

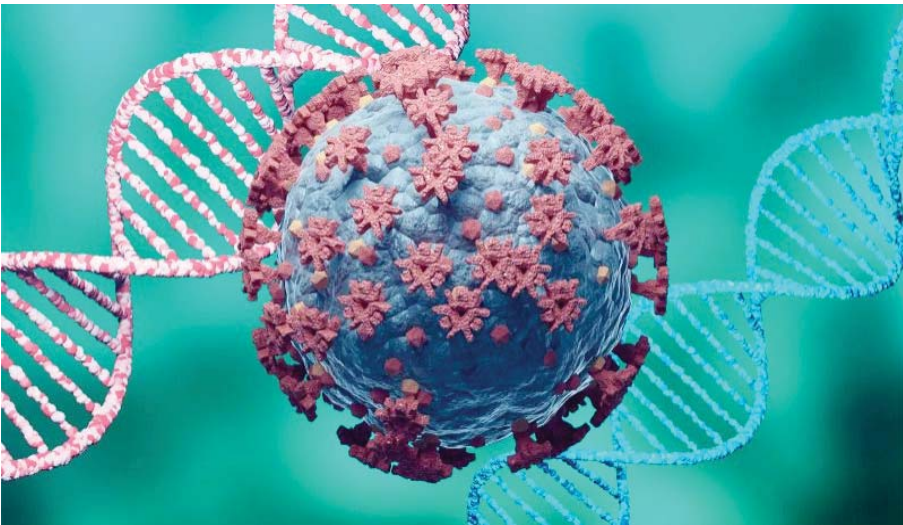
We must assess sudden deaths which took place as a consequence of COVID-19

Abantika Ghosh

What is the statute of limitations for holding a government accountable for deaths that it had been in a position to prevent? Once the fog of war lifts and the media is done with tales of machismo, lessons taught, and jets downed, this question will need to be asked.

This is something that people associated with the government at that time now admit in private with candour and the benefit of hindsight. Delays had happened in vaccine procurement and the government had been blindsided by the delta wave. It was caught napping in its obligation to prepare the health infrastructure when it had had a year to do so. But the official death data from 2021, that show that the year saw approximately 20 lakh more deaths than in 2020, opens up another more urgent need for introspection.

What is the link between COVID-19 sequelae and sudden death? A 2023 study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had concluded there is no link between the vaccine and sudden death but given ICMR's complicity in keeping the real COVID-19 toll numbers under wraps, there may be a need for a more credible, preferably non-government-funded examination into this crucial question. Day in and day out during the pandemic, including the devastat-



ing days of the delta wave when those of us covering the pandemic for various publications were inundated with requests for beds, oxygen cylinders and, finally, help in expediting last rites, government officials including ICMR scientists diligently told us all was well and India's death rates were far lower than international numbers by what can only be termed statistical jugglery. Testing numbers were given in absolutes and cases and deaths as population percentages!

Now that the real numbers are out, the government owes it to those alive to honestly and truthfully seek answers about why all around us, we suddenly see young and apparently healthy people die without any previous signs of illness.

As it happens, even the Civil Registration System (CRS) data may not reveal the actual number of excess deaths. This is because the estimate assumes that the

upward trend of reducing gap between actual deaths and their registration – in 2019 it stood at 92% – continued through the pandemic. It also omits for the first time a crucial piece of data – the estimated births and deaths in the country.

But, there is another government document that may hold some clues. The National Family Health Survey 5 that collected data between 2019 and 2021 puts the death registration rate at a mere 71%. Going by the law of averages and also what was plausible given the situation that existed in the country in those three months when funeral pyres were lit like bonfires and rivers overflowed with bodies, the actual number for 2021 was likely much lower.

This then makes even the World Health Organisation figure of 47 lakh (4.7 million) excess deaths, that the government has so vehemently opposed at all fora and according to some

reports had even attempted to stall release of, look like an underestimation. Incidentally, one of the arguments the government had used in their rebuttal was that the death registration rate in the country stood at a phenomenal 99%. This new data therefore also calls for assessing in this light how many of these deaths could have been prevented if the government of India had not for its own inexplicable reasons refused to buy vaccines even as one company sat with a stockpile, indulged in vaccine maitri while Indians were dying and made the patently ludicrous decision of allowing the Kumbh Mela in the face of a surging pandemic.

When in 2023 ICMR released its study exonerating COVID-19 vaccines in the surge in sudden, unexplained deaths in young adults that seems to have happened post pandemic, questions had been immediately raised about the

methodology, lack of distinction between the various kinds of vaccines used – mRNA, live attenuated, vector-based – and some of the assumptions made in the study. In a letter to the Indian Journal of Medical Research, experts from D.Y. Patil Medical College and IIT Mumbai had called for a “multidisciplinary approach involving forensic experts, pathologists, geneticists and investigators, along with prospective cohort studies, (that) would enhance the robustness of findings in studies of this nature.” Much water has flown down the then corpse-laden Ganga since the pandemic, books written and elections won on India's COVID-19 “success” story; the fact that the CRS data, by providence or by design emerged in the middle of a raging war in the northern and western frontiers of the country has ensured Pakistan hogs the entire quota of the country's outrage with none directed inwards for the perceived wrongs of the pandemic.

