

# Cabinet approves Ahmedabad Metro Rail project Phase 2A (Koteshwar Road to Airport corridor)

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**New Delhi, 10 May :** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Phase 2(A) of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project with corridor for a length of 6.032 Km with 05 stations (04 Elevated and 01 underground). On operationalisation of Phase 2(A), Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar will have 77.63 Km of active Metro Rail Network. The names of stations in the Phase 2(A) Corridor are- Ashram Road, Koteshwar Prachin Mandir, Sabarmati River, Sardar Nagar and Airport.

The total completion cost including IDC (Interest during Construction) for the project will be Rs.2,169.04 crore.

Benefits and Bolstering Growth:

The Phase 2(A) of Ahmed-

abad Metro Rail Project represents a significant advancement in the city's infrastructure development. Phase 2(A) acts as a major expansion of the Metro Rail Network in the city.

Enhanced Connectivity:

Phase 2(A) of the Ahmedabad Metro Project envisages the development of approximately 6.032 km of new metro corridor, aimed at substantially enhancing public transportation by providing seamless connectivity to the airport and linking key residential and commercial areas that presently lack efficient transit access.

This phase aims to seamlessly integrate key zones, including residential & Commercial hubs with existing Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar corridor. Further, likelihood of sports facilities also being developed in the vicinity for the World Police

Games 2029 and Commonwealth Games 2030.

By bridging these vital areas with the metro network, Phase 2(A) will not only enhance connectivity but also stimulate economic activity, tourism, and ease urban mobility for both residents and visitors.

Reduction in Traffic Congestion: Metro Rail as an efficient alternate road transport and with Phase 2(A) as an extension of the Metro Rail network to the Airport, will be particularly impactful inside Ahmedabad. Reduction in road traffic can lead to smoother movement of vehicles, reduction in travel time, increasing overall road safety etc.

Environmental Benefits: With the addition of Phase 2(A) of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project and increase in overall Metro Rail Network in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar cities, can signifi-

cantly reduce carbon emissions compared to traditional fossil fuel-based transport.

Economic Growth: Reduced travel times and improved access to different parts of the city such as Airport, Railway Stations and Bus Depots can enhance productivity by allowing individuals to reach their workplaces and destinations more efficiently. Also, the enhanced connectivity can stimulate local businesses, especially in areas near new metro stations which can also attract investment and development in previously less accessible regions.

Social Impact: The expansion of Phase 2(A) Metro Rail network in Ahmedabad will provide more equitable access to public transport, benefiting diverse socio-economic groups and reducing transport disparities which will contribute to a

higher quality of life by reducing commute times and improving access to essential services.

The Phase 2(A) of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project is set to be a transformative development for the city. It promises to deliver enhanced connectivity, reduced traffic congestion, environmental benefits, economic growth, and improved quality of life. By addressing key urban challenges and providing a foundation for future expansion, Phase 2(A) will play a crucial role in shaping the city's development trajectory and sustainability.

The Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2A will generate employment of around 2,000 persons during the peak period of construction activity and 500 persons are likely to work during Operation & Maintenance of the system.

# At NDA Meet On Completing 12 Years, PM's 'Congress Growth Rate' Jab



**New Delhi, 10 June :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday listed the achievements of his National Democratic Alliance government, chief among them being ridding the nation of "a vortex of instability and the stranglehold of the Congress". Addressing a gathering of BJP leaders and allies in the national capital to commemorate completing 12 consecutive years in office, the first democratically elected Indian PM to do so, PM Modi accused the opposition party of plunging the nation into the "abyss of helplessness, destitution, and an inferiority complex".

PM Modi blamed the Congress governments for impeding the nation's growth and then branding it the "Hindu Growth Rate". He said the slow growth rate should have been called the "Congress Growth Rate".

"The Congress had plunged the country into an abyss of helplessness, destitution, and an inferiority complex. The nation was conditioned to believe that development in India inevitably moves at a snail's pace, that rapid growth was not possible here. With great cunning, this sluggish growth was labelled the "Hindu Growth Rate", implying that while the style, responsibility, and failure were all Congress's, the stigma was pinned on the country's vast Hindu population. In reality, this phenomenon should have been named the Congress Growth Rate," he said, addressing NDA leaders in Delhi's Bharat Mandapam. He said the 'Congress Growth Rate' was characterised by a complete absence of governance, policy, intent, and decisiveness.

