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# **Daily News Feed**

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# PM calls for harmony in violence-torn Manipur

Modi stresses need for dialogue between hill, valley districts during his first visit since violence erupted

He inaugurates projects worth ₹7,300 crore across Imphal and Churachandpur districts

He meets internally displaced people, pledging assistance and construction of 7,000 homes

Vijaita Singh  
CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL

**I**n his first visit to Manipur since ethnic violence erupted over two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for strengthening dialogue to build a strong bridge of harmony between the State's hill and valley districts.

The ethnic conflict that broke out in May 2023 is between the Meitei people, who dominate the Imphal valley, and the Kuki-Zo people, who dominate the surrounding hills.

After flying into Imphal airport from Aizawl in Mizoram, where he had inaugurated a railway project, Mr. Modi headed by road to the hill district of Churachandpur. Establishing peace is essential for development anywhere, he said, after inaugurating projects worth ₹7,300 crore and meeting internally displaced people.

On his return from the hill district, Mr. Modi addressed a gathering at Kangla Fort in Imphal city, 61 km from Churachandpur. He inaugurated projects worth ₹1,200 crore at Imphal.

## Rain hits schedule

Incessant rain forced last-minute changes in the Prime Minister's schedule and security arrangements. Though he was originally slated to travel by helicopter directly from Aizawl to Churachandpur before flying to Imphal, Mr. Modi was forced to travel by road from the State capital. The planned roadshow in Churachandpur had to be curtailed.

Buffer zones guarded by central security forces have been carved out between the State's Meitei and Kuki-Zo dominated areas. Travelling through one such buffer zone between Bishnupur and Churachandpur, Mr. Modi's motorcade crossed a damaged



**Many worries:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with the displaced people in Churachandpur on Saturday. ANI/PMO

bridge that was blown up by miscreants in 2023 and several homes and properties that were burnt during the conflict.

"Manipur is a land of hope and promise. Unfortunately, violence had gripped this magnificent area. A little while ago, I met the affected people who are living in camps. After speaking with them, I

can say that a new dawn of hope and confidence is awaiting Manipur," Mr. Modi said in Churachandpur.

He said the Union government would continue to cooperate with the State government to help resettle displaced people in appropriate locations as soon as possible, and to establish peace.

More than 60,000 peo-

## We need jobs, people tell PM

CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL

People staying in relief camps requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi for help. "I told the Prime Minister that we need jobs, there is no regular source of income... Many people have committed suicide here. We cannot secure the future of our children. We have to depend on others for food or work as daily wage labourers to make ends meet," said one of the displaced residents. » PAGE 4

ple were displaced during the violence and around 250 people have been killed.

## Illegal migration

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said that the State would have to address the challenges of illegal migration from across the international border.

"We as citizens have a

duty to safeguard our country and its interest. We cannot afford for our land to be encroached and illegally inhabited by people from beyond the borders. Both State and Centre are committed to take effective steps to address this challenge," the Governor said.

Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13.

"I am pleased that recently dialogues have begun with different groups in the hills and valleys for reaching agreements. These efforts are part of the Government of Bharat's commitment to establishing peace through dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding. I urge all organisations to move forward on the path of peace, fulfil their dreams, and secure the future of their children," Mr. Modi said.

He said the government is providing assistance to construct 7,000 new homes for displaced fami-

lies. Recently, a special package of nearly ₹3,000 crore has been approved for the State, while a special provision of ₹500 crore has been made for helping displaced people.

Addressing tribal youth, the Prime Minister said he was "well aware of [their] dreams and struggles", promising that various solutions are being worked out to address their concerns.

## Safeguarding interests

In Imphal, the Prime Minister emphasised that the interests of the people must be safeguarded and that those forced to live in camps should be able to return to their normal lives. "Our government is continuously working to ensure peace and stability in Manipur," he said.

Highlighting that the Centre has significantly reduced GST, the Prime Minister said this would bring double benefits to the people of Manipur.