But there is a need to look beyond outrage, to the future and not to the past, to strategise and plan rather than to apportion blame. An impartial and unbiased examination into post-COVID-19 sudden deaths that looks at not just the effects of the vaccines but those of the disease itself over the long term is the need of the hour and not just in the spirit of scientific inquiry and political accountability.

Op Black Forest: Decisive blow to Naxals

The 21 days long intelligence-based operation “Operation Black Forest” jointly conducted by the CRPF along with Chhattisgarh police achieved remarkable success. The joint operation between the CRPF and the Chhattisgarh Police was launched in April 2025 at Karrenguttalu Chhattisgarh — Telangana border. Since its launch on April 21, 2025, till May 14, 2025 in a span of 21 days 21 encounters took place in which nearly 50 wanted Naxalites were neutralized by the security forces. The Karrenguttalu Hill (KGH) was considered to be the impregnable stronghold of naxalites located in Chhattisgarh-Telangana border housing the integrated headquarter of banned naxal organisations PLGA battalion, CRC Company, Telangana State Committee etc.

The remarkable feat achieved in this operation is reflection of coherent operational synergy between multi-agency dedicated teams, CAPFs and the state police and have established an area dominance for the CAPFs in this geographically complex region. As a result nearly 214 naxal hideouts and well-constructed bunkers were destroyed and 450 IEDs, 818 BGL shells, 899 bundles of Codex, detonators, huge cache of small arms, explosive material along with 12,000 KGs of ration have been recovered.

So far, a total of 214 Naxal hideouts and bunkers have been destroyed in this operation and a total of 450 IEDs, 818 BGL shells, 899 bundles of Codex, detonators and a huge amount of explosive material have been recovered during the search. In addition, nearly 12,000 kilograms of food supplies have also been recovered.

Analysis of the information obtained during this historic 21-day-long anti-Naxal operation suggests that several senior Naxal cadres were either killed or seriously injured during the operation. However, due to the difficult geographical conditions, the security forces have not yet been able to recover the bodies of all the injured or killed Naxalites. The well-coordinated anti-naxal operation are conducted under the Joint Action Plan (JAP) filling security gaps by achieving area dominance and establishing camps, realising the aspirations of the local citizens and implement comprehensive development scheme reflects the Government of India's policy commitment towards the naxal affected region and its policy ultimatum to eliminate the menace of

Left Wing Extremism by March 31, 2026 from India. The assured development and tactical success is not achieved by the Government overnight but is a reflection of pro-development and proactive policies implemented by the Government in collaboration with the state Governments of the affected states. Left Wing Extremism has always been a prominent threat not only to India's internal security but indeed to the fundamental democratic, pluralistic political order enshrined in the constitution. The movement started in 1967 in a few Parganas in West Bengal has widespread across more than 195 districts spanning prominent states in the east, central and southern region of India described it as Red Corridor. The concept of the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) is based on creating anarchy in the society through violent means and creating a fraction amongst masses on the basis of urban rural, tribal non-tribal endangering national integration. The whole movement has survived on some of the basic issues like poverty, disparity and discontent amongst masses and have posed severe challenges to the security of the country. Till now more than 30,000 citizens and security personnels have been martyred. Due to decisive success achieved by the forces in the tactical domain paving the way for comprehensive development the LWE movement has also received great support from urban India as well.

The non decisive orientation of internal security policies has blind folded the policy orientation making it a mere law and order issue rather than a prominent internal security threat. The Government changed its policy outlook after 2014 and further intensified after the present Home Minister Amit Shah took office in 2019. He introduced the zero-tolerance policy against naxalism and launched a 3-pronged strategy to effectively deal with the menace of left wing extremism.

Due to this multi-prong strategy utilized by the Government the spread of naxalism has been restricted to mere 6 districts and is breathing its last into certain villages and blocks of Chattisgarh and Jharkhand. As a result the naxal incidents recorded in 2014 were 1080 which has reduced to 374 in 2024. In 2014, 88 security personnel made supreme sacrifice during the operations. Due to area dominance achieved by the forces the naxals received a big blow in fatal casualties in 2024, 2089 naxals were neutralised.

As a result 928 LWE cadres left the violent path and embraced social integration by surrendering their arms in 2024. In this year May 14, 2025 total 718 cadres have surrendered. This great operational success results in to establishing strong 320 camps in naxal affected region which includes 68 night-landing helipads, 555 fortified police stations which were merely 66 in 2014. This underscores the changing defensive posture of the forces to decisive assertive outlook committed to achieve desired result in timebound manner.

