

# FALAKNUMA



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## India's youth are playing a vital role in accelerating the journey towards a Viksit Bharat: PM Modi

New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly appointed youth in various Government departments and organisations at the 19th Rozgar Mela today at 11 AM via video conferencing. Addressing the gathering, he described the occasion as a profoundly significant day for thousands of young people across the nation. Welcoming the newest entrants into government service, he underscored their imminent contribution to India's development across sectors including railways, banking, defence, health, and education. "In the years



to come, all of you will play a crucial role in realizing the vision of a Viksit Bharat," asserted Shri Modi.

Honouring the dedication and rigorous preparation that brought the appointees

to this milestone, the Prime Minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to each one of them. Recognising that no individual achievement stands alone, he also offered his best wishes to



the families and parents whose support had been indispensable along the way. Sharing insights from a just-concluded diplomatic tour spanning five countries, the Prime Minister

conveyed the palpable excitement that leaders of global corporations, representing dozens of nations, had expressed about India's youth and its technological advancement. He described

a world eager to participate in India's rise. "The world wants to be a part of India's development journey," remarked Shri Modi. Elaborating on the diplomatic and economic

outcomes of the tour, the Prime Minister outlined sector-specific agreements forged and dialogues held with each nation visited, which included discussions on semiconductors, water, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing with the Netherlands; talks on co-operation in the fields of AI and digital innovation with Sweden; discussions on green technology and maritime cooperation with Norway; MoUs on strategic energy and technology partnerships with the UAE; and agreements on defence, critical minerals, and science and technology with Italy. PM Modi made clear that India's international

partnerships are purposefully structured to serve its youth. "The purpose is that India's youth get employment and global exposure," asserted Shri Modi.

Conveying the direct relevance of each agreement to employment generation, the Prime Minister emphasised that every new investment, every technology partnership, and every industrial collaboration ultimately creates fresh opportunities for India's young people. He further underlined the long-range significance of these collaborations. "These are the sectors that will shape industries defining global growth for the next 25 years," asserted Modi.

### India key to US Indo-Pacific strategy: Rubio

New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) Asserting that India-US partnership continues to deepen, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday said that relationship with New Delhi remains at the cornerstone of Washington's approach to the Indo-Pacific and both countries will have some "exciting and new announcements" to make about the development and the strengthening of the relationship in the coming months.

Addressing the gathering before inaugurating the US Embassy's Support Annex building in New



Delhi, Rubio spotlighted the "important role" India plays in the US approach to the Indo-Pacific. "It is a sign of our commitment to this important relationship between the United States and India. This relationship between our two countries

is at the cornerstone of our approach to the Indo-Pacific," said Rubio. Rubio recalled that the first major discussions he held after being sworn in as the US Secretary of State in January 2025 were during the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Washington DC, a grouping that also includes India.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Rubio had also met shortly after the Quad meeting, which was the first foreign policy engagement, not only for Rubio but also for the Trump administration in its second term.

### DUAL PAN CARD CASE

#### SP Leader Azam Khan's Jail Term Enhanced From 7 To 10 Years

Rampur (UP), May 23 (GNS): In fresh trouble for jailed Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Khan, an Uttar Pradesh court on Saturday enhanced the sentence of the former MP from seven years to 10 years and raised the penalty imposed on his son from Rs 50,000 to Rs 3.5 lakh in the latter's dual PAN card case.

The Special MP-MLA Court in Rampur also enhanced the penalty imposed on Azam Khan from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh, a lawyer said. The court decision came in connection with the prosecution's appeal seeking sentence enhancement for the father-son duo serving seven years'



imprisonment for the offence of Abdullah Khan possessing two PAN cards with different dates of birth (DOB), the lawyer added. The former MP and his son were sentenced to seven years' jail each on November 17, 2025, after holding Abdullah Khan guilty of getting a second PAN card made with a wrong date of birth

to increase his age on record, making him eligible to contest election.

Earlier, Azam Khan's appeal against his sentencing was dismissed by a court on April 20 this year while the decision on the prosecution's appeal seeking sentence enhancement was delivered on Saturday, the lawyer said. The case was registered in Civil Lines police station in Rampur on a fraud, forgery and criminal conspiracy complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Akash Kumar Saxena on December 6, 2019.

He alleged that one of Abdullah's PAN cards recorded his DOB as January 1, 1993, and the other mentioned September 30, 1990.

### Oil india discovers new gas-bearing zone in Rajasthan: Puri



New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) Maharatna PSU Oil India Limited has successfully unlocked a new gas-bearing pay zone in Rajasthan's Dandewala field, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Saturday. In a post on social media platform X, the minister said the development marked a new chapter in India's efforts to strengthen domestic energy production and move towards greater energy self-sufficiency.

According to Puri, natural gas has started flowing for the first time from the shallower Sanu Formation in the Dandewala field at nearly 25,000 standard cubic metres per day.

"India's quest to strengthen domestic production of energy scripts a new chapter in Rajasthan," the minister said.

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BUS FACILITY AVAILABLE

### Neet-UG 2026 refund portal opens till May 27

New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) The National Testing Agency (NTA) has activated the refund facility for candidates who appeared in the cancelled NEET-UG 2026 examination held on May 3. Students can now submit their bank account details through the official website to claim a refund of the examination fee.

