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Modi Asks States To Harness AI, Tackle Social Risks, Prepare For El Nino Impact

NEW DELHI, Jun 11 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked states to balance the opportunities of artificial intelligence with safeguards against emerging social challenges, such as cyber fraud and drug abuse, while warning of risks posed by El Nino conditions and calling for stronger water conservation measures.

Chairing the 11th Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog, Modi also noted that at a time when many major economies are facing uncertainty and economic challenges, India's growth story continues to inspire the world. He emphasised the need to strengthen the nation's resolve towards self-reliance and highlighted the importance of adopting and implementing global best prac-



actices, particularly in the renewable energy sector. Referring to India's recently concluded trade agreements with several countries, Modi asked states to create opportunities for youth and MSMEs and equip stakeholders to effectively leverage benefits from these agreements.

He also advised states to at-

tract investments from partner countries. Underscoring the importance of cooperative federalism, Modi stated that the centre and states must work together to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat, according to an official statement. The Prime Minister stressed that the vision of Viksit Bharat should become

the collective resolve of every state, district, block and village.

In his remarks, he also highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to address emerging social challenges, such as drug abuse and cyber fraud, through preventive measures, awareness campaigns and effective governance. Highlighting the im-

portance of good governance, transparency, and infrastructure for attracting investment, Modi asked states to focus on branding, ease of doing business, and emerging opportunities in sectors such as data centres and artificial intelligence. Modi said the focus should also be on next-generation manufacturing.

He further said that artificial intelligence (AI) should be viewed as an opportunity and called for greater efforts to equip people with the skills required for the future economy.

The day-long meeting was attended by all 28 states and 5 Union Territories. It is the first time that the chief ministers of

all 28 states participated in the annual meeting.

Modi termed India's 70 crore youth its asset, and urged states to transform this "demographic dividend into development dividend". According to the statement, the chief ministers/Lt Governors/Administrators congratulated Prime Minister Modi on completing 12 years in his office. They also expressed solidarity with the Centre to withstand the global geopolitical crisis, strengthen India's resilience on energy requirements and sustain its growth trajectory.

The Prime Minister noted that the discussions were constructive and reflected the aspirations, hopes, experiences, best practices, and challenges of states, the statement said.

TG CM meets PM Modi

Seeks Centre's support for key infra projects



Hyderabad, June 11 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and sought the Centre's support for several key infrastructure projects in the state.

He urged the Centre to facilitate discussions with the Maharashtra government to ensure the efficient utilisation of Godavari waters for irrigation and drinking water needs, emphasising that the use of Godavari water is crucial for Telangana's future requirements.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO)

here, the Chief Minister also appealed to the Prime Minister to approve the proposals for Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion. He explained that proposals worth Rs 38,595 crore had been submitted for expanding the Metro network by 122.9 kilometres across seven corridors under Phase-2 and requested that the project be sanctioned as a joint venture between the Central and State governments.

The Chief Minister also sought immediate approval for the Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR) works.

Continued On Page 4

India continues to be among world's fastest-growing major economies: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Jun 11 (GNS): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday that India continues to be among the world's fastest-growing major economies, with GDP growth projected to remain robust at around 7 per cent over the medium term.

Highlighting India's remarkable economic progress in recent years through the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and India's commitment to the mantra of 'Reform, Perform, and Transform', Finance Minister said that our growth is primarily domestic-demand led, with



a largely market-determined exchange rate.

Participating in the virtual meeting on 'Global Convergence for Growth Summit' from New Delhi, she said in today's interconnected world, prosperity and challenges are shared, but the consequences of

conflicts and uncertainty fall disproportionately on developing countries and the Global South.

"The situation demands coordinated global action. We must strengthen multilateral cooperation to build resilient economies, accelerate sustainable develop-

ment, and ensure inclusive growth that benefits all," she said. The Summit was held to bring together leaders of advanced and emerging economies to discuss ways of supporting a balanced growth anchored in an efficient global framework. French President Emmanu-

el Macron presided over the Summit that witnessed participation of the top leadership from all the G7 nations, India, Brazil, China, Kenya, South Korea and IMF.

On the issue of global imbalances, the Finance Minister said, "Not all imbalances are alike, some reflect

differences in demographics, development stages, resource endowments, or economic structures. Our focus should, therefore, remain on excessive and persistent imbalances while recognising that the scale of domestic needs varies significantly across countries."

Speaking for the Global South, she further said that "The burden of adjustment should not fall disproportionately on countries that are not the drivers of these imbalances. India, like many developing economies, remains largely peripheral to both the origination and propagation of

CDS Subramani stresses jointness during visit to Western Air Command HQ



NEW DELHI, Jun 11 (GNS): Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani on Thursday highlighted jointness, Atmanirbharta and innovation as he addressed officers at the Western Air Command headquarters.

A message from Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff, said, "General NS Raja Subramani #CDS made his maiden visit to HQ Western Air Command @hqwacaf." "Interacting with Air Mshl George Thomas, AOC-in-C, & addressing officers, he underscored the transformative power of #JAI — Jointness, Atmanirbharta & Innovation. He highlighted Human Resource Capital as the ultimate force multiplier for building a future-ready, self-reliant Defence Forces," it said. General Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM,

VSM, assumed charge as the third CDS and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs on May 31.

