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India outlines strategic 5-point blueprint for global stability

NEW DELHI, May 24 (GNS): India and the US today sought to signal a reset in their strained ties as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his American counterpart Marco Rubio held frank discussions on thorny issues such as trade, visas, energy security, cross-border terrorism and the implications of the West Asia conflict. Rubio, who is on a four-day visit to the country, described New Delhi as a major power and dismissed observations that the US-India relationship has lost its two-decade momentum, firmly asserting that the engagement will grow much stronger by the end of the current administration's tenure.

In a clear statement of India's foreign policy priorities,



Jaishankar outlined a strategic five-point blueprint for global stability, asserting that India advocates dialogue and diplomacy to address conflicts, supports unimpeded maritime commerce, demands respect for international law and is against "weaponisation" of market shares and resources.

In their first comprehensive

dialogue after the India-US ties witnessed major downturn, the two sides primarily focused on vigorously bolstering cooperation in areas of defence, critical minerals, high technology and economic engagement.

"The US-India relationship has not lost any momentum. I understand why some people might say that

I don't understand, but I understand some people say that. This is not about India. This is about the United States in terms of trade," Rubio said at a joint press conference with Jaishankar while responding to a question. Rubio called India an important strategic partner of the US and stressed that both sides are aligned on a

range of key issues. "India is an important strategic partner of the United States, one of our most important strategic partners in the world," he said.

The relations between the two countries witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Donald Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May. "Let me state India's broad position... And I would make five points here. One, that we advocate dialogue and diplomacy to address conflicts. Two, we support safe and unimpeded maritime commerce," Jaishankar said.

Dharmendra Pradhan urges states to ensure safe NEET exams

NEW DELHI, May 24 (GNS): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday wrote letters to all Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators across the country, seeking their cooperation in conducting the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) re-examination.

The NEET exams, held on May 3, were cancelled after nationwide furore over paper leaks and alleged irregularities. The re-examination for over 23 lakh medical aspirants will now be held on June 21. The National Testing Agency (NTA), the apex body for conducting competitive exams like NEET, is understood to be working



in close coordination with the Education Ministry and pulling out all the stops for safe, transparent examinations, this time, given public anger and outrage over paper leaks that led to the cancellation of exams.

The Union Minister, in his letter, has urged all state governments to cooperate to en-

sure fair and seamless examinations, particularly in the wake of the severe heatwave conditions. He has asked the state administrations to ensure the availability of all essential basic facilities at examination centres, for the convenience and well-being of aspirants.

In his letter, Pradhan wrote: "In view of the prevailing heatwave conditions, I request you to kindly issue appropriate instructions to the District Authorities and all schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions hosting the examination in your State/UT to ensure the availability of essential basic amenities for the convenience of candidates.

Owaisi slams Assam UCC bill as 'Hindu Law Imposition'

Guwahati, May 25 (GNS): AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday strongly criticised the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill tabled by the Assam government in the Assembly, alleging that the legislation was discriminatory and amounted to a "backdoor imposition of Hindu law on Muslims".

Reacting to the development through a post on X, Owaisi claimed that the proposed law was not truly "uniform", as tribal communities had been kept outside its ambit while Muslims and other groups would be required to



comply with its provisions. "The Assam Uniform Civil Code is not uniform at all. It completely exempts tribal communities from UCC's coverage. Every community has the right to protect its culture under Article 29, but why is only the tribals' autonomy being protected?" he said.

CDS General Anil Chauhan chairs concluding meeting of chiefs of staff committee

NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): Ahead of his superannuation later this month, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan chaired the concluding Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting on Monday, an official said.

General Chauhan has been serving as the second CDS since September 30, 2022, the Defence Ministry official said.

The Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), said in a message on X, "Today marked the concluding Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting for General Anil Chauhan #CDS & Per-



manent Chairman #COSC and Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, #CNS ahead of their superannuation later this month." "As members, their leadership strengthened Jointness, Integration, Operational Synergy amongst the Services, including the

march towards Theaters, leaving a lasting imprint on the Defence Forces," it said. "The Indian Defence Forces express deepest gratitude and best wishes to both distinguished leaders," said Headquarters, IDS. The Centre has ap-

pointed Lieutenant General N.S. Raja Subramani is the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), succeeding General Chauhan, whose tenure is set to conclude on May 30.

General Raja Subramani will also serve as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Military Affairs from the date he takes over the post until further orders. Announcing the appointment, the Ministry of Defence described Lt Gen Raja Subramani as a highly decorated officer with over 40 years of distinguished military service.

"A highly decorated officer with over four decades of distinguished service, Lt Gen Raja Subramani, has been serving as Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat since Septem-

ber 2025. He earlier served as Vice Chief of the Army Staff and GOC-in-C, Central Command, besides commanding key operational formations along the Western and Northern fronts," the Ministry of Defence stated.

