

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! No Indian citizen...

Maoism in the country and the State is certain. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the state will get rid of Maoism by March 2026, he added.

With this incident, 81 Maoists have been gunned down by security forces in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year.

Security forces have been continuously getting success in this direction and moving rapidly towards achieving the goal. The end of Maoism, which is like "cancer", from the country and the state is certain, he said in a statement.

"The sacrifice of our soldiers will not go in vain. I pray to God for the departed souls to rest in peace and provide strength to the bereaved families, and for the speedy recovery of the injured jawans," CM Sai said.

Asked about the deadline of March 2026 to end Maoism, Deputy CM Vijay Sharma said, "Under the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and CM Sai, the target will be achieved. The IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) laid (by Naxalites) on the path of development of Bastar will be cleared and we are working with full commitment to ensure basic amenities like schools, hospitals, water, road, anganwadis (government-run women and child care centres) and mobile towers reach the entire region."

Last year, 219 Maoists were neutralised by security forces in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh, according to police.

Forest fire triggers...

the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system to prevent terrorists from intruding into the country.

The cause of the fire was not known immediately, the officials said, adding the fire was put off after several hours of joint efforts by the Army, police and local volunteers.

Ration cards without...

health cards will also be rejected," the minister said. The minister claimed that around 8 lakh people had obtained ration cards fraudulently, including government employees and influential people. "Around 20,000 such people have so far surrendered their ration cards," he said.

While urging the ineligible beneficiaries to surrender their ration cards and others to update and verify their e-KYC by February 15, the minister said around 6 lakh people have, meanwhile, applied for fresh ration cards.

He said the beneficiaries have been urged to complete their e-KYC at local Electronic Public Service (EPS) outlets or ration distribution centres. The new ration cards will be issued after all eligible beneficiaries under the PDS complete the e-KYC process.

Delhi rejects plunderers...

Sharmanda Hai, Tere Kaatil Zinda Hai". The verdict suggests that Delhi voters refuse to endorse parties seen as sympathetic to anti-national rhetoric or guided by ideological extremism".

"The broader lesson from this outcome is that conspiratorial politics and immature leadership will find no acceptance among an electorate that values stability, development, and nationalism over disruptive narratives. The rejection of such elements strengthens the democratic framework by reinforcing accountability", Chugh added.

The massive mandate given to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in all seven Lok Sabha seats of Delhi in 2024 underscores a decisive shift in political preference. This victory reflected public disillusionment with both the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress, reinforcing the demand for strong leadership that prioritizes governance over populist rhetoric. This resolve of the sagacious voters of Delhi has again been repeated and reinforced in the just concluded assembly elections to 70 seats, giving the BJP mega 48 seats, reduces AAP to 22 and wipes the Congress successively three times since the departure of Sheila Dikshit.

The clean sweep signals that Delhiites see BJP as the only party capable of delivering on promises of national progress, infrastructure development, and economic growth. It also suggests that the electorate has moved past AAP's elusive and fake appeal as an alternative political force, now viewing it as another failed experiment in governance.

Narendra Modi has been forthright in saying that the peoples' mandate against corruption will be respected by presenting the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report in the first session of the Delhi Assembly to expose corruption under the AAP government. The allegations of financial mismanagement and misappropriation of public funds, will further cement AAP's downfall.

This development holds national significance, as it will serve as a precedent for transparency and accountability. The move sends a strong signal that corruption will not be tolerated, regardless of political affiliations. A thorough scrutiny of past governance records is likely to deter future leaders from engaging in corrupt practices.

Arvind Kejriwal's tenure has been characterized by accusations of deception, broken promises, and misgovernance. His brand of politics, which once captivated Delhi's electorate, has now lost credibility.

With Delhi breaking free from AAP's rule, Punjab is now witnessing a similar sentiment. The people of Punjab, who had placed their trust in AAP, are now grappling with governance issues and political instability. The trend suggests that Punjab, like Delhi, may soon seek an alternative leadership that ensures better governance and financial discipline.

Post Delhi results, the political landscape across India is shifting away from forces perceived as operating on the 'deep state' toolkit-a network of influencers, media, and NGOs working against national interests. The rejection of parties that prioritize the welfare of their own families over the larger public good is becoming evident in multiple states.

