



PM Modi at the inauguration of SEMICON India 2026, in New Delhi. (Photo: PIB)

PM Modi urges young talent to actively participate in developing advanced tech

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): In this direction, partnerships can be started with several leading international universities such as Harvard, MIT, University of London, Virginia Tech, North Eastern University in areas such as executive programs, dual degree courses, faculty training and research.

The government is also working to enhance foreign language skills like English, German and Japanese among the students.

The Chief Minister explained that Young India Skills University is being set up in India Future City to provide state-of-the-art skill training to the youth to meet the changing market needs. India's most prestigious developing Future City, spanning nearly 30,000 acres, is being made the country's first net-zero greenfield smart city. It is said that employment opportunities for future generations will increase with the establishment of an

education hub there.

On this occasion, Chief Minister has invited the delegation to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 to be held in December. All the heads of the UK education system are specially invited to the Global Summit.

It is said that Invest Telangana Global Summit is being organized in the form of World Economic Forum in Davos. The world's top companies are coming forward to make

huge investments in Future City. TCS is going to build the biggest AI data center in the country with Rs. 70 thousand crores. Amazon has already started the construction of a data center with an investment of lakh crores.

World's best universities, Fortune-500 companies are taking steps like Telangana. From nursery to higher education, as well as ITIs, polytechnic colleges, skills universities, the aim of the government is to radically

transform the education system through Telangana public schools, Young India Sports University etc. The delegation explained the goals to make Telangana a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047.

Harvard University will offer Executive Education programmes in Hyderabad from December, marking a major step towards establishing Telangana as a 'Global Knowledge Hub', Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy said.

Child Passport to be valid for 5 years as new MEA rules kick in

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): Ordinary Indian passports issued to children below 15 years of age will now be valid for five years or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier, under the new rules notified by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, published in the Gazette of India on September 17, amend the Passports Rules, 1980. Under the amended Rule 12(1A), a 36-page ordinary



passport issued to a child under 15 will remain in force for a period of five years from the date of issue, or until the child attains the age of 18, whichever comes first.

Supreme Court Defers Dara Singh Remission Plea by Three Weeks

Bhubaneswar, Sept 17 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Thursday deferred for three weeks the hearing on the premature release plea of Rabindra Kumar Pal alias Dara Singh after the Odisha government informed it that the State Sentence Review Board (SRB) had rejected his remission plea.

A division bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Vijay Bishnoi allowed Singh to amend his petition to



challenge the SRB's decision. The Board rejected his remission plea in an order dated August 31.

Singh, 67, is serving a life sentence for the 1999 murder

of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons, Philip, 10, and Timothy, 6, in Keonjhar district. Staines and his sons were burnt to death after their vehicle was set on fire while they were sleeping. Singh was sentenced to death by a trial court in 2003. The High Court of Orissa commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment in 2005, a decision subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court.

'Patently False': Govt refutes allegation of external pressure in MDR rollout

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): The government on Thursday refuted the allegation in a section of the media that the MDR on UPI transactions has been introduced because of external pressure, while referring to a US Trade Representative (USTR) report of 2026. According to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry's Department of Financial Services, "the allegation that MDR has been introduced under any external influence is patently false and misleading".

The Department has also released a copy of the USTR report cited in the allegation.

The USTR report has raised two issues: First, the inability of US electronic payment services suppliers to participate in the UPI ecosystem, including credit transactions on UPI, on a level playing field with RuPay. The NPCI circular of September 15, 2026 does not allow credit transactions on UPI by any credit card other than a RuPay credit card. There is a



clear policy of only allowing RuPay credit cards on UPI to enable RuPay credit cards to become the preferred choice of credit cards amongst users in India, the official statement said. The second issue is the NPCI market-share limitation of 30 per cent for third-party application providers (announced November 2020; enforcement date December 2026)

Although the NPCI had mandated a market share limitation of 30 per cent for third-party application providers in November 2020, this mandate could not be implemented because companies other than the market leaders could not compete in the absence of a self-sus-

taining revenue model.

Introduction of MDR on select high-value transactions will provide a self-sustaining revenue model to smaller companies to compete for a higher share in the UPI ecosystem. Thus, the introduction of MDR has been done with the intention of allowing more domestic companies to expand their operations, the Finance Ministry statement contends. "Contrary to misleading claims made that MDR has been introduced under external pressure, the introduction of MDR on select high-value transactions will enable more domestic companies to operate under UPI.

Delhi HC Questions Police Over Denial of Protest at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): The high court questioned the Delhi Police on Thursday over its decision to deny permission to the Kshatriya Karni Sena to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar against the 2026 UGC regulations and sought its stand on allowing an alternative site for a peaceful agitation.

Justice Swarnan Kanta Sharma, while hearing a petition by Kshatriya Karni Sena



president Raj Shekhawat, was told by the petitioner's lawyer that the Delhi Police has revoked its earlier approval on holding the protest at Jantar Mantar on September 20.



"I am asking the State, how can there be a blanket ban? If you want to put any restrictions, including the venue, please tell me," the judge said. Additional Solicitor

General Chetan Sharma said no permission is being given for protests at Jantar Mantar as the venue is in a "sensitive area". He added that besides space, concerns over the amount of "likes and social media dissemination and engagement" also weighed with the executive while making a decision in the case. The law officer assured the judge that authorities are acting according to the applicable stand-

ing orders and guidelines of the Supreme Court.

Justice Sharma, however, observed that while asking police to decide on the petitioner's request for permission, the court had "clearly" said earlier that restrictions could be imposed for approving the request as the protest was only scheduled for a few hours, with no plan of the protesters to proceed anywhere else.

Uddhav Thackeray denies any link to Disha Salián case

Mumbai, Sept 17 (GNS): Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said he would take legal action if the "character assassination" campaign targeting his family over the 2020 Disha Salián death case did not stop. The former Maharashtra Chief Minister spoke on the issue days after the Bombay High Court ordered a CBI probe into Salián's death in response to her father's petition. The Central agency subsequently registered a case without naming any accused.

