

NDA to set up defence corridor in Bihar, form commission to mitigate floods if voted to power: Shah

SHEOHAR (BIHAR), NOV 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said a defence corridor will come up in Bihar and factories will be set up in each district if the NDA is voted to power.

Addressing poll rallies in Sheohar and Sitamarhi, Shah exuded confidence that the NDA will again form Government in Bihar, and the RJD-Congress will be “wiped out by 1 pm on November 14” when the election results are declared.

“From the time of Emperor Chandragupta Maurya to Narendra Modi, the Gandak, Koshi and Ganga rivers have wreaked flood havoc in Bihar. The NDA, if voted to power, will form a commission to make Bihar flood-free,” he said.

The waters of the Koshi river will be harnessed to irrigate 50,000 hectares in the Mithilanchal region, he said.

“We will establish a defence corridor in the state,



and set up factories in each district in addition to building MSME and industrial parks... We will launch the Vande Bharat train from Sitamarhi to Ayodhya on the consecration day of the Sita temple,” the home minister said.

Shah also said he performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the Rs 850-crore Sita temple at Punaura Dham here.

Taking a jibe at the Con-

gress, Shah said earlier, “Biryani used to be served on a platter” to militants, but the Narendra Modi-led government launched Operation Sindoor within 10 days of the Pahalgam attack, neutralising terrorists in their own land.

“In future military offensives against Pakistan, explosives manufactured in Bihar’s proposed defence corridor will be used,” he said.

Shah said the Mithilanchal region will be developed as a global knowledge centre at a cost of Rs 500 crore, and the Sitamarhi-Ayodhya Ramjanaki Path will be built for Rs 550 crore.

Besides, Rs 5,000 crore will be spent on doubling the Ayodhya-Sitamarhi rail track, he said.

The NDA will “transform Patna, Darbhanga, Purnea and Bhagalpur airports into global standards”, he said, adding, each district of Bihar will also have a medical college.

“Our PM sanctioned Rs 18.70 lakh crore to Bihar in 10 years compared to only Rs 2.80 lakh crore during the RJD-Congress rule... Lalu Prasad’s tenure was full of scams; only the Nitish Kumar-Narendra Modi pair can ensure a developed Bihar,” Shah asserted.

All closed sugar mills in Bihar will also be revived within a 2.5-year span, he said. (PTI)

India Backing High Risk, High Impact R&D Projects: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India was backing high risk and high impact research and development projects, and fostering private investments in this domain to emerge as a science and technology powerhouse.

Inaugurating the first ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC), the annual flagship event involving policy-makers, innovators and global visionaries, he said his government has introduced significant reforms for a modern ecosystem of innovation to flourish in the country.

At the Conclave, the prime minister also launched the Rs one lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund to spur private sector investment in research and development.

“This significant investment is aimed at benefiting the public and unlocking new avenues of opportunity,” he said.

Modi said the government’s goal was to foster a culture of research and de-



velopment within the private sector as well.

“For the first time, capital is being allocated specifically for high-risk, high-impact projects, ensuring support for ground-breaking endeavours,” he said, adding the government was focusing on ‘Ease of Doing Research’ so that a modern ecosystem of innovation can flourish in India.

“To achieve this vision, our government has introduced significant reforms in financial regulations and procurement policies. Additionally, we have streamlined incentives and supply chain frameworks to accelerate the

transition of prototypes from the lab to the market,” he said.

The prime minister said over the past decade, India’s R&D expenditure has doubled, demonstrating commitment to innovation.

“The number of registered patents has grown an impressive 17-fold. In the start up landscape, India has emerged as the third-largest ecosystem globally,” he said.

Modi said the government has established the Anusandhan Research Foundation to elevate research and innovation across universities, creating new opportunities for growth and advance-

SC To Issue Directions On Nov 7 With Respect To Feeding Of Stray Dogs In Institutions

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: The Supreme Court on Monday said it will issue directions on November 7 with respect to the stray dogs menace being faced in institutions, including government and public sector ones, where employees are supporting, feeding and encouraging the canines.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria was hearing the matter.

