economic growth and job creation, he aims to provide entrepreneurs with practical tools to unlock their potential and thrive in competitive markets. By sharing success stories and actionable strategies, Thakur seeks to highlight the transformative impact of equity funding for SMEs, reinforcing their role in India's journey toward becoming a \$5 trillion economy and promoting resilient, inclusive growth across the sector.

During the launch, Thakur emphasized the importance of SMEs, calling them "the backbone of the Indian economy," as they account for over 45% of the country's industrial output and generate nearly 30% of employment. He stated, "Through Vision to Victory, I aim to provide entrepreneurs with the tools and strategies they need to unlock the full

potential of the SME sector. Today, the SME platform is more essential than ever as

underscore the sector's resilience and provide practical insights for entre-

nearly ₹18,000 crore. His dedication and leadership have earned him numerous accolades, including the Indian Economic Forum Award for SME Enablement, the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Investors Federation.

Mr. Thakur holds several key positions, such as a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Merchant Chambers on Banking, Finance, and NBFCs, a jury member of the India SME Forum, and a member of the Investment Committee for the India Seed Fund. His contributions to the growth of SMEs and startups in India have had a lasting impact on the capital markets and the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Thakur's career began in 1994 as an Executive at the Stock Holding Corporation of India. A year later, he joined the Vadodra Stock Exchange as a Management Executive, where he gained in-depth knowledge of market operations and the clearing house. His work during this period laid the foundation for his future achievements. However, it was his leadership at BSE that truly cemented his legacy, as he successfully launched the SME and Startup Platform, transforming the financial landscape for countless small businesses.

His unwavering advocacy for the SME sector continues to shape India's economic trajectory, and Vision to Victory reflects his commitment to promoting growth and innovation among SMEs.



we work towards the national objective of becoming a \$5 trillion economy."

Ajay Thakur's Vision to Victory is the result of his decades of expertise in capital markets and his significant role in establishing the SME platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Under his leadership, the BSE SME platform has become a transformative force, providing small businesses with essential visibility and access to financial resources, enabling them to scale and compete in the global market. Reflecting on the SME platform's impact, Thakur noted, "With access to equity funding through these platforms, many SMEs have transformed into larger entities, driving job creation and fostering equitable growth."

The book delves into critical themes such as the power of belief, the evolution of SME platforms, and the resilience of SMEs post-COVID-19. It's filled with success stories of SMEs that have thrived on India's SME exchange platform. Chapters like "The Power of Belief: A Family Who Fought Their Fate" and "The Golden Era of SME Platforms, 2021-2024"

preneurs navigating today's competitive landscape.

A Must-Read for Every Entrepreneur

Vision to Victory is more than just a business guide—it's a motivational resource filled with insights for entrepreneurs, business leaders, policymakers, and anyone interested in the SME sector. With actionable advice and powerful narratives, Thakur's latest work is essential reading for those aspiring to leave a lasting impact on India's economy. As the head of the BSE SME platform, Mr. Thakur oversaw the success of over 500 companies that listed during his tenure. This inspiring book is both a comprehensive resource on SMEs and capital markets and a powerful account of a man who overcame significant personal and professional challenges.

About the Author

Ajay Thakur, is the CEO and Managing Partner of TGI SME Capital Advisors LLP, bringing over 30 years of experience in the capital markets. As the former head of SME & Startup initiatives at BSE, he played a pivotal role in launching India's first SME and Startup platform, enabling over 1,000 SMEs to raise

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on the principles of religion, 'Abhyudaya' (material well-being) and 'Nishreyas' (spiritual well-being), noting that achieving Nishreyas, or the highest spiritual good, is possible only through the pursuit of Abhyudaya, uplifting the weakest.

CM Adityanath explained that religion has two core objectives: 'Abhyudaya' and 'Nishreyas'. 'Abhyudaya' represents worldly progress, where one channels energy toward public welfare in alignment with individual capabilities, requiring wise decision-making. "For progress, we need good sants in the religious field and the right people in development efforts. Positive results stem from choosing virtuous individuals," he remarked.

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Emphasising the importance of upholding good, CM Adityanath remarked that the ultimate duty was to safeguard the good and consign harmful forces to the abyss. He elaborated

Prayagraj Maha Kumbh 2025 will be the grandest ever to date: Yogi in Kurukshetra

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday said the Maha Kumbh 2025 will be the grandest ever to date, surpassing all previous Kumbhs in size and grandeur.

Addressing sants and devotees from across the country at a programme hosted by the Dera Siddh Baba Garibnath Math in Pehowa, the CM extended them invitation to the upcoming Maha Kumbh, stating, "This grandest celebration of Sanatan Dharma will surpass all previous Kumbhs in size and grandeur."

The programmes that were held on the occasion included Aathman, Batis Dhuni, and Shankhadhar Bhandara.

CM Adityanath also con-

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on his recent electoral victory, expressing gratitude to the people of the state. He praised their support, stating that they embodied Lord Krishna's words, " Paritranaaya sadhunam vinashaya cha dushkritam (For the protection of the

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