

Looking forward to engaging with world leaders: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Evian, France, on Tuesday to attend the G7 Summit and exchange views with world leaders on key global issues. This is the 8th consecutive G7 Summit to which India has been invited. "Reached Evian, France, for the G7 Summit. Looking forward to engaging with world leaders and exchanging views on key global issues," Modi said in a post on X. He said that India "remains committed to

advancing collective efforts for a more sustainable and prosperous planet." PM Modi's attendance marks India's thirteenth participation at the G7 summit and indicates increasing global recognition of India's role in addressing peace, security, and environmental sustainability. At the G7 Summit, Modi is expected to discuss international cooperation, economic growth, artificial intelligence, and hold bilateral meetings with leaders on these crucial issues.

1st Indian LNG tanker Disha safely crosses Hormuz

NEW DELHI: A Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier, Disha, safely transited through the Strait of Hormuz. It is the first Indian LNG tanker to cross the war-hit narrow shipping lane since the war in the Middle East broke out. The LNG carrier carrying 62,370 metric tons of LNG and managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium and chartered by Petronet LNG Ltd, is also one of the first commercial vessels to transit the Strait since the announcement of a preliminary ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran. Director in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Upesh Kumar Sharma, said the vessel is expected to arrive at Dahej in Gujarat on Thursday.

Deal to end war requires Israel to withdraw from Lebanon: Iran

DUBAI: Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday that the tentative deal to end the war with the United States would require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon - a condition Israel has already rejected and that could sink the agreement, leading to the resumption of all-out war. The deal, which is between the US and Iran, has not been made public, and officials have sometimes offered contradictory interpretations of what is in it.

Google removes Telegram from Play Store, Apple may follow suit

The nationwide examination is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to undergraduate medical institutes. The agency cancelled the previous exam held on May 3 amid allegations of paper leak.

Gulf nations seek protection of maritime routes

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During the conflict, Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway used to ferry one-fifth of the global oil supplies, which is the only maritime route for several Gulf countries such as Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE.

Iran also carried out strikes against Gulf countries as they host US military bases, which were used to target the Islamic Republic.

In its statement, the UAE Foreign ministry urged respect for the sovereignty of states and the principles of good neighbourliness, and strict adherence to international law. All this, it said, could advance security, stability, and economic prosperity at both the regional and global levels. It also stressed the importance of "continuing negotiations in order to build on this progress and achieve sustainable outcomes".

Saudi Arabia also welcomed the US-Iran agreement and hoped "for achieving peace in a manner that enhances the security of the region and the world through a lasting agreement that takes into account the security interests of regional countries and upholds the principle of respect for the internal affairs of states."

The Foreign ministry reaffirmed Qatar's "full support" for all efforts and initiatives aimed at enhancing regional security and stability and reaching sustainable solutions to outstanding issues through dialogue and peaceful means. These, it said, should be done in accordance with the principles of international law and good neighbourliness, in a manner that contributes to opening "new horizons for co-operation, development, and prosperity, and serves the common interests of the peoples of the region and the world".

Doctor's prescription now mandatory for cough syrups

LOZENGES, PILLS, TABLETS FOR COUGH CONTINUE TO REMAIN ON LIST

NEW DELHI



THE Union Health Ministry has amended the rules to remove "syrups ... for cough" from Schedule K— the list of medicines exempted from the requirement of a prescription by a registered medical practitioner. Lozenges, pills or tablets for cough continue to remain on the list.

The Centre had released the draft guidelines, inviting stakeholder comments in December last year. The move came months after at least 22 children died in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district after consuming contaminated cough syrups.

At the same time, there were reports of children in Rajasthan dying after consuming cough syrups but in that case, they took syrups not meant for young children.

Now, you would not be able to go to your neighbourhood pharmacy to get a cough syrup if you need one. All cough syrups — including the addictive ones containing opioids such as codeine — will now require a doctor's prescription.

The move comes after a spate of cases of contaminated cough syrups — in India and other countries — leading to deaths of children, including the case in Madhya Pradesh.

The matter was discussed in a meeting of the apex drug regulator's Drug Consultative Committee in November last year, right after the case in Madhya Pradesh.

The committee of experts said: "DCC was apprised about the recent incidence due to contaminated cough syrup, and it was proposed that the exemption provided under ... Schedule K ... in respect of syrups for cough may be deleted. DCC deliberated the matter and approved the proposal."