## PM calls for harmony in violence-torn Manipur

### English:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Manipur for the first time since ethnic violence erupted in May 2023. He stressed dialogue between Meitei (valley) and Kuki-Zo (hill) communities, announced projects worth ₹7,300 crore, pledged 7,000 homes for displaced people, and highlighted measures against illegal migration. Manipur remains under President's Rule since February 2025.

### हिंदी:

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मई 2023 में भड़की जातीय हिंसा के बाद पहली बार मणिपुर का दौरा किया। उन्होंने मैतेई (मैदानी) और कुकी-जो (पहाड़ी) समुदायों के बीच संवाद की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। ₹7,300 करोड़ की परियोजनाएँ शुरू कीं, विस्थापितों के लिए 7,000 घर बनाने का आश्वासन दिया और अवैध प्रवासन रोकने पर जोर दिया। फरवरी 2025 से राज्य राष्ट्रपति शासन में है।

# EC claims 'exclusive' power to decide on holding SIR

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has, in no uncertain terms, told the Supreme Court to leave alone its "exclusive jurisdiction" to decide when and how to conduct special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The commission was responding to a petition seeking a judicial direction from the top court to the panel to conduct SIR at "regular intervals" throughout the country to identify and expel foreign infiltrators enrolled as Indian voters.

## EC's call

The commission said its power to decide if a revisional exercise would be intensive or summary would "depend on the situation".

The call was entirely its own and outside the judicial ambit.

"The decision to conduct a summary or an intensive revision of the electoral roll is left to the discretion of the ECI. The ECI has complete discretion over the policy of revision to the exclusion of any other authority," it submitted.

Provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 gave the commission



The decision to conduct a summary or an intensive revision of the electoral roll is left to the discretion of the EC. It has complete discretion over the policy of revision, to the exclusion of any other authority



## ELECTION COMMISSION IN SUPREME COURT

the timing of the revisional exercise".

"The obligation to conduct a revision of the electoral roll is not couched within a timeline," the EC noted. The poll body said the law allowed it power to hold a special revision of the electoral roll of any constituency or part of it "in such a manner as it may think fit".

## 'Periodic SIR necessary'

The petitioner, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, said periodic SIR before every general, State and local body elections was necessary to protect the purity of the electoral process. But the poll panel would brook no interference from the courts.

"A direction to conduct SIR at 'regular intervals' throughout the country would encroach the exclusive jurisdiction of the Election Commission," the poll body said.

The exchange has come in the middle of an ongoing dispute over the Bihar SIR

ers, including Opposition political parties, have claimed to be "citizenship screening" in the guise of a revisional exercise of the State's electoral roll.

## 'Fully cognisant'

The poll body assured that it was "fully cognisant of its statutory duty to maintain the purity and integrity of the electoral rolls".

The EC confirmed there would be a nationwide SIR with January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date.

"There is a letter of July 5 to all Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of States and UTs to initiate immediate pre-revision activities for the SIR of electoral rolls with reference to January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date on a nationwide basis," the EC informed the court.

The poll body said it had convened a conference of all the CEOs of the States and Union Territories in New Delhi on September 10 to "further strengthen and coordinate preparatory measures for conduct-



## Election Commission claims 'exclusive' power on Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

### English:

The Election Commission told the Supreme Court it has sole discretion to decide when and how to conduct intensive revision of electoral rolls. It rejected petitions seeking court-mandated periodic SIR, saying such directions would encroach upon EC's constitutional authority. The EC confirmed a nationwide SIR with January 1, 2026 as qualifying date.

