PRGI No. TGENG/26/A2061

POWER PUNCH

MONDAY
JULY 6, 2026

NATIONAL EDITION
8 PAGES

ENGLISH DAILY

Vol. 1 · No. 97

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POLITICS BUSINESS SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY SPORTS TRAVEL

INSIDE

Mourners gather in Iran for Ayatollah's death

NEW DELHI

Iran begins public mourning for Ayatollah killed in February Iran begins public mourning for Ayatollah killed in February Ali Khamenei's body will lie in state in Tehran's Grand Mosalla from Friday ahead of days-long funeral events. »» PAGE 2

Ukrainian suspect sought after Monaco

NEW DELHI

Monaco Bombing: Ukrainian Suspect Allegedly Disguised as Male Authorities are on the hunt for a Ukrainian individual linked to a bomb attack in Monaco, believed to have been disguised as a man during the incident. Investigators suspect that this suspect may not have operated independently, as preliminary findings suggest they spent several days surveying the area prior to the explosion. Details surrounding the attack remain murky, but officials are focusing on the suspect's movements leading up to the event. The investigation is »» PAGE 2

Tewari's Struggles Spark Congress Rift Debate

Manish Tewari's recent actions ignite tensions within Congress as voices question loyalty and meritocracy.

POWER PUNCH Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manish Tewari's recent involvement in government-led global initiatives has reignited internal strife within the Congress party, drawing parallels to the challenges faced by fellow party member Shashi Tharoor. Sources indicate that Rahul Gandhi has expressed displeasure towards Tewari's actions following Operation Sindoor, suggesting a backlash against independent voices within the party. On Thursday, Tewari took to social media platform X to convey his sentiments, stating, 'I wish I had an antidote for the insecurities of individuals and institutions! Having said that INCIndia has given me enough over the past 45 years and I have also devoted my entire adult life in the service of the Indian National Congress over the decades. Whatever will be, will be…' Tewari's longstanding loyalty to the Gandhi family is noteworthy; he has held key positions under Indira and Rajiv Gandhi and served as the party's national spokesperson and Information and Broadcasting Minister under Manmohan Singh. The BJP has seized upon Gandhi-Vadra family. Chugh criticized the current power dynamics within Congress, asserting that 'Merit, integrity and independent thinking have become liabilities in the Congress. Time for Manish Tewari to understand that today's Congress rewards only those who perform parikrama around the Gandhi-Vadra family.' In response to the turmoil, Congress has defended its recent organizational changes, claiming they are essential for strengthening its electoral strategy ahead of the upcoming Punjab elections. The party has appointed new working presidents and established various committees aimed at election management, campaign strategy, and coordination. Key

KEY POINTS

- Manish Tewari's recent actions have sparked controversy within the Congress party.
- Rahul Gandhi has reportedly expressed displeasure over Tewari's independent stance.
- The BJP has criticized Congress for its internal dynamics and loyalty to the Gandhi family.
- Congress is implementing organizational changes to strengthen its electoral

The recent situation surrounding Manish Tewari mirrors the challenges faced by Shashi Tharoor, highlighting a rift within Congress as Tewari appears to be facing backlash for

have retained their leadership roles, while former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has taken the lead of the campaign committee. The Congress party has a rich history of internal debates and conflicts, especially when it comes to leadership and decision-making. This internal strife often reflects broader ideological divides within the party, which has struggled to maintain a unified front in the face of changing political landscapes in India. The party's challenges have been exacerbated by the rise of regional parties and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has effectively capitalized on Congress's vulnerabilities. Tewari's situation is members who express independent views or challenge the status quo often find themselves at odds with the party leadership, leading to questions about the future direction of Congress. Historically, the Congress party has been a bastion of Indian politics, with its roots tracing back to the struggle for independence. However, in recent years, it has faced significant electoral setbacks, prompting a reevaluation of its strategies and leadership structures. The internal conflicts, such as the one involving Tewari, highlight the ongoing struggle between traditional party loyalty and the need for reform and adaptation in a rapidly evolving political envir-

Manish Tewari's Actions Ignite Congress Debate on Punishing Independent Voices Amid Rift

The internal rift in Congress deepens as Manish Tewari faces backlash for his recent actions.

POWER PUNCH Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manish Tewari's recent actions have reignited a significant debate within the Indian National Congress, particularly regarding the treatment of independent voices within the party. Following his participation in government-led global initiatives post-Operation Sindoor, Tewari appears to be facing backlash, with reports indicating displeasure from Rahul Gandhi. On Thursday, Tewari expressed his sentiments on X, stating, "I wish I had an antidote for the insecurities of individu-

KEY POINTS

- Manish Tewari's loyalty to the Gandhi family spans decades, having served in various key roles.
- The BJP is leveraging Tewari's situation to criticize Congress's internal dynamics.
- Congress is making organizational changes in preparation for upcoming elections, focusing on strengthening its electoral strategy.
- The party's recent appointments aim to enhance leadership and campaign effectiveness ahead of the Punjab elections.

