

Exploring Maharashtra's Sacred Wari Pilgrimage

# BUREAUCRACY INDIA

Volume 14 | Issue 08 | August 2025 | ₹100 | [bureaucracyindia.in](http://bureaucracyindia.in)







The Nature Mayaa

CONTACT US

90-575-45-069

# NATUROPATH & AYURVEDIC BENEFITS

in One Product **HEAL YOUR AURA** Naturally



Shop Now



[www.naturopathayurvedicremedies.com](http://www.naturopathayurvedicremedies.com)



Free Shipping



# We are responsible. We are insured.

**Radhika Chauhan, 23**  
BPO Executive, Jaipur

**Swati Dixit, 20**  
Choreographer, Pune

**Mrs. Kristen Dias, 42**  
Senior VP, Mumbai

**Mrs. Divya Khanna, 28**  
Bank Manager, Gurgaon

**Dr. Avani Iyengar, 31**  
Doctor, Chennai

**Mrs. Priya Khanna, 35**  
Homemaker, New Delhi

Responsible, aware and financially independent; this is how you see yourself. And rightly so with the growing roles you are assuming, personally and socially. Children's education, home EMIs, lifestyle, career, financial decisions; you are no more a spectator, but an active and equal contributor. And when you are taking the lead in everything, why stay behind in insuring yourself? Insurance becomes your responsibility too.

SMS 'CITY' to 566773, e.g.: 'Mumbai'



# LIC

**भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम**  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Insurance is the subject matter of solicitation

[www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in)

LIC/10-11/30



## BUREAUCRACY INDIA

Volume 14 | Issue 08 | August 2025



<b>Editor-in-Chief</b>	Deepak Vyas deepak@bureaucracyindia.in
<b>Executive Editor</b>	Suhani Nagpal suhani@bureaucracyindia.in
<b>Consultant Editor</b>	Arun Arora
<b>Spl. Correspondents</b>	
<b>Bureau North</b>	Anjali Bhardwaj
<b>Bureau East</b>	Tanya Arora
<b>Bureau West</b>	Naman Mukerjee
<b>Bureau South</b>	Srinivas Iyer
<b>Political Correspondent</b>	Dhwani Vyas
<b>Events Correspondent</b>	Shivam Nagpal
<b>Guest Writer</b>	Vibha Gurtu
<b>Graphics</b>	Knitdreams
<b>Photography</b>	Varun Gogna
<b>Digital &amp; Web Support</b>	Knitdreams
<b>Director Operation Circulation &amp; Subscription</b>	A.K. Sharma
<b>Printer, Publisher and Owned by</b>	Deepak Vyas 4/15, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara, New Delhi - 110032
<b>Printed at</b>	BB Graphic Printer A-23, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase – I, New Delhi - 20
<b>R.N.I. No.</b>	DELENG/2012/45681

For Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations  
contact Suhani Nagpal: 91- 8800149149  
suhani@bureaucracyindia.in

Editorial Team can be contacted at: info@bureaucracyindia.in  
H-125, Phase – 1, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi - 110052



As the monsoon rains breathe new life into the Indian sub-continent, this edition of our magazine reflects the season's energy — charged, transformative, and full of motion.

We begin this issue with a sharp lens on the recent turbulence in India-US trade relations. Once seen as strategic partners in economic growth, the two nations now find themselves navigating rising tensions. With new tariffs imposed and retaliatory measures under discussion, what was once a story of convergence has become a complex negotiation of interests. Our coverage unpacks the political calculus, the impact on key sectors, and what these developments mean for the future of global trade diplomacy.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament, held between July and August 2025, brought its own thunder and lightning. In a time of increasing polarization, we witnessed moments of rare consensus — especially on matters of national security and public welfare — proving that even the stormiest debates can clear paths for progress.

On a more spiritual note, we take you to the heart of Maharashtra, where lakhs of devotees walked the age-old path of the Wari pilgrimage, their faith undeterred by weather or distance. It's a timeless reminder of India's cultural soul — resilient, united, and always in motion.

This issue also features exclusive sections curated by our guest contributors — voices that bring fresh perspectives from the frontlines of policy, culture, and journalism.

As always, we hope these pages inform, provoke thought, and spark curiosity. Whether you're reading us over a quiet morning chai or on a journey of your own, thank you for making us part of your life.

Deepak Vyas  
Editor-in-Chief



Don't forget to share your views and feedback at info@bureaucracyindia.in  
Keep following our social media platforms to get updates regularly.





6 ▲  
Appointments



◀  
8  
PSU  
Watch



10 ▲  
Insights



◀  
16  
Cover  
Story



▲  
14  
Opinion



◀  
26  
State Scan  
*Maharashtra*

▲  
22  
Political  
Picture



◀  
32  
Tourism

▲  
30  
State Scan  
*Tamil Nadu*



## APPOINTMENTS

### K M Mallikarjuna Prasanna Joins NIA as Inspector General (IG)

K M Mallikarjuna Prasanna, a 2000-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Maharashtra cadre has been appointed as the new Inspector General in the National Investigation Agency (NIA). He steps into the role against an existing vacancy, bringing with him over two decades of policing experience.



### Jayant Khobragade Appointed as Ambassador to Spain

Jayant Khobragade a 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, who has been serving as India's Ambassador to ASEAN, has now been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Spain. His diplomatic experience is expected to strengthen India's bilateral ties with Spain.

### Karthik Malladi Inducted as SP in NIA

Karthik Malladi (IPS: 2016: Manipur cadre) has been inducted into the National Investigation Agency as Superintendent of Police. His appointment comes against an existing vacancy, and he is expected to contribute significantly to national security investigations.



### Chandrashekhar Nayaka Appointed OSD to Finance Minister

Chandrashekhar Nayaka L (IAS: 2013: Karnataka cadre) has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman. His term in the Ministry of Finance will span four years.

### Aastha Lakshmi Takes Charge as CVO, NDMC

Aastha Lakshmi (IRS-IT: 2008) has been appointed as the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Her tenure will be for an initial period of three years, where she will oversee the vigilance administration in the civic body.



### CBDT Reshuffles Senior IRS Officers

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has made key changes in its top brass by transferring three senior Indian Revenue Service officers in the grade of Chief Commissioner/ Director General of Income Tax:

- Rajarshi Dwivedy has been posted as Chief Commissioner, Surat.
- Manisha Chandra has taken charge as Chief Commissioner, Udaipur.
- Anand Kumar Kedia has been appointed Chief Commissioner (TDS), Delhi.





## Sabu Mathew K M IPS transferred as District Police Chief – Idukki, Kerala

**S**abu Mathew K M, an IPS officer who was serving as the District Police Chief in Kollam Rural, has been appointed as the new District Police Chief of Idukki, Kerala. His transfer is part of a larger IPS reshuffle carried out by the Kerala government in late July 2025, which saw several top police officers swap districts or take on new responsibilities.



This move places Sabu Mathew at the helm of policing in Idukki, a district known for its challenging terrain and unique law enforcement needs. He takes over from Vishnu Pratheep T K, who now assumes the role of District Police Chief in Kollam Rural—effectively, the two officers have swapped postings. While these changes are a routine part of police management, they are closely watched as each district faces its own mix of law and order, wildlife, and tourism-related challenges.

Colleagues describe Sabu Mathew K M as hardworking and hands-on, with a track record of community engagement and steady administration. As he begins his new assignment, all eyes will be on how he tackles the unique demands of Idukki's hill stations, forests, and border areas.

## Shashi Prakash Goyal IAS appointed as Chief Secretary- Uttar Pradesh

**S**hashi Prakash Goyal, a senior IAS officer and topper of the 1989 civil services batch, is now Uttar Pradesh's new Chief Secretary. His appointment on August 1, 2025, comes after Manoj Kumar Singh's retirement, and puts Goyal firmly at the heart of UP's power corridors at a time of big ambitions and rapid change.

Well known as an unassuming but effective administrator, Goyal is considered one of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's most trusted officers. With a background in science, computer applications, and international business, he's served in almost every key role an IAS officer can—District Magistrate in districts like Mathura and Aligarh, Managing Director of UPDESCO, Additional CEO of Greater Noida, and even Joint Secretary in India's Department of Higher Education. Before stepping into the chief's chair, he was Additional Chief Secretary working closely in the Chief Minister's Office on civil aviation, protocol, and estate matters.

Goyal's new brief is wide and weighty: he will lead Uttar Pradesh's vast bureaucratic machinery, serve as the link between ministers and department heads, and steer big-ticket projects—especially as Chairman of the State Industrial Development Corporation and CEO of the Expressways Authority. The state government is counting on him to not just maintain stability but move faster on ambitious plans—from new expressways to industrial hubs.

His quiet reputation belies real clout. Insiders say Goyal knows how to get things done, whether it's untangling red tape or bridging gaps between departments—a skill that will be crucial as UP gears up for more administrative changes and development pushes. With about 18 months until his retirement in January 2027, Shashi Prakash Goyal's leadership is set to shape the next lap of UP's transformation story.





### Niranjan Bhalerao Selected as Director (Finance), GRSE

Niranjan Bhalerao has been chosen by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) to take over as Director (Finance) at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), a Schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Defence. Currently serving as Executive Director (Finance) at Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), his appointment is subject to requisite clearances and ACC approval.



### Arvind Kumar Gets Additional Charge of Director (Pipelines), IOCL

Arvind Kumar, presently Director (Refineries) at Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), has been assigned the additional charge of Director (Pipelines) for a period of three months starting July 1, 2025. The move comes in light of the pending regular appointment, despite the vacancy being advertised in September 2024.



### G Anupama Appointed as Chief Financial Officer of NMDC Ltd.

G Anupama has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) of NMDC Limited. The decision was approved by the Board of Directors during their meeting on July 3, 2025. Prior to this elevation, Anupama was serving as Chief General Manager (Finance) within the organization.



### NBCC Signs Rs 355 Cr MoU to Bring African Safari Experience to India

NBCC (India) Limited has inked a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FDCM Gorewada Zoo Limited (FGZL), a Maharashtra Government undertaking, for the development of an African Safari and Entrance Plaza at the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park in Nagpur.

This Rs 355-crore initiative is not just a boost for eco-tourism but also a giant leap in wildlife conservation infrastructure. The project aims to blend educational tourism with sustainability, offering visitors an immersive experience into African wildlife landscapes, right in the heart of India.



## NBCC to Lead Rs 44 Cr Expansion at RGIPT Bengaluru

In a strategic move to elevate India's energy education landscape, NBCC has been appointed as the Project Management Consultant for a significant infrastructure expansion at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology's (RGIPT) southern campus in Bengaluru.

The project, valued at Rs 44 crore, aims to upgrade the Energy Institute's campus by developing cutting-edge research and learning facilities. As a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, NBCC is known for delivering time-bound, quality infrastructure.

This project cements its position as a key player in India's academic infrastructure growth.



