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Chhattisgarh, which emerged as a new state on November 1, 2000, also known as the “heart of India,” is celebrating its silver jubilee this year. This year, Chhattisgarh is not only proud of its past but also alert to the challenges and opportunities of the future. Naya Raipur Atal Nagar is a bright vision of the state’s future. It represents a decisive step towards a new type of urban life, modern infrastructure, investment opportunities, a smart city model, and sustainable development. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai’s government has made the development of the new city a priority for the state government. And this silver jubilee is also an opportunity to assess the success of these initiatives, the short-comings faced, and what can be done next



# Silver Jubilee and Nava Raipur: The future of Chhattisgarh is taking shape under the Sai government

## Infrastructure: Facilities and Development

Naya Raipur’s roads are being widened, and pedestrian and cycle tracks are being installed in accordance with the master plan. Traffic control systems are being implemented to ensure smooth vehicle flow and reduce congestion.

## Nava Raipur Atal Nagar: History and Objectives

Old Raipur faced numerous problems, including population pressure, traffic congestion, limited public services, pollution, and the dispersion of government offices. To address these issues, the capital was relocated to a new location, and Nava Raipur Atal Nagar came into being. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai, it is being developed in a planned manner, with the aim of facilitating the operation of all the capital’s important government institutions, public services, and modern life-style amenities. Nava Raipur is being developed in the far east-southeast direction of Raipur. Residential areas, government offices, commercial blocks, green spaces, and cultural centers are being strategically arranged here. Several sectors and villages, such as Baroda, Ramchandi, RIICO, Mandir Hasaud, Arang, Serikheri, Nakati, etc., are included in this master plan. Naya Raipur is a smart city model, featuring modern roads, public transportation, traffic management systems, energy efficiency, the use of solar energy and green buildings, ample

green spaces (parks, forests, and open spaces), adequate digital connectivity through fiber-optic networks and Wi-Fi, and enhanced quality of life through health, education, cultural events, and entertainment. This is not just a story of transforming the capital, but also of transforming the quality of life.

## Infrastructure: Facilities and Development

Naya Raipur’s roads are being widened, and pedestrian and cycle tracks are being installed in accordance with the master plan. Traffic control systems are being implemented to ensure smooth vehicle flow and reduce congestion. Electrification, electricity, water, gas, and sewage infrastructure are being provided in a planned manner. For example, projects are underway in Naya Raipur, including the creation of new tehsils, underground power lines, and LPG pipelines.

## Green Space and Environment

Approximately 30% of the land is planned to be reserved for green space. Parks, vegetation zones, and open green belts in Naya Raipur Atal Nagar will provide clean air and exercise facilities for citizens.

The extensive use of solar power plants will prevent environmental degradation. Initiatives such as increasing forest cover, conserving minor forest produce, and promoting eco-tourism are being implemented to control pollution and promote a green economy.

### Health, Education, and Other Public Services

Under the direction of Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai, a world-class Medicity is planned in Nava Raipur on approximately 400 acres of land in Sector 37. It will include research centers, medical training institutes, and hospitality facilities. This will help Chhattisgarh become a hub for healthcare services and will also be a magnet for visitors from outside. Plans are underway to promote medical tourism. The Medical Tourism/ Medicity area has immense investment potential in the healthcare sector. A large hospital, superspecialty facilities, research and training centers, and hospitality facilities will be located within the same campus. Approximately 141.84 acres of land has been allotted to CSIDC in Sector 22, Village Tuta, for the pharmaceutical park. The pharmaceutical park will provide facilities to industries in areas such as drug manufacturing, packaging, and logistics. New tehsil areas are being created to ensure administrative services reach rural areas.

### Digital Infrastructure, Intelligent Systems

The Chhattisgarh government is establishing Atal Digital Service Centers to ensure citizens can access government services at the village panchayat level. Features such as fiber-optic networks and Wi-Fi zones are being incorporated. A Central Business District (CBD) is being developed, which

will house facilities such as entertainment, business, and technical training. Shopping facilities, holographic entertainment centers, and other amenities are proposed.

### Investment Situation: Proposals, Industries, and Opportunities

Thanks to the Chief Minister's initiative, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar has become an emerging investment hub. Plans are underway to develop Nava Raipur as an IT hub. Investment proposals have been received for AI (artificial intelligence), steel, energy, and semiconductor industries. If successful, these will generate significant employment, technological advancement, and boost the state's economy. Investment proposals are being received from countries like Japan and Korea. Investment proposals have reached approximately ₹6.65 lakh crore.

### Real Estate and Housing

New colonies are being developed, including rural areas included in the master plan, such as Baroda, Ramchandi, and RIICO. Housing, shops, apartments, and business areas are expected here. Infrastructure facilities such as underground electricity, sewerage plants, wide roads, and gas pipelines are planned in the new areas.

### The Sai Government's Financial Discipline

The Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority (NRDA) has declared itself debt-free by repaying its substantial outstanding debt. The debt of approximately ₹1,788 crore has been completely settled. Making the NRDA debt-free is a significant achievement for the Sai government in the state. This has ensured that development work in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar has been uninterrupted and financial burdens

have been relieved. This is a sign of the Sai government's financial discipline. The government has allocated resources to the development authority through the budget and provided additional funds to industrial areas.

### Contributions of Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai and Government Policies

Under the leadership of the current Chhattisgarh government, Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai has strived to make Nava Raipur Atal Nagar a development model for the state. By prioritizing budget allocations, the Sai government has ensured financial resources for new projects, industrial areas, and public facilities. A new industrial policy has been adopted to attract investment in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar. This policy is encouraging investment proposals in sectors such as IT, semiconductors, and AI. Steps have been taken to expand access to public services, establish digital government, and deliver services at the local level. For example, Atal Digital Service Centers have been established at the village panchayat level.

**Inclusive Development, Green Economy, and Social Welfare-** On the initiative of the state government, environmental protection policies have been strengthened in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar. Priority has been given to schemes such as increasing forest cover, promoting forest-based income sources, and eco-tourism. To promote healthcare, initiatives like Medicity and providing better healthcare facilities to the general public are being implemented. Steps have been taken to improve transparency, public participation, and grievance redressal mechanisms in governance and administration.

# Chhattisgarh to Emerge as Central India's Hub for Technology and Innovation: Chief Minister Sai

Chief Minister Inaugurates the 'Make in Silicon' Symposium

**Raipur:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Friday November 7, 2025 inaugurated the two-day national symposium "Make in Silicon" at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Naya Raipur, marking the 10th Foundation Day of the institution. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister described the event as a pivotal step toward advancing India's journey in semiconductor manufacturing and technological self-reliance.

The Chief Minister noted that Chhattisgarh is celebrating its Silver Jubilee year while the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the song Vande Mataram. Extending greetings to the people of the state and the IIIT community, he said the institution, named after eminent educationist Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, symbolizes the fusion of education, unity, and industrial progress essential for national development.

CM Sai highlighted India's rapid march toward technological independence under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India has achieved historic progress through the Semiconductor Mission, electronics manufac-



turing, and chip design initiatives," he said. "This mission is not just about infrastructure—it is about empowering youth and fueling innovation."

The Chief Minister emphasised that semiconductors form the backbone of modern life, powering mobile phones, satellites, defense systems, and artificial intelligence. He said initiatives like Make in Silicon would provide crucial momentum to India's chip revolution. "Chhattisgarh is fully prepared to play an active role in this national mission," he declared.

He further added that the state's new Industrial Policy includes special provisions for the semiconductor sector. "Chhattisgarh offers skilled human resources, robust industrial infrastructure, uninterrupted power supply, and a condu-

cive environment for technological growth," he said. "The foundation stone has already been laid for a semiconductor unit in Naya Raipur, which will generate direct and indirect employment for the youth. Naya Raipur is being developed as a hub for IT and innovation."

The Chief Minister also referred to the state's Chhattisgarh Anjan Vision Document, which focuses on sustainable development and identifies semiconductors as a priority area. "The state government is now emphasizing not only the Ease of Doing Business but also the Speed of Doing Business," he added.

Welcoming experts, academicians, and representatives from across the country, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the symposium would benefit not just Chhattisgarh but the entire nation. "Let us work together to make Chhattisgarh the center of knowledge, technology, and innovation in Central India and contribute actively to India's Semiconductor Mission," he urged.

Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary, addressing the gathering, recalled his student days when Chhattisgarh lacked a single national-level institution. "Due to the visionary leadership of former Chief



Minister Dr. Raman Singh, we now have premier institutions such as IIT, IIM, HNLU, AIIMS, NIT, and IIIT in the state," he said. "These institutions have given Chhattisgarh a new identity in higher education and research."

He observed that the state has immense potential in education and technology today. "We live in an era driven by technology," he remarked. "The recent global disruption caused by Microsoft's server outage shows how deeply technology influences our lives, economy, and global systems. We must prepare now to face such challenges."

Encouraging students, he said, "Innovation, skill, and competence will determine your true value in the future. Great achievements come only to those who continually refine their abilities. Change begins with vision, determination, and consistent effort." Citing South Korea's technological transformation, he added, "We too must invest heavily in education, technology, and research to achieve self-reliance."

The Finance Minister called upon the youth to make technical proficiency, research, and creative thinking the foundation of their lives. "The future belongs to those who transform knowledge and innovation into strength," he concluded.

Higher Education Minister TankRam Verma described the Make in Silicon symposium as a major initiative toward making India self-reliant in the semiconductor and industrial sectors. "Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

vision, our educational institutions are playing a vital role in promoting research and innovation in this field," he said. "Under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's leadership, the state government is continuously working to strengthen higher education and the technology ecosystem. Your innovation and determination will take India's technological identity to new heights," he told the students.



IIIT Naya Raipur Director Prof. Om Prakash Vyas presented an overview of the institute's achievements over the past decade, emphasizing its focus on teaching, research, and innovation aligned with the concept of Developed India. He said the institute is advancing skill development and capacity building through industry-driven projects and advanced technical training.

The event was attended by Prof. Mukul Sutawane, Director of IIIT Allahabad; Prof. Santosh Vishwakarma of IIT Indore; Shri Manoj Kumar Majumdar, distinguished academicians; and a large number of students.

Notably, Make in Silicon – The National Symposium on

Indigenous Semiconductor Infrastructure is being organized by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at IIIT Naya Raipur, led by its Microelectronics and VLSI Design Group. The symposium aims to strengthen India's semiconductor capabilities and promote the development of a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem.

It serves as a vibrant platform for collaboration among academia, industry, and research institutions to advance innovation and knowledge exchange—paving the way for India's leadership in the global semiconductor arena.

The discussions focus on cutting-edge technologies in VLSI design and microelectronics, including nanoelectronics, MEMS, quantum devices, and academia-industry partnerships. Progress in these areas will not only drive technological innovation but also bridge the gap between research and industrial growth.