### हिंदी:

चुनाव आयोग ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से कहा कि मतदाता सूची के विशेष पुनरीक्षण (SIR) का निर्णय केवल उसी का अधिकार है। अदालत द्वारा समय-समय पर SIR कराने का निर्देश आयोग की संवैधानिक स्वतंत्रता का उल्लंघन होगा। आयोग ने स्पष्ट किया कि पूरे देश में 1 जनवरी 2026 को संदर्भ तिथि मानकर SIR किया जाएगा।

# Impose tariffs on Russian oil buyers, U.S. tells G7

**Press Trust of India**  
**Agence France-Presse**  
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

The U.S. has asked G7 members to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia, asserting that only "unified efforts" that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine at source can apply sufficient pressure to end "the senseless killing" in Ukraine.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the U.S. Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, were on a call with G7 Finance Ministers on Friday when they



**Applying pressure:** Donald Trump with Scott Bessent, middle, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. AFP

reiterated President Donald Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia. G7 is an intergovernmental bloc of rich, industrialised countries com-

prising the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the U.K.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump said he was ready to sanction Moscow, but on the condition that all NATO allies agree to completely halt purchases of Russian oil and implement their own sanctions.

He also suggested members of the transatlantic alliance consider slapping tariffs of 50% to 100% on China as a way to help end Russia's war in Ukraine.

The U.S. has imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25% ad-

ditional duty for India's purchase of Russian oil.

Mr. Trump branded NATO nations' purchase of Russian oil "shocking" and said it weakens their bargaining power over Moscow. "Anyway, I am ready to 'go' when you are. Just say when?" "I believe that (NATO sanctions on Russia), plus NATO, as a group, placing 50% to 100% TARIFFS ON CHINA, to be fully withdrawn after the WAR with Russia and Ukraine is ended, will also be of great help in ENDING this deadly, but RIDICULOUS, WAR," he added.

## U.S. asks G7 to impose tariffs on Russian oil buyers

### English:

The U.S. urged G7 members to impose tariffs on countries buying Russian oil to cut Moscow's war funding. Former President Trump suggested NATO allies halt Russian oil imports and impose 50-100% tariffs on China. India faces 50% tariffs on its exports due to Russian oil purchases.

### हिंदी:

अमेरिका ने G7 देशों से अपील की कि जो देश रूसी तेल खरीद रहे हैं, उन पर टैरिफ लगाया जाए ताकि मॉस्को की युद्ध फंडिंग रोकी जा सके। पूर्व राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने नाटो सहयोगियों से रूसी तेल खरीद पूरी तरह बंद करने और चीन पर 50-100% टैरिफ लगाने का सुझाव दिया। भारत को रूसी तेल खरीदने पर अपने निर्यात पर 50% टैरिफ का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

# CPA meet adopts four-point resolution for increasing people's trust in institutions

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

The 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India region conference, which concluded here on Saturday, adopted a four-point resolution in order to increase people's trust in democratic institutions.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla told the media that presiding officers of 26 States participated in the three-day conference.

The resolutions passed by the CPA are aimed at increasing people's trust in democratic institutions, eliminating deadlock and



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with Karnataka Speakers Basavaraj Horatti, and U.T. Khader on Saturday in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J

disruptions in both Houses of Parliament and State legislatures to ensure more time in discussing issues of public welfare, he said.

On frequent disruptions in Parliament and legislatures, he appealed to MPs

and MLAs to raise issues of political interest outside the House to maintain dignity of the House.

A comprehensive database would be prepared on all important issues in legislatures to ensure better

quality of debate and discussions in legislative institutions, said Mr. Birla. He said digital technology would be adopted in legislatures so that the proceedings of democratic institutions would be properly communicated to the people and the efficiency of legislative bodies improved.

## **Women's participation**

Mr. Birla acknowledged the fact that a large proportion of the country's population is youth and women, and said legislatures should make necessary efforts to ensure their greater participation in democratic institutions.

## **CPA meet adopts resolution to boost trust in legislatures**

### **English:**

The 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (India region) conference passed a 4-point resolution to improve people's trust in legislatures, reduce disruptions, ensure quality debates, and increase women and youth participation. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla stressed using digital technology for transparency.