General Subramani asserted that they would work in unison with all stakeholders as part of the whole-of-nation approach to further strengthen national security. He emphasised that he would work towards enhancing jointness, integration and synergy in the Defence Forces and focus on accelerated development, induction and integration of indigenous weapons to achieve Aatmanirbharta. The CDS called for innovation in thought and action and greater collaboration among all stakeholders to drive capability development and modernisation.

He complimented the members of the Defence Forces on their professionalism and operational

readiness and reiterated his commitment to their training, while ensuring the welfare of veterans and Veer Naris. He urged all ranks to embrace change, uphold the military ethos and relentlessly strive towards achieving excellence in all spheres.

A highly decorated officer with over four decades of service, General Subramani was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. His distinguished career includes a number of key Command and Staff appointments, including General Officer Commanding, 2 Corps, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, and the Vice Chief of the Army Staff. Prior to assuming the appointment of CDS, he served as Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat.

SC says municipal body not liable under MVA for injuries caused by falling tree branch

New Delhi, Jun 11 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Thursday held that a municipal authority cannot be saddled with liability under the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) for injuries caused by the fall of a tree branch on a stationary autorickshaw during heavy rain, ruling that such an incident do not arise out of the "use of a motor vehicle" in the manner contemplated under the law. However, a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh, invoking its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to ensure "complete justice", enhanced compensation payable to the injured claimant from Rs 17.10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by the Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), challenging a Karnataka High Court judgment which had apportioned liability for compensation among the municipal corporation, the insurer of the autorickshaw, and the Horticulture Department of the Karnataka government. The case arose from an incident on June 23, 2007, when respondent K.K.



Umesh Kumar was travelling in an autorickshaw from Queens Road to Chinna-swamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Due to heavy rain, the vehicle was stopped by the roadside. While it was stationed under a tree, a branch detached and fell on the autorickshaw, causing serious injuries to the passenger. A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal had dismissed the compensation claim, treating the incident as a natural calamity.

After multiple rounds of litigation, the Karnataka High Court awarded compensation of Rs 17.10 lakh and directed that 25 per cent be paid by the BBMP, 50 per cent by the insurer of the autorickshaw, and the remaining 25 per cent by the state Horticulture Department. Examining the concept of "Act of God" and the liability

of public authorities, the Supreme Court observed that municipal corporations are under a duty to maintain roadside trees and ensure periodic upkeep.

"A tree has been on the side of the road for many years. Because it is part of the city, the Municipal Corporation does have a duty to ensure that those trees are looked after, from the point of view of not only keeping the trees hale and healthy but also that periodic maintenance thereof is undertaken to ensure that unfortunate incidents such as these do not happen," the Justice Karol-led Bench said.

At the same time, the top court cautioned against imposing unrealistic standards on civic authorities.

"It would be unrealistic to expect that authorities of the Corporation can main-

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Quad continues to gain strategic relevance in changing global order

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS): The future utility of the Quad will not be defined by its transformation into an 'Asian NATO' or by rhetorical rivalry with Beijing. Instead, its relevance will depend on whether it can evolve into a flexible strategic mechanism capable of stabilising an increasingly fragmented maritime and economic order stretching from the Pacific to the Gulf, a report has stated. During the recent visit of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to India, the consistent public response underscored that New Delhi remains one of Washington's most important strategic partners, that the Quad continues to hold relevance, and that "cooperation is expand-

ing into maritime security, supply chains, AI, critical minerals, and energy". However, the broader debate surrounding the visit also reflected a persistent "misconception" — that the Quad's relevance is primarily contingent on how forcefully the United States chooses to confront China. This interpretation increasingly appears outdated, former Indian diplomat Raghu Gururaj wrote in 'India Narrative'. According to Gururaj, Quad's effectiveness should be assessed across a set of key strategic dimensions. "The Gulf region remains volatile. The possibility of escalation involving Iran, worsening disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, more



attacks on shipping infrastructure, or wider energy instability — all continue to cast uncertainty over global markets. Simultaneously, the Indo-Pacific faces persistent tensions in the South China Sea, Taiwan Strait,

and Indian Ocean. These are no longer disconnected issues," the seasoned diplomat mentioned. "The same shipping arteries that carry Gulf energy sustain Asian manufacturing, Indo-Pacific trade,

and global supply chains. A disruption in Hormuz reverberates through Tokyo, Mumbai, Singapore, Sydney, and beyond. The strategic geography of this century has effectively fused the Gulf and Indo-Pacific into one in-

terconnected maritime system. This is precisely where the Quad's future relevance emerges," he added. Gururaj stressed that the grouping's greatest strength is not rooted in collective defence commitments but

in the coordination of strategic capacity across member nations. "The United States provides unmatched naval reach and intelligence capabilities. India contributes geographic centrality across the Indian Ocean and growing maritime operational depth. Japan brings advanced technological and industrial capabilities. Australia contributes surveillance, interoperability, and regional connectivity across the Indo-Pacific sea lanes. Together, these capacities create a distributed stabilising framework rather than a formal alliance structure," he stated. "If the Quad can preserve freedom of navigation, coordinate naval presence, deter coercion, secure

choke-points, and maintain Indo-Pacific stability without becoming a formal alliance, then it remains strategically successful," he noted. He further said that the joint statement's emphasis on maritime domain awareness, undersea cable security, coast guard coordination, logistics interoperability, cyber resilience, and critical sea lanes points to the Quad's evolution into a "security network" rather than a formal alliance. Highlighting the significance of the Quad in the evolving global security landscape, Gururaj said, "What the ongoing Gulf War has demonstrated is that countries want balancing mechanisms but not bloc confrontation.

