



India-EU Partnership Can Help Steady A Turbulent Global Order, Says PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said deeper cooperation between India and the European Union could play a stabilising role in an increasingly unsettled global environment, as the two sides announced the conclusion of a landmark Free Trade Agreement.

Speaking at a joint press conference in New Delhi with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa, the Prime Minister described January 27 as a historic moment that marks the beginning of a new phase of co-development between India and the EU. He said two major global powers were taking their



partnership forward into a new era built on shared goals and mutual growth. PM Modi noted that the agreement under discussion is among the largest free trade deals ever envisaged, covering all 27 mem-

ber states of the European Union. He said the FTA would boost investment, encourage new innovation-driven partnerships and strengthen global supply chains, adding that it goes beyond trade to serve as a

framework for shared prosperity.

The Prime Minister also highlighted progress on a new migration and mobility framework and said India and the EU had further reinforced their strategic relationship through a fresh defence and security agreement.

Emphasising the broader relationship, he said India-EU ties have advanced significantly in recent years, grounded in common democratic values, economic complementarity and strong people-to-people links. He added that nearly eight lakh Indians living across Europe play a key role in deepening bilateral engagement and strengthening the partnership.

Anam inaugurates Temple Caravan Vehicle

Nellore: Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy has said that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is keen on developing temple tourism in the State. He inaugurated Temple Caravan Vehicle with facilities designed by tourism department here on Monday. The Minister has said that the CM has appointed a 4-member sub-committee with Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, R&B Minister BC Janardhan Reddy and himself to discuss the development of temple tourism and setting up Tourism Circuit and to give suggestions to the government. He said that it was proposed to arrange TCV in every district under Public Private Partnership mode headed by tourism department. He said that one YV Srinivasa Reddy of Nellore city came forward to take up this project.



'A journey that grounded me, connected me', Lokesh on 3-years of 'Yuva Galam' padayatra

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister and TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh said on Tuesday that his 'Yuva Galam' padayatra was a journey that grounded him and connected him to the struggles of various sections of people.

On the third anniversary of his walkathon, the Minister for Human Resources Development and Information Technology took to X to share his thoughts.

Lokesh, who is the son of Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President N. Chandrababu Naidu stated that his politics was shaped in the shadow of people's struggles and their aspirations.

"A journey that grounded me and connected me deeply to the struggles of farmers, women, youth, workers, teachers, students, entrepreneurs, weavers, senior citizens and the underprivileged across Andhra Pradesh. I thank every mother and sister for their blessings, and every citizen who spoke to me with honesty, hope and courage. My politics was shaped in the shadow of your struggles and aspirations," he said.

"I say this with conviction: every policy we draft, every decision we take, carries your



voices and your lives at its core. Three years on, I reiterate my vow - to be your soldier, your warrior, and to always stand on your side," Lokesh added.

Meanwhile, addressing the workshop of the TDP parliamentary committees on Tuesday, Lokesh called for providing more opportunities to the youth in the party. He stated that the party should evolve with the changing times and provide opportunities to the young faces at all levels.

Lokesh said 83 per cent of the members in parliamentary committees have been

appointed for the first time. He said those who work with commitment have been accommodated in these panels.

He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was running the government with a focus on both development and welfare. He asked the party cadres to take the government's schemes to the people. It was on January 27, 2023, that Lokesh launched 'Yuva Galam (voice of youth)' padayatra, which covered over 3,000 kms and traversed nearly 100 Assembly constituencies.

The TDP termed it a defining moment in Andhra Pradesh's political and civic history and said it transformed public engagement, deepened democratic outreach, and strengthened people-centric governance.

The journey began from Kuppam in Chittoor district with blessings and public fervour, attracting thousands of supporters as Lokesh commenced the march with a simple yet profound pledge -- to walk alongside the people, listen to their struggles, and make their voices the foundation of policy and governance, said the TDP.

"Over 226 days, the Yuvalam

Padayatra covered more than 3,100 kilometres, reaching 97 Assembly constituencies and interacting with citizens in every district -- from rural hamlets to urban centres. The effort yielded remarkable political resonance, with alliance candidates winning in 90 of the 97 constituencies where the Padayatra had traversed -- a strong indicator of the movement's deep connection with public sentiment," it said.

Throughout the journey, Lokesh walked an average of 10-12 kilometres daily, meeting farmers, workers, students, women's groups, entrepreneurs, and senior citizens -- listening earnestly to their challenges on employment, education, infrastructure, farming distress, water scarcity, and youth opportunities. Despite political and logistical challenges, including temporary interruptions, the Padayatra persevered and reaffirmed a clear message: effective leadership must originate from the ground, in constant dialogue with the people. It set a new standard for public engagement in Andhra Pradesh politics, revitalising community participation and inspiring youth leadership across the state.

Ex-Congress Leader Claims Rahul Gandhi Ordered Attacks On His Home After 'Darpok' Remark



Former Congress leader Shakeel Ahmad has claimed that Rahul Gandhi instructed party leaders to target his residences in Bihar after he publicly described the Leader of the Opposition as a 'darpok' (coward) and an insecure politician. Ahmad, a three-time MLA and two-term MP from Bihar, said he has been receiving threats since making his comments, which he insists were meant as constructive criticism of the party's leadership.

Ahmad alleged that he was warned by party colleagues that directions had been issued to attack his homes in Patna and Madhubani on January 27, allegedly under the guise of burning his effigy. He also shared a screenshot of a WhatsApp message on social media, which he claimed urged Congress workers at the district and local levels to protest against him for his remarks on Rahul Gandhi. The controversy began after Ahmad, who quit the Congress following its poor performance in the Bihar elections last year, accused Rahul Gandhi of being dictatorial and promoting only those younger leaders who praise him, while sidelining senior leaders with public influence. Ahmad said his criticism stemmed from concern for the party's future and not personal animosity.

He further accused Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru of orchestrating the alleged threats and claimed that Allavaru mistreated him on Rahul Gandhi's instructions. The Congress leadership hit back strongly, with party leader Manickam Tagore branding Ahmad a " betrayer" and likening him to Jaichand, a historical figure associated with treachery. Responding to Tagore's remarks, Ahmad alleged that the attack on him was carried out under Rahul Gandhi's direction, dismissing it as an attempt to silence dissent within the party.

Birthday celebrations among orphans.. Annadanam
Punyakaryam: Erneni Babu



Kodada January 27 Metro Morning...

Erneni Babu, a former sarpanch and senior leader of the Congress party, said that Annadanam is a great pious act. SC, ST, BC and Minority Union State President Barapati Koteswara Rao organized food donation for the orphans to celebrate the first birthday of his grandson Ajay Verma and Indu's son Dev Ninas who lives in London at Sangala Radhakrishna. Mentally Handicapped Orphanage in Ashok Nagar on Tuesday. Erneni Babu who started this program said that it is commendable to remember and serve the orphans of the home village even if they are abroad. Such service programs will inspire others. Leaders Sweetisett Sushila, Raju, Teppani Srinivas, Pattipaka Janardhan, Budigam Kiran Kumar, Gundepanglu Ramesh, Gandham Pandu, Prakash, Suresh, Ekbal and others participated in this program.....

Drunken travel is the road to death.

- A government teacher is a social worker
- Rachakonda Prabhakar



Kodada January 27 Metro morning.....

