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Substantive outcomes will add further vigour to india-UAE friendship: PM Modi

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the agreements signed between India and the United Arab Emirates would add "further vigour" to bilateral ties, after the two countries inked seven major agreements spanning energy, defence, technology, infrastructure and investments during his brief stopover in the Gulf nation. Sharing his remarks on social media platform X, PM Modi described the outcomes of the visit as "substantive" and said they would strengthen the growing India-UAE partnership across strategic sectors.

"Substantive outcomes, which will add vigour to the India-UAE friendship," the



Prime Minister mentioned.

During the visit, India and the UAE signed seven agreements aimed at deepening cooperation in energy security, defence manufacturing, advanced computing, maritime infrastructure and investments.

One of the major agreements was a strategic collaboration between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company to strengthen India's energy security and expand strategic petroleum

reserves. The partnership is also expected to create opportunities for cooperation in India's LNG and LPG infrastructure sectors.

The two sides also signed a strategic agreement for the long-term supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), aimed at boosting India's energy security amid rising global demand and market volatility.

In the defence sector, both countries agreed on a framework for a Strategic Defence Partnership focused on defence manufacturing, military training, maritime security, cyber defence, innovation and secure communication systems. Another key development was the proposed

ship repair and maritime infrastructure cluster project at Vadinar in Gujarat, which is expected to support the government's Make in India initiative and strengthen India's maritime ecosystem.

India and the UAE also signed an arrangement on skill development in ship repair to enhance the capabilities of India's maritime workforce and position the country as a global hub for skilled shipbuilding and repair professionals. In the technology sector, the two nations agreed to establish an eight Exaflop super-computer cluster involving India's Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and UAE-based G42.

Chabahar port symbol of India-Iran cooperation: Araghchi

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS): Calling Chabahar Port a symbol of cooperation between Iran and India, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Friday expressed confidence that the India-developed port will serve as "golden gate" for access to Central Asia, the Caucasus and Europe.

Addressing media after the conclusion of the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, Araghchi acknowledged that the development of Chabahar Port has been slowed down due to the US sanctions. However, he expressed hope that India would continue its work at the strategic port.

"Chabahar Port is one of the symbols of cooperation between Iran and India and we are so glad that In-

dians played an important role in the development of that port. It is now somewhat slowed down because of the US sanctions. But, I am confident that this port would be like a golden gate for India to access Central Asia, the Caucasus and then Europe through this transit route and also for Europeans, Central Asians and others to access the Indian Ocean," he said.

"It is a very strategic port, important for both us and India and many other countries. So, I hope that Indians would continue their work in Chabahar Port so it would be fully developed at the service of the interests of India and other countries around. I think India with its good reputation can play a greater role in this region to help diplomacy.

HM Amit Shah calls for unified global war against narcotics

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS): India's premier agency responsible for gathering and analysing intelligence from abroad, the Research and Analysis Wing, held its annual lecture series on Friday, which began in 2007 to honour its founder, Rameshwar Nath Kao.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah delivered his address at the event this year on "Narcotics: A Borderless Threat, A Collective Responsibility".

In his statement, the Home Minister said that under the leadership of PM Modi, India had set a national goal to achieve a Drug-Free India by 2047.

He stated that Indian security agencies had prepared a roadmap to eradicate drug syndicates and are working towards this goal. Union Minister Shah



categorically affirmed that under India's policy of "zero tolerance" towards drugs, the country would ensure that not one gram of narcotics is allowed to enter the country or leave it using India as a transit route. Highlighting that drug trafficking was not just a law-and-order subject to be handled by the police or anti-narcotics agencies, he said that it has a long-lasting impact on society and future generations. Thus, it demands a

comprehensive response, he asserted.

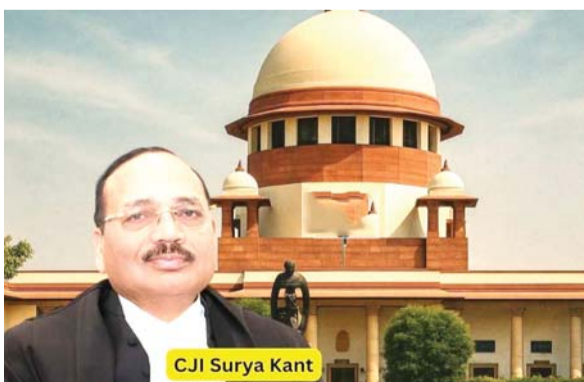
He also added that while there was awareness about drug money being funnelled to fund terrorists and criminal networks and fuelling a parallel economy, what largely went unnoticed was the permanent damage drug abuse caused to the human body.

Shah cautioned that there was still time for all responsible nations of the world to work together to defeat this threat, adding that if joint efforts were not initiated now, after 10 years the world would realise that it was too late to reverse the harm it had caused. The Home Minister called for a unified global effort in the war on drugs, stressing the need for a unified legal framework to deal with the issue.

CJI Flags 'Parasites' Attacking Institutions Through Social Media

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) The Supreme Court on Friday came down heavily on what it described as a growing culture of attacks on the judiciary and the legal system, with Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant warning against "parasites" seeking to undermine institutions through social media and other platforms.

