

FALAKNUMA

ENGLISH DAILY



www.falaknumanews.in

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VOL: 1

Issue No: 13

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2026

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD

PAGES: 4

RS.1/-

India-Led Quad targets \$20 billion investment to strengthen critical minerals supply chains

New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): The India-led Quad, comprising India, Australia, Japan and the United States, has announced plans to mobilise up to \$20 billion in combined government and private sector investment to strengthen critical minerals supply chains and reduce dependence on concentrated global sources, according to a framework released on Tuesday.

Under the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework, the partner countries said they intend to support the development of secure, diversified and resilient supply chains for critical minerals, which are essential for advanced technologies, economic growth and



industrial resilience.

The initiative will focus on mining, processing and recycling of critical minerals, with the Quad countries aiming to coordinate economic policy tools and investment frameworks to accelerate supply chain diversification.

In addition, the partners will identify projects with a Quad nexus, including those located within member countries, operated by firms headquartered in Quad nations or supplying Quad markets, aimed at addressing key supply chain gaps. To support strategic

projects, the framework proposes the use of export credit agencies, development finance institutions and mobilisation of private capital, along with guarantees, loans, equity participation, insurance and off-take arrangements. Moreover, the Quad

grouping plans to explore mechanisms to further unlock private investment and improve the overall environment for critical minerals development, including sharing best practices on permitting, licensing and regulatory processes. Additionally, the coun-

tries will cooperate on technology development and capacity building in geological mapping and resource assessment, while also examining measures to address non-market practices and unfair trade distortions in the sector.

A key pillar of the framework focuses on recycling and recovery of critical minerals, particularly from e-waste and scrap materials, to enhance secondary supply chains within Quad and partner countries. The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

India, Japan reaffirm strong Indo-Pacific cooperation



New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, reaffirming during the discussions the vital role being played by the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in advancing peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific.

"Delighted to receive Mr Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Reaffirmed the vital role of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in advancing peace, stability and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific and beyond," PM Modi wrote on X after the meeting.

According to a statement released by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, both sides confirmed that they will work together to achieve concrete results in areas such as economic growth through investment, innovation, and knowledge circulation, as well as cooperation in the field of economic security. Motegi also met External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, where the two ministers agreed to continue efforts.

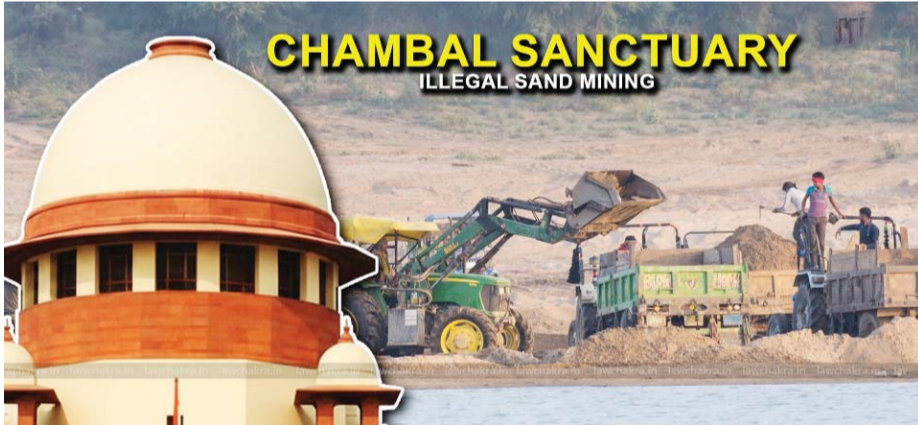
that, based on the Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next 10 Years announced during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan last year, various initiatives are being pursued in the areas of security, economy, investment, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges. Furthermore, both sides agreed to cooperate in realising a strong and prosperous Indo-Pacific under an evolved Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Minister Motegi stated

SC issues fresh directions to curb illegal sand mining in Chambal sanctuary

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.

The AIMIM leader fur-

ther alleged that the law was being imposed despite lacking public support and argued that the framers of the Constitution had never intended to in-

roduce a mandatory UCC. "The Constituent Assembly did not envision a mandatory UCC," Owaisi stated. Raising concerns over inheritance provisions, the Hyderabad MP said the proposed law went against Islamic principles governing succession and property rights.

"In Islam, no one can exclude an heir from inheritance. No one can write a will to give their whole property to one son or deny their daughter inheritance. This UCC allows anyone to write a will and deny their daughters their fair share.

This is far from a gender-just law," he said.

Owaisi alleged that the proposed code sought to impose Hindu legal principles relating to succession, inheritance, and divorce on Muslims while selectively protecting the cultural rights of other communities. "This is a backdoor imposition of Hindu law on Muslims. In matters of succession, inheritance, and divorce, Hindu principles are being imposed. Only Hindu culture is being protected, while Muslims have to comply with these so-called 'uniform' rules," he said.