"It was under Atal ji's leadership that the NDA government first came to power; only then did we catch a glimpse of what accelerated development looks like. Unfortunately, however, in 2004, the country was once again caught in a vortex of instability and the stranglehold of the Congress," he added.

Illustrating the difference between what he called the Congress-era growth

rate and the NDA-era growth rate, PM Modi said his government's system delivers results, while the other stalled and derailed work. "The point is, if so much could be achieved in 12 years, why didn't it happen over the preceding decades? This illustrates the difference between the Congress-era growth rate and the NDA-era growth rate. One system kept people waiting; today's system delivers results. One system used to stall and derail work; today's system ensures that work gets done on time and on a massive scale," he said.

He said during his 12-year rule, India broke free of the web of Congress. "A major success of the NDA's 12 years in power is that the country has broken free from the web of Congress's machinations... Today, every citizen of the country is filled with the dream of a Viksit Bharat. The dream of a Viksit Bharat is no longer limited to any single individual, government, or political party; it has become the dream and the resolve of every single person in the country. We must dedicate every moment to the fulfilment of this dream," he said.

"Previously, governments were afraid to even discuss Article 370. We abolished it and implemented a single Constitution across the country. Previously, bombs, guns, and blockades were indispensable in the Northeast. We restored peace and stability to the Northeast. Previously, India silently suffered after terrorist attacks. We carried out surgical strikes and air strikes against terrorists. The world witnessed India's strength in Operation Sindoor. It was previously assumed that Naxalism and Maoism would never end, and could never end. We have freed the country from the poison of Naxalism and Maoism. Reservation for women, the law against triple talaq, the CAA, the Indian Penal Code, and one rank-one pension for soldiers. The NDA government has not shied away from taking any action in the national interest, and we are all proud of this," he said.

# Kerala HC paved way for ED notice to Veena; state has no role: Satheesan

**Thiruvananthapuram, 10 June :** Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Wednesday said that it was the High Court that paved the way for the ED notice issued to former CM Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter, Veena T, directing her to appear before the agency, and that the state government cannot dictate the terms of the investigation.

Satheesan was responding to queries at a press conference here regarding the Enforcement Directorate probe into the financial dealings between mining company Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd and Veena's now-defunct firm, Exalogic. He said that CMRL had approached the High Court to stop the probe, but the court dismissed both its plea and appeal, paving the way for the ED investigation. "So, how can the Kerala government tell the ED how to carry out the probe," he asked. The Chief Minister said that he had earlier stated that a case had been registered and that the law should take its course. "That is what the CPIM and its leaders are saying now after the ED summons were issued to Veena," he said.

Satheesan said that the CPIM can face the issue legally or politically, but it cannot disrupt law and order in the state over it, referring to the attack on the vehicles carrying ED officials who had searched Vijayan's rented home in connection with the probe. "That will not be allowed in Kerala, and the police will take strict action against it," the CM asserted. The ED has summoned Veena and CMRL officials for questioning in a money laundering case. Officials said Veena has been asked to appear at the agency's zonal office here on June 12, where her statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The investigation pertains to alleged irregularities in CMRL's financial transactions and its links with Veena's now-defunct company, Exalogic.

# Nehru can't be compared with PM Modi: Pawar

**Mumbai, 10 June :** NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday praised former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, saying his sacrifices and contribution to nation building cannot be forgotten, and said there can be no comparison between him and PM Narendra Modi.



Speaking at the 27th foundation day of his party here, Pawar said PM Modi has become the longest serving PM and a picture was being painted that there is no leader of his stature. "Nehru's contribution to nation building and freedom struggle cannot be forgotten and has to be respected," the veteran politician said. "He cannot be compared with anyone else. Nehru spent several years in jail during the freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi," he said. Referring to PM Modi

becoming the country's longest-serving PM, Pawar said: "It's good. In a parliamentary democracy, Prime Minister is a constitutional post and we have to respect it. But Nehru is Nehru and Indians cannot forget his sacrifices." Pawar said those in power are oblivious to the issues of farmers, educated unemployed and women. "The country is grappling with several issues," he said, adding that the country's foreign policy was also not up to the mark.

# No decision yet on PM SHRI scheme: Kerala CM

**Thiruvananthapuram, 10 June :** Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Wednesday said the state had not yet taken a decision on implementing the Centre's PM SHRI scheme and that a final call would be made only after examining the legal implications arising from an agreement signed by the previous LDF government.