Lt Gen Raja Subramani began his military journey at the National Defence Academy and was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. Over the years, he built an extensive operational and strategic profile through several key appointments within the Army and the Defence establishment.

Ministry of mines auctions 212 mineral blocks in FY26

NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Ministry of Mines on Monday urged closer coordination between the Centre and state governments to expedite statutory clearances, facilitate early commencement of mining operations, and ensure timely production from auctioned blocks. Goyal chaired a monthly review meeting with senior ministry officials and Category-A mineral bearing States to review the progress of mineral block auctions and operationalisation across the country, an official statement said.

The meeting focused on accelerating reforms in the mining sector, enhancing domestic mineral production, and ensuring timely operationalisation of auctioned mineral blocks.

In FY 2025-26, a record 212 mineral blocks were auctioned — the highest in any financial year since auctions began.

Auction of 22 critical and strategic mineral blocks were among them, reflecting the government's continued focus on securing



critical mineral resources essential for India's economic growth and clean energy transition.

Since the auction regime began in 2015, 108 mineral blocks were auctioned through FY 2020-21, the statement from the Ministry of Mines said. The pace of auctions accelerated significantly, with 364 mineral blocks successfully auctioned between FY22 to FY25, averaging about 90 blocks per year.

The meeting also reviewed the operationalisation status of auctioned blocks and found that in FY26, a total of 36 mineral blocks, including 28 greenfield blocks and 8 brownfield blocks, have been operationalised.

SC: Fresh Bail Plea Must Cite New Grounds

New Delhi, May 25 (GNS): The Supreme Court has held that although there is no absolute bar on filing a fresh bail plea after its cancellation, such relief may be granted only if the accused demonstrates a change in circumstances or raises new grounds that were not considered earlier.

Setting aside an Allahabad High Court order granting bail to an accused in an attempt to force a compromise in a separate murder case involving the complainant's brother. In its order, the apex court recorded that the accused Zeeshan was allegedly captured in CCTV footage arriving on a motorcycle, retrieving a country-made pistol from his house, and proceeding to the roof of an adjacent building, following which sounds of gunshots were heard. It also took note of the prosecution's claim that the accused, in his statement before the investigating officer, admitted to firing multiple rounds and concealing the weapon and cartridges, which



were later recovered at his instance. Earlier, the Allahabad High Court had granted bail to the accused in October 2024, but the order was subsequently set aside by the Supreme Court in January 2025 after finding that the High Court had wrongly treated the accused's role as "vague and general".

Despite the apex court directing him to surrender forthwith, the accused allegedly evaded arrest for around 42 days, compelling the trial court to issue non-bailable warrants and initiate proceedings under Section 82 CrPC.

After surrendering, the accused filed a second regular bail plea, which was rejected by the trial court in May 2025. However, the Allahabad High Court again granted him bail in September 2025, citing delay in lodging the FIR, absence of firearm injuries and parity with a co-accused.

Disapproving of this approach, the Supreme Court said the impugned order suffered from "manifest error of law".

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Health Minister reviews ebola preparedness, no case in india to date

NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): Amid the Ebola outbreak, Health Ministry, in close coordination with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), DGHS, ICMR, Civil Aviation, Immigration authorities and other concerned Ministries and Departments, has strengthened surveillance and public health preparedness across the country, Health Minister JP Nadda said on Monday. Nadda reviewed preparedness and surveillance measures for Ebola disease in view of the recent outbreak in some parts of Africa.



He said "India has not reported any case of Bundibugyo Ebola disease till date." However, following the declaration of Ebola as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PH-ECS) by the Africa CDC, the government is closely monitoring the Ebola situation in Africa and has proactively intensified surveillance and preparedness measures across the country as

an abundant precaution to safeguard public health, said the minister.

"Enhanced screening and surveillance measures have been initiated at international airports and other points of entry, and advisories along with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on screening, quarantine, clinical management, laboratory testing and infection prevention practices have been shared with all States and Union Territories," he mentioned. Meetings have also been held with States/UTs and concerned stakeholders to review preparedness and response measures.

The Union Minister also

directed the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to keep all necessary arrangements for tracking, testing, and surveillance in a constant state of readiness.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) units and Airport Health Organisations have been instructed to maintain heightened vigilance for unexplained febrile illness among international travellers and ensure prompt reporting and management of any suspected case.

ICMR Transfers 41 Biomedical Technologies



NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Monday held India's largest biomedical and technology transfer facilitation here and 41 public health technologies were transferred to industry partners, an official statement said.

The event marked the establishment of country's first structured platforms

dedicated to biomedical innovation showcasing and technology transfer under the ICMR Medical Innovation Patent Mitra initiative.

The initiative aims to translate indigenous biomedical research into accessible, real-world healthcare solutions through strong industry partnerships, the statement from

Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare said.

