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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New Delhi on Saturday

PM gets WH invite as he talks trade & security with Rubio

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held crucial talks on security and trade with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who in turn extended him an invitation to the White House on behalf of Donald Trump. The three-day visit to India by Rubio comes at a time when ties between India and the US under Trump 2.0 have continued to fluctuate amid trade and energy tensions, which have only deepened amid the Iran conflict. US envoy Sergio Gor, who joined Rubio for the meeting with PM Modi, said the talks

also spanned the Indo-Pacific, where China has sought to assert its strength. India has always been viewed by the US as a counterbalance to China in the crucial region. "We had a productive discussion on ways to deepen US-India cooperation across security, trade, and critical technologies... India is a vital partner to the United States!" Gor tweeted. He also said that PM Modi was invited to the White House in the "near future". In the meeting, Rubio also pitched for US energy products, saying it had the potential to diversify India's energy supply.

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Cabinet okays 1L houses for poor, middle class in CURE

- ▶ Housewarming for 1 lakh 1st phase Indiramma houses by June 2
- ▶ Telangana to become 'model state free from huts'
- ▶ TG to implement power reforms without installing meters
- ▶ Rs 1,000 cr cleared for 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE state government has announced a massive housing scheme of constructing one lakh new houses for the poor and middle classes in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) areas of the three municipal corporations viz. Greater Hyderabad, Malkajigiri and Cyberabad this year.

In a significant move, the state Cabinet approved the proposal to join the RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme).



Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Raddy briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Saturday

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat on Saturday, State Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Raddy said that the Cabinet approved the sanctioning of the second phase of Indiramma houses within the state. The Cabinet gave its approval for the construction of Indiramma houses for a total of 2,50,000 poor families. It was decided to sanction 2,000 houses for each legislative constituency.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will launch the second phase the housing scheme at Kothari village, Kerameri Mandal, in the Komaram

Bheem Asifabad district on June 1. The Cabinet also resolved to complete those Indiramma houses whose construction began under the Congress government in the erstwhile undivided AP state but remain stalled at the wall or roof-slab stage. Financial assistance of Rs 3 lakh will be provided for houses where the foundations are completed but walls and roof-slabs are yet to be built, and Rs 2 lakh will be provided for houses where the walls are completed but roof-slabs are pending. To facilitate the completion of these unfinished Indiramma houses, the Cabinet passed a resolution

allocating funds for 500 such houses per constituency.

By June 2, housewarming ceremonies are scheduled to take place for approximately 100,000 Indiramma houses, the construction of which commenced during the first phase. The Cabinet has decided to construct and hand over 100,000 houses for low-income groups (LIG) across the 24 constituencies falling within the limits of the Hyderabad metropolitan area. Based on various surveys conducted in phases across the state of Telangana, the government has identified that 15,000 families are currently residing in huts. The Cabinet resolved to immediately issue Indiramma housing sanction orders to all these families. Furthermore, the Cabinet decided to establish 'Telangana as a model state, free from huts'

The Minister said that the Cabinet approved an allocation of Rs 1,000 crore to undertake various works in preparation for the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams, scheduled to be held from June 26 to July 7 next year.

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'FUTURE CITY UNSTOPPABLE'

BRS has no future: Ponguleti

Minister asks Harish to first secure his 'political future'

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TAKING exception to Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader T Harish Rao's recent remarks against the state government's Bharat Future City project, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy commented that in fact it is the BRS that has no future, while "the Future City is unstoppable". In a strongly worded post in his handle on social media X, Ponguleti questioned Harish Rao's political standing within the BRS, alleging that the former finance minister was uncertain about his future in the party. Referring to Harish



Rao's recent comments made in the United States that the BRS, if voted to power, would scrap the Future City project and restore the Pharma City project envisaged by the erstwhile government, Ponguleti accused him of attempting to obstruct the Congress government's developmental initiatives by scaring potential investors.

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US tightens green card rules

APPLICANTS MAY NOW HAVE TO RETURN HOME TO APPLY

WASHINGTON

IN a major shift in US immigration policy, the administration of President Donald Trump has announced that many foreign nationals seeking permanent residency, or green cards, may now have to leave the United States and apply from their home countries.

The new policy, issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), marks one of the biggest changes to the green card process in more than six decades. The move has drawn criticism from immigration lawyers, aid organisations and policy analysts, who warn



that it could disrupt the lives of millions of immigrants and their families. Until now, many immigrants legally staying in the US could apply for a green card without leaving the country through a process known as "adjustment of status". Under the revised policy, USCIS officers have been instructed to decide on applications on a

case-by-case basis and grant exceptions only in extraordinary circumstances. DHS said the new approach was intended to prevent misuse of immigration loopholes. "An alien who is in the US temporarily and wants a Green Card must return to their home country to apply," the department said in a statement. Continued on Page 4

'America First' visa tool for India announced

NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has introduced an 'America First' visa scheduling tool as a broader push to upgrade how American consulates operate. While on his high-profile four-day diplomatic tour to India, Rubio spoke about the visa tool that gives priority to business professionals and people whose travel directly strengthens economic and strategic links with the United States.

Rubio pointed to the foundation of the US-India relationship and how it has been growing in ways that don't always make headlines.

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US, Iran close to extending ceasefire by 60 days

Tehran

THE ceasefire between US and Iran is likely to be extended by two more months, according to reports, citing mediators. The ceasefire has been in place since April 8 and reports of extending the truce comes amid fresh diplomatic push after mediator Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir met top Iranian leadership in Tehran over the weekend.