"We have no connection with this case. Aaditya (Thackeray) has also said so. This issue is not merely about me. Such character assassination can take place with you people too," Thackeray said, replying to reporters' questions here.

"If such allegations are made continuously, how



long one should tolerate it? I am wondering why the names of Modi and Trump are absent in this case," he said on a sarcastic note.

Salián's death was an unfortunate incident but his family had no connection with it, Thackeray reiterated. "It is politically motivated. We were quiet because an SIT (Special Investigation Team) was probing the case. Those who want to investigate, they can keep investigating. But enough of this pointless character assassination, or else we will initiate legal steps," the Sena (UBT) chief said.

3rd T20I: Reddy, Bishnoi pick three each as India beat Afghanistan by 127-runs, seal series 3-0

New Delhi, Sep 17 (GNS): Nitish Kumar Reddy and Ravi Bishnoi took three-fors each as India thrashed Afghanistan by 127 runs and sealed a 3-0 series win at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday. India previously reached 221/7, thanks to a blistering 108 off just 34 balls by Abhishek Sharma.

By reaching his hundred off 30 balls, Abhishek became the new record holder for the fastest T20I century by a batter from a Test-playing nation, and the quickest men's centurion in the shortest format for India – bettering Rohit Sharma's 35-ball effort in 2017. Though Afghanistan pulled things back with regular wickets in the second half to keep India in check, them going four down inside the power-play meant they were never in the hunt to chase it.



With Reddy and Bishnoi picking up 3-25 and 3-26, respectively, Afghanistan were bowled out for 94 in 14.1 overs as India swiftly completed the demolition job. In the pursuit of 222, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who had not scored a run in the series so far, got off the mark by backing away and steering a short-of-length ball from Reddy

behind point for four, and hit the next ball between cover and point for another boundary.

Ibrahim Zadran, on strike for the fifth ball, picked up a short one over square leg for six, as 15 runs came off the opening over. After Gurbaz and Zadran hit three more boundaries collectively, Afghanistan's slide began. Axar Patel

struck with his first ball as Gurbaz backed away to sweep but missed the delivery, leaving the stumps in a mess. Three balls later, Sediqullah Atal top-edged a slog sweep, and Abhishek ran in from deep midwicket to take it. Bumrah then yorced Darwish Rasooli with a 140 kmph delivery while Yash Thakur had Zadran caught at deep square leg for 25. With Afghanistan four down in the power play, the game's result became a foregone conclusion, and the pattern repeated yet again.

Brief Scores: India 221/7 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 108, Sanju Samson 50; Azmatullah Omarzai 2-27, Abdullah Ahmadzai 1-38) beat Afghanistan 94 all out in 14.1 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 25, Azmatullah Omarzai 17; Nitish Kumar Reddy 3-25, Ravi Bishnoi 3-26) by 127 runs

Jagan blames Chandrababu for Andhra drought crisis

Amaravati, Sep 17 (GNS): Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Thursday that negligence by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has worsened the intensity of the severe drought in the state.

YS Jagan held a video conference with YSRCP Regional Coordinators and District Presidents and reviewed the drought conditions, crop losses, water scarcity and the hardships being faced by farmers across the State.

"This is not merely a natural drought. The Chief Minister's failure to respond in time has made the situation more serious," a party release quoted him as saying. He stated that Chandrababu had warned about El Nino on February 4, but took no follow-up action. Despite continuous rainfall deficits in June, July and Au-



gust, the government failed to declare drought-hit mandals, arrange alternative seeds, supply fodder or seek additional workdays from the Centre under the (VB-G RAM G) scheme, he said.

"The State is not suffering from the El Nino effect, but from the 'Yellow Nino effect,'" he remarked in an obvious reference to the colour of TDP's flag. YS Jagan said the State had recorded a rainfall deficit of more than 51 per cent from the beginning of the Kharif season until September 16.

Rural Technology Development and Dissemination for Rural Prosperity

DR. BANARSI LAL

Agricultural growth is considered as the key pathway to resolve poverty and food insecurity especially in the developing nations.Agricultural productivity depends on the technology uptake and utilization.Over the years many organisations have targeted in improving the agricultural productivity through the introduction of various innovations.Some of such efforts include subsidies on inputs such as seed, fertilizers,introduction of drought and disease resistant varieties, use of ICTs etc. Spectacular progress has been achieved in agricultural production in the country during the last five decades which has been globally recognized. We have achieved record production of 332.22 million tonnes of food grains in 2023-24 which was only 50 million tonnes in 1960. Now we have huge buffer stocks of food grains. In the oilseed sector, there has been a quantum jump ushering in the yellow revolution increasing production of oilseeds to 39.67 million tonnes in 2023-24. The dairy sector has witnessed a white revolution. In Inland fisheries, the country has registered an unprecedented compound growth rate of 10% bringing in blue revolution. The growth in poultry production and horticulture sector is also appreciable. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) mandate is to plan, aid, un-



dertake, promote and coordinate education, research and its application in agriculture and allied sciences. Now the population of India is over 1.40 billion, the remarkable achievements made in green, white, yellow and blue revolution need to be increased. Now we need not only more food but also calorie availability and food security. There is need for reorientation of both research and extension to function in an appropriate manner.

Now the front line transfer of technology of the ICAR includes a network of farm science centres commonly called as Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVKs) across the country and also trainers training centres. At present, the KVKs activities include skill training of the farmers by providing work experience following the principle of learning by doing in agriculture, on farm testing to identify the location specificity of technologies, in service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge

in agriculture, layout front line demonstrations to establish production potentials on farmers' fields and provide feedback.Presently there are 731 KVKs across the nation. Now almost every district of the country is having one KVK and establishment of two KVKs in some districts are in pipeline. KVKs have served the society in general and the Indian agriculture in particular. The front line extension projects were designed by the Council to organise front line demonstrations by the scientists to show the production potential of new agricultural technologies on farmers fields, testing the technologies for their location specificity, organizing extension activities in selected areas by the institutions, developing extension approaches and methodologies for field workers and getting feedback for improving research and extension.