Responding to questions over media reports suggesting that the Congress-led UDF government might join the scheme despite opposing it while in the Opposition, Satheesan said there were several issues, including PM SHRI and the Labour Code, on which the previous government had already taken

action. "We have not made any decision. Media reports are emerging based on decisions that have not been made. We will take a decision only after obtaining a legal opinion," he said. The Chief Minister launched a sharp attack on the previous LDF government, alleging that it had publicly opposed Kerala's participation in the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India scheme while quietly signing an agreement with the Centre.

According to the Chief Minister, the present situation arose because the previous government entered into the MoU without informing even other members of

the Cabinet. "It was not individuals but the government of Kerala that signed the agreement. Though governments have changed, the state remains bound by agreements entered into in its name. We are examining the legal aspects of the matter," he said. Satheesan alleged that only the then CM (Pinarayi Vijayan) and the then General Education Minister (V Sivankutty) were aware of the signing of the agreement. He claimed that even while CPI ministers strongly opposed the scheme during Cabinet discussions, the fact that an MoU had already been signed was allegedly concealed from them.

# Fadnavis defends minister Mahajan amid row over Operation Blue Star remarks

**Mumbai, 10 June :** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday defended state minister Girish Mahajan amid a controversy over his "Operation Blue Star was a black day remark, saying his remarks should be seen in entirety in the context of the "Congress-led" 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Mahajan sparked a political storm by calling Operation Blue Star a "black day" and equating the 1984 Army action to an invasion by Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali, with Opposition parties raising demand for his sacking. The Opposition accused Mahajan of "glorifying" militants and insulting the armed forces. "The massacre of Sikhs in Delhi, Punjab and

across India under the leadership of the Congress party is a historical fact. Nobody can forget this truth," the Chief Minister told reporters in New Delhi. Referring to criticism of Mahajan's speech, Fadnavis said: "If you look at Mahajan's entire statement, such a question won't arise. Girish Mahajan has already clarified."

Mahajan became the first representative of any state government to attend the Operation Blue Star anniversary commemoration at the Damdami Takal headquarters in Amritsar last Saturday. Fadnavis said Mahajan had travelled to Punjab after receiving an invitation during the nationwide observance of the 300th martyrdom

anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. "The entire country was observing the 300th martyrdom anniversary celebrations of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. Maharashtra organised major programmes on this occasion, and because some of the biggest events were held in Maharashtra, an invitation had come from Punjab to Girish Mahajan. "They wanted to honour the Maharashtra government, and therefore, he had gone there. He paid his respects there," the Chief Minister said.

Citing Mahajan's speech, Fadnavis said the minister has praised the Sikh community and highlighted their contribution to India's progress.

# CJP founder warns of nationwide protest if Pradhan doesn't resign by June 13

**Pune, 10 May :** Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijit Dipke on Wednesday reiterated his demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, alleging that repeated irregularities in examinations had affected the future of millions of students across the country.

Addressing a press conference here, Dipke said the country's youth were no longer willing to remain silent over issues affecting students and warned of a nationwide protest if the education minister does not resign.

"One thing has now been proved. The youth of this country will not be scared anymore and

will not back down. So far, multiple students have allegedly died by suicide in connection with issues surrounding the NEET examination," he said. Claiming that more than one crore students had suffered due to problems linked to examinations such as NEET, CBSE and CUET, Dipke said no one was ready to take responsibility for the situation.

"We had organised a protest at Jantar Mantar (in Delhi) on June 6 and demanded that Dharmendra Pradhan immediately resign. Someone has to take responsibility. Students who could have gone on to become doctors and save lives have lost their own lives be-

cause of the failure of the system," he said. The CJP founder said his organisation had asked the minister to resign by Saturday, failing which a nationwide agitation would be launched. "If the resignation does not come, we will start a nationwide movement. It will begin from Pune. We will hold a peaceful protest in Pune at 4 pm on Thursday (June 11). Thereafter, protests will also be organised in Lucknow, Amritsar, Jaipur and Bengaluru," he said.

Appealing to the government to accept "moral responsibility", Dipke alleged the future of lakhs of candidates was being jeopardised.

# Bomb threat emails target RSS HQ, CM's Office, civic bodies in Maharashtra



**Mumbai, 10 June :** Civic authorities in Maharashtra on Wednesday received bomb threat emails targeting the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, the Chief Minister's Office, and the mayoral offices in Mumbai and Pune, prompting evacuations at some places and security searches, officials said.