According to the official notification, the refund option has been made available on the NEET-UG 2026 registration portal. Candidates who had registered for the examination can log in using their application credentials and access the dedicated refund link to complete the process.

To receive the refund, applicants are



required to provide essential banking details, including the account holder's name, bank name, account number, and IFSC code. Candidates also have the option to upload a scanned copy of a cancelled cheque to help ensure the accuracy of the submitted information. The NTA clarified that once

the bank details are submitted, they will be treated as final, and no corrections or modifications will be allowed afterwards. Candidates have been advised to carefully verify all information before submission.

The deadline for submitting bank details for the refund process is May 27, 2026, until 11:50 P.M. The refund process comes after the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination following allegations of irregularities and a question paper leak. The controversy sparked widespread concern among students and parents across the country and led to multiple investigations, including a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

### Strategic partnership reflects the trust between india-Cyprus: President Murmu

New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) President Droupadi Murmu has received the Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capital and hosted a banquet in his honour. President Murmu said on Friday that the elevation of India-Cyprus relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership reflects the trust that has existed between our two countries for decades, and opens new opportunities for expanding mutual cooperation. Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cyprus



President Christodoulides held bilateral talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. PM Modi announced that ties between India and Cy-

prus have been elevated to a strategic partnership. He said that Cyprus President Christodoulides' visit to India marks the "next mile-

stone" in the shared journey of the two nations. "Today's meeting stands as a confirmation that Cyprus and India are not simply strengthening bilateral ties. We are building a partnership with strategic depth and global relevance. For our countries, our peoples, and for our respective regions," Christodoulides said on social media platform X after the meeting. "A partnership built on trust and on the conviction that dialogue and cooperation, not confrontation, is the path forward," he added. While addressing a joint

press meet with President Christodoulides following their talks at Hyderabad House on Friday, PM Modi said, "Cyprus is one of India's top 10 investors. In the last decade, investments from Cyprus in India have nearly doubled. Trust between the two countries has grown. The India-EU FTA has opened up new opportunities. Leveraging this, we aim to double this investment once again over the next five years, and to realise this commitment, today we are elevating our trusted partnership to the level of a strategic partnership."

# A nation that manufactures its own weaponry writes its own destiny: Raksha Mantri

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) "A nation that manufactures its own weaponry writes its own destiny," said Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh as he, along with Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, inaugurated a Defence Manufacturing Complex of a private sector company, NIBE Group' at Shirdi on May 23, 2026. The complex intends to manufacture advanced artillery systems, missile & space technologies, rocket systems, energetic materials, and autonomous defence platforms.

India's first 300 KM Universal Rocket Launching System 'Suryastra' was flagged-off as part of the event. The foundation stone was also laid for a missile complex for the system. Fur-

thermore, the unveiling of indigenous TNT Plant Technology, RDX Plant Technology and Renewable Bio-Energy Compressed Biogas Plant took place during the ceremony. An MoU was also exchanged between NIBE Group and Black Sky in the field of satellite assembly.

Raksha Mantri stressed the importance of self-reliance in ammunition production, and exuded confidence that the complex would help in fulfilling the operational requirements of the defence forces & bolster the industrial ecosystem of the country. He stated that defence production, which was earlier largely confined to the Public Sector Units & Ordnance factories, was opened to the private sec-



tor by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government. "We recognised the capabilities of the private sector as it can transform India into a global manufacturing hub," he said.

Rajnath Singh emphasised that the outcome of

future wars will be determined by the nation's advancements & capabilities in munitions and automation, and not by the size of its forces. "Glimpses of this reality can be witnessed in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and the West Asia

situation. India demonstrated this capability during Operation Sindoor," he said.

Raksha Mantri pointed out that India's private industries possess a deep understanding of the dynamics of future warfare and are working relentlessly to equip the coun-

try with state-of-the-art systems. He called for concerted efforts of all stakeholders to transform India into a global hub for munitions and automation, adding that the Government is consistently promoting Make-in-India in critical technologies and ad-

vanced systems. "We stand ready to take every necessary step to ensure that India emerges as a frontrunner in munitions and automated systems," he stated.

Rajnath Singh underlined that the fundamental objective of technology is not to diminish the capabilities of soldiers, but to augment them, and the final decision must always remain in human hands. He said modern weaponry and automated systems are playing an increasingly significant role in future warfare, and it is imperative for India to advance in this direction. "Let us collectively pledge to make India completely self-reliant in defence and space technology," he said, urging the defence companies to

enhance India's capabilities for the wars of the future.

Highlighting the measures undertaken by the Ministry of Defence over the last decade, Raksha Mantri said that bold policy reforms, liberalised FDI norms, introduction of Strategic Partnership Model, notification of Positive Indigenisation Lists, and launch of schemes such as Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) and Technology Development Fund (TDF) are providing impetus to young innovators. He underlined that the private sector is playing a crucial role in realising the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make-in-India.

## India sends 56 students to Japan for science event

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) The Union Education Ministry on Saturday flagged off a group of 56 students participating in the Sakura Science Programme 2026 in Japan, an official said on Saturday. From May 24 to 30, 56 school students and four supervisors from India will visit Japan as part of the Sakura Science Programme, alongside participants from Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa, an official of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) said.

