

India, Indonesia Strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

New Delhi, Jul 7 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Tuesday announced an ambitious expansion of the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, unveiling a broad agenda covering defence, maritime security, healthcare, artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, education, agriculture, critical minerals, space cooperation and cultural exchanges, while declaring that bilateral relations have entered a "golden chapter" with far-reaching implications for the Indo-Pacific.

Addressing a joint press statement after wide-ranging delegation-level talks in Jakarta, Modi said the relationship between the two maritime democracies had gained fresh momentum in recent years and was now poised for a transformative phase driven by shared strategic interests and common aspirations.

"First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my friend, President Prabowo, for the



warm welcome extended to me. Last year, India had the privilege of welcoming him as the Chief Guest for our Republic Day celebrations. Today, I am delighted to be visiting Indonesia at his gracious invitation," Modi said, highlighting the growing warmth in ties between the two leaders. The Prime Minister's remarks came shortly after he received Indonesia's highest civilian honour, the Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indone-

sia (Star of the Republic of Indonesia), from President Prabowo at the Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace. Accepting the award, Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India, describing it as a tribute to the enduring friendship and shared civilisational heritage of the two nations.

"This morning, I was deeply honoured to receive Indonesia's highest civilian award with great warmth and affection. This hon-

our belongs to the millions of people of India. It reflects the goodwill of the people of Indonesia and symbolises the historic and deeply cherished ties between India and Indonesia. I sincerely thank President Prabowo, the Government of Indonesia, and the people of this country for this honour," he said.

Modi said the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, launched in 2018, had matured into a multi-dimensional relationship encom-

passing development, security, technology, education and cultural exchanges, expressing confidence that the decisions taken during the visit would usher in a new era of cooperation.

"Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, established in 2018, is now reaching new heights. We are making significant progress across every sector, including development, security, technology, culture and education. I am confident that today marks the beginning of a golden chapter in the India-Indonesia partnership. This new chapter will have a profoundly positive impact not only on the 21st-century world but on humanity as a whole," he said.

Strengthening defence and maritime cooperation emerged as a central outcome of the summit. The two countries agreed to expand defence exchanges, enhance industrial collaboration and deepen cooperation in disaster management as part of efforts to reinforce security architecture in the Indo-Pacific.

SC bars banks from blacklisting advocates



New Delhi, July 7 (UNI): The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that banks and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) cannot include advocates in the banking sector's "Caution List" merely on allegations of professional negligence, holding that such action amounts to an impermissible assessment of a lawyer's professional competence, which falls exclusively within the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Bar Councils under the Advocates Act, 1961. A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe, allowing an appeal filed by advocate Ajay Vijh, set aside the Allahabad High Court's order dismissing his writ petition and directed the immediate removal of his name from the IBA's Caution List.

The apex court held that while banks are free to discontinue the services of panel advocates if dissatisfied with their work, they cannot circulate adverse remarks regarding an advocate's alleged professional negligence through the Caution List mechanism. "The Caution List may or may not be a public document, but its circulation to all the banking institutions operates as a declaration about (in)competence, as well as the negative character of

the advocate, having serious implications on his right to practise his profession," the Justice Narasimha-led Bench observed.

It clarified that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) circulars on maintaining a Caution List are intended to deal with cases involving fraud and cannot be extended to cases of alleged negligence or erroneous legal opinions rendered by advocates in the course of their professional duties. "In the present case, where the allegation against the appellant pertains solely to negligence, the inclusion of his name in the Caution List is unsustainable," the top court said.

It further ruled that allegations of professional misconduct or negligence against advocates can only be examined by the disciplinary authorities constituted under the Advocates Act. "If the Bank is of the opinion that the appellant is guilty of professional negligence or misconduct in discharge of legal duties as an advocate, the appropriate remedy is to place the relevant material before the competent State Bar Council to take necessary action under the Advocates Act, 1961," the judgment said.

India, Rwanda boost defence ties with expanded military cooperation

New Delhi, July 7 (UNI): India and Rwanda on Tuesday agreed to deepen defence cooperation in military training, joint exercises, medical collaboration and the defence industry, further strengthening the bilateral defence partnership.

"The 2nd India-Rwanda Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting was held in New Delhi on 6-7 July 2026. Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Shri Amitabh Prasad and Brig Gen Louis Kanobayire of Rwanda co-chaired the meeting. Both sides agreed to deepen defence cooperation in military training, joint exercises, medical collaboration and the defence industry, further strengthening the India-Rwanda Defence Partnership," the Ministry of Defence wrote on X.