Voters are now unwilling to tolerate machinations against the nation and Sanatana; nepotism and corruption, and backdoor political maneuvering. This growing awareness signifies the strengthening of democratic values, where governance is judged by merit rather than legacy with nationalism as core of the political discourse.

Nadda meets Shah...

in Madhya Pradesh, Bhajanlal Sharma in Rajasthan and Mohan Charan Majhi in Odisha, taking most political observers by surprise.

"You never know... The national leadership can come up with an altogether fresh face who fits the bill and is capable of discharging the duties as Delhi chief minister amid high expectations of the people," the BJP leader said.

The BJP's Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva said the decision on the chief minister would be taken by the party's central leadership, adding that all newly-elected MLAs were capable of discharging the duties assigned to them.

More than 7,000...

Dr Devya Giri, president of Shri Panchdashnam Juna Akhara, said, "This time 246 women were given initiation as Naga Sanjayasini in the Maha Kumbh."

In the 2019 Kumbh, 210 women were initiated as Naga Sanjayasini. Devya Giri said that among the women who were initiated, a large number of them are highly educated.

Looking forward to witness future of aerospace sector: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said he will be attending the 15th edition of 'Aero India' in Bengaluru that will showcase cutting-edge defence technologies and global aviation excellence.

'Aero India' is billed as Asia's largest air show, and hosted at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in the southern city.

"Leaving New Delhi for Bengaluru to attend the 15th edition of Biennial Aero-India. #AeroIndia2025 will showcase cutting-edge defence technologies and global aviation excellence. Looking forward to witness the future of aerospace sector," Singh posted on X.

The Department of Defence Production also shared an update on its X handle about the show that will take place from February 10-14.

In a post on X on Sunday,



the department said that the defence minister will inaugurate the 'India Pavillion' at Aero India 2025 on February 10.

"India's commitment to Make-in-India featuring defence manufacturing capabilities, cutting-edge technologies & future prospects on global stage," it wrote on the social media platform.

'Aero India' is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition which is held in Bengaluru, organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation,

Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

It is India's premier aerospace and defence exhibition where global aero vendors and the Indian Air Force (IAF) thrill the spectators with back-to-back aerobatic flying displays.

A flagship event 'Aero India' brings together global industry leaders, government officials, technology experts, and defence strategists under one roof, officials said.

"The event not only show-

cases the nation's technological prowess and innovations but also provides a dynamic platform for international cooperation and strategic dialogue," the defence ministry said ahead of Aero India 2025.

The broad theme of this edition is -- 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities'.

"Aero India stands as a testament to India's unwavering commitment to innovation, strategic collaboration, and excellence in aerospace and defence," the ministry said.

As the nation prepares to host Aero India 2025, the event promises to build on the rich legacy of previous editions, most notably, the transformative Aero India 2023, it said.

"Through rigorous operational protocols, strategic partnerships, and a forward-thinking agenda, Aero India 2025 is poised to further elevate India's profile on the global aerospace stage," the ministry said.

President Murmu to visit Maha Kumbh Mela on Feb 10

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu will visit the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Monday and take a holy dip at the Sangam, her office said.

Maha Kumbh, which began on Purnima (January 13), is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. It will continue until Mahashivratri on February 26. "During her day-long visit to Prayagraj, the President will take holy dip and perform Pooja at Sangam, perform Pooja and Darshan at Akshayvat and Hanuman Mandir, and also visit the Digital Kumbh Anubhav Centre," the



Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement issued on Sunday.

Sangam is the confluence

of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati rivers. According to a Uttar Pradesh government release, Murmu will also offer prayers at the Akshayavat and Bade Hanuman Temple, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accompanying her. The country's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, had also taken a holy dip during the Maha Kumbh.

Senior BJP leaders meet newly elected Delhi MLAs, asks them to maintain transparency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

New Delhi: A day after BJP returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, senior party leaders met the newly elected MLAs on Sunday, tutoring them about their political and public responsibilities.

