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NEET PAPER LEAK : Oppn MPs in black protest outside Parliament house over

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): A day after high-voltage demonstrations outside the Prime Minister's official residence led to their forced eviction by the police, the Opposition MPs reached the Parliament complex on Wednesday, clad in black to express their anger and protest against police brutality. The group of MPs, belonging to the INDIA bloc, assembled outside the Parliament complex, waving banners and raising slogans against the government's 'insensitivity and indifference' towards students.

Various lawmakers from parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party



and Trinamool Congress, stood up together in a show of strength against police 'brutality' and the government's handling of the

students' agitation at the Jantar Mantar and adjoining areas, where the group of protesters assembled to join the 'Chalo Sansad'

march called by Cockroach Janata Party (CJP).

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Ya-

dav and many bigwigs of the INDIA bloc wore black clothes to register their protest against police man-

handling and excesses. On Tuesday, all three of them were forcibly removed from the protest site outside the PM's residence as the Lok Sabha leader of the Opposi-

tion, Rahul Gandhi, urged more people to join the stir to embolden their call for the Education Minister's resignation over NEET paper leaks.

A slew of Congress MPs hit out at the government over unleashing police force on the protesting lawmakers and forcibly escorting them out in vans and buses. Terming it an "undeclared emergency", Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said, "The way the government shamelessly arrested the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, even causing him injuries, I can only say that an undeclared Emergency has been im-

posed in the country. The Constitution no longer exists, and the only option left is to fight this government peacefully."

Congress MP K. Suresh, slamming the police action on Congress leaders near the PM's residence, said, "We are dressed in black and demonstrating in front of the Makar Dwar over how the police acted with brutality on LoP and other MPs." Meanwhile, the Parliamentary proceedings remain paralysed, primarily because of the widening rift between the Opposition and government over the paper leak issue that concerns lakhs of students.

CJP seeks talks at neutral venue over exam protest



New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Wednesday said it was ready to hold talks with the government over the ongoing agitation against alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, but said the discussions should take place at Jantar Mantar or another neutral venue, rather than at a minister's residence. Addressing a press briefing at the protest site, CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das said police had informed the group on Wednesday morning that Union Minister JP Nadda wanted to hold talks and had invited its representatives to his residence.

"We refused to go to anyone's house or office. The

people's court is here. Ministers should come among the people. If they want to talk, the talks should be held at Jantar Mantar," Das said. Das added that the CJP remained open to dialogue and would consider a neutral venue near the protest site if security concerns made a meeting at Jantar Mantar impractical.

"If there are security concerns at Jantar Mantar, we can meet at a neutral place nearby. We have always said we are ready for talks. It would be good if the issue is resolved through dialogue," he said. Das said the group was not interested in "meaningless discussions" and wanted any negotiations to focus on resolving the protesters' demands.

Bhojshala row: Not given land for 'namaz' near disputed site, Muslim side tells SC

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): The Muslim side on Wednesday complained to the Supreme Court that they have not been given land for offering 'namaz' adjacent to the Bhojshala complex at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh as directed by the court and that the land offered was 2 km away from the disputed site.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, representing the Muslim side, told a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that the court had directed the state to provide an open space near the Bhojshala site for 'namaz'. The bench agreed to hear it on Friday even as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the bench that he was personally looking into it and that it will be sorted out.

On July 14, the Supreme Court had refused to pass an interim order restoring the status quo ante at the disputed Bhojshala complex to allow Muslims to offer 'namaz' on Fridays alongside Hindu worship on designated days. "Let us not pass any order which



can cause tension," CJI Kant had told senior advocates AM Singhvi and Ahmadi after they sought restoration of status quo ante on behalf of Muslim petitioners. The refusal to order status quo ante means Hindus will continue to have exclusive access to the Bhojshala complex, to the exclusion of Muslims.

The bench had, however, ordered allocation of separate open space for Muslims adjacent to the disputed complex for Friday prayers as an ad hoc measure. It had also directed that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) shall not carry out any structural changes on the site without its permission. The top court had issued

notice to the Centre, Madhya Pradesh Government, Hindu Front for Justice and ASI on petitions challenging the Madhya Pradesh High Court's verdict declaring the Bhojshala complex — an 11th-century archaeological monument — a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.

Hindus believe the Bhojshala complex is a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, while Muslims call it Kamal Maula Mosque. The complex is protected by ASI.

In its May 15 verdict, the Madhya Pradesh High Court had quashed ASI's April 7, 2003 order that allowed Muslims to offer 'namaz' inside the Bhojshala complex every Friday. The Muslim community may approach the Madhya Pradesh Government for the allotment of separate land in the district for the construction of a mosque, it had said.

Kamal Maula Mosque's caretaker Qazi Moinuddin has challenged the May 15 order of the high court before the top court.

IAS officer Anurag Jain appointed NITI Aayog CEO

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): The Union Government has appointed senior IAS officer Anurag Jain as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog, for a period of two years. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Jain, who is a 1989-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) from the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

According to the official order, he will assume charge with immediate effect and serve as CEO for the duration of his approved extension in service. He will continue in the tenure for an overall period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The terms and conditions of his appointment will remain the same as those applicable to his predecessor.

Jain brings nearly four decades of administrative experience to the post, having held several key positions at both the Centre and in the Madhya Pradesh state government.

Sharad Pawar Meets PM Raises Farm Crisis and NEET Protests



New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, accompanied by his daughter and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Parliament office, submitting a memorandum on Maharashtra's agrarian distress and urging Government intervention in student protests regarding the NEET UG examination paper leak. The meeting came during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, a day after Pawar and Sule visited protesting students at Jantar Mantar.

