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Naga group opposes tripartite oil exploration pact, seeks political settlement first



Kohima, June 12 (GNS) The Naga National Political Groups (NNPG), an umbrella body comprising seven Naga organisations, on Friday opposed the tripartite agreement signed between the Centre, Assam and Nagaland to facilitate mineral oil operations in the Assam-Nagaland inter-state border areas. In a statement, the NNPG asserted that ownership and control over natural and man-made resources form an integral part of the 'Agreed Position' signed between the Working Committee of the NNPGs and the Centre on November 17, 2017.

Citing provisions of the 2017 agreement, the Naga group maintained that any attempt to explore or extract natural resources in Naga areas before the conclusion of a formal political settlement would be "illegal and against the agreed principles". In the presence of Union Home Minister

Amrit Shah, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in New Delhi on Thursday between the Government of India and the governments of Assam and Nagaland to facilitate mineral oil operations in the Assam-Nagaland boundary areas. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio were also present on the occasion.

The Home Minister stated that the agreement would open significant opportunities for oil and natural gas exploration and mineral mining, while removing a major hurdle to realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous, economically vibrant Northeast.

Shah said the entire Northeastern region is moving forward with the spirit of "Nation First" and that the agreement reflects

both states' commitment to cooperation and development. He noted that Assam and Nagaland had agreed not to allow any impediment to India's oil exploration efforts and would instead advance on the path of mutual cooperation, as these resources constitute part of the nation's wealth.

The Home Minister further stated that with the signing of the MoU, the current extraction capacity of around 1,000 to 1,500 barrels per day has the potential to increase more than tenfold in the coming years. Referring to the provisions of the 2017 agreement, the NNPG statement said that the "status paper" agreed upon between the Government of India and the Working Committee of the NNPGs clearly states that "ownership and transfer of land and its resources, both man-made and natural, including mines and minerals, fossil fuels,

petroleum and natural gas and any new finds, and Nagaland shall be the apex body to legislate".

"Previous agreements with the NNPGs imply a post-solution Nagaland government. Unless a political settlement is officially signed across the table, any attempt to explore natural resources in Naga areas anywhere is illegal and against the agreed principles," the statement said. The NNPG further asserted that it would ensure, "peacefully or otherwise", that no company, whether national or international, extracts crude petroleum reserves from Naga soil before a political settlement is reached. The statement also questioned the rationale for revenue-sharing arrangements involving Nagaland's natural resources, arguing that they serve only a few individuals rather than the broader Naga population.

"Revenue sharing be-

US may unlock 16 billion dollars frozen funds for Iran

Washington, June 12 (GNS) The United States and Iran are reportedly discussing a proposal that could allow Tehran access to over \$16 billion in restricted funds held in Qatar and other global locations, according to a Politico report citing European officials and sources familiar with the negotiations.

The move is being seen as part of broader diplomatic efforts aimed at easing tensions and advancing a potential peace framework between Washington and Tehran. Earlier, the US



had permitted limited use of these assets for specific humanitarian purchases, but later froze access during the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2023.

Under the current proposal, Iran would be allowed to use the frozen funds in a controlled manner without violating US sanctions. However, US officials, in-

cluding Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have stated that no upfront sanctions relief will be offered before progress on Iran's nuclear commitments and broader regional security issues.

The development comes amid intensified diplomatic activity, with discussions also focusing on de-escalation in the Strait of Hormuz and potential agreements linked to Iran's nuclear programme and regional stability. While hopes for a breakthrough have risen, Iran has said it has not yet taken a final decision on any deal.

Poll communication must be simple and legally accurate: CEC

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Friday told nodal media officers of the Election Commission that poll-related communication should be timely, simple, factual, and legally accurate. He also noted that the recently concluded elections in four states and a union territory witnessed unprecedented public participation since Independence.

He was addressing a one-day conference organised for the media and communication officers from all 36 states and Union Territories, par-



lighted the crucial role of officers in conveying the commission's rules, instructions, and guidelines to the public in an understandable manner.

The conference included sessions on communication strategies throughout the election cycle. Issues such as electoral rolls, polling processes, and EC's digital platform ECINET also came up for discussion. Constitutional provisions, election laws, and recent Supreme Court orders were also discussed, including countering misinformation and misleading narratives.

Will Cooperate With CID Probe: Abhishek Banerjee



Kolkata, June 12 (GNS) Trinamool Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee on Friday evening said he will cooperate with the West Bengal Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) if summoned for interrogation. On Friday, a team of CID officials reached his residence at Kalighat Road in South Kolkata, reportedly to serve him a notice in connection with a case where he had been accused of inciting violence and threatening Union Home Minister Amit Shah before the recently concluded assembly polls in the state. However, Banerjee, also the nephew of former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was not at his residence at the time. After the CID officers waited for almost two and a half hours, the Trinamool general secretary finally arrived and first spoke to the media persons waiting.

"I returned to Kolkata from New Delhi on Thursday afternoon and immediately went to the CID office to face interrogation in the legislators' signature case. There, I faced questioning for over 5.5 hours. I reached the CID office before the 6 p.m. deadline. I cooperated with them to the best of my ability. I am summoned again on June 14. I will go there on that day also," Banerjee said.