This long-term comprehensive policy started yielding fruits of development. The ill famed reginos of Bastar, Sukma, Dantevada regions which known for violent activity are embracing development and remained considerably peaceful. In an historic moment, the Hon'ble Home minister made a night stay and extensively engaged with local citizens and launched various development initiatives like Bastar Pandum. The initiatives like Bastar Battalion, Bastar Pandum have truly sensed the pulse of masses in the region and have provided avenues to integrate themselves with the mainstream. The apt use of assuring development and security is backed by appropriate budgetary allocation has gained the trust of citizens. The `1 Cr per village in naxal affected region has truly realising the transformation. The people of Bastar and around severely affected region have actively participated in the political process by casting their votes in general elections in 2024 and assembly elections. The dedicated development and security policy have redefined the policy priorities of the Government through which transformative infrastructure is developed in naxal affected region.

Total 11,632 km roads are developed facilitating seamless movement of people across the region. Fully operational 5731 post offices, 1007 banks, 937 ATMs have facilitated growth in the region. In addition, the 8500 towers seamlessly facilitating 4G connectivity truly strengthened the expression of the people of this region and connected them with various avenues of growth like e-commerce, sales portals etc. The budding generation is receiving quality education through 250 Ekalavya schools.

This holistic approach, balancing security and development, force and compassion, is steadily dismantling the ideological and logistical base of the Naxalite movement. With the current momentum, the Government's vision of a Naxal-free India by March 31, 2026 is not merely aspirational, it is increasingly within reach.

The success of Operation Black Forest highlights the growing capability of security forces in tackling Left Wing Extremism through coordinated intelligence, advanced planning, and sustained ground operations. The destruction of fortified hideouts and recovery of large quantities of explosives has significantly weakened the operational network of Naxal groups in the region.

The government's approach combines security action with development initiatives aimed at bringing lasting peace to affected areas. Expansion of roads, banking facilities, digital connectivity, education and welfare programmes has helped improve the confidence of local communities and encourage their participation in mainstream growth.

The establishment of new security camps and improved infrastructure has strengthened the presence of security forces in remote areas, enabling faster response and better protection for civilians. Officials believe that continued coordination between central forces and state agencies will further reduce the influence of extremist groups.

With sustained operations and development-focused measures, the fight against Left Wing Extremism is moving towards a decisive phase. The focus remains on restoring stability, empowering local populations, and ensuring that affected regions become centres of progress and opportunity.

This isn't about Waqf it's about reducing muslim citizenship in India to a conditional privilege

Istikhhar Ali
Madeeha Fatima

The debate over Waqf properties is not just another political controversy. It represents the latest front in a decades-long campaign to reduce Muslim citizenship in India to a conditional privilege – something to be perpetually proven, defended, and begged for, but never taken for granted. Since 1947, Indian Muslims have struggled for belonging, only to watch the terms of equality constantly shift.

The Waqf – once a symbol of community autonomy and spiritual stewardship – has now become a battleground. But this conflict transcends land disputes. It reveals how the law itself is being weaponised to humiliate, marginalise, and erase. Far from being mere administrative reform, the Waqf debate serves as a litmus test for Indian democracy. It demonstrates how willingly the state undermines constitutional guarantees to recast citizenship as conditional – particularly for Muslims. The targeting of Waqf properties is not incidental; it reflects a deliberate strategy to dismantle minority agency under legal pretexts, while political and corporate actors quietly divide the spoils. We recognise this pattern. Five years ago, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) followed a similar trajectory, as did recent hijab bans. The BJP, empowered by a pliant media ecosystem, has



polarised public discourse, advancing such measures through both legal and extra-legal means.

Initial protests spark brief outrage, but public attention inevitably wanes. There is no sustained social media campaign, no consistent prime-time coverage, and no lasting street mobilisation. Yet these policies continue their quiet, devastating work – reshaping lives in ways that escape national attention. The everyday lives of Muslims in India are increasingly governed by an architecture of surveillance, restriction, and erasure – legitimised through state policy and legal instruments. A clear parallel lies in the operation of the Gujarat Disturbed Areas Act, which has long been used to deny Muslims the right to buy property without prior approval from a district collector. The law allows authorities to declare any

Hindu-majority neighborhood a “disturbed area” if any property is transferred to a Muslim, citing a potential law and order situation. The result is an institutionalised form of ghettoisation – where segregation and invisibilisation are not only sustained but deepened by law. Even when judicial relief is granted, there is no guarantee that Muslim buyers will not face protests from neighbours or organised social backlash.

Similar patterns unfold elsewhere. In Assam, the Cattle Preservation Act bans the slaughter or sale of cattle in areas dominated by Hindus, Sikhs, or Jains, or within a five-kilometer radius of a temple or satra. Under the guise of religious sensitivity, such laws effectively criminalise Muslim livelihoods in regions where beef consumption has historically been part of local culture. It is just as effortless

for a state administration to restrict Muslim religious processions of Eid Milad-un-Nabi or Muharram, as it is to accommodate majoritarian mobilisations. During the Kanwar Yatra, entire stretches of public infrastructure are placed at the disposal of Shiva devotees; roads are cleared, law enforcement is instructed to assist, and any disruption is normalised as devotion.