Farming provides livelihood support directly or indirectly to millions of the Indians through the food

production network and marketing activities.Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) has initiated many extension programmes over the years. The National Demonstration Project was initiated in 1965 to demonstrate the production potential of technology packages on major crops, to provide the researchers a firsthand knowledge of the problems faced by farmers in adoption of the technologies and to influence the extension system in the country by demonstrating the yield gaps and indicating the operational constraints. The Operational Project was initiated in 1975 to identify technological and socio-economic constraints and to formulate and implement the technologies modules on target group basis. ORPs broad objectives were to test the performance of new research results at farmers' fields under their existing resources, socio-economic and cultural conditions. The problems identified by the ORPs include salinity and sodicity due to improper

water use in new irrigation systems and use of brackish sub-soil water, flood prone area; heavy pest incidence and environment degradation due to indiscriminate use of pesticides. Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes areas have the complex problems in terms of socio-economic constraints. Keeping this in view, ICAR started the programme on the basis of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes in 1979.The objectives of this project were to identify the technologies which were appropriate to existing socio-economic and agro-ecological situation and to establish link between the people and various developmental agencies. The ORP on Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes were an interface project with combination of both research methodologies and extension techniques. In 1979, as a part of Golden Jubilee Celebration, ICAR initiated Lab-to-Land Programme to transfer low cost technologies in agriculture and allied enterprises.

Reimagining Tourism Education on National Tourism Day

DR. BHARTI GUPTA

Every year, National Tourism Day, observed on 25 January, reminds us that tourism is not merely about travel and leisure-it is about livelihoods, cultural exchange, education, and nation-building. In the Indian context, tourism has emerged as one of the most powerful engines of economic growth and employment generation. Yet, its true potential can only be realized when tourism is understood, managed, and promoted through professional education and skilled human resources.

Tourism is a national asset in terms of its economic contribution to the country. Globally, tourism contributes nearly 10% of world GDP and supports almost one in every ten jobs. In India, tourism contributes around 6-7% of GDP, making it one of the largest service-sector industries in the country. States such as Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand depend heavily on tourism for income generation, employment, and regional development. Jammu & Kashmir offers a compelling illustration. Tourism contributes nearly 7% to the region's GDP and supports tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs. In 2024 alone, the region recorded approximately 2.36 crore tourist visits, reaffirming tourism's role as a key economic driver. Beyond numbers, tourism sustains local handicrafts, preserves cultural tradi-



tions, empowers women, and promotes community development.

Let us understand why tourism demands skilled professionals, given the nature of tourism. Tourism is often misunderstood because it does not produce a tangible product like manufacturing. Instead, it is a composite, service-oriented, and experience-based industry that brings together transport, accommodation, food services, attractions, events, and local communities into a single system.

What tourists ultimately consume is not a physical good, but an experience-a shikara ride on Dal Lake, a pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi, a homestay in Gurez, or a winter ski session in Gulmarg. These experiences are highly people-centric, making human skills, service quality, and destination management more critical than infrastructure alone. Tourism also plays a crucial role in cultural diplomacy, a form of soft power where culture be-

comes a bridge between nations. India's tourism initiatives-from Buddhist circuits and wellness tourism to international yoga events-project the country's cultural richness globally. Jammu & Kashmir contributes uniquely to this narrative through its Sufi and Shaivite traditions, handicrafts, pilgrimage sites, and pluralistic culture. Events such as the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Kashmir highlighted how tourism can reshape global perceptions and strengthen cultural dialogue. Tourism professionals are central to this process, acting as storytellers and ambassadors of India's diversity.

Tourism is also highly sensitive to safety perceptions, seasonality, environmental conditions, and global events. This complexity makes tourism one of the most professionally demanding industries, requiring trained planners, managers, marketers, and sustainability experts.

Career Prospects in

Tourism: One of the greatest strengths of tourism is its diverse employment opportunities. It creates opportunities for individuals across educational levels and skill sets. On this National Tourism Day, it is essential to recognize tourism not merely as an industry, but as a career of purpose and possibility. Tourism offers a wide spectrum of career opportunities across multiple sectors, making it one of the most inclusive and employment-intensive industries in India.

In the travel and tour operations sector, professionals work as travel consultants, tour executives, itinerary planners, destination managers, executive tour coordinators, and operations managers, designing and managing travel experiences for domestic and international tourists. The hospitality and accommodation sector, that is inseparable from tourism sector, provides roles such as front office executives, guest relations

officers, hotel and resort managers, revenue managers, food and beverage managers, and homestay entrepreneurs, all of whom ensure quality service delivery and visitor satisfaction. Further, the aviation and airport services sector creates employment as airline customer service executives, airport ground staff, cabin crew, airport operations executives, and airline sales professionals, supporting the growing demand for air travel.

Tourism also generates specialized careers in events, MICE, and wedding tourism, including event coordinators, conference and convention managers, MICE executives, exhibition managers, and destination wedding planners.

In destinations rich in natural resources, adventure and eco-tourism provide opportunities as adventure tour leaders, trekking and mountaineering guides, ski and rafting instructors, eco-tourism coordinators, and nature interpretation guides.

Beyond the Parade Where are we heading as a Republic?

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Republic is not merely a word spoken from a podium. It is a lived reality, tested by distance and terrain, by harsh winters and long silences, and sometimes by the quiet uncertainty that life near the borders carries. Here, mountains do not only frame the horizon; they shape the meaning of belonging. Valleys do not only carry rivers; they carry memory. In villages close to the Line of Control, people learn early that patriotism is not always loud, and governance is not always visible, yet life must go on with dignity.

And yet, on the morning of 26 January, even this rugged land seems to pause. Across the country, the winter air is sharp, the sky is clear, and India looks almost rehearsed. The parade is crisp, the uniforms immaculate, formations moving with clockwork precision. The tricolour is not just a flag in the wind; it becomes an emotion stitched into every salute, every cheer, every moist eye. For a few hours, we feel proud not only of what India is, but of what India can be. We speak of the Constitution with reverence and of citizenship with conviction.

But a Republic is not defined by a ceremonial day. It is defined by ordinary days. The Republic begins when the cameras switch off, when the parade disperses, and when each citizen returns to the roads, queues, schools, hospitals, and marketplaces where the country is truly made or broken.