He carefully avoided mentioning that he had dodged three CID summons earlier and finally appeared on Thursday evening, following a single-judge vacation bench of the Calcutta High Court setting a deadline for him to appear at the CID office.

'Unacceptable': India Lodges Strong Protest With US Over Attacks On Vessels Carrying Indian Mariners

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday summoned US Charge d'Affaires Jason Meeks to lodge India's strong protest against the continuing attacks by US naval forces on commercial vessels carrying Indian seafarers in the Gulf of Oman, which have already resulted in the tragic and avoidable loss of three Indian lives," the MEA said in a statement.

"The Ministry once again conveyed its deep concern over the use of lethal and

mercy" in a sensitive region. "A strong protest was lodged with him regarding the continuing attacks by US naval forces on commercial vessels carrying Indian mariners in the Gulf of Oman, which have already resulted in the tragic and avoidable loss of three Indian lives," the MEA said in a statement.

"The Ministry once again conveyed its deep concern over the use of lethal and



deadly force against civilian shipping. Such actions are unacceptable and undermine the safety, security

and stability of international maritime commerce in a sensitive region at a difficult time," it added.

The MEA stated that the US Charge d'Affaires was requested to convey India's strong concerns to

US authorities and ensure that US forces operating in the region take all necessary measures to stop the loss of civilian life. This marked the second time that the US official has been summoned by the MEA in recent days over the attacks on commercial vessels in the Gulf of Oman. Earlier on Wednesday, India had summoned the US Charge d'Affaires to lodge a "strong protest"

over recent attacks on commercial vessels off the coast of Oman, including the commercial ship Settebello, where three Indian seafarers were killed.

The United States said on Thursday that it is in "direct contact" with India on the issue. Responding to India's diplomatic demarche, a US State Department official said Washington remains engaged with the Indian government on the matter.

Inflation data shows success of Govt's price stability measures

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) The moderation of headline retail inflation below 4 per cent reflects the resilience of India's macroeconomic fundamentals and the effectiveness of ongoing efforts to maintain price stability, industry chamber PHDCCI said on Friday.

Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 3.93 per cent in May (year-on-year), remaining below the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term target of 4 per cent despite a modest increase from 3.48 per cent in April.

The latest data indicate that inflation remains broadly contained, supported by moderation in several



core consumption categories. Food inflation (year-on-year) rose to 4.78 per cent in May from 4.20 per cent in April, driven primarily by higher prices of tomatoes, ginger, and certain dry fruits. However, substantial

declines in prices of potatoes, peas, and selected consumer durables helped moderate overall inflationary pressures. "While food prices remain subject to seasonal fluctuations, inflation across broad level con-

tinues to remain contained, supporting household purchasing power," said Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCI.

While Kharif crops such as tomato and ginger show high inflation rates in May, the prices of motor car and jeep and motorcycle and scooter have shown a stark decline in the same time period. Continued improvement in supply chains, stable energy prices, and favourable domestic economic conditions is expected to support inflation management efforts in the coming months, said PHDCCI.

"The short-term inflation outlook looks benign due to continued vigilance by the government on food-price

developments, coupled with favourable agricultural production, improving supply conditions, and stable macroeconomic policies," said Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, SG and CEO, PHDCCI.

According to Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist, Crisil, CPI inflation is expected to rise to an average 5.1 per cent this fiscal, from 2.0 per cent last fiscal, with risks from higher fuel prices, currency depreciation, second-round effects and potentially weak rainfall.

"The Reserve Bank of India will likely look through these supply-side shocks while keeping a close watch on inflation expectations," said Deshpande.

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BUS FACILITY AVAILABLE

DRDO must focus on future warfare technologies, says Rajnath Singh

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday called upon the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to accelerate the transition from research and development to large-scale production, asserting that technological superiority alone is not sufficient to ensure success in modern warfare.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Advanced Weapon System Complex at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) in Hyderabad, Singh said India was passing through a crucial phase of defence modernisation as rapid technological advancements continue to reshape the nature of warfare.

Expressing pride in visiting the country's prestigious missile cluster, the defence minister said the institution had played a pivotal role in strengthening India's technological excellence, scientific capability and strategic autonomy. He noted that the cluster had been instrumental in several landmark achievements and continued to symbolize the nation's scientific talent and innovation.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Singh said indigenous defence systems such as Akash Missile System and BrahMos had demonstrated their capabilities in real-world operational conditions. Their performance, he said, had reinforced India's ability to compete in



the global defence technology ecosystem. "The nature of warfare is changing rapidly across the world. Precision-strike capabilities, integrated air defence systems, hypersonic weapons,

autonomous platforms, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare and advanced sensor technologies are redefining the character of modern warfare," Singh said. The defence minister observed that

the international environment was marked by growing uncertainty, conflicts and shifting geopolitical alignments. In such a scenario, he said, DRDO's role extended beyond merely

adapting to technological changes and required it to anticipate future battlefield requirements.

