



4
PM MODI TO LAUNCH
BIMA SAKHI YOJANA
IN HARYANA



11
ISKCON MEMBERS
STOPPED FROM
CROSSING TO INDIA



16
ENGLAND CHASE DOWN
104 RUNS TO BEAT BLACK
CAPS IN 1ST TEST

FADNAVIS SET TO BE NAMED MAHA CM TODAY

BJP legislature party meeting likely on December 2 or 3

TDG NETWORK/AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Amid the suspense over the chief ministerial face in Maharashtra continues, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, who is also the caretaker chief minister, said the BJP will decide on the state's new CM and asserted there were no difference between Mahayuti partners on government formation.

Meanwhile, reports quoting a senior BJP leader said the name of Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new chief minister of Maharashtra who will be elected as the legislature party leader in a meeting to be held either on December 2 or 3.

Earlier in the day, outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said he would support the BJP's decision to pick the new chief minister. "The name of Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new chief minister of Maharashtra. The meeting to elect the new BJP legislature party meeting will be held on either December 2 or 3," a news agency quoted a BJP leader as saying.



Maharashtra caretaker CM Eknath Shinde addresses a press conference, in Satara on Sunday. ANI

Delay in govt formation 'insult' to Maha: Aaditya

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Sunday claimed the Mahayuti's inability to decide on a chief minister and form government more than a week after the announcement of assembly poll results was an "insult" to Maharashtra. In a post on X, Thackeray also asked why President's rule has not yet been enforced in the state.



Amid speculation that his son Shrikant Shinde might get the deputy CM's post and Shiv Sena is keen on the Home portfolio, Eknath Shinde said the Mahayuti allies - BJP, NCP, and Shiv Sena - will decide the government formation through consensus after sitting together.

Talking to reporters at his native Dare village in Satara district, where he was recuperating from a sore throat, Shinde said talks were underway on government formation and all decisions will be taken through a consensus by the three Mahayuti allies - Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP.

Addressing mediapersons in his native village, Shinde said the Mahayuti alliance's chief minister candidate will be decided tomorrow (Monday) and reiterated that he has already given his "unconditional support" to the decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda.

The Shiv Sena leader, who headed to his native village

Kejriwal rules out alliance for Delhi polls

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Delhi assembly elections scheduled to be held in the early months of 2025, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said that there will be no alliance in the national capital. "There will be no alliance in Delhi (for assembly elections)," Kejriwal said while addressing a press conference.

Kejriwal, former Delhi Chief Minister, further attacked Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the recent attack on him during his 'padyatra'. He said that a liquid was thrown at him which could have been harmful.

"I had the expectation that Amit Shah would take some action after I raised the issue (of law and order). However, I was being attacked during my padyatra. Liquid was thrown at me, it was harmless, but it could have been

CURRENCY WAR

Trump warns 100% tariffs on BRICS

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday threatened the BRICS nations, including India, with 100 per cent tariffs and called for a clear commitment from these countries to refrain from creating a new currency or supporting any other currency to replace the US dollar.

Taking to the social media platform Truth Social, Trump stated that the idea of BRICS nations trying to move away from the dollar while the US stood by and watched was "over."

He further warned that any country attempting to replace the USD would also lose access to the US market, adding that such countries would need to find "another sucker" if they pursued such actions.

"The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar

FOREWARNING

Idea of BRICS trying to move away from dollar while the US stood by and watched was "over"

We require a commitment from these

countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency, nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar or, they will face 100 per cent tariffs.

— DONALD TRUMP

Kash Patel named next FBI director

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday (local time) nominated the name of Kashyap "Kash" Patel to serve as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

In a post on the social media platform Truth Social, Trump announced Patel's nomination, highlighting his distinguished career in various government roles.



DETAILS P12

7 Maoists gunned down in T'gana

AGENCIES
MULUGU (TELANGANA)

Seven Maoists were killed, and weapons were recovered following an exchange of fire with police in Telangana's Mulugu district, said a senior police official on Sunday.

The incident occurred around 6:15 am when 10-12 individuals in olive green uniforms opened fire on a police team, said Mulugu SP Shabarish.

The encounter took place in the Eturnagaram forest area, according to the SP.

Despite repeated appeals for surrender, the Maoists ignored the warnings, prompting the police to



Arms and ammunition recovered from Maoists during an encounter in Bhadradi Kothagudem on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

return fire in self-defence, SP Shabarish said. The exchange lasted for approximately half an hour.