Technologies transferred from ICMR institutes and innovators to industry partners include advanced diagnostics, vaccines, medical devices and biomedical solutions addressing critical public health priorities.

Among the technologies transferred were glycoconjugate and recombinant vaccines for Typhoid.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar Addresses Delegates From 12 Nations On Electoral Resilience

NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday kicked off a five-day workshop on "Risk Management and Electoral Resilience" for delegates of 12 nations at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), said an official. The workshop on "Risk Management and Electoral Resilience" from May 25 to 29 has been organised by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in collaboration with International IDEA under India's Chairship Programme 2026, said a statement



CEC Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Com-

missioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, addressed the participants during the inaugural session. The workshop is aimed at strengthening institutional preparedness and resilience in electoral processes and to support Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in developing and

institutionalising structured electoral risk management frameworks, policies, and operational systems, said the statement. The participants comprise Election Commissioners and senior officials of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) representing 12 countries, electoral managers, risk management and technology professionals, and officials engaged in crisis management and electoral integrity initiatives.

The participants discussed the need for proactive identification, assessment, and management of electoral risks to safeguard electoral integrity, continuity, legitimacy.

Kejriwal, Sisodia To Join Proceedings; Delhi HC Lists Excise Policy Case For July 16

NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): The Delhi High Court on Monday adjourned till July 16 the hearing on a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the discharge of former Chief Minister of Delhi and AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia and others, in the alleged excise policy corruption case.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Manoj Jain took on record the submission that 'vakalatnamas' have been filed on behalf of Kejriwal, Sisodia and AAP leader Durgesh Pathak, who had earlier abstained from participating in the proceed-



ings when the matter was being heard by Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the Centre's second-highest law officer, submitted that the CBI had already filed an affidavit of service on Kejriwal, Sisodia and Pathak.

Referring to the earlier proceedings, SG Mehta

contended that the respondents had earlier appeared in the matter and even moved recusal pleas, which were rejected.

Taking note of the development, Justice Jain observed that since 'vakalatnamas' had now been filed, the Delhi High Court would hear all parties on the next date of hearing and draw

up a schedule for the proceedings. The judge then listed the matter for further hearing on July 16. The matter came before Justice Jain after it was reassigned from the Bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, as criminal contempt proceedings were initiated against several AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, Sisodia, and Sanjay Singh, over the alleged circulation of "vilifying and defamatory" material targeting the judiciary in connection with the excise policy case.

The AAP leaders had decided to abstain from participating in the proceedings after Justice Sharma declined to recuse herself

from hearing the case. Last week, Justice Jain had issued fresh notices to Kejriwal, Sisodia and Pathak after observing that several respondents had failed to appear or file their replies despite repeated opportunities.

In the previous hearing, SG Mehta had urged the Delhi High Court to take up the matter expeditiously, contending that the trial court's discharge order "cannot stand scrutiny of law" and involves serious allegations. The trial court, in a judgment running into more than 1,100 paragraphs delivered on February 27, had discharged all accused persons in the corruption case lodged by the CBI.

Asaram Bapu gets interim bail till July 7

Jaipur, May 26 (GNS): The Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur has extended the interim bail of self-styled godman Asaram Bapu, who is serving a life sentence in a rape case, until July 7. The relief was granted on medical grounds by a Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Justice Yogendra Kumar Purohit.

The court clarified that the interim bail will remain in force until July 7 or until the pronouncement of the reserved verdict on Asaram's plea seeking suspension of sentence, whichever occurs earlier. His earlier interim bail period was scheduled to expire on Monday. During the hearing, Senior Advocate

Devadatt Kamat appeared via video conferencing on behalf of Asaram, while Advocates Nishant Boda and Yashpal Singh Rajpurohit appeared physically before the Bench.

The defence submitted that 86-year-old Asaram's medical treatment remains incomplete and that he continues to require medical supervision.

Counsel informed the court that arguments in the plea seeking suspension of sentence had concluded on April 20, following which the High Court reserved its verdict. Given the pending decision and continuing treatment, the defence requested continuation of the interim relief granted earlier on medical grounds.

Stalin orders fast legal action on Mokedatu row

Chennai, May 26 (GNS): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay, on Monday directed officials to intensify and expedite legal efforts related to the contentious Mokedatu dam project, reaffirming the state government's stand on protecting Tamil Nadu's rights over Cauvery river water.

The Chief Minister issued the instructions during a high-level consultative meeting held at the Secretariat with Cauvery river water experts, legal luminaries, ministers, and senior government officials. The meeting was convened in the backdrop of reports that the Karna-

taka government is preparing to conduct the proposed bhoomi poojan for the Mokedatu dam project, a move that has once again revived concerns in Tamil Nadu over potential impacts on water sharing. According to an official release, the meeting focussed on assessing the legal and technical aspects of the project and identifying further measures to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests in the long-running inter-state river dispute.

