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US, China agree Iran must not get nukes, hormuz open

Beijing, May 14 (GNS): The United States and China agreed Thursday that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon and the crucial Strait of Hormuz must remain open, a White House official said after Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping held a high-stakes summit in Beijing.

The leaders had the much-anticipated meeting at the imposing Great Hall of the People, during which they discussed an array of consequential issues, including trade, the ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran and Taiwan, the self-governing democracy China considers part of its territory.

The meeting came amid an impasse in peace negotiations between Washington and Tehran aimed at ending their months-old war and reopening safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for oil, fertiliser, and other commodities.

"The two sides agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to support the free flow of energy. President Xi also made clear China's opposition to the militarisation of the strait and any effort to charge a toll for its use," the official said, casting the Trump-Xi meeting as "good." "And he expressed interest in purchasing more American oil to reduce China's dependence



on the strait in the future. Both countries agreed that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon," the official added. Their discussions on the Middle East conflict came as Trump seeks to exit the war and restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, particularly ahead of the US midterm elections slated for November.

China itself has been apprehensive about the conflict, as disruptions to shipping in the waterway could imperil its energy supplies. China has sought to shift to alternative energy sources and maintains large oil stockpiles, but the conflict has raised longer-term economic risks for the world's second-largest economy.

The two sides also discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation between the countries, including expanding mar-

ket access for American businesses into China and increasing Chinese investment in US industries, the official said without elaborating. In addition, the leaders highlighted the need to build on progress in ending the flow of fentanyl precursors into the US, as well as increasing Chinese purchases of American agricultural products, according to the official.

At the summit, both Trump and Xi signalled their desire to stably manage bilateral ties, but the Chinese leader staked out Beijing's firm position on Taiwan, Yonhap news agency reported.

"It's an honour to be with you. It's an honour to be your friend, and the relationship between China and the USA is going to be better than ever before," Trump said in his opening remarks.

ECI announces 3rd phase of SIR across 16 states, 3 UTs; Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh included

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Punjab, Delhi and Chandigarh are among the 16 states and three union territories where the third phase of special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are to be held by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The union territories of J&K and Ladakh and the state of Himachal Pradesh are not included in the third phase of SIR.

The ECI said in a statement that the third phase of SIR would cover the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. "After due consideration of the weather in the upper reaches/snow bound areas, SIR schedule for these three state/union territories will be announced



later," the statement added.

In Punjab, the final electoral rolls will be published on October 1, while in Chandigarh it will be published on September 22. In Delhi, the final rolls will be

released on October 7.

As per the schedule released by the ECI, the states whose final rolls will be released on September 6 are Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur. On September

11, the final electoral rolls of Daman Diu Dadra Nagar Haveli will be released. On September 15, the final rolls of Uttarakhand will be out.

On September 22, the final rolls of Andhra Pradesh,

Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chandigarh will be released. On October 1, Punjab and Telangana's final electoral rolls will be released. October 7 will see the release of final electoral rolls of Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi.

Nagaland and Tripura's final rolls will be released on November 22 and 23, respectively. The poll body said that during Phase III of the SIR, more than 3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would conduct door-to-door visits to reach 36.73 crore electors during the enumeration phase, with support from 3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) nominated by political parties.

Delhi HC begins contempt action against Kejriwal in excise case

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Holding that a "coordinated campaign" was run to vilify the judiciary after she refused to recuse herself from the Delhi excise policy case, Delhi High Court Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on Thursday initiated contempt proceedings against AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and several senior party leaders, before stepping aside from hearing the matter herself. "If I continue hearing the matter, they may say I hold a grudge against them. Therefore, this case will now go before another Bench," the judge observed while recusing from the proceedings.

The contempt action has been initiated against AAP leaders Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Durgesh Pathak, Sanjay Singh, Vinay Mishra



and Saurabh Bharadwaj over alleged defamatory statements, edited videos and social media posts targeting the judge in connection with the excise policy proceedings.

Justice Sharma clarified that her recusal should not be interpreted as acceptance of the allegations levelled by the AAP leaders or as a consequence of their earlier demand seeking her withdrawal from the case.

As Mamata dons lawyer robe, BCI questions practice status

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Thursday directed the West Bengal State Bar Council to furnish information regarding enrolment and legal practice status of former chief minister Mamata Banerjee within 48 hours.

The TMC supremo on Thursday appeared before the Calcutta High Court to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence and attacks on party offices. Earlier, she argued her own petition against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal before the Supreme Court. She told the Calcutta High Court that police remained passive during post-poll violence in West Bengal, while asserting that it is not a "bulldozer state", amid ongoing



demolition drives against illegal structures.

