

PM Modi urges Putin to move from 'Endless War' to 'End of War'

New Delhi, Aug 31 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday delivered a pointed peace message to Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying the world must move from "endless war" to the "end of war" for the benefit of humanity, as the two leaders met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek.

"We must move away from endless war towards an end to the war," Modi told Putin, reiterating India's support for efforts to bring peace to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Interestingly, four years back as well, Modi had famously told Putin, "Today's era is not an era of war".

The Bishkek meeting also comes ahead of the BRICS Summit, giving Modi and Putin an opportunity to re-



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view the trajectory of their longstanding partnership amid a rapidly shifting global geopolitical land-

scape. The two leaders also discussed the India-Russia strategic partnership and bilateral cooperation. Putin expressed gratitude to Modi for his personal attention to the relationship and acknowledged New Delhi's efforts to maintain momentum in bilateral ties.

Modi also invited Putin to attend the upcoming BRICS Summit in New Delhi, saying India looked forward to welcoming the Russian President and that his visit would further strengthen the India-Russia relationship. Russia remains a key partner for India in strategic, defence and energy sectors, even as New Delhi has sought to maintain its independent position on the Ukraine conflict and repeatedly called for its resolution through dialogue and diplomacy.

CM Revanth Reddy Calls Statewide Protests, Demands KCR's Resignation

Hyderabad, Aug 31 (Patriotic Views): Calling for an unprecedented agitation against Leader of the Opposition, BRS president K Chandrasekhara Rao, chief minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday launched a direct political offensive against KCR, urging Congress cadres to stage statewide protests demanding his resignation for allegedly staying away from public life and assembly proceedings for the past 1,000 days.

Addressing a public meeting in Amberpet after inaugurating the Moosarambagh high-level bridge, Revanth said Congress workers, particularly youth, should organise protests and two-wheeler rallies at mandal and district headquarters from Sept 1 to 6. The programme will culminate in a massive protest at Dharana Chowk near Indira Park on Sept 6, a day before the commencement of the assembly's monsoon session.

Describing it as a first-of-its-kind protest against the failure of an opposition leader rather than a govt, Revanth accused KCR of drawing



public money without discharging his responsibilities as LoP. "KCR has drawn over Rs 1.24 crore towards his salary and the govt has spent another Rs 21 crore towards his security, bullet-proof vehicles, among others, i.e. in all over Rs 22.24 crore on the LoP in the last 1,000 days of the Congress govt. But KCR has neither participated in a debate in the assembly nor has given a single day for the cause of women, farmers, the poor, SCs, STs

and other sections. However, he has been visiting the sick party leaders in the hospitals and attending memorial meetings of departed relatives and party leaders," Revanth said.

Revanth challenged KCR to attend the upcoming assembly session and debate the performance of the Congress govt against the previous BRS regime's 10-year record. "This is a unique situation. Only in Telangana, a Leader of Opposition has failed. I have never misused my power unlike KCR who gave top posts in the govt to his family members and relatives, whereas I rendered social justice by giving cabinet berths and top party positions to SCs, STs, BCs, women and minorities," he claimed. "If KCR truly intends to do justice to Telangana and has any faith, he must attend the assembly session. If a govt employee fails to report for duty for a year, he or she is dismissed. Is there any other opposition leader in the country who has stayed away from the people for 1,000 days? KCR should resign immediately.

SC refuses to ban CJP's protest march in Delhi on September 5

New Delhi, Aug 31 (GNS) The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass orders on a plea seeking to prohibit the Cockroach Janta Party's September 5 protest march, saying it expected everybody will act in a very responsible manner.

"At least as of now, we will presume and we have no reason to doubt that everybody will act and behave in a very responsible manner and in a peaceful and lawful manner. So, right now for us there are no compelling circumstances to presume that anything wrong will happen," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said. The top court's comments came after advocate Rizwan Ahmad submitted on behalf of the applicant -- retired Delhi Police offi-



cer Rajendra Singh -- that there could be law and order issues during the CJP protest.

Despite repeated requests by Ahmed to list the matter for hearing on September 3, the Bench refused to list the matter before September 5, the date of the march from India Gate to the Delhi Police Headquarters, even as it issued notice to the Cen-

tre and the Delhi Police on the plea. "Let the matter be listed along with pending petitions. To be heard on September 10," said the Bench, which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana.

Maintaining that law and order was within the domain of the police, the Bench asked the petitioner to raise his concerns before the Centre and the police.

Ahmed told the Bench that the protest organisers had not sought permission for the September 5 march from police authorities. Noting that the BRICS Summit was scheduled to take place here next week, he expressed concerns about a protest march being held when the international media would be around.

MPLB announces nationwide campaign against UCC from September 17

New Delhi, Aug 31 (GNS) The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIM-PLB) has announced a nationwide campaign against the Centre's "one nation, one law" approach as the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) gains ground in several states.

The board will launch 'Bharat Bachao, Sharia Bachao Abhiyan' on September 17, turning its opposition to UCC into a coordinated national mobilisation. The announcement was made at a press conference in Press Club, where board members said the campaign would remain peaceful.

The move comes amid another contentious issue involving 'Vande Mataram'. The board's opposition has



intensified following the move to make the singing of all six stanzas of the national song, along with standing to attention while it is being sung, a legal requirement.

According to the board, the campaign will focus on protecting religious practices and Sharia laws, and bringing members of the Muslim community together around the issue. It plans to take the campaign beyond public statements

by organising meetings, seminars, conferences of intellectuals and rallies in major cities. The board also said peaceful protest marches could be organised wherever necessary, with the stated aim of conveying its position to the government. The announcement places UCC at the centre of a wider political and social debate over religious freedom and the nature of a common legal framework for citizens.

MHA warns against fake porn apps that can steal OTPs, PINs

New Delhi, Aug 31 (GNS) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday issued an advisory warning about a rise in financial frauds involving malicious Android applications disguised as pornography apps and promoted through advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

The National Cyber-crime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU), under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), issued the advisory on August 26, warning users about fake apps named 'Night Play', 'Reloop', 'Kys', 'Vimo', 'Rivo', 'Nexo' and 'Vixa'. According to the advisory, the apps are advertised on Meta's platforms and redirect users to phishing web-

sites, mainly on "live" domains. Users are then prompted to download and install an Android Package Kit (APK) file from outside the Google Play Store.