In his memorandum to the Prime Minister,

Pawar outlined the severe impact of erratic rainfall, persistent drought and administrative bottlenecks on rural communities. He highlighted that over 2,700 farmers died by suicide across Vidarbha and Marathwada within a single year, averaging one farmer death every three hours in Maharashtra. He said farmers require guaranteed fair pricing and transparent administration rather than temporary grants or loan waivers. Pawar called for streamlined digital verification procedures to speed up compensation payouts to affected families, avoiding bureaucratic delays.

India, UAE agree to deepen cooperation in consular matters

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): India and UAE held the 7th Joint Committee on Consular Affairs meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday, where both sides agreed to deepen cooperation in all consular matters, including mobility, extradition and mutual legal assistance. During the meeting, the Indian side expressed appreciation for the measures taken by the UAE authorities to ensure welfare and well-being of the Indian community living there.

In a post on X, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "The 7th India UAE Joint Committee

on Consular Affairs meeting co-chaired by Secretary (CPV and OIA) Smt. Sripriya Ranganathan and Under Secretary, UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Omar Obaid Mohammed Al Hesan Al Shamsi, was held in New Delhi today. Both sides agreed to continue to deepen bilateral cooperation in all consular matters including mobility, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in keeping with the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Indian side appreciated the measures being taken to ensure welfare and well-being of the Indian community in the UAE.

Jaishankar, Wang Yi Review India-China Ties in Manila

Manila, July 22 (GNS): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a wide-ranging discussion with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Manila, Philippines, focusing on bilateral relations, border stability and key regional and global developments.

EAM Jaishankar shared details of the meeting in a post on X, saying he held discussions with Wang Yi, who is also a member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Politburo, on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum. In his opening remarks during the meeting, EAM Jaishankar said, "Excellency, I am glad to meet you again. Our participation in the EAS and the ASEAN Regional Forum not only provides an occasion to exchange views collectively, but also hold this bilateral meeting."

He said the meeting provided an opportunity to review the state of India-China relations and discuss important regional and global issues. "We our-



selves met a year ago and you were recently in India. Today's occasion will be useful in taking stock of our ties and also discuss important regional and global developments," EAM Jaishankar said. Highlighting recent developments in bilateral ties, the EAM said relations between the two countries had been gradually normalising after the meeting between Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan in October 2024.

"Since the meeting of our leaders in Kazan in October 2024, relations between India and China have been gradually normalizing. This direction was further affirmed when they met in Tianjin last August," he said.

The External Affairs Minister emphasised that a stable relationship between the two nations should be built on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. "Such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world," he said. On the sensitive border issue, EAM Jaishankar said peace and tranquillity in border areas remained essential for normal bilateral ties. "Peace and tranquility in the border areas is obviously the pre-requisite for normal ties. Since October 2024, both sides have engaged to ensure that important objective. This will continue to need our constant attention," he said.

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Don't rush into a détente with China

The impression that Delhi is reaching out to Beijing under external pressures must be allayed

Ashok K Kantha

THERE has been a flurry of high-level visits from India to China, and a recurrent theme in the Chinese social media is that a “beleaguered” India is desperate to mend fences with its northern neighbour. The recent visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar to Beijing was interpreted as a tactical retreat by India driven by economic and strategic compulsions, such as US tariffs, NATO's threats of secondary sanctions over Russian oil and India's need for rare-earth magnets and other essential supplies from China.

The impression that India is reaching out to China under external pressures must be allayed, because it is never helpful to engage with China from a position of weakness, real or perceived. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the EAM and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval travelled to China for meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, ahead of its summit in Tianjin, but all three visits had significant bilateral components. Jaishankar met Vice President Han Zheng, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Liu Jianchao in Beijing on July 14. The EAM was quoted as tell-



ing Wang Yi that “we have made good progress in the past nine months for the normalisation of our bilateral relations”.

Some stability has indeed been restored in India-China relations since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with President Xi Jinping in Kazan, Russia, on October 23, 2024. However, it is less clear that there has been steady progress towards normalisation of ties.

During the prolonged military standoff in eastern Ladakh, the EAM conveyed a consistent message that the state of India-China borders will determine the state of relations. In his statement in Parliament in early December last year, he reiterated this linkage between maintenance of peace in border areas and normalisation of relations,

emphasised the imperative of de-escalation following disengagement of troops and underlined that India would pursue “bilateral engagement in a calibrated manner, keeping our national security interests first and foremost”.

As the EAM reminded Wang Yi, the process of de-escalation along the borders has not yet commenced. Both sides continue to maintain troops in abnormally high numbers in forbidding terrain and this situation is likely to persist for the sixth consecutive winter. There has been no movement towards the resumption of patrolling by Indian troops and grazing by herdsmen in the so-called “buffer zones” (described by the EAM in Parliament as “steps of a temporary and limited nature”). The

objective of restoration of status quo ante as of April 2020 that the Chief of Army Staff had publicly advocated, is no longer being reiterated. In other words, the Chinese have retained incremental gains made by them in eastern Ladakh, consistent with their playbook of “grey zone operations”, though we don't have visibility on the extent of “salami-slicing”.

Moreover, while there has been some progress towards the resumption of “people-centric” contacts, including the pilgrimage to Kailash-Mansarovar, marking the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, easing of visas and agreement to restore direct flights, all these steps, except the pilgrimage, were part of the Chinese wish list conveyed in Track-II conversations

even before disengagement was completed last year. There is little evidence of China being inclined to address any of the structural challenges in the relationship. Indeed, some of the old concerns have acquired sharper, more ominous overtones.