India's FTAs With Developed Economies To Drive Growth, Innovation, Quality Upgradation And Job Creation: Goyal



New Delhi, June 11 (GNS): India's strategy of signing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with developed economies is aimed at supporting the country's long-term growth ambitions by expanding global engagement, attracting investments, promoting innovation, creating jobs, upgrading quality standards and increasing India's participation in international trade," Goyal mentioned. He noted that countries across Europe, North America, the Gulf region, Australia and New Zealand possess higher per capita incomes, advanced technologies and significant capital resources, while India offers a young workforce, competitive costs and a rapidly expanding domestic market. The minister said India has signed nine FTAs over the last three to three-and-a-half years, covering 38 countries. According to him, these agreements are opening access to new markets, encouraging collaboration in emerging technologies and enabling greater integration into global value chains while generating opportunities for investment and employment.

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Highlighting India's Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Goyal said the pact has established a strong framework for trade, investment and innovation-led cooperation between India and countries such as Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland. He noted that under the agreement, the EFTA countries have committed to invest \$100 billion in India over 15 years and support the creation of one million direct jobs. Goyal said India is currently in the second year of implementing the agreement and discussions are actively progressing regarding investments under the framework. He added that the investment commitment formed an important element of the pact, creating a balanced arrangement that benefits both India and its partner countries.

New Bihar MLCs express gratitude, Nishant Kumar says will follow father Nitish Kumar's legacy

Patna: The candidates who were elected unopposed as Members of Legislative Council (MLC) in Bihar, expressed gratitude to the respective party leadership for trusting them with the opportunity. Minister Nishant Kumar exhibited confidence that he will work towards keeping up the JD-U supremo and former Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar's legacy of developmental works. All ten candidates who filed nominations for the Bihar Legislative Council elections — including nine vacant seats and one by-election seat — have been elected unopposed on Thursday. Talking to Min-



ister Nishant Kumar, who is also the son of former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, said: "I express my heartfelt thanks to my party for trusting me; I will try to live up to that trust and perform my duties sincerely. I will work towards taking ahead the develop-

mental works of my father, Nitish Kumar." "I will work towards ensuring women's empowerment, and carry forward Nitish Kumarji's works in the field of health and education, both as a Minister and as an MLC. We will try to make Bihar a developed state," he added.

JD-U leader Lalan Prasad, who was declared elected from the seat earlier occupied by former CM Nitish Kumar, said: "I am a party worker and will keep working like that. Moreover, I will draw the attention of Ministers to works that have been left incomplete in various parts of the state." Expressing his gratitude for the opportunity, Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas leader Ashraf Ansari said: "I have always tried to live up to the trust that the party President Chirag Paswan as well as other leaders have shown in me, and will try to further strengthen it. This trust is itself a responsibility." "There is no challenge,

because when the LJP-RV President is with us, we can face even the biggest of challenges. We have to work under his guidance, orders, and directions," he asserted. BJP leader Sanjay Mayukh echoed, saying: "I am extremely grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP President Nitin Nabin, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary for placing their faith on a party worker like me. Myself, along with Anil Thakur and Sheila Pandit have been declared elected unopposed." BJP candidate and Bhojpur actor Pawan Singh has also been declared elected unopposed.

Rs 1,500 Crore Funds To Boost Space Innovation, Commercialisation: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Thursday highlighted the government's financial support measures for the space sector, stating that the recently introduced Rs 1,000 crore Venture Capital Fund and Rs 500 crore Technology Adoption Fund will help drive innovation and commercialisation across the industry. Addressing the 10th IN-SPACe Industry Connect, the Minister called on industry leaders to scale up investments and participation in India's space ecosystem, saying that stronger financial backing and manufacturing



capabilities are essential for developing globally competitive indigenous technologies and reducing dependence on external sources. Dr. Singh said India's start-up ecosystem has already demonstrated remarkable innovation and technological capabili-

ties. However, he stressed that achieving leadership in the global space economy would require deeper involvement from established industries through enhanced funding, market access and execution capabilities. He described the open-

ing of India's space sector to private participation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as a landmark reform that transformed the country's approach towards strategic sectors. According to the Minister, the move unlocked India's entrepreneurial potential and significantly expanded opportunities for private enterprises within a short period. Highlighting policy measures supporting the sector, Dr. Singh said the Indian Space Policy 2023 has provided strategic direction and regulatory clarity for stakeholders. He added that the liberalisation of foreign direct investment (FDI) norms has attracted investments and

strengthened India's integration with global value chains. The Minister also credited the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for creating an enabling environment for private sector participation. He said the institution has played a key role in authorising, promoting and supervising non-governmental activities across the entire space value chain. Dr. Singh noted that government initiatives such as seed funding programmes, incubation support, skill development efforts and the AICTE-approved Space Technology curriculum are helping build a future-ready workforce for the expanding space industry.

