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Home Minister Amit Shah chairs security review meeting on border-related issues

NEW DELHI, May 30 (GNS): Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, chaired a security review meeting in Bhuj, Gujarat, focusing on security-related issues concerning the border and coastal districts of Gujarat situated along the India-Pakistan Border (IPB). Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Chief Secretary, DGP, Gujarat, along with other senior state government officials, as well as the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of Kutch, Vav-Tharad, and Patan were present in the meeting. With a view to achieving more robust and comprehensive border management, the meeting



focused on the challenges, threats, and emerging concerns in these border areas along the India-Pakistan Border, and emphasized the active and effective role of the state government—particularly the DMs and SPs—in this regard. During the meeting, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, said that border fencing, maritime border security, and the strong political will of the state government have brought about a significant transformation in Gujarat's security landscape. This has resulted in the complete cessation of infiltration into the state and smuggling on the border. He emphasized that

a zero-tolerance approach should be adopted towards all unauthorized encroachments within the 0-15 km belt along the international border, and efforts should be made to eliminate them. He also stressed the need to maintain a close watch on

centres of radicalization in border areas. Amit Shah said that District Magistrates must strictly monitor and regularly report on demographic changes occurring in border districts. He stated that reverse migration hap-

pening in border areas due to the establishment of industrial units is a welcome development. Shah said that everyone—from police station to patwari—should work in unison to ensure deportation of already settled illegal infiltrators. He

said that the local administrations should formulate SOPs for specific challenges and requirements of each border district, to ensure identification of existing infiltrators and threats related to drones and narcotics. Union Home Minister said that Security Coordination Groups should be formed in every district, comprising the BSF, Coast Guard, Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the Lead Bank Manager. He said that the responsibility for the effective enforcement of Income Tax, anti-money laundering, and Customs laws should rest with the District Magistrate (DM), Superintendent of Police (SP), and Inspector General (IG), Border Range. Amit Shah emphasized the need to maintain strict vigil over hawala transactions, financial dealings, mule accounts, shell companies, suspicious vehicles, and GST collections in border districts. He stated that

agencies combating financial crimes should strictly be kept apprised regarding border areas, and that the Income Tax Department, in collaboration with the RBI, should conduct extensive survey campaigns. Union Home Minister said that, given the proximity to the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), there is a need to prioritize coastal security and ensure effective coordination with the Indian Coast Guard. He further directed that, alongside the 'Vibrant Villages' initiative, 100% saturation of every scheme—both of the Central and State governments—must be ensured in the border villages.

Massive Dust Storm Sweeps Rajasthan; Rain Brings Relief To Most Parts Of North India

NEW DELHI, May 30 (GNS): A massive dust storm barreled through several parts of Rajasthan on Saturday, even as an active western disturbance triggered rain at most parts of north India, bringing much-needed relief from the sweltering heat that baked the region for the past few days. In Rajasthan, the storm triggered by a western disturbance affected Churu, Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Sri Ganganagar, Nagaur, Didwana-Kuchaman, Alwar and Sikar districts, while Jaipur witnessed strong winds followed by rain. Clouds of dust and sand engulfed many towns, re-

ducing visibility to zero and forcing motorists to switch on headlights during the day. Winds initially picked up in Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar regions, reaching speeds of around 56 kmph, officials said. While the storm disrupted normal life, the accompanying rain brought relief from the intense heatwave conditions in several parts of the desert state. "We never imagined such a massive dust storm could engulf the city. The sky turned dark around 2 pm, almost like nightfall. People were moving with their vehicle headlights on... Normal life has been disrupted as we

are facing many difficulties," a Churu resident said. A dust storm with lesser intensity also hit parts of Delhi on Saturday amid red and orange alerts, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast thunderstorms, lightning, hail and rain. According to the weather office, a dust storm followed by a severe thunderstorm accompanied by lightning, hail and light to moderate rain is very likely over parts of central, northeast, southwest, west, northwest and north Delhi. The wind speeds are expected to range between 70 and 90 kmph, gusting up to 100 kmph, it said.

D K Shivakumar Elected Cong Legislature Party Leader, Set To Be New Karnataka CM

BENGALURU, May 30 (GNS): Karnataka state Congress President D K Shivakumar was elected leader of the legislature party on Saturday, paving the way for him to take over as the next chief minister of the state. Senior leader Siddaramaiah, the outgoing chief minister, proposed Shivakumar's name as the new leader of the legislature party at the meeting held at Vidhan Soudha. The meeting was overseen by AICC general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala. However, the CLP meeting to elect the new leader took a ten-minute break,



and top leaders including Siddaramaiah, Venugopal and Surjewala, huddled in a separate room, according to sources. Announcing Shivakumar's election as CLP leader, Karnataka Congress said in a statement that Sidda-

ramaiah proposed Shivakumar's name for the top position, G Parameshwara seconded the proposal, and the meeting unanimously endorsed it. Party general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal announced Shivakumar's election as the

new CLP leader. Earlier, at the beginning of the meeting, Surjewala, announced that the process of electing the new CLP leader would proceed based on a proposal from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and formally initiated the proceedings, the statement said. Subsequently, Siddaramaiah moved a one-line resolution and Parameshwara seconded it and all the legislators supported it. Later, Surjewala announced a 10-minute break, and he along with Siddaramaiah and Venugopal, proceeded to the Chief Minister's chamber.