Following the gunfire, a thorough search operation was conducted, during which the police discovered seven bodies and re-

covered several weapons at the site. "Early this morning, in light of recent offences, Mulugu police were conducting patrols. At 6:15 am, our team spotted 10-12 individuals in olive green uniforms who immediately

ly opened fire on our personnel. Despite repeated appeals for their surrender, they continued firing. In self-defence, our team returned fire for about half an hour. After a search, we found seven bodies and recovered several weapons," SP Shabarish stated.

In September, six Maoists were killed in an encounter with police in Telangana's Bhadradi Kothagudem district.

Weapons recovered in the current operation include two AK-47 rifles, one SLR, one .303 rifle, one pistol, magazines, live rounds, kit bags, and other materials from the scene of the exchange.

Judicial commission visits Sambhal mosque

AGENCIES
SAMBHAL (UP)

Amid tight security, members of a judicial commission on Sunday visited the Shahi Jama Masjid here and other areas that witnessed violence over a court-ordered survey of the Mughal-era mosque.

Panel head retired Allahabad High Court judge Devendra Kumar Arora and retired IPS officer Arvind Kumar Jain were the two members of the three-member commission who visited the areas that witnessed violence on November 24.

The panel's third mem-

Allahabad HC judge Devendra Kumar Arora and retired IPS officer Arvind Kumar Jain - the two panel members - also visited violence-hit areas

ber, ex-IAS officer Amit Mohan Prasad, was not present during Sunday's visit.

The commission members did not respond to any media queries during the visit in the morning. They were accompanied by Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Aunjaneya

Kumar Singh, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muniraj G, Sambhal District Magistrate Rajendra Pensiya and Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar.

Later, speaking to reporters, Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Singh said, "Today the chairperson of the inquiry commission and one other member visited the site. Their primary purpose was to inspect the location. They visited the areas where the disturbance occurred, examined the site and the structure, and spoke to some of the

Commercial LPG cylinder price hiked

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies have raised the prices of commercial LPG gas cylinders with immediate effect. The rate of 19 KG commercial LPG gas cylinders has been increased by Rs 16.50 with effect from today.

In Delhi, the retail sale price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder is Rs 1,818.50 from today. Prices of 5 KG Free Trade LPG cylinders have also increased by Rs 4.

Prices of 14.2 KG domestic cylinders remain unchanged.

Last month too, the rates of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder were increased, by Rs 62.

These price adjustments are expected to impact commercial establishments and small businesses that rely heavily on LPG for

Tech in focus on meet of DGs with PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed concern over the potential threats generated on account of digital frauds, cybercrimes and AI technology, particularly the potential of deepfake to disrupt social and familial relations. Addressing the concluding session of the 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police, the prime



minister also called for the use of technology to reduce the workload of the police constabulary and suggested that the police station be made the focal point for resource allocation.

DETAILS P4

Cyclone leaves a trail of destruction in TN

CHENNAI: After making landfall near Puducherry on November 30, Cyclone Fengal weakened on Sunday, but torrential downpour under its influence paralysed the union territory, with the Army step-

ping in to evacuate stranded persons in inundated streets. Old-timers recalled such a fury of nature was not witnessed in this tiny UT for the last three decades.

DETAILS P6



Home minister Amit Shah posted this pictures on his X handle to greet the Border Security Force (BSF) on its 60th Raising Day, on Sunday.

Farm fires: MP and UP are the new culprits, says study

Punjab records 70% fall at 10,909 incidents

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Even as Punjab and Haryana, which had invited strong criticism for stubble-burning incidents, have made significant progress in curbing farm fires this

kharif harvesting season, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as new hotspots for farm fires, says data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute's (IARI) Consortium on Research Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space (CREAMS).

According to CREAMS, stubble fires in Punjab and



INCIDENTS OF FARM FIRES AS PER IARI-CREAMS			
STATE	2024	2023	2022
Punjab	10909	36663	49922
Haryana	1406	2303	3661
Madhya Pradesh	16360	12500	11737
Uttar Pradesh	6142	3996	3017
Rajasthan	1756	1775	1268

BANKING AMENDMENT BILL IN LS TODAY

Jaishankar to make statement on developments in India-China ties, Vaishnaw, Sonowal, among other ministers also to move Bills to amend different laws

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to move the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lower House of Parliament on Monday. As per the schedule issued by the secretariat, Sitharaman is expected to move the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, to be taken into consideration and passing tomorrow in Lok Sabha. Union Railways Minister Ashqini Vaishnaw is also expected to move a bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, for consideration and passing, the schedule read. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal is expected to introduce the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill will seek to amend the law relating to regulation of coastal shipping, promote coasting trade and encourage domestic participation therein, to ensure that India is equipped with a coastal fleet, owned and operated by the citizens of India for its national security and commercial needs, and for matters connected there-