1.49 Crore Domestic LPG Cylinders Delivered In Last 3 Days As Supply Stays Normal

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS): About 1.49 crore domestic LPG cylinders were delivered in the last three days against bookings of around 1.40 crore cylinders as normal supply of cooking gas for households continues to be maintained across the country despite the supply chain disruptions due to the Middle East conflict, according to an update issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. No dry-outs have been reported from any LPG distributorship across the country, the statement said. Online LPG cylinder bookings have increased to about 99 per cent, and delivery authentication code



(DAC) based deliveries have been increased to about 96 per cent to prevent diversion at the distributor level. DAC is received on the registered mobile number of the consumer. Around 9.42 Lakh PNG connections have been gasified since March this year, and infrastructure has been created for additional 3.12

Lakh connections, taking the total to 12.54 lakh connections with the Centre urging States and UTs to encourage migration of LPG consumers to PNG in areas with network availability. Further, about 9.44 lakh customers have been registered for new PNG connections. Similarly, adequate stocks of petrol and diesel

are available at all petrol pumps across the country, although unusually high sales and heavy crowding have been observed at retail outlets in certain areas, the statement said. The Middle East crisis has led to an abnormal increase in crude prices. However, to protect consumers, the Government of India has reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre. Meanwhile, surprise inspections by the oil PSUs are also continuing to check hoarding and black marketing in petroleum products. Penalties have been imposed on 19 LPG distributorships for indiscipline during the last three days.

Brazilian Plane Maker Embraer Bullish On Setting Up Line In India

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS): Brazilian plane manufacturer Embraer sees a major opportunity in setting up a base in India for its smaller jets as the company tries to position itself as an alternative to aerospace giants Airbus and Boeing, with airlines looking to cut soaring fuel costs and increasing delays in delivery of aircraft from the world's Big-2 plane makers, according to a report. "The company is now placing particular focus on India and the Gulf, two markets where it sees major growth opportunities for smaller, fuel-efficient aircraft capable of serving secondary cities and thinner



routes," the report in Gulf News said. At a media briefing in Sao Paulo, Embraer executives said discussions are progressing around a potential manufacturing and assembly presence in India. Embraer has signed an MOU with Adani Defence and Aerospace and expanded a framework to establish a final assembly line for Embraer's popular

E-Jets in India. "It's the cooperation with the partner to set up the line. Secondly, we need to get the commitments from the airlines... and the third one is the discussions that we have collectively also with the government," the report cited Embraer Commercial Aviation CEO Arjan Meijer as saying. Embraer is of the view that

India's next aviation growth phase will depend more on linking smaller cities across the country. India's UDAN scheme for regional air connectivity has already made headway in this direction. It said it sees strong potential for its E-jet family in the country, particularly in the 75-seat segment, as India continues to expand regional connectivity schemes.

AI 171 Crash: No mechanical faults found: Air India CEO



New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has, in an internal mail to the airline's staff, stated that the Preliminary Report into the Boeing Dreamliner crash in Ahmedabad has found no mechanical or maintenance issues with the aircraft or engines, and that all mandatory maintenance tasks had been completed. "There was no issue with the quality of fuel and no abnormality with the take-off roll. The pilots had passed their mandatory pre-flight breathalyser and there were no observations pertaining to their medical status,"

the letter, seen, further states. Wilson has also said that the report into the AI171 crash "has identified no cause nor made any recommendations, so I urge everyone to avoid drawing premature conclusions as the investigation is far from over." He said the airline will continue to co-operate with the investigators to ensure they have everything they need to conduct a thorough and comprehensive enquiry. "Until a final report or cause is tabled, there will no doubt be new rounds of speculation and more sensational

headlines. We must nevertheless remain focused on our task and be true to the values that have powered Air India's transformation journey over the past three years -- integrity, excellence, customer focus, innovation and teamwork," Wilson said in the letter. The Air India CEO has pointed out that the airline's top priorities are: "standing by the bereaved and those injured, working together as a team, and delivering a safe and reliable air travel experience to our customers around the world.

Build 'Viksit Gaon' to achieve Viksit Bharat goal by 2047: Minister

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Dr Pemasani Chandra Sekhar, on Monday called for a renewed push to transform villages into 'Viksit Gaon' (developed villages), as a necessary step towards achieving the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.