Appearing for the first time before the high court to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence against TMC workers and attacks on her party's offices in West Bengal, Banerjee sought urgent judicial intervention to protect the people from the attackers. Accompanied by senior TMC leaders and advocates Chandrima Bhattacharya and Kalyan

Banerjee, the former chief minister reached the high court in a lawyer's robe to argue a petition filed by Sirsanya Bandyopadhyay, son of Kalyan Banerjee and TMC candidate from the Uttarpara assembly seat.

She alleged that at least 10 people have been killed, some 150-160 TMC party offices vandalised and around 2,000 instances of violence have taken place in the state in the aftermath of the election re-

Congress finally decides for Kerala: VD Satheesan to be the new CM

New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram, May 14 (GNS) After days of suspense, endless speculation and high-voltage lobbying stretching from Thiruvananthapuram to Delhi, the Congress high command finally picked V.D. Satheesan as Kerala's 13th Chief Minister, marking what many within the party describe as the formal arrival of a new generation at the helm of Kerala politics. The announcement was made in Delhi by Congress top leaders Deepadas Munshi, Mukul Wasnik and Ajay Maken. The decision, delayed till the very edge of political exhaustion, was conveyed with characteristic Congress drama.

Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, who was in Delhi through the final rounds of consulta-



tions, was summoned for a meeting with Rahul Gandhi before being informed of the leadership decision.

Senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, meanwhile, received the message through a closed-door telephone call from Rahul that the race was over and Satheesan had got the nod.

For Satheesan, the elevation caps a remarkable political rise that mirrors the Congress party's attempt to reinvent itself in Kerala af-

ter years of factional fatigue and electoral setbacks.

Born in Kochi district and turning 62 later this month, Satheesan built his political identity not through backroom factional arithmetic but through relentless Assembly performances and organisational work.

A lawyer by profession, he entered the Assembly from Paravur in 2001 and soon earned a reputation as one of the Congress party's sharpest debaters.

Pawar Signals Different NCP View on Patel, Tatkare

Mumbai, May 14 (GNS) Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Thursday said that while his former colleagues Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare are capable leaders, the current leadership of their party may have a different assessment of them.

"I don't have to comment on the happenings in the other party. But both Patel and Tatkare have worked with me for several years and have undertaken several responsibilities. Therefore, I know their capabilities very well. Maybe the leadership of their party has a different assessment of them," said Pawar.

He was commenting on the ongoing developments in the ruling NCP, where Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Sunetra Pawar,



in her letter to the Election Commission of India (ECI), omitted both leaders from the party's national executive. The omission of the two senior leaders is being seen as an attempt by Pawar and her son Parth Pawar to sideline them.

Tatkare has since met Sharad Pawar, a meeting he described as non-political and only meant to inquire about the veteran politician's health.

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The beautiful balance and mutual propriety among the legislature, judiciary, and executive is the true beauty of our democracy

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) (Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, released Solicitor General Shri Tushar Mehta's book 'The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre and The Lawful and the Awful' in New Delhi. On this occasion, several distinguished dignitaries, including Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant, were present.

Addressing the gathering, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that during the 76-year journey of our Constitution, we have deeply strengthened the roots of our democracy. He said that we have certainly

reinforced our multi-party democratic parliamentary system, and every change brought about through Parliament and State Legislatures in the country since 1947 has been accepted. He said that this reflects the deep roots of our democracy, in which our Constitution, the people of the country, and our judiciary have made a significant contribution.

Shri Amit Shah said that the people of the country have faith that if any injustice is done to them, the Constitution is alive and vigilant. If their rights are violated, the doors of justice remain open,



and whenever the voice of a weak individual or a weaker viewpoint is suppressed, it will certainly be heard in the courts. He said that it is on the basis of these three fundamental pillars that our democ-

racy has become strong, and broadly speaking, the common citizen's hope for justice is an important reflection of both social balance and the character of the nation. He further said that it is the responsibility

of all of us to identify and rectify the small loopholes that still exist in this system, and that both the judiciary and the executive must work together to improve them. He added that this will require moving

forward with a concrete and time-bound roadmap.

Shri Amit Shah said that the beauty of our democracy lies in the fact that the Constitution created institutions not to oppose one another, but to

maintain balance among themselves. He said that this spirit must be understood in its true sense. The executive takes decisions, while the judiciary conducts a constitutional review of those decisions. He further said that the makers of our Constitution drafted it with a spirit that carefully preserved dialogue, propriety, and balance. In 76 years, perhaps very few countries would have advanced while upholding all these constitutional conventions and values. He said that it is a matter of great satisfaction for all of us that, by and large, these conventions

have remained intact in our country, and we have further strengthened them through traditions.