The committee also looked at whether excipients other than propylene glycol and diethylene glycol — which is understood to be the source of the contaminants ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol — can be used for the manufacturing of syrups. Importantly, mandating prescriptions for cough syrups would ensure children do not end up taking formulations such as dextromethorphan — which is not meant for those under the age of four or six years — that can cause severe respiratory depression and death in them.

TG draws action plan for smooth distribution of seeds & fertilisers

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The comprehensive action plan would also include the measures to be taken for the procurement of harvested crops. Towards this, the Chief Minister instructed the authorities to adopt a transparent mechanism and maintain a complete understanding of registration of farmers details, estimation of crop yielding and paddy procurement.

The committee was entrusted with the responsibility of continuous monitoring of seed distribution, sowing of crops to the registration of farmers' details, recording of crop information, estimation of produce, and the final procurement process.

The CM directed the officials to take all necessary measures to ensure the smooth procurement of agricultural produce adhering to Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and quotas prescribed by the Central government. The Chief Minister stressed that an advanced action plan should be prepared to address issues such as unseasonal rains, weighing, transportation, storage, and marketing during the procurement period.

Modi-Trump meet set to spotlight G7 Summit

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The meeting comes at a particularly significant moment following Trump's announcement of an agreement with Iran aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz and easing tensions that had unsettled global energy markets. While details of the arrangement remain limited, the development is expected to feature prominently in summit discussions, with leaders seeking clarity on its implications for regional stability and global energy supplies. There is also considerable interest in whether Modi will raise concerns over the reported deaths of three Indian seafarers, al-

legedly killed during a United States naval attack on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The incident has generated political debate in India and added another dimension to the forthcoming engagement between the two leaders. The two-day summit, hosted under France's rotating presidency of the G7, brings together leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, alongside representatives of the European Union. French President Emmanuel Macron has also invited several key partner nations, including India, Brazil, South Korea, Kenya, and Egypt,

reflecting the growing importance of emerging economies in addressing global challenges.

For India, Modi's participation underscores New Delhi's expanding role in international diplomacy. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and an increasingly influential voice of the Global South, India has become a key stakeholder in discussions on economic resilience, energy security, technological cooperation, and reform of multilateral institutions. The summit unfolds against the backdrop of continuing conflict in Ukraine. Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, the war remains a major

source of instability, with fresh Russian attacks highlighting the persistence of hostilities. Support for Ukraine is expected to remain high on the agenda as G7 leaders assess the next phase of assistance to Kyiv. According to the French presidency, this year's summit will focus on resolving major geopolitical crises, strengthening support for Ukraine and its people, protecting children from emerging threats, including those in the digital sphere, combating organised crime and illicit financial networks, and developing new frameworks for global governance in a rapidly changing international environment.

The great shake hand!

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In Evian-les-Bains, the site of this year's G7 summit of the powerful grouping, Modi and Trump shared a warm handshake followed by a short conversation. A full bilateral sit-down is slated for Wednesday on the sidelines of the gathering. While details of their brief exchange were not known, the encounter sets the stage for their high stakes' talks.

Following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India last month, the two sides are now looking at rebuilding the bilateral ties. The relations witnessed a major downturn after Wash-

ington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May.

Over the next few months, the US President repeatedly and publicly claimed that he had resolved the military conflict between the two neighbours and saved millions of lives as it was heading toward a full-scale war. New Delhi stoutly maintained that the cessation of the hostilities was a result of talks between India and Pakistan, and the US involvement had nothing to do with it.

Massive quakes in China, Japan, Indonesia

NEW DELHI: Earthquakes were reported in parts of China, Japan and Indonesia on Tuesday, causing damage and injuries in some parts. The highest magnitude of 6.7 was in Indonesia's Sulawesi island, followed by magnitude 6.3 earthquake in the prefecture of Haixi in Qinghai, China, and magnitude 6 tremors near the east coast of Honshu in Japan. In China, at least one person was killed and four others injured, and in Indonesia, eight people were hurt after the earthquake. No casualties were reported in Japan.

G7 allies scramble to put Ukraine back atop Trump's agenda

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Evian-les-Bains: US allies at the Group of Seven summit of major industrialised democracies worked Tuesday to push the war in Ukraine back up the agenda of President Donald Trump after more than four years of fighting sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion.

