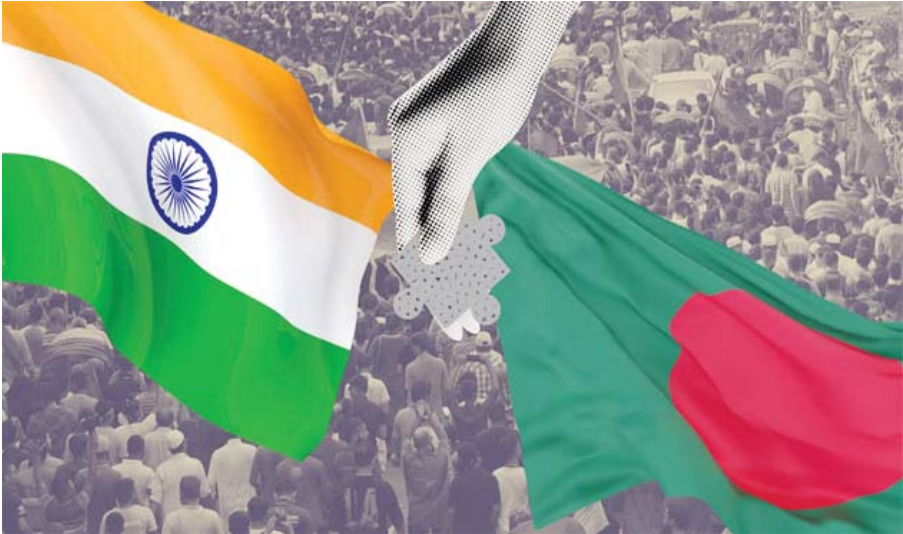


India’s Bangladesh Solution?

By **Fatima Baloch**

Following the bloody student-led mass protests and the fall of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's elected government on 5 August 2024, Sheikh Hasina fled to India. In the wake of the pro-revolution student interim government, strong anti-India sentiments arose. Many claim that Bengalis are ungrateful, arguing that although India liberated Bangladesh and rescued its people from the genocide committed by the Pakistan Army, Bengalis today are anti-Indian. This perception, however, is misleading. To understand the truth, history must be briefly revisited.

Under the British colonial policy of “divide and rule,” the Muslim League was established in Dhaka in 1905 with British support, in opposition to the Indian National Congress (INC). The British encouraged Hindu-Muslim riots, which ultimately led to the Two-Nation Theory and the division of united India. At that time, the INC was the only major political party struggling for an independent and united India. While most Bengali Muslims demanded the creation of Pakistan, the INC continued to advocate for unity. INC leaders were imprisoned, tortured, and even executed by the British, whereas the Muslim League maintained relatively cordial relations with the colonial administration. The British deliber-



ately supported the League to deepen divisions between Hindu and Muslim communities.

The creation of Pakistan in 1947 was heavily shaped by this colonial strategy. Rather than emerging purely from an organic nationalist movement, Bengali support for Pakistan was formed through the partition of British India on religious grounds under the so-called “Two-Nation Theory.” This division fractured the subcontinent and weakened political unity among Muslims themselves. Later, Pakistan attacked India in Kashmir and occupied independent Balochistan on 27 March 1948. Since then, the Baloch nation has suffered under Pakistani occupation.

Bengalis, who had initially supported the creation of Pakistan, later faced severe oppression at the hands of the Pakistan Army. Events such as the 1952 Language Movement (Bhasha Andolon),

in which hundreds of students, teachers, and scholars were killed, exposed the brutality of the Pakistani state. This repression generated deep resentment, and educated Bengalis came to realize that the creation of Pakistan had been a grave historical mistake. From this realization emerged the demand for an independent Bengali nation. The 1970 elections, Operation Searchlight in 1971, and the Bangladesh Liberation War bore witness to widespread atrocities, including mass killings and systematic sexual violence. These crimes are well documented in Bengali historical texts and post-war investigations, including the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report, which highlighted the cruelty of the Pakistan Army against Bengalis.

During the Liberation War, religious political parties such as Jamaat-e-Islami, the Muslim League, Nizam-e-Islam, and Jamiat Ulema Pakistan—along

with their associated groups like the Razakars, Al-Shams, and Al-Badr—betrayed their own people by supporting the Pakistan Army against the Mukti Bahini freedom fighters.