BUSINESSES IN LOWER HOUSE THIS WEEK



Both Houses faced brief sessions in the past week following ruckus amid opposition's demand to discuss Adani indictment

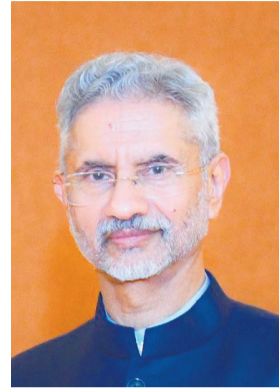
As per the schedule issued by the secretariat, Sitharaman is expected to move the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980

Jaishankar is likely to make a statement regarding "Recent Developments in India's Relations with China" while Jayanat Chaudhary is expected to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 56th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development on Implementation of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

with or incidental thereto. Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Jayant Chaudhary and Pankaj Chaudhary will make

statements on key matters. Jaishankar is likely to make a statement regarding "Recent Developments in India's

Relations with China" while Jayanat Chaudhary is expected to make a statement regarding the status of im-



plementation of the recommendations contained in the 56th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development on Implementation of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Minister Pankaj Chaudhary is expected to make a statement correcting the reply given on November 25, 2024, to unstarred question No. 101 asked by MP Selvaganapathi TM regarding "Increase in Counterfeit Currency".

Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Jayant Chaudhary, Pankaj Chaudhary, Kirtivardhan Singh, Sukanta Majumdar and Harsh Malhotra will lay papers on the table in Lok Sabha. In Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Kinjarapu Rammohan Raidu are likely to move bills for the respective ministries. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri is likely to move the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, for consideration and passing. Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu is expected to move the Bharatiya Vayuvan Vidheyak, 2024, for consideration and passing. The Bill seeks to provide for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, maintenance, possession, use, operation, sale, export and import of aircraft and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha. Union Ministers Shripad Yeso Naik, Shobha Karandlaje, Suresh Gopi, Satish Chandra Dubey, Sanjay Seth, Tokhan Sabu and George Kurian will lay papers on the table in Rajya Sabha tomorrow. The winter session of Parliament commenced on November 25 and will conclude on December 20. Both houses faced brief sessions in the past week following ruckus amid opposition's demand to discuss Adani indictment.

'Govt helping in getting adjournments'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday blamed the government after the first week of the Winter session of Parliament was washed out and alleged that the "government is cooperating" in getting the Parliament proceedings adjourned. "The session gets washed out because the government does not want the Parliament to function... The opposition wants the Adani issue, the Manipur situation, Sambhal incident to be discussed in the parliament... The govt is cooperating in getting the Parliament proceedings adjourned... For the first time I am seeing whenever we raise an issue, the parliament gets adjourned... The government does not want a discussion on the Adani issue, Manipur, Sambhal incident, Ajmer. Why is the government running away from discussion?... BJP MPs come to get the Parliament session adjourned while we go to raise issues," Jairam Ramesh told the media. On November 29, amid continuous sloganeering by opposition MPs in both Houses for the fourth straight day, Parliament was adjourned till December 2 (Monday), failing to conduct substantial business. Parliament proceedings have been stalled since the



beginning of the Winter Session amid protests by opposition parties over the Adani issue and violence in Manipur and Sambhal. Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said that the actions are not "public-centric." "This cannot be appreciated. We have become a laughing stock, and parliament disruptions are in public distaste. We are creating a very bad precedent. Our actions are not public-centric. We are getting into irrelevance. Rule 267 is being weaponised as a tool of disruption," the Rajya Sabha Chairman said. The Chairman expressed his deep anguish and profound regret at the disruption in the normal business of the House. Opposition members have been continuously pushing to have a discussion on the floor on the Adani issue, Sambhal violence and the Manipur situation, raising slogans in the Parliament.



Lok Sabha proceedings underway during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday.

Arsenic, fluoride beyond permissible limits in groundwater in most states, LS informed

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The groundwater in most of the parts of the country has been found contaminated as the studies by the Central Ground Water Board indicate the occurrence of Arsenic and Fluoride in ground water beyond permissible limits for human consumption in isolated pockets in various States and Union Territories of the country.

The revelation was made in a written reply by the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary in the Lok Sabha. As per the reply arsenic has been reported in parts

of 230 districts in 25 States and in parts of 469 districts in 27 states fluoride contamination is found. The contamination, mostly geogenic in nature, originates from soil and rock matrices, reads the statement.

However, the union minister clearly mentioned that the water is a state subject, thus managing groundwater quality and addressing contamination comes under the purview of state governments. But, he assured support from the centre to deal with the issue, stating that the union government has been actively supporting states through various initiatives to tackle this issue.

