

# IACE

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## 32<sup>nd</sup> Northern Zonal Council Meeting Highlights: Strengthening Inter-State Cooperation

- ✓ The 32<sup>nd</sup> Northern Zonal Council (NZC) meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Faridabad on November 17.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Central Government, States and Union Territories of the Northern Region – Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh.
- ✓ It was organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs and hosted by the Government of Haryana.
- ✓ The Northern Zonal Council was established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, to strengthen cooperation between states and between the Centre and states.
- ✓ Its chairperson is served by Amit Shah, while the position of vice-chairperson is held by the Chief Minister of Haryana.
- ✓ The vice-chairpersonship is rotated annually among the member states, and two ministers are nominated to the council by each governor.



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- ✓ A permanent Committee of Chief Secretaries assists the Council by reviewing issues before they are placed for wider deliberation.
- ✓ The meeting aligns with the Prime Minister's "TEAM BHARAT" vision of stronger inter-state collaboration for nation-building.
- ✓ The Zonal Councils have served as platforms for dialogue on cross-border issues and have held 63 meetings in the past eleven years, showing increased engagement.
- ✓ The Councils discuss issues such as faster investigation of crimes against women and children, expanding banking access, implementing the 112 Emergency Response Support System and improving social sector governance.
- ✓ Matters related to health, nutrition, electricity, education, urban planning, the cooperative sector and other shared interests are also taken up for resolution.

## Indian Navy to Commission 'Mahe', the First Mahe-Class ASW Shallow Water Craft

- ✓ Mahe, the first of eight ASW-SWCs built by CSL, Kochi, is to be commissioned by the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The Indian Navy's first of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), 'Mahe', was reported to be commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on November 24.
- ✓ The commissioning was described as a major step in enhancing indigenous shipbuilding capability under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ Mahe has been built by Cochin Shipyard Limited as the first vessel in a series of eight ships.
- ✓ The ship has been designed for shallow-water operations with advanced technology for anti-submarine warfare, coastal surveillance and maritime security.
- ✓ The vessel carries over 80% indigenous content, showcasing India's progress in warship design, construction and systems integration.
- ✓ It is named after the coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast, and its crest features an 'Urumi', the flexible sword of Kalaripayattu, symbolising agility, precision, and lethal grace.



- ✓ The Mahe class represents a new generation of compact and highly manoeuvrable platforms suited for littoral zones.
- ✓ Its induction will enhance the Navy's capability to secure strategic maritime regions.
- ✓ The ship strengthens India's commitment to domestic naval manufacturing and operational readiness.

## Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates and Lays Foundation Stones for PMGSY Projects Across J&K

- ✓ PMGSY infrastructure works inaugurated and foundation stones laid by Dr. Jitendra Singh across multiple districts of J&K.
- ✓ On 15 November, a series of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) projects were inaugurated, and foundation stones were laid by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh through electronic mode in Udhampur.
- ✓ The Union Minister laid the foundation stone for 45 road projects in five districts and inaugurated nine completed road projects in three districts.
- ✓ The total project cost of the 45 roads in the five districts will be Rs. 92,423.82 lakh. The total project cost of the nine roads dedicated to the public is Rs. 8,677.92 lakh.
- ✓ He highlighted that the government now follows a bottom-up development approach and prioritises equitable growth for the Jammu region.



- ✓ Security concerns were recognised, and coordination with security agencies was assured for safe execution of road projects, especially after Operation Sindoor.
- ✓ The widening of Dhar Road was cleared by defence authorities and will be taken up soon for public and defence convenience.
- ✓ The minister laid the foundation stone for the Channi Morh-Lower Sounthan link road, sanctioned at Rs. 799.69 lakh to benefit around 755 people.

## National Press Day 2025: 16 November

- ✓ National Press Day is observed annually on 16 November to commemorate the setting up of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966.
- ✓ It is observed as a day to recognize the importance of the free and responsible press in a democratic society.
- ✓ The theme for National Press Day 2025 is “Safeguarding press credibility amidst rising misinformation”.
- ✓ Press Council of India was formed on 4 July 1966 on the recommendations of the First Press Commission.
- ✓ The Press Council of India is a statutory and quasi-judicial body. It was re-established in the year 1979 under the Press Council Act, 1978.
- ✓ The Working Journalists Act, 1955, combined with recent reforms such as the Press and Periodicals Registration Act 2023, protects the rights of journalists and modernises media regulation.



- ✓ The Press Seva portal has digitized the registration of magazines, onboarded 40,000 publishers, and registered 3,000 presses within six months, making business easier for publishers.
- ✓ Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is the current chairperson of the Press Council of India.

## Telangana to Host 'North East Connect' Techno-Cultural Festival in Hyderabad

- ✓ Telangana will organise a techno-cultural festival to develop deeper cultural, social and developmental connections between the State and the North Eastern states.
- ✓ The 'Telangana-North East Connect' will be organised in two phases in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The first phase of the festival will continue for three days. It will start on the 20th of this month.
- ✓ The first phase of the festival will be held at Hyderabad's Hitex Exhibition Centre.
- ✓ This opening phase will have cultural performances and handcrafted goods made by women's self-help groups from the North East will be displayed.
- ✓ The second phase will be run for three days from the 25th November for three days at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The focus of this phase will be on expert discussions related to healthcare.



## World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 Set to Take Place in Greater Noida

- ✓ World Boxing Cup Finals will be held in Greater Noida from 16 November to 20 November.
- ✓ The finals will be held at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex.
- ✓ With this event, the 2025 World Boxing Cup Series will conclude.
- ✓ This event follows three World Cup Stages held in Brazil, Poland, and Kazakhstan.
- ✓ A total of 130 boxers from 18 nations will compete. The event will feature the 8 best boxers of the year in each of the 20 categories.
- ✓ India will take part in all 20 categories. The team will include world champions Minakshi, Nikhat Zareen, Jaismine, and Saweety Boora.
- ✓ Saweety will make her first appearance of the year. Lovlina Borgohain has withdrawn from the tournament because of an injury.