The strong oral observations came from the Bench, also comprising Justice Joy-malya Bagchi, while hearing a petition filed by an advocate challenging the Delhi High Court's refusal to consider him for senior designation — the third such application filed by the lawyer. The petitioner, appearing in person, complained that earlier directions for reconsideration of deferred or rejected appli-



cations for senior designation had not been complied with expeditiously. Expressing displeasure over repeated litigation on the issue, the CJI-led Bench orally observed that senior designation was a recognition conferred by the court and not something to be persistently pursued through litigation. "There are already parasites in society who attack the system," the CJI orally observed, cautioning

members of the Bar against "joining hands" with such elements.

The CJI further made sharp observations about certain individuals active on social media and other platforms, remarking that some "youngsters like cockroaches", who fail to find a footing in any profession, end up becoming "media, social media, RTI activists, or other activists" and begin targeting everyone.

RSS call for Pakistan dialogue big move: Abdullah

SRINAGAR, May 14 (GNS): National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah today welcomed recent remarks by a senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader advocating dialogue with Pakistan, saying war was "not an option" and that all outstanding issues must be resolved through talks. Excelsior Premium Content

Abdullah was reacting to comments made by RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, who recently called for sustained engagement and greater people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan.

The NC Chief said a former Indian Army chief had also publicly endorsed the push for dialogue. "It is a very big move that RSS called for talks with Pakistan. I am glad that some-

body is now thinking that war is not an option. It is a question of dialogue, and with dialogue we must solve our problems," he said.

Taking a jibe at Bharatiya Janata Party, Abdullah said he was previously vilified for making similar calls for engagement with Pakistan. "When I spoke about talks with Pakistan, I was called an enemy of the country, even a terrorist. Thankfully, none of the BJP members opposed it now. I think it is a good suggestion and the Government should consider their advice," he told reporters in Anantnag. Abdullah said dialogue remained the only viable path to lasting peace between the two neighbors. "Things can be resolved only through talks and not war, as we are seeing in the Iran-U.S.

BHOJSHALA DISPUTE

Hindu side files caveat in SC Muslim Side To Challenge HC Order



Bhopal/Dhar, May 15 (GNS): Following the landmark ruling by the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court regarding the Bhojshala complex in Dhar, the Hindu side has moved swiftly to secure its legal standing. On Friday, a caveat petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India

by Jitendra Singh Vishen through his counsel, Advocate Barun Kumar Sinha. The petition formally requests that the apex court refrain from passing any ex parte orders on potential appeals against the High Court's verdict without first granting a hearing to the Hindu side.

This proactive legal step ensures that the Hindu petitioners are notified and heard before the Supreme Court considers any stay or interim order.

In contrast, the Muslim side has expressed its intent to challenge the ruling. Dhar City Qazi Wakar Sadiq stated that they would carefully review the Archaeological Survey

The court declared the eleventh-century monument to be a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati and placed its administration under the discretion of the Central Government and the Archaeological Survey of India. Crucially, the bench set aside the April 7, 2003, administrative order that had allowed the Muslim community to offer Friday prayers at the site.

of India report before approaching the Supreme Court. He noted that several objections raised during the survey process would form the basis of their legal challenge, arguing that judicial precedents suggest an archaeological report should not be the sole basis for a final verdict. The High Court's Friday verdict has been received as a historic victory for the Hindu community.

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the bench set aside the April 7, 2003, administrative order that had allowed the Muslim community to offer Friday prayers at the site. The court suggested that the Muslim side, which identifies the structure as the Kamal Maula Mosque, could approach the state government for a separate allotment of land in Dhar for the mosque's construction. The news triggered widespread celebrations across Dhar.

Members of the Bhoj Utsav Samiti and thousands of devotees gathered at the "Akhand Jyoti Temple", where the atmosphere was filled with religious chants and the distribution of sweets.

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BUS FACILITY AVAILABLE

Centre Releases Rs 8,368 Crore For Maharashtra Under PMAY-G

Satara, May 15 (GNS): Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday announced the release of the Centre's share of Rs 8,368.50 crore for Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin for the financial year 2026-27 at a function where he inaugurated the Griha Pravesh ceremony of 5 lakh completed rural houses in the state.

In his address, the Union Minister said, "Maharashtra has done remarkable work in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin and has set an excellent example of good governance, sensitivity, and result-oriented administration by



completing 5 lakh houses in record time." He said the release of the Centre's assistance would further accelerate the construction of houses for the rural poor in the state and strengthen the resolve to make rural Maharashtra homeless-free. The minister said that under the leadership of PM

Modi, the Central government has a clear resolve that no poor person in the country should live in a kutcha house and that every eligible family should get a respectable pucca roof.

Chouhan also stated that the door is open for eligible families who have been left out, and that more housing

will be provided as needed after the survey and verification process is complete.

He reiterated that the Central government's goal is not just to build houses, but to raise the overall rural standard of living with electricity, water, sanitation, and a dignified life.

The minister also handed

over approval to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for 35 road projects worth Rs 122.98 crore for Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV. These projects, spanning 95.99 kilometres, will benefit 35 rural habitations in the state, providing easier access to education,

healthcare, markets, and other essential services.

He said that the speed and commitment that Maharashtra has demonstrated in rural housing are inspiring to other states.

Referring to the Viksit Bharat G-RAM-G Yojana, Chouhan said that this initiative, to be launched on

July 1, will serve as a new foundation for the holistic, planned development of villages. Chouhan also announced major relief for onion farmers. He said that due to increased production and export-related conditions, market prices have been affected.

He added that from Friday, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited will start purchasing onions at Rs 12.35 per kg, so that farmers can get immediate support.