### **हिंदी:**

कॉमनवेल्थ संसदीय संघ (भारत क्षेत्र) सम्मेलन ने 4 बिंदु वाला प्रस्ताव पारित किया ताकि लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में लोगों का विश्वास बढ़ाया जा सके। प्रस्ताव में सदनों में अवरोध कम करने, बहस की गुणवत्ता सुधारने और महिला एवं युवाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ाने पर ज़ोर दिया गया। लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला ने पारदर्शिता के लिए डिजिटल तकनीक के उपयोग पर बल दिया।



# Mehbooba urges Speaker to condemn AAP MLA's detention

**Peerzada Ashiq**

SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday urged Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to convene a special session to condemn the detention of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Meanwhile, the situation in Doda district, which witnessed protests in support of Mr. Malik, is gradually returning to normal.

"I urge Hon'ble Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to call a special Assembly session to condemn the PSA and arrest of MLA Mehraj Malik. A resolution can put pressure on the Union government to release Malik and protect all MLAs from future targeting. Also, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should extend legal aid to thousands of poor Kashmiris languishing in jails across India. They need it the most," Ms. Mufti said.

Describing the detention of the AAP MLA as "an attack on democratic values and institutions", she said, "The J&K government should have resolved the matter through legislative procedures rather than



Mehbooba Mufti

placing an elected representative behind bars. Invoking PSA against an MLA is unacceptable."

She pressed for a joint resolution through the Assembly to be sent to Delhi. "Undermining democratic institutions by targeting elected leaders is sheer injustice," Ms. Mufti said.

Highlighting the plight of youth lodged in prisons in Tihar, Agra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, she said, "They need to be offered legal help."

Referring to the AAP's stand on the abrogation of Article 370 and the recent detention of AAP MP Sanjay Singh during his Kashmir visit, Ms. Mufti remarked, "Those who supported the abrogation of Article 370 are now facing its consequences. The AAP voted for its removal in 2019, claiming it was good for J&K. Today it has realised the reality."

### **Mehbooba urges Speaker to condemn detention of AAP MLA under PSA**

#### **English:**

Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti asked the Assembly Speaker to pass a resolution condemning the detention of AAP legislator Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act, calling it an attack on democracy. She highlighted plight of Kashmiri youth in prisons across India.

#### **हिंदी:**

पूर्व जम्मू-कश्मीर मुख्यमंत्री महबूबा मुफ्ती ने विधानसभा अध्यक्ष से अपील की कि AAP विधायक मेहराज मलिक की PSA के तहत हिरासत की निंदा करने के लिए प्रस्ताव पारित किया जाए। उन्होंने इसे लोकतंत्र पर हमला बताया और पूरे भारत की जेलों में बंद कश्मीरी युवाओं की स्थिति पर चिंता जताई।



# Most tourist spots in J&K have been reopened: Omar

J&K CM Omar Abdullah says one of the challenges that his government has taken upon itself is to try and improve the links between the States south of the Vindhyas and Jammu and Kashmir

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

**M**ost tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir have reopened, and the government is taking all necessary precautions to encourage more people to visit for holidays and film shoots, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Saturday.

Speaking to presspersons on the sidelines of an event organised in Chennai by the Good Deeds Club on Saturday, he said: "One of the challenges my government has taken upon itself is to try and improve connections between the States south of the Vindhyas and Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, we hope that in the future, more people from this part of the country visit to J&K for film shoots and vacations."

Answering questions pertaining to the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Abdullah said: "We conducted a comprehensive security audit of all our tourist destinations. Some of them, even at this moment, are not open for tourism activity. However, most places have reo-



Omar Abdullah addressing reporters in Chennai on Saturday. Good Deeds Club president Apsara Reddy is also seen. R. RAVINDRAN

pened, and we are taking all necessary precautions."

He said: "There is no gap or difference between the National Conference and the INDIA bloc. We continue to remain a part of it."

On the Prime Minister's visit to Manipur, Mr. Abdullah said: "I think it is a good thing. There has been a lot of commentary about the fact that Prime Minister Modi has avoided travelling to that part of the country, particularly after the violence that broke out in 2023. Better late than never... We hope that peace and calm are restored, and that the differences between the two

tribal communities are reduced to the point where people are able to live their lives normally."

