

# FALAKNUMA



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### PM SVANidhi transformed lives of countless street vendors: PM Modi



NEW DELHI, Jun 1 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the PM SVANidhi scheme supporting street vendors has transformed the lives of countless hawkers by ensuring access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth. On the completion of six years of the scheme, he also said that PM SVANidhi is all about trust, dignity and empowerment.

"Today we mark #6Year-sofPMSVANidhi, a scheme which has transformed the lives of countless street vendors by ensuring access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth. This scheme is all about trust, dignity and empowerment. My best wishes to all beneficiaries whose determination and enterprise continue to strengthen our nation's economy," Modi said in a post on X. The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a central sec-

tor scheme supporting street vendors through affordable working capital, financial inclusion and social protection measures.

The PM SVANidhi was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors whose businesses had been severely affected. As the first dedicated micro-credit scheme for street vendors, who constituted a significant part of the informal workforce and often had limited access to formal credit, it aimed to support the growth of their businesses while promoting financial inclusion.

The scheme was launched in June 2020. It is a joint responsibility of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS). More than 1.12 crore collateral-free loans worth over Rs 17,800 crore have been disbursed under the PM SVANidhi scheme since its launch in June 2020.

### SC refuses to accept plea to conduct NEET-UG retest in CBT mode

NEW DELHI, Jun 1 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Monday refused to accept a plea seeking the conduct of the NEET-UG 2026 re-test on June 21 in computer-based test mode, saying the National Testing Agency is already faced with too many problems.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Aravind Kumar, which posted the plea by RJD MP Sudhakar Singh and others for hearing on July 27, refused to order the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, in computer-based test (CBT) mode instead of the existing pen-and-paper method. On

(May 12), the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET-UG held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak. The CBI is currently investigating the matter, and a re-test is scheduled for June 21. "There is no question of conducting the re-examination in CBT mode. They (the NTA) are already having too many problems. The examination was cancelled, and now it is being re-conducted. Either we dismiss this petition now or after the vacation," the bench told advocate Satyam Singh Rajput, appearing for the petitioners.

At the outset, Rajput said they are not pressing any



other prayer but only one related to conducting the re-test in CBT mode. The bench said that similar matters were earlier dismissed by the court. Rajput then submitted that the re-examination is being conducted physically, insisting that it be held in the CBT mode. Justice Narasimha told the counsel to under-

stand the current pressure on the NTA. On May 29, the top court had observed that it should not disappoint the youngsters while stressing that the real problem relating to the medical entrance examination would not stop till "actual accountability arises". Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the

apex court that the government was seriously concerned about the concerns of the youths and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was personally supervising the situation so that "there is no lacunae". Mehta also said that some new mechanisms have been put in place for the NEET-UG retest on June 21. The top court was hearing a batch of pleas, including one seeking a direction to replace or restructure the NTA with a robust and autonomous body to conduct the medical entrance examination. An affidavit filed by the NTA in the matter said that it is all set to conduct the NEET-UG in CBT mode

from next year instead of the pen and paper method after consulting the Centre.

After NEET-UG questions were allegedly leaked in 2024, the top court had refused to cancel the test but passed various directions aimed at tackling paper leaks and also a criterion for cancelling public exams.

While hearing the pleas on May 25, the top court had termed it sad that the NTA did not learn lessons from the earlier NEET paper leak. It had sought responses from the Centre, NTA and the CBI on pleas seeking replacement of the testing agency with a robust and autonomous body.

### CDS General N S Raja Subramani calls on President



NEW DELHI, Jun 1 (GNS): Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N S Raja Subramani on Monday called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, here. The President's office shared a picture of the meeting in a post on X.

"Chief of Defence Staff

General N S Raja Subramani along with his wife Smt. Mahalakshmi Subramani called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," it said. Gen Subramani, widely known as an expert on Pakistan and China, on Sunday took charge as India's new CDS.

### India, Australia underscore maritime freedom and supply chain security in high-level talks

NEW DELHI, Jun 1 (GNS): India and Australia on Monday underscored the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded maritime trade amid disruptions in energy supply chains following the West Asia crisis as well as concerns over China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific. These issues figured prominently during wide-ranging talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles in New Delhi. The two ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open,



peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific while emphasising the strategic importance of defence industrial collaboration and engagement between India and Australia.

Following the talks, Singh and Marles announced that the two countries would begin developing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of

defence articles and defence services as the next step in deepening defence industrial collaboration.

"The ministers discussed advancements in bilateral maritime security cooperation and efforts to finalise the Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap," a joint statement said. It said Singh and Marles agreed to progress the collaborative

maritime domain awareness activities by maritime patrol aircraft and explore opportunities to enhance undersea domain awareness. "The ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open, peaceful, stable and prosperous IndoPacific," according to the statement.

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### Modi Govt has lost people's trust, 'failed' on all fronts: Kharage

KALABURAGI, Jun 1 (GNS): Launching a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government over the rising fuel prices, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharage on Monday claimed that they have lost the trust of the people who voted them to power. He also accused the government of "failing" on all fronts.