The flag-off ceremony, held at NCERT in New Delhi, was attended by Archana Sharma Awasthi, DoSEL Additional Secretary; Dinesh Prasad Saklani, NCERT Director; and

A. Srijia, DoSEL Economic Advisor. The 56 students (24 boys and 32 girls) in the group are from government schools across 15 states and Union Territories, namely Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

The participants are recipients of scholarships under the National Means cum Merit Scholarship (NMMS) scheme of the Union government, a statement said. To broaden intellectual horizons and foster scientific exploration among young learners.

## SC registers SUO MOTU case over alleged procedural lapses in Twisha Sharma death probe

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) The Supreme Court has taken suo motu (on its own motion) cognisance of the high-profile suspected dowry death of model-turned-actor Twisha Sharma at her matrimonial home in Bhopal, amid allegations of institutional bias and procedural lapses in the investigation.

As per details uploaded on the website of the apex court, the matter has been registered as "In Re: Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home". The suo motu case, registered on Saturday as SMW (Cr.) No. 4/2026, is



slated to be heard on May 25 by a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi. The development comes amid mounting controversy surrounding the death of Twisha Sharma, who was found hanging at her matrimonial home in the

Katara Hills area of Bhopal on May 12. Her family has alleged dowry harassment, procedural lapses in the initial probe, delay in registration of FIR, inconsistencies in the post-mortem examination, and possible tampering with evidence.

The Madhya Pradesh government has already

recommended a CBI investigation into the matter following public outrage and demands from the victim's family for an independent probe. Meanwhile, Twisha Sharma's husband Samarth Singh, the prime accused in the case, was sent to seven days of police remand by a Bhopal district court after being brought to the city from Jabalpur under tight security.

In another significant development, the Madhya Pradesh High Court earlier directed that a second post-mortem examination of Twisha Sharma's body be conducted by a medical team to be constituted by the Director of AIIMS Delhi.

## Raghav chadha chairs Rajya Sabha petitions panel

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) Raghav Chadha, Rajya Sabha Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, was appointed the new Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House, as part of the exercise to reconstitute the panel by Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan, an official said on Sunday. The Committee was reconstituted on May 20.

Other members of the Committee include Jebi Mather Hisham, Harsh Mahajan, Gulam Ali, Mayankumar Nayak, Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Subhashish Khuntia, Rwngrwa Narzary, Sandosh Kumar P. and Shambhu Sharan Pa-

tel. An official notification said, "Raghav Chadha has been appointed Chairman of the committee."

The key responsibility for Chadha comes close to his recent switch to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) along with six other MPs in the Upper House. In April, seven Rajya Sabha MPs — Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Vikram Sahney, Swati Maliwal and Rajinder Gupta — defected from the AAP to the BJP, dealing a major blow to the AAP as its strength in the Upper House plunged from 10 to just three.

## Chhattisgarh: Security forces foil maoist plot after recovering IED in Dantewada

Dantewada, May 23 (GNS): Security forces in Chhattisgarh achieved a major success in the ongoing campaign against Maoist activities after recovering and safely destroying a pressure cooker IED (Improvised Explosive Device) weighing around five kg in the dense forest area of Hidpal village under the Bar-sur police station limits.

Police officials said the timely detection and neutralisation of the IED prevented what could have turned into a major tragedy involving security personnel as well as local civilians. Acting on specific intelligence inputs received on Saturday, a joint team comprising the District Police, the 'Young Pla-



toon' and the Bomb Disposal Squad of the 195th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force launched a cordon and search operation in the hilly and forested areas around Hidpal village, officials said.

The operation began early in the morning at around 5 a.m. under the guidance of Second-in-Command Vi-

krant Verma and Assistant Commandant Sanjeev Kumar Yadav. The teams moved cautiously through the difficult terrain, focusing on areas considered vulnerable to Naxalite presence and hidden explosive devices.

During the intensive search operation at around 8.20 a.m., security personnel spot-

ted a suspicious object concealed inside the forest area. Showing high alertness and strictly following safety protocols, the personnel immediately cordoned off the area and called in experts from the Bomb Disposal Squad. Upon careful examination, the suspicious object was confirmed to be a pressure cooker IED allegedly planted by Maoists with the intention of targeting security personnel and creating fear among local residents.

Using specialised technical procedures, the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) successfully neutralised and destroyed the explosive device on the spot without any untoward incident.

## Tamil Nadu govt cancels over 100 short-term tenders across key departments

Chennai, May 23 (GNS): The Tamil Nadu government has cancelled more than 100 short-term tenders issued across several major departments, including Public Works, Electricity, Rural Development and Municipal Administration, as part of a larger move by the newly formed government led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to tighten administrative procedures and bring greater transparency to public works contracts. Short-term tenders are generally issued in situations involving urgent or emergency requirements, where the normal bidding period is reduced to speed up the execution of works.



Such tenders are often used for projects that require immediate attention and cannot wait for the standard procurement process.

However, the Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, after assuming office, had announced that works should not be carried out through the short-term tender route

except under unavoidable circumstances. Acting on this policy decision, the government has initiated a wide-ranging review of tenders that were issued under shortened timelines. As part of the exercise, several tenders floated during recent weeks have now been withdrawn.