On Monday, the Rwandan delegation laid a wreath at



the National War Memorial in New Delhi to honour fallen brave soldiers ahead of the 2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting between India and Rwanda. "Rwanda-India Def. Co-operation: This morning, ahead of the 2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting in New Delhi, the Rwandan delegation led by Brig Gen Kanobayire Lou is started with wreath-laying at the National War Memorial to honour fallen brave soldiers," Rwanda's High Commission in India wrote

on X. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, on Monday attended the 32nd anniversary celebrations of Rwanda's Liberation Day. "Delighted to attend KWIBOHORA32, the 32nd anniversary celebrations of the Liberation Day of Rwanda. I convey our heartiest congratulations to the Government and people of Rwanda on this joyous occasion. Rwanda's socio-economic transformation over the past three decades is inspirational," MoS Margherita wrote on X.

BJP using SIR to delete up to 10,000 voters per Assembly seat: Jairam Ramesh

Bengaluru, July 7 (UNI) The Congress on Tuesday mounted a sharp attack on the BJP and the Election Commission of India over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise was being used to delete between 5,000 and 10,000 voters in every Assembly constituency ahead of the next state elections, including Karnataka.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh claimed the BJP's "real objective" behind the revision was to manipulate electoral rolls to gain an advantage in the Karnataka Assembly elections, which are due in about two years. "The BJP's objective is to ensure that 5,000 to 10,000 votes in



every Assembly constituency get deleted. We have nearly two years until the Karnataka elections and are taking all necessary organisational steps to ensure proper due diligence so that no eligible voter is removed from the electoral rolls," Ramesh said. He said the Congress had already held a digital meeting with its MLAs and senior party leaders to chalk out a strategy for monitoring the revision exercise at the constituency level. Party workers, booth-level

leaders and elected representatives had been instructed to scrutinise the process and assist genuine voters in safeguarding their names on the electoral rolls, he added.

Drawing parallels with electoral roll revisions in other states, Ramesh alleged that the BJP was attempting to replicate a similar strategy in Karnataka. "We want to ensure that what the BJP was able to achieve in Bihar is not repeated in Karnataka. Large numbers of voters were allegedly removed from electoral rolls elsewhere, affecting the electoral process. We will not allow that to happen here," he said. The senior Congress leader clarified that his party was not opposed to periodic revision of electoral rolls, describing it as a necessary democratic exercise.

Narmada dues dispute resolved: Four states sign historic one-time settlement agreement

Jaipur, July 7 (UNI) In a significant step towards strengthening cooperative federalism and resolving long-pending inter-state disputes, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday signed a historic agreement to settle outstanding payments related to the Narmada Award.

The agreement was signed in New Delhi by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in the presence of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil.



Senior officials from the Centre and the four states also attended the meeting. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said on his X handle that a historic and amicable agreement was reached today in New Delhi, chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and attended by Union Jal Shakti

Minister C.R. Patil, to resolve long-pending payment issues related to the Narmada Award among Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. He said the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the spirit of cooperative federalism have once again demonstrated that amicable solutions to

complex, long-standing issues are possible through dialogue, coordination, and firm resolve. He added that this decision will strengthen water security, infuse new energy into inter-state coordination, and ensure far-reaching benefits for farmers and public welfare.

He said Rajasthan is proud to be a partner in

this historic initiative, and this decision regarding the Sardar Sarovar Project will yield long-term benefits for farmers, particularly in Rajasthan's border districts of Jalore and Barmer, and significantly bolster the state's water security. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to PM Modi, Union Home Minister Shah, Union Jal

Shakti Minister Patil, and the chief ministers of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra for this historic initiative.

The agreement resolves the decades-old dispute over cost-sharing for the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project through a one-time settlement mechanism, bringing closure to long-pending financial claims among the beneficiary states.

Addressing the gathering, Shah described the agreement as a landmark achievement in inter-state cooperation. He said the dispute over outstanding Narmada Award payments had persisted for years but had now been resolved amicably through consensus.

Islamia Junior, Degree & PG College
WANTED LECTURERS
Applications are invited from competent candidates for the post of Lecturers in the following disciplines.
Principal, Biotech, Commerce, Microbiology, Nutrition, Chemistry, Computer Science, Maths, English & Management.
Master's Degree with minimum 55% Marks is Mandatory.
Interested candidates are required to meet principal along with Resume between 9:30 am to 1:00 pm at the college or send Resume to meetislamiacollege@gmail.com # 9347683872

ISLAMIA COLLEGE OF LAW
Affiliated to Osmania University
Approved by Bar Council of India (New Delhi)

Are you Aspiring to be an Advocate after Intermediate/Degree (Any Group) FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026
COURSE OFFERED

- **LL.B** - 3 YDC (After any Degree Course)
- **LL.B (Honours)** - 3 YDC (After any Degree Course)
- **BA-LL.B** - 5 YDC (After Intermediate)
- **BBA-LL.B** - 5 YDC (After Intermediate)