Regarding issues faced by sugarcane producers, Chouhan assured that the Central and Maharashtra governments would work together to resolve them.

He stated that the issue

had been discussed with Chief Minister Fadnavis and that necessary discussions at the relevant ministry level would be conducted to find practical solutions, as farmers are the backbone of the country's economy.

Chouhan also underlined that agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy and farmers are its soul.

Citing measures such as the recent increase in minimum support price, oilseed and pulse procurement, the Cotton Mission, Farmer ID, farmer-centric systems, and expansion of rural infrastructure, he said the Central government is giving top priority to the welfare of farmers and the rural poor.

From 20 Vehicle Convoys To Minimal Escort, Kerala CM-Designate Satheesan Opts To Go Simple

Thiruvananthapuram: Even before formally taking oath as Kerala's next Chief Minister, V. D. Satheesan has moved swiftly to send out a vital political message — that the era of intimidating VIP convoys, massive traffic blocks, and fortress-style security may soon become a thing of the past. The incoming Chief Minister's instructions to police officials on Friday to drastically trim his security arrangements are being widely seen not merely as an administrative decision, but as a carefully calibrated political statement aimed at preserving the goodwill he built while leading the Opposition.



For nearly a decade, the security arrangements surrounding then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had repeatedly come under sharp public criticism. Particularly during the latter years of his tenure, Vijayan's movement often involved convoys stretching to 20 ve-

hicles, including pilot cars, multiple escort vehicles, jammer units, armed police teams, and even an ambulance trailing behind.

Roads were routinely blocked far in advance, police personnel lined entire stretches of highways, and commuters were frequently

stranded for long periods as the convoy passed through cities and towns.

The aggressive crowd control measures adopted during protests, especially the intense scrutiny over black masks, black clothes and black flags, had also triggered widespread de-

bate on whether Kerala was witnessing an excessive expansion of VIP security culture. Both inside the Assembly and outside, the then Congress-led UDF Opposition repeatedly targeted the Vijayan government over what he termed the harassment of ordinary citizens in the name of security. On several occasions, they accused the Vijayan administration of turning the state machinery into an instrument of fear and inconvenience for common people.

Now, with power shifting hands, Satheesan appears determined to ensure that his own tenure is projected in sharp contrast.

SC cautions uddhav thackeray faction over public comments on pending shiv sena split pleas

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Friday warned the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction against making public statements suggesting that the apex court was delaying the hearing of petitions relating to the Shiv Sena split. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a petition challenging the Election Commission of India's decision to recognise the official Shiv Sena, along with a petition filed by Sunil Prabhu challenging the previous Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's refusal to disqualify members of the then Shinde faction.

When counsel for the Uddhav Thackeray-led side requested an early hearing, the CJI-led bench said: "First, you stop your people from going to the media and making irresponsible statements saying that the Supreme Court is not deciding." "You seek a date here and then say that the Supreme Court is not deciding. We are issuing a warning. Be careful when using your words. I am not



a person who will accept this kind of conduct," CJI Surya Kant said. Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat, appearing for the petitioner side, said his side was ready to argue whenever the top court could allocate sufficient time. "Whenever your lordships have a couple of hours' time for each side, your lordships may fix it," he said, adding that the petitioners were anxious as "for three years, they have been waiting".

"We expect cooperation from both sides," the CJI bench observed, adding that "whatever delay has happened at any stage of hearing, such irresponsible statements are being made". Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the opposing side, said that no litigant had a right

to make such comments against the judiciary and clarified that his side had not engaged in such conduct. "We know how much pressure is upon the court. Our side hasn't done it. It should not be made by any side," he submitted. The bench said: "We are sitting here till 4 p.m.. If somebody finds us sitting idle, we can understand that." The apex court eventually posted the matter for hearing in July.

The petitions challenge the ECI's order recognising the Shinde faction as the official Shiv Sena and granting it the party name and the iconic "bow and arrow" symbol. The Uddhav Thackeray-led faction has contended before the apex court that the poll body failed to discharge its duties as a neutral arbiter under para 15 of the Symbols Order and ignored the organisational support enjoyed by the original leadership. The Supreme Court had, in March 2023, refused to stay the ECI order but agreed to examine whether the poll body had acted within its quasi-judicial mandate while adjudicating the rival claims.

"Will not let malpractice happen again": Education Minister Pradhan on neet paper-leak, announces cbt mode exam from next year

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday announced that the National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct the NEET-UG re-examination on June 21 and said the exam will shift to Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode from next year as part of reforms aimed at ensuring transparency. Pradhan assured the students that they would not let malpractice happen again in the examination and said the government's topmost priority was the future of students.

"Our topmost priority is the future of the students, and the government is sensitive towards their hard

work and efforts. We will not let malpractice happen this time. The government is with you. We had to make a difficult decision in the interest of the nation. We are very sad," Pradhan said.

Addressing a press conference, the Education Minister admitted that questions had gone out under the guise of "guess papers". "Questions have gone out under the guise of guess papers," Pradhan said. He said the verification process began on May 8 and continued over the next four days before the Centre decided to cancel the examination on May 12.

"The process began on the morning of May 8 and continued through May 8,



9, 10 and 11. When we got clarity and were confirmed that questions had gone out this time on the basis of the leaked paper, we made a decision on May 12 in the interest of the students. We did not want any deserving candidate to be deprived of their rights because of the conspiracy of education ma-

fias," he said. Pradhan said the government followed a zero-tolerance approach towards examination irregularities and had implemented the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee after issues surfaced in the previous year.