Under the National Semiconductor Mission, this initiative seeks to accelerate self-reliance and innovation in semiconductor equipment, packaging, and flexible electronics. With active participation from policymakers, researchers, and startups, the symposium emphasizes skill development, supply-chain strengthening, and sustainable manufacturing. The event aligns with the spirit of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission, marking a significant stride toward establishing India as a global hub for semiconductor innovation and production.

# Days are not far for maoism to end in India , Naxalism is down to 3 districts -PM Modi laudas Mass surrender



Our constant endeavour is to ensure that the contributions of the tribal communities are always celebrated with pride: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav, marking 25 years of formation of the State of Chhattisgarh at Nava Raipur on Saturday November 1, 2021. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for developmental and transformative projects worth over ₹14,260 crore, covering key sectors such as roads, industry, healthcare, and energy. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister greeted the people of Chhattisgarh remarking that today, the state of Chhattisgarh has completed 25 years since its formation. On this occasion, he extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the people of Chhattisgarh.

PM Modi said that participating in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Chhattisgarh alongside the people of the state is a matter of great fortune for him. He remarked that as a party worker, he had witnessed the period before the formation of the state and has also been a witness to its journey over the past 25 years. Therefore, being part of this proud moment is a deeply moving experience for him.

"Twenty-five years ago, the



government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee handed over the Chhattisgarh of your dreams to you, along with a resolve that the state would reach new heights of development", Prime Minister Modi said.

He remarked that looking back at the journey of the past 25 years fills him with pride. He highlighted that the people of Chhattisgarh have collectively achieved numerous milestones. "The seed that was sown twenty-five years ago has now grown into a flourishing tree of development. Chhattisgarh is rapidly advancing on the path of progress",

remarked the Prime Minister. He further added that today, the state has also received a new temple of democracy—a new Assembly building. Before arriving at the venue, he had the opportunity to inaugurate the Tribal Museum. From the same platform, projects worth approximately ₹14,000 crore were inaugurated and launched. He extended his congratulations to everyone for these development initiatives.

The Prime Minister observed that since the year 2000, an entire generation has changed. Today, there is a new

generation of youth who have not seen the earlier days when reaching villages was a challenge and many villages lacked any trace of roads. He highlighted that today, the road network in Chhattisgarh's villages has expanded to 40,000 kilometers. Over the past 11 years, the state has witnessed unprecedented expansion of national highways, and new expressways are becoming symbols of Chhattisgarh's progress. Shri Modi noted that earlier, traveling from Raipur to Bilaspur took several hours, but now that time has been reduced by half. He also announced the foundation stone of a new four-lane highway, which will further enhance connectivity between Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Highlighting that extensive work has been done to improve rail and air connectivity in Chhattisgarh, Shri Modi noted that high-speed trains like Vande Bharat now operate in the state, and cities such as Raipur, Bilaspur, and Jagdalpur are now connected through direct flights. He remarked that Chhattisgarh, once known primarily for the export of raw materials, is now emerging in a new role as an industrial state. The Prime Minister congratulated every Chief Minister and every government for the achievements of Chhattisgarh over the past 25 years. He stated that a major share of credit goes to Dr. Raman Singh, who led the state during a time of significant challenges. He expressed happiness that Dr. Raman Singh is now guiding the Assembly as its Speaker,

and that the government under Shri Vishnu Deo Sai is propelling Chhattisgarh's development forward at a rapid pace.

Narendra Modi said that he has witnessed poverty up close and understands the concerns and helplessness of the poor. He remarked that when the nation gave him the opportunity to serve, he prioritised welfare for the underprivileged. He emphasised that his government has focused extensively on healthcare, income, education, and irrigation for the poor.

Citing an example, noting that 25 years ago, Chhattisgarh had only one medical college, Modi said today, the state has 14 medical colleges and an AIIMS in Raipur. He recalled that the nationwide campaign to establish Ayushman Arogya Mandirs began in Chhattisgarh. Currently, the state has over 5,500 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

"Our government's effort is to ensure that every poor citizen lives a life of dignity", said the Prime Minister, remarking that life in slums and temporary shelters further deepens despair and weakens the resolve to fight poverty. Therefore, our government has resolved to provide permanent housing to every poor family.

Prime Minister highlighted that in the past 11 years, four crore poor families have received pucca houses, and now the government is working with a resolve to build three crore new homes. On this day alone, over 3.5 lakh families in Chhattisgarh are

entering their new homes, and nearly three lakh families have received a disbursement of ₹1,200 crore. The Prime Minister said this reflects the seriousness with which their government in Chhattisgarh is working to provide housing to the poor.

He added that in the past year alone, seven lakh pucca houses have been built for the underprivileged. He emphasised that these are not just statistics—each home represents a family's dream and immense joy. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to all beneficiary families.

Underscoring that their government is continuously working to make life easier for the people of Chhattisgarh and to reduce their hardships, the Prime Minister highlighted that electricity has now reached every village in the state, and even areas that once lacked power now have access to the internet. Modi recalled that there was a time when an LPG connection was a distant dream for ordinary families. Today, gas connections have reached villages and households of the poor, Dalits, backward classes, and tribal communities across Chhattisgarh. He added that the government is now working to provide affordable gas through pipelines in addition to cylinders. He announced that the Nagpur-Jharsuguda gas pipeline has been dedicated to the nation today and congratulated the people of Chhattisgarh for this project.

Noting that Chhattisgarh is home to one of the country's

largest tribal populations—a community with a proud history and immense contributions to India’s heritage and development, Shri Modi emphasised that the government is consistently working to ensure that the entire nation and the world recognise and celebrate the contributions of tribal communities. Whether through the establishment of museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters across the country or by declaring the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, the government’s constant endeavour is to honour and glorify the legacy of the tribal society.

Pointing out that today, another significant step has been taken in this direction with the inauguration of the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum, the Prime Minister highlighted that the museum showcases over 150 years of tribal history prior to independence, detailing how tribal freedom fighters contributed to India’s struggle for freedom. He expressed confidence that the museum will continue to inspire future generations.

Stressing that their government is simultaneously working to preserve tribal heritage and promote tribal development and welfare, Prime Minister cited the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, which is bringing new light of development to thousands of tribal villages across the country. He noted that this is an ₹80,000 crore initiative—unprecedented in scale for tribal regions in independent India. He further mentioned

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that for the first time, a national scheme has been formulated for the development of the most vulnerable tribal groups. Under the PM-JANMAN

scheme, development work is being carried out in thousands of habitations of these communities.

Prime Minister stated that



tribal communities have been collecting forest produce for generations. He highlighted that it is the current government that created opportunities for greater earnings through Van Dhan Kendras. He noted that improved arrangements for the procurement of tendu leaves have resulted in significantly higher income for collectors in Chhattisgarh.

Expressing satisfaction that Chhattisgarh is now freeing itself from the shackles of Naxalism and Maoist terrorism, PM Modi acknowledged the painful experiences endured by the people for 50–55 years due to Naxalism. He criticised those who pretend to uphold the Constitution and shed crocodile tears in the name of social justice, stating that they committed decades of injustice against the people for their own political gain. He remarked that due to Maoist terrorism, tribal regions in Chhattisgarh were deprived of roads for a long time. Children lacked access to schools, the sick were denied hospitals, and those who ruled the country for decades abandoned the people to their fate while enjoying the comforts of life.

Stressing that he could not allow his tribal brothers and sisters to be ruined by the cycle of violence, nor could he bear to see countless mothers weeping for their children, Narendra Modi remarked that when the nation gave him the opportunity to serve in 2014, his government resolved to free India from Maoist terrorism. Affirming that the results of this resolve are now visible to the entire country, the

Prime Minister said that eleven years ago, over 125 districts were affected by Maoist terror; today, only three districts remain where traces of Maoist activity persist. "The day is not far when Chhattisgarh and the entire nation will be completely free from Maoist terrorism", affirmed the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister further highlighted that many individuals in Chhattisgarh who had once taken the path of violence are now surrendering rapidly. He noted that just a few days ago, more than twenty Naxalites in Kanker returned to the mainstream, and earlier, on October 17 in Bastar, over 200 Naxalites surrendered. He added that in recent months, dozens of individuals associated with Maoist terror across the country have laid down arms, many of whom had bounties worth lakhs and crores of rupees. These individuals have now accepted the Constitution of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the elimination of Maoist terrorism has made the impossible possible. He remarked that areas once gripped by fear of bombs and guns have now transformed. In Chilkapalli village of Bijapur, electricity has reached for the first time in seven decades. In Rekawaya village of Abujhmad, school construction has begun for the first time since independence. He highlighted that Puvarti village, once considered a stronghold of terror, is now witnessing a wave of development. The red flag has been replaced by the national tricolour. He noted that regions like Bastar are now

filled with celebration, hosting events such as Bastar Pandum and Bastar Olympics.

Urging everyone to imagine how far Chhattisgarh has progressed over the past 25 years despite the challenge of Naxalism, and how much faster the pace will be once this challenge is fully overcome, Prime Minister Modi emphasised that the coming years are crucial for Chhattisgarh.

To build a developed India, it is essential for Chhattisgarh to be developed. Addressing the youth of the state, the Prime Minister said this is their time, and there is no goal they cannot achieve. He assured them that their government stands with them at every step and with every resolve. The Prime Minister concluded by affirming that together, we will advance Chhattisgarh and move the nation forward and extended his heartfelt best wishes to every brother and sister of Chhattisgarh.

The Governor of Chhattisgarh, Ramen Deka, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai, Union Ministers, Jai Oram, Durga Das Ukey, Tokan Sahu were present among other dignitaries at the event.

### Background

Prime Minister participated in Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav, marking 25 years of formation of the State of Chhattisgarh. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for developmental and transformative projects worth over ₹14,260 crore, covering key sectors such as roads, industry, healthcare, and energy.

To strengthen rural liveli-



hoods, Prime Minister inaugurated 12 new Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) blocks across nine districts of Chhattisgarh. Prime Minister participated in the Griha Pravesh of 3.51 lakh completed houses and released ₹1200 Crore as installment to 3 lakh beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), ensuring dignified housing and security for rural households across the State.

Enhancing connectivity, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the four-lane Greenfield Highway from Pathalgaon–Kunkuri to the Chhattisgarh–Jharkhand Border, being developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at a cost of around ₹3,150 crore. This strategic corridor will connect key coal mines, industrial zones, and steel plants across Korba, Raigarh, Jashpur, Ranchi, and Jamshedpur, serving as a major economic artery that strengthens regional trade linkages and integrates Central India with the Eastern region.

In addition, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction and upgradation of NH-130D (Narayanpur–Kasturmeta–Kutul–Nilangur–Maharashtra Border), spanning multiple segments across Bastar and Narayanpur districts. PM will also inaugurate the upgradation of NH-130C (Madangmuda–Deobhog–Odisha Border) into a two-lane highway with paved shoulders. These will significantly enhance road connectivity in tribal and interior regions, improving

access to healthcare, education, and markets, and boosting socio-economic development in remote areas.