"We must not only address the challenges of the present but also work today keeping

in mind the requirements of future warfare," he said, urging scientists and researchers to focus on futuristic technologies that could provide India with a strategic advantage. Highlighting the importance of production capacity, Singh said the Armed Forces required not only cutting-edge equipment but also timely availability of such systems in adequate numbers. Success in war, he remarked, depended as much on large-scale manufacturing capability as on technological innovation.

He urged DRDO leadership to treat production as an integral component of the development process and stressed the need to shorten development-to-product

ion timelines. According to Singh, manufacturing processes should be simplified, indigenous content increased and systems designed in a manner that allows rapid mass production whenever required by the Armed Forces.

"The government has expressed unprecedented confidence in DRDO for the development of indigenous defence technologies. This confidence is a matter of honour, but it also comes with a great responsibility," he said. Singh said every DRDO project should aim to strengthen national capabilities, reduce technological dependence and enhance the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

State-specific roadmaps needed for achieving leprosy-free India: Health Ministry

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS): Stressing the need for state-specific roadmaps to achieve a leprosy-free India, Additional Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Aradhana Patnaik, said on Friday that intensified, targeted interventions are needed to completely interrupt transmission in hotspot areas.

Speaking at the two-day Regional Workshop on Review of Programme Performance and Focused Strategic Action for Achieving Zero Transmission of Leprosy in Nava Raipur, Patnaik highlighted India's achievements in reducing the burden of leprosy, according to an official statement.

She said the country had



achieved elimination of the public health problem at the national level in 2005, cautioning that transmission persists in several endemic districts and hotspot areas, necessitating intensified, targeted interventions to completely interrupt transmission.

Highlighting the epi-

miological landscape, Patnaik informed participants that five high-priority states — Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh — together account for nearly 50 per cent of India's leprosy burden.

She noted that these states also have a substan-

tial number of districts reporting prevalence rates above 1 case per 10,000 population, including 23 in Chhattisgarh, 21 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Maharashtra and Odisha, and 10 in Madhya Pradesh.

Underscoring the importance of early diagnosis and prompt treatment, she

emphasized the need for periodic Leprosy Case Detection Campaigns in endemic areas, according to the statement.

She also called for strengthening contact tracing and expanding the coverage of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) through Single-Dose Rifampicin (SDR) among eligible healthy contacts of index cases, particularly in vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.

Encouraging states to increase contact screening and PEP coverage, she noted that these interventions are critical for reducing disease transmission and preventing new infections.

Dharmendra Pradhan Releases Strategic Documents On Innovation, Startups



New Delhi, June 12 (GNS): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday released two strategic documents on Bharat Innovates, showcasing India's emerging innovation and startup ecosystem rooted in higher education and research institutions.

The initiative reinforces the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to transform India from a nation of knowledge consumers into a nation of knowledge creators, innovators and technology leaders. Pradhan said that one of the core objectives of the NEP 2020 is to transform India from a system of knowledge consumption to a system of knowledge creation and innovation.

He noted that the startups featured in the Bharat Innovates Strategic Documents are emerging from India's premier institutions, incubators and research ecosystems, reflecting the growing innovation capacity of the country's higher education sector.

The Minister said that

Bharat Innovates reflects the vision articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take India's innovation capabilities to the global stage. The initiative is aligned with the Prime Minister's larger mission of building an innovation-led Viksit Bharat, he added.

Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Ajay Kumar Sood; Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Dr. Vineet Joshi; Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Deepak Bagla; Joint Secretary, Technical Education, Ministry of Education, Saumya Gupta and senior officials of the Ministry of Education were present on the occasion.

The Minister highlighted that Bharat Innovates is creating opportunities for Indian startups to engage with global investment firms managing over \$3 trillion in assets and representing more than 12,000 investments worldwide.

He noted that the event is expected to bring together more than 100 global investors and leading institutions, reflecting growing international confidence in India's deep-tech and innovation ecosystem.

Pradhan stated that the initiative has already generated significant investor interest, with nearly \$20 million in near-closure and finalised commitments.

He added that a series of roadshows in Paris, Tokyo and Bengaluru have been undertaken to connect Indian startups with global investors and strengthen international engagement.

The two strategic documents released on the occasion comprise the Bharat Innovates Startup Compendium, which profiles 120 high-potential startups selected from across the country. The documents provide sector-wise market intelligence, technology trends, global opportunity mapping and strategic engagement pathways to help startups identify future growth opportunities.

With Kerala facing Rs 5 lakh crore debt, expert shows Satheesan govt a 'hidden treasury'

Thiruvananthapuram, June 12 With Kerala staring at a public debt burden exceeding Rs 5 lakh crore and the new UDF government preparing to present its maiden Budget on June 19, a veteran public finance expert has suggested an alternative path to shore up state revenues, without imposing fresh taxes or burdening citizens with higher fees. In a chat with IANS, Dr Biju Jacob, a former Principal Accountant General of Kerala and former Director General in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), said that Kerala's immediate challenge is not the absence of revenue sources but the state's inability to fully capture taxes that are legally due.