During the discussions, experts briefed the Chief Minister on the legal developments surrounding the case.

SC asks states, UTs to implement menstrual hygiene directions in schools by Aug 15

NEW DELHI, May 24 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Monday directed all states and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure implementation of its directions on menstrual hygiene management in schools by August 15, and file compliance reports, as it continued to monitor compliance of its landmark ruling recognising access to menstrual hygiene as a fundamental right.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan indicated that the matter would be taken up again in September to review the status of compliance. The directions came in a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Congress leader



Jaya Thakur, in which the apex court has been examining the ground-level implementation of its earlier judgment mandating free sanitary napkins and functional girls' toilets in schools. The top court had earlier granted three months to the Centre, states and UTs to ensure implementation of a slew of directions, including free sanitary napkins in schools,

functional gender-segregated toilets, menstrual hygiene awareness programmes, and safe sanitary waste disposal systems.

During the hearing, the Justice Pardiwala-led Bench was apprised of the status of compliance by the Union government as well as concerns raised by the petitioner regarding the pace and quality of implementation across states. In a short note placed before the Supreme Court, the petitioner flagged serious gaps in execution, submitting that the compliance affidavit filed by the Centre "has not placed any field report as to how the compliance has been

really done" and instead focuses on "future recommendation for implementation, proposed reforms and future road map, which can not be treated as compliance of the specific directions". The petitioner further pointed out that several states have yet to furnish compliance reports, noting that "only the Union Territory of Chandigarh has submitted its compliance report so far".

Referring to a NITI Aayog report for 2026, the petitioner said that as many as 98,592 government schools in the country do not have functional girls' toilets, while 61,540 schools do not have any usable toilets.

Delhi police bust bangladesh-linked mobile trafficking syndicate, recover 163 stolen phones

New Delhi, May 25 (GNS): Delhi Police's South District personnel have busted an alleged international mobile phone trafficking syndicate linked to Bangladesh and arrested two key receivers from West Bengal, recovering 163 stolen, snatched and robbed mobile phones in a major interstate operation.



Vihar and apprehended the two accused — Abdul Samim, 23, and Ahiduijaman, 35, both residents of West Bengal's Malda district.

During the search, five stolen mobile phones linked to separate Delhi e-FIRs were recovered from their possession. According to police, sustained interrogation of the accused revealed that a

large consignment of stolen phones had recently been dispatched to West Bengal through courier channels.

Based on the disclosures and technical inputs, the police coordinated with officials and intercepted suspicious consignments at a warehouse in Gurugram, recovering 158 additional stolen mobile phones.

Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena to review passing out parade at ina ezhimala on may 28

Kannur, May 25 (GNS): The Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, will host the Passing Out Parade (POP) of the Spring Term 2026 on May 28, during which Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, will be present, an official said. Besides being the Chief Guest at the event, Vice Admiral Saxena will be Reviewing Officer of the parade, lending added stature to this ceremonial occasion, the official said in a statement.

The passing out parade marks a defining milestone in the journey of every cadet — the transformation of



young trainees into Commissioned Officers in the Indian Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Maritime forces of Friendly Foreign Countries — at the culmination of rigorous training, said the statement.

This ceremonial event stands amongst some of the most time-honoured military traditions, as an inspiring blend of immaculate military drill, overwhelming sense of pride

and patriotic fervour, it said. Cadets who have successfully completed their training will march onto the parade ground, embodying their readiness to shoulder the responsibilities of safeguarding the nation's maritime frontiers and security interests.

The POP for Spring Term 2026 will feature participation by trainees from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, alongside interna-

tional trainees from three Friendly Foreign Countries — Seychelles, Tanzania, and Vietnam — underscoring India's enduring commitment to strengthening international maritime partnerships, the statement said. The occasion will be witnessed by senior officers of the defence forces, foreign Military Attaches, proud parents, and the instructors and mentors at INA who have played a piv-

otal role in shaping these youth into future leaders of maritime forces.

Adding grandeur to the ceremony, the parade will feature the award of medals and trophies to outstanding performers, followed by the time-honoured tradition of the symbolic 'Shipping of Stripes' — Commissioned Officer Rank — marking the transition from being a trainee to a Military Officer, said the statement.

The event will be streamed live on the official social media channels of the Indian Navy, enabling audiences worldwide to virtually witness this solemn ceremony.

International Space mission carrying Indian astronaut scheduled for next month: Dr Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI, May 25 (GNS): India is poised to script a defining chapter in its space journey, international Space mission carrying Indian astronaut has been scheduled for next month.

Announcing this after a high-level meeting held to review major future plans of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the coming months, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the mission will mark the visit of first Indian ever to visit the International Space Station (ISS) and the first Indian astronaut to travel to Space in over four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic 1984 flight aboard a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft. The announcement comes amid a flurry of activity in India's space sector, which is gearing up for



an ambitious slate of missions in the coming months. Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman of ISRO, made a presentation elaborating the status of various upcoming Space missions.