Three important developments must be taken note of. First, China has started construction of a cascade of five massive hydropower plants on the Yarlung Tsangpo river in Tibet on July 19 without considering interests of the lower riparian nation, India. China undertaking this mega-project, thrice the size of the largest hydropower project in the world (Three Gorges), barely 30 km from the place the river enters Arunachal Pradesh has serious downstream implications for India.

Ukraine-Russia: A war turned into a costly test of stamina

Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (retd)

Operation Sindoor and the Iran-Israel-US standoff took the world's eyes off the scanner on Eastern Europe. The focus has now returned to Ukraine, especially with the spate of Russian drone and missile attacks and the US decision to resume supply of military hardware to Ukraine. Three years since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, the battlefield remains frozen in more ways than one. Despite billions of dollars in Western aid, thousands of lives lost, and relentless offensives, the war shows few signs of a decisive conclusion. Instead, it has evolved into a grinding war of attrition—with military breakthroughs elusive and the political will for total victory giving way to discussions on containment, ceasefire and face-saving ‘off ramps’—in effect, the Americanisation of the war. Ukraine failed to make major territorial gains through its much-anticipated counteroffensive in 2023, highlighting not just how well-entrenched the Russian forces are, but also the limits of modern Western weaponry. For Russia, despite its superior numbers and recent gains in places like Avdiivka, the advance has been incremental and costly.

Neither side currently possesses the capability to inflict a decisive blow. Ukraine lacks the strategic depth and offensive fire-



power to roll back Russian positions across the entire front. Meanwhile, Russia has neither the political cover nor the operational capacity to overwhelm Ukraine without incurring massive costs—both militarily and diplomatically. In short, even if militarily possible, Russia cannot justify a total war or occupation of Ukraine in a politically sustainable way.

The war has thus settled into a brutal equilibrium. Localised gains are made, but strategic momentum is absent. This military deadlock mirrors the diplomatic one. A key variable in prolonging this balance has been the sustained Western military aid to Ukraine—particularly from the US. The recent U-turn by Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled House by agreeing to support fresh aid

to Ukraine marked a significant shift. For months, they had stalled arms packages and questioned the logic of endless support for Kyiv. Yet, facing mounting pressure from both Nato allies and the US defence industry, aid has been given the green light—albeit with strings attached. This aid, while vital for Ukraine's survival, may paradoxically contribute to prolonging the conflict. It is enough to prevent Ukraine's collapse but insufficient to guarantee victory. It sustains the battlefield stalemate without fundamentally altering its dynamics. The logic of ‘fighting until victory’ becomes more uncertain when neither side can define what victory looks like.

In recent months, whippers of a potential ceasefire or negotiated settlement have grown louder, particularly in Western policy

circles. A ceasefire might appear pragmatic—halt the bloodshed, prevent escalation, and freeze the lines for eventual diplomacy. However, such a pause could also prove strategically disruptive. Russia could cement control over the occupied territory, fortify it and integrate it administratively. This would normalise a new status quo, potentially undermining Ukrainian sovereignty permanently. Ukraine fears this the most. Besides demoralising Ukraine, it might also strain Western unity if Kyiv is pressured to accept it.

For Ukraine, any freeze along the current lines would legitimise Russian gains in Donbas and Crimea. For Russia, a ceasefire would offer time to regroup, consolidate and diplomatically outmanoeuvre the West—possibly through

platforms like BRICS or the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where Russia continues to find sympathetic ears problem lies in mutual distrust. Neither Moscow nor Kyiv believes the other would respect a truce unless guaranteed by force. Could a peacekeeping force be inducted? Unlikely, considering the experience of the Balkans many years ago. Another complicating factor is the broader instability in West Asia, particularly the simmering Iran-Israel conflict. Iranian attacks on Israel in April 2024 and Israel's retaliatory strikes demonstrated how regional conflicts can consume Western attention and resources. Ukraine faces the risk of aid diversion and strategic fatigue. Of course, the power of asymmetric warfare without too many territorial gains or losses is likely to continue playing out.

The Ukraine war is also reshaping global geopolitical alignments. The G7 remains largely united, but fatigue is evident—especially in countries like Germany, which is facing rising energy costs and domestic dissent. On the other hand, BRICS and SCO have become platforms for Russia to bypass Western isolation. India, for its part, continues to maintain its strategic autonomy quite admirably, condemning civilian suffering but avoiding any direct condemnation of Moscow.

Another Yalta moment for a new world order

Based on interactions with American national security elites at the annual Aspen Security Forum in Colorado, Politico compiled a report six months into Donald Trump's second presidency last weekend. The digital newspaper reported the Aspen delegates “accepted that this president has irrevocably upended the global order... former and current US and foreign officials, business leaders and analysts acknowledged publicly and privately that the Trump administration has dealt a lasting blow to much of the post-World War II consensus around free trade and long-term cooperation”

Indeed, isn't this how history rolls on—when a statesman appears out of nowhere with a sledgehammer and a bold agenda to break the crust? The demolition is painful to watch and the outcome difficult to predict, which is reflected in the industrial-scale demonisation of Trump by the self-styled ‘liberal globalists’. Trump has smashed not only “the norms and conventions that governed US trade relations, use of military force and engagement with stalwart partners and alliances”, as Politico characterised it, but also rolled back the agencies entrusted with foreign policy tasks including USAID, CIA, Pentagon and the state department.