The very next morning, the contrast often stares us in the face. A red light is treated as a suggestion. A queue becomes a contest of elbows. Public spaces are used and abused as if they belong to nobody. Rules are ridiculed, discipline is seen as weakness, and responsibility is postponed to someone else. We celebrate order once a year, yet practise disorder every day.

In my earlier reflections on patriotism and nationalism, I have maintained a simple distinction. Patriotism is love expressed through contribution, through quiet responsibility, through the daily choice to build. Nationalism can be necessary in moments of threat, when unity must harden into resolve. But when nationalism becomes theatre and patriotism becomes performance, something essential is lost: the moral seriousness of citizenship. A Republic cannot run on emotion alone. It runs on law, institutions, and the self-restraint of its people.

This is where the most underestimated phrase enters the story: civic sense. We often treat it as mere manners, a finishing touch. It is not. Civic sense is the daily expression of constitutional values. It is respect for fellow citizens, regard for public property, and obedience to law not out of fear, but out of self-respect. Civic sense, in short, is not etiquette. It is national character.

Perhaps that is why writing from Jammu and Kashmir gives this issue a different texture. Here, the nation is not primarily a topic for debate; it is a lived experience. The idea of India is carried in ordinary acts of endurance. So let us look at the Republic through the eyes of those who do not have the luxury of rhetoric.

Think of a Bakarwal shepherd moving with his flock across high pastures. The wind cuts through his worn pheran; his eyes scan ridgelines with an instinct refined over generations. Ask him what patriotism means, and he may not offer vocabulary. He will offer truth. For him, the Republic is the freedom to move without fear, the assurance that his children can study, and the hope that his seasonal migration will not be interrupted by coercion or conflict. In his world, the nation is not a headline. It is the difference between dignity and vulnerability.

Now think of the educated but unemployed youth, from Jammu to Doda, from Rajouri to Anantnag. Degree in hand, ambition in heart, uncertainty everywhere. For him or her, patriotism is not blind optimism. Patriotism is faith that effort will matter, that merit will find a place, that honesty will not be punished while shortcuts are rewarded. When that faith weakens, frustration hardens into cynicism. And cynicism is dangerous, because it persuades a young mind that nothing is worth building. Then picture an old woman near the Line of Control. Winters are harsh here, and nights can be harsher. Her patriotism is not loud. It is a daily decision: to stay, to endure, to keep the home fires burning, to send grandchildren to school, to smile when life gives little reason. She does not wave a flag to prove her love. She lives in a way that keeps hope alive at the frontier.

And then there are the remote corners of Kishtwar and beyond, villages tucked deep into forests and folds of mountains where roads are still dreams and a vehicle cannot easily go. There, the meaning of the Republic is measured in basics: a school that functions, a clinic that has medicines, a bridge that stands, an administration that listens. For them, the Constitution is not an idea. It is a promise, judged not by speeches but by whether the state arrives on time.

Seen through these lives, our national question becomes sharper. Yes, India's economic ambition is real. We speak of rising GDP, growth, and global confidence. But the Republic is not a balance sheet alone. A nation's greatness is not declared; it is demonstrated. And the most honest test of greatness is whether human life is valued, protected, and treated with dignity.

This is where accountability must enter our Republic Day reflection, not as a political weapon, but as a civic necessity. Across the country, incidents keep reminding us how fragile life can become when negligence is normalised. Urban roads where unmarked pits and open trenches turn into death traps. Playgrounds where poor maintenance turns sport into tragedy. Hospitals where basic hygiene collapses and a patient's dignity collapses with it. Crimes that shock the conscience, followed by the familiar cycle of outrage, fatigue, and forgetting. Different events, one underlying message: systems fail when responsibility is diluted and consequences are delayed.

We can debate who is to blame, but the Republic demands a higher standard from everyone. Institutions must enforce safety and maintenance with seriousness, because negligence is not an accident, it is often a culture. Citizens must respect law, because a rule broken casually today becomes a tragedy tomorrow. When accountability becomes selective, discipline becomes optional. When discipline becomes optional, life becomes cheap.

A balanced mind must also acknowledge the other side. India is not a hopeless country. It is a country of extraordinary resilience and quiet excellence. Honest officers do their duty against odds. Doctors work beyond capacity. Teachers keep children learning in difficult conditions. Many citizens follow rules even when others mock them. There is progress, innovation, and aspiration. But progress must be measured not only by speed of growth, but by depth of dignity.

A rising GDP means little if ordinary life remains unsafe and basic services remain uncertain. Growth is not only about creating wealth; it is also about sharing opportunity and securing daily life. The fact that large sections of our people still depend on welfare support for basic food security should move us with compassion, but also with urgency. Welfare that prevents hunger is necessary and humane. Yet a mature Republic must also ask why, after decades of growth, so many still require such support to survive. Are we creating enough livelihoods? Are we strengthening local economies? Are we enabling families to rise, not merely endure?

These questions are not anti-establishment. They are pro-Republic. They arise from love, not cynicism. A patriot does not clap only when things go right. A patriot also insists that the nation become safer, fairer, and more humane.

India Emerges as Gl obal Platform for Buddhist Dialogue under PM Modi: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): Highlighting India's global leadership in promoting Buddhist dialogue, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, noted that since Shri Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister, India has taken proactive responsibility in providing an international platform for Buddhist monks, gurus, scholars, and thinkers, reinforcing the nation's enduring commitment to peace and harmony. He made these remarks while addressing the inaugural session of the Second Global Buddhist Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 24 January 2026.

“Under Gyan Bharatam, the Government of India is undertaking one of the world's largest initiatives for the digitisation of ancient manuscripts,” the Minister stated, emphasising that this landmark effort reflects India's commitment to preserving and sharing its vast civilisational and spiritual knowledge with the world.