The malware follows a six-stage process. After installation, it downloads a second package disguised as an app update and seeks accessibility permissions. These permissions can allow the malware to read the screen, click buttons, enter one-time passwords (OTPs) and PINs and initiate fund transfers. Some variants also install a virtual private network (VPN) to route the victim's Internet traffic through attacker-controlled servers. The apps may also resist normal attempts at uninstallation.

Bihar, Jharkhand settle Son River water dispute after 26 years

New Delhi, Aug 31 (GNS) Bihar and Jharkhand Monday signed a water-sharing agreement for Sone river, resolving a 25-year-old dispute over sharing of water between the two states. The agreement, signed here in the presence of union home minister Amit Shah and CMs of Bihar and Jharkhand Samrat Choudhary and Hemant Soren respectively will provide irrigation water to millions of farmers across vast rural areas of the states, while also ensuring access to drinking water for the people in both the states. Shah said the agreement is an excellent example of the 'Team Bharat' vision and cooperative federalism championed by PM Modi. "While all states possess their own distinct identities, if they move forward



as 'Team Bharat' within the national context, there is no problem which cannot be resolved," he said after the signing of the agreement.

He said that issues concerning vast geographical areas, farmers, rural regions, and drinking water supplies in both states have been "permanently resolved" with the agreement. Sharing details, the home minister said the agreement would ensure the

availability of adequate water for drinking and irrigation to a large population across the districts of Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya, and Patna in Bihar. "Moreover, water would become available for irrigation and drinking purposes in Palamu, Garhwa, and other regions of Jharkhand," he said. Though an agreement was reached among Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh

and undivided Bihar on the water sharing of Sone river and the cost of Bansagar dam in Madhya Pradesh in 1973, a dispute started in 2000 when Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar as a new state and it demanded a bigger share of water in Bansagar project as a large chunk of the catchment area came under it. Bihar, on the other hand, cited the 1973 agreement to claim water from the project.

'Greatly Distorted Picture' of India's economy: Congress dig at govt over GDP growth

New Delhi, Aug 31 (GNS) The Congress today said that the 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the April-June quarter is "not an economic spring" and claimed it presents a "Greatly Distorted Picture" of the state of India's economy as it doesn't convey the "depressed" investment sentiment.

The opposition party also questioned why, if India has truly "bloomed", it is not translating into jobs and prosperity for its people.

India's economy grew at a faster-than-expected 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter, according to government data released on Monday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking a dig at those questioning the



state of the Indian economy, saying "doomsayers were doomed and India bloomed yet again".

Hitting back at Modi, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said this is a case of "premature celebration" by the prime minister, as consumer confidence is "sluggish", household savings rates have fallen and debt has reached a "record

high". "The quarterly GDP numbers, such as they are reported, present a GDP - Greatly Distorted Picture - of the economy.

"They do not convey the decidedly depressed private investment sentiment in the economy - both domestic and foreign," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Consumer confidence is very sluggish, hitting

its lowest point since COVID and on a relentless downward trajectory since November 2025. Prices of household essentials are galloping. Educated unemployment is at alarming levels. The unabated trade deficit with China is wreaking havoc. "The capture of key sectors by a couple of big conglomerates deliberately encouraged by the PM is having deleterious effects. The wealth of India's 5 richest families has grown by 400% while the real wages of salaried workers have fallen. Household savings rates have fallen and debt has reached record highs," the Congress leader claimed in his post.

The Court chose caution over courage

SANJAY HEGDE

Educate, organise, agitate Dr Ambedkar's slogan was not a call to violence. It was a democratic instruction manual. Learn enough to see injustice, organise enough to resist it, and agitate enough to force the State to listen. If those words were spoken today, in a charged political moment, one shudders to think how they would be read through the lens of the UAPA. "Organise" would be recast as conspiracy. "Agitate" would be described as mobilisation. And the speaker, if sufficiently persuasive, might well be labelled an ideological driver of unrest and told that bail must wait.

That is why the Supreme Court's judgment on bail in the Delhi riots conspiracy case matters far beyond the fate of any Umar Khalid or Sharjeel Imam. It speaks to what kind of dissent Indian democracy is prepared to tolerate, and at what cost. We must acknowledge that the majority of the applicants have, at long last, been granted bail. Some liberty for some, after years of incarceration, is better than none. We should also note that for Umar and Sharjeel, the Court has permitted renewal of bail applications after a year. In a legal landscape where time often loses all meaning, even a calendar entry counts as hope.

And yet, the refusal of bail to Umar and Sharjeel casts a long and troubling



shadow over the judgment as a whole. The Court begins by acknowledging what cannot seriously be denied: prolonged incarceration engages Article 21, and pre-trial detention cannot become punishment. Five years in prison without the commencement of trial is no trivial matter. But having acknowledged this, the Court steadily empties it of consequence. Delay, we are told, "does not operate as a trump card." It is merely a "trigger for heightened judicial scrutiny." In other words, five years without trial is not a constitutional failure; it is an administrative inconvenience that invites careful thought, not release.

This move sets the tone for everything that follows. Section 43D(5) of the UAPA looms large, as it always does. The Court reiterates that at the bail stage, it must only see whether the accusation is "prima facie true." This

inquiry, we are reminded, is about statutory plausibility, not evidentiary sufficiency. Evidence is not weighed. Defences are not examined. The prosecution case must be taken at its highest. This framework, inherited from the Watali judgment (2019), ensures that the chargesheet becomes both the accusation and its own justification.

Within this structure, the Court introduces what it considers a necessary distinction: the difference between peripheral participants and "prime conspirators." Umar and Sharjeel are placed firmly in the latter category. They are described as central figures, ideological drivers, conceptualisers of protest strategy. This, according to the Court, warrants greater caution. Where an accused occupies a central role, constitutional intervention must be restrained.