Rachakonda Prabhakar, a government teacher and social activist expressed his grief that many innocent people are losing their lives due to driving under the influence of intoxicants. On the occasion of the National Road Safety Month, he created awareness among people with a microphone at many busy intersections in Kodada town. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a legal offense and everyone is asked to follow the traffic rules. Especially the youth should stay away from drugs and parents should keep a watch on the behavior of their children. He made it clear that a risk-free society is possible only when we act as responsible citizens..

The central government is adamant



Let go Demand of bank employees...

Kodada January 27 Metro Morning...

All the banks' unions in Kodada staged a bandh in the town demanding immediate implementation of five-day working days per week in public sector banks. In response to the call given by the All India

Association on Tuesday, the employees and staff of various banks gathered in front of the local State Bank of India main branch and protested. On this occasion, the leaders said that the demand for five-day working days has been pending since time immemorial and demanded that the central govern-



ment should leave its stubborn stand on this. Similarly, he expressed concern that there is a severe shortage of staff in banks, and due to this, the work pressure on the employees is increasing tremendously. They urged the Center to fill up the vacant posts immediately and make new appoint-

ments. Manager Sivakumar, Chief Manager Veeraswamy, Shankar, Venkataratnam, Uma Mahesh, Chittibabu, Ramu, Nandan Reddy, Sajanya, Ramya, Sai representative of various banks in this protest program...

Stop the false propaganda on EWS reservations....

Hyderabad, January 27, MetroUdayam

The OC JAC (Other Castes Joint Action Committee) leaders have made it clear that they will not tolerate the false propaganda and conspiracies surrounding EWS (Economically Weaker Sections) reservations. They alleged that due to vote bank politics, the OC community is facing severe injustice in municipal ward reservations. National President Poladi Ramarao, National Chairman Nalla Sanjeev Reddy, State President Gopu Jaipal Reddy, and Working President Tadisetty Pashupati participated in the OC JAC state meeting held at the Basheerbagh Press Club on Tuesday and addressed the gathering. They stated that due to the lack of political reservations, OCs are being deprived of welfare schemes and political positions. They expressed

anguish that in the recent local elections, even in general constituencies, OC candidates could not stand against the financial and physical power of their opponents. They alleged that decisions have been made to suppress the OC community in the ward reservations for the upcoming municipal elections. They warned that if the unscientific reservations are not revised immediately, the government will have to face consequences in the municipal elections. They also demanded the establish-

ment of a special national commission for the effective implementation of the 10 percent EWS reservations, which are in effect constitutionally. They requested the governments to increase the age limit for EWS students in education and employment, fill the backlog posts immediately, and increase the income limit for the EWS certificate. They called for the success of the national-level mega protest of the OC (Other Castes) community to be held at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on February 23rd to

achieve these demands. The event was attended by the national president and national chairman of the Joint Action Committee (JAC), Poladi Ramarao and Nalla Sanjeev Reddy, state president Gopu Jaipal Reddy, working president Tadi Shetty Pashupati, along with leaders Danekula Rambabu, Lenkalapalli Somayya Gupta, Kolpur Ramesh, Nacham Prabhakar Mahesh, and the state and various district presidents and secretaries of the OC JAC.

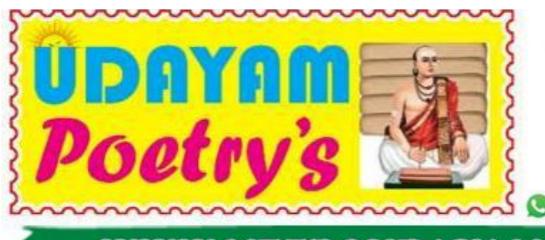
Secretariat Sports Meet – 2026 Grandly Inaugurated

Chikkadapally, 27 January (Metro Udayam) : The Secretariat Sports Meet – 2026, organized by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat Association for the employees and officers of the Secretariat, Telangana Legislative Assembly, and Lok Bhavan, was grandly inaugurated at 11:30 AM at the LB Stadium. Ms. Soni Baladevi, IFS, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director of the Sports Authority of Telangana, attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest and officially declared the games open. Speaking on the occasion, she stated that sports are essential for the physical fitness and mental well-being of employees, reducing work stress and fostering camaraderie. This sports meet includes various indoor and outdoor sports competitions such as cricket, volleyball, tennis, badminton, chess, carroms, table tennis, and athletics (100 meters, relay race). A large number



of employees from various departments are participating enthusiastically. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar... Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat Association President Giri Srinivas Reddy, General Secretary Prem, Treasurer

Kailash, Sports Secretary Vamsidhar Reddy, along with office bearers Naveen, Ayesha Tabassum, Ramu Bhukya, Kancherla Srinivas Reddy, Neerajaakshi, Rajeshwar, Kanaka Tara and others participated.



सत्त्वा धर्म हर तरह के शोषण का विरोध करता है। और कर्म सिद्धांत के आधार पर इंसान को मिलने वाले सुख - दुःख के तथ्य को बताता है।... (शकील उवाच -५३३)



ईंवर को और धर्म को इनकार करने वालों की बहुत लंबी फेफड़ियत हम इतिहास में देख सकते हैं। इतिहास में उनीसी दस्ती के कई महान् विवारणों ने नारितकता का परचम लड़ाया है। जिनमें बुधिम पश्चिमवाद, जॉर्जिविलेम, फ्रेडरिक हेल्स, कार्ल मार्क्स, फ्रेडरिक एंड्रेस, लाइटिमीर लेनिन और जॉर्ज रस्टालिन जैसे अनेक नामों की सूची हम देख सकते हैं। इन सभी के विवारों को पढ़ने के बाद जो नतीजा निकला जाएगा यह यही नतीजा होगा कि धर्म के नाम पर अपार्सियों द्वारा किया गया शोषण इन लोगों को ईंवर के विरोध में खड़ा किया है।

“जो तर्कसंगत है वही वास्तविक है। और जो वास्तविक है वही तर्कसंगत है।” इस सूत्र को आधार बनाकर धर्म को तर्क से असंगत और बुद्धि से अुमार्थिक शोषित करते हुये बहुत से लोगों ने धर्म को इनकार किए हैं। शैतिकता को ज्यादा से ज्यादा महत देने वाले बहुत नारितकों का द्वारा धर्म को एक कात्पवित्र, अर्थात् आधारहीन सिद्धांत बताते हुए, धर्म को दूर्योग द्वारा अपने तूत को मान्यता देने के लिए अरितत्व में लाया गया ज़ूठ कठकर इसका विरोध किया गया है।

आसाकर दुन्दातमक शैतिकवाद, ऐतिहासिक शैतिकवाद, वर्ण संघर्ष, क्रान्ति, सर्वहारा वर्ण अधिनायकत्व और साम्यवाद जैसे प्रमुख साथ सिद्धांतों को आधार बनाकर पूरी दुनिया को एक नई दिशा देने का प्रयत्न करने वाले मार्स्यतावाने ने धर्म और ईंवर को पूरी तरह देखा जिया है। कार्ल मार्क्स का मानना था कि जब तक आदमी धर्म और ईंवर की आस्था से मुक्त नहीं होता अपनी वेतना का उपरोग अपनी हालत बदलने के लिये उपरोग में ता वही सकता। उनकी दृष्टि से धर्म परलोक जीवन के सुरु के झूठे सपने दिखाकर इस जीवन में दुःख सहने के लिये इंसान को बाध्य करता है।