Speaking about the India versus Pakistan cricket match on Sunday, Mr. Abdullah said: "Our problem has always been bilateral cricket matches. I do not think we have ever had a problem with multilateral ones, being part of large tournaments. If I understand correctly, this game is part of a tournament. It is not part of a bilateral series between the two countries. If this is a start and things can go in a positive trajectory from there, nothing like it. Very often, sport becomes a victim to

politics. And nowhere is this more true than with cricket and the subcontinent. But you can't wish away what happens. My part of the country has been the direct victim of this – more than 35 years of trouble. And this year, we all saw what happened in Pahalgam. These are real concerns that we have. And you can't wish them away."

## Statehood promise

Stressing the need for Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Abdullah said: "Law and order, policing: these are all responsibilities of elected governments. Jammu and Kashmir has been promised full Statehood by the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and other representatives of the Government of India when this matter was being argued before the Supreme Court. So there is no reason why this promise should not be kept. Again, this is something that should have already happened. We believe that this promise must be honoured, and the elected government must be empowered in the way the people wanted it to be."

**Omar Abdullah: Most J&K tourist spots reopened, Statehood promise must be honoured**

**English:**

J&K CM Omar Abdullah said most tourist destinations have reopened with security audits post-Operation Sindoor. He stressed the need to restore statehood, arguing law and order must be under elected governments. He also commented on India-Pakistan cricket matches, saying bilateral ones are problematic.

**हिंदी:**



जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला ने कहा कि ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद अधिकांश पर्यटन स्थल फिर से खोले गए हैं। उन्होंने राज्य का दर्जा बहाल करने की आवश्यकता पर ज़ोर दिया और कहा कि क़ानून-व्यवस्था का नियंत्रण निर्वाचित सरकारों के पास होना चाहिए। भारत-पाक क्रिकेट पर उन्होंने कहा कि समस्या द्विपक्षीय मैचों से है।

# Won't concede even a drop of Telangana's allocated water: CM

**The Hindu Bureau**

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stressed that Telangana was entitled to 904 TMC ft of Krishna waters under equitable distribution, and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, will personally represent the State at the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal final arguments in New Delhi on September 23, 24 and 25.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on Saturday, the Chief Minister said Telangana would not concede “even a drop” of its allocated waters, whether net, surplus, or flood flows.

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, senior counsel C.S. Vaidyanathan, former Central Water Commission Chairman K. Vohra, irrigation advisor Adityanath Das, Irrigation Chief Secretary Rahul Bojja, ENC Anjad Hussain, and senior officials participated in the review.

The Chief Minister instructed legal experts to place before the Tribunal detailed records of all projects taken up, proposed, or left incomplete in the united Andhra Pradesh era, along with relevant GOs, memos and official documents. “For decades,

Telangana suffered injustice in Krishna allocations. This is our opportunity to rectify the wrongs and secure every drop due to us,” he said.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister that the previous government had agreed to just 299 TMC for Telangana, effectively surrendering 512 TMC to Andhra Pradesh, a position now cited by A.P. before the Tribunal.

## **‘Unforgivable betrayal’**

Mr. Revanth Reddy condemned former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for what he called “an unforgivable betrayal,” accusing the BRS regime of keeping in limbo key irrigation projects like Palamuru-Rangareddy lift scheme and Dindi.

The Chief Minister further alleged that Andhra Pradesh was illegally diverting Krishna waters even before the Srisailem reservoir reached full level, releasing up to 10 TMC ft per day through Pothireddypadu and the Rayalseema Lift Scheme. The water is being transferred to other basins via Pattiseema, Pulichintala and Chintalapadu canals. “Such diversions are crippling hydropower generation at Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala,” he said.



### **Telangana asserts right to Krishna waters**

#### **English:**

CM Revanth Reddy said Telangana is entitled to 904 TMC ft of Krishna river water and will not concede “a drop”. He accused Andhra Pradesh of illegal diversion and blamed the previous BRS government for compromising Telangana’s rights. Final arguments before Krishna Water Tribunal are scheduled for September 23–25.