Chairman ISRO informed that Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force is all prepared to fly to the International Space Station (ISS) next month as part of Axiom Space's Ax-4 mission. Group Captain Shukla's mission, scheduled

for May 2025, marks a milestone in India's expanding international space collaborations. A decorated test pilot with the Indian Air Force, he was shortlisted under ISRO's Human Spaceflight Program (HSP) and is among the top contenders for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first indigenous crewed orbital flight. His journey aboard the Ax-4 mission is expected to provide critical hands-on experience in spaceflight operations, launch protocols, microgravity adaptation, and

emergency preparedness — all essential for India's crewed space ambitions.

What sets Shukla's mission apart is its strategic importance. Unlike the symbolic undertones of India's first human spaceflight, this time the focus is on operational readiness and global integration. His participation underscores India's growing engagement with public-private international partnerships in space and its resolve to emerge as a serious contender in

human space exploration. "India is ready for its next space milestone," said Dr. Jitendra Singh, underscoring the significance of the upcoming human spaceflight and a series of critical ISRO missions. He noted that the collaboration with international partners and the strategic momentum of projects like Gaganyaan reflect India's commitment to becoming a global leader in space technology. The Minister emphasized that these efforts are not only scientific in nature but also aligned with the vision of a developed and self-reliant India.

During the meeting, ISRO updated Dr. Jitendra Singh on several key developments since January 2025. These include the public release of data from the Aditya L1 solar mission, successful demonstration of docking and undocking technologies, testing of the highest thrust liquid engine developed in India, and the historic 100th launch (GSLV-F15) from Sriharikota.

Chouhan: Protect and Empower Small Farmers for Food Security



New Delhi, May 25 (GNS): At the 15th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers, India reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable agriculture. Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized the need to place the welfare of small and marginal farmers at the centre of global agricultural strategies and clarified that agriculture, for India, is not merely an economic activity, but a source of livelihood, food, and dignity for millions of families. He underscored that global food security and rural development goals would remain incomplete unless small farmers are protected and empowered.

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted that the world's 510 million smallholder farmers are the backbone of the global food system and are also the most vulnerable in the face of climate change, price volatility, and resource scarcity. Shri Chouhan stated that we cannot leave smallholders to fight these challenges alone; they need our policy support. He presented cluster-based farming, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperative models, and natural farming as effective approaches for the collective empowerment of small farmers and improving their market access.

The meeting underlined the need to make agricultural trade fair, control global price volatility, and ensure remunerative prices for small farmers. He reiterated the importance of public

food stockholding systems, minimum support prices (MSP), and value chains that connect smallholders directly to consumers. Shri Chouhan cited India's food storage and distribution capacity during the COVID-19 crisis as a case in point, through which free rations were distributed to over 800 million people.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan shared its technological initiatives — Digital Agriculture Mission, AgriStack, drone technology, and Climate-Resilient Villages — and explained how these innovations have significantly improved service delivery, transparency and farmer incomes. Union Minister also mentioned initiatives like Lakhpati Didi and Drone Didi as examples of India's commitment to the social and economic empowerment of rural women, stating, "For India, empowering women socially, economically, and politically is a mission."

During the meeting, He called for deeper collaboration to combat climate change by sharing its key programs — National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), Waste to Wealth, Circular Economy, bio-fertilizers, and traditional farming practices. In this context, the BRICS Agriculture Ministers launched the "BRICS Land Restoration Partnership" to address land degradation, desertification, and soil fertility loss. He supported this initiative, highlighting that it would benefit small farm-

ers, tribal communities, and local cultivators through the convergence of traditional knowledge and scientific innovation.

In the Joint Declaration, BRICS nations collectively reiterated their resolve to make the global agri-food system fair, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable. The declaration emphasized commitments to food security, climate adaptation, empowerment of women and youth, sustainable fisheries and livestock development, soil and land restoration, digital agriculture certification, and promotion of financial and trade mechanisms for the agricultural economies of the Global South. The formal announcement of the BRICS Land Restoration Partnership further reinforced the group's collective commitment to halting land degradation and desertification.

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan also invited BRICS nations to participate in World Food India 2025 and the World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit 2025, positioning these platforms as avenues for innovation, partnership, and global collaboration. Concluding his address with India's ancient Vedic values, the Shri Chouhan offered a universal benediction; May all be happy, may all be healthy, may there be welfare and well-being for all. This vision reflects not only India's national priorities but also its leadership role on the international stage.