कार्ल मार्क्स ने जो ईंवर को और धर्म को इनकार किया है, वह इसलिए के उन्होंने शैतिकवाद के नाम पर किया जाने वाले शोषण को धमाकेदार लोगों का शोषण करने वाले तथाकथित लोगों और ज़ूठे पार्खरी धार्मिकों ने अपने स्वार्थ के लिये अमिक पीड़ितों को राह दिखाया दिलाये आये हैं कि उनकी पीड़ि ईंवर की इच्छा से ही रही है, क्योंकि ईंवर ने ऐसा ही आन्द्रा में दिया है। जबकि सत्त्वा धर्म हर तरह के शोषण का विरोध करता है। और कर्म सिद्धांत के आधार पर इंसान को मिलने वाले सुख - दुःख के तथ्य को बताता है।

जबकि धर्म आसाकर इस्लाम में मेहनतकर्त्तों का और मेहनत का बहुत गौरव दिया गया है। मज़दूर का मेहनतवाना याने मज़दूरी की मज़दूरी जल्द से जल्द अदा करने का हुआ इस्लाम देता है। क्योंकि मज़दूर मेहनत करके अपनी जिदगी गुजर करते हैं उसके लिए रोज़ मिलने वाली मज़दूरी की क़स्त ही सब कुछ होती है। हम बड़े आसानी से कह देते हैं कि अभी मेरे पास खुल्ला नहीं है, शाम के वरत पैसा नहीं देते, आज की मज़दूरी कल ले जाना। लेकिन हमारा यह व्यतहार उस मज़दूर के घर श्रूत्यमी का कारण बन सकता है। इसलिए मज़दूरी जल्द देने का आदेश धर्म ने दिया है।

इस दुनिया में कितने ही लोग ऐसे हैं कि जिनका चूल्हा उस वरत तक नहीं जाता जब तक मेहनत नहीं करते। पूरे दिन में ऐसे कर्तों लोग हैं जो दिन भर में एक ही वरत का आदा पेट खाना खाकर के जीते हैं। इनका ठर्ड, अमीर दीतामंड लोग समझ ही नहीं सकते। मज़दूरों के इसलिए धर्म का आदेश है कि मज़दूर की मज़दूरी जल्द से जल्द देने की व्याप्ति का आदेश है। यह धर्मियों का संरक्षण करने वाली यह हृदीस (कृष्ण) सुनान इन माजा २४४३ के व्यातिरिक्त बहुत सारी पुस्तकों में हम पढ़ सकते हैं। यह धर्मियों का आवरण सारी दुनिया में करना चाहिए।

— डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील मंवरी), मंवर, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत

Hyderabad January:27 (Metro udayam)

77th Republic Day was celebrated grandly at the Secunderabad Zone Women's Police Station.



BLACK BUSTER!

Wide spread words!
Thumping victory!
Record break success!
Denoted by the title!



It may be cine field!
May also in politics!
May be in sports!
Irrespective of field!

When past record surpassed!
It is termed as a black buster!
Rarely repeated by stalwarts!
They stand as role models!

Do they retain the same for ever!
It is not so easy for so many factors!
In the year 1983 NTR wave is a
black buster in politics!
He is a cine icon also delivered
many black buster pictures!

Such one established at present
by Power star Pavan kalyan!
He too hailed from picture field
with black buster record!
Now in politics with all his might
combined three parties formed as
front and got tremendous victory
in AP assembly elections!

Proved that nothing is impossible
to a dedicated service and no
substitute there for hard work!
Hats off to his thumping majority
and delivering BLACK BUSTER Victory
in politics!
Proved himself that he is not only a
Reel hero but real too!

Composed by:
B. Satyanaarayana Rao,
(Ba .Sa. Raa)
Vijayawada.

Rare brain

surgery

successfully

performed at

Nellore Narayana Hospital

Nellore: Doctor sat Narayana Hospital successfully performed brain surgery on an 11-year-old boy, Revanth from Vijayawada, who was suffering from a severe neurological disease, Rasmussen's Encephalitis.

Briefing the media here on Saturday, senior consultant neurosurgeon Dr NA Saikiran and head of neurology department Dr NS Sampath Kumar said, the boy was suffering from Rasmussen's Encephalitis, experiencing 10 to 20 seizures a day. “We removed the affected part of the brain through an advanced surgical procedure, ‘Vertical Hemispherectomy’ to prevent the spread of seizures. After the surgery, the boy is normal and free from seizures,” they added.

They said that the hospital has state-of-the-art equipment necessary for the surgery, including 32-channel video EEG, 3 Tesla MRI, Neuro Physiological Monitor, 400wt Lamp, 3 High-end Operative Microscopes, and a Neuro Navigation System. The hospital is providing these expensive treatments free of charge through insurance, EHS, and Aarogyasri schemes, with the support of Narayana Hospital management and the government.

Additional Medical Superintendent Dr Ravulapalli Harish, Neuro Anesthetist Dr Brunda, and Hospital AGM AC Shekhar Reddy were present.

ECOR WOMEN'S WELFARE ORGANISATION, WALTAIR EXTENDS COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT TO PATIENTS AND HEALTH UNITS



In a noble gesture reflecting social responsibility and compassion, the Waltair Division wing of East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECoRWWO), under the able leadership of its President Smt. Jyostna Bohra, along with executive members, undertook a charitable initiative for supporting patients and strengthening health-care facilities. As part of this noble endeavor, the ECoRWWO donated more than 200 fruit packets, and baby kits for newborn babies, along with health

drinks for cancer and TB patients, providing much-needed nutritional support. In addition, luggage bags were distributed to in-patients, helping ease their stay during treatment and recovery. Further strengthening healthcare infrastructure, the ECoR Women's Welfare Organisation donated a pair of three-seater visitor chairs to the Health Units of Marripalem, Vadlapudi, Diesel Loco Shed Health Unit, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram, ensuring improved comfort for patients' attendants and

visitors. Additionally, a hi-tech hot and normal water purifier was also donated to the Divisional Health Unit, enhancing access to safe drinking water for patients and staff. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Jyostna Bohra emphasized the organisation's commitment to community welfare and healthcare support, stating that such initiatives are a small step towards bringing comfort, dignity, and care to those in need.

TDP Begins Training for Parliamentary Committees at NTR Bhavan



Training sessions for the Telugu Desam Party's parliamentary committees commenced on Tuesday at the party's central office, NTR Bhavan, in Hyderabad.

The programme was inaugurated in the morning by National General Secretary and Minister Nara Lokesh, who arrived early and personally welcomed committee members. He spent nearly two hours posing for photographs with participants before paying tribute at the statue of party founder N T Rama Rao and formally opening the sessions. Telugu Desam Party Andhra Pradesh State President Palla Srinivas Rao was also present at the event. Ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, MLCs, corporation chairmen and other senior leaders took part in the programme.

Senior party leaders are conducting sessions on party objectives, leadership skills and current political developments, with training scheduled to continue until the evening. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is expected to arrive at NTR Bhavan in the afternoon after cancelling his secretariat engagements and will offer guidance to the committees during the concluding session.

Aus Open: Yuki-Goransson bow out in men's doubles third round, Indian challenge ends

Melbourne: India's top-ranked men's doubles tennis player Yuki Bhambri and his Swedish partner Andre Goransson crashed out of the Australian Open after losing to the Brazilian pair of Orlando Luz and Rafael Matos in the third round here on Monday.