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IAF Starts GATE-Based Technical Officer Entry

New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): Those intending to join the Technical Branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF) as officers can now apply based on their Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) scores, officials said on Tuesday. Candidates possessing a valid GATE score will be eligible for direct shortlisting for testing at the Air Force Selection Boards (AFSBs), under this new initiative. Such candidates will be exempt from the preliminary written examination, known as the Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT).

The GATE Score scheme will be applicable exclusively for induction into the Technical Branch. The AFCAT will continue to serve as the standard admission test for induction into all branches of the IAF including the Technical Branch (for those who do not have a valid GATE score).

According to an official statement, the entry-level educational qualifications for the GATE Score scheme will remain consistent with the existing induction



criteria for the Technical Branch via AFCAT.

A comprehensive list of acceptable GATE subjects have been formally promulgated by the IAF in AFCAT Notification 02/2026, accessible at <https://www.afcat.edcil.co.in> and www.careerief.gov.in.

"To provide maximum flexibility and opportunity to aspirants, eligible candidates may apply for the Technical Branch through both the AFCAT and the GATE Score schemes, as per their choice," the statement says.

For regular updates on Officers' Entry schemes in IAF prospective candidates are to follow official social media accounts of DISHA Indian Air Force @careerinaf (Instagram and X) and @DISHA by Indian Air Force (Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn).

'No Question Of CM Change In Karnataka,' Says KN Rajanna

Bengaluru, May 26 (GNS): Former minister and Madhugiri Congress MLA K.N. Rajanna, a close associate of Siddaramaiah, said on Tuesday that there will be no change of Chief Minister, and no such discussion has taken place. Speaking to mediapersons at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, Rajanna dismissed reports of any move to replace the Chief Minister and said the Delhi meetings could instead be related to discussions on a cabinet reshuffle and the upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections. "About six months ago, I participated in an International Cooperative Banking Association conference held in New York. Now, many leaders have gone to Delhi. Some may aspire to become ministers, and others may want to become the Chief Minister. But I have no such aspirations," Rajanna said.

Clarifying further on the political developments, he said: "There might have been discussions regarding the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections.

K'taka: Shivakumar welcomes SC order on Mekedatu project

Bengaluru, May 26 (GNS): Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is also in charge of the Water Resources Ministry, on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss Tamil Nadu's review petition against the Mekedatu project, calling it "good news" for Karnataka.

Addressing the media at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, Shivakumar said the state government was grateful to the Supreme Court for the order. "The decision on the project now rests with the Central government. We are currently in the process of submitting the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR)," he added.

"The three-judge bench of the Supreme Court has dismissed the review petition filed by Tamil Nadu regarding the Mekedatu project. This is good news for Karnataka. On behalf of the people of Karnataka, we express our gratitude to the Supreme Court," he said.

Shivakumar stated that the apex court, in an ear-



lier order, had already issued clear directions that Karnataka must release 177 TMC of water allocated to Tamil Nadu, subject to the stipulated conditions.

It may be noted that the Mekedatu balancing reservoir and drinking water project has remained a contentious issue between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with the neighbouring state opposing the project over concerns related to Cauvery river water sharing.

The Mekedatu controversy revolves around Karnataka's proposed balancing reservoir and drinking water project across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu, near the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border.

BSF needs new perspective amid evolving threats: HM Amit Shah

Jaipur, May 26 (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the Border Security Force (BSF) post at Sanchu along the India-Pakistan border in Bikaner on Tuesday and asserted that the role of the BSF must now be viewed through a "new dimension" in light of emerging security challenges and technology-driven threats.

Addressing the Prahari Sammelan at the historic border post, Shah said the traditional responsibilities of the BSF, including preventing encroachments, monitoring smuggling and infiltration, and maintaining border vigilance, must now be expanded to tackle new-age threats. He stated that adversaries are increasingly using technology to

target national security, prompting the Government of India to broaden the security framework in border regions by strengthening coordination with state governments and the civil administration.

"Any illegal construction within 50 kilometres of the border must be immediately reported to the District Collector and Superintendent of Police. Likewise, demographic changes in border villages should also be brought to the government's notice," Shah said. Highlighting emerging challenges, Shah stressed the need for heightened surveillance against drone-based narcotics smuggling and anti-national activities. "We must monitor where drones land,



who receives them, and how they are used. A strong communication network with civil administration and district police is essential," he said. He linked border security with local development, noting that villages along the frontier are being trans-

formed under the Vibrant Villages Programme. "Security can be strengthened only through the combined efforts of the BSF, the Army, and alert citizens, as well as the state government machinery. This coordination can build a quadrilateral se-

curity grid, which is difficult to breach."

He also called for regular engagements with school students and youth to create awareness among future generations. Commending BSF personnel for their role during Opera-

tion Sindoor, Shah said the force displayed courage and resilience while maintaining high morale and giving a "befitting reply" whenever required. "Our soldiers stood strong, faced challenges with unwavering resolve, and played a

significant role in maintaining high morale. As always, whenever the situation demanded, they delivered a befitting reply to Pakistan."