Indian foreign policy elites seek solace that Trump's policies will not have a long shelf life and could be easily reversed once he leaves office. However, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice admitted at the closing panel of the Colorado summit, in her capacity as co-chair of the Aspen Strategy Group, “We have to recognise that we're probably not going back to exactly that system”.

We find Trump's pugilistic approach on India-Pakistan tensions to be irksome, as our attempts to influence it on the edges are being rebuffed. But US mediation between India and Pakistan has been a fact of life going all the way back to the Indus Waters Treaty. The difference today is that Trump is claiming credit for it, which is profoundly embarrassing for the Indian leadership. But then, our politicians are second to none in grandstanding either.

After Trump's election victory in November, Delhi went overboard to propagate it was cruising the transition from the Biden era to Trump with delectable ease. The Prime Minister's hastily arranged visit to Washington in February cemented such a perception. Today, if a contrarian assessment has arisen that the government's foreign policy has collapsed, we are at fault for raising expectations sky-high. Apparently, we estimated a certain predictability about Trump's policies. But his tariff war came as a rude shock.

However, Trump's imposition of tariffs amounting to an extra 145 percent on Chinese imports was swiftly abandoned and replaced with a more favourable deal pending a resolution of the fentanyl issue. In recent days, relations have warmed further. China agreed to lift restrictions on the export of rare earths and, in return, the US eased restrictions on the sale of advanced computer chips to China. Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia, one of the world's most valuable companies whose chips are used for advanced artificial intelligence tasks, was on a celebratory tour of China last week. Huang was ecstatic about the business possibilities with the “massive, dynamic, and highly innovative” Chinese market. He declared, “It is indeed crucial for American companies to establish roots in the Chinese market.”

Trump's China strategy should be understood properly to sense that there is a method in his idiosyncrasies. Huang responded when asked in another interview whether his enthusiasm for the Chinese market would clash with the views of Trump and his Republican supporters. He said he had spoken before the visit with Trump, who had wished him well. “There is always room for two people in any house,” he said.

The US-India relationship remains on strong enough foundations to withstand the current turbulence. India's strategic autonomy and multi-alignment doctrine are robust enough, too. Besides, it is not as if Trump's pragmatism is not applicable to India or that he harbours some animus against India. Fortuitously, an opportunity is at hand for the government to reset its compass on two issues of far-reaching significance, which would have a sobering effect on the Trump administration. One, Trump's threat to impose secondary tariffs of 100 percent on countries that buy oil from Russia; and two, Washington's advocacy that Delhi should unceremoniously dump Russia as a defence partner.

In all probability, Trump is not going to impose sanctions on Russia—just as his Ukraine U-turn is less dramatic than it seems. Keeping Russian oil out of the world market may not even be in Trump's interests. He is well aware that Putin would not be deterred by sanctions and there is no question of the Russian president suspending the special military operation in Ukraine without realising its objectives.

As for India's defence ties with Russia, the upcoming government decision will be a defining moment as regards a production partner for the indigenous advanced medium combat aircraft and an interim fifth-generation platform. For both, Russia's fifth-generation fighter Su-57 appears to be the most viable candidate—not only in costs, but also in terms of Moscow's offer to set up Indian production and share technology.

India can learn from Russia and China's playbook that transparency and firmness pay with Trump. Xi Jinping showed he won't be a pushover if there was a tariff war; equally, Putin is immovable when it comes to a ceasefire in Ukraine without realising the objectives of the military operation. That said, desultory diplomacy is the hallmark of Trump's strategy and India cannot be impervious to it. Chinese social media chatter is speculating about a trilateral summit between Xi, Trump and Putin during the 80th anniversary of the victory against Japanese aggression and fascism.

The Times newspaper, too, reported it last week. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov sounded sceptical initially, but conceded on Monday that such a meeting can't be ruled out. Russian officials and state media have for years pivoted on the idea of a concert of big powers—à la Yalta conference in 1945—to uphold the balance of power. As for Trump, this would be a colourful new way to convey his political desiderata, a critical element of his diplomatic style.

India, therefore, faces a delicate balancing act. While deepening strategic cooperation with the United States in areas such as technology, defence manufacturing and the Indo-Pacific, it cannot afford to undermine its long-standing partnership with Russia or ignore the economic significance of China. A foreign policy anchored in strategic autonomy allows New Delhi to engage all major powers without becoming overly dependent on any one bloc.

Equally important is the changing nature of global institutions. Trump's scepticism towards multilateralism has weakened traditional alliances, while emerging platforms such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the G20 are assuming greater relevance in shaping international discourse. India's active participation in these forums enhances its ability to influence global governance during a period of geopolitical transition.

For New Delhi, the immediate challenge lies in navigating trade negotiations with Washington without compromising core national interests. Tariff disputes, technology restrictions and market access issues are likely to remain recurring themes. A pragmatic approach that combines economic engagement with policy flexibility will be essential to preserve the momentum in bilateral ties.

At the same time, India's defence and energy security calculations will continue to be guided by long-term strategic requirements rather than short-term political pressures. Russian defence equipment and discounted crude oil remain important components of India's national security architecture, making abrupt policy shifts neither practical nor desirable despite external expectations.