This distinction is the

judgment's most consequential and dangerous move. There is no allegation that either Umar or Sharjeel committed a violent act. There is no claim that they were present at any site of violence. The material against them consists largely of speeches, meetings, pamphlets and protest-related communication. Yet these are treated as markers of conspiratorial centrality. Speech becomes structure. Influence becomes intent. Visibility becomes culpability. Once this logic is accepted, bail becomes a reward for irrelevance. Those who are marginal may go free. Those who speak effectively, organise widely and articulate dissent coherently are told that their prominence counts against them. The more seriously the State takes your ideas, the less seriously the Court takes your liberty.

The judgment insists that it is not conducting a

mini-trial. But it uncritically adopts the prosecution's hierarchy of roles. Labels such as "mastermind" and "architect" are accepted as neutral descriptors rather than contested conclusions. No meaningful inquiry is made into whether ideological articulation or protest coordination, without a proximate link to violence, can satisfy the statutory ingredients of a terrorist offence.

This is where the judgment's philosophy becomes explicit. In a passage that will be cited often by lower courts, the SC observes: "The Constitution guarantees personal liberty, but it does not conceive liberty as an isolated or absolute entitlement, detached from the security of the society in which it operates..." Where a special statutory framework has been enacted to address offences perceived to strike at these foundations, courts are duty-bound to give effect to that framework." This is the language of exception, calmly spoken. Liberty is no longer the baseline from which the State must justify departure. It is a conditional interest, always secondary to an asserted threat.

This brings us to Cicero's bleak maxim that in times of war the law falls silent. The judgment does not say we are at war. It does something subtler. It assumes that when security is invoked, the law must speak in a different voice.

When rules are bent, the world splits

ON January 3, as the United States seized a sitting President and began speaking of "running" a country, the world saw more than a dramatic operation. It sensed a message about how power now speaks. Disregard for sovereignty is not new. Ukraine has shown how force can be claimed as entitlement. Gaza has shown how necessity becomes the justification for collapsing restraint. Venezuela now feels like a more direct assertion of power: a leader can be seized, and the aftermath managed through shifting rationales. "Narco-terrorism" reframes military intervention as international policing. "Transnational crime" recasts the use of force as a cross-border arrest. Oil provides the strategic subtext, quietly shaping priorities beneath the surface. The "Trump corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine reintroduces spheres of influence as doctrine, sold as national security common sense. Terms like "illegitimacy" and "democracy" add a moral veneer. Democracy sells outward; illegitimacy licenses inward.

Even migration is folded in, turning foreign policy into campaign messaging about border control. Each rationale speaks to a different constituency: military, moral, economic, political. Together they converge on one claim: Washington chooses when rules apply, and to whom. What has changed is that the old narrative of a broadly consensual order is harder to sustain when the exception is asserted so openly. What makes this moment disconcerting is the portability of precedent. Once such actions are normalised, they stop being news and start becoming a tool. Precedent outlives the target. It travels further than intent, and it gives other powers a script they can borrow under different flags and in different theatres. There is also a practical warning that many in the Global South remember with painful clarity. Regime change does not reliably yield democracy or peace. Libya remains the clearest exhibit. Remove the centre, fracture institutions, splinter the security sector, and the vacuum fills with militias, revenge and foreign patrons. Outsiders can topple a ruler. They rarely build legitimacy. That is why many capitals, even those with no affection for Nicolás Maduro, judge this episode less by who was removed than by how removal was undertaken.

The global response is coalescing into three camps, not along ideological lines, but according to the language each state chooses to describe the episode. First, there are the norms-first states. They read the episode through international law and the UN Charter's core restraint on the use of force. They speak in the language of sovereignty, restraint and precedent. Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Uruguay, South Africa, Malaysia and Singapore fall into this camp, along with the African Union representing its 55 members. Their argument is structural and anticipatory: if forceful capture becomes routine and restraint becomes optional, any power with a plausible pretext will claim the same licence. Precedent is contagious. China and Russia, too, have adopted a norms-first register, condemning the seizure and demanding Maduro's release. Their motives aside, their consistency will be tested. The second group includes the hedged-norms states. These countries express unease without full confrontation. They speak in the language of concern, dialogue, de-escalation, and protection of civilians. India sits here, alongside Indonesia, Türkiye, Vietnam and the Philippines. Japan and South Korea also belong to this group, emphasising political resolution rather than endorsing the method. Most of Europe fits here too. Its position is cautious: Maduro lacks legitimacy, but that does not license procedural collapse. The fear is broader than Venezuela. If sovereignty becomes conditional, exceptions become templates and the logic will reappear elsewhere.

The third group signals what might be called exceptions-implied states. They treat the outcome as justification in itself, using the language of freedom, justice and anti-crime while bypassing the legality of the method. Argentina and Ecuador illustrate this posture, as does the incoming Chilean leadership. Italy has also leaned in this direction, framing the US action as legitimate and defensive, aligning more with exceptions' logic than with Europe's cautious consensus. The claim is not that rules do not matter, only that the target does not qualify for protection under them. Once "narco" becomes the solvent that dissolves sovereignty in one case, it begins to travel. Labels are sticky. They do not stay contained. India's position warrants a more thoughtful reading than it usually receives in Western commentary. Hedging is not evasiveness; it is risk management by a state shaped by experience, where moral theatre rarely stabilises real crises. India has no interest in defending Maduro, but it has every reason to resist a precedent that weakens sovereignty as a general norm. Its calibrated language reflects a balancing act: registering concern without gratuitously alienating Washington, avoiding entanglement in someone else's script and protecting wider interests in a volatile world. This is not indecision. It is strategic autonomy as practice, not posture.