To study groundwater contamination, CGWB signed an MoU with the Geological Survey of India in 2022. This agreement focuses on analyzing contamination by uranium, lead, arsenic, fluoride, and mercury in states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam. Also the CGWB has also developed innovative solutions, such as cement sealing technology to construct arsenic-free wells and in-situ fluoride mitigation techniques. More than 2000 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country.

Every second in Parliament must be utilised for people's welfare: Dhankhar

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said Parliament is meant for the cause of public welfare and stressed that every second of its working should be utilised for the welfare of the people.

The remarks of the vice president, who is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, came after protests over various issues like the controversy involving the Adani Group and violence in Sambhal and Manipur rocked both houses of Parliament the past week, disrupting routine work.

"We have entered the fourth quarter of the century of adoption of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, we must resolve that every second in the temple of democracy is utilised for the welfare of the people at large," Dhankhar said here.

Dhankhar also called on IIT Kanpur students to work on smart, solution-oriented, scalable, and sustainable innovations for development and to



"We have entered the fourth quarter of the century of adoption of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, we must resolve that every second in the temple of democracy is utilised for the welfare of the people at large,"

find resolution for stubble burning.

The vice president was addressing the students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur on the topic 'role of innovation in the development of India', with Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, and the institute's Director Professor Manindra Agrawal also in attendance.

Dhankhar said various government schemes like the Atal Innovation Mission, Startup India, and Make in India have brought positive changes and are now bearing fruits.

He said a small example of it was in the mobile phone sector, where the number of manufactures went from a handful to so many that India is now making phones not only for the country, but for the world.

Looking ahead, innovation must embody 4S and these principles are fundamental — smart, solution-oriented, scalable, and sustainable. And these words mean a lot. Sustainable I say for a simple reason.

Parl panel seeks details of Waqf properties in 'unauthorised' occupation of state govts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has sought details from various state governments about the veracity and updated details of Waqf properties which, according to the Sachar committee, they had occupied in an unauthorised manner, sources said.

The parliamentary committee, whose tenure has been extended by Lok Sabha till the last day of the next Budget Session, has also sought from the states details of the properties claimed by Waqf boards exercising Section 40 of the Waqf Act.

Section 40, an amendment effected during the Congress-led UPA government's tenure in 2013, is one of the most hotly contested features of the existing law



as it has given Waqf boards the power to decide if any property belongs to the Waqf or not.

The proposed law, which has faced flack from opposition parties and various Muslim groups for its alleged attempts to interfere in religious matters, has sought to curb this power while making a slew of other changes in the existing Act.

The sources said the parliamentary panel has decided to get an update on the points made by the Sachar committee on the Waqf properties that are allegedly in unau-

thorised occupation of state governments or their official agencies.

The Sachar committee was informed by various state Waqf boards during 2005-06 about the alleged unauthorised occupation.

The parliamentary panel has been collecting information from states through the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. Sources said the panel headed by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal has noted that there were 316 such properties in Delhi, 60 in Rajasthan and 42 in Karnataka reported to the Sachar

committee in 2005-06.

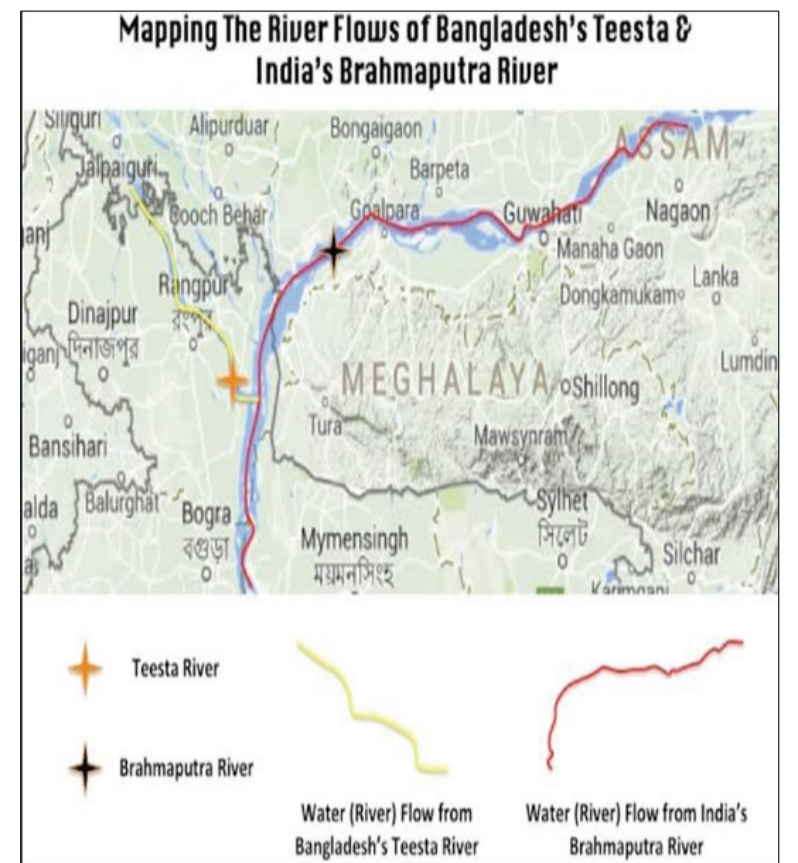
While 53 of them were in Madhya Pradesh, 60 were in Uttar Pradesh and 53 in Odisha. The committee has sought updates from all these six states, the sources said, adding that the panel has got information from several other states.