"After the irregularities that surfaced last time, the Radhakrishnan Committee had been constituted, and we implemented its recommendations word for word for both 2025 and 2026. Despite that, this incident occurred. Hence, our first decision was to cancel the examination," he said.

The Union Minister defended the NTA and said the agency remained fully

accountable. "NTA is fully accountable... The NTA is in the hands of an able person... It has been formed with the recommendation of the Supreme Court and conducts examination of nearly 1 crore students each year... We will ensure 0 errors in the NTA," he said, while adding that the issue should be viewed as a challenge related to the examination process rather than any individual institution. The Education Minister also announced reforms, including refunding fees paid by students and waiving charges for the upcoming examination. "We will return the fees of the students. Zero fees in the upcoming examination."

Karnataka SIR Drive To Cover Over 5.55 Crore Voters; Over 59,000 BLOs To Be Deployed

Bengaluru, May 15 (UNI): The Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka V. Anbukumar, has stated that 59,050 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be involved in the revision process across the State. The Special Intensive Revision is expected to cover approximately 5,55,74,064 electors in Karnataka as of May 12, 2026. The Chief Electoral Officer's office has appealed to voters to cooperate fully with BLOs during the house-to-house verification exercise.

It may be noted that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed the conduct of a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka



as part of a nationwide revision exercise covering 16 States and three Union Territories. According to a statement issued by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, the revision in the State will be undertaken with reference to the qualifying date of Oc-

tober 1, 2026, as notified by the ECI on May 14, 2026.

The revision process in Karnataka will commence with preparation, training, and printing activities from June 20 to June 29, 2026. House-to-house visits by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for the distribution

and collection of enumeration forms will be carried out from June 30 to July 29, 2026. The rationalisation of polling stations will be completed by July 29, while the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, 2026. The period for filing claims and objections has been scheduled from August 5 to September 4, 2026. The notice phase and disposal of claims and objections will continue till October 3, 2026, and the final electoral roll will be published on October 7, 2026.

The Election Commission described the revision exercise as a participative and transparent process involving electors, political parties, and

election officials. During the revision, BLOs will conduct house-to-house visits for distributing and collecting enumeration forms. At present, 25,284 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) have been appointed by recognised political parties. The Commission has urged all recognised political parties to appoint BLAs for every polling station to ensure active participation and transparency in the process.

Further details regarding the revision process, forms, and schedules will be made available on the official websites of the District Election Officers, the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, and the Election Commission of India.

Drones, UAS are like 'claws in the sky' now: IAF chief

NEW DELHI, May 15 (GNS): IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Friday said drones and other unmanned aerial systems (UAS), being an extension of air power, are no more just eyes in the sky, rather they are now akin to "claws in the sky".

In his address at a defence seminar themed on unmanned aerial systems and counter-UAS, he asserted that in any modern aerial threat, complete domain awareness is the key, and there should be "total coordination" among the three services which will be operating in the same air space. "We have seen what happens... if you don't have domain awareness, you don't know where your people are and where others are. We've seen what happened to F-15s in Kuwait. The fratricide part. So we cannot afford to have things like that," the IAF chief said, referring to the recent incident that took place during the West Asia conflict. On March 1,



three US F-15E Strike Eagles went down over Kuwait due to an apparent friendly fire incident, the US CENTCOM had said in a statement on March 2. The seminar is being co-hosted by think-tank Centre for Aerospace Power & Strategic Studies (CAPSS) and Indian Military Review (IMR) publication, at the IAF's Subroto Park here.

The drones and unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and counter-unmanned aerial systems (UAS), are very relevant today. It is a reality. It is not something for the future, the IAF chief said.

"So, there is no denying that the battlefield has

shifted. We are shifting totally from those very concentrated air power to a sort of decentralised and autonomous way," he added. The air chief marshal underlined that the UAS is an "extension of air power".

"So all the rules of air power will apply when you use the UAS systems, just remember that. And, they are no more eyes in the sky. They are like claws in the sky now. This, we've seen it in the recent conflicts that have taken place. And we also realised during Operation Sindoor, and this part cannot be forgotten," he asserted. "And, when it comes to counter-UAS, it is like a cat and mouse game. You develop technology in one field, the counter technology has to develop along with it. Because that is how the game can be played, otherwise, one side will have total advantage," the IAF chief said. "You can't always have force versus force. It has to be force versus defence and others."

Manufacturing, Services Both Key for Growth: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) IT and Electronics Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday announced that the first Made in India semiconductor chip of 28-90 nm will be rolled out this year. Addressing the CII's Annual Business Summit here, the minister said: "We targeted a particular segment, which has 60 per cent of market volume, using a targeted approach."



"Today we have six units under construction. The first made-in-India chip of 28-90 nm will roll out this year. We started manufacturing in 2022," the minister observed.

In the context of semiconductor manufacturing, smaller nanometer (nm) measurements signify more compact transistor designs, allowing manufacturers to fit more transistors onto a single chip. The 28-90 nm chip is used in automotive, telecom, power, and trains.

Underscoring the importance of the manufacturing

sector, the minister said: "Many top economists want us to focus on services. Manufacturing and services are both equally important for the next level of growth. We should increase our work, wherever we get the opportunity. We should have our own IP, product, design and standards." He also highlighted the positive change that was happening due to Artificial Intelligence (AI). "We have experienced a big change due to AI, and it is here for good," he remarked.