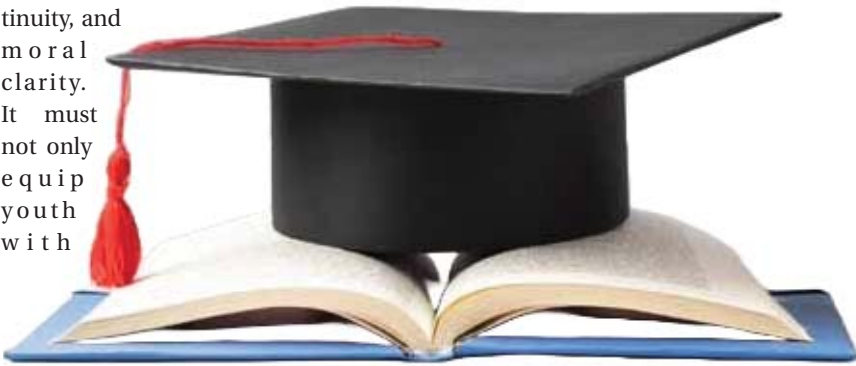
CAMPUS : ISL ENGINEERING COLLEGE
Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad - 500005.

FOR ENQUIRY CONTACT : ADMIN OFFICE AT ISLAMIA COLLEGE
SRT Colony, Yakutpura Hyderabad - 500023.
9347683872 | Timing From 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.
Email : meetislamiacollege@gmail.com | Website: www.islamiacollegeoflaw.com
BUS FACILITY AVAILABLE

Reimagining higher education

Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari

As India marches toward the centenary of its independence in 2047, the vision of Viksit Bharat a self-reliant, inclusive, and developed nation places education at the very heart of its transformation. Higher education is not merely an instrument for economic growth but a vehicle for intellectual evolution, cultural continuity, and moral clarity. It must not only equip youth with



market-ready skills but also shape them into conscious citizens, ethical leaders, and visionary thinkers. The dream of a developed India extends far beyond infrastructure or GDP — it rests on harnessing the true wealth of the nation: its people. To unlock this potential, we need a complete reimagining of the spirit, structure, and purpose of education — an ecosystem that encourages critical thinking, creativity, life skills, global perspectives, and deeply rooted human values. A nation's future is scripted in its classrooms. For a country that boasts the world's largest youth population, education is not a sector — it is the soul of its progress. It bridges the gap between aspiration and

achievement, between demographic potential and democratic excellence. As such, education must receive central focus in policy, investment, and innovation. While India's premier institutions are gaining global recognition, there remains an urgent need to universalise quality education, particularly in rural and underserved

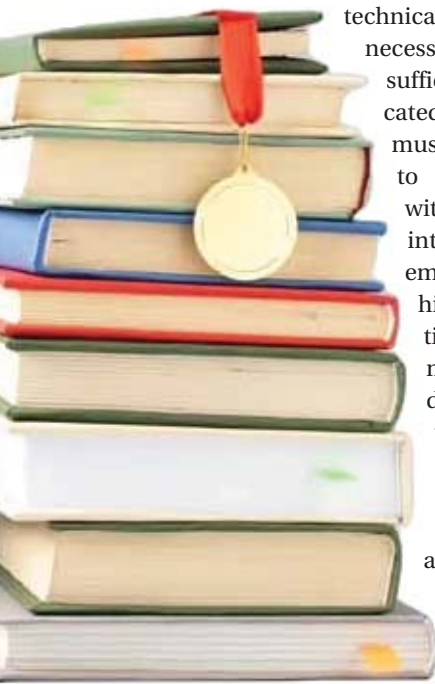
regions. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its goal to raise the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) to 50 per cent by 2035, marks a pivotal step. Yet access alone is not the destination; excellence must accompany expansion. Every learner, regardless of socioeconomic or geographic background, must have a genuine opportunity to realise their full potential. This demands a flexible and diverse academic architecture — undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that are adaptable, interdisciplinary, and outcome-oriented. The emphasis must shift from traditional, input-heavy models to a learner-centred framework focusing on real-world applicabil-

ity, innovation, and holistic development. In today's knowledge-driven world, critical thinking is not a luxury — it is a necessity. Our education system must evolve from rote memorisation to nurturing analytical minds. Students should be encouraged not only to answer questions but to question

answers. The university space must transform into a zone of inquiry, dialogue, and debate — where every discipline encourages exploration and dissent. Pedagogies must promote problem-solving, project-based learning, interdisciplinary research, and Socratic questioning. In such an environment, curiosity becomes the compass and imagination, the engine. True innovation arises when science intersects with ethics and when technology blends with aesthetics. Creativity, too, must be seen not as a niche skill, but as central to national progress. As India aspires to lead in start-ups and innovation, we must instill creative confidence in our students.