Globally, many Arab and non-Arab Muslim countries, as well as superpowers like the United States and China, supported Pakistan and opposed the creation of Bangladesh. India, however, stood apart. It provided shelter to millions of refugees, rescued victims of genocide, and ultimately went to war against Pakistan, leading to Bangladesh's liberation.

After independence, collaborators were prosecuted, and their families were barred from state privileges and employment. This was necessary to deliver justice and strengthen nationalism. Since then, India has consistently maintained friendly relations with Bangladesh and supported its development.

In August 2024, riots led by student groups and

pro-Pakistan religious elements toppled the democratic government. Bangladesh was effectively overtaken by forces tied to the ideological legacy of the Razakars and Al-Badr. Today, many political officials and students influenced by these ideologies openly threaten India's security, including ambitions to sever the “chicken neck” corridor and occupy the Seven Sisters region. This hostility is fueled by Pakistan, China, and other Muslim countries, whose interference has intensified through military and governmental exchanges with Bangladesh. Yet, ordinary Bengalis—such as moderate, educated youth from families who suffered Pakistan's cruelty during the liberation war, along with national parties that endured under Pakistan's oppression—still remember India's decisive role in their freedom.

The targeted killing of Osman Hadi by unknown gunmen has intensified concerns about Bangladesh's freedom. Bangladesh will only be truly free when it is liberated from traitors and anti-India groups, and when all remnants of the 1971 collaborators are held accountable. Pakistan, meanwhile, continues to leverage religious identity as a strategic tool in its policy toward India, maintaining close ties with China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Azerbaijan—relationships India often perceives as hostile.

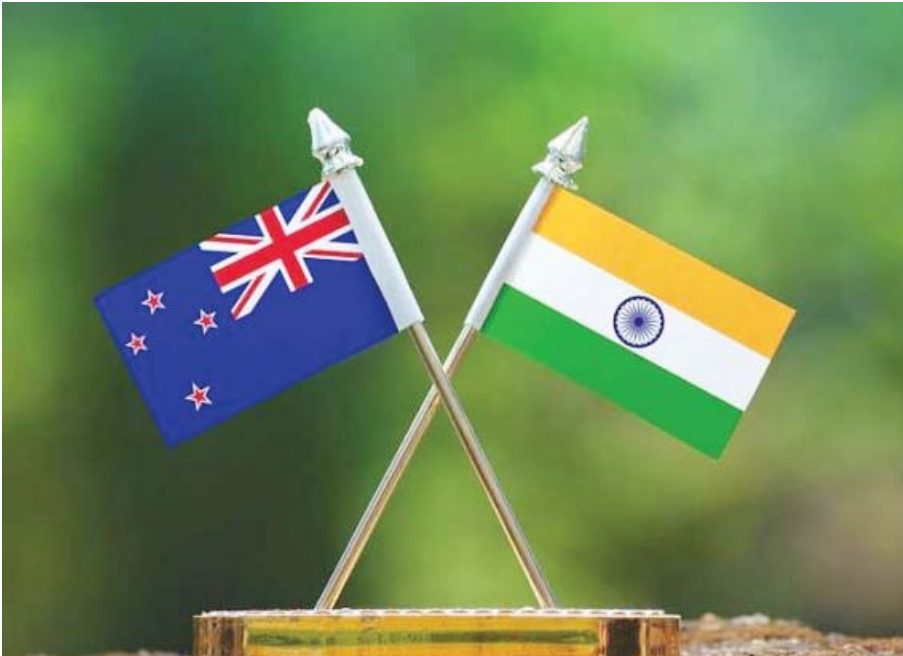
India’s new FTA to increase Jobs and Prosperity from Farms to Factories

By **Piyush Goyal**

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) represents a strategic leap in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trade diplomacy — one that accelerates job creation, boosts investment, and opens transformative opportunities for small businesses, students, women, farmers, and youth across India.

Announced jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Christopher Luxon, this agreement is the seventh FTA negotiated by the Modi government and the third major trade pact concluded in 2025, following landmark, win-win agreements with the United Kingdom and Oman. Significantly, all these FTAs are with developed economies with substantially higher per-capita incomes than India, underscoring India's growing strength and credibility in global trade negotiations.