The recent situation surrounding Manish Tewari mirrors the challenges faced by Shashi Tharoor, highlighting a rift within Congress as Tewari appears to be facing backlash for

given me enough over the past 45 years and I have also devoted my entire adult life in the service of the Indian National Congress over the decades. Whatever will be, will be…" Tewari's loyalty to the Gandhi family is significant; he has held key positions under Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, and served as the party's national spokesperson and Information and Broadcasting Minister under Manmohan Singh. The BJP has seized upon Tewari's situation, with Tarun Chugh, the party's national general secretary, accusing Congress of a "complete surrender" to the Gandhi-Vadra family. Chugh criticized the current power dynamics within Congress, suggesting that merit and for Manish Tewari to understand that today's Congress rewards only those who perform parikrama around the Gandhi-Vadra family." In light of the ongoing turmoil, Congress has defended its recent organizational changes as necessary for strengthening its electoral strategy ahead of the upcoming Punjab elections. The party has appointed new working presidents and formed various committees focused on election management, campaign strategy, and coordination, aiming to bolster its position in the electoral landscape. Key figures such as Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Pratap Singh Bajwa have retained their leadership roles, while former Chief Minister

POLISH PM

Tusk says Poland is preparing for "various" scenarios after media reports of a planned Russian attack.

Keiko Fujimori Wins Peru's Presidential Election After Lengthy Counting Process

Keiko Fujimori's victory comes nearly four weeks after a fiercely contested election, reshaping Peru's political landscape.

POWER PUNCH Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a dramatic turn of events, Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, has been officially declared the winner of Peru's closely contested presidential election, nearly four weeks after the ballot took place. This announcement marks a significant moment in a race characterized by intense competition and uncertainty, reflecting the deep divisions within Peruvian society. Fujimori's victory has sparked considerable attention and debate, as it brings to the forefront the complex political landscape in Peru, shaped by historical grievances and the its past, Keiko Fujimori's presidency poses both challenges and opportunities for the future, with many citizens divided over her family's political legacy. The election was marked by allegations of fraud and irregularities, leading to a prolonged counting process that heightened tensions among supporters of both candidates. Fujimori's campaign focused on economic recovery and security, resonating with voters concerned about crime and instability in the country. Opponents, however, have raised concerns about her commitment to democratic principles and the potential for authoritarian governance, given her father's history. In her victory speech,

KEY POINTS

- Keiko Fujimori is the daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, whose legacy is controversial in Peru.
- The election was marred by allegations of fraud and irregularities, leading to a lengthy counting process.
- Fujimori's campaign focused on economic recovery and security, appealing to voters concerned about crime.
- Her presidency may impact regional politics in South America, with the international community closely watching.

In a dramatic turn of events, Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, has been officially declared the winner of Peru's closely contested presidential

need for national unity and pledged to work for all Peruvians, regardless of their political affiliations. The international community is closely monitorthe situation, as Fujimori's presidency could have significant implications for regional politics in South America. As Peru moves forward, the challenges

Congress Calls for Ram Temple

POWER PUNCH Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress party is ramping up its criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following allegations of misappropriated donations intended for the Ram Temple. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed her dismay, stating, 'It's really tragic. People from all over the country, those who believe and those who have faith, made donations and now those donations have been stolen.' Vadra emphasized the trust's responsibility to safeguard contributions, particularly for women and the underprivileged. She called for a thorough inquiry into the situation, demanding transparency and accountability from the government. Jairam Ramesh, another prominent Congress figure, escalated the party's attack by referencing a famous line from the Hindi film 'Upkaar': 'Dete hain bhagwan ko of accountability, stating that for those who manipulate faith and patriotism, promises are merely empty words. During a press conference in Delhi, Congress spokesperson Akhilesh Prasad Singh called for a comprehensive investigation led by a sitting Supreme Court judge, asserting that the alleged corruption runs deep within the trust. He demanded the immediate arrest of trust members facing serious allegations and insisted that the trust be dissolved, claiming it has lost the trust of its devotees. Singh questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the issue, urging him to facilitate a transparent investigation to uphold public faith in the temple. He further alleged that the trust had disregarded recom-

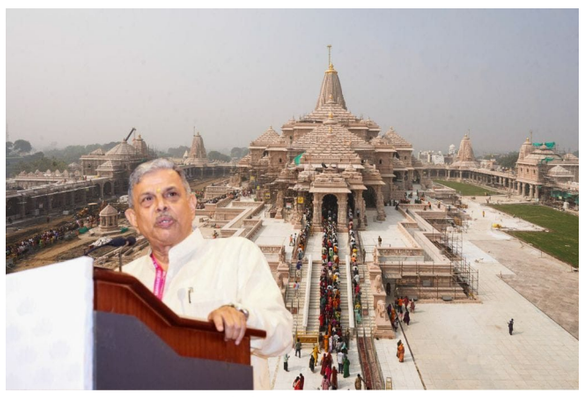
FULL REPORT ON
»» PAGE 2

RSS Demands Accountability in Temple Donation

The RSS calls for swift action and transparency after theft of Ram Temple funds.