Union Home Minister said that the strength of democracy comes not from confrontation, but from institutional balance and mutual respect for constitutional propriety. He said that when he speaks of mutual propriety, the spirit of the Constitution itself recognizes and upholds it at several places.

He further said that all of us should work together to further strengthen the well-balanced relationship between the executive and the judiciary.

Water conservation should become a mass movement: appeals Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Union minister for road transport and highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari said that, to remove the stigma of Vidarbha being known as a farmer suicide zone, form Vidarbha and ensure water prosperity in the region's villages, water conservation should become a mass movement. On the occasion of the silver jubilee of Poorti Sinchan Samruddhi Kalyankari Sanstha, which works in the field of water conservation in Vidarbha, the "Jalsamvad" (water dialogue) and "Jalkranti" (water-revolution) conferences have been organized in Nagpur on May 17 and 18. Gadkari was addressing a press conference held today to provide infor-



mation about these events. MLAs Charansing Thakur and Umesh Yawalkar were also present in the press meet.

Shri Gadkari further said that, we do not have water scarcity in the country; but we lack proper planning and management of water re-

sources. He also clarified that we can achieve water management through organic farming, drip irrigation, and the use of artificial intelligence in agriculture.

He pointed out that the use of soil excavated from farm ponds in the construc-

tion of national highways has helped increase groundwater levels in the western Vidarbha districts of Akola, Washim, and Buldhana. He also categorically mentioned that farmers in the region have changed their cropping patterns accordingly. Partici-

pation of non-governmental organisations in water conservation is important, but peoples' active participation is equally valuable, hence; water conservation must become a mass movement, asserted Shri Gadkari. He further stated that in the groundwater-deficient "dark zone" areas of Warud-Morshi and Katol-Narkhed, conservation work related to deepening rivers and streams is being carried out with public participation, and through these efforts, water conservation projects are being undertaken in the region. Gadkari also appealed to local self-government bodies to contribute significantly to these initiatives.

Shivraj Singh assures PMGSY roads approval in MP



New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday launched PMGSY-IV during the silver jubilee celebrations marking 25 years of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Bhairunda of Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district and announced a series of major projects and financial allocations related to rural roads, housing and development for the state.

The event, organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, was attended by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Kamlesh Paswan, Madhya Pradesh Minister Shri Karan Singh Verma, legislators and senior officials of the Centre and the state government.

Launching PMGSY-IV, Shri Chouhan said village

roads are not merely pathways for transportation but gateways to prosperity, dignity, education, health-care, markets and opportunities. In the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, the Union Minister said that the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is committed to bringing visible and concrete changes in the lives of villages, the poor, farmers and women.

Praising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his address, Shri Chouhan said India under PM Modi's leadership is rapidly progressing towards becoming a prosperous, glorious, self-reliant, developed and economically strong nation. He said the government's rural development initiatives are focused on ensuring that the benefits of growth reach the last person in the queue.

During the programme, Madhya Pradesh received approval under PMGSY-IV for 973 roads with a total length of 2,117.52 kilometres at a total estimated

cost of 1,763.08 crore. These projects are expected to benefit 987 habitations across the state and significantly strengthen rural connectivity.

The Vidisha parliamentary region separately received approval for 259 roads covering a total length of 600.393 kilometres. These roads are expected to benefit 264 habitations and improve transportation and connectivity across the region.

Shri Chouhan said roads worth more than 500 crore would be constructed in the Vidisha parliamentary constituency. He stressed that his priority is to ensure that no village remains deprived of road connectivity. He also made it clear that all roads in Madhya Pradesh that meet the norms and criteria laid down under PMGSY would be approved. Referring to regional development demands raised by public representatives and local residents, Shri Chouhan assured that practical and concrete decisions would be taken after due consideration.

MP HC Adjourns Rahul Gandhi Defamation Case To June

Jabalpur, May 14 (GNS) The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing in the criminal defamation case against Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. The case was heard by the Jabalpur Bench of the High Court, where Rahul Gandhi has challenged the summons issued to him by the MP-MLA Court in Bhopal in a defamation complaint filed by Kartikey Singh Chouhan, son of Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Confirming the development, Congress Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Vivek Tankha said there was no major development during Thursday's proceedings.

CM Majhi Reviews Law And Order Situation, Stresses Crackdown On Organized Crime

Bhubaneswar, May 14 (GNS) Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday once again reviewed the prevailing law and order situation in the state and directed senior officials to adopt a proactive and coordinated approach to control crime.