In the power sector, Prime Minister inaugurated the Inter-Regional ER–WR Interconnection Project, which will enhance the inter-regional power transfer capacity between the Eastern and Western grids by 1,600 MW, improving grid reliability and ensuring a stable power supply across the region.

Along with this, Prime Minister dedicated, inaugurated, and laid the foundation stone for multiple energy sector projects worth over ₹3,750 crore, aimed at strengthening Chhattisgarh's power infrastructure, improving supply reliability, and enhancing transmission capacity.

Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), works worth about ₹1,860 crore will be dedicated by Prime Minister, including construction of new power lines, feeder bifurcation, installation of transformers, conversion of conductors, and strengthening of low-tension networks to improve rural and agricultural power supply. Prime Minister will also inaugurate nine new power substations built at a cost of around ₹480 crore across districts such as Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Bemetara, Gariyaband, and Bastar. These will benefit over 15 lakh people by ensuring stable voltage, reducing outages, and providing reliable electricity even in remote and tribal areas. Additionally, foundation stone will be laid for new substations and transmission

projects worth over ₹1,415 crore, including major facilities at Kanker and Balodabazar–Bhatapara, along with new RDSS works across several districts to further expand the reach and quality of electricity in the State.

In the petroleum and natural gas sector, Prime Minister will inaugurate HPCL's state-of-the-art Petroleum Oil Depot at Raipur, built at a cost of over ₹460 crore with a storage capacity of 54,000 Kilolitres (KL) for petrol, diesel, and ethanol. The facility will serve as a major fuel hub, ensuring uninterrupted supply across Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states. With 10,000 KL ethanol storage, the depot also supports the Ethanol Blending Programme, reducing fossil fuel dependency and promoting cleaner energy growth.

Prime Minister will also dedicate the 489 km Nagpur–Jharsuguda Natural Gas Pipeline, built at a cost of around ₹1,950 crore. The project is a major step toward increasing the share of natural gas in India's energy mix to 15% and achieving the vision of "One Nation, One Gas Grid." The pipeline will connect 11 districts of Chhattisgarh to the National Gas Grid, boosting industrial development and providing cleaner and affordable fuel to the region.

To promote industrial growth and employment, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for two Smart Industrial Areas — one at Siladehi–Gatwa–Birra in Janjgir–Champa district and another at Bijletala in Rajnandgaon district.

# Pak's Great Game: What Rawalpindi Really Wants From Its War With



Get the US in and get the money for itself - that's Pakistan's single-point agenda. And it's doing everything it can to achieve this.

● Dr Tara Kartha is a former Director, National Security Council Secretariat

The trouble is that war-making has become almost the norm these days, what with the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, and now Afghanistan and Pakistan. What was possibly the first ever aerial bombing of Afghanistan by Pakistan has led to a sudden escalation of the situation into near-war condition, after decades of insurgency and sponsored terrorism. Not that those two don't continue; they do. While one side is a master of the game in the former, even defeating a super-power, the other has got so accustomed to sponsoring terror that it seems unable to stop.

It is now common knowledge that Pakistan chose to hit Kabul and Paktia on October 9, with drone attacks on the very day that Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, was being feted in Delhi. Since then, violence has snowballed, with Pakistan attacking via air alleged Tehrik-e-Taliban camps across the border and one such strike even killing members of a local cricket team at Urgon district. That led to Afghanistan pulling out of a tri-nation cricket series. That this happened hours after a 48-hour truce was set to expire underlines Rawalpindi's clear intent to escalate. In all fairness, however, there was also a suicide attack on the



same day that killed 17 Pakistani soldiers in one fell swoop. That was claimed by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). It is unclear which came first, but the result is that the two countries are now at war.

## The Pattern Of Violence

True, that Pakistan has taken a beating. Its Centre for Research and Security Studies reports a 46% rise in violence, with the first three quarters seeing more of it than the whole of last year.

What led to this is not difficult to fathom. Pakistan's counter-terrorism tactics have followed set patterns. A faction of the Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K) suddenly declared war on Baloch and others such as the Pashtuns and their leaders, including the char-

ismatic and entirely non-violent Mehrang Baloch and Manzoon Pashteen, who lead the peaceful Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM). This was followed by a specific audio threat.

This is a striking shift in itself. The IS-K has been present in Balochistan for years, specifically in the Mastung and Khuzdar areas, where it had usually targeted churches and shrines, and then several Jamiat Ulema Islami (Fazlur) leaders. JUI(F) leader Fazlur Rehman has, in fact, also incurred the wrath of the army for warning repeatedly against attacking Afghanistan.

## A Dicey Ceasefire

On October 19, the Qatar Foreign Ministry put out a ceasefire agreement mediated also by

Turkey - reportedly with its intelligence chief present too, together with defence and intelligence chiefs from warring sides. While Mullah Yakub and Minister Khwaja Asif are seen in the picture, Pakistan's intelligence Chief, Lt Gen Asim Malik attended the meet too, with presumably Abdul Haq, his Talibani counterpart. The agreement, calling for follow-up meetings to implement a ceasefire, was roundly criticised by Afghans on social media for its reference to a 'border'.

In fact, the Afghan Deputy Defence Minister has been warning that if Afghanistan declared someone an invader by religious decree - which presumably would be done by the Amir Hibatullah - Pakistan would have no defence even till Indian borders. Pakistan's Khwaja Asif, in turn, warned all Afghans to leave the country, adding that Kabul leaders were "sitting in India's lap". Within this narrative of blaming Afghanistan and now India, it's important to consider that all TTP leaders, from founder Baitullah who was born in Landi Dhok in Bannu, to Hakimullah born in Jandola, Fazlullah in Swat and Noor Wali Mehsud in Tiarza, were from Pakistan, just like their cohorts. All grew from the crucible of the Afghan war and were once part of the Pakistan-backed Taliban that took over Kabul. They also sheltered the Taliban, mostly in Waziristan, which is why giving them up would be anathema to the Afghans.

### The Final Message

The ironic fact is that the messaging from the Pakistan army completely copied the Indian positions as it warned of a "new normal", spoke of precision strikes only against civilians, and

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Now it seems the Pakistan army is against the Baloch. Even a schoolkid would be able to fathom that Pakistan's agencies are using the IS-K to hit the Baloch. The IS-K is also present in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, around Peshawar and Bajaur area, and across in Nuristan and Kunar. No wonder then that Afghans hit Bahramcha, a route long used for not just insurgents but also drugs and human smugglers and the like. Pakistan, too, used a barrage of drones to hit Afghan border areas, mainly Paktia, but faced an almost equally fierce onslaught with suicide attacks on a police training school and against paramilitary forces.

reserved the right - through its over-articulate defence minister - to carry this further. Field Marshal Munir also chose to give another warning of nuclear war against India for reasons unknown, at least immediately.

Some explanation for these threats may lie in US President Donald Trump's claims that it would be "easy" for him to solve the war. That needs to be examined carefully. Getting the US back into the picture has been Rawalpindi's single-point agenda for years, with a former National Security Advisor even making that plea in a prominent journal. That means not just pressure on the Taliban but also plenty of dollars for Pakistan.

### Pak Will Do What It Wants

So, expect that Islamabad will do everything in its power to get Bagram for the US, even if it

means escalating the war with Afghanistan to much higher levels and using much heavier conventional weapons. This is what the Pakistan army does best, even if it means a disaster for the rest of the country. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Sohail Afridi, a stalwart of Imran Khan's party and who is from the grassroots, recently called for a 'grand jirga' so that the people of this region could decide peace for themselves. That was a message to Rawalpindi that it had done enough damage, and that it should leave the people alone. But that's not the army's way. It dislikes anyone doing anything on their own, however beneficial. It will, therefore, retain its sole agenda: get the US in and get the money for itself. Others can - sometimes quite literally - burn in hell.

# 'No Benefit In Fighting India': Ex-CIA Officer Who Led Pak Operations



John Kiriakou, who has served in the CIA for 15 years, has opened up about his years leading counterterrorism operations in Pakistan.

Pakistan would lose any conventional war with India, a former US intelligence officer has said, recalling that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) believed the two nuclear-armed nations would go to war after the 2001 Parliament attacks. John Kiriakou, who has served in the CIA for 15 years, opened up about the unease between Washington and Islamabad and his years leading counterterrorism operations in Pakistan during an interview with news agency ANI.

Islamabad needs to arrive at a policy conclusion that it would gain nothing from a war with India, the former CIA officer noted. "Nothing, literally nothing good will come of an actual war between India and Pakistan because the Pakistanis will lose. I'm not talking about nuclear weapons. I'm talking just about a conventional war. There is no benefit to constantly provoking Indians," he added. India had acted decisively after attacks carried out by terrorists from across the border over the years, including surgical strikes in 2016, Balakot strikes in 2019, and Operation Sindoor after the Pahalgam attack that left 26 innocents dead in April this year. New Delhi also warned



Islamabad that it will not tolerate its nuclear blackmail, as the Pakistanis tried to control the rhetoric despite pleading for a ceasefire after failed attempts to target Indian cities.

Kiriakou shared that in 2002, the US anticipated that India-Pakistan tensions at the height of Operation Parakram, after the 2001 Parliament attack, could escalate to a war and had started evacuating its civilians from Islamabad. He also claimed that during his Islamabad stint, he was unofficially told that the Pentagon controlled Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. "Musharraf had turned control over to the US."

At that time, the CIA was focused on Al Qaeda and Afghanistan and did not pay much attention to India's concerns, the former CIA officer admitted.

'US Could Have Killed Pak

Scientist'

The US could have eliminated Abdul Qadeer Khan, who designed Pakistan's atomic bomb, but spared him at the request of Saudi Arabia, Kiriakou said.

"If we had taken the Israeli approach, we would have just killed him. We knew where he lived and spent his day. But he had the support of the Saudi government. The Saudis came to us and said, 'Please leave him alone. We like AQ Khan. We're working with AQ Khan. Just leave him alone,'" he recounted.

Kiriakou had turned a whistleblower in 2007 and exposed the CIA's "torture programme" in a television interview. He spent 23 months in jail. The charges against him were later dropped, with the former CIA officer remarking that he has "no regrets, no remorse."



# Modi 'tough as hell', says Trump; once again claims credit for ending Indo-Pak conflict

“ John Kiriakou, who has served in the CIA for 15 years, has opened up about his years leading counterterrorism operations in Pakistan.

T okyo /Seoul On The One Hand : On the one hand, he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the “nicest looking guy”, a “killer” and “tough as hell”. But in the same breath, Donald Trump once again waded into India-Pakistan conflict by claiming he stopped their recent military hostilities. A few hours earlier, the US president also claimed that “seven brand new” planes were shot down in the May 7-10 Operation Sindoor.