Shri Shekhawat encouraged delegates and citizens to visit the grand international exhibition “The Light & The Lotus: Relics of The Awakened One”, currently on display at the Rai Pithora Cultural Centre, New Delhi, and pay reverence to Bhagwan Buddha. Recalling the Piprahwa Relics, repatriated to India after 127 years, he described them as living symbols of India's ancient civilisation and timeless spiritual legacy. The two-day Second Global Buddhist Summit was organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 24–25 January 2026. The Summit was attended by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, along with senior dignitaries, monks, scholars, and international delegates.

Held on the theme “Collective Wisdom, United Voice, and Mutual Coexistence”, the conference witnessed participation from nearly 200 international representatives from across the world, including leaders of major Buddhist organisations, eminent monks, scholars, and followers of the Dhamma. The Summit provided a common platform for dialogue on contemporary and future global challenges from a Buddhist perspective.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, remarked that Buddha Dharma is not only for those who identify as Buddhists, but for everyone, underlining its inclusive and universal appeal. He stated that as global seekers increasingly turn to the Dhamma, India bears a special responsibility to preserve, share, and live its principles of compassion,

non-violence, harmony, and coexistence. The Second Global Buddhist Summit reaffirmed India's role as the land of the Buddha and as a global torchbearer of collective wisdom, peaceful coexistence, and mutual understanding.

The summit also highlighted the relevance of Buddhist teachings in addressing contemporary global challenges, including conflict, social tensions, environmental concerns and the need for greater mutual understanding. Delegates discussed how principles of compassion, non-violence and coexistence can contribute to building more peaceful and sustainable societies. The discussions brought together representatives from different Buddhist traditions and countries, providing an opportunity to exchange views on the preservation of Buddhist heritage and the wider dissemination of the Dhamma. The participation of monks, scholars and spiritual leaders underlined the importance of continued international dialogue.

India's efforts to preserve ancient Buddhist manuscripts and heritage sites were also highlighted during the summit. Initiatives aimed at digitising manuscripts and making historical knowledge accessible were presented as part of the broader effort to connect India's civilisational heritage with scholars and communities across the world.

Tripura’s agarwood farmers will receive full value under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha: Scindia

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, on Saturday, during the second day of his three-day visit to Tripura and Assam, reached North Fulkabari in Tripura, where he laid the foundation stone of the 80 crore Agarwood Value Chain Development Scheme.

On the occasion, the Union Minister said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a developed Northeast, he has brought several development initiatives for the region during this visit. Some of these were dedicated to the public on the first day of the visit on Friday, the foundation stone for the agarwood value chain has been laid today, and tomorrow the Matabari Tourism Circuit will be inaugurated as the one of the biggest gift of this visit.

Shri Scindia stated that India's agarwood production capacity is primarily concentrated in Tripura and Assam, and this scheme aims to infuse new energy into the strengths of both states.

Union Minister Shri Scindia explained that the scheme will strengthen the entire agarwood value chain from trees in farmers' fields to perfume bottles in international markets. He informed that two Central Processing

Centres (CPCs) will be established under the scheme, one in Golaghat (Assam) and the other in this region of Tripura. These centres will enable comprehensive processing, branding and marketing, eliminating middlemen and ensuring that farmers receive the full value of their produce. Union Minister said several key steps have been taken to make the agarwood sector globally competitive. The process for obtaining a Geographical Indication (GI) tag is underway; export quotas have been increased six-fold; agarwood chips exports have been raised from 25,000 kg to 1.5 lakh kg; agarwood oil exports from 1,500 kg to 7,500 kg; and sites and permissions are being integrated on a digital platform so that farmers can directly connect with international markets. He emphasized that the clear objective is to remove intermediaries and ensure that the full benefit reaches farmers directly.

The Union Minister said that Fulkabari's agarwood sector stands as one of the strongest examples of Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'Local to Global', 'Vocal for Local' and 'One District One Product (ODOP)'.

He noted that India currently has around 150 million agarwood trees, nearly 90% of which are located in the Northeastern states.

Through this scheme, Tripura's production capacity is expected to increase by up to 50%. Minister expressed confidence that within the next 3–4 years, Tripura's agarwood market alone can develop an annual turnover potential of 2,000 crore.

To connect farmers directly with global markets, buyer-seller meets are being organized. He cited a recent meeting with buyers from Qatar, where farmers were directly linked with international purchasers.

Concluding his address, the Union Minister said that this scheme is a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of focusing on the unique strengths of

Govt committed to inclusive development, last-mile delivery in underserved regions: MoS

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): The Government remains firmly committed to inclusive development and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the last mile, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shripad Yesso Naik, said.

During an interaction with beneficiaries of key government schemes here, Naik highlighted the achievements of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

These beneficiaries have been specially invited to attend the Republic Day celebrations this year.

The interaction reflected the Government's focus on inclusive growth under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“Out of around 1.43 lakh identified households, nearly 1.36 lakh homes have already been electrified, achieving about 95 per cent progress,” Naik added.

“This success has been made possible through coordinated efforts of the Ministry of Power, State Governments and electricity distribution companies,” the minister stated.

India joins WEF initiative to reskill 850 million people globally

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): The World Economic Forum(WEF) on Friday announced a major global initiative to invest in skill development that will reach more than 850 million people.It also announced the launch of new skills and education accelerators in India and Jordan, strengthening a global network of 45 national accelerators that have collectively supported 14.8 million people. These accelerators bring together Government, business and civil society to translate global insights into country-specific actions on employment, skills development and inclusive economic growth.

The India Accelerator will focus on addressing barriers to equitable skill-ing, while the Jordan Accelerator will work to leverage emerging technology to improve education quality. The WEF said its Reskilling Revolution initiative is on track to reach more than 850 million people worldwide, nearing its target of equipping 1 billion people with better access to skills, education and economic opportunities.

As artificial intelligence, geoeconomic shifts and the energy transition rapidly reshape global labour markets, preparing workers for the economy of tomorrow is an urgent global priority.

The new commitments span corporate pledges, university-employer partnerships and national skills accelerators focused on re-designing how people enter the workforce, transition between jobs and remain employable in an economy increasingly shaped by AI, the WEF said.

Among the Reskilling Revolution commitments, more than 25 technology companies have pledged to support 120 million workers with AI access, skills training and job pathways.