The AICC chief, however, did not wish to comment on discussions regarding new cabinet formation in the state under CM desig-

nate D K Shivakumar.

"Day-by-day Modi is increasing the prices of gas, petrol, diesel and all other things. Probably, he has no concern for the country. The government led by him has lost the trust of the people who believed and voted them to power," Kharage told reporters here. According to him, PM Modi uses rhetoric to sway the public, but has "failed" to deliver tangible solutions to pressing issues.

"He targets the opposi-



tion for everything, or accuses it of not cooperating in the country's development. While the opposition always thinks about

the country and the people and is doing everything it can. All the programmes they (Modi government) have promised for people are failing," he added.

Prices of commercial LPG - the one used in hotels and restaurants - were on Monday hiked by Rs 42 per 19-kg cylinder, but there was no change in the rates of cooking gas used in household kitchens. Pointing to the depreciation of Indian rupee and rising inflation, Kharage

said the Centre is not concerned about the rising unemployment. "This Government has failed in everything. Only talk, they are not concerned about people, other than talks," he added.

Kharage further alleged that the Centre's economic policies have placed an additional burden on ordinary citizens, particularly farmers, labourers and middle-class families struggling with rising living costs.

### Centre's revenue cr Rs 2.12 lakh cr in April, states' share up at Rs 87,779 cr

New Delhi, Jun 1 (GNS): The Government of India has received 2,12,679 crore, which represents 5.8 per cent of the total receipts for the corresponding BE 2026-27, for April this year. This comprises 1,78,492 crore of tax revenue (Net to Centre), 24,293 crore of non-tax revenue, and 9,894 crore of non-debt capital receipts on account of loan recoveries, according to a finance ministry statement issued on Monday.

The monthly review of the Centre's accounts also



shows that 87,779 crore has been transferred to State Governments as Devolution of Share of Taxes by the Government of India during this period. This is 6,044 crore higher than the previous year.

Total expenditure incurred by the Government of India is 5,74,892 crore, which is 10.8 per cent of the corresponding BE 2026-27. Out of this, 3,85,151 crore is on the revenue account, and 1,89,831 crore is on

the capital account. Of the total revenue expenditure, 1,09,562 crore is on account of interest payments and 43,633 crore is on account of major subsidies.

The subsidy outgo is set to increase in the current fi-

nanical year due to the rise in the cost of petroleum products such as LPG and fertilisers because of the Middle East conflict and the choking of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world's exports of oil and gas transit during normal times. This is expected to increase the outgo on LPG subsidy for the poor and on fertiliser subsidy, which ensures that farmers are cushioned from the global cost rise in the use of crucial inputs for growing their crops.

# PM Modi celebrates sporting breakthroughs, cultural heritage and citizens driving change

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday used the 134th edition of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat to showcase India's growing sporting achievements, celebrate the preservation of its cultural heritage, promote scientific curiosity among youth, and highlight inspiring examples of citizens contributing to nation-building through grassroots initiatives.

Beginning the programme with a focus on India's rising stature in athletics, the Prime Minister lauded athletes who created new national records at the National Senior Athletics Federation Competition held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The event, which fea-

tured nearly 800 participants from across the country, witnessed four national records being broken.

paid special tribute to sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur, whose performances in the men's 100-metre race attracted national attention after the national record was shattered three times in just two days. During an interaction with the athletes, the Prime Minister described their rivalry as a "jugalbandi" that had pushed both competitors to achieve new heights.

"You both have achieved something remarkable. Together, you have created history," Modi said, noting that healthy competition and mutual encouragement had become the driving

force behind their success.

Singh, an officer in the Indian Navy and currently India's fastest sprinter, recalled his journey from a middle-class family to becoming the first Indian to run the 100 metres in under 10.1 seconds. He said he was inspired by his father, a former volleyball player, to pursue sprinting despite widespread perceptions that Indians could not excel in the discipline.

"People used to tell me that the 100 metres was not an event for Indians. But my father and I decided we would prove them wrong," Singh said.

Animesh Kujur, who hails from Chhattisgarh and now represents Odisha, spoke about his transition from



football to athletics and his rise to international competition. He said recent performances had challenged long-standing assumptions about Indian sprinting.

"People often said Indi-

athletes exemplified the true spirit of sportsmanship by motivating one another while striving for excellence. "You challenge each other, help each other and move forward together. This is the true spirit of sportsmanship," he said.

With several regions of the country experiencing severe heatwave conditions, the Prime Minister urged citizens to take precautions and prioritise their well-being. He advised people to remain hydrated, minimise exposure to the sun and follow official health advisories.

Highlighting India's traditional wisdom in dealing with extreme summer temperatures, Modi spoke about a range of regional

beverages including aam panna, lassi, chaas, sattu sherbet, kokum drinks, sol kadhi, panakam, neer mor and bel pana. He said these traditional refreshments reflected India's rich cultural heritage and close connection with local agriculture.