“Prime Minister Modi is the nicest looking guy ... he looks like you'd like to have your father like... he's a killer... he's tough as hell,” Trump said while speaking at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea.

He landed in South Korea Wednesday October 29, 2025 morning from Japan as part of three-nation tour of Asia.

While emphasising that he has a “great relationship” with Modi, Trump reiterated that he used trade to resolve the war between India and Pakistan.

“I called Prime Minister Modi. I said, we can't make a trade deal with you... (He said) No, no, we must make a trade... I said, No, we can't. You are starting a war with Pakistan. We're not going to do it,” Trump said. He also praised Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir,



calling him “a great fighter” and “a great guy.”

“Then I called Pakistan. I said, we're not going to do trade with you because you're fighting with India and you know, two nuclear nations. And they said, no, no, no, you should let us fight. They both said that,” he added.

Trump claimed that the leaders of both India and Pakistan called him after two days and stopped fighting.

“After literally two days, they called up, they said, we understand, and they stopped fighting. How is that? Isn't that amazing? Now, you think Biden would have done that?” Trump said. However, hours earlier in Tokyo, Trump had said that he managed to get the war stopped in 24 hours. The US president is known to make inconsistent comments.

In Tokyo, while speaking at a reception and dinner with business leaders on Tuesday, Trump said: “Seven planes were shot down, seven brand new, beautiful planes were shot down, and

they were going at it ... two big nuclear powers.”

He added that he told Modi — “a very nice man, a very good man, and the Field Marshal over in Pakistan, I said, ‘Look, we're not going to do any trade if you're going to be fighting,’” Trump said.

Trump said that India and Pakistan argued that war has nothing to do with trade with the US. “(They said) one thing has nothing to do with the other. I said this, it has a lot to do with the other ...two nuclear powers...we get that nuclear dust all over the place. All of you are affected, right? And we said, No, we're not doing any deals if you're going to fight. And within about 24 hours, that was the end of that. It was amazing, actually,” the US President said.

***Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a “full and immediate” ceasefire after a “long night” of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim dozens of times that he “helped settle” the conflict between India and Pakistan.***

***India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries.***

# Stampede Nation: Karur To Bengaluru, How Many More Must Die Before We Learn?



(Shashi Tharoor has been a Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, since 2009. He is an author and a former diplomat.)

**T**he headlines have become a grim liturgy: a stampede at a temple festival, a crush at a cricket celebration, deaths at a political rally, or a devastating rush on a railway platform. Precious human lives lost each time, of innocents participating in routine activities. Why do we live with this numbingly repeated horror?

Each incident, whether it is the tragedy that struck a film star's political rally in Karur, or the chaos that unfolded during the RCB cricket team's celebration in Bengaluru, is met with the same sequence: shock, immediate blame-game, government compensation, and a quickly forgotten judicial inquiry. We classify these horrific events as "accidents", yet their predictability is the cruellest element of the cycle.

These are not accidents of fate; they are the fatal consequences of a profound and persistent deficit in our public safety culture. India's inability to manage its mass gatherings - be they religious, political, or social - is a social and governance failure, exposing a national disregard for the value of a sin-



gle human life when measured against the spectacle of a crowd. I am not playing politics here: both national and state governments, and political parties of every hue, have been culpable at different times. **The Anatomy Of A Systemic Failure**

To understand why scores of lives are lost year after year, we must look beyond the immediate trigger - the rumour, the sudden trip or fall, the narrow passage - and identify the three systemic failures that act as pre-conditions for disaster.

First, there is the failure of physical infrastructure. Analysis shows that narrow passages

and bottlenecks are primary structural causes, contributing to a significant percentage of fatalities. Many of India's most revered pilgrimage sites and urban hubs were built centuries ago, never designed to handle modern crowd densities exceeding five persons per square metre. Adding to this, temporary venues for rallies and festivals often feature hastily erected, weak barricades and inadequate, single-point entry and exit routes. When a crowd is funnelled into a choke point - be it a temple queue or a railway footbridge - it transforms human beings from individuals into a fluid mass, and any small

perturbation can turn that flow into a deadly, unmanageable pressure wave. It's astonishing that our authorities repeatedly grant permission for large crowds in such manifestly unsuitable places.

### Misplaced Priorities

Secondly, the failure of administration and planning is rampant. India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued comprehensive guidelines in 2014, detailing norms for crowd flow, risk assessment, and site management. Yet, these guidelines are routinely ignored. Event organisers and local authorities frequently claim to be surprised by the actual numbers, claiming they underestimated the likely attendance figures. In the political sphere, the priority is often the visual display of support, leading to misplaced priorities where the safe movement of the crowd is sacrificed for VIP movement or maximum visibility. If you talk frankly to IAS and IPS officers, they will tell you that there is a deep-seated lack of inter-agency coordination; police, fire, medical teams, and civic bodies rarely operate from a shared, real-time command structure, leading to delayed responses that turn injuries into fatalities.

Finally, there is a failure of public safety culture. While authorities are chiefly responsible, the culture of "rushing ahead" or ignoring advisories, fuelled by intense devotion or hero-worship, turns a dense crowd into an uncontrollable and often volatile one. In religious gatherings, which account for over 60% of all stampede

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## The Cost of Institutional Amnesia

What sets India apart is not the fact of these disasters, but their recurrence - a sign of weak institutional learning. When a crowd crush occurred at a Halloween festival in South Korea in 2022, it led to massive, systemic reforms in public safety protocols worldwide. In India, the inquiry reports from one tragedy - be it the 2013 Ratangarh temple incident or the recent Karur political rally disaster - are typically shelved, gathering dust until the next one occurs.

This institutional amnesia is compounded by a lack of legal accountability. While the Disaster Management Act exists, the swift, non-partisan prosecution of organisers, negligent officials, and complicit bodies remains rare. Without penal provisions that bite, the incentive structure for proactive prevention simply does not exist. It remains cheaper to pay compensation after a disaster than to invest in the scientific, technological, and infrastructure upgrades required to prevent it.

## Forging a New Safety Architecture

Ending this cycle of grief requires a structural and cultur-

al reset, built on three mandatory pillars of reform that I advocated in interviews after the Karur tragedy:

### 1. Codify Accountability with a National Crowd Safety Act:

India needs a dedicated, comprehensive law - a Crowd Safety Act - that goes beyond existing statutes. This Act must clearly define the liability of every stakeholder, from the event organiser (religious trusts, political parties, sports bodies) to the local district magistrate. It must mandate third-party, independent safety audits for all gatherings exceeding a defined threshold. Crucially, the law must include strict penal provisions, including imprisonment and hefty fines, for gross negligence, ensuring that organisers are financially and legally motivated to prioritise safety.

### 2. Adopt Scientific Crowd Management:

The age of simply deploying more police with lathis or tear-gas is over. Safety must be technological. We must immediately integrate real-time AI and drone surveillance with ground monitoring systems to detect crowd density, especially at critical choke points, flagging risks when density approaches the danger zone of five persons per square metre. Learning from global best practices, such as the successful GIS mapping used at the Kumbh Mela and the one-way flow designs used at the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, should be adopted nationwide. Furthermore, cities must integrate crowd management into urban planning, ensuring that new infrastructure, including

railway stations and public venue designs, incorporates multiple, wide, and clearly marked evacuation routes.

### 3. Cultivate a Culture of Public Safety:

Finally, prevention requires the public to be an active partner. The government, through the NDMA, must launch sustained, multi-lingual public awareness campaigns using digital and traditional media to educate citizens on safe crowd behaviour. This includes training volunteers and security personnel in "crowd whispering" techniques to calmly de-escalate tension. More importantly, it means teaching individuals simple self-protection techniques: how to keep forearms across the chest to protect the breathing space from compressive forces, and how to move diagonally toward less dense edges. Safety cannot be a government mandate alone; it must become a non-negotiable public consciousness.

The lives lost in these tragic, recurring incidents are a damning indictment of our system - one that sadly views crowd management as a last-minute policing exercise rather than a fundamental prerequisite of governance.

The challenge is immense, but the solution is clear: move beyond reactive mourning and implement a robust, legally-backed, and technologically integrated culture of crowd safety. Only then can we guarantee that India's vibrant, energetic tradition of mass gatherings becomes a source of collective pride, rather than repeated tragedy.



# Victory of good governance, spirit of public welfare: PM Modi on NDA's Bihar win



"Deepest gratitude to my family members of Bihar, who have blessed the NDA with a historic and unprecedented victory in the 2025 assembly elections," Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday November 14, 2025 termed the NDA's landslide win in the Bihar assembly elections as a victory of good governance, development and the spirit of public welfare and social justice.

In a series of posts on X, Modi also congratulated the BJP's alliance partners — Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, LJP-RV supremo Chirag Paswan, HAM leader Jitan Ram Manjhi and RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha.

The prime minister said the resounding public mandate will empower the NDA to serve the people and work with new resolve for Bihar.

The NDA comprising BJP, JD(U) and other parties were on course for a landslide victory in the Bihar assembly elections by taking the lead in 204 seats in the 243-member House.

The opposition grand alliance of the RJD, Congress and Left parties could manage to take the lead in 33 seats, 81 fewer than what it had bagged in the 2020 elections.

"The NDA has ensured all-round development of the state. The people have given us a massive majority after witnessing our track record and our vision to take the state to new heights," Modi said.



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public rally during Bihar Assembly elections, in Bettiah, Bihar**

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ji and our NDA family members Chirag Paswan ji, Jitan Ram Manjhi ji and Upendra Kushwaha ji for this resounding victory," he said.

The prime minister also thanked every NDA worker who worked tirelessly and took the ruling alliance's development agenda to the people.

"I appreciate them from the bottom of my heart," he said.

"In the coming times, we will actively work towards the development of Bihar, giving a new identity to the infrastructure here and the culture of the state. We will ensure that the youth power and women's power here get ample opportunities for a prosperous life," Modi said.

## Bihar Results: The Biggest Winners And Losers

Election Commission data showed the NDA leading in 204 seats by late afternoon on counting day.



The coalition crossing 200 seats in the 243-member Assembly, the result marks a consolidation of support for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP-led alliance.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the people of Bihar broke all records following the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) landslide victory in the state's Assembly elections. With the coalition crossing 200 seats in the 243-member Assembly, the result marks a consolidation of support for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP-led alliance, eclipsing its own 2010 performance.

#### Here are PM Modi's top quotes:

1. This is a big win. Bihar ke logon ne garda uda diya (the people of Bihar did very well).

2. Katta sarkaar (Mahagathbandhan) will never return. Bihar voted for development.

3. We, the people of the NDA, are servants of the people. We continue to make the people happy with our hard work.

4. The whole of Bihar has told us today: once again, an NDA government.

5. When I talked about Jungle Raj, the RJD did not oppose it, but the Congress opposed it. Today I say again, the katta government will not return. The katta government will not return.

6. The people of Bihar have broken all records. I requested the people of Bihar to give the NDA a massive victory, and they acceded to my request.