Traditional classroom

settings — characterised by one-way lectures and passive learning — are increasingly losing



relevance for Gen Z learners. Today's students are disengaged by rigid formats and static curricula. Their dwindling attention spans demand immersive, skill-based, and participatory learning methods. Modern students thrive in experiential learning ecosystems — where they learn through case studies, simulations, field visits, internships, classroom debates, and hands-on projects. They connect better when presented with real-life scenarios before abstract theories. Institutions should champion flipped classrooms, technology-enabled learning, and hybrid pedagogies to replace conventional “chalk-and-talk” models. Resources and training for educa-

tors are crucial to foster such dynamic, engaging experiences. In an era of constant disruption, technical prowess is necessary — but not sufficient. An educated individual must be equipped to navigate life with resilience, integrity, and empathy. Our higher education system must balance domain expertise with life literacy — the capacity to understand and manage one's emotions, collaborate effectively,

and act responsibly. Skills like emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, environmental stewardship, digital discipline, and financial literacy must be made integral to all curricula. These are no longer auxiliary competencies — they are foundational for individual well-being and societal harmony. One urgent area is mental health. With rising stress, anxiety, and burnout among students, institutions must foster cultures of psychological safety and mindfulness. Dedicated counselling services, well-being workshops, stress-management programs, and spaces for reflection are no longer optional — they are essential. Education must nourish not only sharp minds but also kind hearts.

Working India is sleepwalking into a crisis

Harish Bijoor

How many hours did you sleep last night? Are you feeling rested? Do you feel sleep-deprived? As I work with companies of every kind and size—the big, the small and the micro, and of the brick-and-mortar and new-age startup varieties—there is one common complaint I hear all around. The working Indian is not rested enough—not able to sleep as well as he, she or they did in the past. Something's going totally wrong. India looks, sounds and feels sleep-deprived.

Productivity at the workplace is getting impacted in the bargain. Bad sleep means bad decisions. Bad sleep means the grouchy employee at work. Imagine unleashing this employee in the space of customer complaint management, or at your hotel reception desk to check-in equally grouchy guests who have not caught enough sleep. The combination would be lethal. Just as corporate captains and business leaders are asking employees to work longer hours, not a single one is coming out to champion sleep. No leader is really coming out there and asking people to sleep more. Sleep seems to be a personal item that belongs to the employee. It is a 'home item'. You sleep as long or little as you want. I, the employer, am not concerned. Must the employer be concerned? Must the employer recruit sleep-specialists to coach employees on how to sleep better?



Must your sleep hours and your pattern of sleep be the concern of your spouse and you alone? Is sleep affecting corporate productivity? Is lack of adequate sleep affecting overall health, sexual and reproductive health in particular, and eventually relationships? And are we addressing the sleep dragon adequately? Are we even acknowledging it as an issue? Is lack of sleep the new pandemic?

The boss is asking them to stay up late and work. Working through calls is becoming a norm and employees are asked to take calls at the oddest of hours. The buzz and the light of the forever-on blue screen is killing the desire to sleep. The competitive workplace ethos is telling you subliminally that if you don't work as much as Basanti does, Basanti will go places and you will not. In the old days, when you left your place of work, work was done. In today's post-Covid age of working from home,, work follows you wherever you go—in the office and

home. There is just no difference between workspace and play-space. But when your sleep space becomes a workplace, trouble brews in your bed. Employees are saying it out quietly to their therapists. Work never stops anymore. Your mind is forever alive to the reality of the workplace. You are not able to switch off like you used to. And those who are double-income families, with husband and wife working in similar spaces, the trouble doubles. You are hard at work in office, hard at work on the commute and hard at work at home. The weekend seems to be the only time when both try to recoup lost sleep. In many cases among the younger profiles, even this is difficult. The yen to party on the weekend bites many. You work hard; you party hard. In the bargain, it's hard to sleep altogether.

The sleep data thrown up from the 3,600-size sample of employees is scary. The age groups explored are ironed out across working age seg-

ments ranging from 25 to 60. The average sleep these employees confess to have recorded daily over a one-month period is 5 hours 20 minutes against their desire for an 8-hour pattern.

A small number of them seemed to track their sleep patterns on fitness trackers (280). From this segment emerged richer data. Their awake-in-bed data is an average 20 percent of the total time in bed. The REM (rapid eye movement) period is 14 percent. Light sleep average is 49 percent. And deep sleep is all of 17 percent. You are in bed, but you are not asleep. And that's a matter of worry. You can't sleep even when in bed. What's troubling sleep? A recent exercise we undertook across a 3,600-strong sample in 12 work environments is telling. Employees are sleeping less across all verticals of work. People in sales and retail are sleeping less than anyone else. People in banking are sleeping less as well. Everyone with a work target defined for

themselves is sleeping less. Everyone who has a salary linked to a variable remuneration pattern is sleeping that much less. The biggest item that is robbing sleep is this yen to achieve. While a bulk of it is boss-driven (67 percent), the balance (33 percent) is driven by the self-motivated and motivating employee. While the boss is ruining the sleep for some, in two thirds of the cases, the individual employee is robbing himself of sleep. The workplace today is competitive. Everyone is pitted against one another. The best of corporate workplaces who pride themselves to be 'good' and 'great' places to work, have the biggest of challenges. Employees probed for reasons why sleep eludes them as much as they need or want indicate a toxic workplace to be the prime reason that is poisoning their sleep. Sleep is, therefore, a big industry ahead. Sleep therapists, sleep consultants and sleep gurus are the future of this large industry. As many working people, that many sleep deprived folks (at least 21 percent of them who are already acknowledging the fact that they are sleep challenged), Bengaluru has just joined an elite global tech club as one of the 12 cities with a tech workforce of more than 1 million people. By sheer extrapolative logic, sleep is a big industry in this city for sure. Literally, 0.21million of Bengalureans in the tech space are likely to be sleep-challenged.