The Prime Minister also celebrated the country's love for mangoes, describing varieties such as Alphonso, Kesar, Dasheri, Langra, Chausa, Himsagar and Banganapalli as symbols of India's diversity. He praised mango growers and noted that Indian mangoes were increasingly finding markets around the world.

Turning to cultural heritage, Modi recalled his recent visit to the Netherlands, where ancient Chola-

era copper plates were formally returned to India. He described the occasion as a matter of immense national pride and said the artefacts offered valuable insights into the reign of Rajendra Chola I, the maritime achievements of the Chola Empire and its historical links with Southeast Asia.

"The rich history and culture of the Chola Empire are a matter of pride for every Indian," he said.

The Prime Minister also referred to the discovery of rare copper plate inscriptions in Chhattisgarh under the Gyan Bharatam initiative, saying such findings help enrich understanding of India's ancient governance systems, culture and religious traditions.

## CJI Kant To Administer Oath To Five New SC Judges

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant is set to administer the oath of office to five new judges of the Supreme Court on June 2, following the Centre's approval of their elevation to the apex court.

According to a circular issued by the Supreme Court Registry, the swearing-in ceremony of Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, and Arun Palli, along with senior advocate V. Mohana, will be held at 10.30 a.m. on June 2 in the Auditorium on the third floor of the Administrative Buildings Complex (ABC) of the Supreme Court.

The Registry has made special arrangements for

the ceremony and notified officers, staff members, and coordinating agencies, including the Supreme Court Security and the CPWD. In view of the event, parking of vehicles except those of Registrars will not be permitted in the Administrative Buildings Complex on the day of the ceremony.

Acting on the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendations, the Centre cleared the appointments of the four High Court Chief Justices and senior advocate Mohana as judges of the top court. Earlier in the day, Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, in a post on X, said that the President.

## Assam Rifles promotes heritage Conservation at Khongjom war memorial

Imphal, June 1 (GNS): Assam Rifles undertook a series of initiatives to promote historical awareness and heritage conservation at the Khongjom War Memorial in Manipur's Kakching district, reaffirming the importance of preserving the state's rich cultural and historical legacy, officials said on Monday.

A Defence spokesman said that as part of the initiative, Assam Rifles, in coordination with the district administration, conducted a joint review of the memorial to assess restoration requirements and identify measures for its beautification and upkeep.

The review was followed



by a Historical Awareness Programme, during which students were educated about the historic Battle of Khongjom of 1891, a defining chapter in Manipur's history that symbolises bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism. A total of 114 students participated in the programme, including 64 NCC cadets, 20 students from Slopeland Higher Secondary School, Kakching, and 20 students from Assam Rifles Public School, Kakching. Through interactive sessions and discussions, the participants were sensitised to the significance of preserving the legacy of Manipuri warriors and understanding the historical importance of the Khongjom War Memorial.

## Stabbing someone under the guise of friendship is unacceptable: CM Yogi

Bijnor, June 1 (GNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday strongly condemned the recent Ghaziabad incident, saying, "Stabbing someone under the guise of friendship is completely unacceptable."

He added that parents who fail to guide and discipline their children are making a serious mistake.

The Chief Minister's remarks were made in the context of the recent murder of 17-year-old Surya Chauhan in Ghaziabad's Khoda area.

Referring to the incident, Yogi Adityanath said that crimes committed under the guise



criminal activities, urging them to take responsibility for correcting their behaviour rather than protecting them from the law.

The case had sparked widespread public outrage. Subsequently, the main accused, Asad, was killed in a police encounter in Ghaziabad. Authorities have also initiated proceedings against properties linked to the accused as part of the ongoing action in the case.

Addressing a gathering in Bijnor, the Chief Minister also responded to recent remarks by some Maulavis and Maulanas regarding declaring the cow the national animal.

## Poor Families Getting LPG At Half The Market Price Under Ujjwala As Govt Ups Subsidy

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS): While the market price of LPG has shot up to Rs 1,200 per cylinder in the global market, the Ujjwala households are still being supplied the gas at Rs 613 per 14.2 kg cylinder, as the government is footing a subsidy of Rs 587 per cylinder, a senior petroleum ministry official said.

In effect, the Ujjwala households are paying only half the market price for the gas while the government is bearing the cost of the rest by providing a subsidy to protect them from the price rise triggered by the Iran war, he added. The under-recovery of the oil marketing companies in 2024-25 was at Rs 41,338 crore in 2024-



25, which has shot up to Rs 60,000 crore in 2025-26 due to the price spike triggered by the Middle East conflict, according to official figures.

The Government has paid a subsidy of Rs 30,000 crore on LPG during the 2025-26 to shield domestic consumers. The price of LPG in India is also much lower than

in neighbouring countries. While general households are paying Rs 913 per LPG cylinder and those under the Ujjwala scheme are paying Rs 613, in Sri Lanka, the families have to shell out Rs 1,241 per cylinder for cooking gas, while in Nepal, the price is Rs 1,207 and in Pakistan, Rs 1,046 per cylinder.

"The price of the commercial cylinder is revised every month because its cost is a direct pass-through of the international benchmark. The domestic cylinder is not. That is the protection," the official observed.