7. In Bihar, the NDA has received the largest mandate since 2010. I express my gratitude and salute the people of Bihar. I bow to JP Narayan and Karpoori Thakur as well.

8. Some parties formed appeasement formula of 'MY',

but this victory has cemented new 'MY' combination of Mahila and Youth.

9. There was a time when voting was restricted till 3 pm in areas affected by Naxals, but now people voted without fear.

10. I congratulate people for reposing faith in democracy and Election Commission by voting in record numbers.

11. I congratulate all NDA leaders for their wonderful work and CM Nitish Kumar for his leadership.

12. Booth capturing, violence used to be a regular affair during 'jungle raj' in Bihar elections, but now no such case takes place.

13. Bihar is the land which gave India the honour of a democracy. Today, that very land has vanquished those who tried to hurt democracy.

14. This win is for the youth of Bihar, whose future was destroyed because of Congress and those carrying the red flag (leftists).

15. Congress, RJD have not apologised to Chahti Maiyaa. How can those who call Chhath Puja as 'drama' respect the traditions of Bihar?

16. The government is striving to have UNESCO recognise the rich tradition of Chhath Puja.

17. Congress has not won that many MLAs in last 6 state polls that we have won just today.

18. Congress criticises the Election Commission (EC), complains about vote chori, and divides people on religion and caste. Congress has no positive vision for the country.

19. Congress is MMC —

Muslim League Maoist Congress. In the future, there will be a big division in Congress. RJD is stunned today. Very soon, the fight will be out in the open (between RJD and Congress). In its negative politics, Congress is negatively impacting its own allies.

20. In the next five years, Bihar will progress further. There will be new industries here. The youth of Bihar will get jobs here; we will work for it. Bihar will get investment. And will bring more jobs. There will be a push for tourism. And pilgrimages will be developed.

**Bihar Result 2025:** Congress Repeats Pattern: Sinks In Bihar, Rahul Gandhi MIA, Leaders Grumble

## Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav on their Royal Enfields

Assembly Election Results 2025: In the build-up to this election, the Congress defended its strategy, part of which was supposedly Gandhi's shift from crowd politics to issue-based politics, such as the 'vote' campaign.

New Delhi: Nine months after the Congress' miserable show in the Delhi election – to finish 0,0,0 in three straight elections in the national capital – the 'Grand Old Party' slumped to defeat in Bihar on the results declared on Friday November 14, 2025.

'Defeat', though, is putting it mildly. The truth is the Congress was demolished.



In cricket terms, the party is set to be all out for one chasing 19, the number of seats it won in the last election, after contesting 70. In harsher speak, the party turned in its worst ever Bihar election result.

The Congress lost seats to the BJP, the Janata Dal, and Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party.

The only seat it has won so far is Kishanganj, courtesy ex-ALMIM leader Qamrul Hoda, although it is leading in five others – Valmiki Nagar, Chanpatia, Forbesganj, Araria, and Manihar.

It has also lost seats, critics will say, to its hubris and disconnect with voters, a sentiment many saw in Rahul Gandhi's prolonged absence from campaigning and underlined by the thumping across the 110 seats his Royal Enfield and he wound their way through in August for the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'.

That yatra was supposed to kickstart the Congress' Bihar plan, to prime its voters to realise the 'vote chori' being perpetuated by the Bharatiya Janata Party in collusion with the Election Commission, to

galvanise them into dumping the JDU and the 'forever' Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar.

But then the yatra finished. Gandhi disappeared. And voters, disillusioned not only by his absence but the apparent lack of a plan, any plan to develop Bihar and find jobs its nearly 50 lakh unemployed men and women, turned to the BJP, which said it had a plan – for jobs and infrastructure growth.

And they had boots on the ground, starting with an apparently indefatigable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who headlined 14 rallies and made seven visits to Bihar. Amit Shah was present (and worked behind the scenes too, sources told NDTV) and Yogi Adityanath delivered over a dozen speeches.

To be fair to Gandhi, he was on the ground too. The yatra travelled over 1,300 km to cover 23 districts in 16 days. It was a good start; Rahul Gandhi was visible and meeting voters, till he was not.

And once the BJP rolled out its big guns, when the Mahagathbandhan needed the optic of Tejashwi Yadav and

Rahul Gandhi on stage together, the Congress was slow to respond. It wasn't till October 29, a week before the first phase of polling, that the two leaders occupied the same space.

The red flags were already out by then; one candidate, who asked he not be named, told a News Channel "People ask us, 'where is your top leader?' Without the Gandhi face, how do we convince voters?"

Rahul Gandhi has led the Congress to 95 electoral defeats, the BJP crowed

A party worker from Bhagalpur echoed the frustration. "We are putting up posters, holding roadshows... but without Rahul Gandhi it feels incomplete..." A second was more scathing in his criticism, laying into Gandhi and senior alliance leaders for mismanaging the campaign, right from seat-sharing squabbles.

Allies Rashtriya Janata Dal weren't amused either. Multiple sources in the party grumbled to NDTV about an ally that fights 'half-heartedly', possibly with bitter memories of the 2020 election still fresh.





Back then Tejashwi Yadav lit a fire under voters and dragged the RJD to victory in 75 seats.

The JDU was on the back-foot – Nitish Kumar was finally vulnerable – and all the opposition needed was a semi-strong push by its allies to take him down. The Left responded with 16 seats.

**The Congress needed to deliver 31 but it could not.**

Tejashwi Yadav was the opposition alliance's chief ministerial candidate (File)

Since then, Yadav has tried, although some within the Congress complained that he had not helped matters; the reference was to the spat over the RJD leader being named the chief ministerial face.

The Congress dithered, calling for focus on the election, till it yielded.

But he has been present, taking on Nitish Kumar and the BJP and reaching out to first-time voters, who responded positively, perhaps the only

bloc to after even the Yadav community opted for the NDA.

But sans a miracle the RJD was never going to win if it had to drag the Congress along, particularly if Rahul Gandhi was going to be MIA. The ask – 122 seats – was just too much.

In fact, Gandhi is still MIA; he hasn't tweeted so far today and it is 5.30 pm.

The only tweet on his X account today is a throwback mention of Jawaharlal Nehru.

In the build-up to this election, the Congress defended its strategy, part of which was supposedly Gandhi's shift from crowd politics to issue-based politics, such as the 'vote chori' campaign.

And so now the party must ask itself – has the shift worked? Was it ever going to in a state where jobs and healthcare are at a premium and lakhs live hand-to-mouth?

The Bihar election adds to a long list of defeats for Gandhi's Congress, a list the BJP's Amit

Malviya gleefully tweeted, declaring, "Rahul Gandhi! Another election, another defeat!"

**The count, the BJP claims, is now 95.**

If accurate, then the Congress and Gandhi will want to avoid that 'century'.

Criticism, meanwhile, has erupted from within the Congress too. Senior leaders like Nikhil Kumar, the former Nagaland and Kerala Governor, said, "This reflects the weakness of our organisation. In any election, a party relies on its organisational strength. If the organisation is weak the outcome suffers."

Congress leader Mumtaz Patel, daughter of the party stalwart Ahmed Patel, said it is time to "accept reality". "No excuses, No blame game No introspection, it's time to look within and accept reality."

**Senior leaders Mani Shankar Aiyar and Shashi Tharoor also spoke up.**

Critics will also point out the Congress has still not solved the existential crisis that sparked five years ago, after a horrible performance in the 2020 federal election. Then a group of dissenters, the 'G-23', wrote to Sonia Gandhi demanding changed leadership and accountability.

Yes, the Congress has won elections since; victory in Karnataka and Telangana in 2023 will go some way towards answering those critics, but it is not enough. It is not enough to maintain the Congress' position as the senior-most opposition party in



# Trump Cuts China Tariffs After Xi Meeting



The meeting lasted a little over 100 minutes, with the two leaders shaking hands and Trump appearing to say something into Xi's ear, just before the Chinese leader entered his own limousine

**B**USAN, South Korea: President Donald Trump said he has decided to lower his tariff rates on imports of Chinese goods to 47% after meeting face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday October 30, 2025, a chance for the leaders of the world's two largest economies to stabilize relations after months of turmoil over trade issues.

Trump's aggressive use of tariffs since returning to the White House for a second term combined with China's retaliatory limits on exports of rare earth elements gave the meeting new-found urgency. There is a mutual recognition that neither side wants to risk blowing up the world economy in ways that could jeopardize their own country's fortunes.

The meeting lasted a little over 100 minutes, with the two leaders shaking hands and Trump appearing to say something into Xi's ear, just before the Chinese leader entered his own limousine.

Trump was shortly back aboard Air Force One to return to Washington. On board, he told reporters he decided to reduce the combined rate from 57% after successful talks that included promises by Xi to curb shipments of fentanyl ingredients to the U.S.



Ahead of the meeting, Trump threatened a huge hike that would have boosted tariffs by 100%, but he told reporters he didn't need to go through with that plan.

**China did not provide immediate comment on the meeting or any outcomes.**

Finding ways to reduce tensions Before the meeting, Trump was optimistic. "We're going to have a very successful meeting, I have no doubt," Trump said, adding that Xi is a "very tough negotiator." Trump said they "could" possibly sign a deal coming out of the meeting and that they have a "great understanding" of each other.

In the days leading up to the meeting, U.S. officials signaled

that Trump did not intend to make good on a recent threat to impose an additional 100% import tax on Chinese goods, and China showed signs it was willing to relax its export controls on rare earths and also buy soybeans from America.

Officials from both countries met earlier this week in Kuala Lumpur to lay the groundwork for their leaders. Afterward, China's top trade negotiator Li Chenggang said they had reached a "preliminary consensus," a statement affirmed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent who said there was "a very successful framework."

Trump told reporters while flying to South Korea aboard Air Force One that he may reduce tariffs that he placed on China earlier this year related to its role in making fentanyl.

"I expect to be lowering that because I believe that they're going to help us with the fentanyl situation," Trump said, later adding, "The relationship with China is very good."

Shortly before the meeting on Thursday, Trump posted on Truth Social that the meeting would be the "G2," a recognition of America and China's status as the world's biggest economies. The Group of Seven and Group of 20 are other forums of industrialized nations.

But while those summits often happen at luxury spaces, this meeting took place in humbler surroundings: Trump and Xi met in a small gray building with a blue roof on a military base adjacent to Busan's international airport.

The anticipated detente has given investors and businesses caught between the two nations a sense of relief. The U.S. stock market has climbed on the hopes of a trade framework coming out of the meeting.

Pressure points remain for both US and China. However cordial the rhetoric, Trump and Xi remain on a potential collision course as their countries vie to dominate manufacturing, develop emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and shape world affairs such as the status of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Trump indicated that he did not plan to bring up issues such as the security of Taiwan with Xi. "The proposed deal on the table fits the pattern we've seen all year: short-term stabilization dressed up as strategic progress," said Craig Singleton, senior director of the China program at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

“When the two were seated, Xi read prepared remarks that stressed a willingness to work together despite differences.