In stark contrast, Muslim religious expression is monitored, curtailed, and occasionally criminalised. Even Muslim-owned eateries are coerced through bureaucratic orders into displaying religious identifiers during such periods, rendering them vulnerable to targeted economic boycotts or attacks under the pretense of religious sentiment.

The current manipulation of Waqf law follows the established blueprint of other such laws: a fleeting

moment of public outcry gives way to silence and reluctant acceptance. Within weeks, independent reports surface – bulldozers leveling mosques and madrasas, eviction notices served arbitrarily, implicit threats made under the guise of Waqf regulations. The law, in its current form, provides unconstitutional cover for what amounts to legalised land grabs and targeted dispossession.

The Waqf Act purports to be a governance tool but functions as an instrument of dispossession. Politicians stoke communal tensions. Corporations circle Waqf land under the banner of development. Bureaucrats – shielded by ambiguity and impunity – act as judge, jury, and executioner. Due process is ignored. Accountability is nonexistent.

This is not an anomaly – it is intentional. We are witnessing the legal disenfranchisement of Muslims, disguised as bureaucratic routine. Like the CAA, the Waqf Act sanitises exclusion through procedural language. Similar to the Citizenship Amendment Act, which presented the appearance of benevolence by fast-tracking citizenship for persecuted minorities while deliberately excluding Muslims and selecting only countries where Muslims are the majority, the Waqf Act claims to promote transparency and accountability, but embeds provisions that effectively erode Muslim control over religious.

Renewable energy to make northeast central to India's green growth plans: Pralhad Joshi



New Delhi, June 26 (GNS): The renewable energy sector will play a pivotal role in powering the growth vision for the northeast region, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, said .

Northeast has vast untapped renewable energy resources, including over 129 GW potential from large hydro projects and more than 18 GW from pumped storage plants.

These natural advantages, coupled with rising energy demand and strategic cross-border positioning, make the region central to India's green growth plans, said the minister at the 'Rising North East Investors Summit 2025' here.

Describing Northeast as India's 'Ashtalakshmi', Joshi said, "By turning the Northeast's natural resources into wealth through green power, we are, in effect, making each state a 'Lakshmi' of clean energy contributing to India's prosperity." Northeast will also play a key role in ensuring India's grid stability in the near future under 'One Nation, One Grid', the minister emphasised.

During recent investor engagements, major Indian conglomerates expressed significant interest in the region's renewable energy potential. A total of 115 memoranda

of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 38,856 crore have been signed between state governments and private investors in the renewable energy sector. The minister also highlighted various recent investments from private players which will bring massive employment and development in Northeast. To promote clean energy development in the region, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has earmarked 10 per cent of its annual scheme budget exclusively for the northeastern Region. In addition to this dedicated allocation, the Ministry is extending enhanced financial assistance to further encourage investment.

This includes a 10 per cent higher Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, as well as a 20 per cent higher CFA for Components B and C of the PM-KUSUM scheme. Joshi also shared that a 20 MW solar park has been successfully commissioned in Champhai district of Mizoram, showcasing the region's project-readiness. He also mentioned that a 25 MW green hydrogen plant is under development in Assam, which also hosts India's first pure green hydrogen plant.

India, US make progress on mutually beneficial trade agreement: Goyal

New Delhi, June 26 (GNS): India and the US have made further progress on concluding a mutually beneficial trade agreement, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has stressed, amid talks with the US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick towards the first tranche of Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

India presents a compelling case to the US for a bilateral trade deal, given the outlook on growth and demography. "Held a constructive meeting with Secretary Howard Lutnick for a mutually beneficial trade agreement," said Goyal in a post on X social media platform on Thursday (US time). The union minister further stated that the two nations are "committed to enhancing opportunities for our businesses and people".

India and the US are working to sign the first tranche of BTA to bring down tariffs before the agreed timeline of the fall of 2025, as the



terms of reference for the pact have already been finalised. Earlier, Goyal had said that "very good negotiations" with the US were underway.

"Looking at the growth, India offers in the next 25-30 years with a large, aspirational, young population who will add to the demand for goods and services, we believe India will be a compelling case to enter into a

good agreement with the US," Goyal had told reporters. If both the countries come to an agreement on reducing tariffs, it would lead to higher trade for US and India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump have set an ambitious target of \$500 billion bilateral trade by 2030 in a joint statement during the Indian PM's recent visit to Washington, DC.