Meanwhile, the supply of domestic LPG in the country remains normal as about 1.22 crore LPG cylinders were delivered to households against bookings of around 1.21 crore cylinders during the last 3 days, according to the latest update of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Online LPG cylinder bookings increased to about 99 per cent on Thursday, while delivery Authentication Code.

## Iran trying to reverse result of military confrontation, will continue to face pressure: Israeli Ambassador

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS): Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, on Monday said that Iran will continue facing pressure, including through the naval blockade, until it agrees to the terms that the United States has put forward.

"We have to be stubborn because Iranians are trying to reverse the result of this military confrontation. They have been defeated... They must renounce the two existential threats they built against Israel and the region and the US President is being stubborn about it. I don't think he is going to renounce his goals and Iran will continue facing pressure, including through

the naval blockade, until it agrees to the terms that the United States has put forward," Azar told IANS in an interview. The Israeli diplomat stated that there is a "very clear demand" to eliminate the military nuclear programme and "sufficient military pressure" has already been applied on Iran to renounce it.

"There is a very clear demand to eliminate the military nuclear programme. I think the Iranian regime has finally realised that being stubborn on this issue, as well as on their intentions to annihilate the state of Israel and create havoc in the region, is not paying off," said Azar. He highlighted the

growing geopolitical alignments in the region "as a result of the threat" that the Iranian regime has been posing over the last few decades.

"You can see that there is a common interest among countries in the region, Israel, its neighbouring countries that are part of the Circle of Peace, Egypt, Jordan, the Abraham Accords countries, and more countries that are concerned about these threats. They are interested in removing these threats and are working behind the scenes with the United States to ensure that these threats are no longer emanating against them. We are working diligently on both the security and

economic fronts to bring prosperity to this region."

The Israeli Ambassador made it clear that both Israel and the US stand ready to take "further action" if Iran does not abandon its military nuclear goals.

"Whoever wants to act according to the law must respect the law. We have seen for decades the Iranian regime deceiving the international community and not meeting its legal commitments under the NPT framework and the IAEA. The IAEA has repeatedly issued reports stating that Iran is not in compliance. So, whoever wants to enjoy legal rights must respect the regime it is part of.

## Indian Railways Freight Rises To 145 MT In April-May Despite Global Headwinds

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS): Indian Railways maintained freight growth momentum in the first two months of FY 2026-27, loading 145 million tonnes of freight up to May 2026. This marked an increase of 1.3 per cent over the same period last year, despite challenges arising from the West Asia conflict, which impacted logistics and supply chains, according to an official statement issued on Monday.

The growth was led by strong performance in iron ore, steel, fertilisers, and the Balance Other Goods segment. Indian Railways remained focused on ensuring the uninterrupted movement of essential commodities across the country through continuous opera-

tional monitoring and efficient asset utilisation.

On the passenger front, Indian Railways carried over 61 crore passengers during May 2026, compared to around 59 crore passengers in the corresponding period last year. The growth was primarily driven by the non-suburban segment, which recorded a 7.4 per cent increase, with passenger numbers rising from 28 crore to 30 crore. This reflects the continued preference for rail travel for both short and long-distance journeys across the country.

Among major commodities, the Balance Other Goods segment registered robust growth of 16 per cent, while iron ore loading increased by 4.8 per cent and pig iron & finished steel



loading grew by 3.5 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. Loading of fertilisers also recorded a healthy growth

of 6.2 per cent. Coal, which continues to account for the largest share of railway freight traffic, maintained steady growth, with loading

increasing by nearly 1 per cent over the previous year. To meet the thermal power plants' requirements and ensure energy security, In-

*Indian Railways has also intensified monitoring of both domestic and EXIM container traffic to facilitate seamless freight movement and support economic activity across regions. These measures have helped sustain freight growth and maintain supply chain efficiency under challenging circumstances.*

dian Railways accorded priority to coal movement and closely monitored its transit across the network.

Indian Railways has also intensified monitoring of both domestic and EXIM container traffic to facilitate seamless freight movement and support economic activity across regions. These measures have helped sustain freight growth and maintain supply chain efficiency under challenging circumstances. To cater to the seasonal surge

in travel demand, Indian Railways operated a large number of summer special trains across various routes.

Passenger convenience has also been enhanced through the continued expansion of modern train services. The national transporter is currently operating 164 Vande Bharat services, including the recently introduced Sleeper Vande Bharat service between Howrah and Kamakhya, while the number of Amrit Bharat services has

reached 68, with three new services inaugurated during May 2026, the statement said.

With sustained growth in freight loading, strong performance across key commodity segments, and rising passenger patronage, Indian Railways continues to strengthen its role as the backbone of the nation's transportation network, facilitating economic activity and connecting people across the country, the statement added.

## India's data centre capacity to cross 4,500 MW by 2030 with \$20-25 bn investments

Bengaluru, June 1 (GNS) India's data centre (DC) market capacity across top seven cities is expected to cross 4,500 MW by 2030, attracting investments to the tune of \$20-25 billion the next 5-6 years, a report showed. This is likely to translate into real estate footprint of around 55 million square feet in the next 5-6 years, according to the report by Colliers.