Centre Not Considering Cow as National Animal: Meghwal



NEW DELHI, May 30: There is currently no proposal under the Centre's consideration to declare the cow the national animal or impose a nationwide ban on cow slaughter, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has said, noting that such demands continue to be raised by various groups. Meghwal noted that laws relating to cow slaughter vary across states and decisions are often taken based on local considerations. Responding to a question on calls for granting the cow national animal status and prohibiting cow slaughter across the country, Meghwal, in an interview to PTI, said such representations are regularly made to MPs and the government. "Various organisations keep working on these issues and approach MPs as well. People submit applications and make representations saying such a measure should be taken," he said. However, the minister said no such proposal is presently under consideration by the Union Cabinet. As of now, there is no such matter before us that is under consideration of the Cabinet. If at any point a proposal reaches a stage where it warrants a government decision or Cabinet consideration, we will inform you," he said. "Different states take decisions on such matters based on their own circumstances and merits," he said, referring to the BJP-led West Bengal government's recent move to step up enforcement of cattle slaughter regulations under the state's 1950 law.

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Claims Of Being Vishwaguru But Can't Conduct Single Exam: Rahul Gandhi

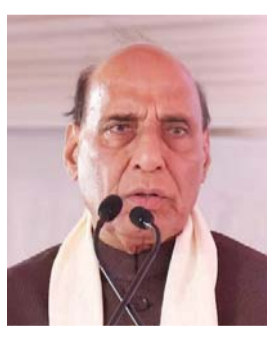
NEW DELHI, May 30 (GNS): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having "completely destroyed" the country's education system and said the government has been unable to conduct even a single examination properly while making claims of being a "vishwaguru". His remarks came after the National Testing Agency said the CUET-UG 2026 for admissions into undergraduate degree programmes across India was delayed at some centres on Saturday due to a technical glitch. In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "NEET, CBSE, SSC, and today, CUET. Four examinations. One crore students. Not a single one could be conducted honestly." "Claims of being a 'vishwaguru', but are unable to conduct even a single examination within the country—Modi Ji has completely destroyed the entire education system," Gandhi said.



"The very generation whose future you are ruining — that same generation will hold you accountable," the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, attacking the PM. Gandhi had on Friday said Modi's silence on the CBSE debacle and inaction against the education minister showed he cared only about the survival of his government and not the future of lakhs of students. The Congress leader had also shared a video of his earlier interaction with students who had taken the NEET exam and expressed their concerns over the exam system in the wake of the paper leak. (Agencies)Educational Resources

Indian Navy Confined Entire Pak Navy To Its Ports During Operation Sindoor: Rajnath

LUCKNOW, May 30 (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that the Indian Navy forced "the entire Pakistan Navy to remain confined to its ports during Operation Sindoor". Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 'Nausena Shaurya Vatika', an open-air naval museum here, Singh said, "The Navy played a significant role in maintaining pressure on Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. "Our Navy was deployed in the Arabian Sea with full preparedness and strength, maintaining constant pressure on the adversary. As a result, Pakistan's entire Navy remained confined to its ports." Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. The mil-



itary conflict was halted after both sides reached an understanding on the evening of May 10. Talking about the opening of the Nausena Shaurya Vatika, which has been designed to showcase the legacy, operational capabilities and maritime achievements of the Indian Navy, Singh said it is not only a moment of pride and honour for the people of Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh, "but also for us personally". "In the coming years, this facility will not only become a centre of inspiration for Lucknow but will also develop into a tourist hub and emerge as one of the city's defining landmarks."

India's export loss due to higher US tariffs limited to 0.3 to 0.4 pc of GDP

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) The direct export loss from the higher US tariffs announced on Indian exports could be limited to around 0.3-0.4 per cent of its GDP as the country's largely domestic-driven economy and its relatively low share of goods exports to the US should provide some cushion, according to a CareEdge Ratings report released on Friday. "Not only is India's overall export dependence relatively low, but its merchandise export exposure to the US is also low at around 2 per cent of GDP, offering additional resilience," the report contends. Moreover, India's services exports remain outside the scope of these tariffs and should continue to support the external sector, the report states. The report also projects the current account deficit (CAD) to remain manageable at 0.9 per cent of GDP in FY26. Any diversification



in India's oil imports away from Russia is expected to have a minimal impact on India's CAD, as the price differential between Russian Ural and the benchmark Brent Crude has significantly narrowed to around \$3 per barrel from an average of \$20 per barrel in 2023. India's merchandise exports to the US stood at \$87 billion in FY25. Electronic goods accounted for the largest share of exports at 17.6 per cent. This was followed by pharma products (11.8 per cent) and gems & jewellery (11.5 per cent). The US accounts for 37 per cent of India's total electronic exports. Select items from this sector have been temporarily exempted from the 25 per cent US tariffs. Additionally, India's pharma exports to the US (accounting for 35 per cent of India's total pharma exports) have also been excluded from the tariffs, the report states. However, the overarching risk of sector-specific tariff action remains. India has one of the highest numbers of US FDA-approved manufacturing facilities catering to the generic medicine requirements of the US. While tariff uncertainties persist, the sector's fundamental competitive advantages offer some resilience, the report observes.