Luz and Matos won the first set despite winning a lower number of points than Bhambri/Goransson by raising their game during crucial points in the set. The Brazilians edged Bhambri-Goransson in the short rallies (19-16), committing fewer errors (3) to secure the 7-6 (9-7), 6-3 win.

Despite showing resilience in the opening-set tiebreak—saving three set points from 3-6 and even earning one at 7-6. Just when the momentum seemed to be swinging their way, they dropped the next three points to surrender the set.

Momentum slipped away in the second set after a crucial turning point. Serving at 3-2 with a break and holding two game points at 40-15, Goransson hit back-to-back double faults, handing the break back to the Brazilians. From there, Luz and Matos tightened their grip on the match, seeing out a straight-sets victory.

With Bhambri's men's doubles loss, India's campaign at the season's first ended, as he was the only Indian left in contention after Paris 2024 Olympian Sriram Balaji's run in the men's doubles ended after he and Austrian partner Neil Oberleitner went down 7-5, 6-1 to fourth seeds Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador and Croatia's Mate Pavic in the second round on Saturday.

This was Bhambri's third round of the men's doubles at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2014, when he partnered New Zealand's Michael Venus. His best showing at a Grand Slam came last year, when the pair made a run to the semi-finals at the US Open.

Bhambri also partnered with the 2018 Wimbledon champion, Nicole Melichar-Martinez of America, in the mixed doubles event, but the duo lost to sixth-seeded Zhang Shuai of China and Germany's Tim Putz in the opening round in straight sets.

Some who have left this world are still alive in people's memories:

- Former State Government Advisor Dr. K.V. Ramana

Chikkadapally, 27 January (Metro Udayam)

: Former State Government Advisor Dr. K.V. Ramana said that even after leaving this world, some people who have worked for society within their capacity are remembered by the people, and such people, even after death, remain alive in people's memories. He said that although Phani Bhargav died at the age of 21, he won everyone's affection through the various social activities he undertook with his fellow students. A birth anniversary meeting in memory of the young student leader Phani Bhargav was organized jointly by Kala Nilayam and Tyagaraya Gana Sabha at the Kala Subbarao auditorium in Tyagaraya Gana Sabha. Dr. Ramana, who participated as the chief guest at this program, presented cash awards to Deepi Vajpayee (TV9) and Praveen Kalavalu (ABN Andhra Jyothi), and awards to degree students Rakshita and Rajeshwari, and social worker Sai



Baba. Along with the Director of the Department of Language and Culture, Dr. Enugu Narasimha Reddy, Dr. Ramana honored the CPM leader, the centenarian Anne Achyuta Ramaiah, with a Lifetime Achievement Award and spoke on the occasion. He praised Ramana, who, despite the tragedy of losing his grown-up son Phani, is providing invaluable support to students through his journalistic work and these awards. Dr. Enugu Narasimha Reddy said that the pro-

gram organized by the father every year on his son's birthday in his memory is very rare. Dr. Ramu, former director of Jawahar Bal Bhavan, who presided over the event, appreciated the father for keeping his son's memory alive by providing support to talented students and orphans through the program held in the name of Phani Bhargav for the past ten years. Baisa Devadas, editor of the newspaper 'Nati Nijam', spoke about the life and achievements of Phani Bhargav's father, Ramana. In his inaugural address, Kala Janardhana Murthy, president of the music academy, expressed his sorrow, stating that Phani Bhargav was a rare young man who led an exemplary life and his untimely death was tragic. At the event, which began with a welcome address by Kala Nilayam secretary Surender, Kuchipudi dances by dance gurus Pravallika and Sushma and their disciples, and Shyam's singing captivated the audience.

Lokesh calls for unity to make Mangalagiri a model constituency



Mangalagiri: Education and IT minister Nara Lokesh on Monday said that Mangalagiri can be transformed into a model constituency in the country if everyone works together with unity and commitment.

The minister participated as the chief guest in the consecration ceremony of the newly constructed Lutheran Church, built under the aegis of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC), Atmakur Parish, in Atmakur area of Mangalagiri town. On the occasion, he inaugurated the church by cutting the ribbon, unveiled the foun-

dation plaque, and planted a sapling as part of the celebrations. Special prayers were offered by church pastors during the ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Lokesh said the church had been reconstructed in an extraordinary manner beyond expectations. He recalled that whenever he



visits villages, churches, or temples, he often reminds people that God tests individuals but also gives them the strength to overcome those tests. He stressed the need to support and stand by those who are facing difficulties in society.

The Minister said he had asked for the church construction to be completed within a year, and praised the reconstruction committee for completing the work remarkably. Reflecting on social issues, Lokesh expressed concern that people today are getting distressed over minor issues. He cited instances of students resorting to extreme steps after scoring low marks in examinations and urged them to face challenges with determination and faith.

"If we all work together with unity, with God's blessings, we can develop our villages and the constituency into one of the best in the country," he said. Padmashali Welfare and Development Corporation chairman Nandam Abaddaiah, Guntur Parliament TDP general Secretary Pothineni Srinivasa Rao, APIC director Kanikella Chiranjeevi, Rev Dr Kodali Vijay, retired senior division civil Judge from Kerala and AELC administrator P S Joseph along with church elders, pastors and a large number of Christian devotees participated.

India's oil & gas sector offers investment opportunities worth 500 billion dollars: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India's energy sector offers investment opportunities worth 500 billion dollars as he urged global oil and gas majors to "Make in India, Innovate in India, Scale with India, Invest in India."

Addressing the India Energy Week 2026, via video conferencing, being attended by representatives from nearly 125 countries in Goa, PM Modi said that the country's energy sector has vast investment opportunities across different areas of the energy value chain.

He highlighted that India has significantly opened up its exploration sector and referred to the deep-sea exploration initiative known as the Samudra Manthan Mission. By the end of this decade, India aims to raise investments in the oil and gas sector to 100 billion dollars, with a target of expanding the scope of exploration to one million square km. More than 170 exploration blocks have already been awarded, and the Andaman and Nicobar basin "is emerging as the next hydrocar-



bon hope," PM Modi said.

Sense of pride from the announcement to effective implementation of UCC – CM Dhami Underlining that several reforms have been undertaken in the exploration sector, including reducing the no-go areas, the Prime Minister added that suggestions received during previous editions of India Energy Week have been incorporated

into changes in Acts and Rules. He affirmed that companies investing in the exploration sector are certain to see increased profitability.

PM Modi further stated that India possesses a very large refining capacity and currently ranks second in the world, and is poised to become the number one country globally in refining capacity. The country's present refining capacity stands at around 260 million metric tonnes

(MMT) per annum, and continuous efforts are underway to raise it beyond 300 MMT per annum, he added.

Highlighting that LNG demand in India is continuously rising, and the country has set a target to meet 15 per cent of its total energy demand through LNG, the Prime Minister emphasised the need to work across the entire LNG value chain and noted that India is undertaking large-scale efforts in transportation. India is working to build the vessels required for LNG transportation domestically, supported by a recently launched ship-building program worth Rs 70,000 crore. Numerous investment opportunities have also been created in constructing LNG terminals at Indian ports, as well as in regasification projects, he added. The Prime Minister stressed that India requires a vast pipeline network for LNG transportation, where significant investments have already been made, but large-scale opportunities still remain. He pointed out that city gas distribution networks have already reached many Indian cities and are rapidly expanding

to others, making this sector highly attractive for investment.