“The global economy is undergoing its most significant transformation in decades. But the future of work is not fixed. How it unfolds for workers depends on opportunities for learning, support for job transitions and backing for entrepreneurship,” WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said. “Today's announcements represent decisive action — mobilising education providers, employers and Governments to ensure the future of work delivers opportunity for all,” she added.

The initiative works with 79 economies and 18 industries and is supported by more than 350 organisations and over 35 CEOs. New commitments have come from companies such as Adobe, Cornerstone On-Demand, Cisco, JD.Com, SAP, Salesforce, ServiceNow, Snowflake, Wipro and Workday. Across all Reskilling Revolution commitments, the majority focus on AI and digital skills, emphasise human-centric capabilities and prioritise entry-level roles most vulnerable to disruption. New research developed with PwC and surveying 9,000 entry-level workers in 48 countries revealed widespread uncertainty about skills relevance and job security as AI reshapes traditional career entry points, the WEF said.

To address this, the WEF launched a Learning-to-Earning Sandbox connecting universities, employers and Governments to pilot models integrating paid work experience with skills development.

During the Annual Meeting 2026, nine platform economy companies launched shared principles for responsible platform-enabled work, addressing access to opportunity, earnings and benefits, and safe working conditions.

The World Economic Forum said the new accelerators will help governments, businesses and civil society organisations coordinate efforts to make skills development more accessible and responsive to changing labour-market needs. The initiatives are expected to support policies that connect education and training more closely with employment opportunities.

The India Accelerator will particularly focus on expanding access to skill-ing opportunities for communities facing barriers to education and employment. It will bring together stakeholders to identify gaps in existing systems and develop practical solutions aimed at improving workforce participation and economic inclusion.

India Energy Week to Host Global Energy Roundtables, 11 Country Pavilions

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India Energy Week has emerged as a strong platform for building long-term global energy partnerships, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Saturday. Millennial media consulting.In a post on social media platform X, Puri said that India Energy Week 2026 will mark a shift from discussions to direct collaboration in the global energy sector.

“Under the leadership of PM Modi, India Energy Week has become a platform for sustained global energy partnerships,” Puri said. He said the event will bring together key international and domestic stakeholders to strengthen cooperation across energy value chains.

“As part of the event, the 9th Prime Minister's Roundtable will be held, bringing foreign CEOs, Indian private sector leaders and public sector representatives on one platform,” he stated. “This will be complemented by the India-Arab Energy Dialogue, an India-Japan Roundtable following earlier discussions in Tokyo, and additional roundtables with Iceland, the Netherlands and the India-US Business Council,” he mentioned.

Puri said this will help align global investment and policy thinking with India's fast-growing energy needs.

He added that the roundtable will be supported by several focused dialogues, including the India-Arab Energy Dialogue and an India-

Japan Roundtable, which will follow earlier discussions held in Tokyo.

Apart from this, India will also hold energy roundtables with countries like Iceland and the Netherlands, along with interactions involving the India-US Business Council. According to Puri, India Energy Week 2026 will also see participation from 11 country pavilions -- reflecting strong international interest. Several bilateral meetings are also planned, involving senior leadership, including the Prime Minister. Puri said these engagements further reinforce India's role as a global energy convenor and highlight how India Energy Week has grown into a key forum for sustained global energy cooperation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Additionally, the Union Minister noted that India Energy Week has steadily evolved into a results-oriented forum, moving beyond policy deliberations to practical outcomes such as technology collaboration, investment facilitation and supply-chain integration. He said the event reflects India's growing credibility as a reliable and forward-looking energy partner at a time when the global energy landscape is undergoing rapid transition.Puri further emphasized that India Energy Week 2026 will showcase India's balanced approach towards energy security, affordability and sustainability. With participation from governments, industry leaders and global institutions,

the event is expected to accelerate clean energy adoption, foster innovation and position India as a central hub for dialogue and cooperation in the global energy ecosystem.

The minister said the participation of multiple countries and international energy organisations would provide opportunities for discussions on emerging challenges facing the global energy sector. The event is expected to facilitate exchanges on technology, investment, energy security and the transition towards cleaner sources. The 9th Prime Minister's Roundtable will provide a platform for global energy leaders and Indian stakeholders to discuss investment opportunities and cooperation.

Vizhinjam Expansion to Boost Trade, Reduce Dependence on Foreign Hubs: Sonowal

New Delhi, Sept 17 (GNS): The Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, on Saturday inaugurated the capacity augmentation works of Vizhinjam International Seaport at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The event was held in the presence of Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, senior State and Central Government officials, and representatives of the concessionaire.

The inauguration marked the commencement of construction works for Phases II, III and IV of the Vizhinjam International Seaport, which are being implemented under a fast-tracked and integrated development programme. The expansion aims to substantially augment India's container transshipment capacity and strengthen the country's maritime infrastructure ecosystem.

Vizhinjam International Seaport commenced commercial operations of Phase I on 3 December 2024 with a designed capacity of 1 million TEUs. Within a short period of operation, the port has demonstrated strong performance, handling over 1.43 million TEUs and operating at more than 130 per cent capacity utilisation. The port has established direct connectivity with major global shipping routes across Europe, the Americas, Africa and the

Far East, reinforcing its role as a key national transshipment terminal.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, “The rapid operationalisation and expansion of Vizhinjam International Seaport reflects India's focused approach towards building world-class port infrastructure. He stated that the capacity augmentation will play a critical role in reducing India's dependence on foreign transshipment hubs, improving logistics efficiency, and supporting the growth of India's external trade.”

Under the capacity augmentation programme, the existing container berth will be extended to create a continuous 2-kilometre-

long container berth, the longest in India. The breakwater will be extended to 3.88 kilometres, and additional container yards will be developed through sea reclamation. The port's cargo handling capacity will be strengthened through the addition of ship-to-shore and yard cranes, enabling the handling of next-generation container vessels of up to 28,000 TEUs. On completion, the port will be capable of handling up to five mother vessels simultaneously, with an operational throughput capacity of up to 5.7 million TEUs per annum.