TEMA India Ltd. Commissions India’s First Private Test Facility for Depleted Heavy Water Upgradation

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): In a significant advancement for India's nuclear self-reliance, Director - Technical, NPCIL, Shri Rajesh V and Director, Chemical Engineering Group, BARC, Shri K. T. Shenoy inaugurated the country's first-of-its-kind private test facility for the upgradation of depleted heavy water, commissioned by TEMA India Ltd. This state-of-the-art facility, designed and built by TEMA India's nuclear vertical under technology transfer from BARC and a Purchase Order from NPCIL, marks a milestone achievement being realised for the first time in the private sector. The development is firmly aligned with the Prime Minister's Atma-Nirbhar Bharat initiative. Until now, critical testing infrastructure for heavy water distillation components existed solely within BARC. Speaking at the event, Shri Rajesh V and Shri K. T. Shenoy commended TEMA India's technical acumen, commitment to quality, and its growing role as a trusted partner in India's nuclear energy program. The dignitaries also flagged off the first validated consignment of eight Distillation Column sections, comprising activated phosphor bronze modules, critical components for Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs). These modules, having undergone rigorous in-house performance testing, are slated for deployment in key nuclear power projects: RAPP Unit 8, GHAVP Units 1–4, and KAIGA Units 5 & 6. This initiative exemplifies the spirit of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat, which calls for greater self-reliance in high-tech, strategic sectors. By designing, manufacturing, and validating nuclear components entirely in-house, India reduces reliance on imported equipment and external test infrastructure. It also helps build domestic capability, confidence, and long-term resilience, empowering Indian firms to contribute meaningfully to national energy security goals. The event also included a traditional pooja, tree plantation, and a ceremonial dispatch of the first module shipment, symbolising the entry of India's private sector into advanced nuclear component validation. This initiative represents a new era of public-private collaboration with institutions like NPCIL and BARC, where complementary strengths are harnessed to advance India's energy future.

Dr Jitendra Singh Urges CSIR Labs to Involve Parents in Science Outreach

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, is leading the Indian delegation at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention being held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 23rd July to 31st July 2025. Addressing the event, Yadav highlighted India's contribution to global wetlands conservation, informing that India has 91 Ramsar Sites (1.36 million ha), which is the largest network in Asia and third largest globally. He highlighted this achievement during his intervention on 'Strengthening Policy and Legal Frameworks by Mainstreaming Wetlands Conservation' at the High Level Ministerial Segment of COP15.

In his address, Shri Yadav stated, "Over the past decade, we have expanded this network by 250 percent. For the first time, two Indian cities—



Udaipur and Indore—have been accredited as Wetland Cities, showing our commitment to urban wetlands." Referring to the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his message of "Oneness with Nature" and "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", Shri Yadav highlighted the active participation of communities through 'Mission LiFE' and 'Ek ped Maa ke naam'. These visionary initiatives of the Prime Minister, he stated, supplement the efforts in protection of nature, conservation of wetlands flora and fauna, abating degradation and erosion of soil. The Minister invited all to plant a tree in the name of mother and advised all to adopt Mission LiFE i.e environment friendly lifestyle. Aligned with this, India's 'Mission Sahbhagita' and the 'Save Wetlands Campaign' have mobilised more than 2 million citizens, resulting in the ground-truthing of over 170,000 wetlands and the boundary demarcation of nearly 100,000 wetlands across the country. The Minister emphasized that wetland conservation in India is deeply rooted in constitutional, legal, and

policy frameworks. The Indian Constitution encapsulates this spirit by mandating the State and citizens to protect and conserve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife. Conservation of wetlands has been mainstreamed in India's sectoral plans and programmes, including, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Wildlife Action Plan. Highlighting the UNEA Resolution 6/8 on sustainable lifestyles, the Minister emphasised mainstreaming of sustainable lifestyles in India's policy and programmes, including conservation of wetland.

During the visit, the Minister also engaged in bilateral meetings with the heads of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). A meeting was also held with the Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Zimbabwe, Dr. Evelyn Ndllovu, to advance cooperation on wetland restoration and knowledge exchange.

Sarbananda Sonowal pays tribute at Dr. Bhupen Hazarika’s home, honoring his legendary legacy

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal visited the iconic residence of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika in Guwahati today, to honour the legendary music maestro. The visit was marked by an emotional interaction with members of the Hazarika family, and a guided tour of the home, which is now a living tribute to the life and legacy of the Bard of Brahmaputra.

During the visit, Shri Sonowal was received by Samar Hazarika, the younger brother of Dr Hazarika, along with other family members. They walked the minister through various rooms of the residence that display personal memorabilia, instruments, books, and photographs chronicling the maestro's journey as a singer, poet, composer and humanitarian.

India’s seafood industry poised to ride CETA wave with estimated 70% export growth to UK

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): A significant milestone in India-UK economic relations was achieved with the signing of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on July 24, 2025. The agreement was formalized in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, and was officially signed by India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, and the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Mr. Jonathan Reynolds.

CETA offers zero-duty access on 99% of tariff lines and opens up key services sectors. Notably, for the marine sector, the agreement removes import tariffs on a wide range of seafood products, enhancing Indian exporters' competitiveness in the UK market. This is expected to particularly benefit exports of shrimp, frozen fish, and value-added marine products—boosting



India's presence in one of its major seafood destinations alongside labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, and gems and jewellery. India's key seafood exports to the UK currently include Vannamei shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei), frozen squid, lobsters, frozen pomfret, and black tiger shrimp—all of which are expected to gain further market share under CETA's duty-free access.

Under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), all fish and fisher-

ies commodities falling under the UK tariff schedule categories marked 'A' now enjoy 100% duty-free access from the date of entry into force of the agreement.