According to official sources, tenders issued

between May 13 and May 22 across multiple departments have been identified and subsequently cancelled. The affected departments include the Rural Development Department, Transport Department, Public Works Department (PWD), Electricity Department, Chennai Corporation, Municipal Administration Department and the Water Supply Department.

Authorities said the cancellation of these tenders was undertaken for "administrative reasons," although no further details were immediately made available regarding specific projects affected or the financial value involved.

## Amid prevailing security situation, 132 NCC cadets stranded in manipur airlifted to assam

Imphal: In view of the prevailing situation in Manipur, 132 NCC cadets were evacuated to Guwahati and Jorhat in Assam by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday, officials said.

A senior official said that in the true spirit of jointmanship and commitment towards the safety and welfare of youths, 132 NCC cadets who attended the NCC North Eastern Region (NER) Flying Camp in Imphal from May 11 to May 20, 2026, are undergoing emergency evacuation to Guwahati and Jorhat by the IAF amid the prevailing security situation and restrictions on road movement in Manipur.

"The evacuation has been



planned by the NCC NER Directorate in consultation with the Headquarters Director General NCC and in coordination with the Headquarters Eastern Air Command," the official said.

He said that the swift and timely action ensured that the cadets safely reached their destinations in time

for their examinations, bringing immense relief and happiness to their parents and family members.

"The NCC cadets have also conveyed their heartfelt gratitude for the care, support and timely assistance extended to them. Special thanks have been extended to the Defence Minister, the Ministry of Defence and the

Indian Air Force for their unwavering support," the official added.

In a post on its X handle, the NCC Directorate North Eastern Region said: "Safe, united and resilient! NCC cadets from the Northeast expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Defence, IAF and NCC Directorate for the swift airlift operation carried out during challenging circumstances in Manipur."

"The successful evacuation reflects the spirit of teamwork, care and unwavering commitment towards cadet welfare and national unity," the post added. In another post, the NCC Directorate North Eastern Re-

gion said: "The Indian Air Force provided timely airlift assistance to NCC cadets stranded in Imphal after the completion of the Air Wing NCC Camp on May 20, 2026."

It stated that in view of the prevailing situation in Manipur, cadets from Jorhat and Guwahati were unable to travel back home by road. "The IAF conducted a special airlift operation on May 23 comprising three AN-32 aircraft, evacuating 60 cadets to Jorhat and 72 cadets to Guwahati. The prompt support extended by the IAF has provided solace and comfort to the anxious parents," the NCC Directorate said.

## Sonam Wangchuk on ladakh deal: elected leaders to decide finance

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) Following a meeting with the Centre, renowned climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, on Saturday, emphasised that decisions over the finances of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh will now be taken by the elected representatives and no longer by the Lieutenant Governor.

His reaction comes after the Central government and the representatives of Ladakh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) reached an understanding in principle which will give the UT an elected chief minister with powers on bureaucracy, a legislative body and protections under Article 371. Wangchuk was



also part of the discussions.

Speaking to IANS, Wangchuk said: "The Central government's argument was that Ladakh does not have the revenues to bear operational expenses like salaries or pensions at this stage. The Centre said that it cannot bear 100 per cent of the budget, and a state has to have its own re-

sources." Regarding the Centre's proposal, he said that it has been decided to have a UT-level Assembly or law-making body where elected representatives from Ladakh will make laws for the region, using Article 371 as a measure of safeguard for environment, land, culture and nature.

The climate activist highlighted: "Another very important feature, which was not true so far, was that the government accepted that this body, the chief of this body, which may be called the chief minister, will have supremacy or control over the entire bureaucracy, which means the chief secretary and all the bureaucrats, which was not the case earlier."

# IPL 2026: Iyer's unbeaten 101 helps PBKS keep playoff hopes alive, beat LSG by 7 wickets

Lucknow, May 23 (GNS): Shreyas Iyer struck his maiden IPL century to guide Punjab Kings to a seven-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants and break their six-game losing streak to keep their IPL 2026 playoffs hopes alive here at the BRSABV Ekana Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

In response to LSG's 196/6, Punjab hunted down the target in 18 overs, with Iyer unbeaten on 101 off 51 balls, studded with 11 fours and five sixes coming at a strike-rate of 198.04. Apart from wowing the crowd with his sublime timing, strong pick-up of deliveries and bottom-handed shots, Iyer also shared a crucial



**Brief scores: Lucknow Super Giants 196/6 in 20 overs (Josh Inglis 72, Ayush Badoni 43; Yuzvendra Chahal 2-25, Marco Jansen 2-33) lost to Punjab Kings 200/3 in 18 overs (Shreyas Iyer 101 not out, Prabhsimran Singh 69; Mohammed Shami 2-45, Arjun Tendulkar 1-36) by seven wickets**

140-run stand with Prabhsimran Singh, who hit 69 off 39 balls. The win has lifted PBKS to fourth on the points table, and their fate now hinges on the Rajasthan Royals' clash with the Mumbai Indians. If RR win, Punjab are out; if MI prevail, Kolkata Knight Riders could still overtake PBKS on net run rate with a big win over the now eliminated Delhi Capitals. If all works well in their favour, PBKS will face Sunrisers Hyderabad in the