“Apart from recording the appearance and affidavits and everything, we will also be issuing some directions with respect to institutional menace which is being faced in government institutions, public sector institutions and other institutions where the employees are supporting, feeding and encouraging dogs in that area. For that, we will definitely be issuing some directions,” Justice Nath said.

One of the advocates appearing in the matter urged the bench that they be heard prior to passing of directions

on the issue.

“For institutional matters, we are not going to hear any arguments at all. Sorry,” Justice Mehta said.

The bench noted that chief secretaries of most of the states and Union Territories were present before it.

It allowed the exemption application filed by the chief secretary of Kerala and noted that a principal secretary of the state was present in the court.

The bench said the Animal Welfare Board of India be made a party in the matter.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench that most of the states and UTs have filed their compliance affidavit in the matter.

“List for orders on November 7,” the bench said.

It said personal presence of the chief secretaries of states and UTs would no longer be required.

However, the bench said their presence would again become necessary in case there was any default in compliance of the orders passed

by the court.

While hearing the matter on October 27, the top court had directed the chief secretaries of states and UTs, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court’s August 22 order.

The apex court on August 22 asked the states and UTs about the steps being taken for compliance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

The bench had expressed displeasure over the non-compliance of its order and observed that by October 27, compliance affidavits were not filed by the states and UTs, except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). It had made clear that the chief secretaries would have to appear in the court and explain as to why no compliance affidavits were filed by them.

On October 27, the top court had slammed the states and UTs, which had not filed their compliance affidavits in

the matter, and said continuous incidents were happening and the country was being “shown as down” in foreign nations.

The apex court had earlier expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-National Capital Region, and directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

It had directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, and specially-modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the ABC Rules.

The bench had also impleaded the states and UTs in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

The apex court is hearing a suo motu case which was initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital. (Agencies)

ED Attaches Assets Worth Over Rs 3K Crore In Money Laundering Case Against Anil Ambani

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth more than Rs 3,000 crore linked to Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani as part of a money laundering investigation against his group companies, official sources said on Monday.

The federal probe agency has issued four provisional orders under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for attaching the properties, including the 66-year-old Ambani’s house in Pali Hill, Mumbai, apart from other residential and commercial properties of his group companies, they said.

A plot of land belonging to Reliance Centre on Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg in Delhi



and multiple other assets in the national capital, Noida, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Hyderabad, Chennai and East Godavari have also been attached.

According to the sources, the total value of the attached assets is Rs 3,084 crore.

The case pertains to alleged diversion and laundering of public funds raised by

Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHFL) and Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd. (RCFL).

During 2017-2019, Yes Bank invested Rs 2,965 crore in RHFL instruments and Rs 2,045 crore in RCFL instruments.

These turned into “non-performing” investments by December 2019, with Rs

1,353.50 crore then outstanding for RHFL and Rs 1,984 crore for RCFL, according to the ED.

The action against Ambani pertains to alleged financial irregularities and collective loan “diversion” pegged at more than Rs 17,000 crore by multiple group companies, including Reliance Infrastructure.

The businessman was questioned in the case by the ED in August.

This came after the agency searched 35 premises of 50 companies and 25 people, including executives of his business group, in Mumbai on July 24.

The ED’s money laundering case stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation FIR. (Agencies)

Bangladesh’s envoy says ties with Pakistan improved since Hasina’s ouster

KARACHI, NOV 3: A top Bangladeshi diplomat has said that his country’s ties with Pakistan have improved since last year, as he emphasised the need to establish direct sea links between Karachi and Chittagong to boost trade between the two nations.

Speaking at an event in the port city on Sunday, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan said it was not a secret that ties between the two sides had not been good for the last 10-12 years, but things have changed now.