## PM Modi Inaugurates and Lays Foundation Stones for Rs. 9,700 Crore Projects in Dediapada

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stone of development projects worth more than Rs. 9,700 crore in Dediapada.
- ✓ Dediapada is a town in the tribal-dominated Narmada district, Gujarat.
- ✓ The projects were launched on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. The day marks the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.
- ✓ Modi emphasized the role of tribal heritage in civilizational identity of India.
- ✓ He noted that the government has greatly expanded the list of minor forest produce eligible for support.
- ✓ The list has increased from about 20 items to nearly 100.
- ✓ The Prime Minister highlighted the key contributions of tribal communities to India's independence struggle.



- ✓ PM Modi reviewed the progress of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (bullet train) project and inspected the under-construction station in Surat; the 508 km corridor includes 352 km in Gujarat & Dadra and Nagar Haveli and 156 km in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The project will include a features 465 km (about 85% of the route) on viaduct. So far, 326 km of viaduct work has been completed

# Five-Year Closing Ceremony of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan to Be Held in Amritsar

- ✓ The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry will host a major five-year closing event for the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan on November 18.
- ✓ The event will take place at Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar. About 7,000 attendees are expected to participate.
- ✓ The programme will be presided over by the Punjab Governor, Gulab Chand Kataria. The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment will also attend.
- ✓ The event aims to encourage youth and the wider public to reject drug use. It also promotes healthier and more principled ways of living.
- ✓ The programme will highlight the initiative's progress. It will encourage community engagement. It will reaffirm joint efforts to build a drug-free nation.
- ✓ The campaign was launched on August 15, 2020. It addresses substance abuse through coordinated work on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

The poster features the logos of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, and the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan. The text reads: "Nasha Mukt Bharat, Khushhaal Bharat", "Celebration of 5 Years of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan", "Pledge against Drug Abuse", "In the august presence of", "Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab", "Shri Bhagwant Mann, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab", "Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India", "18th November 2025 | 11:30 AM", and "Venue: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab". A QR code is provided with the text "Take e-pledge today!". On the right, there is a cartoon character holding a sign that says "SAY NO TO DRUGS" and "Be a Responsible Citizen".

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## Vivek Singla Appointed as New MD & CEO of Power Exchange India Limited

- ✓ **Vivek Singla** has been appointed as the **Managing Director & CEO of Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL)**, bringing over 35 years of experience across generation, transmission, distribution, power management, and renewable energy.
- ✓ PXIL, India's first institutionally promoted power exchange backed by NSE and NCDEX, operates key markets such as Integrated Day Ahead, Real Time Market, Intra-Day, and renewable power contracts, supporting trading across conventional and renewable energy sources.

### Recent Appointments

- ✓ **DG of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** -Sanjay Garg
- ✓ **Full-time Member Secretary of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR** - Tarun Kumar Pithode
- ✓ **Chairperson of the WIPO Advisory Board of Judges for the 2025-2027** - Delhi HC Justice Prathiba M. Singh
- ✓ **President of FICCI for 2025-26** - Anant Goenka (replace Harsha Vardhan Agarwal)
- ✓ **Secretary in Department of Commerce** - Rajesh Agrawal (replace Sunil Barthwal)



## Shafali Verma Appointed Brand Ambassador of Haryana Women's Commission

- ✓ **Shafali Verma** has been **appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Haryana State Women's Commission**, with the announcement made by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in recognition of her match-winning performance in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final.
- ✓ She was honoured with Rs. 1.5 crore, a ceremonial shawl, and a Grade A sports gradation certificate, celebrating her 87 runs and 2 wickets in the final that helped India clinch its first-ever Women's World Cup title.
- ✓ As Brand Ambassador, Shafali will promote gender equality, encourage women's participation in sports and leadership, and raise awareness about women's rights, serving as an inspiring role model for the younger generation.

### **Recent Brand Ambassador**

- ✓ Rahul Dravid- Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL)
- ✓ Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma - Fintech firm Pay10
- ✓ Sanju Samson - English Premier League (EPL) in India
- ✓ Shubhanshu Shukla - Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025
- ✓ Mohammed Siraj - Skechers India



## Dhanush Srikanth & India's Rising Excellence at the Deaflympics

- ✓ **Dhanush Srikanth won gold at the 2025 Deaflympics**, showcasing India's rising talent in shooting.
- ✓ **In the 2022 Deaflympics (Brazil)**, he also won **two gold medals** (Individual + Mixed Team).
- ✓ The **Telangana government announced a Rs. 1.20 crore cash reward** for his 2025 Deaflympics gold.
- ✓ The announcement was made by **Sports Minister Vakkiti Srihari**.
- ✓ **Deaflympics** is an **IOC-recognized multi-sport event** for athletes with **55+ dB hearing loss**.
- ✓ Deaflympics began in **1924 in Paris** as the **International Silent Games**- older than the Paralympics.
- ✓ The event is governed by the **International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD / CISS)**.
- ✓ In the Deaflympics, sound signals (such as starting pistols and whistles) are not used; instead, visual signals like lights and flags are used.
- ✓ **Gun for Glory** is a high-performance shooting academy founded by **Olympic medallist Gagan Narang**.
- ✓ It represents India's **changing sports ecosystem**, driven by private academies and ex-athletes.
- ✓ Such academies reduce dependence on **SAI (Sports Authority of India)** alone.