DC capacity has grown over 4 times times in the last 6-7 years and stands at 1,263 MW (as of April). This growth is driven by the surge in demand for digital and cloud services, increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), and higher internet penetration, supported by favourable government policies. At the city level, Mumbai continued to account for majority of the DC capacity with 41 per cent share, followed by Chennai and Delhi-NCR at 23 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively. This rapid



expansion in capacity has resulted in over 3X times increase in real estate footprint over the last 6-7 years, across top seven DC markets of the country, taking it to 16 million square feet, the report mentioned.

"India is becoming a global DC hotspot, fuelled by rapid digitalisation, data localisation norms and strong government support," said Jatin Shah, Chief Operating Officer, Colliers India.

Undoubtedly, India's strategic advantages such as

availability of land parcels, power supply for usage and availability of skilled talent, reinforces its position as one of the preferred destinations for data centres in the APAC region. "Interestingly, the market is expanding beyond large-scale colocation facilities and hyperscalers to edge data centres driven by increasing need for lower latency, real-time analysis, enhanced app performance, and business agility," said Shah. In terms of geographical spread, 44 per

cent of the new supply since 2020 was concentrated in Mumbai. This was followed by Chennai and Delhi-NCR which together accounted for 42 per cent of the capacity addition since 2020. In the next 5-6 years too, majority of the primary DC markets are set to witness significant influx of new supply. Hyderabad, specifically, is likely to see significant traction and emerge as a major hub, in addition to cities such as Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi-NCR.

## Govt pushing for quality standards to help more Indian products go global: Nidhi Khare

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) on Wednesday said that it is pushing for better quality standards in trade and manufacturing to make Indian products more competitive globally. Speaking on the sidelines of the 'Bharat Quality Mission' event here, Nidhi Khare, Secretary of DoCA which is under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, highlighted the importance of quality in both exports and the domestic market. She said that in any sector, whether it's trade or commerce, being globally competitive is essential. "We must understand that for any sector, be it trade or commerce, being globally competitive is essential and therefore, adherence to quality is fundamental," Khare told. For this, maintaining high quality is a must. "Consumers today expect assurance of good quality products. It's not just



"Since MSMEs are major manufacturers in our country, we have initiated close engagement with them to understand their challenges and address any grievances they may have," she mentioned. Khare further said that they are actively engaging with MSMEs to understand their challenges and resolve any issues related to quality standards. "Ultimately, any nation which rises has to ensure credibility of its goods and services. There cannot be any abstinence or there cannot be any free passes to the concern of quality," she stated. The 'Bharat Quality Mission' event saw participation from several MSME stakeholders and industry associations. The aim was to create awareness about quality assurance and to encourage industries to adopt higher standards for better growth and consumer trust.

about exports; even for the domestic market, quality matters," Khare noted. Since a large part of India's manufacturing sector is driven by micro, small and medium

enterprises (MSMEs), the government is focusing on working closely with them. "Assurance of good quality is not only important for exports but also for the domes-

## iPhone exports from India to US surge 76 pc at 3 million units in April

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) As Apple ramps up its India manufacturing plans, iPhone exports from the country to the US surged 76 per cent (year-on-year) in April, according to a new report. According to latest estimates by market research firm Omdia, nearly 3 million 'India-made' iPhones were shipped to the US in April.

In comparison, iPhone shipments from China plummeted by a massive 76 per cent to just 900,000 units.

This marks the first time India has consistently outpaced China in supplying iPhones to the American market, according to a report by CNBC, citing the data.

"Apple has been preparing for this kind of trade disruption for years. The April spike likely reflects strategic stockpiling ahead of tariff hikes," Le Xuan Chiew, research manager at Omdia, was quoted as saying in the report. The demand in the US for iPhones is around 20



million per quarter at the moment. A 'Made in US' Apple iPhone can cost a whopping \$3,500 (more than Rs 2,98,000) in absence of a fully-integrated supply chain in the country.

Dan Ives, global head of technology research at Wedbush Securities, told the CNN recently that the idea of fully domestic iPhone production is a "fictional tale." Ives also warned that replicating Apple's complex Asian supply chain in the US would result in massive cost increases. Moreover,

it would take Apple at least three years and a massive \$30 billion just to shift 10 per cent of its supply chain to the US, according to market watchers. Apple CEO Tim Cook said during the company's latest quarterly earnings call that "the majority" of iPhones shipped to the US for the June quarter will come from India. US President Donald Trump has threatened a 50 per cent tax on all imports from the European Union as well as a 25 per cent tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are made in the US.

## TRAI launches consultation paper on assignment of more microwave spectrum

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Wednesday released a consultation paper on the assignment of the microwave spectrum in 6 GHz (lower), 7 GHz, 13 GHz, 15 GHz, 18 GHz, 21 GHz Bands, E-Band and V-Band. TRAI has now invited written comments from stakeholders on the consultation paper, which has been placed on the regulator's website (www.trai.gov.in), by June 25 and counter-comments by July 9.