POWER PUNCH Bureau
NEW DELHI

The controversy surrounding the theft of donations intended for the Ram Temple erupted on June 7, prompting public outrage and the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) by the Uttar Pradesh government, led by Yogi Adityanath. The SIT, tasked with investigating the theft, has been given 15 days to report its findings, and authorities have so far arrested eight individuals connected to the incident. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Dattatreya Hosabale addressed the situation, urging the Hindu community to remain patient and vigilant against what he termed 'conspiracies of anti-Hindu and anti-national forces' that could exploit the controversy. significance as a site of faith for Hindus, shaped by the sacrifices of countless devotees over generations. He noted that the establishment of the SIT was initiated at the 'earnest request of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust,' which oversees temple affairs and is now under scrutiny by the SIT. The RSS leader called for the Trust to take the incident seriously and implement measures to enhance management and operations, ensuring the unwavering faith of devotees in the Ayodhya temple. In his statement, Hosabale expressed confidence that through proper financial management and transparent operational systems, the Trust could strengthen the faith and trust of Hindu society. Alok Kumar, head of the RSS's affiliate Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), echoed these



The controversy surrounding the theft of donations intended for the Ram Temple erupted on June 7, igniting public anger and prompting the Uttar Pradesh government, led by Yogi

distress over the theft and calling for an expedited investigation. Kumar also advocated for the appointment of a CEO to oversee the temple's daily operations to prevent future incidents. Meanwhile, the Ayodhya Bar Association has lodged a complaint with law enforcement, seeking action against key figures within the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, including general secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra, in relation to the alleged theft of donations. The Ram Temple in a focal point of Hindu devotion and a symbol of cultural identity for many years. Its history is deeply intertwined with the socio-political landscape of India, particularly since the late 20th century when it became the center of a significant movement advocating for the temple's construction on what many Hindus believe to be the birthplace of Lord Ram. This movement has seen various phases of activism, legal battles, and communal tensions, culminating in in November 2019, which allowed the construction of the temple on the disputed site. The Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust was established to oversee the temple's construction and management, reflecting the aspirations of millions of Hindus. The trust's formation was seen as a pivotal moment in the long-standing dispute, and it has since been tasked with ensuring that the temple not only serves as a place of worship but also as a cultural and spiritual

KEY POINTS

- The Ram Temple donation theft controversy began on June 7, leading to public outrage.
- A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to investigate the theft, with a 15-day deadline for findings.
- Eight individuals have been arrested in connection with the incident.
- RSS leaders are calling for improved management and transparency within the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

India's Strategic Response: Keeping Kitchens Running Amid Crisis

A coordinated effort ensured energy security during the Hormuz blockade.

POWER PUNCH Bureau

India faced a significant challenge during the Hormuz crisis, which led to a four-month blockade that threatened domestic kitchens. The government's strategic response focused on energy security, ensuring that households had access to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) despite the disruptions. To address the crisis, the Indian government swiftly enacted emergency measures that directed refineries to increase LPG production by utilizing propane and butane. This initiative raised daily indigenous LPG production from 35 metric tonnes (TMT) to 54 TMT, ensuring a steady supply for households. Central to this response was a concerted effort to supply public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum, guaranteeing that LPG reached consumers without significant delays. In addition to boosting included engaging with countries like the United States, Norway, Canada, Algeria, and Russia, reducing reliance on Gulf nations for LPG supplies. Handling such a significant crisis required collaboration across various sectors, including the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, OMCs, refineries, state governments, and civil supply departments. Unlike crude oil, India does not have substantial strategic reserves for LPG, making careful management of existing stocks crucial. The government instructed OMCs to develop plans to maintain LPG reserves for a minimum of 30 days, emphasizing long-term strategic planning and close monitoring of inventory levels to prevent shortages, especially in remote areas. Consumer panic posed a major risk during the crisis, as buyers began ordering cylinders more frequently than usual, leading to potential artificial shortages. To mitigate this, the government implemented strict booking intervals, helped alleviate fears of shortages and ensured a steady supply of LPG to households. One of the most challenging decisions involved rationing commercial LPG, capping its supply at 20% of pre-crisis levels. This was crucial to prioritize household cooking needs over commercial demands, which operate in a deregulated market susceptible to speculative practices. By limiting commercial access, India effectively addressed the risk of subsidized domestic cylinders being diverted for commercial use, ensuring that households remained the priority during the crisis. The introduction of a mandatory delivery authentication code (DAC) served as a critical tool in maintaining order during the crisis. The DAC, along with digital booking methods such as IVRS and black market activities. Continuous communication about supply stability was essential in restoring public confidence. These measures, combined with strict booking intervals, helped alleviate fears of shortages and ensured a steady supply of LPG to households. One of the most challenging decisions involved rationing commercial LPG, capping its supply at 20% of pre-crisis levels. This was crucial to prioritize household cooking needs over commercial demands, which operate in a deregulated market susceptible to speculative practices. By limiting commercial access, India effectively addressed the risk of subsidized domestic cylinders being diverted for commercial use, ensuring that households remained the priority during the crisis. The introduction of a mandatory delivery authentication code (DAC) served as a critical tool in maintaining order during the crisis. The DAC, along with digital booking methods such as IVRS and preventing misallocation. Compliance rates for DAC delivery soared to between 95% and 98.5%, reinforcing public trust that domestic supplies were secure and that the government was effectively managing the crisis. As the situation stabilized, the government took a cautious approach to restoring commercial LPG supplies, avoiding a sudden influx that could lead to renewed panic and logistical challenges. This phased restoration allowed OMCs to better understand their customer base. Reflecting on the global ramifications of the 2026 Middle East crisis, India's strategic response stands out. While other nations faced severe fuel shortages and skyrocketing prices, India ensured minimal impact on household consumers through a commitment to domestic supply and effective demand management. The resilience of the Indian economy is evident as the government successfully maximized local production, diversified import channels, and staved off inconvenience is feasible, but securing household fuel is paramount. The Hormuz crisis, which erupted in early 2026, was a geopolitical conflict that significantly impacted global energy markets. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for oil and gas shipments, became a focal point of tension, leading to fears of supply disruptions. As a result, countries heavily reliant on energy imports faced the daunting task of securing their energy needs amid rising prices