7 coal blocks successfully auctioned in 12th round, to create 7,098 jobs: Centre

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) The government on Friday said that a total of seven coal blocks have been successfully auctioned, comprising three fully explored and four partially explored coal blocks. These blocks are expected to generate an annual revenue of approximately Rs 719.90 crore (excluding partially explored blocks), likely to attract a capital investment of around Rs 787.50 crore, and create 7,098 employment opportunities. The Coal Ministry launched the 12th round of coal block auctions for commercial mining on March 27. In the forward auctions, held from July 28 to July 31, a total of seven coal blocks have been auctioned. These seven blocks hold a combined geological reserve of approximately 1,761.49 million tonnes. The cumulative Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of these blocks stands at 5.25 MTPA (excluding partially



explored coal blocks), according to the ministry. The auctions witnessed intense competition, achieving an average revenue share of 26.70 per cent, the official statement added. Since the inception of commercial coal mining in 2020, a total of 131 coal blocks have been auctioned successfully, with a production capacity of 277.31 million tonnes per year. Once operationalised, these blocks will immensely contribute to enhancing domestic coal production and to making the country self-reliant in the coal sector. Collectively, these blocks are expected to generate annual revenue of Rs 39,359 crore, capital investment of Rs 41,597 crore and provide employment for 3,74,916 people in coal-bearing regions. Meanwhile, India's total coal production has already crossed the 1 billion tonnes (BT) mark in the financial year 2024-25, and the coal output of the country's largest company, Coal India Limited (CIL), is targeted to cross the 1 billion tonnes mark by 2026-27. Coal India Ltd produced 781.07 million tonnes in 2024-25, and the target for 2026-27 has been fixed at 1,004.00 billion tonnes. Most of the country's coal requirement is met through indigenous production.

India's textiles exports crossed \$37.75 billion in 2024-25: Minister

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) India's overall exports of textiles & apparel surged past \$37.75 billion in 2024-25, which represented a 5 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of 35.87 billion for the previous financial year, the Parliament was informed. The government is implementing several schemes to enhance investments, generate employment opportunities and boost exports in the textile sector, Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. It has approved seven sites for the setting up of PM MITRA Parks, one each in Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. Infrastructure works worth Rs 1,197.33 crore for providing external infrastructure till the Park gates have been started by various state governments, and an expenditure of Rs 291.61



crore has been incurred so far, the minister said. The government is also implementing the National Handloom Development Programme and the Raw Material Supply Scheme to modernise and strengthen the handloom sector and for the welfare of handloom workers across the country. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to eligible handloom agencies and workers for raw materials, procurement of upgraded looms & accessories, solar lighting units, construction of workshops, product diversification & design innovation, technical and common infrastructure, marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, concessional loans under weavers' MUDRA scheme and social security, the minister said. Besides, the government is implementing the Samarth scheme for capacity building in the textiles sector. The scheme aims to provide demand-driven, placement-oriented skilling programmes to supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organised textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles.

GCCs in India projected to reach over 2,200 by 2030

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) The number of Global Capability Centres (GCC) in India are expected to increase from 1,700 to over 2,200 by 2030, a report said on Friday. There will be a 25-30 per cent increase in REIT asset under management (AUM) in the coming years due to a wider range of asset classes and a steady stream of investable assets, said domestic investment bank SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS) in its report. Leasing for office spaces broke the previous record by 20 per cent in CY24, with rents increasing and vacancy decreasing. Momentum continues in CY25, with activity particularly strong in Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Pune, according to the report by investment banking arm of State Bank of India (SBI). GCC were the main demand source, with multinational firms using India for core activities rather than labour arbitrage. The report predicted 1.3 times growth

for these facilities in the next few years. Flex spaces saw 43 per cent YoY growth in leasing in H1 CY25, recording the highest ever leasing in a six-month period ever. "Formalisation of the sector, which started with RERA and IBC has reached a crescendo. These factors have increased the thirst for funds. Promoters have tapped into the QIP route aggressively in FY25 to raise equity," the report mentioned. Alternate investment funds (AIFs) are increasingly involved in the high-risk, high-reward early stage of land purchase and construction finance. Real estate was their largest investment sector in CY25, roughly double the next sector, the report said. With several regulatory actions in favour of institutional capital and sectoral cashflows stabilising, the trend of diverse fundraising (IPOs, AIFs, sovereign wealth funds etc.) will continue, the report added.