PM Modi observed that with India's large population and steadily growing economy, the demand for petrochemical products will continue to rise, necessitating extensive energy infrastructure. He affirmed that investment in this area will yield substantial growth and added that there are also abundant opportunities in downstream activities for investors.

"Today's India is riding on the Reforms Express and undertaking rapid reforms across every sector", PM Modi remarked.

He emphasised that reforms are being carried out to strengthen domestic hydrocarbons while creating a transparent and investor-friendly environment for global collaborations. India is developing an energy sector ecosystem capable of meeting local demand and, through affordable refining and transportation solutions, making exports highly competitive for the world, he added.

Disabled Army Veteran Alleges Harassment At Karnataka Toll Plaza; NHAI Issues Clarification



A disabled Army veteran who lost both legs during service has alleged harassment by toll plaza staff in Karnataka, prompting a response from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The issue came into focus after a video of the former commando in a wheelchair went viral on social media, sparking widespread debate.

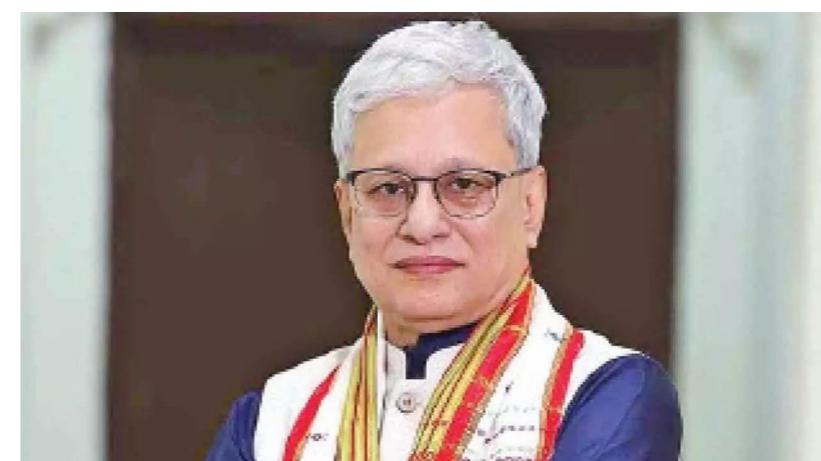
The ex-serviceman, Shyamaraj, who was part of the elite 21 Para unit and sustained his injuries during Operation Parakram, said he was stopped at the Sasthan toll plaza near Udupi and asked to pay the toll fee despite claiming eligibility for exemption. In the video, he questioned why his sacrifice was being disregarded and said that toll staff refused to honour his request even after he produced documents related to his military service. Shyamaraj alleged that while other toll plazas had allowed him to pass without payment, two employees at this particular toll gate insisted on charging him. He also sought clarification from Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari over what he described as unfair treatment. The toll plaza staff, however, denied any wrongdoing and maintained that they acted strictly according to existing rules.

Responding to the controversy, the NHAI issued a statement clarifying that toll fee exemptions are available only to serving Army personnel travelling on official duty. It added that there is no provision under current rules for toll exemption for ex-Army personnel, and that the documents submitted in this case did not meet the prescribed criteria for exemption.

Political heavyweights grace at Governor's 'At Home'

Hyderabad: The Governor Jishnu Dev Varma hosted the "At Home" reception at Lok Bhavan on Monday as part of the 77th Republic Day celebrations. The event saw a notable gathering of leaders from across the political spectrum, including Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, D Sridhar Babu, and Adluri Laxman Kumar.

Also in attendance were Kodada MLA Padmavathi Reddy, MLC Addanki Dayakar, and Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash. The judi-



ary was represented by Minister of Coal and Mines G Chief Justice Aparsh Kumar Kishan Reddy, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, and guests included Union former Governor Bandaru

Dattatreya.

The gathering included BJP State President N Ramchander Rao, Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender, former MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, and former Minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy. Representing the BRS were MLA KP Vivekanand, Kalle Yadaiah, and MLC Dasoji Sravan. On this occasion, the Governor presented the Governor Awards for Excellence to the recipients and also honoured the recent Padma Shri awardees.

DSPs Transferred Ahead of Telangana Civic Polls

Hyderabad: In the run-up to the expected announcement of the municipal election schedule, the Telangana Police Department has effected key transfers involving five Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs).

Director General of Police Shivadhar Reddy issued the transfer orders on the recommendations of the Police Establishment Board. The orders take effect immediately, with the officers directed to be relieved from their current posts and assume their new responsibilities without delay.

According to the orders, S.



Sarangapani, who was serving as DSP at TGPA Stands in Bhadravati Kothagudem district and as Illandu Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), has been transferred as Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Wyra, in Khammam district. His posting as Illandu SDPO has been cancelled.

Padmanabha Srinivas, presently working as DSP in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), has been relieved from the Wyra ACP post and will continue in the vacant Additional Superintendent of Police post in GHMC.

U. Venkanna Babu, earlier serving as DSP in the Intelligence Department, has been appointed as Illandu SDPO. B. Prakash, who was ACP (Special Branch) in Cyberabad, has been transferred as ACP, Nizamabad (Town). Meanwhile, L.R. Venkat Reddy, the outgoing ACP of Nizamabad (Town), has been directed to report to the DGP's office in Hyderabad.

All transferred officers have been instructed to submit their joining reports after taking charge at their new postings.

Measured interest in Tengah Garden Avenue highlights context for Tengah Garden Residences positioning

Positioning Tengah Garden Residences Amidst Rising Local Interest

The strategic introduction of Tengah Garden Residences in the burgeoning district of Tengah Garden Avenue is a testament to the nuanced understanding of market dynamics by distinguished developers Hong Leong, Guocoland, and CSC Land. This premier residential development is not just a structure but a well-thought-out response to the growing demand for high-quality living spaces in one of Singapore's most anticipated regions. Here, we delve into how Tengah Garden Avenue's measured interest forms a solid foundation for the positioning of Tengah Garden Residences.

n Insight into the Measured Interest around Tengah Garden Avenue

Interest in Tengah Garden Avenue isn't accidental but the result of deliberate planning and significant investment in infrastructure. The proximity to Hong Kah MRT Station enhances the locale's accessibility, making it an attractive site for potential homeowners and investors alike. This interest is measured, reflecting a steady recognition of the area's potential rather than a



fleeting trend. Accordingly, Tengah Garden Residences is positioned to capitalize on this growing appreciation, offering a living experience that aligns with the expectations and aspirations of modern residents.

Tengah Garden Residences: A Symbol of Modern Living

The very essence of Tengah Garden Residences is shaped by the evolving desires of today's urban dwellers. Each facet of the development, from its architectural ingenuity to the curated landscapes, is crafted to foster a contemporary lifestyle that is both luxurious and sustainable. This residence is not merely a place to live but a space where life's finer aspects

are enhanced by convenience and aesthetic appeal. Its positioning leverages the measured interest in the locale, ensuring that residents feel they are at the heart of a progressive and vibrant community.

Strategic Development by Hong Leong, Guocoland & CSC Land

The collaboration between Hong Leong, Guocoland, and CSC Land in developing Tengah Garden Residences is a strategic alliance that brings together extensive experience and a shared vision for quality. These developers are renowned for their commitment to excellence and their ability to deliver projects that resonate with market

needs. By situating Tengah Garden Residences at Tengah Garden Avenue, they have created a synergy between locale and luxury, crafting a development that speaks directly to the hearts of its future inhabitants.