Build future-ready workforce to drive India's manufacturing growth: Ashwini

New Delhi, June 26 (GNS): Union Minister of Railways and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has called for concerted action to build talent and capacity in support of the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' mission. Addressing a roundtable comprising industry leaders and academia here, the minister urged stakeholders to accelerate the development of a future-ready workforce to drive India's manufacturing growth.

The roundtable discussion focused on talent development and capacity building for sustainable manufacturing, combining a global perspective with local action.

The minister praised the emergence of a new sector, Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology (MET), an initiative by NAMTECH (New Age Makers Institute of Technology), the MET Innovation School. This initiative aims to meet the demands of Industry 4.0 and beyond, specifically by addressing the talent gap in emerging



technologies and preparing a highly-skilled workforce and future leaders capable of driving transformative change in India. Vaishnaw welcomed the MIT delegation at the event, calling them one of the finest institutions globally, which is envisioned as a world-class institute for advanced manufacturing.

He also acknowledged Indian industry leaders such as Suzuki, Siemens, ABB, Inox and others, emphasising that industry participation is essential to making NAMTECH truly impact-

ful and aligned with the Prime Minister's vision. The government has launched several pioneering missions, including the India Semiconductor Mission, AI Mission, National Robotics Strategy, Mobility Manufacturing Mission, and National Hydrogen Mission, which reflect the priority placed on advanced technology development and adoption.

The National Education Policy 2020 also emphasises holistic development and the integration of vocational and digital education into mainstream schooling.

Emphasis on achieving goals through modern technology: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

New Delhi, June 26 (GNS): On the occasion of the Annual Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Directors of ICAR Institutes, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in a press conference, highlighted that agricultural education, research, and extension are extremely important pillars. He emphasized the crucial role of research in increasing agricultural production and reducing input costs. He stated that all institutions must work together in one direction to achieve the set goals and reiterated that maintaining a 5% agricultural growth rate is a key target.



Speaking to the media, the Agriculture Minister underscored that agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy and the largest source of livelihood. Around 50% of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, which contributes 18% to the GDP. He affirmed that agriculture will remain central to the economy in

the future as well. He emphasized that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" is firmly rooted in the principle of "Viksit Krishi aur Samruddh Kisan," which serves as our core guiding philosophy.

The Agriculture Minister also accentuated that discussions held during the conference are focused on

developed agriculture and farmer prosperity, with education, research, and extension being the fundamental pillars. He stated that agricultural universities, state agricultural departments, 113 ICAR institutes, and 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) all play significant roles in this endeavor. The aim is for all these institutions to func-

tion cohesively, guided by the vision of One Nation – One Agriculture – One Team. To achieve the goal of a developed India by 2047 in the agriculture sector, it is essential to consistently maintain a 5% growth rate, including allied sectors.

Chouhan said that the discussions during the conference concluded that this goal is achievable and that maintaining a 5% growth rate in agriculture is possible. He pointed out that while 93% of the country's land is under food grain cultivation, the growth rate for pulses and oilseeds remains low at around 1.5%. There are also wide disparities in productivity across states for example, maize

yields are higher in Tamil Nadu but lower in Uttar Pradesh. To bridge this gap, efforts are being made to bring productivity levels across regions at least to a consistent average. This requires clearly defining the roles of various agricultural institutions and departments. He further stated that if India aims to become a \$5 trillion economy, then the agriculture sector alone must contribute \$1 trillion. To achieve this, goals are being set accordingly. Currently, agriculture exports stand at around 6%, with efforts underway to raise this to 20%. The emphasis is on harnessing modern technology to achieve these targets.

TRAI Hosts Seminar on Connectivity, Inaugurated by Minister Scindia

New Delhi, June 26 (GNS): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) celebrated World Telecom and Information Society Day (WTISD) today at its headquarters in New Delhi. This year's celebration focused on the globally relevant theme "Universal and Meaningful Connectivity" (UMC) aligning with TRAI's mission to ensure inclusive, equitable, and sustainable access to communication services for all. UMC, refers to not just providing access to communication networks, but ensuring that such access is available, accessible, relevant, and affordable, enabling individuals and communities to fully participate in the digital economy and society.



tion's digital transformation. He acknowledged the seminal role of TRAI as a guiding force and navigator in steering the telecom revolution forward.

In his address, the Minister emphasized six key pillars of UMC that have positioned India as a global leader in the digital space viz affordability, availability, access, quality of service (QoS), on-line safety and security, and technology. He further stated that satellite-based telecommunications are emerging as a significant part of India's connectivity ecosystem, especially for reaching remote and underserved regions.

These advancements are expected to complement terrestrial networks and play a vital role in realizing the vision of

universal connectivity. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, delivered the Welcome Address. He highlighted the critical role TRAI has played in shaping the telecom sector, especially in the pursuit of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity. He recalled TRAI's path-breaking interventions and reforms which have transformed the telecom landscape of the country, enabling rapid development and increase of coverage. He elaborated how TRAI's initiatives have consistently focused on enhancing Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), improving the efficiency of telecom service delivery, and ensuring robust consumer protection mechanisms.