India has 29,277 EV charging stations, Karnataka leads: Minister

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) There are now a total of 29,277 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the country, the Parliament was informed. Karnataka leads with 6,097 EV charging stations, followed by Maharashtra at 4,155 and Uttar Pradesh at 2,326, Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, told the Lok Sabha in a written reply. The Power Ministry issued the 'Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure-2024', in September last year, and the 'Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Battery Swapping and Charging Stations', in January this year, which lay down standards and protocols for developing a nationwide network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, battery charging, and battery swapping stations. "An allocation of Rs 2,000 crore has been made



under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme to support the "setting up of adequate public charging infrastructure for various categories of electric vehicles" on a pan-India basis in consultation with ministries, states and other stakeholders," informed the minister. The PM E-DRIVE scheme was launched in October 2024 to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) through demand incentives and expand EV charging infrastructure nationwide. The Centre has allocated Rs 10,900 crore for subsidies to EVs under this scheme. When it comes to Tier-2 cities, there are as many as 4,625 EV charging stations operational in the country (as on April 1, 2025). Meanwhile, the government has supported a total of 18,84,905 electric vehicles (EVs) under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme till June 30 this year. Under the FAME-II scheme, the government supported 16,29,600 vehicles. The FAME-II scheme sanctioned a total of Rs 912.50 crore for the installation of 9,332 EV PCS, out of which 8,885 EVPCS have been installed (as on June 30), said Varma.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Reviews Development in Raisen, Orders Strict Action Against Fertiliser Black Marketing and Focus on Welfare Schemes

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, visited his parliamentary constituency Vidisha yesterday, and held a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) in Raisen. The meeting involved in-depth discussions on public welfare issues such as dead-ditch, black marketing of fertilisers, counterfeit fertilisers, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Lakhpati Didis under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, water infrastructure, and the progress of the work undertaken energy department. "Selling fake fertiliser is a grave sin - take strict action against offenders" The Union Minister obtained scheme-wise information during the review of the agriculture department's work in the district.



He directed that strictest action be taken against people who are engaged in black marketing or selling counterfeit fertilisers, as it amounts to a grave injustice against farmers. He also inquired about the procurement of 'moong' (green gram) and instructed officials to inspect procurement centers. "Focus on public welfare and development while working" The Union Minister Shri Chouhan urged public representatives and officials to make Raisen a model district in terms of development and welfare. He directed them to tour their respective areas and ensure that eligible individuals who have not yet received benefits under any scheme are included at the earliest. Construction projects should be completed on time with intensive monitoring, the minister emphasised. "PM Awas installations must be released on

time" While reviewing the work of the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) - Awas Plus, Shri Chouhan instructed that the scheme should be implemented in such a way that beneficiaries receive their installments on time. He stressed on ensuring zero negligence in construction works and called for rigorous monitoring at the district level to ensure timely completion. In the fiscal year 2024-25, as many as 27,981 houses have been

approved across all Gram Panchayats of the district - 4,825 are complete, and 23,156 are under progress. "Raisen district has 43,613 Lakhpati Didis" Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the progress under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission and asked for a detailed count of Lakhpati Didis. He weighed on the fact that more and more women should be empowered to become Lakhpati Didis through a concrete

action plan. It has been said that the district currently has 43,613 Lakhpati Didis. "Connect every village to main roads" During a review of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the Minister directed that every village be connected to main roads, ensuring seamless rural connectivity and improved access to services. It was reported that under the 2024-25 plan, 30 roads covering 276.236 km have been sanctioned, of which 28 roads have been completed. Similarly, of 13 sanctioned bridges, 9 have been completed. The meeting also reviewed the work of National Highways Authority of India. "Agriculture officials must inspect crops in the fields" The Minister directed agriculture officers to visit fields regularly and advise farmers about appropriate pesticides in case of crop diseases.

GST collections rise 7.5 pc in July to Rs 1.96 lakh cr

Mumbai, May 30 (GNS) India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose to Rs 1.96 lakh crore in July, up 7.5 per cent from the same month of the previous year, according to government data released. The increase was driven by higher revenue from both domestic transactions and imports, reflecting steady economic activity, though the growth pace was slower than in recent months. Between April and July this year, gross GST revenue stood at Rs 8.18 lakh crore -- marking a 10.7 per cent jump from Rs 7.39 lakh crore in the same period of 2024. In July, the total gross GST collection comprised Rs 35,470 crore from Central GST, Rs 44,059 crore from State GST, Rs 1,03,536 crore from Integrated GST (including Rs 51,626 crore from imports), and Rs 12,670 crore from cess (including Rs 1,086 crore from imports). While July marked the seventh consecutive

month with collections above Rs 1.8 lakh crore, the figure was lower than the Rs 2.1 lakh crore average seen in the first quarter of FY26. GST receipts had hit a record Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April before easing to Rs 2.01 lakh crore in May. After adjusting for refunds, the net GST revenue for July stood at Rs 1,68,588 crore, just 1.7 per cent higher than Rs 1,65,800 crore a year ago. The modest growth was due to a sharp 66.8 per cent surge in refunds, which touched Rs 27,147 crore for the month compared to Rs 16,275 crore in July 2024. For the April-July period, net GST revenue rose 8.4 per cent to Rs 7.11 lakh crore from Rs 6.56 lakh crore the previous year. State-wise performance was mixed. Smaller northeastern states posted strong gains, with Tripura leading at 41 per cent growth, followed by Meghalaya (26 per cent), Sikkim (23 per cent).

India's First Green Hydrogen Plant Begins Operations at Kandla Port

Gandhinagar, May 30 (GNS) Union Ports, Shipping & Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday inaugurated the indigenously made 1 MW Green Hydrogen Power Plant at the Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla in Gujarat. The plant is capable of producing approximately 140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually and is poised to play a crucial role in maritime decarbonisation and sustainable port operations.