“Relations have improved at every level and now Bangladeshi citizens are issued visas for Pakistan in 24 hours,” Khan said.



Bangladesh-Pakistan ties were at their lowest ebb during Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League regime, particularly when it initiated in 2010 the trial of collaborators of Pakistani troops during the 1971 Liberation War.

A violent student-led

street movement toppled Hasina’s government on August 5, 2024, paving the way for revitalising ties with Islamabad.

Khan said that due to the Indian airspace ban on Pakistani flights, it is difficult for passengers from

Bangladesh to get direct flights from Dhaka to Pakistani cities. “We have spoken to Pakistani authorities to find a solution and enable direct flights without hassles between the two countries,” he added.

Khan said that direct flights will help boost trade, tourism and business between the two countries.

He also emphasised that direct sea links between Karachi and Chittagong could reduce transit time and significantly boost trade between the two nations.

Both Pakistan and India have closed their airspace for all flights by both sides, including commercial airlines, since the four-day conflict in May. (PTI)

Voter list revision drive milestone in making of Indian democracy: CEC

KANPUR (UP), NOV 3: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has said the voter list revision drive in Bihar was a “purification” exercise and a milestone in the making of Indian democracy.

Addressing the gathering at IIT-K on its foundation day on Sunday, the CEC said “the world’s biggest voter list purification exercise was conducted in Bihar alone and once the drive is extended to 51 crore voters in 12 states, it will mark a historic achievement for the Election Commission and the nation”.

“When this process is completed across the country, people will feel proud not just of the Election Commission

but of India’s democratic strength,” Kumar said while addressing the gathering.

The Election Commission recently announced that the Special Revision (SIR) would be conducted between November and February in 12 states and Union Territories—including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and West Bengal—all of which are scheduled to hold assembly elections in 2026.

The CEC was in the city to attend the Foundation Day celebrations of IIT-K, his alma mater, to receive the Distinguished Alumnus award.

“I came here only because my mother wanted me to. I respect my mother’s wishes,”

he said with a smile.

“The four years I spent at IIT-K were the most vibrant and unforgettable years of my life.” Kumar noted that today, both the nation’s notes and votes are in the hands of IITians—the RBI Governor and the CEC.

“The values I imbibed here (IITK) have guided me throughout my administrative career,” he added.

He expressed confidence that the Bihar polls would set new standards in transparency, efficiency and simplicity, becoming a model for other democracies.

The 243-member Bihar Assembly will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and November 11, and the

counting of votes will take place on November 14.

Accompanied by his wife Anuradha, Kumar fondly recalled his early years—learning to swim in the Ganga at Kashi’s ghats, studying at the Queen’s Inter College in Varanasi, moving with his father to his various job postings, and later pursuing higher studies in Lucknow before joining IIT Kanpur.

Further recalling the journey from the ghats of Varanasi to the nation’s highest election office, the CEC said, “A boy who learnt swimming in the Ganga never imagined that one day he would occupy the chair of India’s Chief Election Commissioner.”

seized at Talaimannar in northern Sri Lanka for alleged illegal fishing in the island nation’s waters.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with the Sri Lankan Navy personnel sometimes even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats for illegally entering Sri Lanka’s territorial waters.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 35 Indian fishermen for illegal fishing

COLOMBO, NOV 3: At least 35 Indian fishermen have been arrested and their four trawlers seized by the Sri Lankan Navy allegedly for illegal fishing in an overnight operation that ended early Monday.

The Navy spokesman Commander Buddika Sampath said the arrests came at the Sri Lankan waters around the northern Jaffna district’s Kankesanthu-

rai area.

The fishermen, arrested for illegal fishing, and their equipment will be handed over to the fisheries inspectorate in the north for further action, the Navy said. This is the second such arrest by the Navy within a month.

Earlier on October 9, as many as 47 Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan navy and their five trawlers