## RECPDCL Rolls Out 33.26 Lakh Smart Prepaid Meters in Gujarat

RECPDCL (Rural Electrification Corporation Power Distribution Company Ltd), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, has signed agreements for the implementation of 33.26 lakh Smart Prepaid Meters under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The agreements, signed with Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL) and Bharat Grid Private Limited (a joint venture between Actis and EDF India), will facilitate deployment of meters across Gujarat on a DBFOOT (Design, Build, Finance, Own, Operate, and Transfer) model.

This initiative aims to curb power theft, improve billing efficiency, and empower consumers with real-time data and prepaid options, aligning with India's larger goal of modernising power distribution networks.



## REC Pledges Rs 20 Cr for Education of Martyrs' Children and War Widows

REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has committed Rs 20 crore to support the education of children from defence families.

Through its CSR arm REC Foundation, the funds will go to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) and benefit 16,667 children of ex-servicemen, martyrs, and war widows across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The fund covers tuition, books, uniforms, and other academic expenses.

This initiative exemplifies how public sector enterprises are stepping up not just in infrastructure and technology, but also in honouring India's commitment to its armed forces and their families.



## HUDCO Approves ₹3,000 Crore NCD Issue to Fuel Development Projects

HUDCO, India's leading housing and infrastructure financier, is raising ₹3,000 crore through private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs). Approved on July 17, these unsecured bonds will carry a 6.64% annual interest rate and be listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Investors will receive interest payments over three years, with redemption set at par in July 2028. HUDCO's move helps strengthen its funding base for ambitious development projects, and the company confirmed its clean track record with no payment defaults or adverse remarks from authorities.

This latest fundraising supports HUDCO's ongoing push to drive growth and modernization in India's cities and housing sector.







# Ahmedabad Plane Crash

## India's Worst Aviation Tragedy

by Anjali Bhardwaj

On the morning of June 12, 2025, the skies over Ahmedabad held no hint of tragedy. Air India Flight AI 171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London Gatwick via Mumbai, began its journey like countless others—routine, uneventful, ordinary. But within moments of lifting off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, the ordinary gave way to the unthinkable, marking one of the darkest days in Indian aviation history.

The aircraft departed at 1:38 PM IST from Runway 23. Within just 30 to 36 seconds of take-off, the plane reached an altitude of around 625 feet before it encountered an unexplainable descent. In the cabin, the seatbelt sign glowed, and conversations faded beneath the steady hum of the Dreamliner's twin engines. Then—without warning—a violent shudder rippled through the fuselage. The reassuring roar outside thinned into a chilling silence, and passengers' eyes darted toward one another in unspoken alarm. Now, the flight was slipping into one of the darkest chapters in Indian aviation history.

A “Mayday” distress call was issued by the pilots. Just a few moments later, the aircraft crashed into the B.J. Medical College hostel building in Meghani Nagar, outside the airport boundary.

### The Flight and the Tragedy Unfolded

Flight AI 171 carried 230 passengers and 12 crew members, including families, business travellers, and students, representing a diverse group of people. The experienced cockpit crew was led by Captain Sumeet Sabharwal and First Officer Clive Kunder, both professionals with years of flying expertise.

Barely a minute into its take-off roll from runway 23, the aircraft lifted to roughly 625 feet before disaster struck—both engines

abruptly lost thrust. In a matter of seconds, the fuel control switches had slipped from “RUN” to “CUTOFF,” severing the fuel supply and silencing the engines. The cockpit erupted into emergency action as pilots fought to restore power, resetting the switches and deploying the Ram Air Turbine. But with altitude vanishing and speed bleeding away, the margin for recovery had already been erased.

The aircraft crashed into the BJ Medical College campus mess hall and hostel buildings about 1.7 kilometres from the runway. The impact destroyed multiple buildings and ignited severe fires, causing catastrophic damage on the ground.

### Human Impact: Lives Lost and Stories of Survival

Of the 242 people onboard, including the 230 passengers and 12 crew—only one survived: Vishwas Kumar Ramesh. He's a 40-year-old British citizen of Indian descent who was seated in emergency exit row 11A. He escaped through an opening near the emergency exit after the section of the aircraft detached and came to rest on the ground floor of the hostel building. Ramesh sustained minor injuries and was hospitalized shortly.





The toll on the ground was devastating as well, with at least 19 people in the hostel complex killed and over 60 injured. Many of the victims were medical students and junior doctors who lived in these buildings. The crash affected families across India, the UK, Portugal, and Canada, with a total of 260 confirmed fatalities. The intensity of the fires, estimated to reach temperatures of 1,500°C (2,700°F), complicated rescue and recovery efforts.

## Rescue and Immediate Response

Emergency services reacted promptly. Firefighters, national disaster teams, and security forces from Ahmedabad and neighbouring cities rushed to the site, deploying over 300 personnel and dozens of fire engines. Roads surrounding the campus and airport were sealed off for efficient rescue operations.

Hospitals in Ahmedabad faced an influx of casualties, and medical staff, some of whom lost friends in the fire, worked tirelessly to save lives. Volunteers and officials organized blood donation drives and psychological support for survivors and grieving families.

## The Investigation: Seeking Truth and Lessons

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), assisted by experts from the United States' National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the United Kingdom's Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), opened a thorough investigation the day after the crash.



### Key findings from the preliminary report released on July 8, 2025, include:

- The catastrophic failure was triggered when both engine fuel control switches shifted from RUN to CUT-OFF seconds after take-off, shutting down fuel flow to both engines nearly simultaneously.
- The investigation found no definitive cause for why the fuel switches moved but noted a previous FAA advisory from 2018 regarding possible defects with fuel control switch locking mechanisms in Boeing aircraft, a safety alert that Air India had not been required to comply with.
- Both engines experienced attempts to restart—the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) deployed to provide emergency power, and the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) initiated an auto-start—but thrust recovery was insufficient to save the plane.
- Cockpit voice recordings revealed that one pilot questioned the other about the unexpected fuel cutoff, with neither pilot admitting to switching the controls.
- The crash sequence lasted roughly 32 seconds after take-off, with the aircraft breaking apart and debris scattered over a 300 by 120-meter area near five severely damaged buildings.
- The investigation explicitly ruled out pilot error or sabotage, emphasizing a technical and potentially design-related failure.





## Community Mourning and National Reaction

The magnitude of the disaster shocked India and the international community. Vigils and memorials were held across India and abroad, honouring the victims and their families. Government officials, including the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister, expressed condolences and vowed support.

*Air India, owned by the Tata Group, committed to providing compensation of ₹1 crore to each victim's family and medical and psychological care for survivors and affected individuals.*

The government also launched helplines and emergency centres in Ahmedabad to assist families.

## A Legacy of Hope from Tragedy

While the Air India Flight AI 171 crash remains a painful chapter, it has galvanized the aviation community, regulators, and governments to intensify their commitment to safety, transparency, and human-centered care. Families lost loved ones, communities were wounded, but the tragedy's enduring legacy lies in strengthened protections and a renewed resolve to make every flight as safe as possible.

## Aviation Safety Reforms and Global Impact

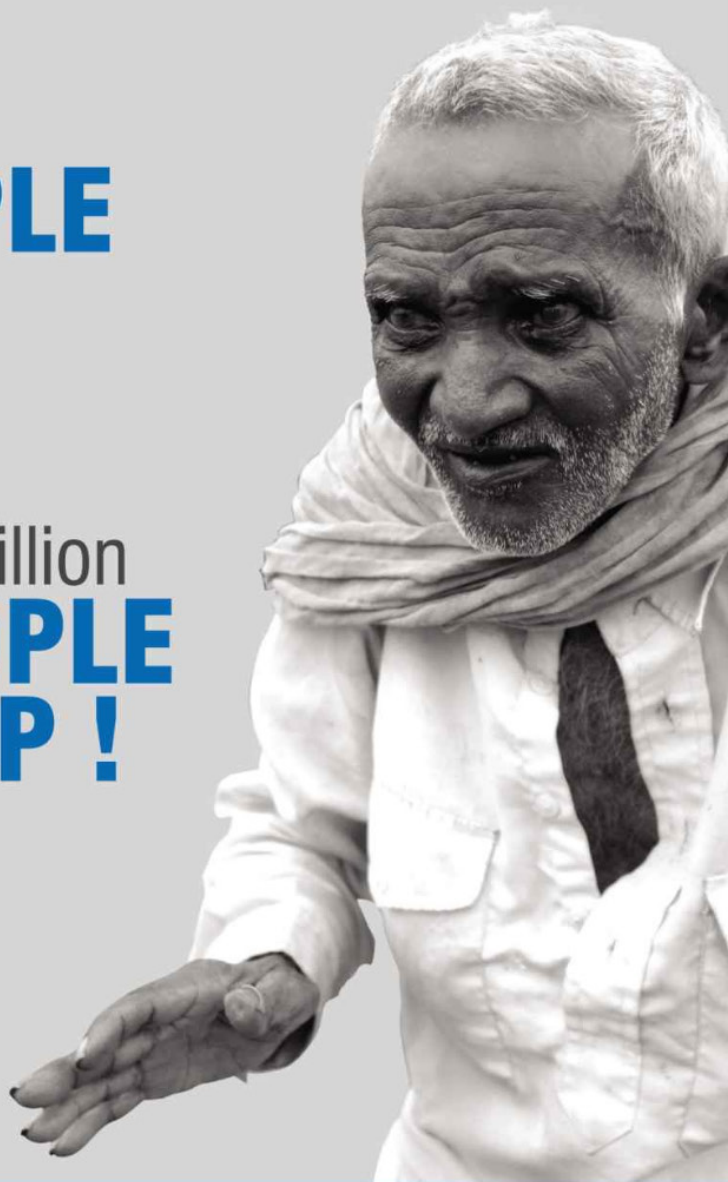
The tragedy ignited calls for sweeping reforms in aviation safety, both in India and worldwide:

- All Boeing 787 aircraft operating within India were subject to mandatory software audits, fuel system inspections, and operational reviews.
- Regulatory agencies framed new guidelines around aircraft software reliability and emergency response training, especially concerning fuel control systems.
- Safety buffer zones around airports, especially height and building regulations, are being reevaluated to minimize risk to residents living near flight paths.
- International aviation bodies like the US FAA and European Aviation Safety Agency launched reviews of Dreamliner safety protocols and issued new advisories.
- India established the National Aviation Data Safety Bureau to use big data for proactive monitoring, accident prevention, and industry oversight. **BI**



100 Million  
**OLD PEOPLE**  
live in India

More than 50 Million  
**OLDER PEOPLE**  
**NEED HELP !**



Agewell Foundation is a not-for-profit NGO, working for the welfare and empowerment of older persons of India since 1999. Agewell through its countryside volunteers' network of over 80000 dedicated volunteers extends a helping hand to over 25000 older persons on daily basis. Recognizing the work being done by Agewell Foundation, Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) has granted Special Consultative Status to Agewell Foundation at United Nations. Agewell has also been member of Working Group and Steering Committee of Planning Commission of India since 2002.