The BJP Saturday cleaned out the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi, extending its saffron imprint and dealing a devastating blow to the

Arvind Kejriwal-led party whose top leadership crumbled or barely made it.

The Delhi BJP office at Pant Marg wore a festive look as sweets were distributed and the newly elected party MLAs were welcomed amid traditional Uttarkhandi music and cheers from workers and supporters.

BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh, Delhi BJP

in-charge Baijayant Panda, Delhi BJP general secretary (organisation) Pawan Rana and state unit president Virendra Sachdeva and others interacted with the MLAs.

The interactions were held Parliamentary constituency-wise in the presence of the Lok Sabha MPs concerned.

The senior leaders guided the MLAs about working within proper organisational and administra-

tive frameworks. They also emphasised that all MLAs should maintain complete transparency in their working style, the Delhi BJP said in a statement.

During the meetings, the leaders drew attention to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's victory message given on Saturday evening and stated that efforts should made to build a developed Delhi without wasting any time.

Israeli forces withdraw from key Gaza corridor as concerns mount over extending ceasefire

■ AGENCY

MUGHRAQA (GAZA STRIP): Israeli forces withdrew from a key corridor in Gaza on Sunday, Israeli officials and Hamas said, the latest commitment under a tenuous ceasefire that faces a major test over whether the sides can negotiate its planned extension.

Israelis' shock at the sight of three emaciated hostages released Saturday has added pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to extend the truce instead of returning to fighting when the ceasefire's first phase ends in early March.

Israel and Hamas appear to have made little progress on negotiating the deal's second phase, which is also meant to see more hostages released. Talks had been due to start on February 3.

Netanyahu was sending a delegation to Qatar, a key mediator, but it included low-level officials, sparking speculation that it won't lead to a breakthrough. Netanyahu, who returned to Israel on Sunday after a US visit to meet with President Donald Trump, is expected to convene key Cabinet ministers this week.

The 4-mile (6-kilometre) Netzarim corridor separating northern and southern Gaza had been used by Israel as a military zone during the 16-month war, but no troops were seen in the vicinity Sunday. As the ceasefire began last month, Israel began allowing hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians to cross Netzarim and return to the north.

Separately on Sunday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said two women, one of them eight months pregnant, were killed by Israeli gunfire in the occupied West Bank, where

Israeli troops have been carrying out an operation.

The ceasefire's extension is not guaranteed. The ceasefire that began on January 19 has held, raising hopes that the war that led to seismic shifts in the Middle East may be headed toward an end.

But it remains fragile. On Sunday, civil defence first responders in Gaza said three people were killed by Israeli fire east of Gaza City. Israel's military noted "several hits" after warning shots were fired and again warned Palestinians from approaching its forces.

Cars piled with belongings headed north through a road that crosses Netzarim. Under the deal, Israel should allow cars to cross uninspected.

The Israeli officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss troop movement with the media, did not say how many soldiers withdrew or to where. Troops remain along Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt.

Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif Al-Qanouna said the troops' withdrawal showed the militant group had "forced the enemy to submit to our demands" and that it thwarted "Netanyahu's illusion of achieving total victory."

Israel has said it won't agree to a complete withdrawal from Gaza until Hamas' military and political capabilities are eliminated. Hamas says it won't hand over the last hostages until Israel removes all troops from the territory.

During the ceasefire's 42-day first phase, Hamas is gradually releasing 33 Israeli hostages captured during its October 7, 2023,

attack that sparked the war in exchange for the release of nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and a flood of humanitarian aid to Gaza. The deal also says Israeli troops will pull back from populated areas.

In the second phase, all remaining living hostages would be released in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and "sustainable calm." But details beyond that are unclear.

Trump's Gaza proposal poses a challenge. Families of hostages gathered Sunday in Tel Aviv to again urge Netanyahu to extend the ceasefire. "We know that for a year, that they are dying there, so we need to finish this deal in a hurry," said Ayala Metzger, the daughter-in-law of hostage Yoram Metzger, who died in captivity.

But Netanyahu is also under pressure from far-right political allies to resume the war so that Hamas, whose October 7 attack was the deadliest against Israelis in their history, can be defeated.