SECL to Become First Coal PSU to Use Paste Fill Technology for Mining



New Delhi, May 25 (GNS): South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) is set to become the first coal PSU in India to adopt paste fill technology for coal mining—marking a major step toward sustainable and environmentally friendly mining practices. To implement this innovative underground mining technology, SECL has signed a 7040 crore agreement with TMC Mineral Resources Private Limited. A group of men standing in a room

made from fly ash, crushed overburden from opencast mines, cement, water, and binding chemicals. This process prevents land subsidence and ensures the structural stability of the mine. Importantly, the paste utilizes industrial waste materials, making the process environmentally sustainable and promoting waste recycling. A building with a gate and signDescription automatically generated The Singhali underground mine was approved in 1989 for a production capacity of 0.24 million tonnes per year and commenced operations in 1993. Presently, the mine has 8.45 million tonnes of extractable reserves of G-7 grade non-coking coal. It was developed using the Bord and Pillar method, employing Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs) and Universal Drilling Machines (UDMs) for underground operations.

However, the surface area above the mine is densely occupied—with villages, high-tension electricity lines, and a Public Works Department (PWD)

road—rendering traditional caving methods unfeasible due to safety and environmental concerns. With the introduction of paste fill technology, mining activities in this area can now proceed without disturbing the surface infrastructure. The successful implementation of this technology in Singhali is expected to pave the way for resuming operations in other underground mines where similar land constraints exist.

With a total investment of 7040 crore, the project is a major initiative to promote green mining technologies in India. It aims to enhance coal production while significantly reducing environmental impact. Speaking on the occasion, SECL CMD Shri Harish Duhan said "I firmly believe that paste fill technology will not only secure the future of underground mining but also offer an innovative, eco-friendly solution. This project is a landmark step toward green mining and will shape the future of the coal industry in the years to come."

Union Minister Murugan Reviews WAVES Summit Preparations in Mumbai

New Delhi, May 25 (GNS): Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri. L Murugan chaired a Review Meeting in Mumbai today for the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025. Nodal officers for the event from Government of India and State Government of Maharashtra participated in the Review Meeting held at Jio World Convention Centre. The progress on the various activities under the four pillars of WAVES i.e. Broadcasting and Infotainment, AVGC-XR, Digital Media and Innovation and Films were discussed during the meeting. The work being undertaken under various initiatives such as WAVES Bazar, WAVEEX, Bharat Pavilion, Create in India Challenges and others was assessed and the way forward was deliberated upon. Nodal officers for various verti-



cals briefed the Minister regarding the progress of preparations. On the occasion Shri. L Murugan also assessed the on-ground preparations of the event at the Summit venue. The first World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), a milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector, will be hosted by the Government of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from May 1 to 4, 2025.

Whether you're an industry professional, investor, creator, or innovator, the Summit offers the ultimate global platform to connect, collaborate, innovate and contribute to

Knowledge transfer and technology sharing, key pillars of collective growth, says MoS Jayant Chaudhary

New Delhi, , May 25 (GNS): Africa's largest tech and startup show, GITEX provides platform for policy leaders, changemakers and visionaries to collectively discuss and deliberate on the opportunities to collaborate and further the imperative of inclusive and equitable growth of the global economy. The three-day event just concluded at Morocco capital

Marrakesh. Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Education Shri Jayant Chaudhary represented Republic of India at the summit. He took part in high-level bilateral meetings, panel discussions and interacted with Indian startups showcasing their innovations.

In the discussions, Shri

Jayant Chaudhary stated, "India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has driven transformative changes across areas, especially through developments of digital identity (Aadhaar), digital payments (UPI), e-commerce (ONDC), and healthcare. And we are increasingly integrating advanced technologies — AI, cybersecurity, fintech, and

digital infrastructure — into our skilling ecosystem. Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), a digital public infrastructure for the skilling ecosystem has onboarded more than one crore users in over one and a half years. These are areas, rich with potential, for collaboration with our African partners and we can collectively grow our economies through sustained

partnerships." "India, where the pace of digitalization is higher relative to some other developing economies, with established open-source Digital Public Infrastructure systems, has the potential to catalyze speed of digitalization in other developing countries seeking to develop such systems through collaboration and knowledge sharing," Shri Jayant Chaudhary added.

Centre notifies rules for 'Radar equipment for the measurement of the speed of vehicles' under the Legal Metrology

New Delhi, , May 25 (GNS): To strengthen road safety and ensure fairness in traffic enforcement, the Department of Consumer Affairs has notified rules for 'Radar equipment for the measurement of the speed of vehicles' under the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011. These rules will come into force from 1st July 2025, providing sufficient time for industries and enforcement agencies to

comply with the provisions. These rules make it mandatory for all radar-based speed measurement equipment to be verified and stamped by Legal Metrology authorities. This will ensure that such devices are accurate, calibrated and legally compliant, thereby enhancing transparency, public trust and enforcement integrity. Verified radar systems are vital for applications such as

traffic speed monitoring, accident prevention and minimizing wear and tear on road infrastructure.