Join us to advocate for Needs  
and Rights of Older Persons!

**Agewell**

(In Special Consultative Status with  
ECOSOC at United Nations since 2011)

011-29836486, 29840484  
agewellfoundation@gmail.com  
www.agewellfoundation.org

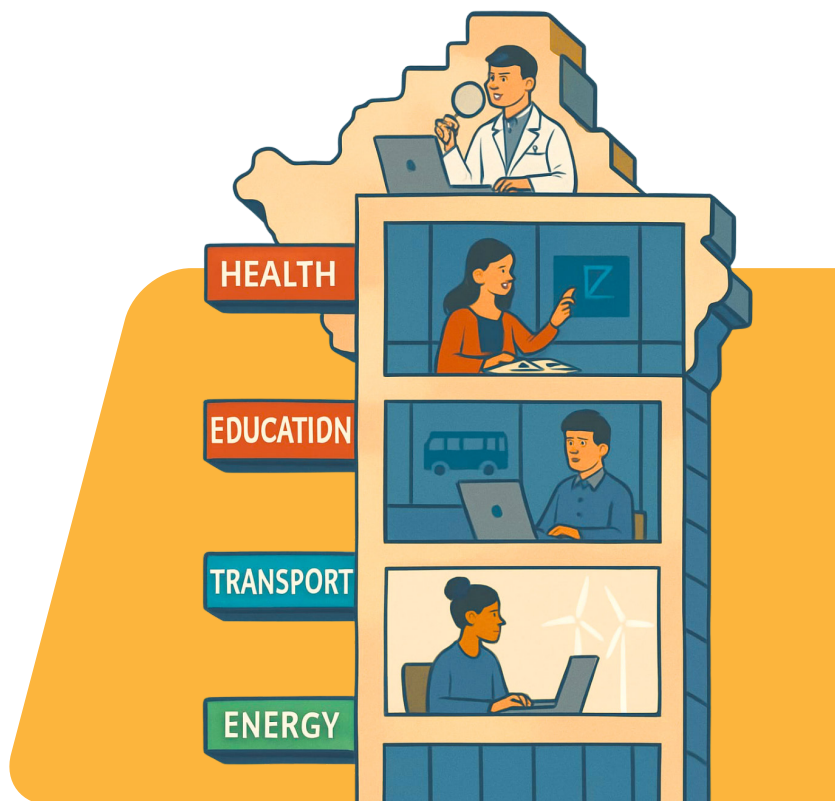
Helpline • Employment • Research • Advocacy • Training • Healthcare



# A Fictional State....

## When a State Ran Like a Company: A Story of Transformation

by Arun Arora



In a bustling town somewhere in India, life mirrored the struggles faced by millions across the nation. Frequent power cuts plunged neighbourhoods into darkness, streets swelled with honking vehicles locked in relentless traffic jams, schools battled to keep children engaged, and the sky wore a heavy, grey cloak of pollution.

Everyone knew these problems all too well. Everyone assumed they were just part of life's fabric—unchangeable.

Then, one morning, the state's leader did something extraordinary. Instead of walking into a typical cabinet meeting full of politicking and power games, this leader gathered everyone and declared boldly:

***“Let's run this state like a company that delivers results. No vague promises. Just measurable outcomes.”***

The room fell silent. The idea sounded radical—too radical, perhaps. Yet it planted a powerful seed.

That very day, the cabinet crafted the state's first-ever mission statement. It wasn't a slogan, but an explicit, sharp declaration resonating through government offices—from sprawling cities to the smallest villages:

***“Every role matters. Every outcome counts. We will serve our citizens like customers, with transparency and accountability.”***

From that moment on, the government operated like a well-oiled organisation. Leaders stopped talking vaguely about “better governance” and instead set specific, ambitious goals:

- Cut power outages by 20% within two years.
- Raise school enrolment rates by 15% in three years.
- Slash commute times by a third in major cities.

Each target came tagged with a name—a minister, a secretary, or a district official—who owned it personally. These Key Responsibility Areas were not mere buzzwords; they sparked real commitment. For instance, the official in charge of education in a remote district discovered a purpose anew. She didn't just manage paperwork anymore—she led the mission to bring more children into classrooms.

Every quarter, the leadership team sat down for honest, data-driven conversations. They refused to waste time hunting for excuses. Instead, they asked tough questions: What's working? What isn't? Where do we hit roadblocks? Then, armed with facts and feedback, they adjusted policies and strategies. When grand plans faltered, they pivoted fast.

Consider the public transport initiative. Initially, officials envisioned a sprawling network that would cover every inch of the city. But data revealed a different truth—commuters desperately needed frequent buses along a few crowded corridors. So, the sprawling blueprint gave way to a nimble, high-frequency bus network. The change worked. People noticed. Commutes became smoother.

Yet the true revolution came from embracing open feedback. Citizens voiced complaints; experts and even political critics joined the dialogue. They no longer acted as enemies but as partners, helping to refine policies and resolve problems more efficiently.

The government also took the opportunity to celebrate its champions. Those who surpassed targets earned public praise and new responsibilities. This culture of recognition sparked enthusiasm across government offices. People felt valued. They aimed higher, pushed harder—not simply fulfilling duties, but exceeding expectations.

The most inspiring change came in recruiting talent. Politics took a backseat. Whether someone belonged to a rival party or openly criticised past administrations, the leadership welcomed the best brains—urban planners, environmentalists, innovators—to lead key projects. This professionalism-first approach unlocked creativity and expertise that politics once stifled.

Slowly but surely, lives improved. Power became reliable. Schools buzzed with students eager to learn. Traffic snarls eased. Crime rates fell. Entrepreneurs found new opportunities. Most importantly, growth reached the marginalised, lifting long-overlooked communities.

This story proves a vital truth: governance can operate with the focus and professionalism of a top corporation. With clear vision, a defined strategy, assigned accountability, regular reviews, the flexibility to adapt, and fair rewards, leaders can transform a sluggish bureaucracy into a nimble organisation dedicated to improving lives every day.

India’s states carry dreams far bigger than their borders. When leaders choose to run their states like CEOs, those dreams cease to be distant hopes—they become daily realities.

How many states will dare to take this path? How many leaders will step up and lead like the CEOs their people deserve? The journey begins with a vision—and a commitment to make every role and every outcome truly count. **BI**

*DIRECTOR – CHETAK FOUNDATION*

*ADVISORY BOARD (CHIEF MINISTER’S ERA)*

*SUB-EDITOR – BUREAUCRACY INDIA*

**ABOUT AUTHOR**

*Author is a communications, development, academic professional, a columnist, an author and a trainer with rich corporate and industry experience.*





# *Tariffed Trade*

## *How Trump's trade war Tests 25 years of India-US relations*

by **Suhani Nagpal**

Not long ago, India and the United States stood as glowing examples of a strategic and economic partnership on the rise. Pledges of cooperation flowed freely—tech, defense, trade, climate. The two democracies, often celebrated as “natural allies,” envisioned a future where bilateral trade would soar to \$500 billion under the ambitious Mission 500 initiative.

But as of this summer, that vision has clouded over.

With Donald Trump back in the White House, India-US trade relations are entering their most volatile phase in decades. In a matter of weeks, Washington has imposed sweeping new tariffs on Indian goods—reaching as high as 25%—triggering a wave of retaliatory rhetoric, market instability, and deep diplomatic unease. At the heart of the conflict lies more than just trade deficits or tariff spreadsheets; it is a contest over sovereignty, global alignments, and the limits of strategic friendship.

The story of India-US trade is a tale of decades-long transformation—from wariness during the Cold War, to cautious optimism post-liberalisation, and now to a simmering standoff in an age of transactional politics. What began as a promising convergence has increasingly become a battlefield of economic threat and political influence.

## **From Cold Distance to Global Trade Partners**

In the decades following India's independence in 1947, bilateral commerce was limited as it was overshadowed by Cold War alliances, India's socialist economic model, and U.S. strategic discomfort with New Delhi's non-alignment.

# Trump Returns, and the Ground Shifts

That trajectory now seems uncertain.

Trump's return to office reinvigorated protectionist policies under his "America First" agenda. In April 2025, barely three months into his second term, President Trump launched a sweeping 10% tariff on all imports, followed by what he called "reciprocal tariffs"—designed to mirror what he claims are unfair foreign duties. India, with its comparatively high average tariff rates (~12%), was promptly hit with a punitive 26% rate on key exports to the U.S. including textiles, auto parts, gems, and pharmaceuticals.

An Indian commerce official, speaking on background, called the move **"unilateral, unpredictable, and dangerous."**

Though a U.S. court temporarily paused the tariff roll-out in May, an appeal allowed the measures to remain in force. Then came the real shocker: on July 30, Trump declared that a flat 25% tariff on all Indian imports would take effect August 1, unless India **"stopped playing games with Russia"**—a reference to India's continued purchase of discounted Russian oil and arms.

**India cannot have it both ways,**

**You don't take cheap oil from Putin and then sell it back to us, and still expect free access to the American market.**

*Donald Trump, while addressing a packed crowd at a Pennsylvania rally*

That began to change in the 1990s, when India launched sweeping economic reforms and opened its doors to foreign investment. The U.S. soon became one of India's largest trading partners, with trade in both goods and services booming.

The 2005 civil nuclear deal and increasing investment flows strengthened bilateral ties. By the early 2020s, trade exceeded \$190 billion annually, with India exporting textiles, pharmaceuticals, IT services, gems and auto parts; and importing aircraft, machinery, and agricultural products.

Even where disagreements surfaced—over intellectual property, tariffs, or data sovereignty—diplomats found ways to de-escalate. The trajectory, for the most part, pointed upward.

In February 2025, Prime Minister Modi and President Trump committed to "Mission 500", targeting bilateral trade of US \$500 billion by 2030, supported by a planned Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) addressing tariffs and non-tariff barriers.







In response, India rejected these charges, arguing that its Russian imports were driven by domestic inflation control and energy security needs. Indian officials countered that oil purchases were driven by domestic inflation concerns, not politics, and accused the U.S. of hypocrisy given its own quiet trade with Russia. Meanwhile, India’s foreign ministry framed Trump’s remarks as “an attempt to pressure India into compromising its strategic autonomy.”