The two eminent speakers Shri Deepak Mishra, Direc-

tor and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), and Ms. Pranita Upadhaya, Head of the ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre for South Asia—in their addresses, covered key global developments including the Top 10 countries leading in Artificial Intelligence (AI), the three-tier CHIPS-IN framework, the growing importance of data-driven decision-making, and the strategic role of ITU tools in accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship. The presence and growing impact of South Asia Innovation Centres, which are playing a pivotal role in fostering technological collaboration, policy innovation, and capacity building across the region was also covered.

India Leads Call for Inclusive Energy Governance at BRICS Energy Ministers' Meet in Brazil

New Delhi, June 26 (GNS): Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs led the Indian Delegation for the BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting hosted in Brasília on 19 May 2025 under Brazil's Presidency.

The Union Minister highlighted energy security as one of the most pressing current challenges and emphasized the need to strengthen BRICS cooperation to ensure economic stability and sustainability, as well as to promote equitable access to energy resources globally.

He reaffirmed India's unwavering commitment to building a sustainable and inclusive energy future and lauded Brazil's leadership under the theme, 'Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance.' He further emphasized the critical role of energy security, access, and affordability in advancing global development goals. Sh. Manohar Lal showcased India's rapid progress in clean energy highlighting some of the key achievements given below:

He also emphasized the role of the Global Biofuels Alliance in advancing cooperation in the biofuels sector and underscored India's



commitment to energy efficiency through innovative programs such as the Energy Conservation Sustainable Buildings Code, rooftop solar initiatives, and efficient appliance standards.

He underscored the vital role of fossil fuels in the global energy mix—especially for developing countries—and urged greater cooperation to promote their cleaner and efficient use through technologies such as coal gasification, carbon capture and storage, and green chemical innovations.

In conclusion, Sh. Manohar Lal extended an invitation to the BRICS nations to participate in the next BRICS Energy Gathering, scheduled for 2026 in India, reaffirming

the country's commitment to leading the energy agenda for the Global South.

Some of the key outcomes from the Energy Ministerial Communiqué jointly adopted by the BRICS Energy Ministers: The BRICS Energy Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening energy security and advancing UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), focusing on universal electricity access, clean cooking, and tackling energy poverty. They emphasized the need for just, inclusive, and balanced energy transitions in response to climate change.

While acknowledging the continued role of fossil fuels—particularly in developing countries—they stressed

the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with SDG 7 and global climate targets guided by technological neutrality and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC).

The Ministers called for stronger partnerships, supported open, fair, and non-discriminatory international energy markets, and encouraged the use of local currencies in energy trade.

They recognized the fundamental role of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform and welcomed the updated BRICS Roadmap for Energy Cooperation (2025–2030) as key to deeper collaboration.

Musi Rejuvenation Project Phase-I Set for Launch, Cabinet Nod on July 2

Hyderabad, June 26 (GNS) Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has set in motion the implementation of the first phase of the ambitious Musi river rejuvenation project, with the Cabinet expected to approve the detailed project report (DPR) at its meeting on July 2. The Chief Minister reviewed the project at a meeting late on Friday and approved tentative timelines for its execution.

According to official sources, the Singapore-based engineering firm Meinhardt, part of a global

consortium with Cushman & Wakefield and RIOS, submitted the draft DPR for the first phase of the project on May 30. The Chief Minister has decided to place the DPR before the Cabinet for approval. Following the Cabinet's clearance, technical sanction, and approval of the notice inviting tenders (NIT) will be issued by July 9. The government plans to finalise tenders and award contracts by August 19, paving the way for the commencement of Phase-I works. The Phase-I DPR en-

visages 7,055-crore worth developmental activity along a 21-km river corridor converging at Babu Ghat. The development will take place on two stretches leading to the proposed Gandhi Sarovar at Babu Ghat. Stretch-A extends from Himayatsagar to Babu Ghat over 9.2 km, while Stretch-B runs from Osmansagar (Gandipet) for 11.8 km.

The DPR focuses on ensuring continuous fresh water flow, creation of modern riverfront infrastructure and flood mitigation measures



to transform the Musi into a sustainable urban river system. During the review meeting, the Chief Minister

directed officials to allot double-bedroom houses to families presently residing in the Musi riverbed. He instructed that landowners affected by acquisition should either be provided transferable development rights (TDR) or paid suitable compensation. He also directed that structures located on defence lands proposed to be acquired for the Gandhi Sarovar project should be shifted by the state government. Revanth Reddy instructed officials to establish a Musi Experience Centre on Necklace Road to enable the public to understand the project's vision and the various development works

planned under the Musi rejuvenation initiative. He said the experience centre should showcase all components of the project and also serve as a platform for gathering public feedback and suggestions on the proposed development.