"The chief ministers of the above states may kindly investigate in detail into the veracity of this information in the Sachar Committee Report... and update this Committee in detail," a source said, citing the communication.

State governments have also been urged to share details of the cases where their agencies are involved in a legal dispute with Waqf boards over ownership or possession of any property, with the panel noting that the Sachar Committee had stated its list was not exhaustive.

INDIA-B'DESH PERSISTENT SHARED STRUGGLES

Sharing rivers has been a long-standing issue. While the Ganges treaty succeeded, Teesta remains unresolved. Border cooperation continues improving.



Indian troops hailed as liberators as they enter Dhaka, East Pakistan, during India and Pakistan's third major conflict. File photo



The Pakistani Instrument of Surrender. File photo

Bangladesh's journey to independence is a compelling narrative of cultural identity, political struggle, and resilience. The nation's path to sovereignty was shaped by a series of pivotal events, culminating in its emergence as an independent country in 1971.

PARTITION OF BRITISH INDIA (1947)

In 1947, the British Indian Empire was divided into two independent dominions: India and Pakistan. Pakistan was uniquely bifurcated into West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), separated by approximately 1,600 kilometres of Indian territory. This division was primarily based on religious demographics, with Pakistan envisioned as a homeland for Muslims. However, significant cultural, linguistic, and economic disparities existed between the two wings of Pakistan.

The people of East Pakistan were predominantly Bengali-speaking, with a rich cultural heritage distinct from the Urdu-speaking West Pakistanis. Tensions escalated when the central government, dominated by West Pakistan, attempted to impose Urdu as the sole national language. This move marginalized the Bengali language and ignited the Language Movement in the early 1950s, marked by protests and civil unrest in East Pakistan.

East Pakistanis felt politically underrepresented and economically exploited. Despite contributing a significant portion of Pakistan's export revenues, East Pakistan received a disproportionately small share of government investments and development projects. This economic disparity fueled resentment and a growing demand for autonomy.

THE RISE OF BENGALI NATIONALISM

In the 1960s, the Awami League, led by Sheikh Mu-

jibur Rahman, became the principal political force advocating for East Pakistani rights. In 1970, the Awami League won a landslide victory in Pakistan's general elections, securing the majority of seats. However, the central government hesitated to transfer power, leading to widespread protests and civil disobedience in East Pakistan.

THE LIBERATION WAR (1971)

On March 26, 1971, following a brutal military crackdown by Pakistani forces in East Pakistan, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence. This proclamation ignited the Bangladesh Liberation War, a nine-month-long conflict characterized by significant human suffering and displacement. The Mukti Bahini (Liberation Army), comprising Bengali military personnel and civilians, waged guerrilla warfare against Pakistani forces. India's intervention in December 1971, in support of the Bengali liberation movement, was a decisive factor leading to the surrender of Pakistani forces on December 16, 1971, marking the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

POST-INDEPENDENCE CHALLENGES

The nascent state faced immense challenges, including rebuilding a war-torn economy, resettling millions of refugees, and establishing political stability. Under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership, Bangladesh adopted a secular and socialist-oriented constitution in 1972. However, the country experienced political turbulence, including coups and periods of military rule, before returning to democratic governance.

India played a pivotal role in the formation of Bangladesh in 1971, providing critical support that encompassed diplomatic efforts, humanitarian assistance,



The two Prime Ministers: Indira Gandhi of India and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh. File photo

and direct military intervention. This multifaceted involvement was instrumental in the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

As the crisis in East Pakistan escalated, India, under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's leadership, undertook extensive diplomatic initiatives to garner international support for the Bengali cause. Gandhi engaged with global leaders and addressed international forums to highlight the humanitarian crisis and the need for intervention. These efforts aimed to build a global consensus against the oppressive actions of the Pakistani military in East Pakistan.