Speaking at the first meeting of the performance review committee of the Ministry of Rural Development here, Dr Sekhar said that a future where every rural family lives in a pucca house with basic amenities, every village is connected by quality roads, every youth has employment opportunities, and every woman is empowered and financially independent, is not a dream but an achievable reality. He said that to realise this vision, the Ministry must move forward with fresh energy, innovative think-



ing, and deep commitment. "We are not just implementing schemes, we are writing the next chapter of India's growth story," Dr Sekhar said, crediting the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cabinet Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the remarkable progress made in rural development. Highlighting the success of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Dr Sekhar said it has become a powerful tool

against rural unemployment and distress migration, especially during the agricultural lean seasons. He said with an annual investment between Rs 90,000 to Rs 1,00,000 crore, the scheme generates over 250 crore person-days of work annually, with more than 36 crore job cards issued and 15 crore active workers. The minister stressed the need to move beyond wage payments and focus on creating durable and productive assets through diversi-

fied projects. He also called for community involvement in selecting works and greater convergence with other development schemes. On the housing front, Dr Sekhar informed that more than 3.22 crore pucca houses have been built under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), helping families living in kutcha or dilapidated homes. He said the government has set a target of building an additional 2 crore houses by 2029, and encouraged the

use of eco-friendly, cost-effective, and region-specific construction technologies. Dr Sekhar also underlined the success of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), under which over 7.56 lakh kilometres of rural roads have been constructed so far. He suggested the creation of state-level road maintenance funds, use of community-based monitoring systems, and innovative financing models to ensure sustainability of road infrastructure.

PM Modi's efforts herald new revolution via biofuels: Puri

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effort in bringing a new revolution in India through biofuels, which has resulted in Namibia's entry into the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA). The Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister said that biofuel is an energy that is obtained from household and farm waste, grains or spoiled grains, and this environmentally-friendly, clean fuel is also a powerful medium to accelerate the country's development. "Namibia joins GBA. India's initiative towards clean energy and the expansion of the Global Biofuel Alliance family is another proof of PM Narendra Modi's far-sightedness on the mantra of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," the minister said in a post on X. Puri emphasised that the Prime Minister's efforts toward biofuels are bringing substantial change to the nation and improving

the lives of citizens. "PM Modi's efforts have brought a 'new revolution of change through biofuel' in India. This green fuel, which is powering India's development journey, is changing and improving the lives of people from villages to cities," the minister posted. The biofuel is not only helping farmers to generate income, but the development around it is creating new employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. "Along with increasing the income of farmers, this fuel is also creating new employment opportunities in rural areas," he added. In a recent conversation with IANS, the minister said that biofuel blending has reached 20 per cent this year, which was 1.4 per cent in 2014. India today stands strong as the third-largest biofuel producer in the world. According to official estimates, ethanol blending initiatives have improved farmer incomes over the past ten years.

Leading cryptocurrency Bitcoin surges past \$1,21,000 milestone for first time

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) Leading cryptocurrency Bitcoin surged past the \$1,21,000 milestone for the first time on Monday. According to data from CoinMarketCap, the cryptocurrency went up 2.75 per cent at \$1,21,097.94 in early trade. Market capitalisation of Bitcoin reached at \$2.41 trillion, up 2.85 per cent, with trading volumes at \$60.69 billion, up 33.12 per cent, the data showed. This year alone, the cryptocurrency has surged more than 29 per cent, according to reports. Ethereum, the second largest cryptocurrency, jumped 3.28 per cent to \$3,054.96, with market cap at \$368.77 billion and trade volume at \$21.62 billion, CoinMarketCap data showed. According to market watchers, Bitcoin's surge is driven by longer-term institutional buyers and this will propel it to \$125,000 in the next month or two. "Institutional demand remains a major driver, with



US Bitcoin ETFs surpassing \$50 billion in net inflows to date. BlackRock alone holds over \$65 billion in BTC, while corporate treasuries continue to accumulate," said Himanshu Maradiya, Founder and Chairman, CIFDAQ. Optimism is also fuelled by the US President Donald Trump administration's pro-crypto stance pushing for a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and easing ETF approval norms. "Macroeconomic shifts like a weaker dollar, rising treasury demand, and sovereign credit downgrades are further positioning BTC as a hedge. With regulatory clarity

improving and Coinbase entering the S&P 500, Bitcoin's case as a mainstream asset has never looked stronger," he added. Importantly, this rally is not purely retail-driven. It reflects the increasing role of virtual digital assets in diversified investment portfolios and a growing recognition of the value of Bitcoin. "Momentum is also being supported by advancements in tokenization, clearer regulatory frameworks, and the expanding adoption of Web3 infrastructure," said Kushal Manupati, Regional Growth and Ops Lead of South Asia at Binance.