The minister praised the establishment of a fully Aatmanirbhar, future-ready hydrogen ecosystem built entirely by Indian engineers and called it an inspiration for ports across the country to adopt eco-friendly and innovative technologies. He also lauded DPA's continuous commitment to green initiatives, citing the earlier deployment of India's first Made-in-India all-electric green tug for operations



at the port. Recalling the Prime Minister's laying of the foundation stone for a 10 MW Green Hydrogen Plant during his visit to Bhuj on May 26, Sonowal appreciated the swift execution of the project. The commissioning of the 1 MW module within just four months, as part of the larger 10 MW project, reflects a new benchmark for the implementation of India's green hydrogen ecosystem.

"Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) has turned that vision into reality, a shining example of speed, scale, and skill under Maritime India Vision

2030," the minister said. This milestone stands as a powerful symbol of India's green transformation under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reinforces the nation's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions, Sonowal said. "Congratulating the leadership of DPA and the engineering excellence of L&T, the Minister said: "I commend the entire team of Deendayal Port Authority, led by the Chairman, and appreciate the engineers of L&T for delivering this complex project with remarkable speed and precision."

India's power demand to rise 4 pc in 2025, renewable energy output surges: IEA

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) India's electricity demand is expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2025, as cooler summer temperatures in the first half of the year (H1 2025) reduced consumption and pushed the annual peak load to September, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its mid-year electricity market update. The Paris-based agency said industrial activity was also impacted by global economic uncertainties in the first half of the year, leading to just 1.4 per cent YoY growth in demand between January and June 2025.

However, demand is expected to pick up in the second half, reaching an overall growth rate of 4 per cent for the year. For 2026, the IEA forecasts a stronger 6.6 per cent growth, driven by increased industrial and services sector activity and rising use of air conditioners.

According to Ministry of Power estimates cited by



the IEA, India's peak electricity load this year could touch 270 GW -- up 8 per cent from last year -- and is likely to occur in September instead of the summer months. The peak will be met by expanding generation capacity, the report said. The government is also considering setting air conditioner temperature standards between 20°C and 28°C, which could potentially cut peak demand by as much as 60 GW by 2035.

On the generation front, renewable energy sources posted strong growth in the first half of 2025. Combined output from solar and wind plants rose 20 per cent YoY, raising their share in the electricity mix to nearly 14 per cent from 11 per cent in the same period previous year. Solar PV generation was up 25 per cent and wind generation by nearly 30 per cent. Hydropower output rose 16 per cent year-on-year due to improved water

availability, while nuclear generation increased 14 per cent, helped by the commissioning of the 700 MW Unit-7 at Rajasthan's nuclear power station in March. Its twin, Unit-8, is expected to start operations in 2025-26, part of India's plan to reach 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047 under the Nuclear Energy Mission.

The surge in low-emission power generation, along with slower demand growth, led to a 3 per cent

drop in coal-fired electricity generation in the first half of 2025 -- the first such decline in the first half of a year since 2020.

Gas-fired generation fell sharply by around 30 per cent, returning to 2023 levels. For the full year, coal-based power output is expected to edge up 0.5 per cent before growing 1.6 per cent in 2026, while gas-based generation is likely to decline 3 per cent in 2025 and then rebound 7 per cent in 2026.

Nuclear output is expected to rise 15 per cent this year and 19 per cent next year, while solar generation could grow 40 per cent in 2025 and 28 per cent in 2026. Wind power is projected to see growth of about 10 per cent in both years, and hydropower is set to expand 7 per cent in 2025 and 10 per cent in 2026. The IEA also projected that India's emissions intensity will fall by 3.8 per cent annually.

Nifty, Sensex open lower as new Trump tariffs kick in

Mumbai, May 30 (GNS) The Indian markets started the day on the lower side on Friday, tracking weak global cues amid new Trump tariffs. The pharmaceutical stocks took the biggest hit, with Nifty Pharma declining 2.75 per cent. At 9.25 am, Nifty 50 was down 51 points or 0.21 per cent from yesterday's close, now at 24,716, while the BSE Sensex has slipped 179 points or 0.22 per cent, trading at 81,005.

Among broad market indices, both BSE MidCap and BSE SmallCap rose 0.05 per cent. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty FMCG index was an outlier with a gain of 1.46 per cent. Apart from strong selling in pharma stocks, Nifty IT shed 0.80 per cent, the Nifty Metal index fell 0.99 per cent.

Among Nifty stocks, Hindustan Unilever (HUL) showed biggest gains with 4.45 per cent surge, followed by Tata Consumer Products, Hero MotoCorp,

Maruti Suzuki, and Trent. Among laggards, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories took the lead slipping 1.41 per cent followed by Cipla, ONGC, Larsen & Toubro, and Tata Steel.