The high-level meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Director General of Police (DGP) Y.B. Khurania, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Hemant Sharma, senior officers, District Collectors, and Superintendents of Police (SPs). While addressing the officers, CM Majhi emphasized that the state police must take decisive



steps that not only win the trust of the common people but also create fear among criminals.

"Organized crime has to be completely eradicated. Just as Naxal crime has been suppressed in the state, sand mafias and other organized criminal networks must also be fully suppressed," the Chief

Minister said. He directed officials to take strict proactive action against criminal elements within the framework of law to minimize the possibility of crimes occurring. Majhi stressed the importance of seamless coordination between district administration and police, saying that local administrative officers can

play a vital role in assisting the police in tackling criminal activities. "Administrative officers and police must work as a team at the district level. The same team spirit being shown in the successful implementation of various government schemes should also be maintained in the field of crime control," he added.

Piyush Goyal meets german leaders to advance India-EU trade partnership

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday held a productive discussion with senior leaders and policymakers from Germany on strengthening India-Germany economic cooperation and advancing the India-EU trade partnership. "The discussions focused on strengthening the business environment, enhancing investment flows, and deepening collaboration across key sectors including textiles, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, mobility and manufacturing," Goyal posted on X.

Both sides acknowledged the immense potential for expanding trade, foster-



ing innovation, and building resilient supply chains through closer partnership and stronger industry engagement, he added.

In March, Goyal met Maros Sefcovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, on the sidelines of the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organ-

isation (WTO) in Cameroon, and reviewed progress on the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA).

Both the leaders deliberated on key priorities under the MC14 agenda and "reviewed progress on the ongoing work towards the signing of the India-EU FTA, as announced by PM Narendra Modi and European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in January 2026 in New Delhi.

"Also discussed avenues to further deepen our bilateral economic and trade partnership," said Goyal in an X post.

The agreement between the world's second- and fourth-largest economies is among the biggest trade deals ever signed. In fact, it is far more than a trade deal. It represents a comprehensive partnership that fosters cooperation in critical sectors such as artificial intelligence, defence, and semiconductors. The FTA will benefit every region and citizen of India, the article observed.

MoS Margherita holds talks with governor general of belize, meets Indian diaspora

Belmopan, May 14 (GNS) Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita met the Governor-General of Belize on Thursday. MoS Margherita called on Dame Froyla Tzalam, Governor-General of Belize, during his official visit to Belize, discussing bilateral relations.

"Honoured to call on H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, Governor-General of Belize. Conveyed greetings from the Hon'ble President and Prime Minister of India. Discussed ways to further strengthen relations between our two countries," Margherita wrote on social media platform X.

He also interacted with



members of the Indian diaspora in Belize and appreciated their contribution in strengthening the close and friendly ties between India and Belize. "The vibrant Indian community continues to serve as an important bridge between

our two countries," noted Margherita. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during his visit, Margherita would be meeting dignitaries of the Belize government and visit the sites of India's developmental initiatives.

The MoS arrived in Belize after concluding his visit to Honduras. During his visit to Honduras, Margherita interacted with the members of the Indian community and alumni of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) in Honduras, lauding their contribution in enhancing bilateral relations and fostering people-to-people connections.

On Tuesday, Margherita met Honduras' Foreign Minister Mireya Agüero, as both leaders reviewed the growing momentum in bilateral relations and reaffirmed the shared commitment to enhance institutional collaboration.

Ayush to Play Decisive Role in Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision: Prataprao Jadhav

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, inaugurated "Chintan Shivir 2026" today in New Delhi. The 2-day strategic brainstorming event will witness various sessions dedicated to diverse Ayush domains and is scheduled to conclude on April 17, 2026, to discuss key policies, strengthen institutions, and plan the future of the Ayush sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Prataprao Jadhav said that the Chintan Shivir reflects the government's resolve to strengthen policy direction and effective implementation in the Ayush sector. Building on the foundation of the first Shivir, he noted that the current conclave aims to review progress, identify gaps, and chart a practical, future-ready roadmap. He also highlighted the growing relevance of Ayush in addressing lifestyle disorders through its holistic approach, aligned with the vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" and the call for "Heal in India, Heal by India."