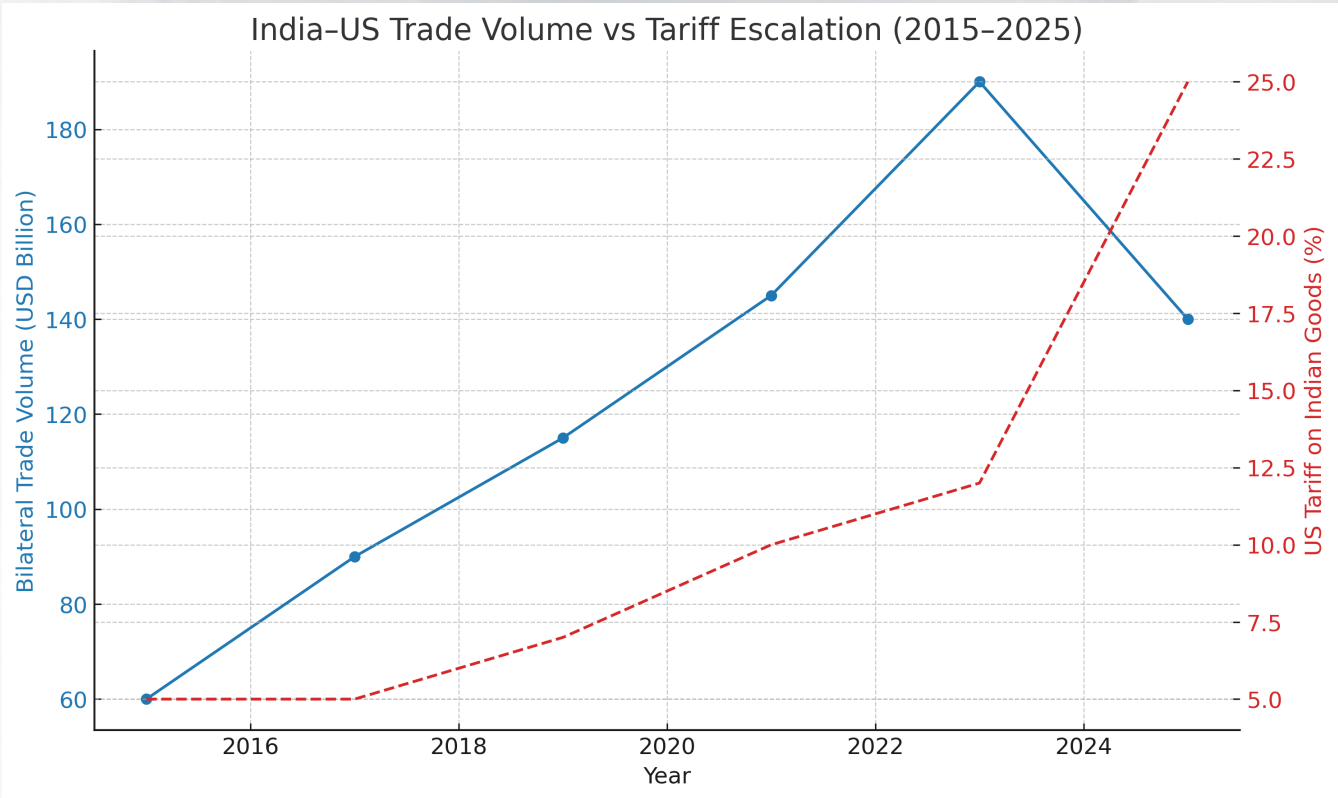
At its heart, the standoff goes beyond trade.

For India, energy independence and multipolar diplomacy have become non-negotiables. For the Trump administration, trade is increasingly wielded as a foreign policy stick—one that’s meant to reward allies and punish dissenters.

The U.S. has even floated the idea of linking military cooperation to economic alignment, hinting at potential slowdowns in defense technology transfers if India does not comply. This strategy, reminiscent of Cold War-style conditionality, is a sharp contrast to the goodwill cultivated under Presidents Obama and Biden.

*The tariffs disproportionately threaten labor-intensive Indian exports—textiles, pharma, gems, auto components, and MSMEs—potentially erasing up to 30% of export revenue and imposing a \$10 billion to \$18 billion annual hit. The tariffs are already taking a toll. Indian exports to the U.S. in affected categories have dropped by an estimated 18% in Q2 2025, according to a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) analysis. At risk are not just billions in export earnings, but tens of thousands of jobs—particularly in labor-intensive sectors like textiles and small-scale manufacturing. Analysts suggest up to 200,000 U.S. jobs could be indirectly affected.*

Indian financial markets have reacted nervously. The rupee has weakened against the dollar, and equity markets saw a 3.5% drop following Trump’s July 30 announcement, though nominal GDP impact is expected to remain modest (~0.2–0.5% off projected growth rates).





## Negotiating the Road Ahead

Behind closed doors, Indian and U.S. trade officials continue negotiations ahead of autumn deadlines for interim agreements. Indian Trade Minister Piyush Goyal and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai have been holding bi-weekly discussions in hopes of reaching an interim deal before the U.S. presidential midterms in November. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has described talks as “frank but friendly,” but critical issues like agriculture, dairy liberalisation, data localisation, and intellectual property remain deeply contested. The U.S. wants broader access to Indian agriculture and dairy markets—something India fiercely resists, citing risks to its 80 million dairy farmers.

Many experts believe a breakthrough is unlikely this year.

In the meantime, India is quietly expanding trade ties elsewhere—pursuing FTAs with the EU, UK, and Gulf countries, and reenergising its “Act East” policy to engage ASEAN and Indo-Pacific economies. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes aim to attract supply chain diversification away from China, with or without U.S. partnership.

Perhaps most troubling is the diplomatic fallout.

Just a year ago, Modi and Trump were exchanging warm handshakes and promises of partnership. Today, mutual suspicion is rising. India views the U.S. as increasingly unpredictable. U.S., for its part, seems to question India’s reliability as a strategic counterweight to China.

Adding to the discomfort, Trump has warmed to Pakistan in recent weeks, finalizing a new oil and port agreement with Islamabad. For Indian officials, the timing feels pointed.

A senior Indian analyst at the Observer Research Foundation noted, “**We are watching the unraveling of years of diplomacy—undone by tariffs and tweets.**”





# Policy Challenges and Path Forward

Agriculture and Dairy: India firmly resists U.S. pressure to open sensitive sectors—wheat, rice, dairy, GM crops—fearing disruption of rural livelihoods (~700 million rural citizens including 80 million dairy farmers).

- **Tariff Reform Pressure:** While Trump labels India the “tariff king,” critics in India view his policies as prompting overdue reforms. Commentary compares this external pressure to the 1991 and 1998 crises which catalysed major liberalisation drives.

- **Strategic Autonomy vs Alignment:** India balances its strategic relationship with the U.S. against historic ties with Russia, advocating sovereignty in foreign and economic policy.

The trade standoff underscores India’s posture of non-alignment within shifting global geoeconomic currents.

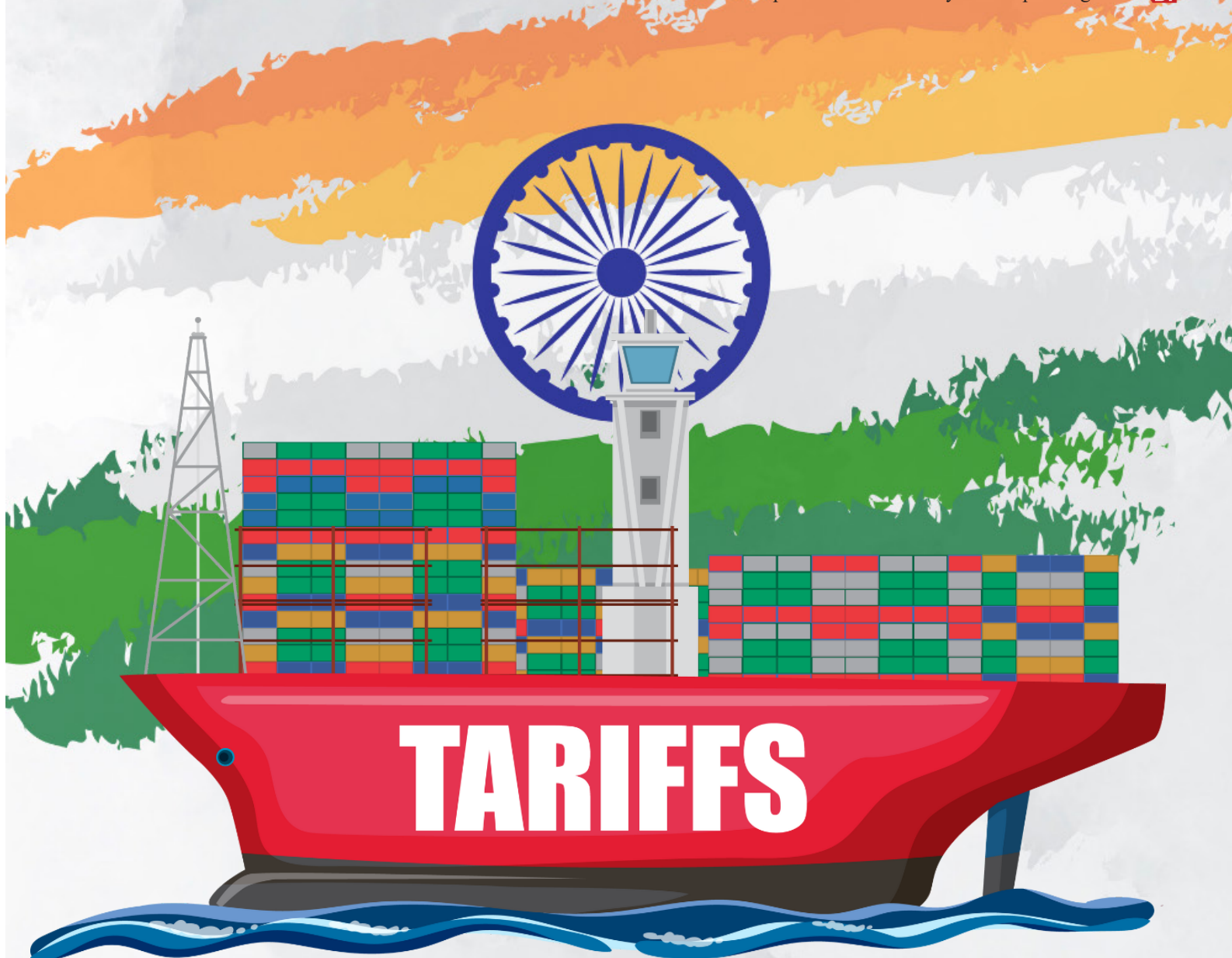
# Conclusion: Fragile Future of a Strategic Partnership

The India–U.S. trade relationship has entered a turbulent phase. While past decades saw steady expansion and strategic convergence, Trump’s tariff escalation has introduced disruptive economic and geopolitical dynamics. Disputes over energy, agriculture, and reciprocity have undermined long-standing trust and cast doubt on the feasibility of “Mission 500.”

As Trump doubles down on tariffs, India is drawing its red lines—not out of economic stubbornness, but as a matter of principle.

The question facing both capitals now is this: Can a relationship so painstakingly built over decades survive the volatility of political cycles, or will transactionalism undo trust?

