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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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Sanjeevani rollout across state by Aug 15: CM Naidu

Says it's predictive, preventive, and curative healthcare prog

- ▶ Launches the expanded programme in Chittoor district
- ▶ AI-based medical advice, virtual consultations, and doctor follow-up services will be introduced
- ▶ Govt plans to introduce a "family doctor" system for every household in future



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu addressing a public meeting in Yadamarri village in Chittoor district after the launch of Sanjeevani project on Saturday

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI CHITTOOR
CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the expanded Sanjeevani healthcare programme in Kandriga village of Yadamarri mandal in Chittoor district on Saturday, saying the initiative aims to eventually provide comprehensive healthcare services to people across the state. Describing public health as one of the government's

top priorities, Naidu said the programme is being implemented with focus on predictive, preventive, and curative healthcare under the concept of 'Health is Wealth'. Naidu recounted that Sanjeevani was launched as a pilot project in Kuppam last year and has now been extended to the entire Chittoor district. The government plans to implement it across the state before August 15. Under the programme,

every individual will be provided with digital health record. The Chief Minister said the government is making arrangements to conduct 42 types of medical tests at the village level. AI-based medical advice, virtual consultations, and doctor follow-up services will also be introduced as part of the initiative. The government plans to introduce a "family doctor" system for every household in the future.

Naidu said health insurance coverage up to Rs 2.5 lakh is being provided to every citizen. In addition, medical assistance up to Rs 25 lakh would be extended through NTR Vaidya Seva and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for those requiring advanced treatment. The Chief Minister urged people to maintain good health through proper food habits, exercise, yoga, meditation and pranayama.

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Lokesh calls for statewide push for Mahanadu success



- ▶ TDP to hold hybrid Mahanadu across 1,875 clusters during May 27-28
- ▶ Cadre asked to mobilise women, grassroots level leaders and booth teams
- ▶ Attendance would be monitored through the "My TDP" app

charges during an online review, Lokesh described Mahanadu as a reflection of the TDP's "strength, discipline and organisational spirit" and said the event should be conducted in a festive atmosphere across the state. He said this year's conclave would be organised under the theme "Stree Shakti Mahanadu," with focus on women's participation and empowerment. Lokesh said the party had originally planned to organise Mahanadu physically in Nellore, but switched to a hybrid format in view of energy conservation measures and broader national circumstances following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity and fuel conservation. Lokesh said politiburo members and state-level leaders would participate physically from the party headquarters in Mangalagiri, while cadre and local leaders would join virtually from cluster-level venues across the state.

MINISTER for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh on Friday called upon Telugu Desam Party cadre to work collectively with zest to ensure the success of the party's Mahanadu, which will be conducted in a hybrid format across 1,875 clusters in Andhra Pradesh during May 27 and 28. Addressing cluster in-

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US tightens green card rules



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.

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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.

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Naidu targets YSRCP

Says no place for 'axe party' in democracy

- ▶ Accuses the previous govt of encouraging divisive politics
- ▶ Assures to transform Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub



LAUNCHING a blistering attack on the YSRCP, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu accused the Opposition of promoting violence, spreading misinformation and creating social divisions during its tenure in power. Addressing a public meeting at Yadamarri village in

Puthalapattu Constituency in Chittoor district, Naidu alleged that the previous regime had subjected people to fear and insecurity over the last five years. Without directly naming the YSRCP, he repeatedly referred to it as the 'axe party', saying that it has no place in democracy. The Chief Minister said the Opposition was unable to tolerate the

welfare and development programmes being implemented by the NDA coalition government. He claimed frustration within the party had increased as the government's 'Super Six' welfare promises were receiving a positive response from the public. Naidu accused the previous government of encouraging aggressive political conduct and false propaganda. "They speak lies whenever they open their mouths and pretend to be innocent before the media," he remarked, alleging that divisive campaigns were being carried out in the name of caste and religion for political gains.

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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.

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Cockroach party website taken down



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.

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.

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.

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
- ▶ Students lament language switching pressures, shifting between Hindi, Tamil, and Sanskrit due to policy reversals
- ▶ Experts warn of a looming threat to south Indian languages, as globalisation and AI and pan-English language skills overshadow mother tongue learning

SRITA 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 hundreds 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.

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