Referring to the historic significance of the Sanchu post, Shah said, "I have arrived at the historic Sanchu Border Outpost. I had wished to visit the Sanchu post even before assuming the office of Home Minister. During the 1965 India-Pakistan War, Sanchu had a population of over 500, and the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (RAC) outpost was located 500 metres behind it in Ranjitpura village."

He further stated that intelligence inputs had indicated that Pakistan had launched an offensive to capture Sanchu. At that

critical moment, personnel of the 3rd RAC and the 13th Grenadiers mounted a counter-attack and ensured that Sanchu remained firmly within Indian territory. The soldiers carried out this responsibility with valour, forcing Pakistani forces to retreat. The Home Minister further announced major infrastructure initiatives, including the construction of a 1,096-km Lateral Road and a 520-km Axial Road across Rajasthan's desert region to improve mobility and connectivity for security forces. He added that work on new-design border fencing is underway, and a piped drinking water supply to around 180 BSF border outposts in Rajasthan has already been completed.

Piyush Goyal invites Canadian businesses to be active participants in india's growth story



Toronto/New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday addressed the opening Ministerial Plenary Session, titled 'From Political Reset to Commercial Delivery,' in Toronto, Canada.

Addressing the event in the presence of Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade of Canada, Goyal spoke about India's continued efforts to enhance ease of doing business and create an investor-friendly environment and invited businesses and industry leaders from Canada to be active participants in India's growth story.

"Highlighted how the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will serve as a key catalyst in expanding trade and investment ties while opening new avenues for

collaboration across sectors," said Goyal. The minister further stated that he is confident that the next chapter of the India-Canada economic partnership will be driven by trust, leading to the shared prosperity of our nations.

After high-level trade talks in Ottawa, Goyal led the Indian business delegation through an intensive programme of industry roundtables and B2B engagements in Toronto, aimed at translating ministerial-level commitment into concrete commercial partnerships across priority sectors, the government said on Tuesday.

The visit carries forward the mandate set by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Mark Carney during Carney's New Delhi visit in March 2026, and builds on sustained high-level en-

gagement between the two countries since mid-2025.

With bilateral trade currently standing at approximately \$8.5 billion, both governments have set an ambitious shared target of expanding this to \$50 billion by 2030. Goyal arrived in Ottawa, heading the largest-ever Indian business delegation to Canada comprising industry leaders from over 100 companies, in a landmark step towards the full revival of India-Canada economic relations, according to Commerce Ministry. The three-day visit to Canada is aimed at advancing bilateral trade and economic ties between India and Canada, with a particular focus on accelerating the ongoing negotiations for the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the ministry added.

Indian Army's four-legged warriors steal spotlight at 'Exercise PRAGATI 2026' in Meghalaya

Shillong, May 26 (GNS): Amid high-intensity tactical drills and multinational military training during 'Exercise PRAGATI 2026' in Meghalaya, the Indian Army's highly trained canine warriors emerged as a distinctive force multiplier, showcasing their specialised skills alongside armed forces personnel from 12 friendly nations.

Defence spokesman Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said that the army dogs trained alongside troops from friendly foreign countries, showcasing their role in modern military operations and enhancing interoperability in a multinational environment. From IED (Im-



provised Explosive Devices) detection and tracking to intervention operations, the K9 teams demonstrated how trained military dogs remain an invaluable asset in high-risk operational scenarios, he said. According to the official, the display included 'Alan', a Bel-

gian 'Malinois' assault dog; 'Victor', a Rampur Hound tracker dog; and 'Deo', a Labrador explosive detection dog. Each showcased a specialised skill set, reflecting the versatility, discipline and mission readiness of Indian Army K9 teams.

Lt Col Rawat said that a

key highlight was the participation of India's indigenous breed, the 'Rampur Hound', represented by 'Victor'. Known for climatic adaptability, resilience and disease resistance, indigenous breeds are increasingly being integrated into operational roles, strength-

ening the Indian Army's move towards self-reliance under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The K9 warriors also demonstrated their operational relevance across varied terrains, from deserts to glaciers, underlining their adaptability and effectiveness in diverse conditions.

Setting Of 'Holding Centres' Has Created Panic Among Illegal Infiltrators In Bengal: CM Suwendu Adhikari

Kolkata, May 26 (GNS): West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said on Tuesday that the decision of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government to establish "holding centres" for the illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators arrested in the state before being sent to the nearby border outposts of the Border Security Force (BSF) for deportation to their native country, had created panic among such illegal infiltrators, who had been staying in the state so far without any fear.

He chaired an administrative review meeting at Kalyani in Nadia district involving the administrative

machineries of the three districts of Nadia, Hooghly and North 24 Parganas earlier in the afternoon. Speaking to the media persons at the sidelines of the administrative review meeting, the Chief Minister made this comment and also gave a caution to the illegal infiltrators to either voluntarily escape or face the push-back.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Adhikari also explained why the current state government's "detect-delete-deport" policy in case of the illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators was legally valid. "They are Bangladeshis. They are illegal infiltrators.