"Despite Nifty's bounce yesterday, the index remains vulnerable unless it sustains a move above the 24,800 mark. A close above this level could potentially open the path toward the 25,000 level. On the downside, immediate support is at 24,600, followed by 24,500," said Hardik Matalia from Choice Equity Broking. "As elevated volatility and conflicting technical signals prevail, traders are advised to follow a cautious 'sell-on-rise' approach, especially when using leverage. Book partial profits during rallies and maintain tight trailing stop-losses. Fresh long positions should be considered only if the Nifty manages to sustain above the 25,000 mark," Matalia added.

India overtakes Japan as world's 3rd largest solar energy producer: Minister



New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi has said that India has surpassed Japan to become the third-largest producer of solar energy globally, which is a significant development in the nation's clean energy development.

India produced 1,08,494 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of solar power, more than Japan, which produced 96,459 GWh, Joshi stated, citing data from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The minister has shared the update via a post on

the social media platform X. "India has outpaced Japan in solar energy generation — producing 1,08,494 GWh compared to Japan's 96,459 GWh — and is now the world's third-largest solar power producer," the Minister said.

Thanks to the visionary leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodiji, India is leading the way in the global clean energy revolution, he further wrote. IRENA, a global agency that supports countries in their transition to sustainable energy, provides comprehensive data and policy support

for renewable energy development worldwide.

The development comes as India pushes forward with its ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030 through a diversified energy strategy.

In addition to its solar success, India is also expanding its wind energy portfolio. Earlier last month, the minister informed the Parliament that the installed wind energy capacity in India had reached 51.67 GW as of June 30 this year.

According to data presented by the minister in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the country's wind energy capacity has been steadily growing over the last three fiscal years, from 2,275.55 MW added in 2023-2024 to 3,253.39 MW added in 2024-2025 and 1,637.02 MW of new capacity installed in the April-June quarter of 2025-2026.

Ola Electric's market share halves, July sales plunge over 57 pc



Mumbai, May 30 (GNS) Ola Electric, once the leader in India's electric two-wheeler market, is seeing its dominance fade fast as the company sold 17,848 units in July -- a steep 57.29 per cent drop from 41,802 units sold a year ago, the government's VAHAN data showed.

The Bhavish Aggarwal-led company's market share dropped to 17.35 per cent in July, compared to 38.83 per cent in the same month previous year. This decline has badly hit Ola Electric's market value. Its market capitalisation has fallen by more than 45 per cent, from Rs 33,521

crore (\$3.95 billion) to Rs 18,190.2 crore (\$2.14 billion). The stock is now trading at around Rs 41.2, well below its listing price of Rs 76. Soon after listing, the shares had touched an all-time high of Rs 157.4. In last six months, the shares have dropped over 43.3 per cent or Rs 31.69. On year-to-date (YTD) basis, the shares of the company dropped by over 52 per cent or Rs 44.84.

The company's volumes have also fallen sharply month-on-month, as it continues to face growing competition and user complaints, as per multiple reports. The slump in sales

comes after a difficult financial performance. In Q1 FY26, Ola Electric reported a net loss of Rs 428 crore, up nearly 30 per cent from the same quarter previous year.

Revenue from operations fell by almost 50 per cent to Rs 828 crore. E-scooter deliveries in the quarter dropped from 1,25,198 units a year ago to 68,192 units this year.

In its recent shareholder letter, the company said it is focusing on "consolidating and institutionalising operations, improving margins, and preparing for the next phase of growth" with new products.

India's sugar production to rise 18 pc YoY, exports likely to touch 2 mn in next season

Mumbai, May 30 (GNS) India's sugar production is projected to rise 18 per cent to 34.90 million tonnes in the 2025-26 season starting in October, according to a forecast released by the Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

The increased production will take Indian sugar exports to 2 million tonnes between October 2025 and September 2026. In the current 2024-25 season (October-September), ISMA estimated sugar production at 26.10 million tonnes. "The sugar production is estimated to be higher at 34.90 million tonnes with upward bias," said ISMA President Gautam Goel. About 5 million tonnes of sugar can be diverted next season for ethanol production compared with 3.5 million tonnes in the current season, he added. The government has allowed ex-



ports of 1 million tonnes in the current season. ISMA had earlier urged the government to continue with the restrictions on ethanol imports, as the measure has spurred India's petrol blending program.

This spur, in turn, facilitated the timely payment of wages to sugarcane farmers. Goel said the industry body will seek "timely" permission for 2 million tonne sugar exports, increased diversion for ethanol. The industry also expects higher minimum selling prices for sugar and ethanol derived

from B molasses and cane juices, he added. Approximately 27 lakh tonnes of sugar have been diverted for ethanol production up to April 30, 2025, during the current season. An additional 6 to 7 lakh tonnes are expected to be diverted over the remaining season, according to ISMA data. For the 2025-26 season, ISMA forecasts higher sugar output in the top-producing states: Uttar Pradesh at 10.25 million tonnes, Maharashtra at 13.26 million tonnes, and Karnataka at 6.61 million tonnes.

Cabinet gives go-ahead for railway projects worth Rs 11,169 crore

New Delhi, May 30 (GNS) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday approved four multi-tracking railway projects with a total investment of Rs 11,169 crore, according to a cabinet communique.