"What the internet did for the world, a similar phenomenon would be brought forth from AI. We should be prepared for that change regardless of industry and sector. AI will bring in a humongous change in our society and industry," the minister said. He emphasised the need to have AI models that are trained on Indian culture, nuances, languages, and social norms. The minister said that one of the first such models is being developed by Sarvam. Vaishnaw also

highlighted the achievements and growth of the Indian Railways, of which he also holds charge as minister. "We have achieved a major milestone as we have become the second largest cargo carrying railway in the world with the transportation of 1,612 million tonnes of freight, overtaking the US and Russia," he observed.

"Our passenger carrying capacity has also increased substantially. We have reached a level where dreams are being fulfilled and goals are being achieved. We are going in a steady direction in railways, more industries must join," Vaishnaw added. The Railway Minister further stated that the country's experiment of bringing startups into the railway sector has proved to be very successful.

"We are now bringing a new policy where we can test a new innovative idea and then scale it up based on the results of the test," he added.

Landmark FTA with EFTA to Drive \$100 Billion Investment into India

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) India is an attractive investment destination and has the potential to remain the fastest-growing large economy in the world for the next 30 years, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has said.



Goyal said the country has maintained sustained growth of 6-7 per cent and hopes to push it to 8 per cent at constant prices. Speaking at the CII 'Annual Business Summit 2025' here, the minister said that even amid international upheavals, "we are among the better-performing emerging markets".

"Today, India holds the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about \$690 billion. Our inflation has remained below 4 per cent for the last three months. The Reserve Bank has done a commendable job balancing liquidity and currency management," he told the gathering. Goyal highlighted India as an attractive investment destina-

tion. "Over the past 20-25 years, Indian companies have delivered nearly 20 per cent CAGR returns, making India a compulsive investment destination. FDI inflows are consistently breaking records. We are back on track on the growth trajectory, working through international trading relations," he added. The minister cited progress on various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including those with the UAE, Australia, the UK, the four EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and

Switzerland), and the ongoing bilateral trade agreement negotiations with the US.

"We are well on track with our bilateral trade agreement with the USA and making fast progress with the European Union's 27-nation bloc. We have also launched negotiations with New Zealand," he stated. The EFTA countries have committed \$100 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) to India over the next 15 years. This is expected to crystallise into a total investment of \$500 billion. Furthermore, the large

ecosystem that will be created around this investment has the potential to attract an additional \$500 billion. "We are not aiming small," said Goyal, emphasising that this figure does not include investments from the Norwegian Pension Fund and represents pure FDI. He further highlighted that this is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the world to include such a forward-looking investment clause.

Goyal expressed pride at India's continued economic progress and stated that the IMF has projected that by 2027, India will be the world's third largest GDP. He added that despite global volatility, uncertainty and complexity, India remains the fastest-growing economy and continues to power global growth through growth in India. The minister underlined that growth through trade, resilient supply chains and innovation would remain incomplete without inclusive growth.

India must build AI models to solve world challenges: Amitabh Kant

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) Artificial Intelligence (AI) race has just started, and Indian foundational models will solve many challenges for the world, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Thursday, urging Indian companies to build better and efficient AI foundational models. "What we did in digital public infrastructure (DPI) is that we used open source, open API, globally interoperable models, and those models will be the way forward for us," Amitabh Kant said at the CII Annual Business Summit 2025.



"Therefore, India must build its foundational model. I believe India will provide these foundational models for many areas which have challenges for the world. How to improve learning outcomes, health outcomes and nutritional standards, etc," he told the gathering. According to Amitabh Kant, India will use 22 languages and thousands of dialects to find solutions to

many of the challenges of the world. "Indian startups will do some pathbreaking work in this area," he added.

Talking about the ease of doing business, the G20 Sherpa said that the Central government has put in the building blocks, and it is time for states to bring reforms. He also urged the industry to invest in research and development to develop cutting-edge technologies to sustain India's accelerated growth. Amitabh Kant also said that Quality Control Orders (QCOs) must be used ratio-

nally to ensure Indian industry can grow. To make Indian industry more competitive, he suggested that states give land to the industry on long-term lease and privatise discoms to make them more efficient. He also underlined the need for an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to ensure speedy justice, especially in commercial cases. Amitabh Kant said that tourism is another great area for growth. "We need to roll out a massive Incredible India campaign to attract tourism in a big way.

Ola Electric's net loss doubles in Q4, revenue tanks 62 pc

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) Ola Electric's financial performance took a sharp beating in the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25, as the Bhavish Aggarwal-led electric vehicle maker on Thursday reported a steep drop in revenue and a two-fold increase in net losses on year-on-year (YoY) basis. The company posted a net loss of Rs 870 crore for the January-March quarter (Q4), up from Rs 416 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal (Q4 FY24), according to its stock exchange filing.

Revenue from operations fell significantly to Rs 611 crore in Q4 FY25, marking a 61.8 per cent decline from Rs 1,598 crore a year ago.

This is one of the company's worst quarterly revenue performances since it began commercial deliveries of its electric two-wheelers in late 2021. The drop comes amid rising competition in the electric scooter market, regulatory uncertainty around government subsidies, and



inventory correction across dealerships. For the full year FY25, Ola Electric's revenue also fell to Rs 4,645 crore, down from Rs 5,126 crore in FY24. The company, however, said it is working toward cost efficiency and profitability through its internal cost-cutting initiative, 'Project Lakshya'. It noted that the auto segment's operating cost structure has already been brought down to Rs 121 crore in April 2025, with a target of Rs 110 crore by June 2025.