KEY POINTS

- India increased LPG production from 35 TMT to 54 TMT to ensure household supply.
- The government diversified import sources, engaging with countries like the US and Russia.
- Strict booking intervals were implemented to prevent hoarding and panic buying.
- A mandatory delivery authentication code was introduced to ensure

As the crisis stabilised, commercial LPG was not reinstated overnight. A sudden release would have caused an immediate second demand shock and fresh backlogs in domestic

largest consumers of LPG in the world, was particularly vulnerable to these disruptions, given its limited domestic production capacity and heavy dependence on imports from the Gulf region. the context of this crisis, India's energy landscape is characterized by a growing demand for LPG, driven by urbanization and a shift towards cleaner cooking fuels. The government's push for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, aimed at providing LPG connections to millions of households, further intensified the need for a stable supply. This initiative not only aimed to improve health

OPINION

How India managed to avoid the worst of the Hormuz energy shock: a crisis that never came.

POWER PUNCH Bureau

India's Smooth Sailing Through the Hormuz Energy Crisis Every so often, a crisis emerges that not only challenges resilience but also reshapes it entirely. The ongoing turmoil in the Strait of Hormuz has served as a critical examination of global energy security in recent years. This vital waterway is responsible for transporting roughly 25% of the world’s seaborne crude oil and petroleum products, making its stability essential. As tensions mounted, many feared a fuel crisis that could ripple through economies worldwide. However, India managed to navigate this turbulent period with remarkable agility. By diversifying its energy sources and forging strategic agreements, the country avoided the worst impacts of the anticipated crisis. India’s proactive measures, including increasing imports from other regions and investing in alternative energy, played a crucial role in maintaining its fuel supply. As a result, the nation emerged from this period with its energy security largely intact, defying the doom-laden predictions that had many on high alert. India's Smooth Sailing Through the Hormuz Energy Crisis Every so often, a crisis emerges that not only challenges resilience but also reshapes it entirely. The ongoing turmoil in the Strait of Hormuz has served as a critical examination of global energy security in recent years. This vital waterway is responsible for transporting roughly 25% of the world’s seaborne crude oil and petroleum products, making its stability essential. As tensions mounted, many feared a fuel crisis that could ripple through economies worldwide. However, India managed to navigate this turbulent period with remarkable agility. By diversifying its energy sources and forging strategic agreements, the country avoided the worst impacts of the anticipated crisis. India’s proactive measures, including increasing imports from other regions and investing in alternative energy, played a crucial role in maintaining its fuel supply. As a result, the nation emerged from this period with its energy security largely intact, defying the doom-laden predictions that had many on high alert. India's Smooth Sailing Through the Hormuz Energy Crisis Every so often, a crisis emerges that not only challenges resilience but also reshapes it entirely. The ongoing turmoil in the Strait of Hormuz has served as a critical examination of global energy security in recent years. This vital waterway is responsible for transporting roughly 25% of the world’s seaborne crude oil and petroleum products, making its stability essential. As tensions mounted, many feared a fuel crisis that could ripple through economies worldwide. However, India managed to navigate this turbulent period with remarkable agility. By diversifying its energy sources and forging strategic agreements, the country avoided the worst impacts of the anticipated crisis. India’s proactive measures, including increasing imports from other regions and investing in alternative energy, played a crucial role in maintaining its fuel supply. As a result, the nation emerged from this period with its energy security largely intact, defying the doom-laden predictions that had many on high alert. India's Smooth Sailing Through the Hormuz Energy