“Given our different national conditions, we do not always see eye to eye with each other,” he said through a translator. “It is normal for the two leading economies of the world to have frictions now and then.” There was a slight difference in translation as China's Xinhua News Agency reported Xi as telling Trump that having some differences is inevitable.

The leaders met in Busan, South Korea, a port city about 76 kilometers (47 miles) south from Gyeongju, the main venue for

“Both sides are managing volatility, calibrating just enough cooperation to avert crisis while the deeper rivalry endures.” The U.S. and China have each shown they believe they have levers to pressure the other, and the past year has demonstrated that tentative steps forward can be short-lived. For Trump, that pressure comes from tariffs.

China had faced new tariffs this year totaling 30%, of which 20% has been tied to its role in fentanyl production. But the tariff rates have been volatile.

In April, he announced plans to jack the rate on Chinese goods to 145%, only to abandon those plans as markets recoiled. Then, on Oct. 10, Trump threatened a 100% import tax because of China's rare earth restrictions.

Xi has his own chokehold on the world economy because China is the top producer and processor of the rare earth min-

erals needed to make fighter jets, robots, electric vehicles and other high-tech products.

China had tightened export restrictions on Oct. 9, repeating a cycle in which each nation jockey for an edge only to back down after more trade talks. What might also matter is what happens directly after their talks.

Trump plans to return to Washington, while Xi plans to stay on in South Korea to meet with regional leaders during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which officially begins on Friday.

“Xi sees an opportunity to position China as a reliable partner and bolster bilateral and multilateral relations with countries frustrated by the U.S. administration's tariff policy,” said Jay Truesdale, a former State Department official who is CEO of TD International, a risk and intelligence advisory firm.

# ISRO's Bahubali Scripts History



Heaviest communication satellite CMS-03 launched from Sriharikotta

**S**rihari Kota: The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Sunday November 2, 2025 scripted history by successfully launching its heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03 (GSAT-7R), enhancing the country's space and defence capabilities. The launch was done aboard the country's most powerful LVM3-M5 rocket — also dubbed as the Bahubali launcher — from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikotta.

"This 4,410-kg satellite has been precisely injected into orbit," said ISRO chairman V. Narayanan, moments after the successful launch.

The CMS-03 is the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil, surpassing the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft (3,900 kg) launched in 2023. However, Isro's heaviest satellite so far was GSAT-11 (5,854 kg), launched in 2018 using a French Ariane-5 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana. The mission also reinforces Isro's preparation for the upcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme, which will use a human-rated variant of LVM3 (HRLV).

Isro said the mission faced challenging weather conditions, but the team worked relentlessly to ensure success. "It was not an easy job. It's a tough mission, but our team's commitment ensured success," Narayanan said, lauding his scientists and engineers.



**The CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite that would provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass, ISRO said.**

"After bringing pride to the nation with Chandrayaan-3, LVM3 has achieved yet another milestone with this heavier satellite," he said, calling CMS-03 "another shining example of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

The CMS-03 (GSAT-7R) is a multi-band communication satellite designed to provide secure, high-capacity links across the Indian Ocean region, including the entire Indian landmass and surrounding maritime domains. It would replace the GSAT-7R (Rukmini), launched in 2013, and could provide services for at least 15 years. The satellite will operate across UHF, S, C, and Ku bands, enabling enhanced voice, video, and data communication for maritime operations, including surveillance and real-time coordination for naval and strategic users.

dination for naval and strategic users.

The CMS-03 mission underscores India's growing strategic independence in satellite launches. Until recently, Isro relied on foreign launch services, such as Arianespace from French Guiana, for its heavier payloads. The success of LVM3-M5 firmly places India among the few nations capable of launching large satellites from their own soil.

The Isro chief, briefing the media, unveiled the organisation's ambitious plan of seven rocket launches by March 2026, including the first uncrewed mission under the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.

"The Gaganyaan project is progressing steadily and has entered an advanced phase. All



hardware for the mission has arrived in Sriharikota and integration is under way. We have planned three uncrewed missions before the crewed flight," Narayanan said.

He said the first uncrewed mission, G1, would be launched before the end of this fiscal year, marking a major step towards India's maiden human spaceflight.

The launch took place as scheduled from the Second Launch Pad, with the 43.5-metre-tall rocket — weighing 642 tonnes — lifting off amid bright orange plumes and thunderous applause from mission control. About 16 minutes after liftoff, the rocket injected the 4,410 kg CMS-03 satellite into its intended geosynchronous transfer orbit.

Following Sunday's launch, Isro will undertake another LVM3 mission carrying a commercial communication satellite for an international client. This would be followed by three PSLV missions, including one for a customer of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) — the commercial arm of ISRO responsible for enabling space sector partnerships and satellite launches for global clients.

In addition, Narayanan said Isro is preparing for a technology development mission, PSLV-N1. A GSLV-F17 mission is also on the schedule before March 2026. "We have also planned for a GSLV-F17 rocket mission before March 2026."

"Team Isro is geared up to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of launching 50 missions in the next five years," he said.

“

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### Mission Highlights: LVM3-M5 / CMS-03

- Launch Site: Second Launch Pad, SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota
- Rocket: LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) — India's heavy-lift launcher
- Vehicle Height: 43.5 metres
- Lift-off Mass: 642 tonnes
- Payload: CMS-03 (GSAT-7R) communication satellite
- Payload Weight: 4,410kg - heaviest launched to GTO from India
- Orbit: Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with apogee ~29,970km
- Mission Life: 15 years (estimated)
- Purpose: Secure, multi-band communications over Indian Ocean region
- Significance: Demonstrates Isro's enhanced heavy-lift and mission optimization capabilities
- Previous LVM3 Missions: Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission, Gaganyaan test flight

# Modi Accuses RJD of Stalling Bihar Projects to Avenge 2005 Ouster

“ At Saharsa rally, PM says RJD pressured UPA to halt development works and vows NDA will bring progress and stability

**S**aharsa: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday November 3, 2025 charged the RJD with having stalled development projects in Bihar by putting pressure on the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre to “avenge” its ouster from power in the state in 2005. Addressing a rally in the north Bihar district of Saharsa, Modi also reiterated that the Congress grudgingly agreed to declare Tejashwi Yadav as the INDIA bloc’s chief ministerial candidate, after the RJD placed a ‘katta’ or illegal country-made gun on its head.

“Now in the current elections, the Congress, which is already a spent force in Bihar, has vowed to make the RJD sink,” he claimed. Modi urged the people to punish the RJD for its “sins” and asserted “the NDA stands for development while the jungle raj wallahs for destruction”.

“The RJD was sharing power at the Centre when it was voted out of power in Bihar in 2005. Projects like the Kosi Mahasetu had been sanctioned by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. So enraged was the RJD by Nitish Kumar forming a new government in the state that it put pressure on Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi and stalled



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the RJD of blocking Bihar’s development by pressuring the UPA government after losing power in 2005, saying the NDA stands for growth while “jungle raj wallahs” stand for destruction.**

all such projects in Bihar,” he alleged.

“The RJD can never understand the sufferings of the people of the Kosi region, which were alleviated through the construction of the bridge. We are also working on the interlinking of rivers. The NDA manifesto has also put forth a blueprint on flood control,” he

said.

Speaking in an area which has a substantial Muslim population, Modi charged the RJD-Congress combine with being soft on “infiltrators” and disdainful towards the Ram temple at Ayodhya and the Chhath festival.

The leaders of the RJD and Congress take time off to visit

all types of places abroad. But they do not get the time to visit Ayodhya. If they have so much dislike for Lord Ram, they can still go and see the monuments built in the memory of Nishad Raj and Valmiki," said the PM, in an apparent jibe at the INDIA bloc's pro-deprived caste stance.

Noting that the north Bihar region of Mithila was known, in ancient times, for female deities like Sita, Bharti and Gargi, the PM said, "From this land of glorious women, I would like to congratulate our daughters who have done us proud by winning the Cricket World Cup."

Highlighting the achievements by women in various walks of life, Modi said that those who made fun of the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" slogan must be feeling mortified over having heaped so much scorn on the country's women.

"To our mothers and sisters who have benefited from welfare schemes of the NDA, I would say, beware of the 'jungle raj wallahs'; they intend to put a stop to all these measures upon coming to power," he claimed.

Modi also highlighted the special regard he has had for Bihar and its specialities, and pointed towards a garland of makhana which was presented to him at the stage. "I gift makhana boxes to world leaders during foreign visits, tell them this is the hard work of Bihar's farmers," he said.

The PM also sought to underscore the alleged lawlessness that prevailed during the RJD rule, saying that "even police personnel, who wanted

to carry out their responsibilities conscientiously, were not safe. Those involved in building highways were killed. People from backward and extremely backward classes suffered atrocities".

"DSP Satyapal Singh was murdered in Saharsa as he acted against lawlessness," he added. Without naming Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition, he said, "They are day-dreaming about forming the next government at the

Centre and promising to set up a university at Nalanda, an ancient seat of learning, where foreigners would come to pursue education."

"The Congress has a habit of lying. I am telling you that a modern university has been built at Nalanda. When they were in power, a paltry sum of Rs 20 crore was sanctioned for the project, and then they forgot about it. After we came to power in 2014, we spent Rs 2,000 crore on it," he claimed.

“

**The leaders of the RJD and Congress take time off to visit all types of places abroad. But they do not get the time to visit Ayodhya. If they have so much dislike for Lord Ram, they can still go and see the monuments built in the memory of Nishad Raj and Valmiki," said the PM, in an apparent jibe at the INDIA bloc's pro-deprived caste stance.**

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# Omar Abdullah Hails Economic Lifeline and Unity Symbol for J&K

“ Introduced in 1872 by Dogra Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the ‘Darbar Move’ was engineered for both climate and cohesion. Heavy winter snows once isolated Srinagar; shifting the entire administrative machinery to Jammu ensured uninterrupted governance. In May, the caravan returned north

Srinagar : After a four-year freeze, ‘Darbar Move’—the biannual relocation of Jammu and Kashmir civil secretariat between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu—was formally restored on Monday November 3, 2025 with its opening in Jammu.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, speaking at the ceremonial opening, declared the 150-year-old tradition restored in full, predicting a sharp economic rebound for Jammu and stronger emotional bonds across the Pir Panjal. Introduced in 1872 by Dogra Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the ‘Darbar Move’ was engineered for both climate and cohesion. Heavy winter snows once isolated Srinagar; shifting the entire administrative machinery to Jammu ensured uninterrupted governance. In May, the caravan returned north.