India's cities drown in greed's flood

The rains of May 2025 have unleashed a merciless reckoning on India's urban giants—Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru—turning their streets into raging rivers, their homes into swamps, and their dreams into tragedies. Homes were swept away. Uprooted by rain rage, venerable trees collapsed on cars, killing people. In Bengaluru, a young boy stepped out of a bus and was sucked into a manhole by swirling waters. In Delhi, a wall collapsed and killed labourers.

On May 2, the capital was battered by over 80 mm of rain in mere hours, marking the city's wettest May since 1901. Minto Bridge, Azadpur and areas near Delhi Airport's Terminal 1 submerged, stranding commuters and damaging vehicles; a car was seen swallowed by water at Minto Road. Mumbai, hit with 104 mm of rain in a single hour at Nariman Point on May 26, saw the Mithi River—choked by encroachments—spill over, flooding Kurla and suspending Metro Line 3 services. Flooding claimed eight lives in Kurla, including 15-year-old Ayesha, whose family shop was destroyed, their livelihood washed away. Bengaluru, grappling with incessant downpours, watched its IT corridors like Whitefield drown, with an X post decrying a “tech city sinking in filth”.

Ironically, Mumbai can move billions of dollars across continents in seconds. But its billionaire residents living in multimillion-dollar condos can't move from one street to another during the monsoons. Delhi can host the G20 Summit over 3 sq km, but its residents must wade through foul water spewed from decrepit sewage systems. Bengaluru's Vrishabhawathi river is a black, toxic stream—80 percent of the city's 1,800 million litres of sewage per day is untreated. It can connect the world, but not disconnect from despair. An X post lamented, “IT parks gleam, but floods expose our shame.” Even after 75 years, over 70 percent of Indian cities don't have a proper sewage and garbage disposal system. The infamous public works departments, which look after roads and civil works, are now the public's worst demon.

These monsoon floods aren't freak phenomena, but a fierce testimony to India's ravaged rivers and choked drainage system. The country cradles over 400 waterways—from the gracious Ganga to the mighty Mahanadi—yet witnesses their wanton waste and willful destruction. A sobering 2025 study reveals 280 of 603 assessed rivers—a staggering 46 percent—are severely polluted, with a precious few like Meghalaya's magnificent Umn-got maintaining its pristine purity with protective practices. The report identified 320 toxic stretches across 275 rivers. The Ganga carries 2.9 billion litres of untreated sewage daily. Mumbai's Mithi, narrowed to half its 120-foot width by slums and highways, is a sludge-filled mockery.

India's urban sewage systems are collapsing under the weight of neglect. Delhi generates 3,800 million litres of sewage daily, but treats only 2,600 million litres, leaving the Yamuna choking on the rest. Its 2,064-km storm-water drain network covers just half the city and is not designed for its estimated 38 million citizens. Mumbai discharges 2,100 million litres, with just half of it receiving tertiary treatment. A 2025 IIT Bombay study branded Mumbai's 1860s-era drainage system a relic, unfit for 22 million people, yet Rs 1,200 crore in desilting contracts in 2024 went to shell companies, leaving 55 percent of the drains clogged. Bengaluru treats only 30 percent of its 1,800 million litres, the rest clogging drains and lakes; its 800 lakes, once flood buffers, have shrunk to 17, with 90 percent lost to real estate predators. The fatal flaw lies in mixing storm-water and sewage drains. Delhi's drains buckled this May, flooding 170 areas. Mumbai's Mithi overflowed, inundating 12,000 homes.

These tragedies echo past horrors like the July 2024 flooding of a coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajendra Nagar, where three civil service aspirants—Ananya, Rohan, and Priya—drowned in a basement, their dreams snuffed out by a burst drain. Dengue cases spiked to 12,000 in Delhi in 2025, bred in stagnant water, hitting slums the hardest, where only 5 percent have piped water.