Jadhav underlined that increased budgetary allocation reflects the government's commitment to strengthening education, research, infrastructure, and global outreach in the Ayush sector. He emphasised the need for evidence-based research, inter-ministerial convergence, and a whole-of-government approach, while calling for greater focus on innovation, digitalisation, entrepreneurship, and public awareness. Urging stakeholders to translate deliberations into actionable outcomes

at the grassroots level, he expressed confidence that Ayush will play a key role in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha



the Ministry is advancing Ayush through integration of traditional knowledge with modern science, alongside strengthening research, global collaboration and public outreach. He

expressed confidence that the Chintan Shivir serves as a key platform for reviewing progress and shaping the future roadmap of the Ayush sector. He noted that, under the guidance of Prataprao Jadhav,

the Ministry is advancing Ayush through integration of traditional knowledge with modern science, alongside strengthening research, global collaboration and public outreach. He

expressed confidence that the deliberations will translate into actionable, time-bound outcomes contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Smt. Alarmelmangai D. highlighted that the Shivir enables meaningful dialogue and collaborative policymaking. She noted that Ayush has emerged as a significant pillar of healthcare with growing national and global recognition, and emphasised the importance of strengthening research, innovation, and institutional capacities. She also underscored the role of young professionals and researchers in advancing the sector. A key highlight of the inaugural session was the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, and the General Insurance Council, marking a significant step towards expanding insurance coverage and improving claim settlement mechanisms for Ayush treatments. Prof. P.K. Prajapati, Director, AIIA and Kasturi Sengupta, Secretary General, General Insurance Council, exchanged the MoU in the gracious presence of the Union Ayush Minister. Prof. Bejon K. Misra, EC Member of the GI Council, also joined the ceremony, during which he thanked the Minister for his continued support and guidance, leading to remarkable progress in the area.

C-DOT hosts annual IP Awards ceremony 2026 to honour 78 awardees for innovation and excellence at C-DOT Bengaluru



New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), premier R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, successfully hosted the Annual IP Awards Ceremony 2026 at its Bengaluru campus, celebrating excellence in Intellectual Property (IP) and honouring innovators who are shaping India's indigenous telecom ecosystem.

The event served as a platform to recognise creativity, dedication, and breakthrough thinking across teams. The awardees' contributions underscore the vibrant innovation culture at C-DOT, fostering a robust ecosystem that supports research and development of next-generation telecom solutions aligned with national priorities such as Digital India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

78 employees who collectively achieved 36 Pat-

ents, 18 copyrights, 5 design registrations, 9 trademarks and 3 research papers, were awarded for innovation and excellence at C-DOT Bengaluru. Awardees received certificates, medals and cash prize. The ceremony brought together researchers, engineers, and domain experts whose contributions have significantly strengthened C-DOT's intellectual property portfolio. With a steadily growing number of patents and a strong base of awardees added to its kitty, C-DOT continues to reinforce its position as a key driver of innovation in the telecom and digital technology space. These achievements reflect the organisation's sustained focus on research excellence and its commitment to building globally competitive, indigenous technologies.

Dr. Rajkumar Upadhyay, CEO, C-DOT, congratulated the awardees and highlighted the critical role

of intellectual property in nation-building. He said, "The innovations we celebrate today reflect not only technical excellence but also a deep commitment to strengthening India's self-reliance in telecom technologies. A strong and expanding IP portfolio is fundamental to building a resilient and future-ready ecosystem. It is encouraging to see our teams continuously pushing boundaries and contributing meaningfully to India's digital future." He further emphasised that such recognitions inspire researchers to innovate with purpose, transforming ideas into impactful technologies that enhance India's global standing in telecom and emerging digital domains. The Annual IP Awards Ceremony 2026 reflects C-DOT's continued focus on encouraging innovation and recognising the people behind technologies that are shaping India's digital future.

FIU-India, SEBI Ink MoU to Tackle Money Laundering, Financial Crimes

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) In a significant step towards strengthening India's fight against money laundering and financial crimes, the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance information sharing and coordination.

The MoU was signed by Shri Amit Mohan Govil, Director, FIU-IND, and Shri Sandip Pradhan, Whole Time Member, SEBI marking a new era of collaborative intelligence sharing between the two agencies at the forefront of India's fight against money laundering and financial crimes. The collaboration will in-



volve sharing relevant intelligence and information available in their respective databases, and laying down the procedures and modalities for reporting by regulated entities and reporting entities to FIU-IND under the provisions of the PML Rules. The MoU shall also assist in exchange of information with foreign FIU through Egmont Principles of Information Exchange.