The Iran conflict has in recent weeks overshadowed Ukraine but following his announcement of an agreement to end the 3 1/2-month-old

conflict in the Gulf, Trump said he now wants to focus on Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined G7 leaders for a morning working session.

Talks wrapped quickly, as leaders gathered for just 75 minutes. According to a French diplomat familiar with the talks, G7 leaders, including Trump, agreed to increase pressure on Russia, notably through sanctions targeting its oil and natural gas sectors.

IAF to develop indigenous kamikaze one-way attack drones

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The IAF has issued a limited tender enquiry to select Indian companies for the development of fixed-wing, one-way attack unmanned aerial systems (OWA-UAS), commonly known as kamikaze drones. The project will be coordinated by the Air Force's 5 Base Repair Depot (BRD) at Sulur, Coimbatore, which will act as the nodal agency. Unlike conventional acquisition programmes where the armed forces define requirements and industry develops the product, the IAF will play a direct role in the design and development process. The move is expected to give the service greater flexibility in tailoring the platform to evolving operational requirements. According to the technical requirements, the drone should be capable of operating at altitudes up to 16,000 feet, function in both day and night conditions, and carry a modular payload of at least 30 kg. The platform is expected to support multiple mission configurations, including precision-strike roles, airborne data relay functions and sensor-based missions.

The project also envisages a highly autonomous system capable of launch, waypoint navigation, loitering and mission execution with minimal human intervention.

Fine rice prices zoom in TG in last 10 days

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State Civil Supplies Department officials said that the demand for fine rice was increasing in view of the purchase by all sections from lower middle classes to the rich communities for their daily food requirements. Sonamasuri variety from Kurnool, Nizamabad, Bapatla and Karimnagar is in high demand.

Considering the fine rice as a staple and nutritious food, the government is also supplying it to the poorer sections through the Public Distribution System (PDS) at highly subsidized prices every month.

Incidentally, the demand for fine rice has gone up in the state ever since the state government launched the fine rice distribution scheme for white ration card holders. Millers and wholesale dealers are exploiting market demand by hoarding the stocks and creating artificial shortages. As a result, prices are going up as adequate stocks are not available in the open market.

Bhansal, owner of Adarsh retail shop in Kothapet in Hyderabad, told The Hans India that sales of fine rice increased by at least 40 per cent in the last one year. The wholesalers are supplying only a limited quantity of fine rice to the retailers even though demand has gone up phenomenally. "The available stocks of two-year-old fine rice, which is in high demand, are enough to meet the market requirements. It could be the main reason for rising prices at regular intervals," he said.

3 satellites paint worrying monsoon picture for India

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The accompanying cross-equatorial flow, another crucial component of the monsoon engine, has also remained weak. Satellite imagery highlights extensive dry air over the western Indian Ocean, visible as large brownish regions on moisture maps.

Meteorologists attribute this to widespread sinking air over the region, a phenomenon that suppresses cloud formation and limits the northward transport of moisture into the Arabian Sea.

The weakness of the Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon has become particularly evident. Normally, this branch delivers heavy rainfall to the west coast, central India and large agricultural regions across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

However, rainfall activity has remained patchy and below

normal in many of these areas.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already warned of prolonged below-normal rainfall across the country's crucial "monsoon core zone" which includes central, western and peninsular India, regions that account for a substantial share of the nation's agricultural output.

There are, however, some encouraging signs on the horizon. Forecast models indicate that cross-equatorial winds may strengthen during the next two weeks. Meteorologists also expect the Somali Jet to intensify, potentially drawing larger amounts of moisture into the Arabian Sea and reviving monsoon activity over India.

Forecast guidance suggests humidity levels could begin increasing within the coming week, with a more significant monsoon revival possible toward the end of June.

Should Aadhaar use be restricted to ID proof: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and state governments on a petition alleging that Aadhaar cards are being wrongly used as proof of citizenship, domicile and address.