The Musi river rejuvenation project aims to transform the historic river into a modern urban waterway with improved environmental sustainability, better flood management, and enhanced public spaces. The government plans to in-

tegrate riverfront development, tourism facilities, and ecological restoration measures as part of the long-term vision.

Officials have been instructed to ensure smooth coordination among all departments involved and complete the project within the approved timelines. The proposed Musi Experience Centre will help citizens understand the project's features and provide a platform for public participation in shaping the future of the river corridor.

Bibi-ka-Alam Muharram procession held in Hyderabad with message of peace and harmony

Hyderabad, June 26 (GNS) Telangana Minority Welfare Minister Janab Mohammed Azharuddin along with Waqf Board Chairman Janab Syed Azmatullah, Hussaini participated in the historic Bibi-ka-Alam Muharram procession, which commenced from the revered Bibi-ka-Alawa (Alawa-e-Bibi), Da-beerpura, in the Old City of Hyderabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Ashoor. The centuries-old procession commemorates the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in the Battle of Karbala and is regarded as one of Hyderabad's most significant Muharram observances.

As part of the long-standing tradition and on behalf of the Government of Telangana and the Telangana State Waqf Board, 'Dhatti' (ceremonial sacred cloth) was respectfully offered to the Bibi-ka-Alam, continuing the historic custom observed during the annual procession.

Speaking on the occasion, Janab Syed Azmatullah Hussaini said that Muharram conveys the timeless message of sacrifice, truth, justice, peace, and humanity. He stated that the legacy of Imam Hussain (RA) continues to inspire people across generations to uphold righteousness and stand against injustice.



The Chairman appreciated the elaborate arrangements made by the Government of Telangana, the district administration, police, civic agencies, volunteers, and members of various Anjumans for ensuring the smooth and peaceful conduct of the procession. He also expressed gratitude to devotees and citizens for maintaining communal harmony and preserving Hyderabad's rich tradition of brotherhood during Muharram. The Bibi-ka-Alam procession, a centuries-

old heritage event unique to Hyderabad, witnessed thousands of mourners and devotees from different communities, reflecting the city's enduring culture of communal harmony and mutual respect. Hence, this Press Note is released for coverage in print and electronic media.

Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership will never be forgotten. He alleged that farmers who refused to part with their lands in Lagacharla were subjected to police cases, harassment and physical attacks. He further alleged that the tribal Lambada youth were imprisoned and even denied proper medical care while in custody.

KTR calls out Congress' poll promise of rights for assigned lands

Hyderabad, June 26 (GNS) Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has accused the Congress of not only failing to implement its election manifesto assurance of giving absolute rights to the farmers owning assigned lands, but also forcefully acquiring assigned lands from the marginalised sections in the name of industrial

development. "If the state government is genuinely committed to industrial development, it should first issue pattas to eligible farmers, pay fair compensation and acquire land only with the consent of farmers," KTR said, while addressing a meeting of party workers on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and party membership enrollment efforts in Parigi town of Vikarabad district on Friday, June 26.

Addressing the gathering, KTR accused the Congress government of illegally acquiring assigned lands in Parigi assembly constituency under the supervision of the local Congress MLA. KTR hoped that the alleged atrocities committed in Lagacharla under Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership will never be forgotten. He alleged that farmers who refused to part with their lands in Lagacharla were subjected to police cases, harassment and physical attacks. He further alleged that the tribal Lambada youth were imprisoned and even denied proper medical care while in custody.

Minister Jupally to Tour Adilabad, Nirmal Districts

Nirmal, June 26(GNS): Telangana Tourism, Culture, Archaeology, Prohibition & Excise Minister and in-charge Minister for the erstwhile Adilabad district, Jupally Krishna Rao, will undertake a two-day tour of Adilabad and Nirmal districts on June 27 and 28, during which he will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several development and welfare projects. On Saturday, the Minister will attend the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) awareness programme on electoral rolls at Tanisha Function Hall in Adilabad. He will later distrib-

ute Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to beneficiaries at the District Congress office. The Minister will also inaugurate Indiramma housing units and Minority Residential Schools for boys and girls in Adilabad municipality. He is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for Telangana State Warehousing Corporation (TGSWC) warehouses catering to the Adilabad and Boath Assembly constituencies.

As part of his education outreach, Mr. Krishna Rao will interact with students and parents and distribute educational kits.

Congress Leader Mohammad Umar Qasmi demands FIR and NSA action against Nazia Elahi, submits memorandum to Collector and SP

Bhopal, June 26 (GNS): Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee State Secretary Mohammad Umar Qasmi has submitted a memorandum to the District Collector and Superintendent of Police, Khargone, demanding strict legal action against Nazia Elahi over her alleged objectionable remarks about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Ummul Momineen Hazrat Aisha (RA) in a video circulated on social media.

According to the memorandum, the alleged remarks have deeply hurt the religious sentiments of members of the Muslim



community and have led to widespread anger and resentment. It further states that such statements could adversely affect communal harmony, mutual brotherhood, and public order.