Whatever the answer, the India–U.S. trade story is no longer just about economics. It’s about what kind of world order the two nations want to shape—and whether they can shape it together. **BI**







# *Knitdreams*

## One-stop MICE Solution For India & Abroad



MEETINGS



INCENTIVES



CONFERENCE



EXHIBITIONS



Call Us for more details

+91-8800149149  
+91-9999967707

email us at

suhani@knitdreams.in  
suhani17.vyas@gmail.com

WEBSITE

[www.knitdreams.in](http://www.knitdreams.in)



# Monsoon Session 2025

## Power, Protests & Indian Democracy in the Eye of the Storm

by Dhvani Vyas

The 2025 Monsoon Session of India's Parliament (July 21–August 12) unfolded more like a gripping season finale than a routine legislative gathering—marked by high-stakes drama, unexpected turns, and a nation hooked on every move. This wasn't just another session. It was the first to convene after India launched Operation Sindoor, a decisive military response to terrorism.

While monsoon rains lashed Delhi, the real storm raged inside Parliament—charged debates, bold declarations, and doors that weren't just closed, but at times, emphatically slammed.

Here's a look at what truly went down behind the scenes.





# Scene-Setter: Parliament After Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor

The session began under a heavy cloud. The horrifying terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, that killed 26 people hadn't left anyone's minds. Just weeks after, India's armed forces answered with Operation Sindoor, hitting back at nine terror camps across the border in Pakistan and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. These were no random strikes: the military had clear intelligence about the targets, carefully avoiding ordinary people and the Pakistani forces, but sending an unmistakable message, 'India will not sit quietly.'

**Prime Minister Modi** started the session with a powerful message:

***“Operation Sindoor will continue. This is our notice to Pakistan. India will always act till Pakistan stops attacks.”***

For once, leaders across the spectrum—Congress, DMK, AAP, and even some Left parties—found common ground: when national security is at stake, politics must take a backseat.

***“All parties put aside their differences for national security, But that doesn't mean we stop asking questions.”***

said Congress **President Mallikarjun Kharge**.

The feeling of unity, however, didn't last long.

## From Support to Sparks: Operation Sindoor Becomes a Political Tug-of-War

Soon, the difference of opinions started being more evident. TMC's **Saayoni Ghosh** asked a provocative question:

***“Trump has claimed credit 28 times for this operation. While our Air Force was risking lives, the Prime Minister lost the battle of narratives internationally.”***

That jab set off a firestorm. BJP President **J.P. Nadda** shot back:

***“This is not the time for cheap politics. If the opposition can't support the government now, when will it?”***

Home Minister **Amit Shah** stood up in Rajya Sabha, raising his voice:

***“India acted swiftly. The world saw our resolve. But our opposition prefers walkouts to real debate.”***

As tempers rose and opposition leaders left the hall, the hope for long-lasting unity drained away. People like Congress's **K. Suresh** reminded reporters:

***“Supporting the army doesn't mean giving the government a blank cheque. We have to keep asking ‘why’ and ‘how’.”***



# The SIR Storm: Voter List Fight Erupts from Bihar

The Election Commission began a massive clean-up of Bihar's voter list, checking names and documents for nearly 8 crore (80 million) people. They called it a routine "Special Intensive Revision" or SIR, meant to stop fraud, check double entries, and weed out those who had moved or died.

But the opposition didn't buy it.

They called SIR "*Silent Invisible Rigging*": a sneaky way to erase poor, minority, and backward-community voters.

Congress's **Rahul Gandhi** led a protest right outside Parliament:

***"This is not a clean-up. This is a deletion drive. You can't just steal votes and call it democracy!"***

With him: Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and leaders from RJD, AAP, DMK, Left parties. Their chant:

***"Our Vote. Our Right. Our Fight."***

Inside Parliament, shouting matches broke out. On multiple days, both houses had to pause business because of the noise. Every time the opposition wanted a debate, the government pointed out that the issue was already in the Supreme Court.

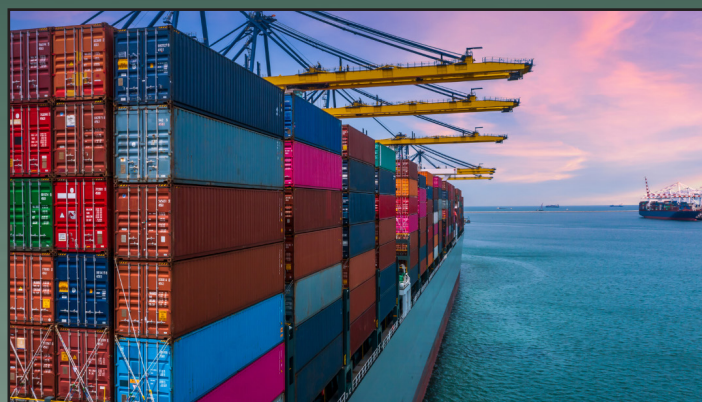
Law Minister Kiren Rijiju explained:

***"This House isn't a parallel court. Let's not debate something judges are already looking at."***

That just made angry leaders angrier.

Congress's Jairam Ramesh said, "If there's nothing to hide, why not discuss it? The voter list is democracy's backbone. Every name matters."

Down in Bihar, confusion grew. "They said my papers weren't enough, and now my name's gone!" said Sita Devi, a voter from Nalanda. "First time in 20 years, I don't know if I'll get to vote."



## Parliament in Chaos: Laws Passed—Or Not

Now, it's quite obvious to guess, if all this meant nothing else could get done. Though there are a few important laws that squeaked through.

**Merchant Shipping Bill:** This new law replaces outdated ship rules from colonial times. Now, Indian companies have clearer control over ships, and the government has more power to catch illegal vessels. The shipping industry gave it a thumbs-up.

But the real headlines?

Most bills, like those for sports governance or the extension of President's Rule in Manipur, got stuck in the shouting and walk-outs.

Speaker Om Birla scolded everyone:

***"People are watching. Parliament isn't just a battleground. It's where we find solutions."***

The government accused the opposition of stalling progress, and the opposition said they just wanted honest answers.

## India on the World Stage: Warnings and Words from the Foreign Ministry

While Parliament thundered, India was flexing its muscles abroad. External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** gave a strong warning:

***"Pakistan and China are working more closely together on the military front. India will not sit silently. Our decisions now shape what the world thinks."***





He pointed out how the US agreed to name The Resistance Front as a terrorist group. *“That was because of India’s stand after Operation Sindoor,”* he emphasized. And if anyone thought India needed foreign mediation, he set the record straight:

*“India will never yield to blackmail, nuclear or otherwise.”*

# Unexpected Drama: Vice President Dhankhar Steps Down

Just as everyone thought the session couldn’t get more surprising, *Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned without warning.* Mentioned *“For health reasons,”* in his letter to President Murmu.

Both government and opposition were taken aback. Soon, the rumour spread like a forest fire. “Maybe he was pressured after questioning the government during Operation Sindoor debates,” hinted JMM leader Hemant Soren.

Over 30 requests to hold a discussion on the resignation were dismissed. The opposition saw it as another sign that powerful voices were being silenced.

# United Front: The INDIA Alliance Finds Its Voice

For the first time in more than a year, leaders from Congress, RJD, DMK, AAP, and other parties sat down together at Rahul Gandhi’s house to plan.

They didn’t stop there. Days later, the entire INDIA bloc marched to the Election Commission’s doorstep, demanding a stop to the SIR drive and a fair way for people to prove they belong on the voter list.

TMC’s *Sagorika Ghosh* summed up the mood:

*“If Parliament closes its doors to debate, we’ll take the debate to the streets instead.”*

For many, seeing usually-rival parties march together felt historic.

## By the Numbers: What This Session Looks Like on Paper

- *Over 41 hours lost to shouting and interruptions—among the worst records in Monsoon Session history.*
- *Only a handful of bills, like the Merchant Shipping Bill, made it through.*
- *7+ bills, some urgent, remained stuck.*
- *The SIR drive impacted almost 8 crore voters in Bihar—a number no party could ignore.*

## Voices From the Front

Om Birla, Speaker:  
*“We’re here to air differences, not create deadlocks. Parliament belongs to the people.”*

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President:  
*“Stripping people of their vote quietly is no less dangerous than open violence.”*

Amit Shah, Home Minister:  
*“Enemies of India will get a reply wherever they hide. That is Operation Sindoor’s message.”*

Rahul Gandhi, Congress:  
*“The real crisis is not outside Parliament, but inside it—are we brave enough to fight for our democracy?”*

## Conclusion

When the show ended, Parliament had proved just how unpredictable and intense Indian democracy can be. Even as the clouds cleared and the city dried off, the bigger storms: about security, voting rights, accountability were just getting started.

Will there be a real debate about voter transparency?

Will local and regional voices actually be heard?

Or is shouting the new normal?

One thing is sure: In India’s Parliament, the weather always changes, but the winds of democracy keep blowing, wild and fierce. **BI**



# The Eternal Journey of Faith: Exploring Maharashtra's Sacred Wari Pilgrimage

by Anjali Bhardwaj

With the arrival of monsoon, a spiritual wave sweeps across the land of Maharashtra, every year. Barefoot devotees from humble towns like Dehu and Alandi, begins their sacred march, singing and humming age-old hymns. Devotees drenched in devotion marches towards Pandharpur, the abode of lord Vithoba. What unfolds is the Pandharpur Wari — one of India's oldest and most vibrant religious journeys, where everyone is a Mauli. In wari, modernity pauses and devotion takes centre stage.

## A Journey Rooted in History and Bhakti

The story of the Pandharpur Wari is deeply intertwined with the Bhakti movement—a period when spiritual expression in India was transformed forever. The Bhakti movement was not only about worship; it was a revolution of the heart. It called upon every individual, whether scholar or peasant, to experience a personal connection with the divine, breaking away from rigid rituals and social barriers that had long defined religion.

It was during this spiritual bloom in 13th-century Maharashtra when the seeds of the Wari tradition were sown. According to the historians, Vitthalpant—the devoted father of the esteemed Sant Dnyaneshwar, as one of its earliest flagbearers. Through devotion, public singing, and the simple act of walking together, these early pilgrims demonstrated that the true path to God lay in humility, love, and togetherness.

Over the centuries, what began as an informal journey gradually developed order and meaning. In 1685, a pivotal transformation occurred when Narayan Maharaj, the youngest son of Sant Tukaram, introduced the Palakhi tradition. He formalized the annual processions, carrying the symbolic sandals (padukas) of saints Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram, allowing devotees to feel an even deeper connection to their spiritual mentors.

What started centuries ago as a modest expression of collective faith has, by the force of devotion and the inspiration of saint-poets, turned into one of the world's largest and most vibrant pilgrimages.