Police went into a tizzy after Nagpur Mayor Neeta Thakre received an email claiming an explosive device was planted at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters in Mahal area Dr Hedgewar Smruti Bhavan in Reshimbagh. Following the threat, a Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) was immediately rushed to the spot for a thorough search, the officials said, adding that nothing suspicious was found. Security checks were intensified, and all sensitive areas were being inspected as a precautionary measure. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) received emails "warning" of explosions at multiple locations in the state capital, including the mayor's office and the Chief Minister's Office, officials said.

The emails, sent to many official email IDs of the civic corporation, prompted security agencies to launch an investigation, they said. According to officials, the emails warned of bomb blasts at the mayor's office, CMO, the BSE building and civic offices. They allegedly contained references to Khalistan and included inflammatory

and threatening content targeting various organisations and institutions, BMC officials said. The emails, with similar content, claimed that an improvised explosive device-laden car would be used to trigger a blast at the Mumbai mayor's office at 1.11 pm. It also allegedly carried bomb threats to the BSE building, the CMO and BMC offices at specified times. In Pune, the Municipal Corporation's main office and the mayor's office also received an email threatening a bomb blast. The entire main administrative building was evacuated, and a thorough search was carried out by the bomb detection squad, a civic official said.

The email, purportedly sent by a group identifying itself as the Khalistan National Army, threatened a series of IED blasts at the Pune Municipal Corporation mayor's office at 1.11 pm, the Vidhan Bhavan at 3.11 pm, and the RSS headquarters in Nagpur at 3.11 pm, police and civic officials said. The email claimed that the RSS had supported the 1984 Operation Bluestar and Operation Woodrose, and called for "badla" (revenge) along with the "end" of the BJP and the RSS, they said.

Entry to the PMC premises was prohibited till further orders, the officials said. Security was stepped up at the civic headquarters and the mayoral offices in Mumbai and Pune, they said. Investigations were underway to trace the source of the emails, they added.

# Relationship with PM Modi more important than RS seat: Gowda

**Bengaluru, 10 May :** Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday asserted that his relationship with PM Narendra Modi was not linked to a Rajya Sabha seat and would continue irrespective of whether he remained a member of the Upper House or not.

The two leaders' relationship was as a personal bond forged over the last decade, the JD-S supreme said. Gowda's remarks come in the backdrop of the Congress slamming the BJP, ally of the JD-S, for not nominating the former PM to the Rajya Sabha once again, and instead naming its own party nominee to the Upper House. On June 8, the BJP announced Prof M Nagaraja as its Rajya Sabha candidate, instead of Gowda, whose party Janata Dal (Secular) is the saffron party's ally. The move evoked curiosity on how Gowda and his party JD-S would react.

Addressing a press conference here



amid speculation over the JD-S not seeking a Rajya Sabha berth, the 93-year-old party patriarch said he had no regrets over not continuing in the Rajya Sabha and rejected suggestions that his association with Modi was driven by political considerations. His present term in the RS ends later this month. "People of this state and this country should not think that my relationship with Modi depends on a Rajya Sabha seat," Gowda said. Stating that he had welcomed Union Minister and his son H D Kumaraswamy's declaration that

the JD-S, with only 18 MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly, would not seek a Rajya Sabha seat, Gowda said there was no reason for the party to insist on a berth when the BJP, with 63 legislators, could comfortably secure one.

Recalling his interactions with Modi, Gowda said the relationship between the two leaders evolved after the latter became Prime Minister in 2014 despite their differences in the past. "In 2014, when Modi won 282 Lok Sabha seats and could have formed a government on his own, he still chose to form the NDA government along with allies," Gowda said. The former Prime Minister noted that he had strongly criticised Modi over the Godhra issue (Gujarat riots) when the latter was Chief Minister of that state but said their association had grown over the years.

The IMD on Wednesday forecast heavy rainfall in the state till June 14 and

advised against fishing activities along the Kerala-Karnataka-Lakshadweep coast for the next couple of days due to strong winds and bad weather conditions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that strong winds with speeds of 40 to 60 kilometres per hour and bad weather were likely along the Kerala-Karnataka-Lakshadweep coasts from June 1 to 12 and advised against fishing activities in the region during that time. It also said that there was a possibility of heavy rainfall in parts of the state between June 10 and 14.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here. The President's office shared a picture of the meeting in a post on X. "Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri C. Joseph Vijay called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," it said.