Eliminator clash in New Chandigarh on Wednesday. The chase began dramatically as Priyansh Arya fell first ball to Mohammed Shami, caught on the pull for a golden duck. Cooper Connolly counter-attacked with four boundaries in the second over, before being castled by Mohammed Shami and leaving PBKS at 22/2 in 2.2 overs. Iyer joined Prabhsimran and the pair steadied the innings. Iyer struck successive

fours off Mohsin Khan and Shami, while Prabhsimran found his rhythm with inventive strokes and used the bowlers' pace to his advantage. The partnership blossomed after Power-play as Prabhsimran dropped on 20 by Pant off Arjun Tendulkar, and got his fifty in 28 balls. Iyer, meanwhile, cut and drove with authority to get his fifty in 33 balls. The boundaries flowed freely before Arjun trapped Prabhsimran lbw for 69. But Iyer

pressed on, smashing three sixes in one Shami over to all but seal the contest. Fittingly, Iyer launched a slower ball from Mohsin over cow corner to complete his maiden IPL hundred and clinch an important victory for PBKS.

For Iyer, the century was a moment of relief and joy - helmet off, arms aloft, as he was embraced by teammates over ending a six-game losing streak and PBKS playoffs hopes still very much alive. Even as PBKS rejoiced in the glow of a much-needed victory in a must-win clash, LSG's tenth defeat of the season also confirmed that they will finish at the bottom of the IPL 2026 points table.

## Vinesh Phogat gets Delhi HC relief to participate in Asian games trials

New Delhi, May 23 (UNI) The Delhi High Court has permitted wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials, holding that motherhood cannot be treated as a "disability" or a ground for exclusion from professional opportunities. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Deyendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, while questioning the exclusionary nature of the eligibility criteria framed by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), directed the federation to allow Phogat to participate in the trials scheduled for May 30 and 31 and ordered that the process be video-recorded.



"Motherhood must be viewed as a natural and deeply significant aspect of life that deserves accommodation and institutional sensitivity. Therefore, the law must ensure that motherhood does not become a ground for exclusion or marginalisation of female athletes such as the Appel-

lant," the Delhi High Court said. Allowing Phogat's appeal against the earlier interim order passed by a single judge, the CJ Upadhyaya-led Bench said the three-time Olympian had made out a prima facie case against the WFI's Asian Games selection policy and the circular restricting participation in the trials to medal winners of select domestic events conducted in 2025 and 2026.

It observed that the policy framework failed to account for Phogat's maternity-related sabbatical and post-partum recovery period, which coincided with the qualifying tournaments prescribed under the eligibility criteria.

## Federation Cup Athletics: Gurvindervir, Vishal TK Set New Records; Tejaswin Crosses 8000 Points In Decathlon

Ranchi, May 23 (GNS): An incredible performance by two male sprinters—Gurvindervir Singh and Vishal TK— set the track ablaze with record-breaking performance to establish new benchmarks while Tejaswin Shankar became the first Indian decathlete to cross 8000 points in the Senior Nationals Federation Cup athletics at the Birsa Munda Stadium in Ranchi on Saturday.

On a blockbuster day, Gurvindervir Singh, 25, was the first to enter the record books. The Punjab sprinter representing Reliance at the National Senior Athletics Federation Competition, clocked 10.09 seconds to reclaim his men's 100m



crown. The newly-crowned champion had clocked 10.17 seconds in the semis on Friday. "This record is to prove that I'm not finished and still have power in my legs," says

Gurvindervir Singh in post-race interaction.

The men's 100m champion also achieved the Glasgow Commonwealth Games qualification time of 10.16

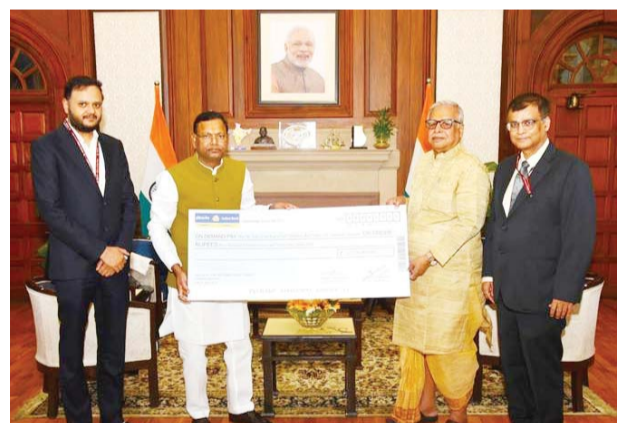
seconds. He also bettered the meet record of 10.18 seconds set by Animesh Kujur last year. On Gurvindervir Singh's outstanding performance, his coach, James Hillier, says he expects his athlete to further improve in the coming months. "He is learning to execute the plans in the races, and his performance graph is getting better," says James Hillier. But it wasn't Animesh Kujur's day. He finished second with a time of 10.20 seconds. Animesh Kujur had, in fact, clocked 10.15 seconds in the second semis on Friday. A couple of minutes after Gurindervir Singh's record-breaking performance, focus shifted to the men's quarter-mile race. Vishal TK became

the first Indian athlete to break 45 seconds for the 400m on Indian soil. His gold-winning time of 44.98 seconds was better than his national record of 45.12 seconds clocked last year in Chennai. "Athletics fans will certainly keep a track of me when I compete at the global level," says Vishal TK of conquering new territory on Saturday.