Hence, they will have to leave. It is the duty of the Bangladesh government to accept their own citizens. We have instructed the police that such illegal infiltrators should be produced at the courts or sent to correctional homes. They are not our in-laws. Then why shall we provide them with shelters,

food, medicines and even employment," the Chief Minister said. Later, Chief Minister Adhikari advised the illegal infiltrators either to leave voluntarily or the state government would do what is necessary. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also explained the logic of not sending the illegal infiltrators to the correctional homes.

"Why will we spend the hard-earned taxpayers' money in maintaining them (illegal infiltrators) and feeding them at the correctional homes? We are not introducing any new law. What we are doing is as per the legal provisions

which were there for a long time. The only difference was that the existing law was not enforced by the previous regimes. We are now just enforcing those legal provisions in the interest of the country and in the interest of the state," Chief Minister Adhikari said. Since Monday, several infiltrators were seen at the Hakimpur border in North 24 Parganas district to be deported to Bangladesh.

When media persons questioned the Chief Minister on the matter on Tuesday afternoon, Suwendu Adhikari said that he is aware of the developments at the Hakimpur border.

TN Govt Suspends 23 Quarries In Virudhunagar Over Mining Violations

Chennai, May 26 (GNS): The Tamil Nadu government has ordered the temporary suspension of operations at 23 stone quarries in Virudhunagar district after inspections reportedly found that they had carried out quarrying activities beyond their permitted lease boundaries, in what authorities described as violations of mining regulations.

The action was initiated following a detailed review by the Department of Natural Resources, headed by Minister Dr T.K. Prabhu, as part of the government's efforts to curb illegal mining and strengthen monitoring of mineral extraction activities across the state. Ac-



ording to an official statement issued on Tuesday, the Department of Geology and Mining had undertaken an extensive assessment of quarry operations in Virudhunagar district to prevent illegal extraction of minerals.

As part of the exercise, 76 quarries in the district were

surveyed and measured using drone technology. The aerial inspection was conducted to accurately determine whether quarry operators were adhering to approved lease conditions and mining limits.

Based on the drone survey findings, authorities prepared a detailed report

highlighting irregularities at some quarry sites.

Subsequently, Natural Resources Minister Dr T.K. Prabhu held a review meeting with officials from the Virudhunagar district Geology and Mining Department on Tuesday morning to assess the findings and discuss further action.

Following the minister's directions, the government identified 23 quarries that had allegedly undertaken mining activities outside the areas permitted under their lease agreements.

The operations of these quarries have now been temporarily suspended pending further examination and legal action.

'No Security Breaches': CBSE Junks Social Media User's Claim Of Breaking Into Portal

New Delhi: Amid attempts by the CBSE to resolve glitches on its answerbook evaluation portal, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday refuted claims of a social media user that the On Screen Marking (OSM) was compromised by him and said that no security breaches have come to light. Assuring students about the strong safeguards implemented to ensure the integrity of the platform, the Board issued a clarification regarding the misleading claim made by the social media user.

In a message on X, the CBSE said, "In a post made by a user on social media, it



has been claimed that the CBSE On Screen Marking (OSM) bearing URL: <http://cbse.onmarks.co.in> was compromised by him on February 26, 2026. This has also formed the basis for a few news articles."

"At the outset, it is clarified that the Portal used

for evaluation of answerbooks bore a different URL, which has neither been compromised nor does it have the vulnerabilities indicated in the said social media post," it said. "The URL: <http://cbse.onmarks.co.in> is the testing site only with sample data

for internal testing and review purposes. There are no actual evaluation data, marks or other data held on that portal. The Board emphasises that no security breaches have come to light on the Portal deployed for the actual evaluation work," said the Board. The Board would like to state that this system has been implemented for enhanced transparency in assessments with strong grievance redressal mechanisms built into it, and would reassure all concerned about the strong safeguards implemented to ensure the integrity of the platform actually deployed as regards any vulnerabilities.

Sarbananda Sonowal attends MoU signing ceremony for infra projects development worth 5700 crores at Vadhavan Port

New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoSPW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off Cruise Operations from the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), India's largest cruise terminal, in Mumbai today. The Union Minister also inaugurated renovated Fire Memorial at Victoria Docks as well as renovated two heritage buildings — Fort House Ballard Estate and Evelyn House at Colaba. Sonowal also inaugurated Sagar Upvan garden along with Shore to Ship Electric Supply under Green Port Initiative.