Ola Electric's net loss widens to Rs 428 cr in Q1 FY26, revenue drops 50 pc

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) Bhavish Aggarwal-led electric two-wheeler maker Ola Electric on Monday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 428 crore in Q1 FY26, as revenue from operations also nosedived to Rs 828 crore — a 49.6 per cent year-on-year decline from Rs 1,644 crore revenue in the same quarter last fiscal. The net loss widened by nearly 30 per cent (year-on-year) from Rs 347 crore net loss in Q1 FY25 for the company, according to its stock exchange filing. The e-scooter deliveries were also hit year-on-year — from 1,25,198 in Q1 FY25 to 68,192 in Q1 FY26. The earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) loss was reported at Rs 237 crore against Rs 205 crore year-on-year. Ola Electric expects FY26 volumes to be around 3,25,000-3,75,000 vehicles and revenue to be around Rs 4,200-Rs 4,700 crore. "Our goal in this phase is to consolidate and institution-



alise our operations, improve our margins, and get ready for the next phase of growth driven by our expanding product portfolio," said the company in its shareholders' letter. The company said it is ready with in-house solutions for risks like rare earth magnets and Anti-lock Braking System (ABS). The share of Ola Electric Mobility was trading in the range of Rs 40-Rs 42 in early trade. The share recently touched its 52-week low of Rs 41.82, far below its 52-week

high of Rs 157.4. The long-term view is even more worrying. In the last six months, the share price has fallen by more than half -- 51.25 per cent -- and over the past year, it is down 53.9 per cent. In Q4 FY25, Ola Electric posted a net loss of Rs 870 crore, which was more than double the Rs 416 crore loss it had in the same quarter of the previous year. Its revenue from operations also fell by 62 per cent year-on-year (YoY), dropping to Rs 611 crore.

Nearly 70 pc APAC occupiers keen to expand warehousing operations in India: Survey

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) India has emerged as the most preferred destination for the logistics sector with nearly 70 per cent of Asia-Pacific occupiers planning to expand their warehousing footprint in the country over the next two years, according to a CBRE survey released on Monday.



This growing interest in India reflects the broader shift towards supply chain diversification, as companies aim to reduce dependency on single-market strategies, the survey states. According to the report's findings, the sector is showing strong confidence in India's market potential, with more than 80 per cent of India-based occupiers (both Indian and global firms with operations in India) planning to expand their warehousing portfolios over the next two years. Despite near-term uncertainties, the country remains a preferred destination for both global

and domestic corporates. According to the survey, nearly 90 per cent of India-based respondents expressed an intention to expand their logistics footprint over the next two to five years, indicating sustained long-term optimism. The sector is anticipating strong demand in South-East Asia and India across diverse segments, including third-party logistics (3PL), e-commerce, engineering and

manufacturing (E&M), auto & auto ancillary, and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Larger deals and modern facilities signal occupiers' shift towards future-proof, compliant, and ESG-aligned warehousing, painting a promising picture of the sector's forward momentum. The industrial and logistics sector is charting strong growth, driven by institutional capital, supportive regulatory reforms,

and strategic penetration into tier-II and tier-III cities. This upward trajectory is reinforced by the rise of the 3PL segment, increased outsourcing, and a growing focus on sustainability and compliance, the report states. Indian occupiers are displaying strong confidence in the country's logistics sector, with over 80 per cent expecting improved business performance in the next two years.

Indian automotive industry clocks deals worth \$1.3 billion in April-June

New Delhi, June 11 (GNS) The automotive industry in India maintained its strategic momentum in Q2 2025, recording a total of 29 transactions valued at \$1.3 billion, including public market activity, a report said.

The industry saw 28 deals worth \$946 million, excluding IPOs and QIPs, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's 'Q2 Automotive Dealtracker'. As per the report, the deal values declined 36 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ); however, they doubled compared to Q2 2024. "This indicates a clear pivot toward higher-value transactions, and it also translated into a notable jump in average deal size — from \$17 million to \$34 million," the report stated. The quarter's activity was led by autotech and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) segments, reflecting investor focus on scalable, tech-driven mobility solutions. Electric vehicles (EVs)



remained the largest driver, accounting for 34 per cent of deal volumes and 39 per cent of deal values, the report noted. As per the report, shifting global trade dynamics, evolving domestic policies, and heightened investor appetite for innovation and clean mobility, India's auto sector continues to transition toward a more sustainable and competitive future. "The Indian auto indus-

try is in a phase of strategic transformation—balancing policy shifts, global trade developments, and rising investor appetite for sustainable mobility solutions," said Saket Mehra, Partner and Automotive Industry Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat. While deal values softened slightly this quarter, the continued momentum in autotech and EV-led investments shows the sector's pivot toward innovation, scal-

ability, and long-term competitiveness, Mehra added. Meanwhile, mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity moderated in Q2 2025, with 8 deals totalling \$305 million, marking an 11 per cent drop in volume and a 15 per cent decline in value from the previous quarter. Despite the slowdown, the period saw a decisive pivot toward auto-tech innovation and platform-driven consolidation, the report said.

Revanth Reddy Seeks PM Modi's Support for Key Telangana Infrastructure Projects

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy informed the Prime Minister that the State government had already agreed to bear 50 per cent of the land acquisition costs for the northern section and had released Rs 626 crore to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). He also highlighted that land acquisition awards for over 90 per cent of the northern section had been completed.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the construction of the southern section of the RRR is equally critical. He stated that completing the southern corridor—stretching from Choutuppal to Sangareddy—would significantly strengthen the transportation network around Hyderabad.



CM Revanth Reddy stated that the alignment maps and HMDA master plan notifications regarding the southern section have already been submitted to the Union Ministry of Road Transport. He urged that both the northern and southern corridors be approved and implemented simultaneously.