Ola Electric also said that through its cost-optimisation plans -- Project Lakshya

and Project Vistaar -- it has managed to lower the EBITDA break-even point for its auto segment to under 25,000 units per month.

"With the introduction of new electric motorcycles and rising sales of its Gen 3 S1 scooters, the company aims to achieve EBITDA-level profitability in the auto business during FY26," the electric vehicle maker said in its regulatory filing. The company's Q4 results were announced after market hours. Earlier in the day, Ola Electric's stock closed 0.60 per cent higher at Rs 53.24 on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

Nearly 47 pc of digital transactions in India, UPI has gone global: Minister

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) Around 47 per cent of the digital transactions are in India and the unified payments interface (UPI) has gone global in its scope, Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia has stressed. Moreover, India today is leading the revolution in the technology and telecommunications space. "For instance, India is seen as a digital-first economy and there is a telecom revolution currently underway. Scalability has reduced the cost of communication which presently is among the lowest in the world. The country has achieved 'atmanirbharta' in telecom and is among the four countries manufacturing the technology stack," Scindia said at the Annual Business Summit 2025 held by CII here.

Technology is also transforming the postal department with new services being introduced in the postal

system, the minister added.

According to him, recognising that building trust through enlightened leadership has emerged as a cornerstone for sustainable growth and a hallmark for taking India forward, it is imperative to focus on outcomes which inspire trust.

India emerging as the fourth largest economy in the world is a commendable achievement, he said.

The minister also underscored the significance of the northeast as a centre piece of India's progress with the decadal growth rate exceeding 12-13 per cent. "The eight states would emerge as an engine driving India's ambition of Viksit Bharat," he added. Sanjiv Puri, President, CII, while congratulating the Minister for garnering investment interest of Rs 4.3 lakh crore from the 'Rising North-East Investors Summit 2025', stated that the northeast was transforming.

India's household savings may surge to Rs 22 lakh crore in FY25

Mumbai, May 15 (GNS): Net financial savings of India's household sector may reach Rs 22 lakh crore or 6.5 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI) in FY25 based on the current trends, according to an SBI report released on Friday.

With the latest RBI annual report indicating that the household sector showed strong financial resilience, with net savings rising to 5.1 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI) in FY24, the SBI report says this growing capital pool remains crucial for funding government and corporate deficits and supporting macroeconomic stability. Further, as against the increase in household liabilities to 6.1 per cent of GNDI, the gross financial savings of households increased to 11.2 per cent of GNDI in 2023-24 from 10.7 per cent in the previous year. As per the central bank report, the RBI's balance sheet expanded by 8.19 per cent in FY25,

less than the nominal GDP growth of 9.9 per cent. Despite contractions in traditional income, streams such as domestic interest and LAF earnings, strategic management of foreign exchange and efforts to mitigate rupee volatility materially enhanced surplus generation. A Rs 44,861.7 crore provision to the Contingency Fund kept realised equity healthy at 7.5 per cent of the balance sheet, enabling record Rs 2.69 lakh crore surplus transfers to the government and enhancing the fiscal space.

Further, total gold holdings were at 879.58 metric tonnes, reflecting an increase of 57.48 metric tonnes of gold during FY25. The share of gold in NFA increased to 12.0 per cent as at end-March 2025 from 8.3 per cent as at end-March 2024 due to appreciation in gold prices. Currency in circulation expanded steadily in FY25, with banknotes in circulation rising by 6 per cent in value and 5.6 per cent.

Indian shrimp exporters to see 2-3 pc uptick in revenues this fiscal

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS) Indian shrimp exporters will see a marginal 2-3 per cent uptick in revenues this fiscal (FY26) on improved realisations stemming from rising prices and currency gains, a Crisil report said on Friday. Though the low-value-added shrimp exports will likely see increased pressures, Indian exporters have a competitive advantage in the value-added segment over other Asian peers, such as China, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, which face higher tariffs but enjoy over one-third market share in the US. However, export volumes will be flat because of higher tariffs expected to be imposed by the US and subdued demand in key importer nations as sluggish economic growth affects disposable incomes.

India exports close to 48 per cent of its produce to the US. The reciprocal tariffs announced by the US, though paused for the time being, will benefit south American



exporters such as Ecuador, the largest shrimp exporter in the world. Indian exporters will face higher competition from them in the raw frozen and peeled frozen categories, which have low value addition and are less remunerative. According to the report, operating margins will be under pressure because the tariff burden will be passed on only partially and gradually, as seen in the past, even as exporters scout for other markets and improve offerings through value addition.

Credit profiles will continue to face challenges as elongated working capital cycles induce further re-

course to credit lines that, in turn, would moderate debt protection metrics. Capital structures are expected to remain comfortable, however, the report mentioned. "Last fiscal, the waters turned choppy for Indian shrimp exporters as prices and competition increased after a countervailing duty of 5.77 per cent was slapped by the US," said Himank Sharma, Director, Crisil Ratings. This fiscal, with the US imposing reciprocal tariffs -- even as other major markets such as the European Union and China see sluggish economic activity -- exporters will likely see flattish demand.

SEBI introduces new rules for equity F&O segment to boost transparency, stability

Mumbai, May 15 (GNS) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday announced a new set of rules for the equity Futures and Options (F&O) segment. These changes aim to improve transparency, control excessive speculation, and bring more stability to the market.