The emotional weight is unbearable. Families have been shattered and their futures stolen, all because of systemic failure. India's race for 'progress'—new airports, highways, smart cities—has devoured its natural defences. Delhi's Yamuna Expressway, cutting through floodplains, crippled the river's ability to absorb deluges. Bengaluru's Rs 27,000-crore Peripheral Ring Road consumed 1,100 acres of lakes and green cover. Nationwide, 40 percent of wetlands have vanished since 1990, per a 2025 Wetlands International report. Chennai's Pallikaranai marsh, once 5,500 hectares, is now 600, its airport expansion blamed for 2023's \$2-billion flood losses. The Ganga's floodplain, home to 500 million, has lost 15 percent to roads and real estate. The Rs 5.6-lakh-crore river interlinking project threatens ecological ruin. Urban open spaces have shrunk 30 percent since 2000, replaced by concrete that traps rainwater and clogs drains.

Corruption is the knife in India's heart. The Namami Gange project, with Rs 32,000 crore allocated since 2014, has left 68 percent of its sewage treatment plants non-functional in 2025, per the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation squandered Rs 1,500 crore on drains desilting from 2020 to 2024, with 60 percent of contracts going to ghost firms. Delhi's Rs 3,000-crore 2041 sewerage plans are stalled, some of the funds siphoned through fake tenders. Bengaluru's Rs 1,200-crore AMRUT scheme achieved just 20 percent of its sewage treatment target by 2025, with locals alleging kick-backs. In contrast, global cities offer a lifeline. Tokyo's underground reservoirs and permeable pavements absorb 50 percent of its 1,500-mm annual rainfall, preventing floods. New York's 10,600-km drainage network is monitored real-time and handles 5,000 million litres of wastewater. Singapore's ABC Waters programme uses green roofs and bio-swales, while Germany processes 99 percent of municipal waste into energy, compared to India's 12 million tonnes treated out of 62 million tonnes. Japan's 70 percent recycling rate, driven by segregation, shames India's 80 percent landfill reliance. Indore's waste management model and Meghalaya's Umn-got conservation show India can change. But it demands rage and resolve. India must immediately implement intelligent interventions: enforce river reserve zones to rescue waterways; construct separate storm and sewage systems, upgrade Delhi's decrepit drains and halt harmful wetland destruction for fancy and expensive infra projects if people can't even enjoy their utility. Ambitious projects need aggressive public oversight. Adopt Singapore's superior pavements and Japan's judicious waste segregation. River reserve zones must be protected to save Mithi and its sisters.

Halt wetland reclamation for airports and highways; restore Chennai's Pallikaranai marsh; enforce public oversight for projects like Namami Gange; jail corrupt contractors and their political-bureaucratic enablers. Empower communities with apps like Mumbai's Freshwater Watch. The Yamuna mourns Delhi's five fallen souls, the Mithi laments Ayesha's death, the Vrishabhawathi chokes under corporate callousness. The rains will return with renewed rage, but they must not bring relentless ruin. The time for tokenism has terminated. Now, only transformative action can turn this tide of tragedy and treason and save the soul of the nation. Climate change has further intensified the crisis by making rainfall more erratic and extreme. Cities that once received moderate showers are now experiencing cloudburst-like events within a few hours, overwhelming drainage systems designed decades ago. Scientific studies have consistently warned that rising temperatures increased the atmosphere's capacity to hold moisture, resulting in heavier downpours. Unless urban planning incorporates climate resilience through updated drainage standards, flood-resilient infrastructure and early warning systems, such disasters will become an annual reality rather than an exception. The solution lies in adopting a long-term vision that treats rivers, lakes, wetlands and stormwater channels as essential urban infrastructure rather than obstacles to development. Governments, urban planners, engineers, environmental experts and citizens must work together to restore natural drainage networks, enforce strict building regulations and ensure complete transparency in civic projects. Every rupee spent on prevention and ecological restoration will save many more in disaster recovery. India's cities can become models of resilience, but only if governance shifts from reactive crisis management to proactive, science-based urban planning.

TDB Backs Meta Tattva's Indigenous Multi-Spectral Camouflage Facility for Defence

36 Cr project to commercialize IIT Kanpur-patented cloaking tech; boosts India's self-reliance in battlefield concealment and counter-surveillance systems

New Delhi, July 7 (GNS): The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has extended financial assistance to M/s Meta Tattva Systems Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, for the establishment of an Industrial Meta Tattva Facility to fabricate Multi-Spectral Camouflage (MSC) Materials and Shelters for strategic defence applications.

The primary objective of the project is to commercialize the Metamaterial Surface Cloaking System (MSCS)—a critical technological advancement aimed at masking vital defence assets such as tanks, aircraft, and mobile command posts from detection across visual, ultraviolet (UV), and infrared (IR) spectrums. The system significantly reduces the visibility of assets to sensors and surveillance platforms, offering a transformative advantage in battlefield concealment. The MSCS is based on a pat-



The presence of a senior civil servant, senior scientist, and decorated veterans from all three arms of India's defence forces—Army, Navy, and Air Force—at the signing ceremony highlighted the project's strategic significance and its alignment with national priorities. This confluence of expertise from governance, science, and defence exemplifies how cross-sectoral collaboration can drive indigenous innovation. The promoter of the company, an Air Vice Marshal (Retd.), brings decades of operational flying experience and a deep understanding of defence requirements, further reinforcing the project's credibility and mission-oriented relevance.