For India, there is also an opportunity. It can help define the boundary between legitimate concern and procedural collapse. It can defend sovereignty without defending strongmen, and uphold accountability without endorsing impunity. That means working with norms-first states to raise the diplomatic cost of shortcuts, and with hedged-norms states to keep restraint credible without turning every crisis into spectacle. The UN Charter's promise is not moral perfection. It provides predictability that power will be fenced in by procedure. Precedents travel faster than armies. Today's exception becomes tomorrow's tool. The real damage will not be measured in Caracas, but in the permission slip we let power write. Once bent, rules are borrowed everywhere. The deeper question, therefore, is not whether Nicolás Maduro was a legitimate leader or whether Venezuela deserved stronger international pressure. Those questions can be debated separately. The more consequential issue is whether the international system can distinguish between a government that violates democratic norms and a situation that legally permits another state to use force. If those two questions are merged, political legitimacy becomes a substitute for international law. That would make the protection of sovereignty dependent not on rules, but on the preferences and power of those capable of enforcing them.

For countries in the Global South, this distinction carries particular weight. Many have experienced colonial intervention, externally imposed governments and security policies designed elsewhere. Their instinctive concern is not necessarily sympathy for every government accused of repression or corruption. It is the recognition that a system in which powerful states determine which governments are legitimate enough to survive can quickly become hierarchical. The language may change from colonialism to counterterrorism, from intervention to enforcement, but the underlying imbalance of power can remain remarkably familiar. There is also an economic dimension that cannot be separated from the strategic one. Venezuela possesses some of the world's largest oil reserves, making its political stability consequential far beyond its borders. When military power, political transition and access to strategic resources appear in the same equation, skepticism becomes inevitable. Even if economic interests were not the primary motive, their presence affects how the action is perceived. International legitimacy depends not only on the stated justification but also on whether the wider conduct appears consistent with that justification.

The episode should also force middle powers to reconsider how they preserve strategic autonomy in an increasingly fragmented world. Countries such as India cannot afford a foreign policy built entirely around choosing sides between competing power centres. They need room to disagree with Washington without becoming aligned with Beijing or Moscow, and to cooperate with Western countries without accepting every Western interpretation of international order. That requires patient diplomacy, clear principles and the willingness to defend procedural norms even when doing so is politically inconvenient. Ultimately, the Venezuela episode may become important less for what it immediately changes inside Venezuela than for what it teaches other governments about the limits of restraint. International order survives through habits as much as treaties. When powerful states repeatedly demonstrate that legal constraints can be overridden by sufficiently persuasive political narratives, other states learn the lesson. The danger is not simply another intervention; it is a gradual transformation in the meaning of sovereignty itself. The world therefore needs accountability that is credible, pressure that is lawful and diplomacy that leaves space for political solutions. Without those safeguards, every exception risks becoming an invitation for the next one.

VB – G RAM G: From Entitlement to Empowerment

RANBIR SINGH PATHANIA

Change is as spontaneous as the flow of water. In public policy, stagnation is often the ugliest choice of all. Laws and policies are not relics to be preserved in a steel frame; they are living instruments meant to respond to evolving realities and exigencies. For nearly two decades, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has enjoyed cult status in India's welfare politics. Question its design or efficacy, and one risks political outrage replacing reasoned analysis. Yet policies must evolve-nostalgia cannot dictate governance.

The replacement of MGNREGA with G Ram G reflects both sentiment and gospel-an effort to make rural employment policy more comprehensive in scope, more inclusive in reach, and more beneficial in outcome. Far from being an abandonment of social commitment, the new legislation represents a considered recalibration, designed to align welfare with productivity, flexibility with dignity, and entitlement with long-term rural development-refurbishing employment while building infrastructure in priority sectors. The Viksit Bharat Jeevan Rojgar Act heralds this prominent pivot, shifting from MGNREGA's entitlement-based model to empowerment-led growth. The melodrama built on half-baked truths,



selective realities, and performative outrage reveals more about the stasis of the political bandwagon than about the law's flaws-if not an obsession to dispute and decry anything and everything, opposition merely for the sake of opposition.

MGNREGA's Core Flaws Launched amid acute rural distress, MGNREGA was designed primarily for consumption smoothing, not wealth creation or durable infrastructure building. Three major flaws now stand exposed:

– The rigid cap of 100 days of employment has proven inadequate for landless and seasonal workers, especially amid climate shocks-an outdated and stagnant limitation. – The narrow definition of permissible activities, largely low-productivity in nature, failed to create lasting assets or meaningful economic gains. The CAG has repeatedly observed 40-50% inefficiency in several States

and Union Territories.

– As per RBI data for 2024-25, wage payments were delayed by 60-90 days on average, prompting Supreme Court interventions and the creation of a "delayed payment compensation" regime to be borne by states.

– Corruption, leakages, ghost beneficiaries, administrative delays, and elite capture gradually turned the scheme into a fiscal drag. Most critically, it locked rural India into subsistence rather than aspiration. What the New Law Does Differently

The Viksit Bharat Jeevan Rojgar Act represents a major adaptation. It does not abandon rural employment guarantees; it reinvents their purpose in line with the principle of the greatest good of the greatest number. It recognises that rural India today is no longer the rural India of 2005.

By increasing the number of guaranteed working days, the law responds to

climate-induced disruptions, agrarian volatility, and migration pressures. Crucially, it introduces shiftable employment windows, allowing work allocation to align with local agricultural cycles, weather patterns, and regional economic needs-flexibility that MGNREGA structurally lacked.

Even more significant is the expansion and diversification of eligible activities. The new framework links rural employment with infrastructure creation, water conservation, renewable energy support systems, digital facilitation, storage facilities, village-level logistics, and maintenance of public assets. In doing so, it transforms employment from a stop-gap relief measure into a driver of local economic multiplier effects.

This is not merely job provision; it is productive engagement with measurable outcomes. Debunking the Loose Narrative The opposition has

clung to three misleading claims:This claim is demonstrably false. A law that offers more working days, flexible scheduling, and higher economic value through asset creation cannot logically be described as dilution. What the Congress appears to miss-or deliberately ignore-is that rights are meaningful only when they deliver dignity and opportunity to the last person in the last row.

"Corporatisation of rural labour": This caricature borders on absurdity. Linking rural employment to infrastructure, skill-ing, and productivity does not corporatise labour; it future-proofs livelihoods. The real insult to rural workers is trapping them indefinitely in low-value manual work with no pathway to growth. "Erosion of federalism": During the UPA regimes, states repeatedly complained of delayed fund releases and rigid centralisation under MGNREGA.