One of the major changes introduced by the SEBI is a new method for measuring open interest (OI) in the equity F&O segment. Open interest refers to the total number of outstanding contracts in futures or options. The SEBI said it will now closely monitor the open interest levels during the day, especially for single stock futures and options, instead of waiting until the end of the day. The capital market regulator has also decided to link the market-wide position limit (MWPL) to the cash market volume and the free float of the stock. MWPL is the maximum number of con-



tracts that can be open in F&O trading for a particular stock.

This move is aimed at preventing excessive speculation in stocks with limited liquidity. In another key measure, the SEBI has increased the position limits for trading in Index Futures and Index Options, saying that it wants to strike a balance between allowing market participants to take meaningful positions in large indices and avoiding manipulation risks.

For Index Options, the net end-of-day position limit for futures-equivalent open interest (FutEq OI) will be Rs 1,500 crore. In terms of

gross positions, neither the long nor the short side should exceed Rs 10,000 crore. When it comes to Index Futures, position limits will vary by category of participants.

For example, for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in Category I, mutual funds, and brokers (including proprietary and client trades), the limit will be the higher of either 15 per cent of the total futures open interest or Rs 500 crore. For FPIs in Category II -- excluding individuals, family offices, and corporates -- the limit will be the higher of 10 per cent of the open interest or Rs 500 crore.

Social media accounts booked for posting victim's videos in pocso case against Union Minister's son

Hyderabad, May 15 (GNS) Cyberabad Police have registered cases against social media accounts, which posted photos and videos of the victim in the POCSCO case registered against Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bhageerath, officials said on Friday.

The cases have been registered at the Pet Basheerabad Police Station, where the POCSCO case was booked against Bhageerath on May 8. "Based on the complaint lodged by the Child Welfare Committee Chairperson of Medchal-Malkajgiri district, regarding the circulation of



photos, videos, and other identifying details of the victim girl and her parents a case under Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act, Section 72(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and

Section 23 of the POCSCO Act has been registered," the Pet Basheerabad police Station Station House Officer (SHO) K. Vijaya Vardhan said.

The Instagram and Facebook account IDs along

with relevant URLs involved in the circulation of such content have been identified and forwarded to the concerned authorities for tracing the handlers of these accounts and bringing them to justice. Cases have also been booked against the social media handlers who published the photos, videos and information of the victim and her parents, according to a statement by the SHO.

"The police officer said that revealing the identity or personal details of a girl child/victim and her family involved in POCSCO cases, causes severe emotional

distress to the victim and constitutes a serious legal violation. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone involved in such acts," SHO Vijaya Vardhan added.

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 POCSCO Act and Sections 74 and 75 of BNS.

Jupally Krishna Rao Unveils Tourism Week Brochure

Hyderabad, May 15 (GNS) Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Friday unveiled the brochure for the "99-Day Action Plan - Tourism Week" to be organised across Telangana from May 18 to 23 as part of the State Government's Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika initiative. The brochure was unveiled at the Minister's chamber in the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat in the presence of Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Special Chief Secretary Vani Prasad and Director of Tourism Laxman Ranjith Naik.

The Minister will formally launch the Tourism Week celebrations at the State Museum, Hyderabad, on May 18 as part of the International Museum Day celebrations. Highlighting Telangana's growing tourism potential, Mr. Krishna Rao said the week-long programmes were aimed at promoting the State's heritage, culture, eco-tourism

and historical destinations while creating greater public awareness about tourism-led development and employment opportunities.

The Tourism Week celebrations, being organised by the Department of Tourism in coordination with the Departments of Language & Culture, Heritage and NITHM, will feature heritage walks, tourism awareness drives, cleanliness campaigns at tourist destinations, interactions with tourism influencers and district-level tourism promotion activities. The Minister said Telangana possesses immense tourism potential with destinations such as Ramappa Temple, Nagarjuna Sagar, Buddha Vanam, Alampur Jogulamba Temple, Lakkavaram Lake, Bogatha Waterfalls, Paigah Tombs, Raymond's Tombs, Gunfoundry, Khazana Building, Panagal Museum and several heritage structures in Warangal attracting domestic and international tourists alike.

Centre strengthening Govt healthcare infrastructure in Hyderabad: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, May 15 (GNS) union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday said the Central Government was making concerted efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in Hyderabad to ensure quality medical services for poor and middle-class families dependent on government hospitals.

Addressing the media after distributing medical equipment at Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) in Harrajpenta, Golnaka, and Kachiguda, Kishan Reddy said that despite the presence of numerous private and corporate hospitals in Hyderabad, there was still a pressing need for high-quality government hospitals accessible to economically weaker sections.

He said poor families living in bastis were unable to afford expensive treatment in private hospitals and therefore relied heavily on government healthcare facilities. Keeping this in mind, the Narendra Modi



government was focusing on improving infrastructure and medical facilities in government hospitals across the city. The union minister stated that the Centre had established a state-of-the-art ESI Medical College, Super Speciality Hospital and Nursing College in Hyderabad.

He claimed that the ESI Hospital was currently witnessing a higher outpatient footfall than even Osmania General Hospital and Gandhi Hospital.

Kishan Reddy further said that an AIIMS Bibinagar hospital was being constructed for Rs 1,300 crore to provide advanced treat-

ment at nominal charges. He expressed hope that the Prime Minister would inaugurate the facility early next year. The minister added that although construction work was still underway, the AIIMS Medical College and Nursing College had already started functioning, and inpatient services and surgeries were being conducted.