The MICT, developed as per Cruise Bharat Mission, was developed as per latest global standards and is expected to take a pioneering role in developing cruise tourism in India. Spread over a built up area of more than 4,15,000 Square Feet, the MICT is developed at Ballard Pier. MICT is India's largest world class cruise



terminal. Equipped with 72 Check in and Immigration counters spreading over an area of 2,07,000 Square Feet on the first two floors (G+1) while the other two floors (2 + 3) are developed as Commercial Floors. The newly inaugurated MICT is designed to handle 1 million passengers every year with an approximate 10,000 passengers per day. It can also handle 5 ships simultaneously, with 11 meters draft

and upto 300 meters length. At the parking space, more than 300 vehicles can be parked simultaneously.

Speaking on the commencement of Cruise Service from MICT, the Union Minister said, "The maritime history of Mumbai is rich and an integral part of our civilisation. As a coastal hub, it has served the nation handsomely with its bustling coastal business. It is only logical that we work to-

wards realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of 'Bharat becoming a global cruise hub through its state-of-the-art infrastructure.' Today, Mumbai, with its longstanding reputation as a major maritime hub in the world, commenced Cruise Operations from the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal, providing passengers modern amenities for a better and safer experience. This adds to our existing

such top class international terminals at Visakhapatnam and Chennai. In order to celebrate the heroic contribution of Mumbai Port Fire Services personnel, the newly renovated Fire Memorial at Victoria Docks celebrates their distinctive service to the nation."

MICT has been designed with a wavy ceiling reflecting the maritime identity with functional and minimalist architecture. MICT blends modern design with Mumbai's maritime spirit—featuring fluid architecture, rose gold accents, and a sweeping ceiling. From heritage-inspired entry to sleek interiors with wave seating, selfie points, and maritime plaques, it offers a serene yet vibrant gateway to India's emerging global cruise hub. MICT will provide enhanced passenger experience and position Mumbai as one of major hub for cruise tourism hub. The total investment in the MICT project has been 556 crores.

Ram Mohan Naidu takes stock of Delhi Airport runway upgrade



New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): Minister of Civil Aviation, Ram Mohan Naidu, today undertook a comprehensive visit to Air India's corporate and training infrastructure in Gurugram, reflecting the Ministry's commitment to enhancing safety, training, and operational excellence in Indian aviation. His visit commenced with a walk-through of the Air India Experience Centre, a facility that encapsulates the airline's 92-year legacy and showcases its Vihaan.AI transformation journey.

The Minister then visited the Emergency Control Centre (ECC) and the Integrated Operations Con-

trol Centre (IOCC)-critical facilities that underscore Air India's operational resilience and commitment to on-time performance. At the Air India Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram, he received an overview of the Academy's role in shaping aviation professionals, followed by an in-depth tour of training infrastructure including the Safety Lab, Grooming Centre, Security Lab, and the under-construction Simulator Buildings.

The visit marked a key milestone with the inauguration of the Air India Safety Promotion Centre by Shri Ram Mohan Naidu in the

presence of the Chairman of Tata Sons and Air India. Speaking at the occasion, he said, "On the occasion of inaugurating the Air India Safety Promotion Centre, I am pleased to see a strong commitment towards fostering a safety-first culture in Indian aviation." "I congratulate Air India for bolstering safety by investing in training its manpower through this state-of-the-art centre inaugurated today, where learnings from past incidents have been thoughtfully curated and translated into immersive, real-world training that goes far beyond the classroom" he added.

US cites national security to justify steel tariffs to counter India at WTO



New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): The US has informed the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that the Donald Trump administration's decision to levy tariffs on steel and aluminium, was based on national security grounds and should not be considered as safeguard measures. The US defence came in response to India filing a request with the WTO on April 11 for the holding of consultations with the US on the tariff hikes under the WTO's Safeguards Agreement.

India has said that despite the US's characterisation of these measures as security measures, they are, in essence, safeguard measures. It also pointed

out that the US has failed to notify the WTO Committee on Safeguards under a provision of the Agreement on Safeguards on taking a decision to apply these measures.

The Trump administration, in its response to the WTO dated April 17, stated: "The US notes that the premise for India's request for consultations under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards is that the tariffs are safeguard measures. The President imposed the tariffs on steel and aluminium pursuant to Section 232, under which the President determined that tariffs are necessary to adjust imports of steel and aluminium articles

that threaten to impair the national security of the US," Washington stated in its response to the WTO, dated April 17. The US also claimed that Section 232 is a national security statute, and the tariffs are being kept in place under the security exception allowed under a provision of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994. The defence further stated that the tariffs were not imposed under a provision of the Trade Act of 1974, which is the law under which the US imposes safeguard measures. "The United States is not maintaining these actions pursuant to the safeguards / emergency action provision."

Union Minister emphasizes the need for empowering universities to make them engines of national growth

New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Minister of State, Ministry of Education Shri Jayant Chaudhary launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) – jointly set up by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) – at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

"Universities are not merely centres of academic learning—they are transformative bridges connecting young minds to the dynamic realities of the world. By equipping students with both technical expertise and a broad-based liberal education, they cultivate the ability to think critically, innovate fearlessly, and adapt with agility. Gujarat has emerged as a frontrunner in this journey, reshaping its higher education landscape through a strong focus on academic rigor, industry partnerships, and holistic development. And our universities are pro-



ducing a generation that is not only employable but also imaginative, responsible, and deeply committed to the nation's progress."