In his preparation to break the 45-second barrier, Vishal TK says he had visualised the race. "I was confident of breaking 45 seconds today," says the Tamil Nadu sprinter.

Away from track races, the spotlight was on Tejaswin Shankar as he became the first Indian to join the 8000 points club in decathlon.

## Union MoS Finance hands over 515.31 cr for Rose Valley scam restitution



New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary handed over a Demand Draft of Rs. 515.31 crore today to Justice D.K. Seth (Retd.), Chairman of the Asset Disposal Committee formed for the purpose of restitution of properties to legitimate investors in Rose Valley Ponzi scam. Rahul Navin, Director, ED and other senior officials of the government were also present on the occasion.

It is estimated that this amount will be used to restate money to approximately 7.5 lakh victims out of the total claims of 31 lakh lodged so far with Asset Disposal Committee. Earlier, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had handed over an amount of Rs. 22 crore to the ADC which was used to restate money to 32,319 lawful investors.

The amount of Rs. 515.31 crore was attached by ED in the years 2015-17 by investigating money trail and tracing 2,987 different bank accounts where the money collected from innocent victims had traversed. The said bank accounts were then seized/ attached following due process of law and con-

verted into more than 700 Fixed Deposits (FDs) after confirmation of attachment by the Adjudicating Authority. It may be mentioned that ED has also attached other movable and immovable assets of Rs. 1,172 crore (present market value of the assets is estimated to be more than Rs. 2,000 crore), which is also in process of liquidation and refund to the victims.

ED is investigating five (5) Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases against the Rose Valley Group in the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Assam and Tripura. ED has filed prosecution complaints in all these cases before the Special Courts under PMLA. Investigation under PMLA revealed that Rose Valley Group companies, had collected funds of Rs. 17,520 crore by luring people mostly from the lowest strata of society with promises of providing land parcels or time sharing in hotels and in the event of inability to deliver the land/time sharing, refund with high rate of interest was promised on maturity of investments. Investigation has revealed that out of the above, an amount of Rs. 6,666 crore.

## Industry Stakeholders Should Embrace Sustainability and Set Global Benchmarks: Goyal

CHENNAI, May 23 (GNS): Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the CAPEXIL's Vibrant Buildcon 2025 here today. He asked industry stakeholders to adopt best practices in sustainability, reduce import dependency, focus on clean and green construction, and work towards earthquake-resistant and modular infrastructure.

Goyal highlighted India's growing strength in the construction ecosystem—from Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to domestic manufacturing under Make in India. He underlined the importance of key sectors such as housing, infrastructure, commercial real estate, railways, airports, highways, and energy. "Every element, from cement and electricals



to security systems and automation, plays a part in this ecosystem," he said.

Goyal said the rapid infrastructure development has happened under the leader-

ship of the Prime Minister. "PM Modi conceptualised world-class convention centres like Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi, both of which were built during the pandemic. These state-of-the-art venues have hosted global events such as the G20 Summit, BharatTex, Bharat Mobility and Startup Mahakumbh," he pointed out.

The Minister listed several major government initiatives, including 20 new smart industrial cities, improved tourism infrastructure across 50 destinations, and 100 new industrial plug-and-play hubs. "If we are to move from a \$4 trillion economy today to a \$30-35 trillion economy by 2047, every citizen must contribute to Viksit Bharat 2047," he said. Commerce and Industry Minister

noted that today India is breaking silos, fostering collaboration, and reimagining the future with a convergence of minds. "Vibrant Buildcon is only the beginning of the transformation of our construction ecosystem under one umbrella," Shri Goyal said.

Greeting the gathering on the occasion of Baisakhi, the Union Minister talked about the role of farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that despite global disruptions, India ensured uninterrupted food distribution, month after month, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Even during the peak of the pandemic, India continued its mission of feeding the poor and bringing millions out of deprivation," he noted.

Drawing a connection between India's food security and infrastructure growth, Shri Goyal said that Vibrant Buildcon exemplifies the country's ability to support rapid urbanisation, housing for all, and logistics transformation.

"This platform showcases our manufacturing and infrastructure strength, which is crucial to attract global investments and reduce logistics cost," he added. In conclusion, Shri Goyal emphasised India's potential to emerge as a global superpower. "We must aim for audacious goals, ensure our labour force receives fair wages, and innovate continuously. Let there be no doubt—India will lead the world in growth, innovation, and inclusive development," he said.

## India-Nepal Hold 21st DG-Level Customs Talks in Kathmandu

New Delhi, May 23 (GNS) The 21st Director-General Level Talks on Customs Cooperation was held between India and Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal on 10th-11th April, 2025. Both the sides discussed a host of bilateral issues for enhancing Customs Cooperation between the two countries. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Abhai Kumar Srivastav, Director-General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Mahesh Bhatnagar, Director-General, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.

The agenda items of the meeting covered measures to check smuggling; review progress on MoU on Pre-arrival Exchange of Customs Data and Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES); finalization of Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA); facilitation of movement of transit cargo under Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS); automation and digitisation of transit processes; upgradation of border infrastructure; knowledge sharing program and support for capacity development, among others.