The drafting of these rules was undertaken by a committee with technical inputs based on international standard OIML R 91. Stakeholders, including State Legal Metrology Departments, Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs), manufacturers and consumer or-



ganizations were consulted through presentations and public feedback before finalizing the rules. The implementation of these rules provides significant benefits to all stakeholders across the board. For the common citizen, the mandatory verification and stamping of radar-based speed measurement equipment will ensure the accurate enforcement of speed limits, thereby preventing unfair penalties and significantly enhancing road

safety. Citizens can drive with greater confidence knowing that enforcement is based on scientifically validated and legally certified instruments.

For industries, particularly those involved in manufacturing radar-based speed measuring devices, the new rules establish a clear technical and regulatory framework aligned with international standards such as OIML R 91.

This not only encourages domestic innovation and compliance but also enhances the export competitiveness of Indian manufacturers in global markets by ensuring consistency in quality and performance. For law enforcement agencies, the introduction of verified and stamped devices ensures a higher degree of operational effectiveness and credibility.

Centre not procuring even 30% food grains, says CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, May 25 (GNS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday alleged that the Central government is not procuring even 30 per cent of the food grains produced by the farmers. During separate interactions with delegations of CPI and CPI-M leaders, he stated that although the Central government announced Minimum Support Prices (MSP), it is not procuring food grains adequately.

He said the Centre is not even procuring 30 per cent of the harvested crop and stressed that questions must be raised with the Centre regarding crop procurement policies.

The Chief Minister said the Telangana government is procuring every

grain produced by farmers in the state. He noted that procurement operations are facing certain logistical challenges due to a shortage of 'hamalis' (porters) caused by the West Bengal elections and extreme summer heat affecting work during afternoon hours.

Despite these difficulties, the government is continuously monitoring procurement operations, he added.

Revanth Reddy further stated that the government is purchasing fine variety paddy by offering a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal and is also procuring maize at the MSP to safeguard farmers' interests.

A delegation of CPI leaders led by party MLA Kumaneni Sambashiva Ram met the Chief Minister. They



thanked the Chief Minister for the decision to increase minimum wages for workers. Speaking on the issue of farmers, the Chief Minister stated that despite the Central government's

lack of cooperation, they are procuring grains in the state. He said that the yield of maize in the state has been good, but the Centre is not procuring maize. He remarked that even if it re-

sults in a loss to the government, they are procuring maize so that farmers do not face difficulties.

Those present at this meeting included CPI MLC Satyam, leaders Chad Ven-

kata Reddy, Pashya Padma, E. Narasimha, Bagam Hemant Rao, Shankar, Bal Narasimha, VS Bose, and Rajya Sabha member Vem Narender Reddy. A delegation of CPI-M leaders led

by state Secretary John Wesley also met the Chief Minister. They thanked the Chief Minister for bringing in legislation for the revision of minimum wages, stating that the move would greatly benefit workers and employees across the State.

The meeting was attended by former MLA Julakanti Ranga Reddy, P. Sudarshan, Jyothi, Nunna Nageswara Rao, Mallu Lakshmi, Samineni Swarajyam, M. Gopala Rao, and Rajya Sabha Member Narender Reddy. On the Musi River redevelopment project, the Chief Minister assured that displaced families would be provided rehabilitation within the local area itself. He alleged that the BRS and the BJP are politicising the Musi issue and reiterated

that the government aims to transform the Musi into a world-class tourist destination. He stated that the Musi project would generate employment opportunities for youth and also help address severe pollution issues affecting people in the Nalgonda district. The Chief Minister said his objective is to provide a better quality of life to urban residents.

On education reforms, Revanth Reddy said the government is undertaking major reforms in public education with the goal of delivering quality education to students. He highlighted that nutritious breakfasts and meals are being provided to students and that Telangana Public Schools are being established across the state.

Kishan Reddy directs agencies to fast-track mining projects

New Delhi: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Monday directed all mining and exploration agencies under the Ministry to fast-track pending projects and adopt a mission-mode approach to strengthen India's mineral security and strategic growth objectives.

"All organisations must fast-track pending projects and ensure that technology, transparency, and efficiency become the foundation of every institutional process. The people of India and the Government of India expect speed, accountability and visible outcomes from every agency working in this sector," the Minister said while chairing a series of high-level review meetings in Bengaluru with senior officials of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM), Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and the Remote Sensing and Aerial



Survey (RSAS) division.

The meetings focused on accelerating mineral exploration, strengthening scientific and technological capabilities, promoting sustainable mining practices, and aligning institutional efforts with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

During the review, the Minister assessed ongoing projects, technological advancements, and exploration activities across the country, particularly in the fields of critical and strategic

minerals, including Rare Earth Elements (REE), lithium, nickel, cobalt, tungsten, vanadium, and Platinum Group Elements (PGE). The organisations presented detailed updates on resource augmentation, mineral targeting, scientific surveys, mine sustainability, geospatial technologies, and advanced exploration systems being implemented to strengthen India's mineral security and strategic growth objectives.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision,

the Minister said India is moving decisively towards becoming a self-reliant, globally competitive economy. He said the mining and exploration sector has a critical role in securing India's future growth, industrial expansion, and strategic mineral security.