Jayant Chaudhary further emphasized the need for universities across India to realign with the evolving demands of industry and actively skill students in response. "We must empower our universities to become engines of innovation—not just to serve market needs, but to advance national

growth. When universities lead innovation, it is driven by purpose—for the benefit of society and the nation at large." The Centre will be equipped with advanced manufacturing capabilities labs to provide specialised training. The centre will offer over 40 online and hybrid courses in sectors such as semiconductors manufacturing, renewable and non-renewables energy, digital edge, smart manufacturing, and more.

A Memorandum of Association (MoA) was signed earlier this month between NSDC and PDEU in this regard. These courses will cater to students from ITI, Diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate programs. The curriculum is designed to equip learners from Tier-1, Tier-2 and Tier-3 institutes with hands-on experience in niche manufacturing skill sets across critical sectors, including energy, health, water and food. Ved Mani

Tiwari, CEO of NSDC and MD of NSDC International, said, "At NSDC, our core mission is to make youth employable, and this collaboration will strengthen the skilling ecosystem. This collaboration will support the development of training infrastructure in smart manufacturing, along with Centres of Excellence focused on automotive, EV charging, renewable energy, and semiconductors. Training in the semiconductor domain is already underway, paving the way for youth to gain practical exposure in high-demand, future-oriented fields. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the NSDC is placing a strong emphasis on global certification programmes that enable Indian students to access world-class skills and compete confidently in the international job market. We are dedicated to making India's youth employable, entrepreneurial, and future-ready."

Centre notifies rules for Radar-based speed measurement devices; to be enforced from July 1

New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): In a move aimed at strengthening road safety and ensuring fairness in traffic enforcement, the Department of Consumer Affairs has notified new rules for 'Radar equipment for the measurement of the speed of vehicles' under the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011. The rules will come into effect from July 1, 2025, giving sufficient lead time for industries and enforcement agencies to comply with the regulatory framework.

Under the new provisions, it will be mandatory for all radar-based speed measuring devices to be verified and stamped by Legal Metrology authorities. This verification process will ensure that all such equipment is accurate, calibrated, and legally compliant, thereby enhancing transparency, enforcement integrity, and public confidence in the use of speed



detection systems. The rules are based on the international standard OIML R 91 and were finalized after extensive stakeholder consultations, including inputs from State Legal Metrology Departments, Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs), manufacturers, and consumer organizations. For Citizens: The mandatory verification will help ensure that speed enforcement is based on scientifically accurate and legally certified instruments, reduc-

ing the risk of unfair penalties and promoting road safety.

For Industry: Manufacturers of radar-based speed measurement equipment will benefit from a clear, internationally aligned technical framework, boosting domestic innovation and global export competitiveness. For Law Enforcement: The adoption of verified devices will significantly enhance operational credibility and ensure reliable, evidence-based enforcement, essential for maintain-

ing public trust in road traffic regulations. The introduction of standardized radar systems is expected to contribute to a data-driven approach to traffic management, reducing road accidents, minimizing vehicle wear and tear, and cutting down on infrastructure damage. It also supports the govt's broader push for technological modernization in legal metrology, bringing enforcement practices in line with global best practices.

Radar-based speed measurement devices typically function using Doppler radar technology, offering high-precision speed tracking even in varied environmental conditions. The new rules mandate tamper-proof mechanisms, proper calibration, and stability in operations—fostering a regulatory ecosystem grounded in technological reliability and legal accountability.

Green office space inventory to touch 700 mn sq ft by 2027: Credai-Colliers

New Delhi, May 26 (GNS): Almost two-thirds of the total Grade A office space across India's top six cities—amounting to 503 million sq ft—was green certified by the end of 2024. With most upcoming commercial projects being designed with sustainability at their core, the green-certified premium office stock is projected to reach nearly 700 million sq ft over the next two to three years, a Credai-Colliers report said on April 18.

Among the cities, Bengaluru led in terms of total green-certified office space, contributing 31% of the national stock, followed by Delhi NCR at 19% and Hyderabad at 17%. When it comes to green penetration—the share of green-certified buildings within the overall Grade A office stock—Hyderabad topped the list with a penetration rate of 75%, closely followed by Ben-



galuru at 73% in 2024, said the CREDAI-Colliers' report 'Sustainability in Real Estate: Towards a Greener Skyline'. Green building footprint across asset classes has nearly doubled over the last five years to reach 13 billion sq ft in 2024. As of 2024, more than 2 million residential dwelling units, 6,500 commercial projects and 750 industrial projects were green-certified and sustainability adoption is likely to

pick pace across real estate segments in the coming years. Over the next three years, a significant portion of the 170-200 mn sq ft of commercial developments which are in various stages of development will be green-certified. These also command a rental premium of up to 25%, it said. Earn More Stable Returns There's also a major opportunity for retrofitting about 355-385 million sq

ft of relatively older office buildings (>10 years), which can enhance the overall efficiency and sustainability quotient, it noted.