The MoU aims to enable both agencies to undertake outreach and training programmes for regulated/reporting entities, with a focus on upgrading Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) capabilities among entities regulated by the SEBI. Further, both parties shall ensure alignment with applicable international stan-

dards and hold quarterly meetings to exchange information and deliberate on issues of mutual interest. The cooperation will also include assessment of Money Laundering and Terror Financing (ML/TF) risks and vulnerabilities across relevant financial sub-sectors, identification and dissemination of red flag indicators for suspicious transactions, and su-

pervision and monitoring of compliance by reporting entities with obligations under the PMLA, PML Rules, and SEBI guidelines. FIU-IND is the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions and coordinating efforts against money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Compliance with Supreme Court directives and law also assured addressing bonded labour issues in the state

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India today heard online 216 cases of alleged bonded labour in the brick kilns across various districts of Uttar Pradesh. Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian presided over the virtual hearing in the presence of Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal, Registrar (Law), Shri Joginder Singh and senior officers. The hearing saw the active participation from senior functionaries of the state government, including the Labour Commissioner, District Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates, among others.

Justice Ramasubrama-



nian appreciated their presence but said that such a hearing may not have been necessary if the officers performed their duties diligently. Despite reports highlighting non-production of records and non-compliance with minimum wage

norms, among other violations, the authorities have failed to address the issue of bonded labour. He said that such omissions deny the labourers their rightful claim of rescue, release and rehabilitation under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and the Central Sector Scheme.

NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal underscored the gaps in the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and rehabilitation of bonded labour-

ers. He urged the district functionaries to address the plight of the labourers and give them a dignified life by implementing the law. He emphasised that any omission or inaction on the part of the authorities leaves these labourers in penury and they become victims of exploitation. The Commission reviewed Action Taken Reports (ATRs) submitted by the DMs on the complaints under its consideration. The State Labour Commissioner assured that all the 216 cases will be reviewed, following which the requisite information and reports will be submitted to the Commission within three weeks.

India Expands Clean Energy Push with Hydrogen, Nuclear & Innovation: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, May 14 (GNS) Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that India is steadily positioning itself as a global player in the Clean Energy landscape through a calibrated mix of policy support, technological innovation, and industry participation.

The Minister said the country is simultaneously advancing green hydrogen, expanding Nuclear Energy capacity, and strengthening renewable sources, while building indigenous capabilities in critical technologies such as electrolyzers. Emphasising the need for scaling up through public-private partnerships, he said India's approach is

focused on creating a robust and self-reliant ecosystem supported by enhanced research funding and innovation-led growth. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing the World Hydrogen Energy Summit alongside the World Petrocoal Congress at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi. The conference brought together policymakers, global industry leaders, domain experts and stakeholders from petroleum, coal, gas and emerging hydrogen sectors, providing a platform for deliberations on future energy pathways.

Referring to India's evolving energy roadmap, the Minister said the country is pursuing a multi-dimensional strategy that combines energy security with sustainability. He said India is targeting nearly 100 billion US dollars in oil and gas invest-



ments, expansion of exploration areas to 1 million square kilometres, and increasing the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15 percent. At the same time, India's refining capacity continues to expand, placing it

among leading nations globally. On clean energy transition, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the National Green Hydrogen Mission, with outlay of Rs 19,744 cr, has placed India among the frontrunners in developing alternative fuel eco-

systems. He said green hydrogen will play a key role in decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors such as steel and cement, while efforts are underway to reduce production costs through domestic manufacturing and inno-

vation. The Minister also shared progress in India's nuclear energy programme, stating that the recently announced Nuclear Energy Mission aims to achieve 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. He said India has entered the next phase of its nuclear programme with indigenous technological advancements, placing it among a select group of nations.

Highlighting the role of small reactors, Dr. Jitendra Singh said India plans to develop five Small Modular/Small Reactors by 2033, with work already underway on three of them. These include a Bharat Small Modular Reactor (SMR), a Bharat Small Reactor (BSR) based on established heavy water technology, and a small-scale hydrogen-linked reactor of a few megawatts' capacity. He said

such reactors will enable flexible, scalable, and decentralised clean energy solutions, while also supporting emerging hydrogen applications.

The Minister said recent policy reforms have opened the nuclear sector for private participation, along with rationalised liability provisions to facilitate wider industry engagement. He said these steps will encourage startups, MSMEs and private players to contribute to the expansion of clean energy infrastructure. Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke about emerging opportunities in green jobs and innovation, noting that sectors such as electric mobility, battery recycling, grid management, and renewable manufacturing are generating new livelihood avenues. He referred to ongoing initiatives in the circular economy.

Paper leaks 'demonetised' students' future, says CM Revanth

Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Thursday that paper leaks have "demonetised" students' future. In his first reaction to the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 following the paper leak, Revanth Reddy said the credibility of national-level examinations must be protected and that those involved in the paper leak must face punishment.