These products previously attracted tariffs ranging from 0% to 21.5%, all of which are now removed, substantially improving cost competitiveness in the UK market. However, products under HS 1601 (sausages and similar items) remain excluded under staging category 'U' and receive no preferential treatment. India's total seafood exports in

2024–25 reached \$7.38 billion (60,523 crore), amounting to 1.78 million metric tonnes. Frozen shrimp remained the top export, accounting for 66% of earnings with \$4.88 billion. Marine exports to the UK specifically were valued at \$104 million (879 crore), with frozen shrimp alone contributing \$80 million (77%). However, India's share in the UK's \$5.4 billion seafood import market is just 2.25%. With CETA now in force, industry estimates project a 70% surge in marine exports to the UK in the coming years.

Coal Ministry Holds Workshop on Exploration Module of SWCS

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): In a significant move to accelerate digital transformation in the coal sector, the Ministry of Coal organized a hands-on training workshop and interactive session on the Exploration Module of the Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) on 25th July 2025. The training workshop was held at Tagore Chamber, SCOPE Complex, New Delhi, with an aim to equip stakeholders with a deeper understanding of the module's functionalities and promote its adoption for efficient handling of exploration related submission and approvals.

Ms. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary and Nominated Authority (AS & NA), chaired the session and emphasized the transformative potential of digital platforms in expediting and simplifying approval processes within the coal sector. She urged all stakeholders to proactively engage with the SWCS portal, highlighting that digital



systems are essential for achieving transparency, efficiency, and accountability. The workshop also featured the participation of senior officials from ministry of Coal, who offered technical briefings and addressed queries and concerns of stakeholders regarding the module's operational framework. In collaboration with CMPDIL, the Ministry facilitated a detailed demonstration of the Exploration Module, providing participants with a practical

understanding of its end-to-end digital workflow. The session outlined the complete process for submission, evaluation, and approval of critical exploration documents, including Geological Report (GR) schemes, progress updates, compliance filings, and final GRs. This hands-on walkthrough provided stakeholders with greater clarity on the module's functionalities and underscored its role in streamlining and digitising exploration approvals.

State authorities and complainants to be present during the hearing to expedite justice

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India is holding a two-day 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' at Hyderabad to hear 109 alleged human rights violations cases of Telangana on 28th – 29th July, 2025 to expedite justice to the victims. The NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, Members, Justice (Dr.) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi and Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani will hear the cases in the presence of the complainants and the concerned State officers at the MCR HRD Institute, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on 28th July, 2025 from 10.00 am. NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal; Director General (Investigation), Shri R P Meena, Registrar (Law), Shri Joginder Singh and other senior officers will be present.

The cases to be taken up during the hearing include alleged abuse of power by



the police personnel, denial of benefits under various social welfare schemes of government, irregularities in jails, alleged negligence in protecting the human rights of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, rights of the students studying in various schools across the State, rights of the women including health issues faced by them especially the pregnant women and lactating mothers, and trafficking, among others.

The next day on 29th July, 2025, the Commission will interact with senior officers

of the State Government at 11.00 am to sensitise them on various human rights issues and importance of expeditious justice to the victims of human rights violations. The Commission will also review the proactive action taken by the Telangana government and its agencies on its various advisories for the welfare of different sections of society. Thereafter, the Commission will meet with the representatives of civil society organisations, NGOs and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) at 2.00 pm to understand the human rights issues

concerning the State. This meeting will be followed by a media briefing at 3.30 pm about the outcome of the Camp Sitting for a wider dissemination of information on the human rights issues in the State and the actions taken by the NHRC.

The NHRC, India has been holding camp sittings from time-to-time in various states since 2007 to provide on-the-spot speedy justice to the victims of human rights violations. Last week, it held a very productive 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Earlier, it has held 'Camp Sittings' in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

India Hosts Second WADA Intelligence & Investigations Workshop to Strengthen Global Anti-Doping Network

New Delhi, July 22 (GNS): National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India with support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, hosted the second edition of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Intelligence & Investigations (I&I) Workshop from 21 to 25 July 2025 in New Delhi. The event, organized under the aegis of WADA and in partnership with INTERPOL and Sport Integrity Australia, was attended by representatives from National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) and law enforcement agencies from India, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, and Philippines. It gathered leading intelligence and investigations professionals from around the world to promote knowledge-sharing, enhance cooperation, and bolster the global anti-doping framework.

Over the five-day work-

shop, participants took part in in-depth sessions covering key areas such as intelligence operations, investigative methodologies, managing confidential sources, open-source intelligence gathering, and effective analysis and interviewing techniques. The discussions brought into focus the growing need for intelligence-led, collaborative efforts to protect athletes and preserve the values of fair and clean competition. Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India expressed his appreciation for the collaborative efforts and said "We deeply appreciate this initiative of WADA organized in collaboration with INTERPOL and Sport Integrity Australia. Their expertise and commitment are strengthening this global effort to protect clean sport. India is proud to host this important initiative. It

reflects our shared resolve to build robust intelligence and investigations capability across the anti-doping community." Anant Kumar, Director General, NADA India, said "After the successful conduct of the first workshop in May this year, this second workshop having delegates from ten south Asian countries is another significant milestone in the WADA's I&I Capability and Capacity Building Project for further strengthening the Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (GAIIN)." The workshop also highlighted the increasing importance of cross-border cooperation in tackling sophisticated doping networks that operate across multiple jurisdictions. Participants discussed mechanisms for timely information sharing and co-ordinated investigations to strengthen the global fight against doping. Ex-

perts from WADA, INTERPOL and Sport Integrity Australia shared international best practices and case studies, demonstrating how intelligence-led investigations have helped uncover organised doping operations and safeguard the integrity of sport.