## The Sacred March Begins

Thousands of devotees gather for the ceremonial departure known as Wari Prasthan—the moment when two sacred journeys begin

their convergence toward the holy town of Pandharpur. The sight is nothing short of extraordinary.

Two magnificent Palkhis emerge, each one a masterpiece of devotion and craftsmanship. The first, departing from Alandi, carries the sacred padukas of Sant Dnyaneshwar. The simple silver sandals once worn in the feet of the 13th-century saint-poet who revolutionized spiritual thought.

The second Palkhi sets forth from Dehu, bearing the padukas of Sant Tukaram. The beloved 17th-century saint whose soul-stirring abhangs continue to echo in the hearts of millions.

Each Palkhi is adorned with intricate silver work and is draped in vibrant fabrics. The palkhi seems to pulse with the collective devotion of generations who have walked this path before.

Around these sacred palanquins, an ocean of humanity gathers, called as the Warkaris. Dressed in crisp white cotton dhotis, heads crowned with simple Gandhi caps, sacred tulsi beads around their necks and the venas slung across their shoulders, they embody the essence of spiritual democracy. Together, they form what can only be described as an endless human tapestry. Each thread an individual soul, yet all woven together by the golden thread of devotion and only one name — Mauli.

## A Symphony of Devotion

What follows is both a physical and spiritual odyssey that spans nearly 250 kilometers and unfolds over 21 transformative days. The route itself tells a story—winding through the bustling streets of Pune, where urban life pauses to witness this ancient procession. Through the historic town of Saswad, where the Warkaris' voices echo off centuries-old walls. Past the hilltop temple of Jejuri, where devotees pause to seek additional blessings; and finally, through Wakhari, the last milestone before their ultimate destination.

As the sun rises, the collective voice of thousands joins in singing abhangs.

Abhangs are the soul-stirring devotional poems that Sant Tukaram gifted to the world. These aren't performances but outpourings of the heart, each verse carries the weight of personal struggles, hopes, and surrender to the divine.



The communal meals that punctuate each day are exercises in spiritual equality and inclusivity. Here, a wealthy businessman sits beside a village farmer, sharing the same simple food in the same wooden plate at the same blessed moment.

The dindi processions—smaller groups organized by villages, families, or regions—create intimate circles within the vast gathering, ensuring that no one walks alone on this sacred path.

The monsoon adds its own poetry to this pilgrimage. Sometimes the devotees walk under blazing sun. Other times, they march through gentle drizzles that seem like blessings from above. Their white clothes keep clinging to their bodies as they continue unbothered.

And occasionally, they dance through torrential downpours, their joy undiminished, seeing in every raindrop a sign of divine approval.

This is more than a religious procession—it's a living, breathing meditation in motion, where every step is a prayer, every song a conversation with the divine, and every shared glance between pilgrims a recognition of the sacred spark that connects all souls on their journey home to Pandharpur.

## The Saints Who Illuminate the Path

At the heart of this pilgrimage lie the saints who redefined spirituality in Maharashtra. Sant Dnyaneshwar, the 13th-century child prodigy, wrote the Dnyaneshwari, a Marathi commentary on the Bhagavad Gita that revolutionized religious understanding by making complex philosophy accessible to the common man. His message was clear, "God resides in every heart; realization is not exclusive to a few." His life itself was a testimony to humility, devotion, and the power of inner wisdom.

Sant Tukaram, in the 17th century, emerged as a fiery voice of devotion and social conscience. He carried this legacy forward through his deeply moving abhangs (devotional poems sung in pure Marathi). At a time when society was greatly divided by caste and class, Tukaram's message was revolutionary: every soul is equal before the divine. His poetry, rich in compassion and longing, continues to resonate deeply.

Other saints like Sant Eknath, Sant Namdev, and Sant Chokhame-la further enriched this devotional legacy. Whether through their poetry, philosophy, or acts of compassion, each soul contributed to the living tradition that is the Wari.

## A Confluence of Devotion and Community

The Wari is more than a religious observance; it is a movement of spiritual democracy and inclusivity. The procession dissolves all barriers. Caste, class, and economic status hold no relevance. A simple farmer walks beside a professor. A child holds hands with an elderly woman. All are equal under Vithoba's gaze.

The pilgrimage also exemplifies a self-sustaining model of community. Volunteers provide food, water, and first-aid. Temporary kitchens are set up to feed the masses without charge. There is order without enforcement, service without expectations. The spirit of 'seva' (selfless service) is deeply rooted in the Warkari

conscience.

## The Final Benediction at Pandharpur

After three weeks on foot, the pilgrims reach Pandharpur on Ashadhi Ekadashi, the 11th day of the Hindu lunar month of Ashadha, which usually falls in June or July. By the time the Warkaris reach the sacred town, their feet may be blistered but their spirits soar.

Upon being asked, a warkari said, "our feet don't hurt because, lord Vitthala himself massages our feet, when we sleep at night!"

The highlight of the arrival is a dip in the Chandrabhaga River, believed to purify the soul, followed by darshan of their beloved Vitthala — a form of Lord Krishna standing with arms akimbo, waiting for his devotees on the banks of the river.

The vibe in Pandharpur is enchanting. Devotees sing, weep, laugh, and collapse in surrender at the deity's feet. It is the culmination not just of a physical journey, but of a deep, internal voyage of faith and surrender.

## The Wari Today: Timeless Relevance

In an era of hyper-connectivity and rapid modernization, the Wari remains strikingly relevant. With over 1 million participants annually, it is a testament to sustained cultural unity and inclusivity. The state government, NGOs, and local administrations now co-ordinate medical camps, sanitation drives, and technological tools like GPS tracking of the palkhis to ensure safety.

Yet, amid these modern conveniences, the essence of the Wari remains untouched.

It continues to inspire — not just as a religious act, but as a social revolution, an ecological statement promoting barefoot travel and signifies minimalism. It stays a spiritual celebration upholding equality, humility, and compassion. **BI**





# Chetak Logistics Honoured With The “Best Logistics Service Provider Award 2025” By TAFE



**Chennai, Aug 06, 2025** – Chetak Logistics, a leading name in India’s automobile logistics sector, has been honoured with the prestigious “**Best Logistics Service Provider Award 2025**” by TAFE – Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, one of the world’s largest and most respected tractor manufacturers. Ms. Mallika Srinivasan, Managing Director, and Mr. Sandeep Sinha, CEO, TAFE, presented the award to Sachin JKS haritasH, Director, Chetak Logistics, at an event organised in Chennai.

The award was presented in recognition of Chetak Logistics’ exceptional service standards, supply chain efficiency, and long-standing commitment to customer satisfaction. It marks a proud moment for the organisation and underscores its role as a key partner in TAFE’s complex and dynamic logistics ecosystem.

TAFE, incorporated in 1960 and headquartered in Chennai, is India’s second-largest tractor manufacturer by volume and a globally respected brand, exporting to over 80 countries. With a turnover exceeding INR 13,700 Crore, TAFE’s recognition of Chetak Logistics affirms the company’s operational excellence and dedication to innovation in supply chain solutions. It is also a significant shareholder in AGCO Corporation, a US\$14.4 billion manufacturer of tractors and agricultural equipment in the USA. It has earned the trust of customers through its range of products, which are widely acclaimed for their quality and low operating costs.

Speaking on the occasion, Malika Srinivasan, said, “**I truly value this recognition and firmly believe that our greatest progress comes from strong partnerships and shared growth**”.

Speaking on the occasion, Sachin haritasH, Director, Chetak Logistics, said, “**We are deeply honoured to receive this recognition from a globally admired company like TAFE.**”

**This award reflects the relentless dedication of our teams and our shared vision of achieving logistics excellence through innovation, technology, and trust. It inspires us to raise the bar in service and efficiency further.”**

## About Chetak Group

Chetak Logistics, founded in 1979, is renowned for its end-to-end logistics solutions tailored to the evolving needs of the automotive and industrial sectors. With over 2 million square feet of state-of-the-art warehousing, a nationwide network of more than 60 branches, and a modern fleet, the company offers comprehensive services, including transportation, warehousing, international freight forwarding, and customs clearance.

Chetak Logistics is a leading provider of end-to-end logistics solutions, specialising in automotive logistics, surface transportation, warehousing, 3PL services, and express cargo movement. With expertise in inbound and outbound logistics, cold chain solutions, project cargo handling, and e-commerce deliveries, we offer customised, tech-enabled services to meet the diverse needs of modern supply chains across India.

Headquartered in Delhi, the national capital, Chetak Group operates with 60 offices and branches across major industries- all hubs in India, delivering practical solutions to its customers. The Group is renowned for its on-time performance and quality service, earning the trust of a prestigious clientele that includes major national and global automobile brands such as Maruti Suzuki, Tata, Hyundai, JCB, Kia, and Honda, among many others. **BI**



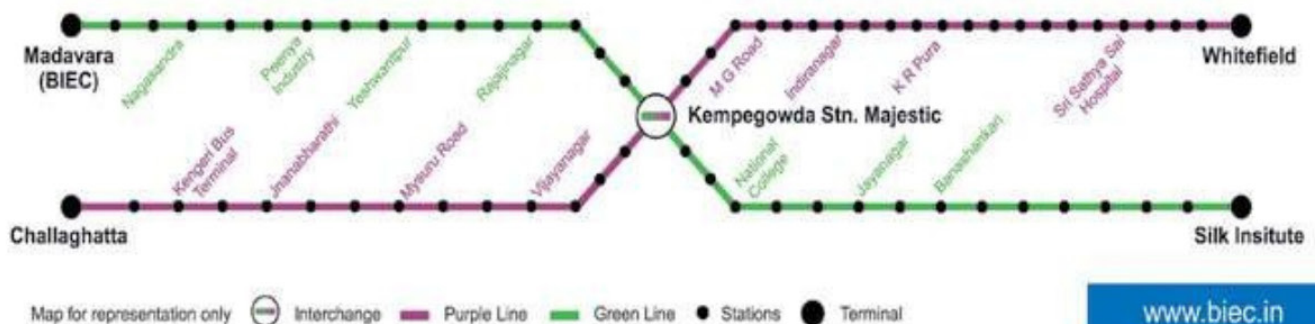


Indian Machine Tool  
Manufacturers' Association

**B I E C** Bangalore  
International  
Exhibition Centre

# A VENUE MUCH MORE CLOSER TO YOU

*now*  
BIEC connected with Bangalore Metro



[www.biec.in](http://www.biec.in)





## Modi's Veshti Diplomacy: Symbolism, Pride, and Politics in Tamil Nadu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tamil Nadu this July was anything but routine. Clad in a crisp white veshti and shirt, Modi stood at the ancient Brihadiswara Temple, a vessel of Ganga water in hand and the temple's iconic gopuram towering behind him—a picture that quickly went viral across the country. His visit was heavy with symbolism: he released a special coin for the Chola emperor Rajendra Chola I and praised the Chola rulers for their vision, calling their era “an ancient roadmap” for a strong and developed India.