In a social media post, he stated that the similarities in the governments led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) in failures, betrayal, and organised corruption are glaring. "The cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination has caused enormous distress and uncertainty among lakhs of students and parents across India. Nearly 22.79 lakh students appeared for the examination across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad on May 3, 2026, now face renewed anxiety because of the paper leaks and serious irregularities in the examination process," he said.

"The credibility of national examinations must be protected at all costs. Any individuals or networks involved in paper leaks or corruption must face the strictest punishment, irrespective of their influence or position," he said. "The Government of Telangana stands firmly with the students and parents affected by this crisis. We urge the Union Government and the National Testing Agency to conduct a transparent, time-bound and credible investigation, while also ensuring that innocent students are not forced to suffer repeatedly because of systemic failures," the CM added. Revanth Reddy noted that students prepare for NEET with immense sacrifice, emotional pressure and financial burden. He said competitive examinations should become instruments of opportunity and merit, not

anxiety and uncertainty. "Telangana will continue to support its students in every possible manner, and we demand stronger safeguards, technological protections and institutional accountability so that such incidents are never repeated," he added. The Telangana Youth Congress on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration against the NEET paper leak. The protesters burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and demanded their resignations, taking moral responsibility for this incident. Youth Congress state President Jakkidi Shivacharan Reddy, Youth Congress leaders, and workers participated in the protests.

Telangana DGP discusses downsizing of anti-Maoist force Greyhounds



Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): With Maoist activities almost coming to an end in Telangana, Director General of Police C. V. Anand on Thursday discussed the downsizing and restructuring of Greyhounds, the elite anti-Maoist force of the state police. Anand, who recently assumed office as the DGP, visited the Greyhounds headquarters on Thursday. He conducted a comprehensive review meeting on various operational and administrative aspects of the elite anti-insurgency force.

The police also reviewed issues relating to the reduction in Greyhounds strength in view of the declining Maoist activities. He discussed how many personnel are essential to maintain minimum strength to tackle future crisis. He informed the officers that the proposal concerning 708 surrendered posts of Greyhounds is currently pending with the Government. He further stated that the notified repatriations would be carried out after receiving the necessary orders from the Government. The DGP re-

viewed the operational activities carried out by Greyhounds and assessed their performance in dealing with anti-Maoist operations and other assigned duties. He also reviewed the existing training standards, curriculum, and training modules being imparted to personnel, emphasizing the need for continuous upgradation in line with evolving operational requirements. During the review, the DGP instructed the Greyhounds leadership to further enhance operational efficiency and maintain a high level of combat readiness. DGP stressed the importance of conducting regular firing practice and ensuring rigorous training standards to keep the force mission-ready at all times.

The DGP appreciated the efforts and commitment of Greyhounds personnel and emphasized the need to maintain the force's reputation as one of the country's premier anti-insurgency units through continued professionalism, discipline, and operational preparedness. DGP, Geyhounds, Anil Kumar and others attended review meeting. Meanwhile, the DGP also visited the Commando Training Centre of OCTOPUS at Ibrahimpatnam on Thursday and reviewed the functioning, training activities, and operational preparedness of the elite counter-terror force. During the visit, the DGP inspected the Administration Block, Training Block, operational facilities, and newly developed infrastructure at the campus. According to a release from the DGP office, he interacted with officers and commandos, reviewed the preparedness of the force to respond to any untoward terror-related incidents, and assessed the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams and training wing. Dr. Anil Kumar, DGP Operations (OCTOPUS & Greyhounds), briefed the DGP on the regular activities of operational teams, periodic mock exercises being conducted at vulnerable installations and sensitive locations, counter-terror preparedness drills, and specialized training in handling advanced weapons and equipment during operations.

MANUU Social Work Campus Placement Students recruited in Azim Premji and Piramal Foundation



Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): The Department of Social Work at Maulana Azad National Urdu University has achieved a remarkable milestone during campus placements drive for this academic year, bringing pride to the University. In a major achievement, the Gandhi Fellowship Programme of Piramal Foundation selected 10 students from the department during a campus recruitment drive held at department of social work MANUU on April 10.

different universities participated in the selection process, out of which ten students from MANUU's Department of Social Work secured selection, reflecting the department's strong academic environment and professional training. Earlier this year, one more student of the department was selected by Azim Premji Foundation. Expressing his happiness over the success of the students, he said that many students have already secured placements in reputed organisations working in the development and social sectors, while several others are awaiting interview results. He also

expressed confidence that the department is moving towards achieving 100 per cent placement this year. He further informed that Magic Bus Foundation is expected to visit the department for another recruitment drive. The Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Syed Ainal Hasan, congratulated the selected students and appreciated the department for its continuous achievements. He encouraged students to work with commitment, social responsibility, and professional dedication in their future careers. Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar was also present on the occasion.