#### **हिंदी:**

तेलंगाना के मुख्यमंत्री रेवंत रेड्डी ने कहा कि राज्य को कृष्णा नदी का 904 टीएमसी फीट पानी मिलना चाहिए और एक बूंद भी नहीं छोड़ा जाएगा। उन्होंने आंध्र प्रदेश पर अवैध रूप से पानी मोड़ने का आरोप लगाया और पिछली BRS सरकार को दोषी ठहराया। कृष्णा जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण में अंतिम सुनवाई 23-25 सितंबर को होगी।

# Northeast suffered heavily from vote bank politics, but is now a growth engine: PM

**Press Trust of India**

AIZAWL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the northeastern region had earlier suffered heavily from “vote bank” politics, but was now being transformed into the country’s growth engine by the efforts of the BJP-led government at the Centre.

During his second visit to Mizoram after 2014, Mr. Modi launched projects estimated at ₹9,000 crore, and addressed a public rally virtually from the Lengpui airport near Aizawl as he could not reach the venue, Lammual Ground in the heart of the city, owing to heavy rain.

Mr. Modi flagged off a new Rajdhani Express between Aizawl and Delhi and other strategic projects to augment rail, highway, energy, and sports infrastructure.

“For a long time, some political parties in our country practised vote-bank politics. Their focus was always on places that had more votes and seats. The entire northeast, including States such as Mizoram, suffered greatly because of this attitude. But our approach is very different – those who were ear-



**New journeys:** Folk artists pose next to the train flagged off by the Prime Minister from the Sairang Railway Station. R.V. MOORTHY

lier neglected are at the forefront now. Those who were once marginalised are now in the mainstream. For the past 11 years, we have been working for the development of the Northeast, and the region is becoming the growth engine of India,” he said.

He said Mizoram played a major role in the Centre’s “Act East” policy, and the Kaladan multimodal transit project and railway lines would connect the state with Southeast Asia.

Unveiling the ₹8,070-crore Bairabi-Sairang line, which integrated landlocked Mizoram fully with the country’s railway network, the Prime Minister said it was a historic day for the State as the 51.38-km stretch would connect

the State capital, Aizawl, with major metropolises.

He said the project, which was implemented by overcoming various challenges and difficult terrains, would revolutionise people’s lives in the State and become a lifeline for transportation.

He flagged off three new express trains connecting Aizawl with Delhi, Guwahati, and Kolkata.

“This is not just a railway connection, it is a lifeline of transformation. Farmers and businesses of Mizoram can reach more markets across the nation. People will be able to access more options for education and healthcare. This will also create employment opportunities in tourism, transport and hospitality sectors,” he said.



## Modi inaugurates Mizoram rail link; says Northeast now growth engine

### English:

PM Modi inaugurated the ₹8,070-crore Bairabi-Sairang railway line in Mizoram, connecting the state with India's national network. He said the Northeast, once neglected due to vote-bank politics, is now the "growth engine of India" under BJP rule. The projects will boost connectivity, trade, and jobs.

### हिंदी:

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने मिज़ोरम में ₹8,070 करोड़ की बैराबी-सैरांग रेलवे लाइन का उद्घाटन किया, जिससे राज्य अब राष्ट्रीय रेल नेटवर्क से जुड़ गया। उन्होंने कहा कि पहले वोट बैंक राजनीति के कारण उपेक्षित पूर्वोत्तर अब भारत का "विकास इंजन" है। यह परियोजना कनेक्टिविटी, व्यापार और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देगी।

# Modi congratulates Sushila Karki, Nepal's first woman Prime Minister

## Vijaita Singh

IMPHAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated Sushila Karki, who was sworn in as the first woman Prime Minister of Nepal.

The Himalayan nation was affected by violent anti-corruption protests over the past one week leading to the resignation of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.

Addressing a public gathering at Imphal in Manipur, Mr. Modi said that from the soil of Manipur, he wishes to address his



Sushila Karki arrives at Civil Hospital to meet victims of the protests on Saturday. REUTERS

friends in Nepal. He remarked that Nepal, nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, was a close friend and trusted partner of India.