OPINION

Why India’s higher education crisis won’t be solved by foreign universities

POWER PUNCH Bureau

The Limits of Foreign Universities in India’s Higher Education Landscape While the integration of foreign universities into India’s education system has been touted as a potential solution to elevate local institutions’ global rankings, the reality is more complicated. Concerns have emerged regarding unapproved collaborations between foreign higher educational institutions (HEIs) and Indian counterparts, including franchise deals with ed-tech companies to deliver online degrees. These arrangements, deemed illegal under recent UGC Regulations, prompted the commission to issue a firm directive in December 2023: “No Foreign Higher Educational Institution shall offer any programme in India without the prior approval of the Commission.” The UGC’s stance reflects a legitimate apprehension — foreign universities should not exploit the Indian market for profit, especially at the expense of students seeking quality education. Many Indian students invest significant resources, from hefty loans to selling family Thus, the prospect of foreign universities establishing a presence in India could alleviate some of these financial pressures, but its success hinges on regulatory oversight and maintaining educational standards. Moreover, the influx of foreign institutions may exacerbate existing challenges within Indian academia. As these universities establish permanent campuses and hire local talent, they risk enticing away highly skilled faculty from Indian institutions, contributing to a concerning trend of ‘faculty brain drain.’ This, combined with discrepancies in pay structures and retirement regulations, could create an imbalanced playing field. The UGC might need to reconsider policies, such as the retirement age for faculty, to retain experienced educators. The regulatory environment for higher education in India is complex, often requiring institutions to navigate a maze of guidelines that can impede their operations. Despite welcoming foreign entities, the government must ensure that local institutions are not left disadvantaged. Initiatives like the Gift City in Gujarat show promise, but spatial limitations and urbanization concerns need to be addressed. Ultimately, the success of foreign universities in India relies on a balanced approach that supports both local and international academic frameworks. The Limits of Foreign Universities in India’s Higher Education Landscape While the integration of foreign universities into India’s education system has been touted as a potential solution to elevate local institutions’ global rankings, the reality is more complicated. Concerns have emerged regarding unapproved collaborations between foreign higher educational institutions (HEIs) and Indian counterparts, including franchise deals with ed-tech companies to deliver online degrees. These arrangements, deemed illegal under recent UGC Regulations, prompted the commission to issue a firm directive in December 2023: “No Foreign Higher Educational Institution shall offer any programme in India without the prior approval of the Commission.” The UGC’s stance reflects a legitimate apprehension — foreign universities should not exploit the Indian market for profit, especially at the expense of students seeking quality education. Many Indian students invest significant resources, from hefty loans to selling family be addressed. Ultimately, the success of foreign universities in India relies on a balanced approach that supports both local and international academic frameworks. The Limits of Foreign Universities in India’s Higher Education Landscape While the integration of foreign universities into India’s education system has been touted as a potential solution to elevate local institutions’ global rankings, the reality is more complicated. Concerns have emerged regarding unapproved collaborations between foreign higher educational institutions (HEIs) and Indian counterparts, including franchise deals with ed-tech companies to deliver online degrees. These arrangements, deemed illegal under recent UGC Regulations, prompted the commission to issue a firm directive in December 2023: “No Foreign Higher Educational Institution shall offer any programme in India without the prior approval of the Commission.” The UGC’s stance reflects a legitimate apprehension — foreign universities should not exploit the Indian market for

OPINION

Punjab’s stubble burning crisis eased by Gurudwaras, despite bans' failure

POWER PUNCH Bureau

Punjab didn’t end stubble burning with bans. Gurudwaras played a role too Punjab didn’t end stubble burning with bans. Gurudwaras played a role too In a village in Punjab, Jaswinder Kaur attended a camp unlike any she had been invited to earlier. Held within the premises of a Gurudwara, the session focused on crop residue management, water conservation and soil health. She listened carefully, asked questions, and returned home with new ideas. Over the following weeks, she shared what she had learned with the men in her household, neighbours and fellow villagers. “When women have access to the right information,” she later reflected, “We don’t just grow crops. We grow communities.” Kaur does not own any land. In Punjab, women account for less than two per cent of landholders, despite contributing substantially to agricultural labour. Yet, she was an agent of change within a deeply patriarchal society. Her story points to a question that development practitioners, policymakers and behaviour-change experts have grappled with for decades: who carries change into a community, and how does it take root? This is where the lessons from The Nature Conservancy’s PRANA (Promoting Regenerative and No-Burn Agriculture) programme in Punjab prove useful. When PRANA came to Punjab in 2021 to address the issues of stubble burning, it confronted an environmental policy problem that had been misread for a long time. Farmers were not burning because they were uninformed. They were burning because, in the narrow window between paddy harvest and wheat sowing, burning was fast, cheap, and familiar. Apart from these operational pressures, there was a deeper misalignment in how the problem had always been framed. Crop residue burning is typically presented as an air pollution crisis. That framing, while accurate, does not resonate with a farmer whose immediate concerns are yield, cost, and soil. However, paddy residue contains nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, and carbon. When incorporated back into the soil rather than being burnt, it enriches fertility and reduces dependence on chemical

OPINION

Punjab's stubble burning decline is linked to Gurudwaras, not just bans

POWER PUNCH Bureau

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with local institutions complicate the situation.

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OPINION

The fuel crisis that never happened: How India navigated the Hormuz energy shock successfully.

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Killed in South Africa: Two Nigerian Nationals

Two Nigerians die amid escalating anti-migrant violence.