Issues related to trans-border criminal activities and smuggling of gold; narcotics; Fake Currency Notes (FCN), prohibited/restricted category of goods, such as e-



Cigarettes, e-lighters, certain varieties of garlic and other cases of commercial frauds, including sensitive goods were also deliberated. It was acknowledged that smuggling of goods has been a common challenge and both

sides looked forward towards cooperation in preventing smuggling across the borders with active engagement and exchange of intelligence. Both the nations agreed to take necessary measures to control the unauthorised

trade and work in tandem.

Nepal is a priority partner of India under its 'Neighbourhood First' Policy. India accounts for two-thirds of Nepal's exports and is the largest trade partner of Nepal. The bilateral talks on Customs cooperation are an important mechanism to facilitate genuine trade as well as to prevent illicit trade along the border in an interconnected world.

The meeting concluded on an optimistic note. The Nepali side expressed their gratitude to the Government of India, particularly the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for knowledge sharing and capacity enhancement programmes for Nepal Customs officials at different levels.

Both sides emphasised on collaborating in areas that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of trade and Customs operations across the border that deliver significant economic benefits to both the countries. It was mutually agreed to consider new technologies for facilitating trade and preventing smuggling of goods.

India and Nepal hold the 21st Director-General Level Customs Cooperation Talks in Kathmandu, focusing on strengthening bilateral trade facilitation and border management systems.

The two sides discussed measures to curb smuggling, enhance intelligence sharing, modernise customs procedures, and improve cross-border cargo move-

## Telangana: Cabinet approves 2nd Phase of Indiramma Housing Scheme

Hyderabad, May 23 (GNS) The Telangana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, today took several major decisions including Indiramma Housing Scheme.

Briefing media persons after the Cabinet meeting at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat here, Minister for Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, along with a group of ministers, said the Cabinet approved the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme, sanctioning construction of 2.5 lakh houses for poor families across the state.

Under the programme, 2,000 houses will be allot-



ted to each Assembly constituency. The Minister said the Cabinet also decided to complete unfinished Indiramma houses initiated during the previous Congress government in the undivided state where construction had stalled at foundation, wall or slab stages. Accordingly, houses

with completed foundations but without walls or slabs will receive financial assistance of Rs 3 lakh each, while houses with completed walls but pending slab work will receive 2 lakh assistance. Funds will be allocated for completion of 500 such incomplete houses in every constituen-

cy, he informed. Ponguleti said nearly one lakh houses sanctioned in the first phase of the scheme were currently under construction and housewarming ceremonies would be conducted by June 2. He announced that 28 Indiramma houses constructed for Kolam tribal families in Kothari village of

Kerameri mandal in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district would be inaugurated on June 1 in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and other ministers.

The Cabinet also approved construction of one lakh Low-Income Group houses in 24 constituencies within the limits of the Hyderabad metropolitan CURE region. According to various surveys, around 15,000 families in Telangana are still living in huts. The Cabinet decided to immediately sanction Indiramma houses to all such families with the objective of making Telangana a hut-free model state.

## 83.50 lakh civic works Inaugurated in Rein Bazar

Hyderabad, May 23 (GNS) Development works worth 83.50 lakh were inaugurated at Bada Bazar X Road in the Rein Bazar Division under the Hyderabad Parliamentary Constituency in the presence of AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi.

The inauguration event saw active participation from local residents, party leaders, corporators, and public representatives.

The projects are aimed at strengthening civic infrastructure and improving public amenities in the area.

AIMIM leaders stated that the development initiatives reflect the party's continued focus on grassroots-level infrastructure improvement and public welfare. The pro-



gramme highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance living standards through targeted civic works. During the event, AIMIM Area President of Al Saboor Colony, Mohd Mohsin, felicitated Owaisi along with local representatives as a gesture of appreciation for their sup-

port and commitment towards the development of Rein Bazar Division.

The gathering concluded with reaffirmation of AIMIM's vision of "Real Work, Real Change," emphasizing continued developmental efforts in the constituency.

## Advocate killed after SUV rams into him in suspected targeted attack in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 23 (GNS) In a broad daylight incident, an advocate was killed after an SUV allegedly rammed into him in a suspected hit-and-run incident at Masab Tank in Hyderabad on Saturday morning. The deceased was identified as Khaja Mohiuddin, who was associated with legal battles concerning alleged encroachments on Waqf Board lands.

According to police, the incident occurred under the limits of the Nampally Police when Mohiuddin was about to enter his parked car. CCTV footage reportedly showed the advocate opening the rear door of his vehicle to place a bag inside before attempting to get into the driver's seat.

At that moment, an SUV allegedly sped towards him, rammed into him and fled the scene. Local residents rushed him to a hospital, where he suc-



cumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. Preliminary investigation indicates that the SUV may have been waiting at a short distance before allegedly targeting the advocate and attempting to stage the attack as a hit-and-run case. The incident has triggered outrage among sections of the legal fraternity, with several lawyers alleging that the attack was premeditated and linked to Mohiuddin's involve-

ment in cases concerning alleged illegal occupation of Waqf properties in Hyderabad. Police teams are examining CCTV footage from nearby junctions and roads to identify the vehicle and trace the movement of the suspects. Family members and fellow lawyers claimed that Mohiuddin had received threats in connection with the sensitive land disputes he was pursuing in courts and alleged that vested interests linked to land encroachments could be behind the attack.