The petition has asked the court to direct authorities to restrict the use of Aadhaar only to identity verification.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohan issued notices to the Centre, all states and Union Territories on the petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The petition seeks directions to the Centre, state governments and the Election Com-

mission of India to ensure that Aadhaar is used only as proof of identity and not as proof of citizenship, domicile, address or date of birth. Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act clearly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile. UIDAI's notification dated August 22, 2023, also clarified that Aadhaar is only proof of identity, not of citizenship, address, or date of birth. Aadhaar is being used as proof of age, citizenship, and residence in processes such as school admissions, property purchases, obtaining birth certificates, ration cards, and driving licenses. The petition claims that due to this, infiltrators and illegal immigrants are also obtaining other

documents based on Aadhaar.

The petitioner has also raised questions about the voter registration verification process. According to the petition, the document verification under Form-6 is not sufficient and can lead to the inclusion of names of people in the voter list who do not possess the necessary valid documents. The petition demands comprehensive reforms in the verification framework used in the electoral process.

Along with this, it suggests the formation of a high-level monitoring committee, which should include retired Supreme Court judges, cybersecurity experts, and forensic experts.

Telegram banned till June 22 post-NEET paper leak

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The NTA referred to the directions issued as "a measure of last resort, taken only after intermediate remedies, including the take-down action coordinated by I4C, had been pursued and had not produced, at the platform level, the response required to protect candidates in the run-up to the examination."

Channels on Telegram have been operating under names like: "PAPER LEAKED NEET"; "Re-NEET 2026"; "Private Mafia"; "REE NEET MAFFIA" — and have "demanded sums ranging from a few thousand to several lakhs of rupees from candidates and their families, in exchange for purported access to the re-examination paper", the NTA statement said, adding that these sort of promises are "in every instance, a fraud". Channels operating under self-descriptive names openly solicited desperate students and their families, demanding sums ranging

from a few thousand to several lakh rupees in exchange for purported access to the re-examination question paper.

NTA has categorically stated that no such paper exists outside the secured examination chain, and that every such promise is, without exception, a fraud designed to extort money from anxious aspirants.

The modus operandi, as documented by NTA, works as follows: a channel administrator posts an innocuous message before the exam. After the exam is conducted and the actual question paper becomes publicly available, the administrator edits that old message to insert the real question paper — crucially, while retaining the original timestamp. The fabricated chat is then circulated virally as "proof" that the paper was leaked before the exam, causing public panic and undermining the credibility of the examination process.

Revanth writes to Kishan for release of IRFC loan

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The IRFC carried out due diligence and sanctioned the financing, whilst the state government provided sovereign-level repayment safeguards including a Direct Debit Mechanism by the RBI. The agreements were signed, Rs 1,461.47 crore was deposited into escrow, and Rs 784.32 crore was paid as an upfront fee. Although the drawdown date was June 15, the disbursement did not take place.

The state government has addressed concerns relating to operational integration of Metro Phase-I and Phase-II, requesting sanction for Phase-II as a 50:50 Joint Venture between the state and the union government.

However, in case that approval gets delayed, the state government has expressed its willingness to proceed with Phase-II through its own resources and institutional financing arrangements.

CM levelling false allegations against me: Kishan Reddy

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Responding to Revanth's remarks on Metro phases 1 and 2, the Union Minister clarified that the central government has already contributed Rs 1,250 crore to Phase 1, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated. He added that the Centre had agreed in principle to a 50:50 cost-sharing model for Metro Phase-2, a decision communicated during meetings involving the Urban Development Minister, the Chief Minister, and himself.

"We do not need certificates from Congress or Revanth Reddy. I am accountable to the people of Telangana," he said, adding that the Centre has been providing full support for national highways, railways, infrastructure projects, and other development works in the state.

On the IRFC loan issue, Kishan Reddy said the Chief Minister was again misrepresenting facts. "The state government itself signed the Rs13,500-crore agreement.

This is their decision. I never opposed it," he said, adding that he had spoken to the Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Kattar.

According to him, Kattar had emphasised that Metro revenues must first be used for operations and maintenance, and only then for loan repayment. "The Chief Minister was advised on this, keeping in view the sustainability of the metro rail services. However, the state government did not agree," Kishan Reddy said, adding that all metros in the country follow the same standard procedures and that any differences over technical issues must be resolved through discussions, not political accusations.

Kishan Reddy accused the Chief Minister of attempting to shift blame. "Revanth Reddy is trying to divert attention from his failures. Even earlier, KCR delayed the metro rail project for three years, citing alignment changes. Today, Revanth is following the same pattern," he said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