"At a time when Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan has also assumed charge of the Finance portfolio and is under pressure to balance welfare commitments with fiscal discipline, the proposal offers a potentially significant roadmap," the retired medical profes-

sional-turned-government accountant claimed. The recommendation comes against the backdrop of the fiscal white paper released by the government, which painted a grim picture of the state's finances. While the government's early welfare-oriented announce-

ments have raised public expectations, implementing structural economic reforms is expected to be politically difficult and time-consuming. "Measures such as increasing the pension age or curbing expenditure are likely to invite resistance, while tax hikes could prove unpopular," Jacob said.

According to him, the quickest route to strengthening the state exchequer lies in plugging tax leakages, particularly in commercial taxes and GST-related transactions.

He cited a comprehensive Information System Audit conducted by the CAG in the Commercial

Taxes Department more than a decade ago. The audit, he says, exposed significant weaknesses in the tax administration system and identified areas where substantial revenue may have escaped assessment.

The expert argues that while Kerala's tax systems have evolved from sales tax to VAT and later GST, many of the structural vulnerabilities identified by the audit remain relevant. Among the issues highlighted are the splitting of business turnover across multiple registrations, misuse of tax exemptions and deductions, and inadequate scrutiny of returns due to manpower constraints.

CBSE Tells SC: Formulating Policy To Declare Results Of Class 12 Private Students In Gulf

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS): The Central government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that a policy is being discussed for private students of CBSE outside India whose results could not be declared due to the West Asia conflict.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the Supreme Court to put off the hearing till June 22, as the government is currently looking into some of the questions raised in the petition filed by students living in the Gulf. He said that a policy will soon be introduced for private students in West Asia whose CBSE results could not be declared due to the ongoing war. The



government is considering formulating a policy for students impacted by similar situations. In March, the CBSE had cancelled the Class 12 board examinations for students studying in several West Asian countries in view of the regional crisis. In its sixth circular issued since March 1, the

board clarified that even the examination papers that had earlier been postponed would stand cancelled.

According to the circular released on March 15, the examinations scheduled from March 16 to April 10, 2026, for CBSE-affiliated schools located in Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were cancelled. Overall, more than 4.37 million students had registered for CBSE board examinations this year. Of these, around 2.51 million students appeared for Class 10 examinations, while nearly 1.86 million candidates were enrolled for the Class 12 board exams.

Students living in Gulf countries had filed a petition in the Supreme Court raising the issue of CBSE not declaring Class 12 results, while exams for students in several Gulf countries were cancelled due to the security situation in the region.

On June 8, the apex court issued notice to the CBSE and its Regional Officer in Dubai on a plea filed by a Class 12 student from Saudi Arabia seeking the declaration of his result, which continues to remain withheld despite a special assessment scheme framed for students affected by examination cancellations in West Asian countries.

Fir filed against Mamata Banerjee over communal remarks

Kolkata, June 12 (GNS): A first information report (FIR) has been registered against former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for allegedly making communally loaded and communally provocative statements at an election campaign rally in central Kolkata. The FIR was registered at the Hare Street Police Station in central Kolkata, based on a complaint filed at Netaji Nagar Police Station in south Kolkata by Tushar Kanti Das on May 20.

Since the spot where the former Chief Minister reportedly made the statement comes under the jurisdiction of the Hare Street Police Station, the case was transferred there.



In his complaint, a copy of which is available with the complainant referred to a particular statement at a pre-election rally in which Banerjee was heard saying that if the people of a particular community united, there would have been havoc, and that was not happening since her party was in power.

The complainant claimed that although Banerjee did not name any particular community, her speech contained elements that could disturb communal harmony.

He further alleged that the remarks were provocative, violent and communal, likely to spread fear and hatred, cause misunderstandings, and disturb peace among multiple communities. "These remarks were likely to have a profound impact on the minds of the common people. If this matter is not treated seriously, it could undermine communal harmony and disrupt the state's democratic environment. It is also against the Constitution of the country

and violates the model code of conduct before elections. Hence, an impartial and transparent investigation into the matter should be conducted," the complainant observed.

Earlier this month, another FIR was registered against Banerjee at Siliguri Cyber Crime Police Station in Darjeeling district, based on a complaint lodged by a lawyer. In that complaint, the lawyer accused the former Chief Minister of making statements allegedly implicating the Union Home Ministry and Home Minister Amit Shah by referring to the murder of Bangladesh national Osman Hadi at a protest meeting on Rani Rashmoni Road in central Kolkata on June 2.

India first country to launch a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library: WHO



New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) In a significant milestone for global healthcare innovation, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released a technical brief titled "Mapping the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Traditional Medicine", acknowledging India's pioneering efforts in integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) with traditional medicine systems, particularly Ayush systems. The release follows India's proposal on the subject, leading to the development of WHO's first-ever roadmap for applying AI in traditional medicine.

India's efforts to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to advance and amplify the strengths of its Ayush systems reflect the broader vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who seeks to position the country as a global leader in digital health innovation and the integration of traditional medicine. Speaking at the inauguration of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit in 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi remarked, "We have developed government policies and programmes inspired by the spirit of 'AI for all'. Our endeavour is to take full advantage of the capabilities of AI for social development and inclusive growth."