The consultation paper has been issued in response to the request from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide recommendations under the TRAI Act, 1997, on issues such as the demand assessment and scope of service/ usage for spectrum in these bands, and the methodology of assignment of spectrum and associated terms and conditions, in line with the determination of scope of services/ us-



ages by TRAI, i.e., "Access" or "Backhaul" or "Integrated Access & Backhaul," the official statement said.

Spectrum charges and related terms and conditions, such as spectrum cap, carrier aggregation for assignment of spectrum in these bands for backhaul purposes of commercial telecom services, are another issue that has been covered in the consultation paper. DoT also sought TRAI recommendations on the quantum of spectrum.

to be earmarked for last-

## Microsoft joins India's Yotta Data Services to boost AI innovation in country

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) Microsoft and Yotta Data Services, India's leading sovereign cloud infrastructure and platform services provider, on Wednesday partnered to accelerate artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in India. The partnership enables Microsoft and Yotta to engage with IndiaAI Mission participants, government agencies, IITs, startups, enterprises, and software development companies to leapfrog AI innovation. Microsoft said it would bring its AzureAI services to Shakti Cloud, Yotta's AI cloud platform, to offer cutting-edge AI capabilities to developers, startups, enterprises, and public sector organisations across India.

"Our partnership with Yotta to power Shakti Cloud will help unlock AI innovation at scale. Microsoft is honoured to play its part in helping the



country realise its AI ambitions through innovation that reflect India's unique needs and priorities," said Puneet Chandok, President, Microsoft India and South Asia. India is already among the top global markets on AI adoption and return on investment. Together with Yotta, we will continue to help India become an AI-first nation, securely and responsibly, he added. As of May, IndiaAI Mission has received over 500 proposals for developing indigenous AI models. Shakti Cloud customers

will benefit from a rich ecosystem and vast catalogue of foundational LLMs and SLMs available on Azure AI Foundry to develop, deploy and scale at the speed of AI. Built-in safety tools, content filters, groundedness detection, and copyright protection will empower organisations to build and scale AI responsibly. As a global provider of software, infrastructure, and cloud services, Microsoft runs on trust and enables trustworthy AI by prioritising security, privacy, and safety.

## SC upholds delisting of ICICI Securities



New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the delisting of ICICI Securities from the stock exchanges, rejecting a plea by an individual investor who challenged the share valuation process as being unfair. The investor, Manu Rishi Gupta, had questioned the delisting on the ground that a reverse book building mechanism might have resulted in a better price for shareholders.

ICICI Securities was delisted in March last year, and it became a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank. Gupta's counsel contended in the apex court that the delisting of ICICI Securities was done in an opaque and rushed manner and termed

it "shocking". The counsel for ICICI Securities informed the Supreme Court that Gupta continued to indulge in buying and selling of shares of ICICI Securities, including as recently as August 2024 which undermined his claims of unfair treatment.

Nearly 72 per cent of shareholder votes were cast in favour of the scheme of arrangement for the merger of ICICI Securities with its promoter ICICI Bank, the private sector lender had stated in a regulatory filing with the stock exchanges. The voting was conducted after a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) directive in February 2024, which mandated a shareholder meeting to approve the plan.

## Bosch clocks 2 pc decline in Q4 net profit at Rs 554 cr

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) Bosch Limited has reported a 2 per cent decline year-on-year (YoY) in its consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ending March 31 (Q4 FY25), with profit after tax (PAT) standing at Rs 554 crore.

This is down from Rs 564 crore recorded in the same period last year (Q4 FY24), according to its stock exchange filing. For the full financial year FY25, Bosch reported a 19 per cent decline in consolidated net profit, which dropped to Rs 2,013 crore from Rs 2,490 crore in FY24.

However, the company saw a healthy rise in its revenue from operations, which increased to Rs 4,911 crore in Q4 from Rs 4,233 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. The company's annual revenue showed strong growth, rising to Rs 18,087 crore from Rs 16,727 crore the year before. Bosch also noted a rise in total expenses



during the quarter, which grew by around 15 per cent YoY to Rs 4,369 crore from Rs 3,798.9 crore.

Bosch Managing Director Guruprasad Mudlapur said the company closed the financial year with robust revenue growth and improved sales across all business segments, despite market challenges. "Amid a challenging business environment, we concluded FY24-25 with strong revenue growth and increased sales across businesses," Mudlapur stated. He added that India is set to become a major automotive hub.

## Cabinet okays interest subsidy on farmers' loans for 2025-26

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the continuation of the interest subvention component under the modified interest subvention scheme (MISS) for loans to farmers during the financial year 2025-26, and approved the required fund arrangements, according to an official statement issued after the meeting. MISS is a Central sector scheme aimed at ensuring the availability of short-term credit to farmers at an affordable interest rate through Kisan credit cards (KCC). Under the scheme, farmers receive short-term loans of up to Rs 3 lakh through kisan credit cards at a subsidised interest rate of 7 per cent with 1.5 per cent interest subvention provided to eligible lending institutions.