Earlier Asim Munir in Iran met with the top leadership, including President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and top Iranian negotiator and parliament speaker Mohammad



Bagher Ghalibaf.

Pakistan army in a statement on Saturday said that Field Marshal Asim Munir concluded a short but highly productive tour of Iran, Reuters reported.

Meanwhile, US secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday hinted that Iran could

agree to a peace deal as soon as today. His remarks indicating progress in diplomatic efforts to end the war come at a time when Pakistan army chief Asim Munir met top Iranian leadership in Tehran as Pakistan has positioned itself as a mediator in the peace talks between Iran and US.

Tulsi Gabbard quits as director of US nat'l intelligence

WASHINGTON: Tulsi Gabbard resigned as President Donald Trump's director of national intelligence on Friday, saying she needed to step away as her husband battles cancer. She is the fourth Cabinet official to depart during Trump's second term. In her resignation letter, which she posted on social media, Gabbard said she told Trump she would leave office on June 30. She said her husband had recently been diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer and "faces major challenges in the coming weeks and months."



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PUSH PM DISTRIBUTES OVER 51K APPOINTMENT LETTERS

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits at the 19th Rozgar Mela via video conferencing, as part of the government's broader push to boost employment generation.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that since the Rozgar Mela series was initiated by PM Modi on October 22, 2023, the number of



appointments in government jobs has increased, transparency has been brought into the recruitment system, and candidates' confidence has grown. He added that the discipline of timelines and dead-

lines has also increased in the recruitment process, and the merit of candidates appointed through the Rozgar Mela has been superior. Inspired by Modi's initiative, several state governments have also started organising similar job fairs. More than 5.5 to 6 lakh jobs have been created through job fairs in states including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura. Continued on Page 4

Cockroach party website taken down

FOUNDER SLAMS GOVT'S 'DICTATORIAL BEHAVIOUR'



NEW DELHI: The official website of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has been taken down in the recent crackdown against the youth and Gen Z-led online movement after the party's official X handle was withheld. Continued on Page 4

Petro prices hiked again

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices were increased again on Saturday, marking the third hike in less than 10 days as global crude oil prices continue to surge amid the ongoing West Asia conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. Petrol prices were raised by up to 87 paise per litre, while diesel prices increased by as much as 91 paise per litre across major cities. In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 99.51 per litre, up from Rs

98.64, while diesel prices rose from Rs 91.58 to Rs 92.49 per litre. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) prices were also increased by Re 1 per kg, marking the third hike in less than 10 days. With the latest revision coming into effect immediately, CNG in Delhi will now cost Rs 81.09 per kg. Prices in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad have risen to Rs 89.70 per kg, while Gurugram will see CNG priced at Rs 86.12 per kg. Continued on Page 4



90 killed in China coal mine blast

BEIJING: Ninety miners were killed in a gas explosion in a coal mine in north China, official media in Beijing reported on Saturday, adding that 201 miners have so far been rescued. The gas explosion occurred at the Liushenyu coal mine on Friday (May 22, 2026) evening. Rescue efforts are ongoing. China's Ministry of Emergency Management has sent 345 personnel from six rescue teams to help with the operation. State media said the rescue operation had encountered difficulties as water has built up near the explosion site, preventing access to certain areas, while blueprints provided by the mine did not match the actual conditions.

CBSE's diktat on 3-language study sparks debate

- ▶ CBSE Class XII results (2026) reveal fewer than 500 students across south India opted for their state languages
- ▶ Kerala leads with 367 Malayalam candidates, while Tamil Nadu, despite its linguistic pride, saw only 52 Tamil examinees
- ▶ Experts warn of a looming threat to south Indian languages, as globalisation and AI and pan-English language skills overshadow mother tongue learning

SMRITI VEMURI HYDERABAD

IN the context of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) mandating the three-language formula from this academic year, the latest Class XII results reveal a troubling picture of language learning in south India. While the policy aims to balance national integration with regional identity, the numbers of those making choices among the languages suggest that learning of south Indian languages is being given the go-by not by others but by students themselves. The CBSE Class XII results show that only three students wrote the Telugu exam, five the Kannada



exam, and 52 the Tamil exam. Kerala stands out with 367 students opting for Malayalam, but even this figure is modest given the hun-

dreds of CBSE-affiliated schools in the region. Altogether, fewer than 500 students across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu,

Karnataka, Puducherry, and Kerala chose to take their state language in the final board exam.

For context, the CBSE has made the study of three languages compulsory for students from Class ninth beginning from the first of July this year. In a statement, CBSE said that at least two of the three languages must be native Indian languages, in line with the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. It was clarified that there will be no board examination for the third language (R3) in Class tenth and that all assessments for R3 will be entirely school-based and internal. Further, the board said, the performance

of students in R3 will be duly reflected in the CBSE certificate. No student will be barred from appearing in the Class tenth Board Examinations due to R3, it added. Students themselves admit that language choice is often strategic. "I am a child of a Telugu-speaking couple who grew up in Hyderabad; so, Hindi was chosen as my second language, and Tamil became my inevitable third," shared one student. Others conceded opting for Sanskrit because it is perceived as easier. At the same time, Hindi's compulsory status in later years created what one described as a void moment — suddenly finding the course effortless due to prior exposure. Continued on Page 4