POWER PUNCH Bureau

The Nigerian government has confirmed the deaths of two of its nationals in South Africa, raising alarms amid a troubling rise in anti-migrant violence in the region. Reports indicate that one of the deceased was allegedly killed by police officers who employed 'gruesome interrogation techniques' during an incident that has sparked outrage among human rights advocates. The Nigerian Foreign Ministry has called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths, emphasizing the need for accountability and justice for its citizens abroad. This incident is part of a broader pattern of violence against migrants in South Africa, where tensions have escalated due to economic challenges and social unrest, leading to increased hostility towards foreign nationals. Nigerian officials have urged South African authorities to ensure the safety of their citizens and to take measures to prevent further violence against migrants. The exacerbating fears within the Nigerian community. In recent months, there have been numerous reports of attacks against migrants, prompting calls for a more robust response from the South African government to protect vulnerable populations. Human rights organizations have condemned the violence and called for an end to the scapegoating of migrants, urging both governments to work together to address the root causes of these tensions. The Nigerian government has vowed to continue advocating for the rights and safety of its citizens abroad, emphasizing the import-

Nigeria's government said one of its nationals was reportedly killed by police officers "using gruesome interrogation

KEY POINTS

- Two Nigerian nationals have been killed in South Africa, raising concerns about migrant safety.
- The Nigerian government is demanding a thorough investigation into the deaths.
- Anti-migrant violence has been on the rise in South Africa, fueled by economic and social tensions.
- Human rights organizations are calling for an end to violence and discrimination

the situation develops, both nations are under pressure to find solutions that ensure the safety and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their nationality. The relationship between Nigeria and South Africa has been historically complex, shaped by factors such as migration, trade, and cultural exchange. Over the years, many Nigerians have moved to South Africa in search of better economic opportunities, contributing to various sectors including business, education, and healthcare. However, this migration has also led to tensions, particularly worsened, resulting in rising unemployment and competition for resources. These tensions have often been exacerbated by political rhetoric that frames migrants as a threat to local jobs and security, leading to a climate of hostility. In recent years, several incidents of violence against foreign nationals have been reported, with South African communities sometimes resorting to xenophobic attacks. These incidents have sparked widespread condemnation from various human rights organizations and prompted calls for the South African government to

Jantar Mantar Protest: CJP Demands Modi Act

The CJP calls for action as hunger strike escalates at Jantar Mantar over education issues.

POWER PUNCH Bureau

The Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his silence regarding the ongoing protest at Jantar Mantar, which has now entered its fifteenth day. The protest, led by educationist Sonam Wangchuk, includes an indefinite hunger strike that has reached its seventh day, raising urgent questions about the government's response to pressing educational issues. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, the CJP emphasized the significance of Wangchuk's hunger strike, stating, "When someone like Sonam Wangchuk, who has dedicated his life to education, refuses food, it should compel a moral or political response from the government." The letter highlights the government's lack of communication, noting that Modi has not publicly addressed the protestors' concerns. The protest was initiated in response to a series of exam paper leaks and the refusal of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan protest began on June 20, underscoring the urgency of their demands for justice and accountability. The CJP's letter asserts, "No government is above questioning. No minister is above responsibility. And no administration can silence citizens for demanding answers." This sentiment reflects the protestors' frustration with the government's perceived indifference to their plight. The CJP criticized the government's response to the protest, stating that instead of engaging in dialogue, officials have resorted to labeling protestors as terrorists. The letter specifically mentions derogatory comments made by party leaders, which have further inflamed tensions between the protestors and the government. In a pointed accusation, the CJP questioned Modi's silence, asking, "Do you truly believe we are just 'cockroaches'?" This metaphor highlights the protestors' feelings of being marginalized and ignored by those in power, particularly in light of the government's failure to address their concerns. The protestors also reported incidents of violence, claiming

In an open letter, the party urged the Prime Minister to respond to its Jantar Mantar protest and hold the education minister accountable over alleged exam

The CJP has called for the immediate suspension of two police officers involved in these actions, which they argue reflect a broader disdain for knowledge and education. The letter urges the Prime Minister to listen to the voices of India's youth and to hold his minister accountable for the ongoing crisis in the education sector. The CJP's message is clear: the time for action is now, before the voices of the future are completely silenced. Support for the protest has emerged from various political leaders and civil society members, including prominent figCongress, indicating a growing coalition advocating for educational reform and accountability from the government. The protest began on June 20, primarily addressing irregularities in several examinations, including the NEET-UG, which faced cancellation due to alleged paper leaks. As the situation develops, the CJP continues to call for urgent government intervention to restore faith in the educational system. The Jantar Mantar protest is part of a larger movement that has been gaining momentum in India, particularly among students and educators