"The future of mineral exploration lies in technology-driven systems, including AI, remote sensing, integrated geoscience analytics, and advanced exploration methodologies. Our institutions must lead this transformation to make India future-ready and resource-secure," he said.

The Geological Survey of India highlighted major exploration outcomes across Karnataka and Goa, including the identification of gold, copper, PGE, nickel, and cobalt-bearing zones, as well as significant augmentation of mineral resources following reforms introduced under the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015.

Genome foundation opens RT-PCR facility in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 25 (GNS) Genome Foundation, Hyderabad, on Monday inaugurated a state-of-the-art RT-PCR facility aimed at strengthening its diagnostic and research capabilities in the field of genetic disorders and rare diseases.

The facility was inaugurated by Dr. K.P.C. Gandhi, Managing Director of Genome Foundation. RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) is a highly sensitive laboratory technology used to convert RNA into DNA and amplify it for the detection, measurement and analysis of specific genetic material, the foundation said in a release here.

The technique is widely used in medical diagnostics, biological research and forensic science. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gandhi said the advanced instrument would significantly enhance Ge-

nome Foundation's efforts in rare disease diagnostics and research. "This highly sophisticated instrument is one more addition to Genome Foundation's facilities. It will strengthen our efforts in helping patients with rare diseases and will also enhance our training programmes for young researchers and clinicians," he said.

He added that the in-house RT-PCR capability would help reduce turnaround time for critical genetic tests and provide quicker diagnostic support to families affected by rare diseases. "With RT-PCR now in-house, we can reduce turnaround time for critical genetic tests and provide faster answers to families battling rare diseases. It also allows us to expand our hands-on training modules for students and healthcare professionals across India.

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Telangana, Karnataka hold talks on Krishna Water Sharing and Irrigation Projects



Hyderabad, May 25 (GNS) Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday said Telangana and Karnataka held positive discussions on utilisation of Krishna River waters, with both states agreeing to move forward while safeguarding mutual interests.

Karnataka Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju met Uttam Kumar Reddy at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat to discuss irrigation and drinking water requirements of both states along with issues relating to Krishna River water utilisation. Speaking after the meeting, Uttam said the discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere based

on mutual understanding and focused on ensuring that future policies and projects would benefit both states. He stated that Telangana's concerns and proposals aimed at protecting the state's irrigation rights and future water requirements were comprehensively conveyed to the Karnataka delegation.

The minister said detailed technical discussions were also held regarding the proposed barrage construction on the Krishna River and emphasised that project designs should not adversely affect Telangana's interests.

According to him, the talks focused on safeguarding the rights of both states in equitable utilisation of

Krishna waters for irrigation and drinking purposes.

Uttam said Telangana accorded top priority to protecting farmers' irrigation needs during the discussions and proposals were presented for resolving drinking water issues through coordinated interstate efforts. He stated that the outcome of the discussions would be conveyed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy following which a collective decision would be taken. The meeting was attended by Telangana Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari, State Planning Commission

Commission Vice-Chairman G. Chinna Reddy, and senior irrigation officials from both Telangana and Karnataka.

Congress slams KTR over remarks on Indiramma Housing Scheme

Hyderabad, May 25 (UNI) Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday launched a sharp attack on BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) over criticism of the Indiramma housing scheme and challenged the BRS leader on implementation of welfare housing programmes.

In a post on X, Ponguleti, Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister, alleged that KTR "who even tapped the phones of his own sister (Kavitha) and brother-in-law" had no right to utter the name of Indiramma.

Defending the Congress government's housing programme, the minister said that within the first two-and-a-half years of coming to power, the government was constructing 4.5 lakh houses across the state.

He said families benefiting from the Indiramma housing scheme in villages would explain the meaning of "Indiramma governance" and remarked that "those living in farmhouses" would not understand the realities faced by poor people. Ponguleti stated

that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would launch construction of another 2.5 lakh Indiramma houses on June 1.

He further said that the State Cabinet at its May 23 meeting had decided to construct one lakh Indiramma houses in three corporations under the Hyderabad region.

Escalating the political attack, the minister claimed that people who defeated the BRS in the Assembly elections, reduced the party to zero Lok Sabha seats and defeated it in strongholds such as Cantonment and Jubilee Hills, and were prepared to politically reject the party again in future elections.

"There is no need for you to separately announce political retirement," Ponguleti remarked.

Throwing a political challenge, the minister said the Congress party would not seek votes in villages where Indiramma houses were not constructed and challenged the BRS not to seek votes in villages where double-bedroom houses were not provided.

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