Supporters saw Modi's embrace of Tamil customs as a respectful nod to local pride. Critics, though, were skeptical, seeing it as political theater ahead of state elections: was this a genuine celebration of Tamil culture, or just an attempt to win new voters for the BJP in a state famous for its strong regional identity? Local politicians wasted no time: actor Vijay called the gesture “political drama,” while DMK leaders pointed out that Tamil pride long predates the BJP's new interest. But for many Tamil citizens, the moment was about more than politics. Crowds cheered Modi at every stop, and the temple's priests welcomed him warmly. Modi later pointed to the return of ancient stolen artefacts—over 600 in the last decade, 36 from Tamil Nadu itself—and said, “India takes pride in celebrating both progress and heritage”.

As debates swirl over the true meaning of the veshti moment,

one thing is clear: Modi's visit sparked conversation across Tamil Nadu about identity, history, and who gets to tell the story of this ancient land. Whether seen as clever strategy or sincere outreach, it was political theatre at its grandest and most human scale. **BI**







# *Experience India!*

INDIAN TOUR PACKAGE

INTERNATIONAL TOUR PACKAGE

AIR TICKETING

RAILWAY TICKETING

## **Sansar Travel & Tours**

Shop No.-24, DDA Mkt. Behind Goodwill Society, Sector-8, Delhi-110085

Deepak Nagpal M.- 9811099427 Email: [sansartnt@live.in](mailto:sansartnt@live.in)





# ITB INDIA



## ITB India 2025: A Gateway to Global Travel Opportunities

This September, Mumbai will host the fourth edition of ITB India, the premier travel trade show and convention, from 2nd to 4th September 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre. Bringing together over 400 exhibitors and more than 8,000 professionals, ITB India serves as a vibrant platform for networking, business growth, and knowledge sharing within India's booming travel industry.

The event attracts a diverse mix of participants, including international tourism boards like the Ministry of Tourism of Indonesia, Visit Northern Finland, and the Sarawak Tourism Board. Visitors can also explore offerings from renowned hotels such as Prince Hotels & Resorts, plus innovative tour operators and travel tech companies presenting solutions that harness AI and big data to transform travel experiences.

More than 600 high-profile buyers from across India and South Asia will be present, ensuring meaningful business connections in this rapidly expanding market. Darren Seah, Executive Director of Messe Berlin Asia Pacific and organizer of ITB India, highlights the event's value: **"With 80% of attendees being decision-makers, ITB India 2025 is the ideal platform to build partnerships, drive**

**innovation, and tap into one of the world's fastest-growing travel markets."**

As the travel sector continues to evolve, ITB India 2025 offers inspirational ideas and fresh opportunities, a must-attend event for anyone involved in India's dynamic tourism landscape. **BI**



*Opening Ceremony, ITB 2024*



# Goa's ₹350 Crore Tourism Transformation: A Bold Step Toward Global Appeal

Goa is set to redefine its tourism landscape with a massive ₹350 crore investment aimed at boosting its global appeal and enriching visitor experiences. Announced recently by the state government, this ambitious plan focuses on upgrading infrastructure, enhancing cultural and eco-tourism, and improving safety and sustainability across the coastal paradise.

The transformation project includes renovating existing tourist sites, developing new attractions, and strengthening connectivity and amenities to make Goa more accessible and welcoming. Special attention is given to promoting offbeat destinations, preserving natural heritage, and supporting local communities so that tourism growth benefits all the stakeholders.

This initiative arrives as tourism rebounds after a challenging period and reflects Goa's commitment to maintaining its position

as one of India's top travel destinations both nationally and internationally. By blending tradition with modern comforts and responsible development, Goa aims to offer travellers a richer and safer experience.

State leaders emphasize that the investment will create jobs, stimulate the economy, and attract visitors year-round, broadening Goa's reach beyond its famous beaches. The project also plans to leverage digital tools and sustainable practices to promote smarter, greener tourism.

As Goa takes these steps toward renewal, the state invites travellers, investors, and partners to witness its evolving story. A blend of timeless charm and fresh promise that keeps this beloved destination vibrant and globally competitive. **BI**

## Wyndham Hotels Surpasses 720 Locations in EMEA and India: Expansion Signals Hospitality Momentum

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, the world's largest hotel franchising company, has crossed a major milestone with more than 720 operational hotels now open across Europe, the Middle East, Eurasia, and Africa (EMEA). In the first half of 2025 alone, Wyndham welcomed over 60 new hotels and 4,700 rooms across the region, marking a robust 5% organic system growth and reinforcing its leadership in dynamic travel markets.

India and Eurasia led the company's momentum, with 21 new hotel openings this year. Wyndham's Indian portfolio now boasts over 90 hotels, including standout properties like Wyndham Garden Jim Corbett and Ramada Encore by Wyndham Lucknow Airport. In Türkiye, where Wyndham holds the largest international hotel footprint, the group just expanded beyond 125 hotels, adding destinations such as Signature Cave Cappadocia and Wyndham Tarsus St. Paul.

Wyndham has also brought its trusted Super 8 brand to Saudi Arabia and Iberia, launching a pipeline set to reach 140 hotels in the next decade. This growth is bolstered by Wyndham's tech-driven franchising model, supported by a \$350 million investment in digital transformation and the global Wyndham Advantage platform. With a loyalty base of 120

million Wyndham Rewards members, the brand continues driving high guest satisfaction and partner returns.

Greece, Portugal, Denmark, and Italy, positioning itself to meet rising travel demand across both established and emerging markets. This wave of expansion also underlines Wyndham's commitment to job creation and economic growth through hospitality, especially in fast-growing tourism regions like India and Central Asia. **BI**





# Kerala's first wedding and MICE Conclave in Kochi from August 14 to 16



*KTM society joint secretary Jobin Joseph, secretary S Swaminathan, former president Abraham George, president Jose Pradeep, former president Baby Mathew, treasurer Jibran Asif and vice president C Harikumar.*

**Kochi, Aug 6:** The city is all set to host Kerala's first Wedding and MICE Conclave from August 14 to 16, seeking to tap into the state's immense potential to emerge as a global hub of destination weddings besides meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions.

Organized by Kerala Travel Mart (KTM Society) in collaboration with the state government, the event will be inaugurated by Tourism and Public Works Minister P.A. Mohammed Riyas. Chairing the opening ceremony at the Grand Hyatt in Bolgatty at 5 pm will be State Industries, Coir and Law Minister P Rajeev. The chief guest will be Finance Minister K N Balagopal.

The theme of the event is Centre Stage Kerala.

The next two days' proceedings, featuring trade meetings and exhibitions, will be held at Le Meridien.

Shri Hibi Eden MP, Kochi Mayor Shri M Anilkumar, Union Ministry of Tourism Additional Secretary and Director-General Shri Suman Billa, State Tourism Secretary Shri K. Biju, Kerala Tourism Director Smt Sikha Surendran and Additional Director Smt Sreedhanya Suresh, KTM Society President Shri Jose Pradeep and Secretary Shri S Swaminathan will attend the inaugural session.

More than 675 buyers from within and outside the country have registered, even as the number is expected to rise in the coming days.

Of those registered, 610 buyers are from within the country and 65 buyers from abroad. There will be 75 exhibition stalls for sellers. KTDC, the Department of Tourism and Ministry of Tourism will also participate, KTM Society president Shri Jose Pradeep and secretary Shri S Swaminathan told a press conference here.

Two national seminars are also being organized as part of the conclave to spotlight on the future vision of this sector.

Representatives from countries such as the UAE, UK, Germany, USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Oman, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine and Vietnam will participate. The conclave comes in the wake of Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan's announcement at the inauguration of KTM-2024 that

Kerala would become the hub of the country in the field of wedding and honeymoon tourism.

This initiative is to maximize the various potentials of Kerala as one of the most preferred tourist destinations in the world.

Training camps, innovative marketing strategies, logistics and technology deployment will be organized in collaboration with large MICE and wedding companies. The local supply chain will be fully utilized.

The exhibition platform is reserved for businessmen with extensive experience in the MICE industry. Wedding planners, luxury resorts, destination wedding venues, floral design, photography, catering, and bridal services will have the opportunity to showcase their talent in the wedding sector.

Tour programs have also been organized for buyers coming from various places, combining the attractions of Kerala tourism. Visits are being organized in places such as Kochi, Munnar, Kumarakom, Kollam, Kovalam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Bekal. Wedding tourism will be organized by combining beaches, backwaters and mountains. Cultural heritage, ancient architecture and delicious cuisine will all be integrated with the theme of the conference.

All the business meetings will be scheduled as per the pre-set schedule. In addition to tours connecting various tourism destinations, there will be expert-led training workshops and exhibitions of all the attractions that Kerala has to offer in the wedding industry.

The conference hopes to bring together the stakeholders in the fields of wedding planning, corporate conferences, large convention centers, and tour operators under one umbrella.

In addition to business meetings from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., seminars will also be held with the participation of international experts.

The press conference was also attended by KTM treasurer Shri Jibran Asif, former presidents Shri Abraham George, Shri Baby Mathew, joint secretary Shri Jobin Joseph and vice president Shri C Harikumar. **BI**



# RUDRA

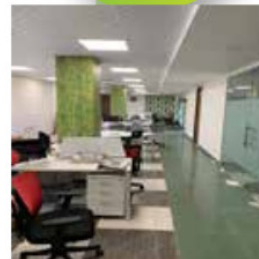
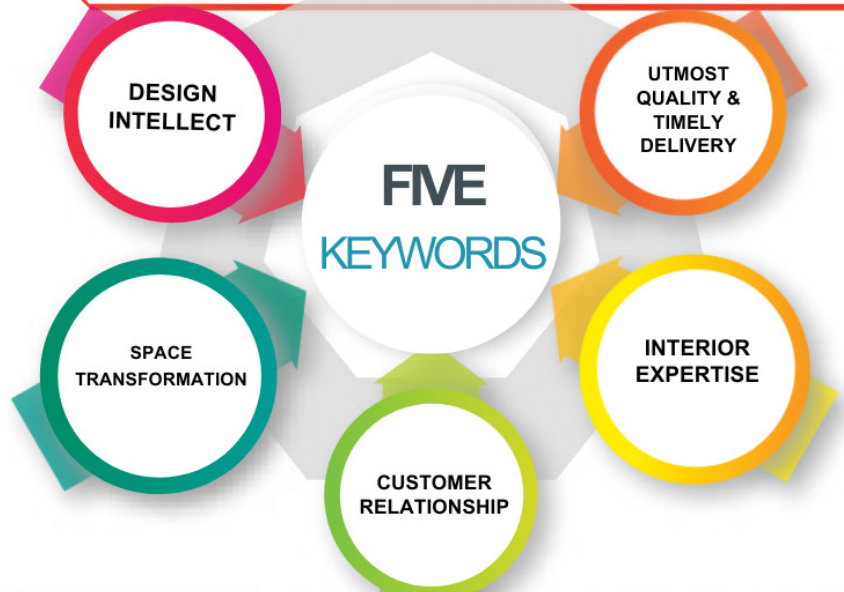
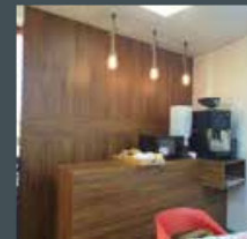
## INTERIOR STUDIO

Adorn your Desires



## Our Services

- CORPORATE INTERIORS
- RESIDENTIAL INTERIORS
- ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
- TURNKEY PROJECT EXECUTION
- 3D RENDERING & WALKTHROUGHS



**VISIT US TO KNOW MORE**

[www.rudrainteriors.in](http://www.rudrainteriors.in)

H 125, 2nd floor, Phase -1, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052

[rudrainteriors.studios@gmail.com](mailto:rudrainteriors.studios@gmail.com) 99999 67707



# Vedic Advice for India's Bureaucracy



by Vibha Gurtu

Director, Spiritual Tara

I have been grappling with many questions over the present geo-political scenarios, particularly with regard to President Trump's recent policies and conduct which have put our world in real chaos. With multiple things happening around us, wars in West Asia, between Russia & Ukraine, India & Pakistan and more recently between Thailand & Cambodia and above all President Trump's desire to earn a Nobel Peace Prize, I have been wondering what could be a good spiritual message to the world from the Land of the Vedas.