These projects are the Itarsi-Nagpur 4th Line, the Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar)-Parbhani Doubling, the Aluabari Road-New Jalpaiguri 3rd and 4th Line, and the Dangoaposi-Jaroli 3rd and 4th Line. The four projects covering 13 districts across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by 574 km.

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian



Railways. The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to approximately 2,309 villages with a population of about 43.60 lakh.

These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, cement, clinker, gypsum, fly ash, containers, agricultural commodities, and petroleum products. The capacity augmenting works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 95.91 mil-

lion tonnes per annum, the statement said. "These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a New India, which will make people of the region 'Aatmanirbhar' by way of comprehensive development in the area, which will enhance their employment and self-employment opportunities," the communique said.

Swiggy's losses nearly double in Q1 to Rs 1,197 crore

Mumbai, May 30 (GNS) Swiggy Limited, the food delivery and quick commerce platform, on Thursday reported a net loss of Rs 1,197 crore year-on-year (YoY) for the June quarter (Q1 FY26), almost double the Rs 611 crore loss it posted in the same period previous year (Q1 FY25). On quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis, the Bengaluru-based firm posted a net loss of Rs 1,081 crore in the previous quarter (Q4 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.

The widening losses were mainly due to its Quick Commerce division, Instamart, where the financial strain deepened sharply. On an EBIT basis, losses from Instamart jumped to Rs 797 crore from Rs 379 crore a year ago. Swiggy's overall EBITDA loss also increased to Rs 954 crore, compared to Rs 544 crore in the same quarter previous year.

However, the food and grocery delivery major re-

corded a 53.9 per cent jump in its revenue from operations to Rs 4,961 crore during the June quarter against Rs 3,222 crore in Q1 FY25.

However, the company recorded strong growth in revenue, which rose 54 per cent to Rs 4,961 crore from Rs 3,222 crore in the year-ago quarter. Revenue from the food delivery business stood at Rs 1,799 crore, up from Rs 1,515 crore, while Quick Commerce revenue more than doubled to Rs 806 crore from Rs 374 crore. The food delivery segment showed operational improvement, with EBIT rising to Rs 202 crore from Rs 67 crore previous year. But losses continued to grow in supply chain, distribution, and platform innovation. Gross order value (GOV) for Swiggy's B2C business climbed 45 per cent YoY to Rs 14,797 crore. Food delivery GOV grew 18.8 per cent to Rs 8,086 crore, while Quick Commerce GOV surged 108 per cent to Rs 5,655 crore.

State to Buy Every Grain of Yasangi Paddy: Uttam

Hyderabad, May 30 (GNS): State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday assured farmers that the Telangana Government would procure every last grain of paddy cultivated during the ongoing Yasangi season, including rain-soaked stocks affected by unseasonal showers.

Addressing a review meeting on paddy procurement held at the Collectorate conference hall, Uttam Kumar said the government was firmly standing by farmers and would ensure that no cultivator suffered losses due to adverse weather conditions.

The meeting was attended by Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, IT and



Industries Minister Duddula Sridhar Babu, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, and senior district officials.

The Minister said the government was conducting district-level reviews and field visits to accelerate procurement operations and ensure timely support to farmers. He instructed the Revenue, Civil Supplies and Police de-

partment officials to work in coordination and complete procurement operations without causing inconvenience to farmers.

The Minister said payments for procured paddy would be credited directly into farmers' bank accounts within 48 hours.

He also directed officials to temporarily utilise sand transport vehicles for paddy transportation and unload-

ing activities for the next four to five days to handle the increased procurement volume. Referring to the record Yasangi crop yield this season, Uttam Kumar Reddy asked officials to ensure safe transportation and storage of procured paddy with proper precautions.

Speaking on the occasion, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said farmers had produced an excellent paddy crop this

season and assured them that every grain cultivated would be purchased at the announced Minimum Support Price (MSP). He reiterated that even rain-soaked grain would be procured and said large amounts had already been credited to farmers through procurement payments. Sridhar Babu also said the government stood firmly with farmers and would ensure the procurement of the entire paddy output produced this season.

District Collector Anurag Jayanti informed the meeting that 2,75,686.220 metric tonnes of paddy had already been procured in the district so far. He said even rain-drenched grain was being purchased to ensure that farmers did not face any hardship.

Telangana moving rapidly towards green energy hub: Bhatti



Hyderabad, May 30 (GNS): Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said the state government is taking major steps to promote eco-friendly energy resources and transform the state into a Green Energy Hub.

During a visit to Bonakal mandal in Khammam district, the Deputy CM inaugurated rooftop solar systems under the Model Solar Village initiative and launched solar-powered agricultural pump sets in farmers' fields.

He said Bonakal and Kogal mandals are being developed as fully solarised mandals under a pilot project. Bhatti Vikramarka said rooftop solar panels would help reduce electricity bills

while generating additional monthly income for households. He added that farmers could also earn income through surplus power generation from solar pump sets installed in agricultural fields. The Deputy CM stated that the government has identified 81 villages as Model Solar Villages and is encouraging farmers and rural households to utilise solar schemes. He also said women's self-help groups are being involved in managing solar power projects to promote financial self-reliance.