The conflict led to a massive influx of refugees into India, with estimates of around 10 million people seeking shelter in the bordering states, particularly West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya. India provided extensive humanitarian aid, establishing refugee camps and mobilizing resources to support the displaced populations. This refugee crisis placed a significant economic and social strain on India, influencing its decision to take a more active role in the conflict.

MILITARY SUPPORT AND TRAINING

India extended substantial support to the Mukti Bahini,



Remembering the Bangladesh Liberation War: The struggle for Independence and the atrocities of 1971. <https://historyandmystery.blogspot.com/>



Ziaur Rahman. File photo

the Bengali liberation forces, by providing training, arms, and strategic guidance. The Indian military established training camps and facilitated the organization of guerrilla warfare tactics, enhancing the operational effectiveness of the Mukti Bahini against Pakistani forces. This collaboration intensified the insurgency efforts within East Pakistan, destabilizing Pakistani military operations.

The situation reached a critical juncture when the Pakistani Air Force launched preemptive strikes on Indian airbases on December 3, 1971. In response, India declared a state of war, marking the of-

ficial commencement of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. The Indian Armed Forces launched coordinated operations on both the Eastern and Western fronts. In the Eastern theatre, Indian forces, alongside the Mukti Bahini, executed a rapid and effective campaign, leading to the surrender of Pakistani forces in Dhaka on December 16, 1971. This victory culminated in the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

POST-WAR ASSISTANCE

Following the war, India played a significant role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bangladesh. Efforts included repatriation of refugees, rebuilding infrastructure, and providing economic assistance to stabilize the newly formed nation. India's support during this transitional period was crucial in helping Bangladesh establish its sovereignty and governance structures.

Since Bangladesh's independence in 1971, India and Bangladesh have cultivated a multifaceted relationship characterized by cooperation, occasional tensions, and evolving dynamics. This partnership encompasses political, economic, cultural, and security dimensions, reflecting the shared history and geographical proximity of the two nations.

In the immediate aftermath of Bangladesh's liberation, India and Bangladesh enjoyed a period of strong bilateral ties, underscored by cooperation and support. However, the subsequent decades witnessed fluctuations influenced by domestic political changes and regional dynamics. The return to power of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2009 marked a significant upturn in relations, with both countries engaging in high-level visits and dialogues to address bilateral issues.

Trade and economic cooperation have been pivotal

in India-Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh stands as India's largest trading partner in South Asia, with bilateral trade reaching approximately \$10 billion in recent years. India's exports to Bangladesh include essential commodities such as cotton, machinery, and food products, while Bangladesh exports garments, textiles, and seafood to India. Both nations have also signed agreements to enhance connectivity and trade facilitation, including the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from India.

SECURITY COOPERATION

Security collaboration has been a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship, particularly in combating terrorism and insurgency. Bangladesh has taken significant measures against insurgent groups operating along the India-Bangladesh border, contributing to regional stability. Joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and coordinated border management have further strengthened security ties.

WATER SHARING AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The sharing of transboundary rivers has been a longstanding issue between the two countries. The Ganges Water Treaty of 1996 exemplifies successful cooperation in this area. However, the Teesta River water-sharing agreement remains unresolved, posing challenges to bilateral relations. Border management has also been a focal point, with both nations working towards resolving disputes and enhancing cooperation through mechanisms like the Joint Boundary Working Groups.

CULTURAL AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES

Cultural connections have played a vital role in fostering goodwill between

India and Bangladesh. Initiatives such as the celebration of 'Maitree Diwas' (Friendship Day) and the facilitation of cross-border cultural exchanges have strengthened people-to-people ties. Visa liberalization measures and the introduction of bus and train services, such as the Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express, have enhanced connectivity and interpersonal relationships.

In recent years, both countries have focused on enhancing connectivity and infrastructure development. Projects like the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline aim to boost energy cooperation. Additionally, Bangladesh's support for India in regional and international forums reflects a deepening strategic partnership. However, issues such as the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in India have caused concerns in Bangladesh, necessitating diplomatic engagement to address apprehensions.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Despite significant progress, challenges persist in India-Bangladesh relations. Unresolved water-sharing disputes, border management issues, and trade imbalances require continuous dialogue and cooperation. Both nations must work towards equitable solutions, leveraging their shared history and cultural ties to build a resilient and forward-looking partnership.