Special emphasis was placed on strengthening institutional capacity within National Anti-Doping Organizations by equipping officials with practical skills to identify emerging threats, analyse intelligence inputs and conduct effective investigations in line with global standards.

The participating delegates reaffirmed their commitment to closer regional collaboration and agreed that sustained engagement among anti-doping agencies, law enforcement bodies and sports organisations is essential to deter doping and ensure a level playing field for athletes.

Congress Raises Voice for Students



Falaknuma News
Correspondent M.A.Samad
Hyderabad, July 22 (GNS)
The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee intensified its protest in Hyderabad with a Raj Bhavan Chalo programme, condemning the reported arrest of Rahul Gandhi and demanding action over the NEET examination controversy. Telangana Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir participated in the protest and was detained by police while proceeding towards Raj Bhavan. He was later taken to Panjagutta Police Station. Speaking on the occasion, Shabbir Ali alleged that the Central Government was trying to suppress the Opposition instead of addressing issues affecting students. He described the reported arrest of Ra-



hul Gandhi as an attack on democratic principles and the right to question the government. He called for a transparent investigation into the NEET paper leak, demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and urged the Centre to extend justice and assistance to families affected by the

examination controversy. Shabbir Ali said the Congress Party would continue to stand with students and pursue democratic protests until their concerns are addressed. The demonstration saw the participation of Congress leaders, elected representatives, and party workers from across the State.

Iran Consul General visits TG archives, hails shared cultural legacy with India

Hyderabad, July 22 (GNS)
Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hyderabad, Hamid Ahmadi, on Wednesday visited the Telangana State Archives and Research Institute and highlighted the centuries-old cultural, trade and diplomatic ties between India and Iran. During his visit, Ahmadi held discussions with Director of the State Archives Dr. Zareena Parveen and reviewed the preservation, conservation and digitisation of rare archival records being carried out in collaboration with the Noor Microfilm International Centre. Appreciating the efforts of the State Archives and the Noor Microfilm International Centre, the Consul General said the documentary heritage reflected the



deep-rooted historical relationship between India and Iran and stressed the need to preserve such records for future generations. Dr Parveen briefed the delegation on the institute's rare collections, including a Farman issued by Feroz Shah Bahmani in 1406 A.D., royal correspondence exchanged between the Deccan rulers and the Marathas, and rare gold-printed communications between the British Residents and the rulers of

Hyderabad. The delegation was informed that the Noor Microfilm International Centre has digitised over 22 lakh archival documents and conserved nearly five lakh fragile records, which are proposed to be handed over to the Telangana State Archives in the coming months. The Consul General also lauded the manuscript conservation techniques developed by Dr Mahdi Khwaja Piri, Director of the Noor Microfilm International Centre.

Revanth Alleges BJP-BRS Plot to Delete Congress Votes in Kodangal

Hyderabad, July 22 (GNS)
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday claimed that the BJP was conspiring to delete the names of the voters belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority communities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Chief Minister alleged that the BJP and BRS plotted to backstab him by deleting a huge number of votes of Congress sympathisers in Kodangal Assembly constituency, which he represents. Addressing a meeting of the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of the Congress party in Kodangal, the Chief Minister remarked that despite having different



names, the BRS and BJP are two sides of the same coin. He alleged that the two opposition parties hatched a conspiracy to undermine his political grip on Kodangal to weaken his stronghold at the state level. CM Revanth Reddy cau-

tioned the Congress leaders that opposition parties were trying to remove the votes of Congress sympathisers in Kodangal. He said that, unable to face him directly, the two parties plotted a backstab attack. The Chief Minister remarked

that the responsibility of burying the opposition lies with Kodangal people. He appealed to BLAs to complete the enrollment of all voters before the SIR deadline of August 3. He noted that so far, 1,96,620 voters in the constituency submit-

ted SIR applications while 54,635 people have not yet been registered. Registration is still pending for 22 per cent of the total voters. He cautioned the BLAs against the deletion of Congress votes. He stated that the responsibility of registering names rests with all BLAs. "Losing one's vote means losing the identity," he said, and asked the party workers to go door-to-door and ensure voter verification forms are filled. The CM instructed the BLAs to complete the 100 per cent enrollment by July 30, ensuring not a single eligible person loses their vote. Revanth Reddy thanked Kodangal people for what he called unwavering support and blessings to lead the state as Chief Minister.

Rahul Gandhi's arrest an insult to Constitution, democracy: Dy CM Bhatti

Hanamkonda, July 22 (GNS)
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday strongly condemned the arrest of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Priyanka Gandhi and other Congress leaders, describing it as an "insult to the Constitution and democracy." Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, staged a protest at the Dr B R Ambedkar statue in Hanamkonda Centre against the arrest of Congress leaders, who had protested near the Prime Minister's residence over the alleged police crackdown on students demonstrating at Jantar Mantar in Delhi against the NEET irregularities. Before the protest, the leaders garlanded the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar and



paid floral tributes to the architect of the Constitution. MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Nagaraju and several Congress public representatives and party leaders also participated. Addressing the gathering, Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the Central Government had resorted to "autocratic" measures by detaining opposition leaders instead of addressing the concerns of students. He said that the alleged NEET paper leak had jeopardised the future of crores of students and criticised the re-

ported police lathi-charge on students, including women, who were protesting peacefully. The Deputy Chief Minister demanded the resignation of union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him morally responsible for the alleged NEET paper leak. He further accused the Modi government of suppressing dissent by targeting opposition leaders and asserted that neither police action nor arrests could silence students or stop Rahul Gandhi's campaign for protecting the education system. Reaffirming the Congress party's support for the students' cause, Bhatti Vikramarka said Rahul Gandhi has been fighting for the future of the country's youth and appealed to people across the nation to support the ongoing struggle to safeguard the education system.