Referring to the power sector, the Deputy CM said Telangana's electricity demand had risen from 15,000 MW in 2023-24 to 18,542 MW, but the government en-

sured uninterrupted supply through advance planning and infrastructure strengthening. On agriculture, Bhatti Vikramarka assured that the government would procure rain-soaked paddy at MSP and stated that Rs 5,000 crore had been released for maize procurement.

He accused the Centre of failing to lift procured grain despite repeated requests from the state government.

The Deputy CM also challenged the BRS leadership to an open debate on paddy procurement and welfare measures for farmers, asserting that the Congress government was committed to strengthening agriculture and rural livelihoods in Telangana.

Kavitha says TRS preparing 'revolutionary' development plan



Hyderabad, May 30 (GNS): Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday said the party is preparing a comprehensive development plan aimed at transforming the future of all sections of Telangana society and bringing "revolutionary changes" to the state. Speaking at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office in Banjara Hills after former minister Boda Janardhan joined the party along with his followers, Kavitha said the entry of the senior leader would strengthen the party further.

She accused the Congress government of neglecting Singareni and RTC workers and alleged that the Revanth Reddy government was fail-

ing to fulfil promises made to employees and labourers.

Kavitha said the party was moving forward with a "Question, Fight and Resolve" approach and claimed that several public issues raised during the "Janam Bata" programme had already received government attention.

She also criticised the state government over RTC merger promises and labour wage issues, alleging that workers were being deceived despite assurances made before elections. Former minister Boda Janardhan praised Kavitha's leadership and said he joined the party after being impressed by its vision and agenda for Telangana's development.

BJP alleges Congress Govt neglecting paddy procurement in Telangana

Hyderabad, May 30 (GNS): BJP Telangana State President N Rmchander Rao on Thursday accused the Congress government in Telangana of showing complete negligence towards paddy procurement and failing to protect the interests of farmers across the state.

Speaking to the media after inspecting paddy procurement centres in Chintapally mandal of Nalgonda district and interacting with farmers, Rao alleged that the state government had failed to make adequate arrangements despite knowing that Nalgonda is one of the leading paddy-producing districts in Telangana.

He said the BJP has been conducting the statewide "Rythu Gosa - BJP Bharosa" yatra over the past three days to understand the hardships faced by farmers at procurement centres. The yatra began in Kulacherla of Vikarabad district and concluded in Sarangapur of Nirmal district under the leadership of BJP Legislature Party leader Maheshwar Reddy. Rao alleged that



paddy procurement had remained stalled for nearly 25 days at several centres, causing severe distress among farmers. He criticised the shortage of essential facilities such as gunny bags, transport vehicles and tarpaulins at IKP centres, terming it a reflection of the government's inefficiency.

The BJP leader further alleged that although the Centre provides sufficient funds for procurement-related expenses, the state government was burdening farmers by collecting hamali charges and deducting grain in the name of moisture content and wastage.

Expressing concern over

recent unseasonal rains damaging paddy, maize and sunflower crops at procurement centres, Rao demanded that the state government immediately procure every grain, including rain-soaked produce, and stop illegal collections from farmers.

He urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the concerned ministers to respond urgently to the issues being faced by the farming community. Adding to his criticism, Ramchander Rao said that farmers who had worked hard throughout the season were being forced to wait for days at procurement centres without proper support from officials. He alleged that delays in lifting procured paddy and the lack of basic infrastructure had increased the risk of crop damage, particularly during unexpected rains. Rao demanded that the government deploy additional staff and resources to ensure smooth procurement operations and provide immediate relief to farmers who suffered losses due to adverse weather conditions.

MGNREGS works gain pace in Telangana as daily labour attendance crosses 16 lakh

Hyderabad, May 30 (GNS): Works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are progressing rapidly across Telangana, with daily labour attendance crossing 16 lakh due to continuous monitoring and special initiatives taken by the state government.

According to officials, labour attendance, which remained around seven lakh in the first week of May due

to intense heat and technical issues, has now risen to nearly 16.24 lakh workers per day following regular review meetings conducted by Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka and senior officials.

Special Chief Secretary Dana Kishore and Commissioner Divya Devarajan are conducting daily video conferences with district and mandal-level officials to review the progress of employment works.

Districts including Vikarabad, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Nalgonda and Rajanna Sircilla have recorded strong performance, while special teams have been deployed in districts with lower participation levels to improve attendance. Minister Seethakka said the government is committed to providing work opportunities to every family seeking employment and ensuring that no village remains without work.

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Kiora Care launches Ren-IQ test for early CKD detection

Hyderabad, May 30 (GNS): Hyderabad-based kidney health company Kiora Care has launched "Ren-IQ," a precision diagnostic test aimed at detecting chronic kidney disease (CKD) at an earlier stage among high-risk patients, particularly diabetics and those suffering from hypertension. A company statement on Thursday said that nearly 13-16 per cent of Indian adults are affected by CKD, with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh recording some of the highest prevalence rates in the country. The company said many cases remain undetected due to dependence on conventional creatinine-based tests that may not accurately reflect kidney damage in South Asian populations. Ren-IQ uses Cystatin C as its primary biomarker, which the company claims provides a more accurate assessment of kidney function independent of muscle mass, age, sex, or race.

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