Additionally, farmers repaying loans promptly are eligible for an incentive of up to 3 per cent as a prompt



repayment incentive, effectively reducing their interest rate on KCC loans to 4 per cent. For loans taken exclusively for animal husbandry or fisheries, the interest benefit is applicable up to Rs 2 lakh. No changes have been proposed in the structure or other components of the scheme, according to an official statement.

There are more than 7.75 crore KCC accounts in the country. The continuation of this support is critical to sustaining the flow of institutional credit to agriculture, which is vital for enhancing productivity and ensuring financial inclusion for small

and marginal farmers. Institutional credit disbursement through KCC has increased from Rs 4.26 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 10.05 lakh crore by December 2024. Overall agricultural credit flow also rose from Rs 7.3 lakh crore in FY 2013-14 to Rs 25.49 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, the statement said. Digital reforms such as the launch of the Kisan Rin Portal in August 2023 have enhanced transparency and efficiency in claim processing. Given the current lending cost trends, median MCLR and repo rate movements, retaining the interest subvention rate at 1.5 per cent.

## Cabinet hikes MSP of 14 kharif crops to boost farmers' incomes

New Delhi, June 1 (GNS) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for marketing season 2025-26 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce, according to an official statement issued.

The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for nigerseed (Rs 820 per quintal), followed by ragi (Rs 596 per quintal), cotton (Rs 589 per quintal), and sesame (Rs 579 per quintal).

The increase in MSP for kharif crops for the 2025-26 marketing season is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production. The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of bajra (63 per cent).

# Revanth Reddy seeks Telangana's due share in Krishna, Godavari waters

Hyderabad, June 1 (GNS) : In light of the meteorological department's indications that drought conditions will persist due to the El Nino effect, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to ensure that Telangana receives its share of Krishna and Godavari waters. He cautioned officials that if the upper riparian states follow a policy of releasing water only after their dams are full, it will cause problems for Telangana.

In the context of the rainy season and the beginning of agricultural activity, the Chief Minister reviewed advance action measures to be taken at a high-level meeting in Dr B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat. As the drought situation is also likely to prevail in Maharashtra and Karnataka, the Chief Minister directed irrigation department officials to proactively discuss with officials of



those states and formulate appropriate action plans to ensure that Telangana receives its pro-rata share of inter-state waters.

He directed Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao to discuss with Maharashtra officials the issue of the state utilising 100 per cent of the water from the Koyna Dam for hydropower generation and whether Telangana can take that entire water and supply the required electricity to them. The Chief Minister remind-

ed that thousands of TMC of water from the Godavari River flows wastefully into the sea every year, and that floods also arrive in a very short time. In this context, he suggested formulating a clear policy on how to divert floods coming from both the Godavari and Pranahita sides

He directed that repairs to the gates of all dams in the state be undertaken on a war footing. The CM questioned officials for details on dam maintenance.

He recalled the troubles that arose in the Kadam Project in the past. Officials from the finance department informed that Rs 300 crores have already been released for gate repairs and maintenance.

He ordered that funds be released immediately, no matter how much is required. CM Revanth Reddy warned that if any issues arise regarding dams anywhere during this rainy season, strict action will be taken against the officials.

The Chief Minister directed agriculture department officials to make decisions on crop sowing in accordance with the meteorological department estimates and reports. He said awareness should be created among farmers through Rythu Vedikas on crop shifting, crop diversification, low-water-consuming crops, and varieties. He said videos prepared with AI technology on this matter should be screened. He directed that broadcasts related to this be arranged on TV channels as well. He said appropriate care should also be taken in the supply of necessary seeds and fertilisers along with crop sowing. The Chief Minister questioned officials about the implementation details of the assurances given during his field-level visits to Kamareddy, Khammam, and Warangal districts during last year's floods.



Falaknuma News Editor in Chief Mohd Ather Raheem Saab visited Legacy Palace at Bahadurpura, Greetings to Mir Hussain Ali Hashmi along with cousin brothers.

# CID busts illegal betting network, arrests 11 in pan-India operation



Hyderabad, June 1 (GNS): Intensifying its crackdown on online betting networks, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Telangana has arrested 11 accused in a pan-India operation, dismantling an illegal betting network linked to Dafabet. The CID, which conducted operations across New Delhi, Gujarat and Punjab, has also frozen 46

against them in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, indicating a systematic pan-India operation. The arrests were made in a case registered last year by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) at Karimnagar-II Town Police Station on a complaint lodged by Challa Sai Krishna Reddy, a software engineer from Karimnagar.

He was induced by the promotional campaigns of Dafabet (www.dafabet.com) to participate in online betting. Trusting the platform's representations, he deposited and wagered money over a period spanning January 2024 to January 2025 and suffered a total loss of Rs 9.95 lakh.