Beyond logistics, the practice knitted together Jammu’s Dogra heartland and Kashmir Valley, with thousands of employees, families, and files crossing the mountains twice yearly. For Jammu’s traders,



During the campaigning for the 2024 Assembly elections, the National Conference–Congress alliance placed the ‘Darbar Move’ at the heart of its manifesto. On October 15, marking his first year in office, Chief Minister Abdullah announced Cabinet approval and Lt. Governor clearance. “We forwarded the file and received the green signal. The Darbar is back—at the earliest,” he told reporters. — ANI

the winter influx was oxygen-hotels filled, markets buzzed, and roadside dhabas ran overtime.

However, annual expenditure—officially pegged at ₹200 crore—was dismissed by the Lieutenant Governor regime as wasteful in an age of e-offices. In

June 2021, Manoj Sinha halted the practice, insisting dual secretariats could run year-round. Jammu’s business chambers protested instantly, warning of shuttered shops and lost livelihoods.

During the campaigning for the 2024 Assembly elections, the

National Conference–Congress alliance placed the 'Darbar Move' at the heart of its manifesto. On October 15, marking his first year in office, Chief Minister Abdullah announced Cabinet approval and Lt. Governor clearance. "We forwarded the file and received the green signal. The Darbar is back—at the earliest," he told reporters. Yet a quiet tug-of-war surfaced last week. With the Home Department under direct Lt. Governor control, Principal Secretary Chandraker Bharti issued orders for nine key offices—including Police Headquarters, Prisons, Fire Services, and Forensic Labs—to operate simultaneously in both capitals. Heads of Department were directed to split staff "equitably." The move stops short of physical relocation for security wings, revealing lingering Centre–Union Territory friction over administrative optics.

The Chief Minister inspected the parade and interacted with officers and staff present. After formally inaugurating the offices, he chaired a high-level meeting with the Council of Ministers and Administrative Secretaries to review departmental performance and ensure seamless administrative readiness post the 'Darbar Move'. Jammu Chamber of Commerce president Rahul Sahai said, "Hoteliers along Jewel Chowk and Residency Road reported 90 percent advance bookings. Taxi unions added extra vehicles. Sweet-shop owners stacked fresh Kalari," adding, "Six months of guaranteed salary spending will inject at least ₹800 crore directly into Jammu's markets." Special buses and trucks began ferrying records south from Srinagar to Jammu on October

“

On Monday November 3, 2025 , Jammu city erupted in welcome. Flower petals rained on the Chief Minister's convoy and it took him an hour to travel three kilometres to reach the seat of government-Civil Secretariat. "Look at this love," Abdullah told journalists outside the revived secretariat. "The Darbar's return is not just files and furniture—it is Jammu's heartbeat restored." He accused the 2021 decision of prioritising spreadsheets over sentiment. "Not every treasure is counted in rupees. This tradition tied Srinagar's soul to Jammu's soil. Suspending it wounded our unity; reviving it heals that wound," he asserted. The Chief Minister engaged warmly with traders and civil society members at Shahidi Chowk and Raghunath Bazar before arriving at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu. He was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour upon his arrival, heralding the traditional 'Darbar Move' and the opening of offices in the winter capital.

30. The Chief Minister said full operational normalcy may take a week. "Departments are settling, officers are finding desks and by next Monday, winter capital will hum at 100 percent," he said. Concluding his remarks beneath portraits of founder of Dogra dynastic rule Maharaja Gulab Singh and his grandfather and legendary Kashmiri leader Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, the Chief Minister issued a larger appeal saying, "Some politicians widen the gap between Jammu and

Srinagar for votes. We are here to narrow it—one Darbar at a time." As the Tricolour snapped smartly above the Secretariat and employees lined up for the first roll-call of winter, Jammu tasted a victory that rang in both ledgers and hearts. For the first time since 2021, the City of Temples will greet the season with the familiar growl of government convoys—and the quiet, hard-won vow that no valley, no plain, will ever again be left out in the cold.

वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के सम्मान, सुरक्षा और कल्याण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध - छत्तीसगढ़ का आदर्श मॉडल

# बुजुर्ग-संस्कृति, अनुभव और मूल्यों के स्तंभ

भारतीय संस्कृति के केंद्र में हमारे बुजुर्ग हैं - वे जिनके अनुभव समाज को दिशा देते हैं और जिनकी स्मृतियाँ हमारी सभ्यता की नींव हैं। लेकिन बदलते सामाजिक परिदृश्य में पारिवारिक संरचना और सामाजिक दायरे सिमटने लगे हैं। ऐसे में वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, सामाजिक सहभागिता और गरिमायुक्त जीवन सुनिश्चित करना शासन की प्राथमिकता बन जाता है। इसी भावना को साकार करती है-छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार की संवेदनशील नीतियाँ और सशक्त क्रियान्वयन।

## डॉ. दानेश्वरी संभाकर

उप संचालक जनसंपर्क विभाग

छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री श्री विष्णु देव साय ने वरिष्ठजनों के सम्मान को शासन प्रणाली में प्रमुख स्थान दिया है। उनका मानना है “माता-पिता की सेवा ही ईश्वर की पूजा है।” इसी सोच के साथ राज्य में ऐसे प्रकल्पों का विस्तार हो रहा है जो बुजुर्गों के जीवन की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाते हैं। 1 अक्टूबर वरिष्ठ नागरिक दिवस के अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री ने रायपुर, बिलासपुर, कोरबा और दुर्ग में पीपीपी मॉडल के तहत आधुनिक वृद्धाश्रम स्थापित करने तथा असहाय बुजुर्गों और दिव्यांगजनों के लिए रायपुर में उपकरण सर्विस सेंटर खोलने की घोषणा की। इसी के साथ राज्य में “सियान गुडी” जैसे सामाजिक-आध्यात्मिक केंद्रों का विस्तार बुजुर्गों को मानसिक, सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक सहारा प्रदान कर रहा है।

छत्तीसगढ़ की समाज कल्याण मंत्री श्रीमती लक्ष्मी राजवाड़े ने वृद्धजन केंद्रित कार्यक्रमों को जमीनी स्तर तक पहुँचाने के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं। उनका कहना है “संवेदनशील शासन का अर्थ है— हर बुजुर्ग तक सेवा और सुरक्षा पहुँचाना।”

राज्य में 35 वृद्धाश्रम सक्रिय रूप से संचालित हैं, जहाँ लगभग 1049 वरिष्ठ नागरिक भोजन, आवास, स्वास्थ्य, परामर्श और मनोरंजन की सुविधाएँ प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। गंभीर रोगों या असहाय स्थिति में रह रहे बुजुर्गों के लिए रायपुर, दुर्ग, कबीरधाम, रायगढ़, बालोद और बेमेतरा—इन 6 जिलों में प्रशामक देखभाल गृह संचालित किए जा रहे हैं, जहाँ 128 वरिष्ठजनों को निःशुल्क उपचार, दवाइयाँ और नियमित स्वास्थ्य देखभाल मिल रही है। वरिष्ठजनों की समस्याओं के निवारण हेतु स्थापित हेल्पलाइन सेवा द्वारा अब तक 2 लाख 70 हजार से अधिक प्रकरणों का समाधान किया जा चुका है। यह सेवा न केवल उनकी पहुँच बढ़ाती है,



बल्कि आत्मविश्वास और सुरक्षा बोध भी जगाती है।

वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए माता-पिता एवं वरिष्ठ नागरिक भरण-पोषण एवं कल्याण अधिनियम—2007 का राज्य में सख्ती से पालन किया जा रहा है। अनुविभाग स्तर पर—भरण-पोषण अधिकरण, जिला स्तर पर—अपीलीय अधिकरण इन व्यवस्थाओं ने बुजुर्गों को संपत्ति, सुरक्षा और भरण-पोषण से जुड़े मामलों में त्वरित न्याय दिलाने का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया है। गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाले वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को नियमित पेंशन सहायता प्रदान की जा रही है 60 से 79 वर्ष तक के बुजुर्गों को 500 रुपए प्रति माह और 80 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वाले वरिष्ठजनों को 650 रुपए प्रति माह दी जा रही है। वर्तमान में 14 लाख से अधिक बुजुर्ग इस योजना से लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं। यह सहायता उनके जीवन मंर आर्थिक सुरक्षा का आधार बनती है।

राज्य सरकार की योजनाएँ गुणवत्तापूर्ण चिकित्सा के अधिकार को सुदृढ़ कर रही

हैं। आयुष्मान भारत और शहीद वीर नारायण सिंह स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजनाओं के तहत 8 लाख से अधिक वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को निःशुल्क उपचार मिला है। साथ ही वरिष्ठ नागरिक सहायक उपकरण प्रदाय योजना के अंतर्गत 50 हजार से अधिक बुजुर्गों को व्हीलचेयर, श्रवण यंत्र, छड़ी, चश्मा जैसे उपकरण प्रदान किए गए हैं।

आध्यात्मिक संतोष बुजुर्गों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य का आधार है। इसी उद्देश्य से मुख्यमंत्री तीर्थयात्रा योजना और श्री रामलला दर्शन योजना के माध्यम से 2.5 लाख से अधिक वरिष्ठ नागरिक,

278 तीर्थयात्राओं का लाभ ले चुके हैं। यात्रा के दौरान भोजन, आवास और चिकित्सा सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जाती है। प्रत्येक वर्ष 1 अक्टूबर—अंतरराष्ट्रीय वृद्धजन दिवस राज्य और जिला स्तर पर मनाया जाता है। इन कार्यक्रमों से समाज में बुजुर्गों के प्रति सम्मान, संवेदना और सहयोग की भावना को प्रोत्साहन मिलता है। वरिष्ठ नागरिकों का सम्मान केवल एक सामाजिक मूल्य नहीं, बल्कि एक कर्तव्य है।



# Trump the 'Peacemaker' Turns Into a Warmonger



From Venezuela to Nigeria, Trump's foreign policy blurs the line between business and war

● **Sanjaya Baru** | Sanjaya Baru is a writer and an economist. His most recent book is *Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India*

For a man who is desperately seeking the Nobel Peace Prize, US President Donald Trump has not wasted time in preparing for war. Revealing an intrinsic temptation among US Presidents to send troops out to distant lands, Mr Trump has threatened to invade Venezuela and bomb Nigeria - which are both oil-exporting countries. He has been eyeing Greenland and wants to take back control of the Panama Canal.

Every major war in the post-Second World War era has the imprint of what former US President Dwight D. Eisenhower termed the interests of a "military-industrial complex". The most active part of America's shrinking industrial base has been devoted to the manufacture of armaments. Every war has been a money-spinner both for US corporations and for American politicians living off the fat of those corporations. Every major war of the past three quarters of a century, from the Korean and Vietnam wars to Afghanistan and Iraq, has sustained the market for the US defence industry.

The obituaries to former US vice-president Dick Cheney,



who passed away last week, have pointed to the millions he and his buddies at Haliburton Inc had made from what eventually proved to be a completely illegitimate invasion of Iraq. West Asia has always been a lucrative market for US arms and ammunition. The arms race spurred in Asia by China's rise has created a new market for the American armaments industry. When India and Pakistan fight, both buy something or other from the US. Now the US is eyeing the Latin American market for arms.