Family-Centric Living in Tengah Garden Residences

Understanding the demographic interest centered around family-oriented living solutions, Tengah Garden Residences has been meticulously designed to cater to the needs of families. The development's positioning reflects a keen awareness of its residents' desires for a balanced lifestyle that merges connectivity with tranquility. Its close proximity to key amenities and green spaces ensures that families can thrive in a supportive and enriching environment, making it an ideal location for those looking to establish long-term roots in a dynamic community.

Investment Potential at Tengah Garden Avenue

The measured interest in Tengah Garden Avenue also underlines the area's potential as an investment hotspot. With Tengah Garden Residences at the core, investors are looking at a property that promises not only to appreciate over time but also to yield potential rental opportunities. The foresight by Hong

Leong, Guocoland, and CSC Land in developing this project in such a strategic location ensures that investment here is built on a foundation of potential growth and sustainable development.

A Premium Destination for Discerning Buyers and Investors

Tengah Garden Residences is not just another residential project; it is a premium destination in Singapore's real estate landscape. Its positioning, influenced by the measured interest in its locale, caters to discerning buyers who seek more than just a home. They seek a lifestyle that offers a blend of convenience, comfort, and class. As Tengah Garden Avenue continues to develop and attract more interest, Tengah Garden Residences is poised to become a landmark of luxury and a coveted address for those who appreciate the finer details of urban living.

In conclusion, the measured interest in Tengah Garden Avenue serves as a pivotal context for the strategic positioning of Tengah Garden Residences. With a clear focus on quality, community, and connectivity, this development is set to redefine urban living standards and become a beacon of modern residential luxury in Singapore.

ICC Clarifies Reasons Behind T20 World Cup Accreditation Denial for Bangladesh Journalists



Bangladesh Cricket and the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s relationship took another hit after more than a hundred journalists from the country were ICC accreditation denial for T20 World Cup 2026. The decision by the game's governing body comes after Bangladesh was officially replaced by Scotland for the biennial tournament, following their refusal to travel to India for their group games. Bangladesh cited security reasons for wanting to play all their games in a neutral venue like Sri Lanka, however the ICC rejected the threats via their independent unit. NDTV also interviewed Rana Abbas, the Sports Editor of Bangladesh media publication Aajker Patrika over the accreditation fiasco. Abbas called the move "extremely sad". "This sort of thing has never happened before in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi journalists have been reporting ICC events since before Bangladesh played in their first World Cup in 1999... Even India-Pakistan matches have been covered by Bangladeshi journalists when they were hosted in India. Never have all correspondents been turned down like this before. I can't recall any incident like this at any ICC event," he told NDTV. "I would say this is extremely sad. Journalists from countries that don't even participate in global sporting events are still usually looked after – FIFA is one example that springs to mind. I feel this whole debacle could set a really nasty precedent and may even impact journalists attending matches in Sri Lanka."

India, EU FTA brings big relief on car tariffs as import duties reduced to 10 pc from 110 pc

New Delhi: India and the European Union on Tuesday concluded a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA), bringing tariffs on European cars entering India to 10 per cent from the current high level of 110 per cent.

This lower duty will apply under an annual quota of 250,000 vehicles. At present, India charges a 70 per cent duty on imported passenger cars priced below \$40,000, while vehicles costing more than \$40,000 attract an effective customs duty of 110 per cent. The move opens up new opportunities for European carmakers in the Indian market, which is currently the world's third-largest by sales. With India's car market expected to grow to around six million units a year by 2030, several European companies are preparing fresh investments.



Renault is returning to India with a new business strategy, aiming to expand beyond Europe where Chinese carmakers are gaining ground. Meanwhile, Volkswagen Group is also finalising its next phase of investment in India through its Skoda brand.

Beyond automobiles, the trade agreement will lower or remove tariffs on more than 90 per cent of European goods exported to India. This includes major reductions in duties on machinery, which currently face tariffs of up to 44 per cent, chemicals with duties

of around 22 per cent, and pharmaceuticals taxed at about 11 per cent. Most of these charges will be gradually phased out.

The deal will also bring changes in other sectors. Import duties on European beer will be reduced to 50 per cent, while tariffs on chemicals, aircraft and spacecraft will be eliminated for almost all products.

According to the European Union, the agreement could help double EU exports to India by 2032 and lead to annual duty savings of up to four billion euros on European goods.

In addition to the trade pact, leaders at the India-EU Summit also launched a new EU-India Security and Defence Partnership, signaling deeper cooperation beyond economics.

IND vs NZ: Shreyas to continue as Varma's replacement for remaining two T20Is

Mumbai: Shreyas Iyer, a temporary pick for the ongoing T20 series against New Zealand due to Tilak Varma's fitness problems, has been kept in the squad for the remaining matches.

He will accompany the team to Visakhapatnam and later to Thiruvananthapuram for the final two games of the five-match series.

Iyer was named as a replacement for Tilak for the first three matches, but the youngster won't be returning for this series now. The 23-year-old needed surgery in Rajkot earlier this month during a Vijay Hazare match. He is currently at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, has begun rehab, and will join the squad in



Mumbai for the T20 World Cup, starting on February 7, once he is fully fit.

"India batter Tilak Varma has resumed physical training and is making steady progress with his rehabilitation at the BCCI

Centre of Excellence. However, he will require additional time to regain full match fitness and will not be available for the final two T20Is of the ongoing five-match T20I series," the BCCI said in a statement.

"Tilak will link up with the squad in Mumbai once he has regained full match fitness on 3rd February, ahead of India's warm-up match for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The Men's Selection Committee has recommended

that Shreyas Iyer will continue as Tilak Varma's replacement for the remaining matches," the statement further read.

Iyer, the vice-captain in ODIs, has not secured a spot in the playing XI for the current series, which India won by taking an unassailable 3-0 lead on Sunday. He has not appeared in a T20I since December 2023.

India's updated T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel (VC), Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ravi Bishnoi



Simple DIY Hacks To Remove Yellow Stains From Bathroom Tiles Naturally

Bathroom tiles often lose their sparkle over time, turning dull and yellow despite regular cleaning. Constant exposure to moisture, hard water deposits, soap residue, and mildew slowly builds up on the surface, leaving behind stubborn stains that make the space look unhygienic. While commercial cleaners promise quick results, they can be harsh, expensive, and sometimes damaging to tiles.

Thankfully, you don't need fancy products to bring back the shine. A few simple ingredients already sitting in your kitchen can work wonders. These DIY cleaning hacks are budget-friendly, easy to use, and surprisingly effective at tackling yellow stains.

Here's how you can refresh your bathroom tiles naturally.

Baking Soda And Vinegar For Deep Cleaning

Baking soda is widely known for its gentle scrubbing power, while white vinegar helps disinfect surfaces and break down grime. Together, they create a fizzy reaction that loosens dirt and stains stuck on tiles.



Sprinkle a generous layer of baking soda directly over the stained areas. Lightly spray vinegar on top and allow the mixture to bubble for about 10–15 minutes. Once the fizzing settles, scrub the surface with a brush or sponge and rinse thoroughly with water. This method works especially well on mold, mildew, and hard water stains.

Lemon And Salt For Natural Brightening

If you prefer a chemical-free solution, lemon and salt can be your go-to combination. Lemon's natural acidity helps dissolve stains, while salt provides the friction needed to scrub away buildup.

Squeeze fresh lemon juice over the yellowed tiles and sprinkle salt generously on top. Use a scrub brush to gently rub the surface and leave it for around 15 minutes. Rinse with warm water afterward. Besides cleaning, this

hack leaves a fresh citrus fragrance behind.