DMK Leaders Accused of Bribery Attempts by TVK; Three Arrested in Scandal

POWER PUNCH Bureau

The Tamilaga Vivasayigal Katchi (TVK) has made serious allegations against the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), claiming that high-ranking officials, including Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi, attempted to bribe TVK MLAs. According to TVK, these DMK leaders enlisted individuals like Senthil Balaji to offer bribes ranging from Rs 10 crore to Rs 50 crore to secure political support. In a related incident, city police arrested three individuals, one of whom claimed to lead a political survey organization, for trying to influence N. Ilayaraja, the TVK MLA from Uthangarai in Krishnagiri district. The arrested individuals allegedly approached MLA Ilayaraja with an offer of Rs 35 crore in exchange for his cooperation on a resolution against the Assembly Speaker. Ilayaraja reportedly expressed surprise at the proposal, firmly declining the offer and accused, not to contact him again. Thirunavukkarasu allegedly threatened Ilayaraja, warning that if the conversation was disclosed, both the MLA and his family would face serious consequences. Following the MLA's report of the incident, police apprehended Thirunavukkarasu, Naresh, and Thiyagarajan for their suspected involvement in the bribery scheme. The investigation revealed that V. Ashok Kumar, the brother of former DMK Minister and current Coimbatore South MLA V. Senthil Balaji, met with Naresh in Chennai, which led to Thirunavukkarasu's approach to the MLA under the directive of Senthil Balaji and Ashok Kumar. This scandal has raised significant concerns regarding the integrity of political practices in Tamil Nadu, with TVK calling for a thorough investigation into the allegations against DMK officials. The political landscape in Tamil the DMK and AIADMK. The DMK, which has been in power since 2021, has faced scrutiny over its governance and the actions of its leaders. This latest bribery scandal comes at a time when the party is already dealing with various controversies, including accusations of nepotism and mismanagement of public resources. The TVK, a relatively new political entity, has positioned itself as a voice for farmers and rural communities, seeking to challenge the domin-

KEY POINTS

- TVK accuses DMK leaders of attempting to bribe MLAs for political support.
- Three individuals arrested for trying to influence TVK MLA N. Ilayaraja.
- Bribery offers ranged from Rs 10 crore to Rs 50 crore.
- Investigation reveals connections to former DMK Minister V. Senthil Balaji.

In Upcoming Election, Marine Le Pen's Future Rests on Verdict of EU Funds Misuse

The far-right leader's future in the upcoming election hinges on the outcome of her legal battle.

POWER PUNCH Bureau

Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right National Rally party, is currently appealing a court verdict that found her guilty of misusing European Union funds. This legal battle comes at a pivotal moment as she prepares for the upcoming presidential race, where her political future hangs in the balance. The court's ruling, which was delivered earlier this year, concluded that Le Pen had improperly used EU funds allocated for parliamentary assistants. The funds were intended to support legitimate parliamentary work, but the court determined that they were instead used for personal political activities. Le Pen has vehemently denied any wrongdoing, asserting that the charges are politically motivated and aimed at undermining her party's influence in French politics. She argues that the legal proceedings against her are part of a broader effort to silence dissenting voices in the political rallying around her, viewing the case as a critical test of her resilience and leadership. Many believe that a successful appeal could bolster her position as a frontrunner in the presidential race, while a guilty verdict could severely damage her credibility and electoral prospects. Political analysts are closely monitoring the situation, noting that the outcome of the appeal could significantly impact the dynamics of the upcoming election. Le Pen's party has gained traction in recent years, capitalizing on public discontent with traditional political parties and rising concerns over immigration and national security. The presidential election is set to take place in April 2027, and Le Pen's ability to navigate this legal challenge will be crucial in shaping her campaign strategy. A guilty verdict could force her to recalibrate her approach, while a successful appeal might energize her base and attract undecided voters. In addition to the legal implications, the case has sparked a broader conversaundermines trust in democratic institutions, while supporters of Le Pen contend that the legal actions against her are emblematic of a biased judicial system. As the appeal hearing approaches, Le Pen's legal team is preparing to present their arguments, aiming to overturn the previous ruling. The outcome will not only determine her legal standing but also serve as a litmus test for her political viability in a rapidly changing electoral landscape. Regardless of the verdict, Le Pen's case highlights the ongoing tensions within French politics, where

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen is appealing against a verdict which found her guilty of misusing EU

KEY POINTS

- Marine Le Pen is appealing a court ruling on EU funds misuse.
- The outcome of the appeal could impact her candidacy in the April 2027 presidential election.
- Le Pen claims the charges are politically motivated and part of a broader effort to silence dissent.
- The case raises questions

continue to polarize voters. The stakes are high, and all eyes will be on the court as it delivers its decision, which could redefine the trajectory of Le Pen's political career. The National Rally party, formerly known as the National Front, has undergone significant transformation since Le Pen took over leadership from her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, in 2011. Under her guidance, the party has sought to distance itself from its controrebrand itself as a mainstream political force. This shift has included a focus on economic issues, social policies, and a strong stance on immigration, which resonates with a growing segment of the French electorate disillusioned with traditional parties. Le Pen's appeal to voters has been bolstered by her ability to tap into widespread concerns about security and national identity, particularly in the wake of various terrorist attacks in

AIADMK's Defectors Now in CM Vijay's TVK

Mass Exodus from AIADMK Sparks Concerns Over Party Stability A notable shift has occurred within the AIADMK as several former MLAs have made the leap to the ruling Tamil Nadu Vanniyar Katchi (TVK). Among those who joined CM Vijay's party are E.M. Manraj from Srivilliputhur and M.S.R. Rajavarman from Sattur, alongside others like Vairamuthu, the Pudukkottai South district sec-