Each agreement has been negotiated after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, ensuring balanced outcomes and genuine win-win engagement with the developed world. A central pillar of this FTA is job creation. New Zealand will provide zero-duty access to 100% of Indian exports, delivering a major boost to India's labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather,



apparel, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, and engineering goods. This directly benefits Indian workers, artisans, women entrepreneurs, youth, and MSMEs.

India has also secured its best-ever market access and services offer, covering 118 services sectors, including telecommunications, construction, IT, financial services, travel, and tourism. This expanded access will generate large-scale employment and new growth avenues for Indian professionals and businesses.

The agreement provides improved entry and stay provisions for Indian professionals and students. It enables work opportunities during studies, post-study employment, and a structured working-holiday visa framework.

STEM graduates and post-graduates can now work for up to three years, while doctoral scholars can work for four years, creating unprecedented global exposure and career pathways for India's youth. A new Temporary Employment Entry Visa further supports skilled Indian professionals seeking international opportunities.

Farmers to Flourish
Prime Minister Modi's vision is clear: Indian farmers must play a meaningful role on the global stage. The FTA reflects this commitment. The agreement establishes an Agricultural Productivity Partnership covering apples, kiwi, and honey, aimed at enhancing domestic productivity and increasing farmer incomes. New Zealand has also committed to GI-level protection for Basmati

rice, offering strong support to Indian rice farmers.

Crucially, India has ensured that sensitive sectors such as rice, dairy, wheat, soya, and other key agricultural products remain fully protected, with no market opening that could harm domestic livelihoods.

Innovative FTAs and Investment Commitments
India's FTAs today go well beyond tariff reductions. They are instruments to unlock new opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, women, and youth, while safeguarding national interests. With various trade agreements, Indian exports benefit from immediate or rapid tariff elimination, while India's own market opening remains calibrated and gradual. New Zealand has committed Foreign Direct Investment of USD 20 bil-

lion over the next 15 years, mirroring the innovative investment-linked provisions in India's FTA with EFTA countries—Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

For New Zealand, this marks a giant leap in Foreign Direct Investment in India. Over the past 25 years, New Zealand invested about 643 crore in India. The new commitment—approximately 1.8 lakh crore over 15 years—represents a dramatic expansion, backed by a clawback mechanism if investment targets are not met. Much of this investment will support agriculture, dairy, MSMEs, education, sports, and youth development, ensuring broad-based and inclusive growth. This agreement also marks a historic milestone: it is India's first women-led FTA. Almost the entire negotiating team—from the chief negotiator and deputy chief negotiator to leads for goods, services, investment, and our ambassador to New Zealand—comprised women. Our women of substance are increasingly playing leadership roles in the PM's development agenda.

The India–New Zealand FTA exemplifies India's clear strategy: partnering with developed economies that open their markets to India's labour-intensive industries without competing unfairly with Indian products.

A Nation Breathing Smoke: The Rising AQI in India

Winter across northern India now arrives with two regular warnings. One is the temperature. The other is the bitter air that presses itself into throats and lungs before sunrise. The Air Quality Index has turned into a morning forecast for many homes. Children ask about it before they pack their bags. Adults check it before stepping out. Numbers in the very poor and severe range have become so common that people have stopped reacting. That silence is the most dangerous part of this crisis. Delhi stands at the centre of the problem once again. The city has been waking up to AQI levels near four hundred and sometimes crossing that point. In many localities the pollution is so thick that visibility during early hours is no better than a smoky corridor. Doctors in government and private hospitals are preparing for longer queues. Patients come in complaining of coughing fits sore throats breathlessness and strange headaches that do not go away.

The Delhi administration has brought back a graded response plan. Construction at large sites is paused. Waste burning is restricted. Heavy vehicles are diverted. Offices encourage staff to work from home. These decisions sound strong on paper but the honest reality is that the weather does not cooperate. The air refuses to move. Cold layers sit close to the ground and lock pollution inside like a glass lid. Parents still hesitate when they send their children to school. Elderly citizens avoid morning walks.

Delhi is not alone. The entire National Capital Region has been sitting inside the same toxic bowl. Noida has recorded shocking AQI readings above six hundred. Gurgaon crossed five hundred. Bahadurgarh touched four hundred sixty. Drivers on the expressway switch on blinking lights during the day because the haze is too dense. Commuters complain that their eyes burn before they reach work.