Reddy Urges Coal PSUs to Cascade Chintan Shivir Decisions for Speedy Implementation

New Delhi, jan 7 (UNI) The Ministry of Coal organized a two day-long Chintan Shivir on 5th&6th January, 2026 at Manesar, Gurugram, under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, and co-chaired by the Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey. The Chintan Shivir was attended by Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Ms. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary, Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary, Chairman, Coal India Limited, CMDs of all Coal/Lignite Public Sector Undertakings along with senior officers of the Ministry of Coal. The forum enabled senior leadership of the coal ecosystem to move beyond

routine administration and engage in focused, outcome-oriented deliberations on reforms, performance, and institutional transformation.

The Chintan Shivir was convened as a strategic platform to review the progress of ongoing reforms in the coal sector and to deliberate on a forward-looking roadmap aligned with India's long-term energy security and developmental priorities Delivering the keynote address, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Coal and Mines, emphasized that coal continues to remain an indispensable pillar of India's energy security, even as the country steadily advances its clean energy transition. He stated that coal provides reliable base-load power,

supports critical industries such as steel and cement, and plays a vital role in sustaining economic growth and national development.

The Union Minister highlighted that FY 2024–25 marked a historic milestone, with India achieving its highest-ever coal production of over 1,047MT. This achievement, he noted, reflects sustained capacity creation, improved operational efficiency, and strong coordination across the coal value chain.

Reddy emphasized that reforms across the coal sector must be anchored in uniformity and standardization, ensuring consistent practices, clear benchmarks and predictable outcomes across all Coal PSUs. He called for the charting of a focused,

time-bound plan to maximize equipment utilization, improve asset productivity and reduce operational inefficiencies through better planning and monitoring. Underscoring that safety remains non-negotiable, the Minister stressed the need for rigorous safety norms, strengthened supervision and accountability, with the clear objective of achieving zero accidents. He further highlighted that operational growth must be accompanied by deepened community welfare initiatives, focusing on health, education and livelihood support in coal-bearing regions. Reiterating the sector's environmental responsibilities, the Minister underlined the importance of systematic afforestation

and ecological restoration, integrating sustainable practices into mining operations to ensure balanced and responsible development.

He further observed that steady growth in domestic production and improved logistics have led to a significant reduction in coal imports, particularly for blending purposes, resulting in substantial foreign exchange savings. He noted that India is now approaching a stage where domestic availability is increasingly meeting national demand, placing the country on the threshold of selectively exploring coal exports, while fully safeguarding domestic requirements. This transition, he stated, reflects growing confidence in India's production capacity,

quality improvements, and supply-chain resilience.

Highlighting key policy and operational priorities, the Union Minister emphasized the imperative of safeguarding energy security, strengthening logistics and supply-chain resilience, improving coal quality, accelerating technology adoption, and reinforcing community care through responsible and people-centric development initiatives. The Minister urged that the outcomes of the Chintan Shivir must be taken to all levels of the organisations to ensure faster and coordinated execution.

He called upon Coal PSUs to decisively move from deliberation to delivery and to establish higher benchmarks

in productivity, safety, sustainability, innovation, and community engagement, underscoring that consistent execution and measurable outcomes must define the next phase of the coal sector's transformation.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State for Coal and Mines, stated that the Chintan Shivir reflects the Ministry's commitment to long-term, outcome-oriented governance and collective vision-building. He reaffirmed that coal continues to play a vital role in India's energy mix by ensuring stability and reliability as the country expands renewable energy capacity and pursues its climate commitments. Shri Dubey emphasized the

need for a sharper focus on strengthening washery capacities to ensure consistent improvement in coal quality and to better meet consumer requirements. He underlined that clear accountability must be institutionalized, with a designated responsible officer deployed for monitoring each mine block to ensure timely execution, operational discipline and adherence to prescribed standards. The Minister also stressed the importance of expediting First Mile Connectivity projects, noting that faster mechanization and seamless evacuation are critical for improving logistics efficiency, reducing handling losses and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the coal sector.

NHAI Seeks Urgent Action to Improve Mobile Network Connectivity on National Highways

New Delhi, Jan 7 (UNI) Identifying critical mobile network connectivity issues across several stretches of National Highways, NHAI has sought the intervention of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to issue appropriate directions to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for addressing non-availability of the mobile network connectivity on several stretches of National Highways, particularly on green-field and remote sections. Emphasizing the public safety implications and the strategic significance of the National Highway network, NHAI has called for an expeditious and coordinated approach to improve mobile network connectivity on the National Highway corridors across the country.

As part of a comprehensive assessment undertaken by NHAI, 424 locations covering about 1,750 km across the National Highway network have been identified as critically affected due to non-availability of the mobile network connectivity. Detailed information on these locations has been compiled and formally shared with the Department of Telecommunications and TRAI for necessary action.

As the National Highway corridors traverses through remote and ru-

ral areas, absence of dependable mobile network coverage on these sections adversely impacts National Highway operations, emergency response mechanism and delivery of technology-enabled public services.

In addition, NHAI has requested TRAI to issue necessary directions to telecom operators for dissemination of proactive SMS or Flash SMS alerts at geo-mapped accident-prone locations, including stretches affected by stray cattle movement and other identified hazards. These alerts are intended to reach road users prior to their arrival at such locations, enabling timely caution and safer driving behavior. A list of accident-prone stretches frequently impacted by stray cattle has also been shared with TRAI.

By seeking intervention to address mobile network connectivity gaps and enhancing safety along National Highways, NHAI reaffirms its commitment to working in close coordination with all concerned stakeholders to ensure that National Highway network is not only physically well-connected but is also digitally enabled. These efforts align with NHAI's broader objective of delivering safe, efficient and user-centric National Highway infrastructure for citizens across the country.