Three detained in Tamil Nadu MLA bribery plot

Arrests Made in MLA Poaching Scandal Amidst DMK Allegations In a troubling turn of events, police in Greater Chennai have arrested three individuals in connection with an alleged scheme to poach MLAs, a scandal that has ignited fierce accusations against the ruling DMK party. The accused, Thirunavukkarasu, Naresh, and Thiyagarajan, are said to have attempted to bribe an MLA with a

Minister Anil Vij's Home, He Responds

POWER PUNCH Bureau

Electricity workers in Haryana staged a protest outside the home of Minister Anil Vij, demanding a range of labor rights, including the restoration of the old pension scheme and risk allowances for employees. The rally, which began in the late afternoon, saw workers chanting slogans against the government, calling for an end to what they described as oppression in the workplace. In a surprising turn of events, Vij responded to the protest with humor and political flair. Addressing the crowd, he quipped, 'Ek baar dobara lagao. Mazaa aa raha hai,' encouraging the workers to repeat their chants. He even added a playful twist, suggesting they include, 'Aur Anil Vij tumhara hai,' in their rallying cries, showcasing his knack for turning confrontations into memorable political moments. The standoff lasted approximately two hours, concluding around 7:20 PM when Vij agreed to accept the workers' memorandum. By 7:30 PM, the protest officially ended follow-after the event. Iqbal Chandana, president of the Haryana State Electricity Board Workers Union, articulated the core issues driving the protest. Key demands included the restoration of the old pension scheme, a risk allowance for all employees, and the option for home-circle postings for those stationed far from their hometowns. In addition to the demands from the electricity workers, employees under the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam called for equal pay for equal work and the regularization of their services. These issues reflect ongoing tensions between labor groups and the state government regarding worker rights and compensation. Vij, a seasoned BJP figure and a seven-time MLA from Ambala Cantt, is known for his confrontational style and has previously made headlines for clashes with officials. Notably, he had a fiery exchange with a police officer in 2015 over illegal liquor sales, demonstrating his flair for dramatic continues to navigate the complex landscape of labor relations and political theater in Haryana. His ability to engage with the public, even in contentious situations, highlights the ongoing challenges faced by workers and the government's response to their demands. Labor rights have been a contentious issue in Haryana, particularly in the electricity sector, where workers have long advocated for better compensation and job security. The old pension scheme, which was phased out in favor of a new system, remains a focal point of discontent among employees who argue that the changes have adversely affected their financial stability in retirement. Risk allowances, which provide additional pay for hazardous work conditions, are also critical, especially for those working in high-stress environments such as power generation and distribution. The Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, which employs a significant number of workers in various sectors, has

Comparing PM Modi to cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, BJP President Nitin Nabin emphasizes unity and leadership.

POWER PUNCH Bureau

In a recent discussion, BJP President Nitin Nabin compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, emphasizing the importance of leadership and teamwork within the party. Nabin made these remarks in response to Modi's comment referring to him as his 'boss.' Nabin stated, 'It is like cricket. Sachin Tendulkar was a great player, but he still played under different captains with full discipline and team spirit.' He highlighted that every member of the BJP, regardless of rank, operates with dedication and respect for the party. During the Viksit Bharat Student Conclave at the Vignana Bharati Institute of Technology in Hyderabad, Nabin elaborated on Modi's message of unity, asserting that the Prime Minister can function as a team member can also work as a team member alongside the party president; he made this thought clear,' Nabin added, reinforcing the idea that leadership fosters collaboration. Nabin also addressed misconceptions about the aspirations of Indian youth, stating, 'Indian youth do not believe in anarchy. They believe in nation-building.' He dismissed the notion that Gen Z embodies a 'tukde-tukde mindset,' asserting that true Gen Z is committed to contributing positively to India's future. He criticized those attempting to incite youth by mimicking foreign movements, emphasizing that Indian youth are resolute in their vision for the country's progress. Nabin pointed out the shift in perception regarding Kashmir's youth, highlighting their current achievements in education and sports rather than stereotypes of the past. 'This is the real Gen Z — not the stone pelter, but the nation-builder,' he declared, showcasing his belief in the potential of young Indians. Earlier this month, Nabin expressed optimism about channeling Gen Z's energy towards constructive endeavors, underscoring his belief that the youth of India are not swayed by negative influences. His remarks during interactions with a Nepalese delegation and previous visits to Uttarakhand reinforce his conviction that young Indians are acutely aware of the implications of their choices. The comparison of PM Modi to Sachin Tendulkar is particularly poignant in the context of Indian culture, where cricket is more than just a sport; it is a unifying force that transcends regional and social divides. Tendulkar, symbolizes dedication, hard work, and the spirit of teamwork. By drawing this parallel, Nabin aims to evoke a sense of collective responsibility among BJP members, encouraging them to emulate the qualities that made Tendulkar a national icon. This analogy serves to re-

KEY POINTS

- Nitin Nabin compares PM Modi to cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar to emphasize teamwork and leadership.
- He asserts that Indian youth are committed to nation-building, countering negative stereotypes.
- Nabin highlights the achievements of Kashmir's youth in education and sports.
- The BJP aims to reshape the