Winter acts like a silent accomplice. The northern plains lie below the giant Himalayan wall. Cold air sinks toward the surface during the night. Warmer air rises above it. This creates a sealed lid that prevents polluted air from escaping upward. When there is no escape route particulates from vehicles factories and burning simply linger in the breathing zone. Wind speeds also drop during winter. Without wind the entire atmosphere behaves like a closed room with no fan.

Humidity deepens the effect. The moisture in winter air binds with microscopic pollutants and creates smog. That smog has weight. It presses downward. Even healthy people start feeling pressure in their chest after a few minutes outdoors.

Human lifestyle choices make it worse. Nobody wants to wait for a bus in the cold. More cars come out. Diesel engines remain popular. The use of heaters increases. Diesel generator sets run in marketplaces. Street food vendors burn coal. Many houses still burn wood for warmth. All these tiny practices combine into one enormous seasonal cloud. Jammu is experiencing its own version of this winter threat. The city does not dominate national reports on pollution but residents know that the problem has been growing. The winter fog arrives early in December and it stays through long nights. Highway traffic slows because drivers cannot see ahead. The fog blends with smoke from vehicles and from roadside burning and turns into a thick grey sheet near the ground. Jammu sits in a natural bowl. Cold air sinks and does not rise. When that happens the smoke from food stalls buses heaters and domestic burning stays trapped inside the fog. People describe the feeling as breathing moisture mixed with ash. School buses delay their departure. Flights experience uncertainty. Morning walkers feel irritation inside the throat within minutes.

The biggest change is cultural. What was once seen as a romantic winter mist has now become a seasonal health concern. The expansion of the city and the constant rise in vehicles mean that the fog is becoming heavier every year. Environmental groups have begun reminding the administration that a smaller imitation of the Delhi experience is developing silently.

Other cities tell similar stories. Lucknow sees the same still air and rising smoke around industrial patches. Kanpur has the regular problem of particulate matter from tanneries and factories. Mumbai does not face the same winter trapping effect but still records unhealthy air many days of the year because of traffic and coastal humidity. Kolkata deals with congestion and industrial emissions and reports a steady rise in respiratory complaints. A long term study of Indian cities concluded that no major urban centre achieved safe air quality across the year even once in an entire decade. That single statement is enough to show that air pollution is not a seasonal disturbance. It is a structural failure. Health effects deepen with every winter. Children carry the worst burden. Their lungs are still developing. When they inhale particulate matter during sports or travel the particles lodge inside delicate tissues. Doctors worry that a generation of children may never reach full lung capacity. Some will develop asthma. Others will have chronic bronchitis before adulthood. Adults who already have diabetes or heart disease face hidden risks. Thick polluted air forces the heart to work harder. Blood thickens. The chance of clotting and stroke increases. Many people do not know that air pollution is linked to heart attacks but cardiologists now treat it as a clear risk factor.

Why does the problem refuse to improve It is because India is developing on a model that increases emissions faster than reforms can compensate. More roads are built. More cars are purchased. Real estate grows everywhere. Diesel based logistics remain dominant. The expansion is rapid but the environmental management is slow. Electric mobility grows but not fast enough. Public buses remain limited. Rules on dust control exist but enforcement is weak. Small factories continue using dirty fuel.

Citizens still treat air quality as a temporary irritation. Many speak about it the way they speak about a cricket score. Mobile applications list the AQI but nobody stops using the car. Humour hides defeat. People have accepted that breathing poison in winter is unavoidable. There is still room for change. Cities need serious transport planning that encourages buses and metro lines. Electric vehicles require support. Violators in industry must face fines. Dust control cannot remain optional. Diesel generators should be replaced by cleaner power. Smaller cities like Jammu need more AQI monitoring so that action can be guided by evidence. Green belts in business districts can help. Most importantly India needs a cultural shift where clean air is seen as a constitutional right. Water is protected. Food is monitored. Air is ignored.

The Air Quality Index is more than a number on a screen. It is a mirror showing how weak the lungs of a nation have become. A winter morning should smell fresh and should feel safe. Right now it smells like burnt fuel and dust. If the trend continues children will grow up thinking that stepping outdoors in December is a risk to their body.