In conclusion, India and Bangladesh have traversed a complex yet collaborative path since 1971. Their relationship, marked by shared achievements and challenges, continues to evolve, with both nations recognising the importance of cooperation for regional peace and prosperity.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA 'MARYADA PURUSHOTTAM SHRI RAM' BRINGS RAMAYANA TO LIFE

TDG NETWORK

The Urvashi Dance Music Art & Cultural Society, in collaboration with the Tapasaya Foundation, presented the much-anticipated dance drama 'Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram' at Kamani Auditorium, a performance met with resounding applause and admiration. Directed by the eminent Kathak maestro, Dr. Rekha Mehra, this soulful production was a powerful tribute to Lord Ram's virtues and moral strength, portrayed through an artistic blend of Kathak, Chhau, and Manipuri dance forms.

The evening commenced with a full house of distinguished guests, all gathered to celebrate the grand retelling of Lord Ram's journey. Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the performance highlighted India's rich cultural heritage and the profound values embodied by 'Maryada Purushottam,' or the Ideal Man.

Dr. Rekha Mehra, reflecting on the success of the production, shared, "Bringing Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram to life on stage has been a labor of



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love and reverence for the ideals that Lord Ram embodies. Through this performance, we aimed to celebrate his virtues of courage, compassion, and integrity—qualities that transcend time and resonate deeply in our modern world. We hope that audiences got inspired not only by the art-

istry but also by the message of harmony and righteousness that Shri Ram stands for."

The production, choreographed by the acclaimed Guru Ajay Bhatt and Aamrapali Bhandari, mesmerized the audience with a vibrant portrayal of Shri Ram's life. Key features included intri-

cate costumes crafted specifically for each scene, from the celebratory yellows worn at Ram and Sita's wedding to the elaborate daasi attire in Ravan's darbar, capturing the ambiance of every pivotal moment. New props, including an eight-foot-long dhanush (bow), handmade jewelry,

and unique mukuts, further enhanced the visual spectacle. The use of white peacock feathers, golden deer headgear, and diya lighting created an immersive ambiance across the auditorium, adding a spiritual depth to the performance.

For the first time, a hydraulic stage and advanced projectors added grandeur to the show, making it a visual masterpiece that condensed the epic Ramayana into an engaging 1.5-hour journey. The performance also highlighted the inclusive mission of the Urvashi Dance Music Art & Cultural Society, featuring a talented ensemble of professional artists alongside underprivileged children trained by the Society, making the event a celebration of empowerment and social inclusion.

'Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram' brought audiences on an inspiring journey, rekindling timeless values and fostering a sense of collective pride and unity. This soul-stirring portrayal of one of India's greatest epics promises to remain a beacon of inspiration for audiences of all ages, reminding them of the enduring power of bravery, morality, and devotion in today's world.



PC: Debapriya Bhattacharya

'ETERNAL RHYTHMS': A SOLO EXHIBITION BY PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH

TDG NETWORK

Dhoomimal Art Centre is delighted to present Eternal Rhythms, a solo exhibition by emerging artist Pankaj Kumar Singh, from December 2 to December 11, 2024, at Shridharani Art Gallery, New Delhi which will continue till 25 December at Dhoomimal Art Centre, Block A, & II, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Delhi. This exhibition invites viewers to embark on a captivating journey through the cycles of nature, delving into themes of creation, transformation, and renewal. Through bold grids, rhythmic geometric patterns, and textured layers of charcoal dust, rice paper, and cloth fragments, Pankaj's work offers a meditative exploration of nature's eternal dance—an interplay of energy, form, and motion that bridges the physical and metaphysical. Evoking the Vedic concept of Brahmand—the universe in its primal state—his canvases reflect the ceaseless flux of the natural world.

"Nature is always in motion," Pankaj shares. "Even though it repeats itself, no two moments are ever truly the same. That continuous change is what I try to bring to my work. Painting allows me to connect with that energy and express it—it's how I understand the world's constant evolution." Born in rural India,



Pankaj's early encounters with the cycles of nature deeply shaped his artistic vision. After earning a degree in Fine Arts from Banaras Hindu University, he has exhibited widely across India. His art resonates with anyone who appreciates the subtle yet powerful transformations of nature.

Pankaj's style masterfully fuses abstraction and philosophy, drawing viewers into the timeless rhythms of nature with each stroke

of his brush. His vivid color palette and jagged contours transcend decorative elements, offering a profound meditation on creation and transformation. Each canvas invites viewers to pause and reflect on the beauty of renewal, reminding us that, much like nature, we too are constantly evolving. Mohit Jain, owner of Dhoomimal Art Centre, reflects on his association with Pankaj: "My first meeting with Pankaj was very short as I had outrightly rejected his

work. They seemed heavily influenced by another artist.