The Chief Minister re-

quested the Centre's approval for the Hyderabad-Amravati-Bandar Port Expressway. He noted that the proposed 12-lane expressway, connecting Hyderabad to Bandar Port via Amaravati, would be of strategic importance to Telangana. He explained that this highway, proposed with a 120-meter Right of

Way, would provide port connectivity to landlocked Telangana. He added that it would serve as a vital route for exports in the pharmaceutical, electronics, and food processing sectors.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the need to commence work on the Warangal airport. He stated that the necessary land acquisition has already been com-

pleted and the land has been handed over to the Airports Authority of India. He remarked that making the Warangal airport operational would significantly benefit the industrial, educational, and tourism sectors of North Telangana.

The Chief Minister requested the establishment of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Hyderabad, stating that the state government is ready to allocate the required 200 acres of land for the institute. He pointed out that Telangana is already home to premier national educational institutions such as IIT, IIIT, NALSAR, and TIFR, and noted that establishing an IIM would help realise the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Crack down heavily on drug and ganja trafficking: Jupally



Hyderabad, June 11 (GNS) Minister Jupally Krishna Rao stated that there must be a severe crackdown on the illegal trafficking of drugs and ganja in Telangana, and that stringent measures must be taken to control the narcotics menace. Speaking as the chief guest at the passing-out parade of Assistant Excise Superintendents and Excise Sub-Inspectors held on Thursday at the Excise Academy in Bandlaguda Jagir, the Minister urged the newly inducted officers to adopt public service, dedication to duty, and honesty as the guiding principles of their careers. He presented awards to the officers who demonstrated outstanding performance during their training. A total of 117 officers—comprising 28 Assistant Excise Superintendents and 89 Prohibition and Excise Sub-Inspectors—participated in the parade after successfully completing six months

of rigorous institutional training. Among them were 33 female officers.

Minister Jupally emphasised that the Telangana State Prohibition and Excise Department is not merely a revenue-generating body for the government but a crucial department responsible for protecting the youth from addiction and safeguarding society against the menace of narcotics.

He noted that while illicitly distilled liquor (gudamba), country liquor, and adulterated toddy were the primary challenges in the past, new challenges have now emerged in the form of marijuana, synthetic drugs, narcotics networks, and illegal trade conducted online. He stated that drug abuse is not just a violation of the law but a social calamity that shatters families and destroys the future of the youth. He stated that behind every packet of drugs seized by officials lies the future

of a young person; their duty does not end with the mere registration of a case but begins with the protection of society.

The Minister noted that criminals today are using technology to commit crimes in novel ways, and urged officials to adopt modern technological advancements to counter them. He pointed out that developed nations across the globe are utilizing data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and advanced surveillance systems to dismantle drug networks.

He explained that it is possible to identify cannabis cultivation and illicit liquor dens through drone surveillance, monitor transportation via mobile apps and GPS tracking, and detect drug networks proactively using social media intelligence. He revealed that measures are being taken to implement world-class surveillance methods and technologies more extensively in Telangana.

Belittling Nehru while praising Modi's tenure is an insult to history: Ponnam Prabhakar

Hyderabad, June 11 (GNS) Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Wednesday strongly condemned remarks allegedly made against India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and said belittling Nehru's role in nation-building while highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year tenure amounted to "an insult to history."

In a video statement, the Minister said that when India attained independence, the country faced severe challenges including food shortages, unemployment, industrial backwardness and lack of infrastructure, and asserted that Nehru laid the



foundation for a self-reliant India. Ponnam Prabhakar said Nehru played a key role in strengthening agriculture, industry, education, science and technology sectors through visionary policies such as the Five-Year Plans, major irrigation projects, and public sector industries and

higher educational institutions. He noted that projects like Bhakra Nangal and Nagarjuna Sagar contributed significantly to the country's food security by providing irrigation facilities to crores of farmers.

The Minister stated that the emergence of Indians as

global CEOs and leaders was possible because of the higher education system, scientific temper and research institutions established during Nehru's period.

Criticising comparisons between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jawaharlal Nehru, Ponnam Prabhakar said such comparisons reflected a lack of historical understanding.

He also expressed disappointment over comments made by senior leaders, including those who had earlier served in Congress governments, alleging that such remarks ignored historical realities and the sacrifices made by leaders during the

freedom struggle.

The Minister alleged that during the last 12 years, the Centre had focused more on political publicity than addressing key public issues such as employment generation, strengthening education and healthcare sectors, and implementing long-term development policies.

Ponnam Prabhakar asserted that Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution to nation-building would remain permanently etched in Indian history and said people would never accept attempts to undermine the legacy of leaders who laid the foundation for the country's development.

Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital to hold Silver Jubilee Closing Ceremony on June 22

Hyderabad, June 11 (GNS) The Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (BIACH&RI) will conclude with a grand event in Hyderabad on June 22, hospital chairman and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna announced on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, Balakrishna said the closing ceremony will be held at Novotel Hotel, Hitec City, and will be attended by union Health Minister J. P. Nadda, former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Telan-



gana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel, Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha and

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav are also expected to participate in the programme.