Union Environment Minister chairs Review Meeting on Action Plans of Rajasthan and Punjab to tackle Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi, Jan 7 (UNI) The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, today chaired a high-level meeting to undertake a detailed review of Action Plans of the State Governments of Rajasthan and Punjab for tackling air pollution in Delhi-NCR. This was the fifth meeting in the series of such reviews, conducted on prescribed parameters and formats as directed by the Minister in the earlier review meeting held on 03.12.2025.

Expressing concern over Delhi-NCR air quality throughout the year, the Minister informed that from January 2026, review of ac-

tion plans would be held every month at the Ministerial level. The Minister directed that sector-wise targeted action plans be prepared, with clear responsibility for execution fixed on concerned departments. As the action plans are being prepared eight months in advance, it was expressed that efficient execution would lead to visible positive results in the next season. The Minister assured that all implementation roadblocks would be addressed through regular inter-State coordination meetings at the highest level.

Reviewing Rajasthan's detailed action plan, Shri Yadav highlighted that public

transport gaps need to be addressed in Alwar, Bhiwadi, Neemrana and Bharatpur. Electric buses are to be procured on priority, with a timeline-wise proposal to be submitted. Charging infrastructure is to be augmented in a mission mode in urban areas as well as along highways and expressways. The issue of unplanned truck parking in Bhiwadi and Neemrana along the National Highway was flagged as a major concern requiring immediate action, including identification of parking lots and preparation of a parking plan to avoid congestion.

The Minister desired that city-specific road redevelop-

ment plans are to be submitted for Alwar, Bhiwadi, Neemrana and Bharatpur. Traffic congestion points are to be identified and short-term and long-term traffic decongestion plans prepared. A comprehensive scheme for liquidation of legacy waste is to be developed, and Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) are to be deployed immediately.

The meeting also stressed the need for stronger measures to control emissions from industrial and construction activities in the NCR region. Rajasthan authorities were directed to ensure strict compliance

with prescribed emission standards at industrial units and to strengthen monitoring mechanisms in pollution-prone areas. Construction and demolition sites were also asked to follow dust-control measures, including proper covering of material, water sprinkling and effective management of debris.

The Minister emphasised that road dust remains a significant contributor to air pollution and called for coordinated action by urban local bodies and other concerned agencies. Roads with heavy traffic and high dust loads should be identified on priority, while regular

mechanical sweeping and maintenance of road shoulders should be undertaken to prevent the re-suspension of dust.

The review further highlighted the importance of effective waste management and prevention of open waste burning. Local authorities were advised to strengthen door-to-door collection, ensure timely transportation and scientific processing of municipal waste, and take strict action against incidents of open burning. Special attention was sought for areas where accumulated waste could become a recurring source of pollution during the winter months.

Indian Railways Strengthens Affordable Travel for Common Passengers with Record Production of Modern General and Non-AC Coaches

New Delhi, Jan 7 (UNI) Indian Railways is modernising its infrastructure and services with a strong focus on the needs of common passengers, aiming to make train travel more convenient, comfortable, safe and affordable. Through sustained investment, operational reforms and technology adoption, Indian Railways is strengthening a passenger-first approach that prioritises everyday travellers.

Record Production of Modern General Coaches to Enhance Affordable Passenger Capacity

Indian Railways has achieved record production of General and non-AC coaches equipped with modern passenger-friendly

facilities to accommodate rising demand at affordable fares. These coaches enhance travel comfort while significantly increasing carrying capacity, reinforcing Indian Railways' commitment to inclusive and accessible rail travel.

Building on this base, Indian Railways has an ongoing coach production programme for the current and the next financial year to further strengthen and modernise its passenger fleet. For the ongoing financial year 2025–26, which is already in its final quarter, the production plan provides for 4,838 new LHB GS and Non AC coaches (LS coaches- 2817, LSCN coaches- 2021). For 2026–27, the

production target is 4,802 LHB coaches (LS coaches- 2638, LSCN coaches- 2164). This planned production is aimed at meeting rising passenger demand while enhancing safety, comfort and the overall quality of train services.

Unprecedented Scale of Special Train Operations to Manage Festive and Seasonal Rush

To manage seasonal and festive rush, Indian Railways significantly scaled up special train operations in 2025. A record over 43,000 special train trips were operated, including 17,340 for Maha Kumbh, 1,144 for Holi, 12,417 Summer Specials and 12,383 for Chhath Puja, ensuring

smoother passenger movement and improved travel convenience during peak periods. These large-scale operations helped ease congestion, ensured smoother passenger movement and provided timely connectivity during periods of exceptionally high demand.

Development of Passenger Holding Areas at Major Stations to Improve Crowd Management and Pre-Boarding Comfort

Indian Railways has identified 76 stations across the country for the development of passenger holding areas, following the successful implementation of the Yatri Suvidha Kendra at New Delhi Railway Station.

The New Delhi holding area, completed in four months, can accommodate about 7,000 passengers and is equipped with toilets, ticketing facilities, automatic ticket vending machines and free RO drinking water. The new holding areas will follow modular designs based on local conditions and are targeted for completion before the 2026 festival season.

Strengthening Ticketing Integrity Through Aadhaar Verification and Action Against Illegal Booking

To ensure that genuine passengers receive confirmed tickets, Indian Railways has strengthened ticketing integrity through Aadhaar verification and

advanced technological monitoring. Aadhaar verification of users is an important step which has been taken to make the system more robust. Only Aadhaar-verified users are allowed to book Tatkal tickets. Cutting-edge technology is also being used to identify and prevent unscrupulous users trying to misuse the e-ticketing system. As a result, 5.73 crore suspicious and inactive IRCTC user accounts have been deactivated or temporarily suspended, with further action ongoing.

Enhanced Focus on Passenger Safety and Security With Major Investments and Technology Deployment

MoTA Becomes First Ministry to Engage All SIH Finalists in Post-Hackathon Development of National FRA Digital Platform

New Delhi,Jan 7 (UNI) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) organised Hackathon 2.0 – a two-day National Workshop on FRA Digital Platform Development from 5–6 January 2026 at the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI), New Delhi, bringing together innovation, field insights, and governance priorities to advance the development of a unified national digital platform for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

The workshop convened all five finalist teams of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025, along with MoTA officials and techni-

cal experts from IIT Delhi and NIC, to refine, integrate, and finalise the functional design and system architecture of the proposed national FRA Digital Platform. The collaborative exercise focused on harmonising multiple innovative solutions into a single, scalable, and claimant-centric digital ecosystem.