GHMC Ties Up with IIT Kharagpur, AIIMS on Water Monitoring

Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Thursday, May 14, announced that it has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi to launch one of India's most technologically advanced water quality monitoring initiatives. The project, which is expected to commence in the third quarter of this year, will establish a next-generation water surveillance and early-warning system for Hyderabad, stated a release.

By combining advanced scientific research, artificial intelligence, and real-time environmental monitoring, the system will help protect public health and strengthen long-term water governance across Telangana, it added. Unlike conventional water testing systems, which rely on slow laboratory workflows and test for only a limited set of known contaminants, the proposed platform will use advanced nonthermal plasma spectroscopy and artificial intelligence to analyse the complete optical signature of a sample. This will allow rapid identification of a broad range of contaminants, including heavy metals, industrial chemicals,

Telangana HC adjourns hearing on Union Minister's son's bail plea in POSCO case

Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): The Telangana High Court on Thursday adjourned to Friday the hearing on the petition of Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bhageerath for interim bail in a POSCO case. The single-judge bench, after hearing the arguments of both sides, posted for Friday the orders on the interim bail.



Justice Madhavi Devi said the court would hear next week the arguments on the anticipatory bail but orders on interim bail will be pronounced on Friday. Bhageerath's counsel Niranjana Reddy pleaded for striking down the POSCO case, saying that the girl is not a

minor. He cited the discrepancies in the records about the victim's age. The judge ordered a verification of records to determine the victim's age. A case under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered against Bhageerath on May 8 at Pet Basheerabad Police Station for alleged sexual assault on a 17-year-old girl. On a complaint by the victim that Bhageerath sexually assaulted her at a farmhouse in Moinabad, the police registered a case under Section 11 read with Section 12 of POSCO Act

and Sections 74 and 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The alleged accused also lodged a counter-complaint in Karimnagar, alleging that the girl's family attempted to extort Rs 5 crore by threatening to implicate him in a false case. On Monday, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed the State Director General of Police C.V. Anand to initiate the investigation in the case. The same day Deputy Commissioner of Police Ritiraj was appointed to supervise the investigation. She spoke to the victim on May 12 to gather more details. Subsequently, police invoked harsher provisions of the POSCO Act. Section 5

(1) read with Section 6 was added to the FIR. The Section deals with aggravated penetrative sexual assault and carries a punishment that may extend up to 20 years imprisonment or more. Bhageerath failed to appear before the police on Wednesday despite a notice being served to him. Pet Basheerabad police reportedly sent a second notice to Bhageerath's uncle in Karimnagar as it was the last identified location of his mobile phone. Bhageerath on Wednesday sent a letter to Station House Officer of Pet Basheerabad Police Station, seeking two days' time to appear before him.

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NEET UG 2026 paper leak: Hyderabad students demand scrapping of NTA

Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): Students from various organisations held a protest at Narayangunda in Hyderabad on Thursday, May 14, demanding the dissolution of the National Testing Agency (NTA) and an end to outsourcing the exams to private agencies. The student activists demanded strict punishment for all those responsible for the NEET UG 2026 paper leak and compensation for all the 22 lakh affected students.



Speaking on behalf of Disha Students' Organisation, Mahipal highlighted that the repeated failures of the NTA revealed the anti-student and profit-driven nature of the present ex-

amination system. He said that increasing privatisation and outsourcing of examinations have strengthened corruption, weakened accountability, and enabled paper leaks through collusion of private companies, officials, politicians, and the education mafia. Suhas,

ACB Court Summons KTR, Others in Formula E Case; Hearing on July 31

Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): Hyderabad: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court on Thursday, May 14, issued summons to Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao, suspended IAS officer Arvind Kumar and former HMDA chief engineer BLN Reddy in the Formula E case.

They have been asked to appear before the court on July 31. The case pertains to the alleged corruption of nearly Rs 55 crore during the previous BRS government's Formula E deal. Soon after coming to power, the Congress government had claimed that KTR, during his tenure as the Municipal Ad-

ministration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Minister, allowed the transfer of Rs 55 crore from Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to the Formula E Operations without the approval of the Cabinet. Arvind Kumar was serving as the special chief secretary of the MAUD department at the time. The ACB had filed a chargesheet on March 23 this year, naming KTR as accused number one, Arvind Kumar as accused number two and BLN Reddy as accused number three. Sports consultant Govenda Kiran Malleswara Rao was named as accused number four.