The union minister said the Central Government had also installed oxygen plants and liquid oxygen facilities in major hospitals, including Osmania, Gandhi, NIMS, and Railway Hospitals in Secunderabad.

Under the National Health Mission, infrastructure development works were being taken up in government hospitals across Hyderabad, he added.

As a Member of Parliament, Kishan Reddy said he was providing modern medical equipment, including ECG, eye-testing and blood-testing devices, to Primary Health Centres in his constituency.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Alleges BJP Leaders Won Using Fraudulent Votes

Hyderabad, May 15 (GNS) Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday alleged that union Ministers Bandi Sanjay Kumar and G Kishan Reddy had won their elections using "fraudulent votes" and claimed that this was the reason they were now "trembling with fear."

Addressing the media at BRK Bhavan after meeting with Chief Electoral officer, C Sudhrashan Reddy, on the upcoming SIR process in Telangana, Mahesh Kumar alleged that vote theft had taken place in 14 states across the country and claimed that the electoral process was conducted in a malicious and unethical manner. He cited the elections in West Bengal as an example, alleging that while 8.2 crore new votes were added nationwide, around 5.90 lakh existing votes were deleted. Referring to West Bengal, he claimed that nearly 90 lakh votes were deleted while 60



lakh new votes were added, leading to changes in political equations and affecting election outcomes.

The TPCC chief said that since no elections are scheduled in Telangana for the next two years, the Congress party had requested the Chief Election Commissioner to extend the Special Summary Revision (SSR) process over a period of one year. He stated that the total number of voters in Telangana was expected to increase to 3.35 crore by 2025 and expressed concern that conducting the SIR process simultaneously with Census operations could create difficulties.

Mahesh Kumar said poor

people whose names were deleted from voter rolls might not be able to furnish the necessary documents to restore their votes. He demanded that a minimum period of three months be provided for the revision process and suggested that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should visit voters' residences three times for verification. He also expressed concern that votes could be deleted in some areas because voters were foreign nationals. He said clear guidelines should be framed to ensure that proof of citizenship is not demanded unnecessarily.

Stating that a passport was only one among 14 accepted identity documents, he asserted that the SIR process should be carried out in a manner that does not inconvenience the public.

He alleged that under the guise of the SIR process, an agenda was being pursued to systematically delete the votes of people who uphold secular values.



Mohammed Mahmood Ali launches Falaknuma News English daily alongside Editor-in-Chief Mohd Ather Raheem, Managing Director Syed Asgar Hussain and Asad Sahab.

SCSC Launches "Suraksha Kavach - College girls Safety & Well-being" program

Hyderabad, May 15 (GNS) The Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) has launched the "Suraksha Kavach - College women Safety & Well-being Handbook", a comprehensive initiative aimed at strengthening youth safety, mental wellness, anti-drug awareness, and responsible campus culture, with clubs led by students themselves.

The launch event brought together senior police officials, education leaders, mental health experts, civil society representatives, and students to foster collective action for safer educational environments.

Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, emphasized the importance of open communication, emotional well-being, disciplined lifestyles, and active community participation in addressing stress, isolation, and substance abuse among youth. He reaffirmed the police department's commitment to strict action against drug peddlers, support and information from students and society are also essential to prevent crime. Rahul Ravindran, Actor-Director and Writer, spoke on the growing risks of addiction, peer pressure, and unhealthy coping mechanisms, urging students to pursue meaningful goals



not enough and discussion forums are also important. CP appreciated the suggestion and encouraged students to openly discuss their problems with friends, teachers, parents, and mentors, stressing that meaningful communication and connection are important.

Replying to a question by Srivar, Student, NALSAR University of Law, on drugs, CP said drugs destroy individuals, families, and society. He stated that while police are taking strict action against drug peddlers, support and information from students and society are also essential to prevent crime. Rahul Ravindran, Actor-Director and Writer, spoke on the growing risks of addiction, peer pressure, and unhealthy coping mechanisms, urging students to pursue meaningful goals

and positive motivations. He encouraged youth to actively participate in initiatives like Suraksha Kavach to help create safer campuses. Prof. Balakrista Reddy, Chairman, Telangana Higher Education Council, highlighted the role of educational institutions in ensuring student welfare, underlining the significance of mental health support systems, anti-ragging measures, and institutional safety mechanisms on campuses. Ms. Vanita Datla, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director, Elico Healthcare Services Ltd and EC Member, SCSC; Ms. Chetana Kaasam, Managing Partner, Legal Corner LLP and Forum Lead, SCSC; and Ms. Srividya Reddy, Vice Chair, G Pulla Reddy Education Society and SCSC Member, presented the SCSC's ongoing commitment to youth protection.

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TIMS hospital infrastructure among the best in India: KTR



Hyderabad, May 14 (GNS): Students from various organisations held a protest at Narayanguda 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 examination 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, who represented Naujawan Bharat Sabha, said that repeated paper leaks and examination scams, including the 2017 paper leak case, the Vyapam scam, and the NEET and UGC NET leaks of 2024, exposed a deep nexus between the state and private actors.

He said that such scams were not just some isolated acts of negligence, but were rooted in the privatised and profit-driven structure of the present examination system. He stressed that these failures placed an immense financial and psychological burden on the students coming from poor, rural, and working-class families.

Students and job aspirants listened to the activists with curiosity and tried to understand the root causes behind the repeated negligence and paper leaks.