The SIT traced the com-

plaintant's funds through a network of 46 mule bank accounts spread across eight layers, which were used to collect and route illegal betting proceeds. Forensic analysis of bank transactions, mobile numbers, email IDs, social media profiles and WhatsApp groups revealed a coordinated, multi-state criminal network. The accused promoted betting on cricket, casino games and the Aviator platform through the Dafabet app. Victims were attracted with promises of easy money, bonuses and high returns. Funds were collected through UPI IDs, QR codes, internet banking and multiple bank accounts controlled by the network. Initial payouts were made strategically to build trust and encourage higher wagers.

# Congress 'talent hunt' for new leadership: Mahesh

Hyderabad, June 1 (GNS) : The Telangana Congress has launched a new program to attract capable and educated youth into politics. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud officially announced the party's innovative 'Talent Hunt' program at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday. He explained that the Congress party is providing a golden opportunity to talented young men and women who want to enter public life and that this program has been shaped by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's ideas that youth should play a major role in nation building.

Mahesh Kumar Goud clarified that this is not a program like a regular party recruitment, but that everyone who has the desire to serve the society is invited, regardless of their political background. The official representatives of the party will be selected through this talent hunt in a completely transparent manner. Those who have a strong



understanding of national and state political affairs, are fully committed to secularism, have a genuine interest in social service, and are skilled in speaking effectively to the public will be selected through this process.

The TPCC chief clarified that the Congress party is providing this platform to good people who have talent, clear vision and service attitude, even if they do not have traditional political connections. This step taken by the Congress to invite new blood from the grassroots level into the party, in contrast to hereditary politics, is now arousing keen interest among the aspiring youth across the state.

# BJP cannot come to power in Telangana: CPI leader Sambasiva

Hyderabad, June 1 (GNS) : Communist Party of India (CPI) Telangana State Secretary and MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao on Monday asserted that the BJP would not be able to come to power in Telangana despite ongoing political propaganda projecting the party's rise in the state. Addressing the CPI Telangana State Council meeting held at Makhdoom Bhavan in Himayatnagar, Sambasiva Rao said southern states were largely resisting the BJP's expansion and accused the party of relying on religious polarisation rather than development and welfare politics.

He said the CPI must intensify ideological struggles, strengthen cadre training, and organise large-scale agitations on issues affecting farmers, Dalits, RTC workers, Singareni employees, minimum wages, pensions, Podu lands, and forest rights. The CPI leader also observed that public resentment against the Telangana government was gradually emerging.

# Organic Mela promotes healthy living and natural farming in Hyd



Hyderabad, June 1 (GNS): An "Organic Mela - Exhibition and Sales" aimed at promoting organic farming, healthy lifestyles, and eco-friendly products is being held at the HMDA Grounds on Necklace Road in Hyderabad under the aegis of HMTV.

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with Telangana Farmers Commission members Gadugu Gangadhar, Guttha Amit Reddy, and Chandrasekhar Goud, visited the exhibition and inspected various stalls showcasing organic produce, millets, traditional food products, natural agricultural produce, handicrafts, organic honey, dairy wellness prod-

ucts, and sustainable living innovations. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said organic food products play an important role in protecting public health and urged farmers to adopt natural farming methods. He stated that such exhibitions help create direct connections between farmers and consumers.

He also said the government was committed to promoting organic farming and noted that such melas provide important marketing opportunities for farmers. The exhibition features more than 200 stalls displaying organic foods, millets, eco-friendly products, handlooms, handicrafts, and agricultural innovations.

# Telangana to set up dedicated Employees Health Care Trust for EHS in Next Few Days: Chief Secretary

Hyderabad, June 1 (GNS) : The Telangana Government will constitute a dedicated Employees Health Care Trust within the next few days to implement the Employees Health Scheme (EHS) and strengthen healthcare services for government employees, pensioners and their dependent family members, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao announced on Monday. The Chief Secretary made the announcement while chairing a meeting with members of the Joint Staff Council and representatives of various employees' associations at the State Secretariat to discuss measures for streamlining and improving healthcare services under



the EHS. Ramakrishna Rao said the proposed Trust would function as a dedicated institutional mechanism for delivering healthcare benefits efficiently, transparently and in a hassle-free manner.

He added that the operational guidelines for the formation and functioning of the Trust would be finalised after incorporating suggestions and recommendations received from employees' associations.

Stating that the initiative was being undertaken under the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Chief Secretary said the government was committed to ensuring accessible and quality healthcare services for serving employees, pensioners and their dependants across the state. He clarified that a separate bank account would be opened exclusively for the Trust and that it would be funded through equal fi-

nanial contributions from the government and employees. The Trust would function autonomously and have the authority to take decisions independently in the interests of beneficiaries, he said.

Ramakrishna Rao assured representatives that employee welfare remained a priority for the government and that all efforts were being made to establish a sustainable and responsive healthcare sys-

tem. Suggestions made by employees' organisations would be carefully examined before the operational framework of the Trust is finalised, he added.

Representatives of various employees' associations welcomed the proposal and offered suggestions relating to governance, financial management, service delivery and grievance redressal mechanisms to ensure the effective functioning of the Trust.

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