Complicating things further is Trump's proposal to relocate the population of Gaza and take ownership of the territory. Israel has expressed openness to the idea while Hamas, the Palestinians and much of the world have rejected it.

Egypt said it will host an emergency Arab summit on February 27 to discuss the "new and dangerous developments."

Trump's proposal has moral, legal and practical obstacles. It may have been proposed as a negotiation tactic by Trump to pressure Hamas or make an opening gambit in discussions aimed at securing a normalisation deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Navy's MiG-29K, anti-ship helicopters, TEDBF model to be displayed at Aero India event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A range of naval aviation assets, including MiG-29K -- a fourth generation carrier-borne fighter aircraft -- Seaking 42B and anti-ship helicopters will be showcased by the Indian Navy at the Aero India 2025, officials said on Sunday.

Besides, the Navy will also display the Light Combat Aircraft (Navy) in the exhibition area. The aircraft is designed by Aeronautical Design Agency (ADA) and manufactured by Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to inaugurate the 15th edition of 'Aero India', billed as Asia's largest air show. He will also inaugurate an India Pavillion at the venue in Bengaluru.

The Indian Navy will put on display in the India Pavillion a "scaled model" of its future deck borne fighter -- the Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter or TEDBF (4++ generation aircraft) -- designed by ADA, the ministry said.

Indian Navy has championed the cause of 'Aatmanirbharta' wherein it has "transformed from a 'Buyer's Navy' to a 'Builder's Navy' with over 60 warships being constructed in Indian shipyards," it said in a statement.

Indian Naval Aviation which forms an integral part of the Navy, is also steadfast on this path, the ministry said.

"Towards charting a firm course in this direction, a vision document 'Aatmanirbhar Indian Naval Aviation: Technological Roadmap 2047' has been formulated and is planned for release during Aero India 2025," it added.

Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Department of Defence Production and the Ministry of Defence.

The event is being held from February 10-14 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, in Bengaluru.

"Aero India offers a distinctive platform to users, research and

development establishments, academia, industry partners, MSMEs and start-ups to interact and collectively contribute towards the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 through the aviation sector," the ministry said.

"The event offers a platform for the Naval Aviation to present its future requirements and for the industry to showcase what they have to offer with respect to the three S -- systems, structures and software -- essentially required in any Naval Aviation platform," it added.

The Indian Navy operates on high seas and vast oceans away from the mainland. Consequently, there is not much visibility of the Indian Navy's aviation platforms, officials said.

"Aero India 2025 is being used as an opportunity to showcase and acquaint the general populace with various types of naval aircraft being presently operated by the Indian Navy as part of the static display.

"This will include MiG-29K, a

fourth generation carrier-borne fighter aircraft, Kamov 31 airborne early warning helicopter, Seaking 42B and MH 60 R anti-submarine and anti-ship helicopters," the ministry said.

It said the successful landing of LCA (Navy) onboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant has propelled India into the league of a few nations with the capability of designing, developing, testing and manufacturing a deck borne fighter aircraft.

Among the aircraft formations for the fly-past will be the all Navy 'Varuna' formation in a 'V' denoting 'VICTORY', with P8I in the lead flanked by MiG-29K and Hawk 132 aircraft, the statement said.

In pursuance to the nation's goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the India Pavillion will feature indigenous projects developed or being developed by the Indian Navy in partnership with industry and DRDO.

It would include state-of-the-art missiles, air droppable search and rescue (SAR) kit, air droppable

container (ADC) for logistic stores, carrier borne systems for MiG-29K and advance light weight torpedo (ALWT), the statement said.

In another statement, the ministry said the India Pavillion will provide an opportunity to Indian defence industries to showcase their design, development, innovation and manufacturing capabilities.

The grand show at India Pavillion would signify the 'Flight of Self-Reliance' which encapsulates India's journey towards becoming a global aerospace and defence powerhouse, it said.

The pavillion will be divided into five distinct zones displaying "indigenous capabilities in aero aviation, land aviation and naval aviation, def-space and niche technologies domains".

More than 275 exhibits will be on display through various mediums, represented by complete defence ecosystem of the country which includes DPSUs, design houses, private corporates including MSMEs and start-ups.