Robbers strike house in TG's Karimnagar; loot 66 tolas of gold, Rs 21 lakh cash

Hanamkonda, July 22 (GNS)
In a major robbery in Karimnagar town of Telangana, an armed gang looted 66 tolas of gold ornaments, cash and other valuables from a house after threatening the inmates with knives and revolvers. According to police, a gang of about eight unidentified men committed the robbery in Bhagat Nagar area on Tuesday night. The masked robbers struck when the house owner, Azmath Ali, came down from the first floor to switch off the light before going to bed. They caught hold of the senior citizen and taped his mouth. The intruders took him into his house and thrashed him. The offenders also beat up Ali's wife and their two daughters. Armed with knives and revolvers, they threatened to kill the in-

mates if they raised an alarm. After tying all the inmates, the gang looted 66 tolas of gold ornaments, Rs 21 lakh cash and 10 tolas of silver. Before fleeing, they locked up all the family members in one room. They also snatched the mobile phones of the inmates to prevent them from alerting police or seeking help from anyone. The gang also took away two motorbikes parked on the ground floor. Police suspect that the robbers escaped through the Vemulawada bypass. Police launched an investigation. They were scanning the CCTV footage from the area. The victims told police that the robbers were masked and were speaking Hindi with a North Indian accent. The robbers targeted the house as the inmates were senior citizens and women.

Telangana HC seeks details of harassment case against trainee IPS officer

Hyderabad, July 22 (GNS)
Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed police to submit details relating to a case registered against trainee IPS officer M. Uday Krishna Reddy on allegations of sexually harassing a woman batchmate at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

National Police Academy in Hyderabad. The High Court adjourned to Monday (July 27) hearing on the petition filed by Uday Krishna Reddy, seeking to quash the First Information Report (FIR). The court also rejected the plea of his counsel to direct the police not to take

any action against him till the next hearing. The trainee IPS officer argued in the petition that the FIR was registered against him based on false allegations. A 30 year old woman trainee officer alleged that Reddy harassed her between June 23 and July 10

while they were undergoing training at the academy. She accused him of sending abusive messages, subjecting her to criminal intimidation, recording her private video and sending it to her husband. She also alleged that he took her mobile phone to his room,

forced her to disclose its password and blackmailed her into revealing personal messages. Based on her complaint, Attapur police registered a case under Sections 74 (criminal force against a woman), 75 (sexual harassment), 77 (voyeurism), 78 (stalking).

NEET row: BJP, Congress workers clash during protests in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, July 22 (GNS)
Hyderabad Police on Wednesday detained Telangana Congress leaders as they were marching towards Lok Bhavan to protest against the detention of Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders during the protest in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence in New Delhi on Tuesday. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud, state minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, government advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Balmori Venkat, Rohin Reddy and other Congress leaders were detained. Police shifted TPCC president and ministers to Nampally Police Station. Remain-

ing leaders and workers were taken to Punjagutta Police Station. On the 'Chalo Lok Bhavan' call given by TPCC president, a large number of Congress leaders and workers gathered at Indira Gandhi's statue at Necklace Road and marched towards Lok Bhavan. The Congress leaders were carrying banners and party flags and raising slogans. Ministers Damodar Rajanarasimha, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Mohammed Azharuddin also participated in the rally. The police stopped the rally at Khairatabad Crossroads. State Congress chief told media persons that the detention of Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders is an attack on democracy. Stating that Rahul Gandhi is fighting

for the future of the country, the TPCC chief said the Modi government will fail in its attempts to stop him. Srinivas Reddy said Telugu people were condemning the detention of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and other Congress leaders. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers Ponnampallabharathi and Konda Surekha participated in a protest in Hanamkonda. Deputy Chief Minister termed the police lathi charge on students protesting in New Delhi as 'inhuman'. He said students were peacefully protesting to demand the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET question paper leak.

KTR urges Telangana CM to clarify stand on revival of CCI plant in Adilabad

Hyderabad, July 22 (GNS)
Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao has written an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy demanding that the Congress government immediately clarify its official stand on the revival of the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) plant in Adilabad. In his letter, KTR stated that the revival of the Adilabad CCI plant is not merely an industrial issue but one that concerns the livelihoods of thousands of families, the industrial future of Adilabad district and the overall economic development of Telangana. Referring to the BRS delegation's recent visit

to New Delhi along with representatives of the CCI, Sadhana Samithi, KTR said they met Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H. D. Kumaraswamy on July 15 and submitted a representation seeking revival of the Adilabad CCI plant. The delegation explained the employment potential and economic benefits that revival of the plant would generate for Adilabad and the surrounding region. KTR revealed that during the meeting, the Union Minister made it clear that revival of the Adilabad CCI plant would be possible if the Telangana government came forward with a state

contribution of Rs 250 crore. According to KTR, the minister informed the delegation that the process had been delayed because the State government had neither submitted any formal proposal nor communicated its willingness to extend incentives or provide the required support. He said it was evident that the major hurdles to revival could be removed if the State government took the initiative. Criticising the Congress government, KTR said that despite the Union government expressing a positive approach, the State government had failed to announce its official position on the issue.

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