Speaking about the institution's journey, Balakrishna said the hospital, established in 2000, has successfully completed 25 years of service in cancer

care and continues to expand its activities.

He said several programmes had been organised over the past year as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, in line with the ideals of late N. T. Rama Rao and wife Basavatarakam, after whom the institution is named.

Kavitha slams Congress over farmers' issues, demands immediate release of Rythu Bharosa

Nalgonda, June 11 (GNS) Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President K Kavitha on Thursday accused the Congress government of neglecting the agricultural sector and failing to fulfil key promises to farmers, including farm loan waivers and Rythu Bharosa payments.

Addressing a round-table conference on farmers' issues in Nalgonda, Kavitha alleged that the government had collected nearly Rs 1,200 crore from farmers through deductions during paddy procurement while failing to provide timely support, irrigation water and urea supplies. She de-



manded the immediate release of pending Rythu Bharosa payments, extension of benefits to tenant farmers and payment of Rs 12,000 assistance to agricultural labourers.

Kavitha also alleged that

the government was conspiring to end free power for farmers through the proposed "Rythu DISCOM" and urged farmers to oppose the move. She called for agriculture to be recognised as an industry and provided with incentives and infrastructure on par with other sectors.

Expressing concern over irrigation issues in Nalgonda and the plight of sweet lime, lemon and cotton farmers, she de-

manded better marketing facilities and water supply arrangements. She also criticised the government over assigned lands and

announced a major land agitation on July 2 at Uppal Bhagayat. The meeting adopted ten resolutions, including rejection of the Rythu DISCOM proposal, withdrawal of the Urea app, release of pending Rythu Bharosa funds, support for tenant farmers, action against spurious seeds and pesticides, and measures to address the problems of cotton and citrus farmers.

Kavitha also demanded that the Congress government fulfil its promise of providing two lakh jobs and increase constable recruitment from 5,000 to 20,000 posts.

AIG Doctors warn against trivialising fatty liver disease on World NASH Day

Hyderabad, June 11 (GNS) Fatty liver disease should no longer be dismissed as a minor health issue or a routine ultrasound finding, doctors at AIG Hospitals said on World NASH Day, warning that the condition can silently progress to liver fibrosis, cirrhosis, liver failure and even liver cancer if left untreated.

Observing World NASH Day on Thursday, experts from AIG Hospitals highlighted the growing burden of fatty liver disease in India and stressed the need for early screening, diagnosis and lifestyle interventions.

NASH, or Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis, is an advanced form of fatty liver disease characterised by

liver inflammation and damage caused by fat accumulation in the liver.

Citing an AIG-linked study among Asian Indian patients with Type 2 diabetes, world-renowned gastroenterologist and AIG founder-chairman Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy, along with Dr Anand V. Kulkarni, reported that more than 75 per cent of participants had fatty liver disease as detected by FibroScan, while nearly 29 per cent had already developed liver fibrosis, indicating the presence of liver scarring.

"Fatty liver is often misunderstood because many patients do not have pain, fever, jaundice or any obvious symptoms in the early stage. But the absence of

symptoms does not mean absence of disease," said Dr. Rajesh Gupta, Director of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at AIG Hospitals.

He said fatty liver should be viewed as a metabolic warning sign, particularly among individuals with diabetes, obesity, high cholesterol, hypertension and abdominal obesity.

Doctors attributed the rise in fatty liver disease to several factors, including excessive consumption of refined carbohydrates and sugar, sedentary lifestyles, diabetes, insulin resistance, abdominal obesity, alcohol consumption, poor sleep and chronic stress.

Dr. Partha Pal, Senior Consultant Gastroenterologist

at AIG Hospitals, said fatty liver disease was not merely a liver disorder but a reflection of broader metabolic dysfunction.

"When we diagnose fatty liver, we should also evaluate diabetes risk, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, body weight, waist circumference and cardiovascular risk," he said. The experts recommended regular screening for people above 30 years of age, especially those with obesity, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, increased waist circumference, polycystic ovarian syndrome, sleep apnoea, alcohol consumption or persistently abnormal liver enzyme levels. They noted that diagnosis typically begins

with an abdominal ultrasound and blood tests, while FibroScan has emerged as a preferred non-invasive tool for assessing both liver fat and fibrosis. Doctors said blood-based assessments such as the FIB-4 score can also help identify patients at risk of advanced fibrosis.

While lifestyle modification remains the cornerstone of treatment, doctors noted that newer pharmacological therapies are increasingly being used in carefully selected patients.

Dr. Gupta said medicines such as GLP-1 receptor agonists and dual incretin-based therapies can improve weight, diabetes control and metabolic health, while disease-specific therapies

for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) with fibrosis have also emerged globally. He stressed that assessing fibrosis risk is critical for determining the intensity of treatment and follow-up. "Every fatty liver report should trigger one basic question: Is there fibrosis? Once we know the fibrosis risk, we can decide how aggressively we need to intervene," he said.

Dr. Partha Pal highlighted the growing role of endoscopic bariatric and metabolic therapies, including intragastric balloons and endoscopic sleeve gastropasty, for patients unable to achieve adequate weight loss through lifestyle measures alone.

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