The capacity augmentation works are being undertaken pursuant to a Supplementary Conces-

sion Agreement signed in November 2024 between the Government of Kerala and Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited, advancing the project timeline by nearly 17 years, with completion targeted by December 2028. The total investment envisaged for the Vizhinjam International Seaport project is approximately 16,000 crore, including about 7,398 crore for the expansion phases.

The Union Minister further noted that the development of Vizhinjam International Seaport is aligned with the national objectives under Maritime Vision 2030 and the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, and will contribute to the creation

of a resilient, efficient and globally competitive maritime sector. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble CM of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan said, “Vizhinjam is currently serving mainly Indian Container Ports as a Transhipment port. With the completion of Phase 2 development, Vizhinjam will become the transhipment hub of the whole world including continents of Asia, Europe, America and Africa.”

With the commencement of the capacity augmentation works, Vizhinjam International Seaport is set to progress towards becoming a regional transshipment hub, strengthening India's position in global maritime trade and supporting long-term economic growth.

The expansion is expected to improve the efficiency of cargo movement through India's southern maritime gateway by providing greater handling capacity and modern infrastructure. The upgraded facilities will also support the smooth movement of larger container vessels and strengthen connectivity with international shipping networks.

The extended berth and additional container yards will increase the port's ability to handle rising cargo volumes. The deployment of advanced cranes and other equipment is expected to improve turnaround times and enhance operational efficiency as vessel sizes continue to grow. The project

is also expected to generate wider economic activity in Kerala and the surrounding region. Increased port operations could support employment, logistics services, warehousing, transportation and other activities linked to the maritime and trade sectors.

Officials said the development of Vizhinjam is part of India's broader effort to expand domestic transshipment capacity and reduce reliance on overseas ports. Improved infrastructure at the port is expected to help Indian cargo move more directly through national maritime facilities. Once the expansion is completed, Vizhinjam is expected to play a larger role in India's international trade network.

TG set to welcome Harvard executive education courses

Hyderabad, Sept 17 (GNS) Chief Minister Sri A said that world famous 'Harvard University' is going to offer executive education courses to the enthusiasts from December. Revanth Reddy garu informed. The UK Business Schools representatives team said in the meeting that the government is taking fast steps towards making Telangana a 'Global Knowledge Hub'.

Representatives of 30 different UK universities including UK House of Lords Karan Bilimoria, British Council Director Janaka Pushpanathan, Chartered Association of Business Schools CEO Flora Hamilton, British Deputy High Commissioner representatives met with the Chief Minister.

On this occasion, the



Prime Minister said that the government is ready to cooperate with the deans of various UK business schools, in discussions with high-level officials in all ways to meet the needs of the universities. Several leading international universities such as MIT, Purdue said they have started the process of setting up an offshore campus in Hy-

derabad. With the arrival of foreign educational institutions, local universities and industries are said to contribute to research here. He said that if UK business schools are set up in Telangana, world-class corporate businesses will look towards the state.

At the same time, the state said that international institutions, international expe-

rience, and world-class opportunities will be available to students and faculty.

PM Modi Urges Young Talent To Actively Participate In Developing Advanced Tech

In this direction, partnerships can be started with several leading international universities such as Harvard, MIT, University of London, Virginia Tech, North Eastern University

in areas such as executive programs, dual degree courses, faculty training and research.

The government is also working to enhance foreign language skills like English, German and Japanese among the students.

The Chief Minister explained that Young India Skills University is being set up in India Future City to provide state-of-the-art skill training to the youth to meet the changing market needs. India's most prestigious developing Future City, spanning nearly 30,000 acres, is being made the country's first net-zero greenfield smart city. It is said that employment opportunities for future generations will increase with the establishment of an education hub there.

Sept 17 sees separate Telangana, BJP events over competing narratives

Hyderabad, Sept 17 (GNS) Hyderabad's merger with the Indian Union has no agreed name, and Thursday's dueling celebrations made that clear. The Telangana government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held rival events in the city to mark the anniversary, each pushing its own version of what September 17 means.

The state government held its "Praja Palana Dinotsavam" at Public Gardens, while the Centre's separate event, organised by the BJP, drew Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and party leaders to Parade Grounds in Secunderabad. The split extends to

the name itself. The BJP calls the day "Liberation Day," tying it to the fall of Nizam rule and the Razakar resistance. The Congress calls it "People's Governance Day," framing it as a shift from monarchy to democracy. The BRS, when it was in power, called it "National Integration Day." Speaking at the event, CM Revanth Reddy recalled Hyderabad's history under Nizam rule and the events leading to its merger with the Indian Union.

Revanth said Hyderabad had achieved significant growth in industry, agriculture, education and medical sectors during Nizam's rule

and had gained global recognition. At the same time, he said rural Telangana was marked by feudal exploitation, bonded labour and oppression.

He said the atrocities committed by the Razakars, armed supporters of Nizam rule, pushed people into turmoil and struggle during the final phase. He also referred to the role of the Andhra Mahasabha and Hyderabad State Congress in movements seeking to make Hyderabad an integral part of India, while the Communists organised an armed struggle against the atrocities of the Razakars.



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Hyderabad Liberation Day Highlights Need for Inclusion: Vice President

Hyderabad, Sept 17 (GNS) Addressing the gathering, the Vice President said that 17 September 1948 marked the conclusion of a decisive chapter in the history of independent Bharat, with the integration of the erstwhile Hyderabad State into the Indian Union following the events of September 1948 and Operation Polo. He said that Hyderabad Liberation Day is not merely a commemoration of a historic date, but a reminder of the journey of nation-building and the values that continue to bind Bharat together.

He said the story of Hyderabad reflects the enormous challenges faced by a young nation in bringing

together people who had emerged from different political circumstances. It was a story of statesmanship, courage and sacrifice, followed by the larger and continuing task of building a constitutional democracy in which every citizen has an equal place.

Recalling Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution to national integration, the Vice-President said that as the first Home Minister and Minister for States, Sardar Patel carried an extraordinary responsibility at a time when India was recovering from Partition and simultaneously consolidating hundreds of princely states into one Union.