Meanwhile, AIMIM President and Hyderabad MP, Asaduddin Owaisi condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible.

Reacting on social media platform X, Owaisi said he personally knew the deceased advocate and called upon the Hyderabad police to arrest the "main mastermind and assailants" involved in the murder. He also expressed solidarity with the victim's family and said, "We stand with his son Advocate Farhan and the family."

## No role of PCC in Cabinet expansion: TPCC Chief

Hyderabad, May 23 (GNS) Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief Mahesh Kumar Goud today said the proposed cabinet expansion in Telangana had nothing to do with the PCC.

Reiterating his stand on internal party matters, the TPCC chief said the cabinet expansion process was unrelated to the Pradesh Congress Committee.

Speaking during an informal interaction with media persons here, Mahesh Kumar dismissed criticism from the opposition BRS over the proposed Future City project and asserted that the initiative was crucial for the state's future development. Reacting to remarks by senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao that the project would be scrapped if the party returned to power, the TPCC chief said the BRS was neither returning



to power nor in a position to stop the project.

Describing Future City as a prestigious initiative for Telangana, he said Hyderabad was increasingly facing severe traffic congestion and urban infrastructure challenges, necessitating the development of a modern city with world-class facilities.

Mahesh Kumar also accused the Centre of adopting a "stepmotherly attitude" towards Telangana and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to provide adequate financial support to the state.

## BJP will form next Govt in Telangana: state BJP chief

Hyderabad, May 23 (GNS) Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Saturday expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party would form the next government in Telangana. More than 300 people, including educated youth, intellectuals and women from various villages under Turkayamjal municipality in Ranga Reddy district, joined the BJP under the aegis of Spurti Foundation in the presence of N Ramchander Rao, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and BJP state vice-president Boora Narsaiah Goud.

Speaking on the occasion, Rao said people from all sections of society were joining the BJP after observing the developmental programmes and corruption-free governance provided by the NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi

over the past 12 years.

He described Modi as a leader committed to the nation and an example of transparent and corruption-free administration.

The BJP leader alleged that people in Telangana had witnessed how both the Congress and BRS governments had "looted" the state through corruption and commissions in the name of large-scale projects.

He claimed that the BRS had already been rejected by the people and alleged that the Congress government was also moving in the same direction by preparing Detailed Project Reports worth lakhs of crores while prioritising political interests over public welfare.

Rao accused the Congress government of pushing the state further into debt in the name of development.

## Telangana Cabinet approves DISCOMS' entry into RDSS; Indiramma Housing

Hyderabad, May 23 (GNS) The State Cabinet has approved DISCOMS' proposals to join the Union government's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to improve the power sector and service to consumers. Tourist Destinations Briefing newsmen after the cabinet meeting, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the erstwhile BRS government had signed a tripartite agreement on January 2, 2017.

It was signed between the Union Ministry of Power, Government of Telangana



and TSSPDCL to improve the sector. However, despite signing the agreement, the BRS government had not implemented it, the minister said.

"This is not a new decision taken by the Congress

government," the minister sought to assert while reminding that the meters component does not arise due to this decision.

The minister, in effect, sought to allay apprehensions that meters would

be fixed to the agricultural pump sets, which the BRS had been staunchly opposing. In another decision, the cabinet approved the sanction of Rs 587 crore for land acquisition for Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation

Scheme. The Minister said the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme would be launched on June 1 at Asifabad.

In this phase, a total of 2.5 lakh houses would be allocated and it has been decided to allot 2000 houses for each assembly constituency. The rules implemented in the first phase would be followed in the second phase as well, he said.

In the GHMC core area (three corporations' limits), over six to seven lakh people had applied for Indiramma Houses.

## Modi Govt committed to development of Telugu States: MoS Bandi Sanjay

Guntakal (Anantapur Dist.) May 23 (UNI) union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, today said the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre was committed to the development of the Telugu states and asserted that Andhra Pradesh was receiving the highest benefits in South India under Modi 3.0 governance.

Addressing the Rozgar Mela programme at the Railway Officers' Club Auditorium here, Bandi Sanjay said projects worth more than Rs 3 lakh crore had



been launched in Andhra Pradesh during the past two years due to the presence of a "double-engine government" at the Centre and in the state. He further claimed that the Centre had allocated 12 lakh crore for the

development of Telangana over the last 12 years and said people in Telangana were also aspiring for a double-engine government.

Bandi Sanjay handed over appointment letters to 120 candidates during the Ro-

zgar Mela programme attended by South Central Railway officials (SCR) and others. Congratulating the newly recruited candidates, he said the Centre had so far filled 11 lakh government jobs without corruption, recommendations or middlemen since the launch of the Rozgar Mela initiative in October 2022.

He alleged that in the past, jobs were often secured through leaks, recommendations and brokers, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, only merit-based recruitment was being fol-

lowed. The union Minister urged the recruits to work with the slogan "Nation First, Family Next" and encouraged them to improve their skills through the Karmayogi portal.

Recalling his earlier protests demanding jobs in Telangana, Bandi Sanjay said he had personally witnessed the hardships faced by unemployed youth and claimed the Centre was continuously filling vacancies while state governments were unable to provide adequate employment opportunities.

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