The aging office stock represents an investment opportunity to the tune of 425 billion. Additionally, relatively newer buildings (≤10 years) of about 80-110 million sq ft Grade A office space hold potential for environmental upgrade with minimal capex requirement.

TG Govt inaugurates 'Sakhi Nivas' and One-Stop Centre for working women in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 26 (GNS) As part of the Women's Week celebrations, Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, Dadasari Anasuya Seethakka, on Tuesday, inaugurated the "Sakhi Nivas" Working Women's Hostel and the "Sakhi Kendram" One-Stop Centre at Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Seethakka said the State Government is establishing working women's hostels to ensure safe accommodation for women migrating from rural areas to Hyderabad in search of employment opportunities. She stated that the newly inaugurated hostel can ac-



commodate nearly 150 women and includes special facilities for mothers arriving with young children.

The Minister said the Telangana Government is giving top priority to women's safety, dignity, self-con-

confidence, and economic empowerment. She remarked that criticism from those unable to tolerate women's progress would ultimately fail before the collective strength of women.

Highlighting the gov-

ernment's initiatives for women's self-help groups, Seethakka said the limit for interest-free loans has been enhanced from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

She added that livelihood opportunities are being cre-

ated through initiatives such as rice mills, petrol bunks, and women-run supermarkets. "Women are now progressing from depending on others for daily expenses to supporting their families, educating their children, and even providing employment to others," she said.

The Minister stated that the government's goal is to transform women into wealth creators, noting that stronger women-led incomes would strengthen families and contribute to the state's prosperity.

She added that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is committed to ensuring empowerment and development for every woman in every household.

Court sends Bandi Bhageerath to police custody in POCSO case

Hyderabad, May 26 (GNS) A city court on Tuesday sent Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bandi Bhageerath, to police custody for three days in a POCSO case. The trial court in Malkajgiri pronounced orders on the prosecution's petition.

Though the police sought custody for a week, the court granted custody for three days. Pet Basheerabad police will take custody of Bhageerath, who is currently lodged in Cherlapalli Jail. Bhageerath's counsel, Karunasagar, opposed the petition for police custody. During arguments on the petition, he also requested the court that, if the petition were allowed, the police be directed to conduct



the interrogation between 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., and that a medical examination be conducted before and after the interrogation. The counsel also sought directions to the police not to use any coercive methods during the course of interrogation.

A case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was

registered against Bhageerath at Pet Basheerabad Police Station on May 8, following allegations that he sexually assaulted a minor girl. The case was booked under Section 11 read with Section 12 of the POCSO Act and Sections 74 and 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). After the investigating officer spoke to the victim, the police invoked harsher provisions of the POCSO Act. Section 5(1), read with Section 6, was added to the FIR.

Bhageerath was served a notice by the police directing him to appear before the investigating officer on May 13. He did not appear but sent a letter to the investigating officer seeking two days' time to appear.

No Ebola cases reported in Telangana, public need not panic: Health Minister

Hyderabad, May 26 (GNS) Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha on Tuesday said no Ebola cases have been reported in the state so far and urged the public not to panic, assuring that the government is fully alert and prepared to handle any situation. The Minister reviewed Ebola prevention measures and preparedness at a meeting held at the Aarogyasri Trust office in Hyderabad in view of the outbreak reported in some African countries.

Senior officials informed the Minister that no Ebola-positive cases or symptomatic individuals have been identified in Telangana till date. They said all precautionary measures are being implemented as per Central Government guidelines.

Authorities are conducting screening and thermal scanning of passengers arriving from Ebola-affected countries such as the



Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad. A special team comprising doctors, health inspectors, paramedical staff, and field personnel has been deployed at the airport.

Officials said a dedicated 10-bed isolation ward has been established at Gandhi Hospital, while 108 ambulances are being kept ready round-the-clock for emer-

gencies. Suspected samples are being sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for testing.

Travelers arriving from affected countries without symptoms are being placed under 21-day home isolation and monitored by district surveillance teams.

Officials stated that 58 passengers from Ebola-affected countries arrived in Hyderabad till May 25, and none showed symptoms of the disease. The Minister di-

rected officials to maintain continuous surveillance, ensure strict infection control measures, and immediately shift any suspected patient to the isolation ward at Gandhi Hospital.

He also instructed all government hospitals to remain on high alert and stressed the need for close coordination among airport authorities, surveillance teams, and hospitals, according to an official statement.