The proposed platform comprises key components, including: - AI-powered digital archives for structured and searchable FRA records - FRA Atlas for spatial visualisation and real-time monitoring - Claimant-centric chatbot for information access and grievance support

- Decision Support System (DSS) to enable evidence-based policymaking

The concluding session on 6 January 2026 featured a live demonstration of the integrated FRA Digital Platform, showcasing its potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in FRA implementation. All five participating teams were felicitated and awarded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in recognition of their contributions.

Addressing the participants, Smt. Ranjana Chopra, Secretary, Tribal Affairs, underscored the broader development vision behind the initiative, noting that “the success of

such initiatives lies not in degrees or certificates, but in the creativity applied to solving real problems on the ground.” She further highlighted that “land ownership under FRA not only provides legal rights, but also dignity, legitimacy, and livelihood opportunities, forming a crucial pathway to breaking generational poverty.”

Anant Prakash Pandey, Joint Secretary, Tribal Affairs, emphasized the importance of citizen-centric design, stating that “the platform should answer all questions from the perspective of the claimant.” Shri Yogesh Brahmanekar, Innovation Director, Minis-

try of Education, highlighted the scale of SIH 2025, which received 72,165 ideas across 271 problem statements from 80 Ministries/Departments and 8 State Governments, and lauded MoTA's approach of integrating all finalist solutions into a single platform as a model for innovation-led governance aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The national workshop was preceded by a two-day field visit (2–3 January 2026) to FRA-implemented villages in Surgana and Igatpuri blocks of Nashik district, Maharashtra. During the visit, the student teams interacted with Forest Rights Committees

(FRCs) and Community Forest Rights Management Committees (CFRMCs) to understand ground-level challenges, validate field data, and ensure that the digital solutions are firmly anchored in claimant-level realities.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has become the first Ministry in the Government of India to formally engage all finalist teams of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025 – Software Edition in a structured post-hackathon implementation programme. MoTA had participated in SIH 2025 with a problem statement focused on the development of an AI-powered FRA Atlas and

a WebGIS-based Decision Support System (DSS) for integrated FRA monitoring. The initiative aimed to leverage technology for data-driven governance, transparency, and participatory implementation of forest rights, while strengthening collaboration between government, academia, and tribal communities. From over 390 innovative solutions submitted on the SIH portal, five top-performing teams were shortlisted. In a first-of-its-kind approach, MoTA decided to engage all five finalists, rather than only the winning team, to collaboratively co-develop a unified, end-to-end national FRA Digital Platform.

This post-SIH engagement reflects MoTA's commitment to translating policy initiatives on FRA digitisation into field-validated, technology-driven solutions. Further work will be undertaken over the next two months to finalise and refine the unified national digital architecture. By bridging policy, technology, and grassroots realities, the initiative reinforces the Government's resolve to promote inclusive growth, transparency, and participatory governance, in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat, with tribal communities as equal partners in national development.

Revanth Reddy Highlights 1,000 Days of Development and Welfare in Telangana

Hyderabad, Aug 31 (GNS) State Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy stated that development and welfare schemes are being extended to every eligible person, transcending politics, with development as the primary goal. He mentioned that a new high-level bridge over the Musi River, connecting Amberpet and Moosarambagh, was completed in record time and dedicated to the public on Monday.

He expressed how deeply moved he was in the past upon witnessing situations where people were swept away by Musi floods during even minor rains; hence, the bridge construction was completed on a war footing to provide permanent protection for people's lives.

He informed that the state

is being divided into three economic zones and a comprehensive development plan is being implemented.

He noted that measures are being taken to address the shortage of government offices in Amberpet.

He stated that a comprehensive rejuvenation of the Musi River has been undertaken to permanently change the situation where the assets of poor families and children's educational certificates were washed away during floods.

He revealed that the construction of 'Indiramma' houses for the poor has been initiated on 10 acres of government land in Amberpet, and the beneficiary selection process has been completed. He also mentioned that 'Bathukamma Kunta'



has been fully restored through HYDRA, transforming it into a festival venue for women and a playground for children. He asserted that despite a severe financial crisis and a heavy debt

burden, the government has remained committed to the welfare of the poor and the state's progress throughout its 1,000-day tenure, without halting any welfare schemes. The government has stood

by 11 lakh employees and pensioners as a guardian and provider, ensuring the regular credit of salaries and allowances into their accounts on the first of every month. It was announced

that Rs 6,000 crore has been released for employees' retirement dues and measures have been taken to implement the PRC (Pay Revision Commission) recommendations. EHS health cards have

been renewed to provide free, corporate-standard medical care to government employees, their parents, and family members.

The public transport system has been strengthened by supporting RTC workers and undertaking new recruitment drives. The government has paid Rs 11,000 crore to the RTC so far to facilitate free bus travel for women under the Mahalakshmi scheme. Government schools are being transformed to rival corporate schools by providing morning breakfast and nutritious mid-day meals—prepared with fine-quality rice—to 27.50 lakh students.

A total of 72,000 jobs have been filled transparently across various sectors, including Group-1, 2, 3, and

4, DSC, Police, Medical, and Engineering. ITI colleges have been upgraded into Advanced Technology Centers (ATCs), and the Young India Skills University and Sports University have been established. It was stated that the government has extended support worth a total of 1.70 lakh crore to farmers through grain procurement, the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, free electricity, a bonus of 500 per quintal, and loan waivers.

It was announced that an international-standard fruit and vegetable market is being established at Koheda, within the Ibrahimpatnam area, at a cost of 2,500 crore.

It was noted that 'Indiramma' sarees were distributed to one crore women, thereby upholding their self-respect during the festive season.