Telangana ACB arrests two police officials for taking Rs 5 lakh bribe

Hyderabad, Sept 17 (GNS) Telangana's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested two police officers for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh to do an official favour, officials said on Thursday. In an operation conducted around midnight, the ACB sleuths caught Dyapa Gnanender Reddy, Sub-Inspector of Police, Keesara Police Station, Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate, red-handed when he was accepting a Rs 5 lakh bribe.

The anti-graft agency said the Sub-Inspector was accepting the bribe on the instruction of Arkapally Anjaneyulu, Inspector of Police/SHO, Keesara Police Station. The ACB said in a release on Thursday that the accused

officers demanded and accepted the bribe from the complainant for granting station bail and not harassing the complainant and his friend in the case already registered at Keesara Police Station. Both the Inspector and Sub-Inspector have been arrested. They will be produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Nampally, for judicial remand. The case is under investigation, the ACB said.

The complainant had approached the ACB after the officials were allegedly harassing him and demanding money. There were also allegations that the complainant was repeatedly asked to bring biryani and cold drinks over the past few days.

Interview with Swapnil Mahaling

Reporter: Irfan

Question 1 (Reporter Irfan): Swapnil ji, your journey began with advertising, then moved to theatre, and finally to films. How do you see this transition?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Advertising taught me the power of words and ideas. There I learned that even brevity can hold depth. Theatre taught me to live emotions and connect directly with the audience. Films and television gave me the opportunity to tell stories on a larger scale. This gradual journey deepens my creativity and inspires me to adopt a different perspective in every medium.

Question 2 (Reporter Irfan): When did the idea of making a documentary on noise pollution come to you?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): When I realized that noise had become normal in urban life and people had stopped considering it a problem, I felt there should be serious discussion on it. The noise from festivals, construction, and traffic made me think that this is not just an environmental issue but a social crisis. That's where the idea of this documentary was born.

Question 3 (Reporter Irfan): What kind of research will be included in this documentary?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): We have spoken with experts—environmentalists, doctors, and sociologists. There will also be real-life stories, such as working professionals, students, and the elderly whose lives are affected by noise. The research will also cover legal aspects and cultural impacts so that viewers can understand the issue from every angle.

Question 4 (Reporter Irfan): Will you also highlight the legal aspects?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Absolutely. India has laws regarding noise pollution, but they are often not enforced. The documentary will show how proper implementation of rules can bring relief to society. It will also emphasize how citizen awareness and participation are crucial to making laws effective.

Question 5 (Reporter Irfan): From a technical perspective, how will the film be presented?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): We will use immersive visuals—so that viewers feel as if they are actually present in that noisy environment. Alongside, expert opinions and real-life stories will be presented visually. This will allow the seriousness of the issue to be felt directly, and viewers will connect emotionally.

Question 6 (Reporter Irfan): In your view, how does noise pollution most severely affect mental health?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Constant noise increases stress, disturbs sleep, and reduces efficiency. Gradually, it disrupts mental balance. People become irritable, lose focus, and even social relationships are affected. That is why it should be considered not just an environmental but also a social problem.

Question 7 (Reporter Irfan): Will cultural aspects also be included in this film?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Yes, because noise affects not only health but also cultural spaces. Temples, theatres, libraries—all these places demand peace, but urban noise disturbs them too. The film will show how cultural heritage is also impacted by this pollution.

Question 8 (Reporter Irfan): What will audiences learn from this film?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): This film is not just to show the problem, but to inspire solutions. I want people to understand collective responsibility and take small steps—like controlling sound during festivals and following rules in construction work. This learning will motivate them to bring change in their own lives.

Question 9 (Reporter Irfan): How is the industry and society viewing this initiative?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): The industry sees it as an important step toward raising public health awareness. People in society are also eager, believing the film will give them a new perspective on their everyday problems. I am glad my initiative is being seen positively.

Question 10 (Reporter Irfan): Where will the shooting of this documentary take place?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): The shooting will mainly be in Mumbai and other metropolitan cities. Scenes of traffic, construction, and festivals there will depict reality. We will also include some examples from rural areas to make the comparison clear.

Question 11 (Reporter Irfan): Will you include an international perspective as well?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Yes, because noise pollution is not just India's problem. Many big cities around the world are struggling with it. We will include opinions of international experts and some foreign examples so that viewers understand it is a global crisis.

Question 12 (Reporter Irfan): Who will be the target audience for this film?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): This film is for everyone—students, working professionals, the elderly, and policymakers. My aim is that every person, after watching it, feels inspired to bring change in their life.

Question 13 (Reporter Irfan): Will you also suggest solutions in it?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Certainly. The film will emphasize community measures, legal enforcement, and personal responsibility. For example—sound control during festivals, time limits in construction work, and habits to reduce noise at the individual level.

Question 14 (Reporter Irfan): What will be the style of this film—documentary or dramatic presentation?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): It will be a documentary, but with dramatic elements. Real-life stories will be presented emotionally so that viewers can connect with them.

Question 15 (Reporter Irfan): Will you use music in it?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Yes, but very thoughtfully. We will show how melodious music brings mental peace, while noise increases mental stress. This contrast will deeply impact the audience.

Question 16 (Reporter Irfan): What will be the duration of this film?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Around 60 to 90 minutes. This will allow the subject to be explained in detail and keep viewers engaged throughout.

Question 17 (Reporter Irfan): Will you release it on digital platforms as well?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Yes, because digital platforms make it possible to reach a wider audience. Along with TV and theatres, there will also be online streaming.

Question 18 (Reporter Irfan): What are your personal expectations from this film?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): My expectation is that people watch it, reflect, and take action. If even one person takes the initiative to reduce noise, my purpose will be fulfilled.

Question 19 (Reporter Irfan): Will you work on other social issues in the future?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): Yes, my aim is to spread awareness in society through creative storytelling. After noise pollution, I want to work on other environmental and social issues as well.

Question 20 (Reporter Irfan): Finally, what is your personal hope from this documentary?

Answer (Swapnil Mahaling): My hope is that this film does not remain only on the screen, but finds a place in people's hearts and minds. If even one person takes the initiative to reduce noise, my purpose will be achieved.

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