Mohammad Umar Qasmi urged the administration to

conduct a fair and impartial investigation and register an FIR against Nazia Elahi under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and other applicable laws. He also requested that, if the investigation establishes the necessary legal grounds, action under the National Security Act (NSA) be considered. The memorandum puts forward four key demands: An immediate and impartial investigation into the allegedly objectionable video and statements.

Registration of an FIR under the relevant legal provisions. Necessary ac-

tion to remove the alleged objectionable content from social media platforms.

Strict legal action against the accused if found guilty in accordance with law. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Umar Qasmi said that India is a country of diverse religions and cultures where every faith deserves equal respect. He stated that insulting any religion, its revered personalities, or its religious beliefs can harm communal harmony and social peace. He appealed to the administration to take prompt, impartial, and effective action in accordance with the law.

TG Launches 'Say No to Drugs' drive, vows drug-free state

Hyderabad, June 26 (GNS) Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka participated as the chief guest—alongside State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar—in the "Say No to Drugs" awareness program. The event was organized by the EAGLE Force at Shilpakala Vedika in Gachibowli to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the rendition of Vande Mataram and the State Anthem.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the state government's goal is to completely eliminate the presence of drugs in Telangana. He noted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the special EAGLE Force and the Telangana State Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TSNAB)—led by Director Sandeep Shandilya—are implementing strict measures alongside extensive public awareness campaigns to eradicate the drug menace.



He made it clear that the government would not compromise on issues regarding the supply, sale, or consumption of drugs. Emphasizing

that protecting the youth from the scourge of drugs is a primary responsibility of the government, he assured full support to the police department and EAGLE Force personnel working to control the drug problem. They urged students to move forward towards achieving their life goals and called upon everyone to put the "Say No to Drugs" message into practice. It was stated that extensive awareness programs are being conducted in schools, colleges, and private educational institutions.

They emphasized that public participation is crucial—alongside legal measures—in eradicating the drug menace, and urged parents, teachers, community leaders, and film personalities to take the lead in raising awareness among the youth. A stern warning was issued that the govern-

ment would not hesitate to take the strictest possible action against the drug mafia, which poses a threat to the state's future.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that every citizen, not just the government, must play a role in eradicating drugs. He noted that the government is implementing stringent measures through a dedicated mechanism to protect the youth from falling prey to narcotics, covering areas ranging from villages to cities. He suggested that everyone should become an anti-drug volunteer and immediately inform the police if they come across any information related to narcotics. He called upon public representatives, athletes, film personalities, officials, and social activists to join hands in raising awareness among the youth.

Telangana offers alternate land to SBI to resolve Raidurg dispute

Hyderabad, June 26 (GNS) The Telangana government has offered alternative land parcels to the State Bank of India (SBI) in an effort to resolve the dispute over a five-acre land parcel in Raidurg. According to officials, SBI representatives recently inspected the proposed sites and are expected to respond after consulting the bank's headquarters. Officials said SBI has been seeking five acres of land in Raidurg. The area has seen a sharp rise in land value, with a recent auction by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGILC) fetching a record Rs 237 crore per acre. To settle the issue, the state government has proposed two alternative sites of 2.5 acres each. One is located near Plot No. 18 in Raidurg

Knowledge City, while the other is at Osman Nagar near the Outer Ring Road. The government has asked SBI to choose one of these two locations. As a third option, the Telangana government has offered 10 to 15 acres of land in Bharat Future City instead of the five-acre parcel in Raidurg. Officials said SBI plans to use the land for setting up a data centre or other major facilities. Land in Raidurg is currently valued at around Rs 160 crore to Rs 200 crore per acre in the market. In comparison, land in Osman Nagar is estimated to be worth around Rs 40 crore to Rs 45 crore per acre.

The government hopes the alternate land proposals will help end the dispute, which has already reached the courts.

Tiger population rises in Telangana's Amrabad reserve

Hyderabad, June 26 (GNS) The tiger population in Telangana's Amrabad Tiger Reserve has increased to 42, according to the latest tiger census conducted by the Forest Department. In the previous survey, there were 36 tigers. As per officials, the presence of more female tigers than males is one of the key reasons behind the steady rise in the reserve's tiger population. As per the preliminary analysis, the reserve is home to 18 female tigers, 14 male tigers, two sub-adults and eight cubs.

The tiger census at Amrabad Tiger Reserve was carried out from November 2025 to June 2026 as part of the All-India Tiger Estima-

tion (AITE) 2026 exercise. The survey was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Sunil Hiremath and Nagarkurnool DFO Revanth Chandra. It covered the entire 2,611-square-kilometre reserve. Reasons behind the increase in tiger numbers Factors that are responsible for the rise in the tiger population include better availability of prey, improved habitat management, successful breeding and effective anti-poaching measures. Apart from it, year-round availability of water has played an important role in supporting the growing tiger population in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

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