Bleach And Warm Water For Stubborn Marks

For tiles that haven't been cleaned in a while, tougher stains may need a stronger approach. A diluted bleach solution can help sanitize and brighten surfaces effectively.

Add two capfuls of bleach to half a bucket of warm water. Use a sponge to apply the solution to the affected areas and let it sit for about 10 minutes before rinsing thoroughly. Always ensure proper ventilation and wear gloves while using bleach.

Toothpaste For Small Spots And Soap Scum

Toothpaste isn't just for teeth. Its mild abrasives can lift minor stains and soap scum from tile surfaces.

Apply a small amount of white toothpaste directly onto a brush and scrub the stained patches. After cleaning, rinse with water to reveal cleaner, shinier tiles. This quick fix is ideal for small problem areas.

Dishwashing Liquid For Daily

Maintenance

Prevention is just as important as deep cleaning. Regular wiping can stop stains from forming in the first place.

Mix a teaspoon of mild dishwashing liquid in a mug of warm water. Use a sponge or cloth to wipe down tiles every day or every other day. This simple routine helps remove fresh dirt and keeps surfaces looking fresh and odor-free.

Pro Tips To Keep Tiles Looking New

Maintaining clean tiles doesn't require much effort if done consistently. Rinse the bathroom walls and floors after showers to remove soap residue. Wipe off excess moisture to prevent water stains. Good ventilation reduces humidity, limiting mold growth.

By incorporating these easy habits along with natural DIY hacks, you can keep your bathroom bright and spotless without relying on harsh chemicals. A little regular care goes a long way in preserving the shine and hygiene of your tiles.

Zero tolerance for crimes against women: Majhi

Cuttack: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday asserted that the State government has zero tolerance for crimes against women and that all accused have been arrested and put behind bars. Majhi was addressing a gathering here after unfurling the national flag on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day.

"I would like to assure the mothers and sisters of the State on this occasion that our government is always working for your safety. If anyone commits a crime against you, they will definitely be punished. In cases of violence against women, all the accused have been arrested," he said.

Asserting that there is no political protection for the criminals involved in crimes against women, the Chief Minister said the government has no mercy for them. "Regardless of political affiliation, caste, religion, or colour, for me, a person who commits violence against women has only one identity and one address -- jail," he said.

The Chief Minister said that women are half of the population and the State cannot progress unless there is welfare of women. "Our government has also given high priority to women's safety along with their dignity," he said. The Chief Minister pointed out that the rate of conviction in crimes against women was 9.2 per cent in 2022 and it further decreased to 6.9 per cent in 2023.

"However, today, it is a matter of some satisfaction for me that in the first six months of 2025, the conviction rate has reached 41 per cent. In June, it was more than 62 per cent," he said.

India emerging as global hub for animation, digital media; creating new opportunities for youth: PM Modi

The State Election Commission (SEC) is set to announce the election schedule for seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities in Telangana on Tuesday evening.

As part of the process, the SEC will hold a meeting with district collectors, superintendents of police and police commissioners on Tuesday morning. This will be followed by a discussion with State Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao in the afternoon, after which the schedule is expected to be released.

According to government sources, the announcement on Tuesday is almost certain unless an unforeseen obstacle arises. Preparations for the elections have already been completed. Voter lists have been printed, polling stations and ballot boxes are ready, and all necessary rules and guidelines have been issued.

In line with the state government's directive to complete the election process before February 15, district collectors have indicated that February 11 would be a suitable date for polling. If polling is held on that day, counting of votes is expected to be completed by February 13.

Anticipating the release of the election schedule, ministers, MLAs and other public representatives across the state have already completed inaugurations and foundation stone-laying ceremonies for development works. The distribution of sarees and

interest-free loans has also been concluded.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the government's continuous efforts are focused on creating new opportunities for the country's youth, both in India and across the world, as several new-age sectors such as animation and digital media position India as a global hub.

Addressing the 18th edition of the Rozgar Mela via video conference, the Prime Minister said India's young population is increasingly finding opportunities in emerging sectors, where innovation, creativity and technology are opening new career pathways.

"Today, India is one of the youngest countries in the world. It is the continuous effort of our government that new opportunities are created for India's youth power within the country and across the world," PM Modi said.

"Today, the Government is signing trade and mobility agreements with many countries. These trade agreements are bringing numerous new opportunities for the youth of India," the Prime Minister stated.

Prime Minister Modi said areas like animation and digital media are witnessing rapid growth, offering fresh possibilities for young professionals.

"Digital India has expanded a new economy. In many fields such as animation and digital media, India is becoming a global hub," PM Modi noted.

"India's creator economy is growing at a very fast pace, and in this too, youth are getting new opportunities," PM Modi explained.

The Prime Minister also highlighted that unprecedented investments in modern infrastructure over the past few years have significantly boosted employment in sectors linked to construction and development.

"Large-scale infrastructure projects have generated jobs across various levels, contributing to overall economic growth," Prime Minister added.

Prime Minister Modi further pointed out that India's start-up ecosystem is expanding at a fast pace.

"At present, there are around two lakh registered start-ups in the country, employing more than 21 lakh youth," PM Modi said.

"This growth reflects the rising entrepreneurial spirit among young Indians and the supportive policy environment created by the government," the Prime Minister added.

Sri Lanka's women's team is set to travel to the West Indies for a six-match white-ball tour spanning late February to early March.

Colombo: Sri Lanka's women's team is set to travel to the West Indies for a six-match white-ball tour spanning late February to early March. The itinerary features three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals, scheduled between February 20 and March 3. All fixtures will take place at the Grenada National Stadium in Grenada. The ODI leg begins on February 20, with the remaining matches on February 22 and 25. Attention then shifts to the T20Is, starting on February 28, followed by games on March 1 and 3.

The T20I contests carry added signifi-



cance, as both sides step up their preparations for the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup, to be held in the UK later this year.

The West Indies and Sri Lanka are grouped together in Group 2, alongside England, New Zealand, and two teams yet to qualify.

"The Sri Lanka National Women's Team will tour the West Indies during February–March 2026 to play a three-match ODI series and a three-match T20I series. The tour will begin with the ODI series, followed by the T20I series, which will be played in Grenada," the SLC said in their official statement.

Sri Lanka will be eager to end a T20I series drought that stretches back to their Asia Cup success in 2024. Meanwhile, the West Indies enter the series with

strong home form, having secured T20I series victories against Bangladesh and South Africa in their most recent outings.

The two teams last met in the Caribbean in 2024, when Sri Lanka dominated the ODI series with a 3–0 sweep, while West Indies responded by winning the T20I series 2–1.

Sri Lanka are currently the sixth-ranked ODI team in the Women's Rankings, with the West Indies in ninth. In the T20I Rankings, the Windies occupy sixth place, while the Lankans are placed seventh.