However, two years later, in 2009, he returned with a completely different body of work—unique, powerful, and a true expression of his vision. Some even said that his works are museum quality. Curating his first solo exhibition took time, as Pankaj is a slow and meticulous painter, but the show was a sell-out, held in 2014. It's exciting to now curate his second solo exhibition.

Delhi Comic Con 2024: A three-day pop-culture spectacle returns to enthrall fans

TDG NETWORK

Delhi Comic Con is back for its 12th edition, promising an exhilarating weekend of geekery, comics, gaming, cosplay, and entertainment from December 6-8, 2024, at NSIC Grounds, Okhla. Celebrating India's rich pop-culture fandom, this year's event, powered by Maruti Suzuki Arena and Crunchyroll, is set to be the biggest yet.

EXCITING LINEUP AND GIVEAWAYS

Visitors can look forward to exclusive perks like a No. 1 issue of Radiant Black by Image Comics, a Solo Levelling poster by Yen Press, and a commemorative Comic Con India Bag. Superfans can grab a limited-edition box set packed with collectibles, including a Marvel Dr. Doom bust and themed goodies.

SPOTLIGHT ON COMICS AND CREATORS

The event will showcase Indian publishing houses like Indaverse and Holy Cow Entertainment, along with international stars Ryan North, a New York Times bestselling author, and Eisner Award-winning artist Jason Loo. The massive comic lineup ensures fans an unparalleled literary experience.



IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES AND ATTRACTIONS

Gaming enthusiasts can dive into the NODWIN Gaming Arena, featuring VR and racing simulations, gaming tournaments, and consoles from Sony PlayStation, Android, and Lenovo Legion. Fans can also explore engaging brand activations from Yamaha Racing, Warner Bros. India, and Penguin Random House India. The event also promises a nostalgic experience with performances by the beloved M.A.D. artist Rob and fan-favorites like The Internet Said So, Ravi Gupta, and Ashish Solanki. Music lovers can groove to beats by Panther and Fotty Seven.

A PLATFORM FOR FAN-



DOM AND SHOPPING

Fans can revel in geeky shopping from brands like Nerd Arena and Red Wolf, offering exclusive toys, apparel, and accessories. With top-notch cosplay showcases and countless entertainment acts,

Comic Con creates a vibrant hub for fandom celebrations. Tickets for the event are available on Insider.in and the Comic Con India website. Don't miss the chance to experience the ultimate celebration of comics, gaming, and fandom!

Brahmar Geet by Aayam Institute: Sindhu Mishra's Artistic Tribute to Love and Devotion

TDG NETWORK

Brahmar Geet - An Ode to Lovelorn Gopikas, a stunning Bharatanatyam production by Swati Mittal, captivated audiences at the LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi, on November 30, 2024. Presented by the Aayam Institute of Performing Arts, the performance masterfully brought to life Surdas's poetic masterpiece celebrating love, devotion, and the spiritual connection between

the Gopikas and Krishna through the timeless charm of Bharatanatyam.

THE PERFORMANCE BEGAN WITH ALARIPU SET TO CHATUSRA JATI IN RAAGM NATTAI

The centerpiece of the evening was the Varnam, based on Surdas's poetry, narrating Udhav's attempts to guide the Gopikas toward Nirgun Bhakti. Through captivating storytelling, Swati Mittal skillfully con-



veyed the Gopikas' unwavering devotion and their poignant expressions of love and longing. The Varnam featured a captivating segment, "Sundar Shyam Mora" beautifully sung and composed by Hindustani vocalist Shri Nitin Sharma, bringing a moving and sentimental essence to the piece. The program also featured deeply emotive Abhinaya piece, a Padam - "Udho Mann Na Bhaye Das Bees", blending Hindustani and Carnatic music traditions.

The evening concluded with a vibrant Thillana in Ragam Madhuvanti, a rhythmic and celebratory Carnatic piece. Under the direction and choreography of Guru Smt. Sindhu Mishra, the performance was complemented by the soulful compositions of Shri Nitin Sharma, with exceptional live music by Shri G. Elangovan, Dr. Ramamurthy Kesavan, Shri G. Raghuraman, and Shri Sachin Sharma. Guru Smt. Sindhu Mishra reflected on the production:

"Brahmar Geet is more than a performance—it's a journey into the depths of love and devotion. Swati Mittal has beautifully portrayed the Gopikas' emotions, bringing Surdas's timeless poetry to life. We are grateful to connect audiences with this exquisite blend of classical dance and music." The event was a tribute to the richness of Indian classical arts, leaving the audience spellbound and deeply moved by its spiritual and emotional depth.