ented technology developed by IIT Kanpur and will be entirely processed in-house at the new facility supported by TDB. Its sandwiched structural design imparts high tensile and shear strength while also being water and fire-

resistant. The materials are lightweight and rapidly deployable, making them suitable for applications like Rapid Erect Sun Shelters (RESS) for quick field deployment. What sets Meta Tattva's solution apart is its tailor-made

MSCS suite, which provides asset-specific masking and meets the stringent MIL PRF standards. The camouflage system has been field-tested and validated by various end users in the defence domain, including the Indian Air

Force Headquarters, which has acknowledged successful trials and approved the procurement of the product for operational use. Given the secretive and sensitive nature of multi-spectral camouflage technologies, such solutions

are extremely hard to import. Meta Tattva's initiative addresses this strategic void by offering an SQR-compliant, indigenous alternative that enhances India's self-reliance in counter-surveillance technologies. The company also

holds a Sales & Marketing Agreement with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), ensuring seamless market access within the defence supply chain.

The presence of a senior civil servant, senior scientist, and decorated veterans from all three arms of India's defence forces—Army, Navy, and Air Force—at the signing ceremony highlighted the project's strategic significance and its alignment with national priorities. This confluence of expertise from governance, science, and defence exemplifies how cross-sectoral collaboration can drive indigenous innovation. The promoter of the company, an Air Vice Marshal (Retd.), brings decades of operational flying experience and a deep understanding of defence requirements, further reinforcing the project's credibility and mission-oriented relevance.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Pathak,

Secretary, TDB, remarked:

India's strategic strength lies not just in advanced weaponry, but also in how effectively we can conceal and protect our critical assets. TDB is proud to support Meta Tattva's breakthrough in metamaterial camouflage—a solution that elevates both our technological edge and national security posture. This initiative is a stellar example of translating deep-tech academic research into mission-critical defence innovation." Thanking on the support, Air Vice Marshal Praveen Bhatt (Retd.), Founder & CEO, M/s Meta Tattva Systems Pvt. Ltd. said: "With TDB's vital support, we are transforming a cutting-edge concept into an industrial reality. Our focus is on delivering world-class, combat-ready, and fully indigenous multi-spectral camouflage systems that empower the Indian Armed Forces and allied partners with decisive operational advantages."

India offers to conduct Joint Feasibility Study to operationalise Northern Sea Route (NSR) with Norway

New Delhi, July 7 (GNS): Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal held bilateral meetings to explore possibilities of cooperation between India and Norway in multiple areas to further deepen the maritime relationship between the two countries. The Minister held meetings with Norway's Transport Minister Jon-Ivar Nygård as well as with Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy, Marianne Sivertsen Næss, and Union Minister Shri Sonowal dwelled upon possibilities and opportunities in Ship Recycling, Seafarer's Training, Sustainable Fisheries and Ocean Management, Ocean Renewable Energy, and Offshore Hydrocarbons.



parties also agreed to deepen cooperation and exchange experiences on ferry system electrification, drawing inspiration from Norway's successful implementation of the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, India is advancing port infrastructure, green shipping, shipbuilding, and digitalisation under 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and 'Maritime Amrit Kaal

Vision 2047'. India is on a bold mission to transform its ports into global investment hubs, leveraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Green Energy integration. Our ports are not just gateways to trade—they are becoming catalysts of clean energy transitions, supporting offshore wind, green hydrogen, and low-carbon logistics."

Building on the Green Coastal Shipping Programme and Green Voyage 2050, India and Norway discussed deeper collaboration

in green maritime technologies. Both sides explored joint efforts in smart logistics, digital port ecosystems, and clean coastal shipping. India's MAITRI initiative and Norway's expertise in AI-driven port management, digital twins, and alternative fuels like LNG, hydrogen, and electric propulsion offer strong synergies to advance a sustainable Blue Economy.

Highlighting on the Indo Norway initiative in this regard, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal added, "We are also working in a big way

on Green Shipping, Green Tug Transition, e-Methanol Bunkering, and hydrogen-powered vessels. India and Norway can continue this partnership and manufacture electric ferries and vessels for the emerging global demand in this sector. India is keen to partner with Norway for best practices in electrification of ferry system to optimise our rich and vast inland waterways. This will further our common goal of decarbonised and efficient transport system for smooth passage of

cargo and passengers." During the bilateral meeting with Norway's Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy, Marianne Sivertsen Næss, and Union Minister Shri Sonowal dwelled upon possibilities and opportunities in Ship Recycling, Seafarer's Training, Sustainable Fisheries and Ocean Management, Ocean Renewable Energy, and Offshore Hydrocarbons.