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, remarked that India's AI-led initiatives, mentioned in WHO's technical brief, reflect the deep commitment of Indian scientists

to advancing traditional medicine through cutting-edge technology. "This recognition underscores our alignment with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visionary call to harness emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence to expand the global relevance of Traditional Medicine. By integrating AI with Ayush systems—and through pioneering digital platforms such as the SAHI portal, NAMASTE portal, and the Ayush Research Portal—India is not only safeguarding its centuries-old medical wisdom but also leading the way in shaping a future of personalised, evidence-based, and globally accessible healthcare."

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, said, "The WHO document highlights several pioneering AI-driven innovations led by India—ranging from predictive diagnostics using Prakriti-based machine learning models to the groundbreaking Ayurgenomics project that brings together Ayurveda knowledge and modern genomics. At the core of this digital transformation is the Ayush Grid—a comprehensive digital health platform launched in 2018—which serves as the foundation for several citizen-centric initiatives such as the SAHI portal, NAMASTE portal, and the Ayush Research Portal. Together, these AI-enabled platforms are not only preserving and validating India's traditional knowledge systems of medicine but are also advancing their global integration within evidence-based, digital healthcare frameworks."

Industry bodies share key connectivity & MSME recommendations with DPIIT secretary

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) A 20,000 sq. ft. Skill Development Centre is set to be established at the Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC) in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expected to be signed next week. This was endorsed by Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, during his visit to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar on 12 July 2025 to review the progress of industrial infrastructure and startup development in the region.

The Secretary emphasized the need to attract Global Capability Centre (GCC) investments and foster the development of Research & Development (R&D) centres at AURIC to further enhance the region's innovation and industrial ecosystem. Stakeholders also recommended



the convergence of PMAY 2.0 subsidies with state housing policies to offer a comprehensive package for inclusive residential development, thereby supporting the growth of a well-rounded industrial township.

The visit also included an industry interaction session chaired by the Secretary at AURIC Hall, which witnessed participation from

key stakeholders including industry bodies such as MASSIA, CMIA, CII, FICCI, and ASSOCHAM. During the discussion, stakeholders suggested measures such as improved connectivity between Aurangabad-Hyderabad-Chennai, development of an MRO facility and Vande Bharat terminal, better logistics access at Bidkin, local train

services between Jalna and Waluj, affordable housing via MHADA, and a dedicated chemical zone. Recommendations also included increasing MSME land reservation from 10% to 40%, reserving 10% land for startups, and strengthening soft infrastructure and skill development at AURIC. Dr. P. Anbalagan, Secretary, Industries Department, Gov-

ernment of Maharashtra, also presented the state's strategic vision for industrial growth through initiatives like MITL and MMLP.

The visit began with an interactive session at the Marathwada Accelerator for Growth and Incubation Council (MAGIC), where the Secretary engaged with budding entrepreneurs, incubators, and startup founders from the region. He appreciated their innovative spirit and highlighted the Government's strong support through initiatives like Startup India, Fund of Funds, and sector-specific incentives aimed at boosting the startup ecosystem, especially in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The secretary visited the Bidkin Industrial Area, where he reviewed key infrastructure sites including JSW green-tech Ltd, Toyota Kirloskar facility, and Water Treatment Plant. His visit further progressed to the Shendra Industrial Area,

where he toured key industrial units including NLMK India, Hyosung T&D Pvt. Ltd., and Coatal Films Pvt. Ltd. He appreciated their role in driving high-value manufacturing and generating employment, contributing significantly to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. Bhatia also visited industrial infrastructure at AURIC, including the Water Treatment Plant, Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), the state-of-the-art AURIC Hall, and the 3D city model of Shendra.

Secretary, DPIIT reiterated that collaboration between government and industry is essential to position Maharashtra as a global hub for manufacturing and innovation. The session witnessed active participation from Industry Associations and Government of Maharashtra, reinforcing their shared commitment to catalyzing industrial growth in the region.

CCTV Cameras in All 74,000 Coaches and 15,000 Locos for Enhanced Safety

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) Based on the positive outcome of experimental installation of CCTV cameras in passenger coaches, Railways has decided to install CCTV cameras in all coaches. This move will significantly improve passenger safety. Miscreants and organised gangs take advantage of gullible passengers. With cameras, such incidents will significantly reduce. To preserve privacy of passengers, CCTV cameras will be installed in the common movement area near the doors.

The Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and The Union Minister of State for Railways Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu reviewed the progress of CCTV Cameras' installation in locomotives and coaches. The meeting held on Saturday 12th July, 2025 was attended by the senior officials of the Railway Board.

The railway officials informed that successful tri-



als have been done in the loco engines and coaches of the Northern Railway. The Union Minister for Railways gave the go ahead to install CCTV cameras in all 74,000 coaches and 15,000 locos. Each railway coach will be covered with 4 dome type CCTV cameras - 2 in each entrance way and each locomotive will have 6 CCTV cameras. This will include 1 camera each at the front, rear and on both sides of the locomotive. Each cab (front and rear) of a loco will be fitted with 1 dome CCTV camera and 2 desk mounted microphones.