Emphasising that both countries were bound by

shared history, faith, and a collective journey forward, the Prime Minister extended heartfelt congratulations, on behalf of 140 crore Indians, to Ms. Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government.

Mr. Modi expressed confidence that she would pave the way for peace, stability, and prosperity in the neighbouring country. Her appointment, the Prime Minister said, is a remarkable example of women empowerment. He appreciated every individual in Nepal who upheld

democratic values even in a climate of instability.

Highlighting a notable aspect of recent developments in Nepal that had not received much attention, Mr. Modi said over the past two or three days, young men and women in Nepal had been seen diligently cleaning and painting the streets with a spirit of dedication and purity.

He said he had seen their images circulating on social media. Mr. Modi described their positive mindset and constructive actions as a clear indication of Nepal's resurgence.

## Modi congratulates Sushila Karki, Nepal's first woman PM

### English:

From Imphal, PM Modi congratulated Sushila Karki on becoming Nepal's first woman Prime Minister amid anti-corruption protests. He called it a milestone for women's empowerment and praised Nepal's youth for showing resilience.

### हिंदी:

इंफाल से प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने नेपाल की पहली महिला प्रधानमंत्री सुशीला कार्की को बधाई दी। हाल में हुए भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी प्रदर्शनों के बीच उनकी नियुक्ति महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण की मिसाल बताई गई। मोदी ने नेपाल के युवाओं की दृढ़ता और सकारात्मकता की सराहना की।

# Political slugfest in Maharashtra over India-Pakistan match

**Snehal Mutha**

MUMBAI

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra over India playing against Pakistan in the ongoing Asia Cup cricket tournament, Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said Mr. Modi 'preferred trade and money over nationalism'. In response, BJP leader Nitish Rane questioned the 'absence' of Mr. Thackeray during Operation Sindoor.

Terming the BJP's nationalism a "business of *deshbhakti*", Mr. Thackeray accused Mr. Modi of preferring business and money over the lost lives of Indians in the Pahalgam attack.

"This cricket match is an insult to the national sentiment. Should we be playing cricket with Pakistan while our soldiers sacrifice their lives on the borders? Modi claimed our war is against terrorism. What will he say now? Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the Pahalgam attack, and the defence officer claimed that the operation is still ongoing. Therefore, how can we proceed [with the match] now? The BJP and Modi prefer trade over country and Hindutva," he said. Mr. Thackeray also

**India playing against Pak. in Asia Cup cricket tournament is an insult to national sentiment, says Uddhav Thackeray**

criticised the BJP for tagging people 'anti-nationals'. This is the first time the India and Pakistan cricket teams come together for a tournament after the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 civilians were killed, worsening the political relations between India and Pakistan.

While announcing the '*Maza Koonku, Maza Desh*' (My Sindoor, my country) campaign to protest the India-Pakistan match scheduled on Sunday, Mr. Thackeray said, "We will collect sindoor in boxes and send it to Mr. Modi."

BJP media chief Navnath Ban criticised the campaign and said, "Instead of the '*Maza Koonku, Maza Desh*' campaign, Shiv Sena (UBT) should run a 'My Laden, My Pakistan' campaign. BJP Minister Nitish Rane also slammed Mr. Thackeray for his outcry of nationalism and questioned why he forgot to talk about Operation Sindoor when he was in London.



### **Political slugfest over India-Pakistan cricket match**

#### **English:**

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray criticised Modi for allowing an India-Pakistan Asia Cup match after the Pahalgam terror attack, calling it an insult to nationalism. BJP leaders hit back, accusing Shiv Sena of hypocrisy.

#### **हिंदी:**

शिवसेना (UBT) प्रमुख उद्धव ठाकरे ने पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद भारत-पाकिस्तान एशिया कप मैच होने पर मोदी की आलोचना की और इसे राष्ट्रवाद का अपमान बताया। बीजेपी नेताओं ने पलटवार कर शिवसेना पर पाखंड का आरोप लगाया।