Gukesh bounces back, beats Fedoseev



Wijk Aan Zee (The Netherlands): World Champion D Gukesh bounced back after two back-to-back losses and put it across Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia in the eighth round of the Tata Steel Masters here Monday. Gukesh won handsomely with black pieces which should do a world of good to his confidence. The Indian ace had been playing well till the first rest day and then lost two games in a row and finally pulled one back. It was a picturesque finish when Gukesh put his rook emprise and finished the game in 41 moves. On a day when Arjun Erigaisi survived a difficult position against compatriot Aravindh Chithambaran and settled for a draw, R Praggnanandhaa escaped in a pawn down endgame to hold youngster Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus of Turkey. Meanwhile, local favourite Anish Giri threw the tournament open with a fine victory against overnight leader Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan. Abdusattarov remained in sole lead on 5.5 points despite the loss as his nearest rival and compatriot Javokhir Sindarov was held to a draw by Vincent Keymer of Germany. With just five rounds to come now, Abdusattarov on 5.5 is still at the top pursued closely by Sindarov a half point behind.

Close behind now and hoping for a few victories is Gukesh on four points with Giri, Fedoseev, Keymer and Matthias Bluebaum of Germany all having still chances to topple the players ahead of them. Erigaisi is next in contention on 3.5 points after drawing Chithambaran while Praggnanandhaa still needs to win his first game, a rare sight in any tournament that he played in the last few years.

Results round 8: Hans Moke Niemann (4) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 4); Aravindh Chithambaran (Ind, 2.5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 3.5); Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 4) lost to D Gukesh (Ind, 4); Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (Tur, 4.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3); Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 3.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 5); Thai Dai Van Nguyen (Cze, 3) drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 4).

Surya is a big player who has done well for India consistently, says Rohit

Rohit Sharma, who led India to 2024 Men's T20 World Cup triumph, praised current skipper Suryakumar Yadav's impact on the national side, calling him a big player who has done consistently well for the team.

Suryakumar reached his first fifty in the format after 468 days and 23 innings by hitting an unbeaten 82, laced with nine fours and four sixes in India's seven-wicket win over New Zealand in Raipur.

With the Men's T20 World Cup set to begin on February 7, Suryakumar returning back to form after a horrid 2025 augurs well for India in their quest to defend the title on home soil.

"A captain in form makes a big difference. But I see it differently. It's not just about the captain. If a key player like Surya is out of form, you lose out on one of your 7-8 batters. That weakens the whole lineup. Surya is a big player who has done well for India consistently. If his performance drops, it hurts the team. "This isn't about the individual; it's about the batting order. Surya bats at a high strike rate and plays unorthodox shots that disrupt plans of the opposition. He hits balls in unexpected places and plays shots that others can't."



"That puts pressure on the bowler, making them think, 'What do I do now? How can I tackle him?' When a player like Surya is in form, it makes the whole team stronger, not just because of his confidence, but because of what he brings to the game," said Rohit on JioHotstar.

Rohit has been teammates with Suryakumar in India T20I team, as well as in IPL and domestic cricket. He explained the innate intelligence Suryakumar has in terms of reading the game.

"Suryakumar Yadav understands the game very well. We played a lot of IPL matches together. Whenever I talked to him about different situations,

his responses always made sense. I judge people like that. I don't expect them to say what I think, but their answer should make sense.

"With Surya, it always does. He has great understanding and knows how to get the best from players around him. In the T20 World Cup, there will be tricky moments where we must be careful. It will be a test, but all these guys have played high-pressure games before. They should be able to handle it," he added.

Rohit further lauded Abhishek Sharma's calculated and impactful batting approach, which has been central to India getting great starts in power-play. "I like how

Abhishek Sharma is batting. He doesn't just swing hard; his approach is smart and calculated. He plays shots all around, from extra cover to mid-wicket.

"He's a 180-degree batter who can clear fine leg if you bowl at his body. He's become a very good player, scoring quickly and consistently. For an opener, impact matters more than just runs.

"Giving your team 50-60 runs in the first few overs does half the job; it lets others build on it. To take on bowlers, you have to do your homework and practice those shots in the nets every day. It's that simple," he concluded.

She's been the best batter, quite fitting she got the first one: Hayley on Sciver-Brunt's WPL ton

New Delhi: Mumbai Indians all-rounder Hayley Matthews commended her teammate Nat Sciver-Brunt after the England captain became the first-ever cricketer to score a century in the Women's Premier League (WPL), achieving the feat on Monday against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). The 131-run stand between Matthews and Sciver laid the platform for MI to finish with a strong total of 199. The Caribbean all-rounder arrived at this year's WPL with the business end of the tournament approaching and is peaking at the right time.

MI delivered a commanding performance. In a crucial match, their senior players stepped up and performed when it mattered most. Sciver-Brunt set a new record with the first WPL century, while Matthews and Shabnim Ismail tore through the RCB top order, taking the first five wickets and securing a 15-run win.

RCB struggled early after an aggressive bowling spell, and the chase quickly fell apart in the powerplay as they lost half their team. Richa Ghosh, Nadine de Klerk, and Arundhati Reddy



fought back, with the wicket-keeper-batter scoring 35 runs in the last two overs, but the target was too high to reach.

"It was definitely nice to watch from the other end when she was going four after four after four. I do love batting with her. We flow off each other really well. For her to get the hundred today was quite deserving. With all the innings she has played, not only this year but over the last four years. She has probably been the best batter in this tournament. In my opinion, quite fitting that she was able to get the first one," Matthews said in the post-match press conference.

Matthews herself is finding form at a crucial stage of the tournament. Returning from injury and a period away from the game, the Caribbean all-rounder admitted the early part of the season tested her patience.

"Coming back from injury, being away from the game for a while, I really had to get back into things. In the first three games with the bat, I felt I was in a good place but wasn't getting the results I wanted to. So yeah, it was just about keeping the confidence high, knowing that it will come eventually. Really happy to contribute with the bat today," she said.

The understanding between Matthews and Sciver-Brunt at the crease was evident, with both players complementing each other's strengths and matchups against the RCB bowling attack.

"I think we have a really good relationship at the crease. She flows really well and it helps me flow really well too. We are two really experienced players and I feel we certainly compliment each other at the crease really well. Some of the bowlers who aren't my matchups are hers (to

take down) and some of the bowlers that might be hers, I like to go after. We were able to have some really good conversations and think of exactly what we wanted to do and figure out best plans to maximize," Matthews explained.

Mumbai's approach in the powerplay was measured rather than explosive, shaped by their reading of the conditions at the venue.

"If you looked at the first few matches in this venue specifically, the first six to eight overs have been pretty hard to bat and the conditions have been a bit different," Matthews said. "We knew if we gave ourselves a chance to get set and get settled early on, when the wicket gets better, we would be able to accelerate especially keeping wickets in hand with Harry (Harmanpreet Kaur) in the death overs."

She added that avoiding early damage was a key priority. "We didn't want another powerplay where we were two down and had them in really early. It gave me opportunities to get in and get settled with Nat. And then we were both able to get going at the same time."

Once the platform was set, the pair shifted gears with clear intent. "For us, it is more about picking overs we want to go at, or picking areas where we want to score. Focussing a lot on what we can do basis the ball more than thinking about the score we need," Matthews said. "Once we got to that ten-over mark with wickets in hand, we knew it would have been a great opportunity to push the run-rate up some more."

With the ball, MI were just as ruthless. Matthews and Shabnim Ismail ripped through the RCB top order, reducing the chase to rubble inside the powerplay by taking the first five wickets. Although Richa Ghosh, Nadine de Klerk and Arundhati Reddy mounted a late counterattack — Ghosh scoring 35 runs across the final two overs — the target proved too steep.

In a high-stakes contest, Mumbai Indians' experience and composure stood out. At the heart of it was a historic hundred from Sciver-Brunt, fittingly applauded by a teammate who believes no one was more deserving of the moment.