Bhatti Vikramarka Pitches Green Growth for Telangana

Deputy CM Calls for Sustainable Construction, Clean Energy and Global Investments at 'Invest Telangana' Summit



Hyderabad, Aug 31 (GNS) Telangana may be a young State, but it is moving forward with highly ambitious goals and clear environmental and industrial objectives, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said.

Speaking as the chief guest at a special programme held in Hyderabad on Monday to mark the completion of 25 years of the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), he said the government's primary objective was to develop Telangana not only to compete with other States in the country, but also with highly developed countries such as South Korea and Japan.

velopment goals. He called upon industrialists, experts and people from all sections of society to become partners in Telangana's journey to emerge as a global leader in economic development, industrial growth and sustainable green technology.

He announced that the State would organise a major global summit under the banner of 'Invest Telangana', with the objective of attracting large-scale investments and environmentally friendly industries to the State. The prestigious global summit will be held on December 7, 8 and 9.

He invited global investors, industrial leaders and experts in the sustainable construction sector to participate in the summit in large numbers. He also specifically appealed to them not only to participate in the summit but also to join the 'Advisory Council' being constituted to provide

direction to the State's industrial and green policies and offer their valuable guidance. The Deputy Chief Minister called for eco-friendly construction to be extended beyond expensive buildings and luxury apartments and incorporated into ordinary homes, government schools, hospitals and housing projects as well. He said the misconception that 'green' means expensive must change and expressed the aspiration that sustainable construction should become accessible to everyone in society.

He said that while discussing development, the focus so far had largely been on how many houses, offices and industries had been constructed. Going forward, however, there was a need to ask two important questions: "What are we building, and what will be its impact on future generations?"

Sridhar Babu Urges German Firms to Invest in TG's Semiconductor Sector

Hyderabad, Aug 31 (GNS) Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Monday urged the German Indian Business Alliance (GIBA) to encourage German companies to invest in semiconductor manufacturing in Telangana. The Minister said the State government was working to develop Telangana as a semiconductor manufacturing hub and sought greater participation from German companies in the sector.

A GIBA delegation, led by Kelsterbach Mayor Manfred Ockel, met Mr. Sridhar Babu at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday. During the meeting, the Minister outlined investment op-



portunities in Telangana in sectors including semiconductors, life sciences, aerospace and defence, electronics, advanced manufacturing, precision engineering, automobiles and automation.

Mr. Sridhar Babu said the State government was prepared to provide necessary support to companies setting up operations in Telangana, including expedited

approvals, infrastructure, investment incentives and skill development.

He said Telangana's talent pool and industrial ecosystem could be leveraged by German companies, while the State was keen to benefit from Germany's strengths in advanced technology, precision engineering and advanced manufacturing. The Minister also urged the

delegation to support the establishment of a Telangana-Germany logistics corridor to facilitate the movement of goods and improve access for Telangana-based exporters to German and wider European markets.

Mr. Sridhar Babu also requested the GIBA representatives to create awareness among German industrialists about the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026,

scheduled to be held on December 7, 8 and 9, and encourage their participation. The meeting was attended by GIBA chairman Selvakumar Periasamy, CEO Nirmal Raman Kannaiyan, Innovation Hub Rhein-Main CEO Stefan Witkindt, and FTCCI representatives K.K. Maheshwari, Srinivas Garimella, Vinod Kumar Agarwal and Lokesh Fatehpuriya, among others.

CS Sanjay Jaju Directs Stronger Monitoring of CM Decisions

Hyderabad, Aug 31 (GNS) Chief Secretary Sri Sanjay Jaju on Monday reviewed the progress of key decisions taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during departmental review meetings and directed officials to strengthen monitoring mechanisms for effective implementation.

At a review meeting held at the Secretariat with senior officials, the Chief Secretary examined department-wise Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the decisions made during the Chief Minister's review meetings. He stressed that departments should submit comprehensive and updated ATRs, clearly outlining the actions initiated, progress achieved, pending issues, and timelines for completion. He said ATRs should serve as an effective



monitoring tool rather than merely recording decisions.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the functioning of the Chief Minister's Dashboard and discussed measures to make it a more effective platform for monitoring key government programmes and priority projects. He instructed departments to ensure that data uploaded on the dashboard is accurate, up-to-date, and regularly updated. He emphasised that the

dashboard should be used to identify delays, resolve bottlenecks, and assess the progress of major initiatives.

Reviewing the Prajavani public grievance redressal mechanism, Sri Sanjay Jaju said the system should remain citizen-centric and outcome-oriented. He directed departments to closely monitor grievance disposal, ensure timely responses to citizens, and focus on resolving recurring issues through systemic in-

terventions.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed matters requiring inter-departmental coordination and said effective collaboration among departments is essential for the successful implementation of government programmes and achieving the objectives set by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. He urged officials to share information and resolve inter-departmental issues promptly.

Reiterating the govern-

ment's priorities, Sri Sanjay Jaju instructed senior officials to focus on monitoring the implementation of decisions taken during the Chief Minister's review meetings, strengthening the CM Dashboard, and ensuring effective grievance redressal through Prajavani. He emphasised that accountability, timely implementation, effective monitoring, and inter-departmental coordination should remain the key focus areas of the administration to ensure efficient delivery of government programmes and public services.

Special Chief Secretaries Jayesh Ranjan, Vikas Raj, B.N.D. Ekka, Navin Mittal, Dana Kishore, along with senior officials from various departments, attended the meeting.



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AIMIM leader stabbed to death in Hyderabad's Falaknuma

Hyderabad, Aug 31 (GNS) An All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader was stabbed to death in Hyderabad's Falaknuma area, officials said on Monday. The deceased has been identified as 60-year-old Mahboob Ali. The incident occurred late Sunday night. The officials said that the motive for the murder was not immediately known.

According to initial information, the AIMIM leader was stabbed in Watepally, Falaknuma police station

area, on Sunday night. Officials said that a group of five to six people attacked Ali. They added that the attackers surrounded him near the Almas Hotel and attacked him with knives and sickles. The AIMIM leader was seriously injured by the multiple stab wounds. The perpetrators fled the scene after the incident.



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