Top maoist leader, wife surrender before Telangana Police

Hyderabad, May 26 (GNS) In another blow to the banned CPI (Maoist), its Central Committee Member Pasunoori Narahari and his wife Medara Danamma surrendered before Telangana Police on Tuesday. Director General of Police C.V. Anand produced the senior underground leaders of the Maoist outfit before the media.

Pasunoori Narahari alias Vishwanath alias Salai Da is the Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee (BJSAC) secretary, while Danamma alias Latha alias Poonam alias Joba is a State Committee Member (SCM).

The DGP said that with their surrender, the last surviving Eastern Regional Bureau of CPI (Maoist) is on the verge of collapse. A native of Telangana's Hanamkonda district, 64-year-old Narahari joined the Radical Students Union (RSU) while studying in the first year of his degree course. In 1988, he married Danamma of Guntur district.



According to police, in 1982, under the influence and at the behest of late Puli Anjaiah, then CPI (ML) People's War AP State Committee Secretary, he formally joined CPI (ML) People's War and became part of the Kunta Dalam operating in Sukma district, Chhattisgarh.

In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of State Committee Member (SCM) and joined the Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee (BJSAC) as an SZC Member, where he remained until 2010. He served as head of

the Technical Department under the BJSAC, until 2014.

In 2014, he was transferred to the Bihar State Committee, where he served as the in-charge of the Gaya District Organisation until 2017. In 2017, he was promoted to Central Committee Member under the Eastern Regional Bureau (ERB).

Police said he possessed extensive expertise in the manufacturing and maintenance of firearms, mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, grenades, and

booby traps. He also imparted training to Maoist cadres in weapons production, repair, and maintenance, while simultaneously handling technical and organisational responsibilities at senior levels. Danamma, 55, joined the Maoist movement after her marriage to Narahari. In 1997, she joined the Technical Department Team in South Bastar, Dandakaranya, Chhattisgarh.

In 2000, she was promoted to DCM and transferred to the Nagpur Technical Department Team.

Demographic change a serious concern: Ramchander Rao



Hyderabad, May 26 (GNS) Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Tuesday welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah to constitute a High-Level Committee on Demographic Change, describing it as a decisive step to protect the interests and security of Indian citizens.

In a statement, Ramchander Rao said "unnatural demographic change" in the country is a serious concern and asserted that every infiltrator would be identified and expelled in accordance with the law through the proposed mechanism.

He stated that India's resources belong primarily to its citizens and alleged that previous Congress governments compromised national interests through

"vote-bank politics and appeasement policies," leading to demographic imbalances in several regions.

The BJP leader claimed that demographic changes in certain parts of the country had adversely affected local communities, including tribals who were allegedly forced to leave their native places. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech from the Red Fort on August 15, 2025, Ramchander Rao recalled that the Prime Minister had announced the formation of a "high-powered Demography Mission" to address demographic challenges in the country. He said the newly announced High-Level Committee reflects the Modi Government's commitment to safeguarding the rights, security, and future of Indian citizens.

Bus driver not to be removed from job, says Telangana Minister amid row

Hyderabad, May 26 (GNS) In the wake of the row over the action of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation to remove a driver of a hired private bus for allegedly criticising leaders of the ruling Congress holding a protest, state Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar said on Tuesday that he has advised the management to change its decision and let him continue.

Prabhakar stated that driver Ashok spoke on behalf of the farmers, and the government welcomes it.

The minister said that despite the Centre showing negligence in the procurement of food grains, the state government was taking all measures to ensure that procurements happen smoothly. He advised opposition parties not to politicise this issue.

The Transport Minister clarified that Ashok is not an employee of RTC. "He is merely an RTC hired bus driver.. He is not an RTC employee. Even so, we have advised the bus management not to remove him from his job.



Ashok spoke on behalf of the farmers, and we welcome that," he said in a statement.

Earlier, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders Gangula Kamalakar and Jeevan Reddy met Karimnagar RTC Regional Manager, seeking the immediate reinstatement of Ashok.

The Regional Manager told the BRS leaders that he has no information. The leaders demanded action against the Jagtial Depot Manager for issuing the orders to dismiss the driver.

The driver, while driving the bus from Jagtial to Dharmapuri on Monday, had made certain remarks criticising the Congress leaders participating in a protest on the road at Jagtial over the hike in petrol

and diesel prices.

He had reportedly advised the protestors to focus on procuring the produce from farmers. State minister Adhuri Laxman and Congress MLAs were participating in the protest.

The Jagtial Depot Manager had then written to the owner of the private hire bus (PHB) to withdraw the driver from PHB services with immediate effect.

The letter by Jagtial Depot manager to PHB owner Chukka Venugopal stated that Congress's Dharmapuri Mandal President C. Laxman had complained that the PHB driver criticised the Congress party leaders who were staging a dharna at the RDO office, Jagtial.

On the other hand, driver Ashok, while talking to local media persons, clarified that he was speaking with a person from his village who was participating in the dharna. He said he told him that instead of talking about diesel or petrol, he should first focus on procuring cotton and maize from farmers.

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