Both the leaders underlined the longstanding cooperation between the two countries as a reflection of shared values, mutual respect and an unwavering commitment to sustainable development. Expressing the special relationship that India and Norway shares, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Norway has been a valued partner for India in the maritime domain and beyond. Our long-standing cooperation reflects shared values, mutual respect and a strong commitment to sustainable development.

Green Revolution Freed Us from the Need to Consume Poor-Quality Grains – Shivraj Singh Chouhan



New Delhi, July 7 (GNS):The 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' has successfully reached its halfway mark, engaging with millions of farmers across the country. On the 8th day of the campaign, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, held an interaction with the farmers in Punjab. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Agriculture Minister, Govt of Punjab, Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, along with several scientists and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Chouhan emphasized that the campaign aims to bridge the gap between agricultural research and the farming community by translating scientific knowledge from "lab to land." As part of this initiative, agricultural scientists visit villages with prior knowledge of local conditions and engage with farmers accordingly, offering customized guidance on improving productivity based on soil nutrients, climate, and appropriate crop varieties. Farmers are also educated about pest control and proper use of agrochemicals. The information gathered during these interactions is being used to steer research in directions that meet the actual needs of the field.

Highlighting his personal involvement, the Minister shared that he drove a tractor in the fields to better understand the practical challenges faced by farmers. He reiterated that future agricultural policies would be formulated based

on the grassroots-level data collected during this campaign.

Paying tribute to the contribution of Punjab's farmers, Shri Chouhan said that Punjab has long served as the food bowl of India. He recalled the days when India had to depend on low-quality wheat imports under the PL-480 agreement and credited the Green Revolution for ending this dependency. He lauded the spirit and dedication of Punjab's farmers, commending their invaluable efforts and congratulating them for their role in the nation's agricultural progress. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the record-high wheat production achieved this year and noted similar achievements in rice, maize, groundnut, soybean, pulses, and oilseeds. He emphasized that India is now self-reliant in food grain production and continues to make significant strides in agricultural productivity.

Discussing modern techniques, Shri Chouhan underlined the benefits of direct seeding of paddy (DSR) as a water- and cost-efficient alternative to traditional transplanting methods. He shared farmers' feedback that the yield remains consistent while significantly reducing labour and input costs. The Minister also stressed the importance of balanced pesticide use, noting that excessive application not only raises costs but also adversely affects crop quality. He remarked that Punjab's fertile land is suitable for a wide variety of crops, including horticulture, and there is immense potential for producing export-quality fruits and vegetables.

Next generation must be guided in achieving Net Zero 2070 and Sustainable Development Goals - Dharmendra Pradhan

New Delhi, July 7 (GNS):Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, today launched Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 in New Delhi. He also launched Special Modules for this initiative, including Eco Clubs for the Mission LiFE Web Portal and a Microsite for Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0. Minister of State for Education and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar; Education Minister, Government of NCT of Delhi, Shri Ashish Sood; Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Director, NCERT, Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani; and other dignitaries were also present at the event.



about environmental protection, ensuring their greater participation in addressing environmental challenges. He noted the efforts of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, under NEP 2020, to mainstream environmental education. "Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE" in schools will sensitize students to concerns related to the environment and climate

change while fostering environmentally friendly behaviour and values in them, he added. Pradhan also stated that, compared to the world, India has never been a polluting nation. Indian civilization considers the entire world as one family, he said. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his resolve to achieve the target of Net Zero for India by 2070, with

2047 being an important milestone. In this great endeavour of environmental protection, everyone should play their role, he said.

The Minister noted how, in the last year, educational institutions had planted more than 5 crore trees across the country. This time, the target is to plant 10 crore trees nationwide, and more momentum must be given to the Ek Ped Maa

Ke Naam 2.0 campaign to make it a mass movement, he mentioned. Pradhan also said that the next generation must be guided in this direction to achieve the Net Zero 2070 goal and the Sustainable Development Goals. He urged everyone to fulfil their responsibility towards nature by planting a tree in the name of their mother and uploading a selfie with it on the dedicated portal: <http://ecoclubs.education.gov.in>.

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar in his speech highlighted how the Indian knowledge system, as opposed to the Western thoughts of winning over nature, has emphasised staying in harmony with the elements of nature, like a child to a caring mother. As India walks confidently on the path of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047, our ecological conscience must remain at the heart of this journey, he added. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for implementing NEP 2020, in which

the message of developing a 'Pro-Planet Person' has been propagated through experiential learning and real-world application of knowledge. Dr. Majumdar also expressed his gratitude to Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for providing the vision of Education for Sustainable Development.

Ashish Sood in his speech mentioned how World Environment Day presents a greater significance, going beyond just celebration and presenting both challenges and opportunities at the same time. The challenge, he said, is to control the rising temperature in order to fulfil the dreams of the next generation along with the Earth, and the opportunity is to address it by changing our lifestyles. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for initiating the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign last year and said that this is not just a campaign for tree plantation but a training module towards emotions, science,