Modern surveillance for

modern problems The officials shared that the CCTV cameras will have the latest specifications and will be STQC certified. The Union Minister for Railways emphasised on deploying the best-in-class equipment. He urged the railway officials to ensure that high quality footage should be available even for trains running at 100 kmph plus speeds and also under low lighting conditions. The Union Minister for Railways encouraged the officials to explore the use of AI on the data captured by CCTV cameras, in collaboration with the IndiaAI mission.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Bats for Holistic Healthcare, Calls for Integration of Allopathy, AYUSH, and Technology



New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) Dr. Jitendra Singh urged the medical fraternity to reclaim the dignity, integrity, and social faith that once defined the noble profession, while emphasizing that the changing perception of doctors stems not from individual failings alone but from larger shifts in societal values. Recalling the legacy of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the Minister described it as a "pillar of Indian healthcare," and lauded it as the largest and oldest body of medical practitioners in the country. Founded in 1928 during the 5th All India Medical Conference in Calcutta, IMA stands today as a formidable national force representing over 3.3 lakh doctors through 1,750+ local branches across 34 States and Union Territories. With its headquarters in Delhi, the IMA has remained at the forefront of shaping healthcare policy, strengthening medical ethics, and promoting public health awareness. Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the visionaries who gave birth to the Association during politically turbulent times — legendary names such as Dr. B.C. Roy, Dr. M.A. Ansari, Sir Nil Ratan Sircar, and Col. Bhola Nath — noting that many among them also played active roles in India's freedom struggle. "Their mission was clear — to promote advancement of medical sciences, improve public health, and uphold the dignity of the profes-

sion. That mission is more relevant today than ever before," Dr. Singh said. Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is himself a noted Professor of Medicine and Diabetologist, offered deeply personal reflections on the changing face of medicine in India. The Minister highlighted the shift from a time dominated by infectious diseases to a present-day dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, creating both challenges and opportunities for Indian doctors and researchers. "You name the disease — we have it in India. That's why global researchers increasingly look to India," he said. Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke about the paradox of India's demographic profile. "We are a young country with over 70% of the population under 42, yet at the same time, we are ageing rapidly. Life expectancy has increased from 50 years in the 1950s to over 70 years today. This shift calls for a new curriculum, a new mindset, and a new model of medical practice," he noted.

The Minister emphasized the urgent need for a holistic, integrated approach to healthcare, blending modern allopathic medicine with AYUSH systems and cutting-edge technological advancements. He cited yoga as an effective tool in managing chronic diseases and called for dissolving silos between different systems of medicine, encouraging openness to integration rather.

Dr. Jitendra Singh urged the medical fraternity to reclaim the dignity, integrity, and social faith that once defined the noble profession, while emphasizing that the changing perception of doctors stems not from individual failings alone but from larger shifts in societal values.

Recalling the legacy of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the Minister described it as a "pillar of Indian healthcare," and lauded it as the largest and oldest body of medical practitioners in the country. Founded in 1928 during the 5th All India Medical Conference in Calcutta, IMA stands today as a formidable national force representing over 3.3 lakh doctors through 1,750+ local branches across 34 States and Union Territories. With its headquarters in Delhi, the IMA has remained at the forefront of shaping healthcare policy, strengthening medical ethics, and promoting public health awareness. Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the visionaries who gave birth to the Association during politically turbulent times — legendary names such as Dr. B.C. Roy, Dr. M.A. Ansari, Sir Nil Ratan Sircar, and Col. Bhola Nath — noting that many among them also played active roles in India's freedom struggle. "Their mission was clear — to promote advancement of medical sciences, improve public health, and uphold the dignity of the profes-

sion. That mission is more relevant today than ever before," Dr. Singh said. Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is himself a noted Professor of Medicine and Diabetologist, offered deeply personal reflections on the changing face of medicine in India. The Minister highlighted the shift from a time dominated by infectious diseases to a present-day dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, creating both challenges and opportunities for Indian doctors and researchers. "You name the disease — we have it in India. That's why global researchers increasingly look to India," he said. Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke about the paradox of India's demographic profile. "We are a young country with over 70% of the population under 42, yet at the same time, we are ageing rapidly. Life expectancy has increased from 50 years in the 1950s to over 70 years today. This shift calls for a new curriculum, a new mindset, and a new model of medical practice," he noted.

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Zonal Meeting held in Kevadia, Gujarat, Reaffirming Centre-State Convergence in Advancing Women and Child Development

New Delhi, June 12 (GNS) The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, successfully convened the Zonal Meeting today (12th July 2025) at Kevadia, Gujarat, as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance Centre-State collaboration and fast-track implementation of key flagship schemes in the domain of women and child development. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Annpurna Devi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, and graced by the esteemed presence of Smt. Savitri Thakur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt. Bhanuben Babariya, Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat, Ms. Nirmala Bhuria, Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh, and Dr. Manju Baghmar, Minister of State Women & Child Development Department, Govern-



ment of Rajasthan.