Finally, I decided to ask my newest friend, Chat GPT. My question to her (I purposely address her as a woman) was, "What do our Vedas and Puranas teach us to do in a scenario created by the present geo-political environment?" My friend, Chat GPT almost echoed my thoughts on the subject and gave me the following insights.

## ChatGPT said:

Yes — today's bureaucratic systems can absolutely learn from Indian spiritual texts like the Vedas, though the insights would have to be interpreted in a modern, practical context rather than taken as direct governance manuals.

The Vedas themselves aren't "*political treatises*" in the way Arthashastra or Manusmriti are, but they contain philosophical, ethical, and organizational principles that could improve how bureaucracies operate today. A few examples:

### 1. Dharma (Righteous Duty)

- Lesson: The Vedic concept of dharma emphasizes fulfilling one's role with integrity, for the welfare of all, not just personal gain.

### 2. Satya (Truthfulness)

- Lesson: The Vedas hold satya (truth) as a supreme virtue, even above personal interest.

### 3. Yajna (Collective Contribution)

- Lesson: In the Vedic context, yajna is a cooperative act where all participants contribute for the common good.

### 4. Sustainability and Stewardship

- Lesson: Vedic hymns like those in the Atharva Veda see nature as sacred — urging restraint, balance, and sustainability.

### 5. Inner Discipline Before Outer Control

- Lesson: The Vedas emphasize self-control (tapas, meditation, restraint) as a precondition for managing others.

### 6. "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The World is One Family)

- Lesson: Although popularized in later texts, the spirit is Vedic — recognizing interdependence and inclusivity.



I then asked Chat GPT, “What can India’s bureaucracy say to Mr. Donald Trump over his anti-India tirade?”

**ChatGPT said:**

If we look at this from the lens of Sanatan Dharma (the broader philosophy that includes Vedic and later Hindu thought), it offers a framework for dealing with disruptive individuals or chaotic global events — without being consumed by anger, bias, or panic.

The teachings would not focus on Trump as a person, but on the qualities of chaos, misinformation, or divisiveness he might represent, and how to respond to them. Here’s how Sanatan principles could guide India:

### 1. Viveka (Discernment) Over Reaction

- Principle: In Vedantic thought, viveka is the ability to distinguish truth from falsehood, the essential from the non-essential.
- Application: Instead of reacting emotionally to provocative statements or policies, India should use intelligence-gathering, fact-checking, and measured diplomacy to separate noise from real threats.

### 2. Dharmic Diplomacy

- Principle: Dharma demands actions aligned with justice, fairness, and the long-term good.
- Application: Even if another leader behaves irrationally, India’s foreign policy should be rooted in fairness, keeping commitments, and seeking mutually beneficial outcomes — never descending into the same level of chaos.

### 3. Shanti (Inner Calm) Before Strategy

- Principle: The Bhagavad Gita teaches that a disturbed mind leads to poor decisions (ashantasya kutah sukham? — “Without peace, how can there be happiness?”).
- Application: Maintain composure in the face of provocations — avoid tit-for-tat rhetoric, and let calm strategy dictate responses.



*Vibha is an author, a practitioner and facilitator of Shamanism and an intuitive healer. Trained in reiki, pranic healing, hypnotherapy, tarot card reading and others, she founded Aumtara, a spiritual hub, in New Delhi. Vibha is a spiritual guide, talk therapist and an image consultant. She uses her learning and experience to create inner and outer balance. Vibha assists people to break repetitive patterns to achieve life goals through clarity. She provides holistic healing to bring a shift internally in thoughts and externally with behaviour and appearance. She has conducted numerous workshops on image makeover, relationships and empowerment at individual and corporate levels.*

*To learn more, visit [www.vibhagurtu.com](http://www.vibhagurtu.com)*

### 4. Yuktam Āchāranam (Measured Action)

- Principle: Yukti means strategy; Vedic kings were advised to act only after fully assessing consequences.
- Application: India can use calculated diplomacy — forming alliances, using backchannel communication, and leveraging trade, technology, and military positioning — rather than reacting impulsively to international drama.

### 5. Matsya Nyaya Awareness

- Principle: Ancient Indian political thought (also echoed in the Mahabharata) warns of Matsya Nyaya — the “law of the fish,” where in chaotic times the big fish eat the small fish.
- Application: In times of global disorder, India should strengthen its self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), protect its economy, and avoid being exploited by larger powers.

### 6. Loka Sangraha (Welfare of All)

- Principle: The Gita advises leaders to act for loka sangraha — the welfare and stability of the world.
- Application: India can take leadership in multilateral forums (BRICS, G20, UN) to stabilize trade, climate, and security cooperation — acting as a balancing force against polarizing leadership elsewhere.

I think, this sums up my thoughts, feelings and emotions (read anger) and addresses it too. Thank you my dear friend Chat GPT. **BI**

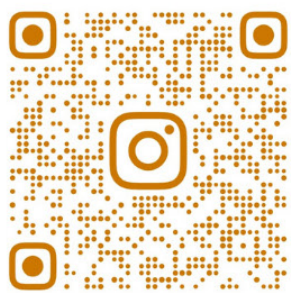






**Specialized in organizing Destination Weddings and Luxury Events.**

**HOSPITALITY  
WEDDING BRANDING  
TRANSPORTATION  
ACCOMMODATION  
FOOD & BEVERAGE  
ENTERTAINMENT  
DÉCOR & DESIGN  
FIREWORKS  
PHOTOGRAPHY**



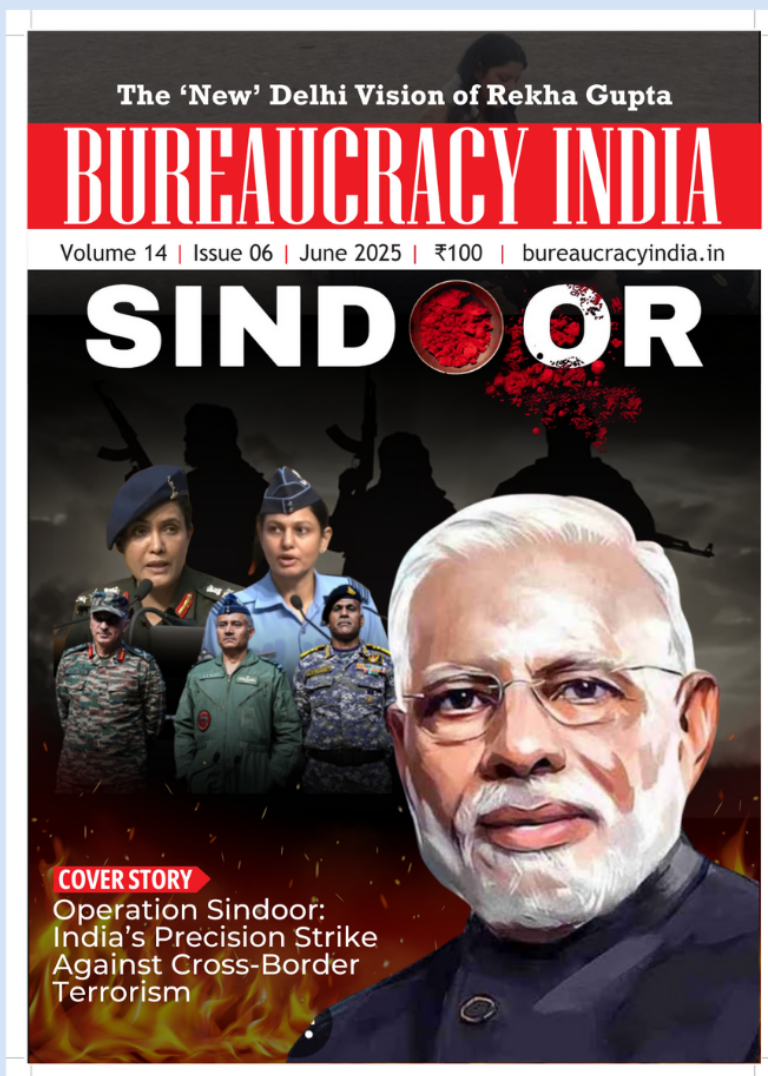
**@KNITDREAMSS**

Scan QR code for instagram page

**suhani@knitdreams.in, suhani17.vyas@gmail.com  
+91-8800149149, +91-9999967707  
www.knitdreams.in**







Save Rs.  
210/-  
per 2 year

#### SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please enroll me as a subscriber,

Name(Mr./Ms.).....  
Designation.....  
Company  
Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
City.....State.....Pin Code.....  
Ph.....Mob.....  
Email.....

#### SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

Period	Issues	By Post
One Year	12	Rs.800/-
Two Year	24	Rs.1600/-

# Add Rs.100/- for outstation cheque.

Received Cash /  
Cheque.....Dated.....Rs.....bank.....  
.....against the subscription of ?  
**BUREAUCRACY INDIA** for ....year.

I am enclosing a  
Cash / Cheque / DD No.....Dated.....  
For Rs.....favouring **BUREAUCRACY INDIA** drawn on  
..... For .....year/s, payable at Delhi.

Signature of Sales Person

Signature of Subscriber

**BUREAUCRACY INDIA**

4/15, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara, New Delhi - 110032  
info@bureaucracyindia.in Ph. : +91 99999 67707





A billion faces. A billion sites to see. Incredible India. A billion reasons to visit,

# Incredible India

[www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) 1-800-953-9399