Latin America has already experienced the full force of "Yankee impe-

rialism" on more than one occasion and in more than one country. From Cuba to Panama, from Nicaragua to Uruguay, US forces have, often without congressional approval, launched military action in pursuit of American business interests. Each of these attempts at regime change was cloaked in the rhetoric of democracy but had an eye on access to markets and resources.

Sending warships into the Caribbean in the name of dealing with the challenge of what he calls "narco-terror-

ism", President Trump has put Colombia and Venezuela on notice. The irony is that the regimes in both countries have done business with Mr Trump and his camp followers earlier. It is not as if the Venezuelan leadership of Nicolas Maduro is a popular, pro-people regime. On the contrary, there is every reason for Mr Maduro to go. But, getting foreign troops in, as the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Venezuelan Opposition leader, Maria Corina Machado, has demanded, does not serve the interests of the people of Venezuela or, indeed, of Latin America as a whole.

While the menace of drug peddling and its links with violence — dubbed "narco-terrorism" — is a matter of genuine concern, it would appear altogether unfair to charge Latin American governments of sponsoring this. At any rate, adequate proof must be offered so that an organisation like the United Nations Security Council can take an informed view on the matter. The United States will have none of it. Just as it invaded Iraq on false pretences, it may well invade Venezuela. Latin America has seen this face of American imperialism for a long time.

Latin American scholars and political leaders have endured it, theorised on it and fought against it. The continent's liberal, radical and progressive political leaders, writers, artists and scholars have had to fight on two fronts — on the one hand opposing dictatorial or authoritarian regimes at home and on the other hand battling

US imperialism and military intervention. It is a continent endowed with the richness of nature but blighted by the poverty of human imagination.

For the past couple of decades, US interests were focused on West Asia and East Asia. The focus of US power has returned to a region that the US has long regarded as its "backyard" for two separate reasons. On the one hand, the growing influence of China across the continent and, on the other, the geo-economics of oil, other natural resources and securing the dominance of the US dollar. China has been able to systematically grow its influence within the region as a trading partner and is today the biggest trade partner of most Latin American countries. It is no coincidence that Venezuela, Nigeria and Greenland, like the Gulf region, are all rich in oil and other natural resources.

The problem in Latin America is that there are in fact few angels in the region's power play. With the exception of leaders like Brazil's President Lula da Silva, few other Latin American countries have leaders of any distinction. Mr Maduro, for example, was hobnobbing with Mr Trump's acolytes trying to strike deals with them. Clearly, those deals fell through.

Mr Trump's brazen policy of promoting his business interests while talking of peace or pursuing war has made US policy even more suspect. From Pakistan and Qatar to Panama and Nigeria, Mr Trump has mixed business

with diplomacy to personally benefit from the US role as either a peacemaker or a war-monger.

What is worrying for the rest of the world is the fact that while the wars of the Cold War era — Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan — were mainly motivated by ideological considerations, the wars of the post-Cold War era — Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and now potentially in Latin America — seem to be triggered largely by business interests: access to markets and resources — oil and gas, rare earths, copper and so on.

The more Mr Trump becomes unpopular at home, as he indeed is becoming, and the more he has to appease his MAGA political base, the more he would be tempted to wage wars in distant lands. The US is the only power that has ensured that no war touches its soil but is always waged afar. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's war preparedness in the South China Sea are both motivated by immediate territorial concerns about national security and border management.

The US has had no such concerns and has waged wars in distant lands only to sustain its military industrial complex and its global power and reach. Moving away from East Asia, where it is now seeking a G-2 détente with China, and from West Asia, where it has achieved recent objectives, the US seems focused on Latin America and Africa as the next markets for its armaments industry.

# "Return To Your I Hate India Tour": US Singer Mary Millben Jabs Rahul Gandhi



US singer Mary Millben's remarks came a day after Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, said PM Modi is "frightened of Donald Trump".

US singer Mary Millben on Friday October 17, 2025 hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his recent remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to return to his "I hate India tour". Millben, who has often lavished praises on PM Modi, said the Congress leader does not possess any "acumen to become the Prime Minister".

Millben's remarks came a day after Gandhi in a post on X, said PM Modi is "frightened of US President Donald Trump". He alleged that the PM "allows" Trump to decide and announce India will not buy Russian oil, keeps sending congratulatory messages despite repeated snubs, and "does not contradict" the US President on Operation Sindoor.

To this, the US singer said, "You are wrong, @RahulGandhi. PM @narendramodi is not afraid of President Trump. PM Modi understands the long game, and his diplomacy with the US is strategic. Just as @POTUS will always put America's interests first, so



will PM Modi do what is best for India. And I applaud that. That's what Heads of State do."

Millben asserted that PM Modi and Trump do and say "what is best for their country" - which she does not expect Gandhi to understand.

"I don't expect you to understand this type of leadership because you don't possess the acumen to be the PM of India. Best to return to your "I hate India" tour that has an audience of one - you," she said.

Millben, who is also an actor and cultural ambassador, had first met PM Modi in

June 2023 when he was on a state visit to the US. She had performed the Indian national anthem at the Ronald Reagan building, following which she touched PM Modi's feet to seek his blessings - a moment that had grabbed worldwide attention.

**Trump's Russian oil claim, India's response**

Trump, earlier this week, claimed that PM Modi assured him India would stop buying oil from Russia - which was the reason behind the US President's tariff offensive against New Delhi. "He's assured me there will



be no oil purchases from Russia. He can't do it immediately. It's a little bit of a process, but the process is going to be over soon," he said.

India has not confirmed any such commitment.

Responding to the claim, Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India's consistent priority is to "safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario".

"India is a significant importer of oil and gas. It has been our consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective. Ensuring stable energy prices and secured supplies have been the twin goals of our energy policy. This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions," he said.

Jaiswal added, "Where the US is concerned, we have for many years sought to expand our energy procurement. This has steadily progressed in the last decade. The current Administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India. Discussions are ongoing."

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# Questions Linger Over Delhi Blast; Centre Is Right To Act With Caution Columnists



The key element of the puzzle would be to find out whether there is a connection between the terror module uncovered by the J&K police and the Monday evening blast. Then the pieces of the puzzle will fall in place. The investigation agencies would not want to jump to any hasty conclusions. — Internet

● **Venkateshwar Rao** | The author is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

**Apart from the possible Pakistan angle, Indian authorities face the challenge of assessing the security situation in the national capital**

**M**onday on November 10, 2025 evening's blast near the Red Fort Metro station in Old Delhi is a terrorist attack by the looks of it. This was no accident. A slow-moving i20 Hyundai hatchback exploded, killing over a dozen people and injuring a core and more seriously. The media, especially the television channels, were running ahead of story, and tried to connect it with the arrest of several individuals, including doctors, from Faridabad, and others in Kashmir, who were nabbed with 2,900 kg of ammonium nitrate. The arrests were made by the Jammu and Kashmir police after posters of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) appeared in Srinagar warning of a terror attack.

The investigating agencies — including the Delhi police, the National Investigating Agency and the Forensic Science Laboratory — have not yet arrived at any conclusions, even a provisional one. Union



home minister Amit Shah said that investigations are on. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said from Thimphu (he is on a two-day Bhutan visit) that those behind the blast will not be spared. So far, neither the leaders nor investigating agencies have named names. There's more than an abundance of caution in the stance of the government.

The stakes are quite high. It has been declared by the armed forces that Operation Sindoor is not over, and it will be activated if there is a terror attack masterminded from the other side, that is Pakistan. Pakistan cannot say it is not responsible if a non-state actor is involved.

India has stated its policy that Pakistan will be held

responsible for any attack from any outfit based on Pakistani soil. If the Red Fort blast is then traced back to a terrorist outfit based in Pakistan, India is bound to retaliate.

The Indian authorities want to be doubly sure about the involvement of a jihadi group from the Pakistan side. That is one of the chief aims of the blast investigation, apart from getting forensic details of the blast itself. The Delhi police had on Monday evening said it is not yet known what caused the car blast. There is some media speculation about whether RDX or some other explosive was used, such as possibly ammonium nitrate. This would of course require a closer look at the trajectory of the blast impact. Reports say

that body parts were thrown 20 to 25 metres away. It was a powerful blast.

The key element of the puzzle would be to find out whether there is a connection between the terror module uncovered by the J& K police and the Monday evening blast. Then the pieces of the puzzle will fall in place. The investigation agencies would not want to jump to any hasty conclusions.

Apart from the possible Pakistan angle, Indian authorities face the challenge of assessing the security situation in the national capital. There have been no terror incidents Delhi for over a decade. A briefcase bomb blast outside Delhi high court in September 2011 had killed 15 and injured 79 people. Harkat-un-Mujahideen (HuM) had claimed responsibility, and Indian Mujahideen had a hand in executing the diabolical plan. Despite posters in Srinagar warning of an attack, there has as yet been no statement from JeM.

Confrontation with Pakistan is something that the political establishments in India and Pakistan would welcome. It's a grand distraction for both governments. But it does not lead anywhere. It all ends in an impasse of varied degrees. And each side can invoke the unimpeachable imperatives of national security for taking up the no-holds-barred stern stance.

It is likely that the Narendra Modi government would maintain tactical silence — no loud statements about hitting back — until the investigation into

“ The changed and charged political atmosphere in Pakistan, with the Army moving into the driver's set as it were — for the last decade or so it has been pulling the levers of power from behind — makes it a plausible agent provocateur. Newly-created Field Marshal Asim Munir and his lieutenants in the Army seem defiant about supporting jihadi groups in Pakistan. Top Army officers participated in the funerals of jihadis killed in Operation Sindoor. Pakistan's political and military leaders may want to believe that US President Donald Trump is in their camp after the unusual reception Field Marshal Munir received at the White House, once on his own and the other time with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. So, Mr Trump's stance would be of significance for Pakistan.

the blast is completed, and the future plan of action is charted. It is also not to be ruled out that the government would look at the possibility of domestic terror sources arising from the Kashmir Valley.

The security situation in Kashmir remains veiled. It is natural that the government, and in the case of Kashmir, it is the Central government, and more specifically the Union home ministry, and home minister Amit Shah, who would have the information. Strategy requires they keep vital information to themselves. But what is needed is action, and it cannot be solely based on security concerns.

The civilian spaces should be made as free as possible,

and vigilance has to remain as unobtrusive as possible. These are not impractical suggestions, but realistic imperatives. It would be easier to detect discontent and also the individuals and groups who want to take advantage of the discontent. There is also the overriding compulsion to determine breaches in security.

It is natural there will be slip-ups in the flanks. There is no need to hide the gaps in the security system as long as there is no blame game at work at any level. Systems always need to be improvised and mended. It is evident of course that Prime Minister Modi and home minister Shah do not believe in democratic transparency.