The Zonal Meeting also saw active participation of senior officers from the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa. Deliberations centred around the convergence of efforts under Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, with States showcasing best practices, innovative approaches, and successful interventions for mutual learning and replication. Delivering the keynote ad-

dress, Union Minister Smt. Annpurna Devi paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and underscored the importance of unified efforts in realising the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a Suposhit Bharat and inclusive national development led by empowered women and nurtured children. She highlighted that the adoption of technological tools such as the Face Recognition System (FRS) under Saksham Anganwadi is instrumental in ensuring transparency, accountability, and improved

governance. As a significant update under Poshan 2.0, it was announced that from 1st August the beneficiary registration will be done using biometric authentication, ensuring better targeting and service delivery. Furthermore, dedicated learning modules on Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 have been developed and will be made available on the iGOT Karmayogi platform, for strengthening knowledge and capacity-building framework for State, District and field workers across the country.

The Hon'ble Minister urged States and UTs to strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms, ensure timely delivery of services at Anganwadis, and have more effective beneficiary targeting. She also emphasised the need to enhance digital literacy among adolescent girls and young mothers and reposition platforms like the Poshan Helpline from being grievance centres to platforms for citizen engagement and service quality improvement. Commending the expansion of One Stop Centres and Women Helpline-181 under Mission Shakti, the Minister also highlighted the role of Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfers under PMMVY in promoting transparency. The Minister also urged all States and UTs to integrate the newly launched Mission Vatsalya Portal into routine operations for real-time data entry and performance monitoring.

"Dr. Roy charged a consultation fee of over 66 in the 1940s, and nobody questioned it. Today, we must ask ourselves — why has the same trust eroded?" he asked, calling for a revival of the doctor-patient trust, which, he emphasized, was the hallmark of Dr. Roy's era.

World Day Against Child Labour: CM Revanth Reddy calls for public responsibility

Hyderabad, June 12 (GNS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday called upon people to take up the eradication of the child labour system in society as their social responsibility.

The Chief Minister gave the call on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour.

"Childhood is the birthright of every child. The right to study, play, grow joyfully, and have opportunities to realize their dreams is a natural right of every child. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the child labour system, which robs them of these rights, has no place in society," the Chief Minister



said in his message.

He stated that the government is committed to providing every child with quality education, security, a healthy environment, and equal op-

portunities. At the same time, he urged families, teachers, voluntary organisations, public representatives, and every citizen in society to become partners in achieving this goal.

The CM said that the child labour system should not be encouraged under any circumstances, and if children are seen engaged in work anywhere, it is the responsibility of every citizen to bring it to the attention of the relevant authorities. Rescuing a child from child labour is akin to providing them with a new future, he noted.

"In the hands of children should be books, not tools. On their shoulders should be hopes for the future, not burdens. It is our collective responsibility to build a Telangana where every child grows up laughing, learning, and dreaming," the Chief

Minister said. Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy has also called for renewing resolve to protect the rights of every child.

"Childhood is meant for learning, dreaming, and growing - not labour. On World Day Against Child Labour, let us renew our resolve to protect the rights of every child and build an India where opportunity reaches every household. Through sustained efforts in education, welfare, and social empowerment, we continue to work towards a future where every child can thrive with dignity and hope," the Central minister said in a post on 'X'.

Sammakka-Sarakka Project Crucial for North Telangana Farmers: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, June 12 (GNS) Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai in Hyderabad and urged him to facilitate the issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the ambitious Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation Scheme being developed along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border.

Uttam Kumar accorded a formal welcome to the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister upon his arrival at a city hotel. He later held detailed discussions with him and senior engineering officials of the Telangana Irrigation Department. During the



meeting, the minister conducted a comprehensive review of the Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation Scheme, highlighting its significance in providing irrigation water security to farmers in North Telangana. He submitted

a formal representation on behalf of the Telangana government, seeking the necessary approvals and NOC from the Chhattisgarh government to expedite the project's implementation. The minister stressed that

the project is crucial for bringing thousands of acres under assured irrigation and ensuring long-term benefits for the farming community.

He noted that the Telangana government is actively pursuing all pending clear-

ances and coordinating with neighbouring states to accelerate the project's progress. Uttam Kumar urged the Chhattisgarh government to respond positively to Telangana's request, describing the initiative as part of the state's broader efforts to resolve inter-state issues through dialogue and cooperation.

The Telangana government remains committed to strengthening the irrigation sector and ensuring permanent water security for farmers, he said, adding that all necessary measures are being taken to secure approvals and complete the project at the earliest, an official statement said.

Ministry of Coal Holds Successful Roadshow on Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, June 12 (GNS) The Ministry of Coal today successfully concluded a major Roadshow on Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects in Hyderabad, bringing together industry leaders, technology providers, investors, financial institutions, coal and lignite companies, industry associations, and representatives from Central and State Governments. The event served as an important platform to showcase the Government of India's vision for accelerating coal gasification and promoting cleaner, value-added utilization of the country's abundant coal resources. The Roadshow witnessed extensive deliberations on investment opportunities, policy support mechanisms, technological advancements, implementation strategies, and av-



enues for fostering a robust coal gasification ecosystem in the country.

The event was graced by Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines, as the Chief Guest and Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal and Mines, as the Guest of Honour. Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, and senior of-

officials of the Ministry were also present on the occasion. In his keynote address at the Roadshow on Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects in Hyderabad, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines, highlighted India's strong resource base and growing energy needs, noting that the country possesses nearly 400 billion tonnes of coal reserves the fifth largest in the world with sufficient availability for

several decades. He stated that India is today the world's second-largest producer and consumer of coal, with nearly 70% of its electricity generation dependent on coal and millions of livelihoods linked to the sector. Emphasizing the need for smarter utilization of this abundant resource, he described coal gasification as a transformational opportunity for India's energy and industrial future. Shri Reddy noted that de-

spite its vast coal reserves, India continues to remain heavily dependent on imports of methanol, ammonia, fertilizer feedstocks and several critical industrial chemicals, resulting in a substantial outflow of foreign exchange every year. He stated that coal gasification offers a strategic pathway to convert domestic coal into value-added products, strengthen energy security, reduce import dependence and enhance economic resilience. To ensure a transparent and consultative implementation process, he informed stakeholders that the Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) has already been placed in the public domain for comments and suggestions, and invited industry stakeholders to contribute their valuable inputs for further strengthening the framework.

Bhatti Directs Transparent SCCL Medical Board Selection Process

Hyderabad, June 12 (GNS) Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) management to immediately resume Medical Board services and ensure the selection process is conducted with complete transparency and without any irregularities.

Stressing that benefits should reach only genuine and eligible employees, he instructed the management to eliminate middlemen, corruption and fraudulent practices from the process.

He said the decision was taken following concerns raised by public representatives regarding delays in the Medical Board system.

The Deputy Chief Minister also announced that appointment orders will be distributed to 335 legal heirs selected for compassionate and dependent employment at a special programme in Mancheril on Saturday.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the government is also exploring a legal solution to the long-pending "Maruperlu" issue and highlighted several welfare measures introduced for Singareni workers, includ-



ing enhanced age limits for compassionate appointments, insurance coverage and record profit-sharing bonuses. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare of Singareni workers and said efforts are underway to expand SCCL operations and create more employment opportunities, an official statement said.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that the Medical Board system plays a crucial role in ensuring timely support to employees and their families. He said any delay in processing cases causes hardship to workers and directed officials to clear pending applications at the earliest.

He instructed SCCL officials to adopt a streamlined and technology-driven mechanism to improve transparency and accountability in the selection pro-

cess. Regular monitoring of applications and strict adherence to guidelines were also suggested to prevent misuse of the system.

Bhatti Vikramarka noted that the state government is committed to strengthening employee welfare in SCCL and ensuring that deserving beneficiaries receive support without unnecessary delays. He said workers remain the backbone of the company and their well-being is a priority for the government.

The Deputy Chief Minister also urged SCCL management to maintain continuous dialogue with employees' representatives and trade unions to address grievances promptly. He expressed confidence that the measures being implemented would enhance trust among workers and contribute to the company's growth and productivity.

Telangana emerging as major logistics hub, ready for future investments: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, June 12 (GNS) Telangana is rapidly emerging as one of India's most promising logistics destinations, backed by strategic infrastructure investments, progressive policies and a future-focused vision, State IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said on Friday.

Delivering the keynote address at the International Conference on Shipping and Logistics 2026 (ICSL 2026), organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) at HICC, the Minister said logistics is the backbone of economic growth, connecting manufacturers, farmers, businesses and markets.

He noted that in today's global trade environment, resilience, speed, reliability and adaptability have become as important as efficiency. Highlighting Telangana's achievements, Sridhar Babu said the state contributes nearly five percent to India's GDP, ranks seventh among merchan-



dis-exporting states and recorded exports worth over Rs 1.61 lakh crore during 2024-25. Despite being landlocked, Telangana has transformed its geographical position into a strategic advantage through strong multimodal connectivity, Logistics Policy 2.0, expanding air cargo infrastructure and the upcoming Mega Multimodal Logistics Park at Manoharabad. Inviting investors and industry leaders to partner with the state, the Minister said Telangana is

ready to support industry, connect markets and build the logistics ecosystem of the future. FTCCI President Ravi Kumar said Hyderabad is well-positioned to emerge as India's premier hub-and-spoke logistics destination, while Logistics Committee Chairman Kamal Jain said the conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers and academia to discuss the future of India's logistics sector. The conference featured panel discussions on cargo infrastructure, multimodal freight transport, AI-driven logistics, and workforce development.

Participants stressed the need for stronger collaboration among government, industry and academia to enhance India's logistics competitiveness and build a globally competitive supply-chain ecosystem.

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AISF demands fee regulation law, opposes closure of Govt schools

Hanumakonda, June 12 (GNS) Former AISF National President Takkalappalli Srinivasa Rao on Friday demanded that the Telangana government immediately constitute a Fee Regulation Committee and enact legislation to curb what he termed the exploitative fee practices of private and corporate educational institutions. Addressing a roundtable conference organised by the AISF district unit in Hanumakonda, he alleged

that arbitrary fee hikes by private institutions were forcing parents into debt and called for strict action, including withdrawal of recognition for institutions violating norms.

Srinivasa Rao also opposed the closure and merger of government schools on the grounds of low enrolment, stating that such measures would adversely affect students from rural, SC, ST, BC and other disadvantaged communities.

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