Winter will return every year. Geography will not change. The only thing that can change is human intention. Clean air demands courage persistence and long term planning. Until then every breath in the northern belt will feel like a compromise.

Beyond health, poor air quality imposes a significant economic burden. Rising healthcare costs, reduced worker productivity, increased absenteeism from schools and workplaces, and disruptions to transport collectively cost the country billions of rupees every year. Businesses suffer when logistics slow due to poor visibility, while tourism and outdoor recreation also decline during prolonged pollution episodes.

Technology can play an important role in tackling the crisis, but only if supported by strong policy implementation. Real-time air quality monitoring, satellite-based pollution tracking, artificial intelligence for traffic management, and stricter industrial emission monitoring can help authorities identify pollution hotspots and respond more effectively. However, data alone cannot solve the problem without timely enforcement and public participation.

Regional cooperation is equally essential because air pollution does not respect administrative boundaries. Smoke, industrial emissions, and dust travel across districts and states, making coordinated action necessary. Governments must work together on crop residue management, cleaner transport networks, industrial regulation, and emergency response measures instead of addressing pollution as an isolated local issue. Ultimately, the fight for clean air is a shared responsibility. Governments must strengthen environmental policies, industries must adopt cleaner technologies, and citizens must embrace sustainable habits such as using public transport, conserving energy, and avoiding open burning. Only through collective action can India ensure that future generations inherit winters marked by crisp, breathable air instead of hazardous smog.

National Workshop on Seafood Exports Held in Visakhapatnam to Strengthen Fisheries Value Chains and Enhance India's Global Seafood Competitiveness

New Delhi, July 9 (GNS): A National Workshop on Seafood Exports was convened by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with support from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, on 5th & 6th June 2026 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The first day of the workshop was graced by Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh; Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry; Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Fisher-



ies, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; Shri Kinjarapu Rammo-han Naidu, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, GoI; and Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries, GoI.

The workshop brought

together senior officials from the Central Govern-ment, along with repre-sentatives from States and Union Territories. Key na-tional institutions, includ-ing the Marine Products Export Development Au-thority (MPEDA), Export

Inspection Council (EIC), National Fisheries Devel-opment Board (NFDB), NA-BARD, NCDC, NCEL, SFAC and Invest India, partici-pated. The workshop also witnessed the presence of seafood exporters, industry associations, processors,

start ups, and other value chain stakeholders, ensur-ing comprehensive repre-sentation of the seafood export ecosystem.

The deliberations em-phasized positioning India as a globally competitive seafood exporting nation.

Key areas included the transition from volume-based exports to value-add-ed, high-quality products, along with the promotion of innovation, advanced technologies, and robust traceability systems to strengthen India's global

seafood brand. Discussions also highlighted the need to expand export infrastruc-ture and logistics, including cold chain, air cargo, and quarantine facilities, to en-sure efficient and compli-ant trade.

The importance of en-hancing exports from in-land fisheries, which con-tribute significantly to production, and leverag-ing untapped potential in emerging segments such as ready to eat products and high value species, was highlighted. Ministers emphasised sustainability, quality assurance, and reg-ulatory compliance, along with strengthening pro-

cessing capacity and value chains. A strong thrust was also laid on adopt-ing a whole of govern-ment approach, improving multimodal logistics, and promoting investment, in-novation, and private sec-tor participation, to build a resilient and future ready seafood export ecosystem.

Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, emphasised scaling up production, strengthening trace-ability and certification frameworks, and harness-ing untapped potential in deep-sea and EEZ resourc-es through ongoing reforms and flagship schemes.

Opening Space and Nuclear Sectors to Private Participation Changed Innovation Landscape

New Delhi, July 9 (GNS): Twelve years of the Naren-dra Modi government have transformed India into an aspirational nation driven by opportunity, innovation and self-belief, Union Min-ister Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Sunday while talking to media, asserting that gov-ernance reforms, techno-logical democratisation and citizen-centric policies have fundamentally changed the way Indians perceive their prospects. The Minister also outlined the next phase of growth, stating that India's space economy, currently close to \$9 billion, is expect-ed to expand to about \$45 billion over the next seven to eight years as the country advances towards the goal of becoming a developed na-tion by 2047.

Reflecting on Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi's 4,399 days in office as a continu-ously serving elected Prime Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted a range of mea-surable outcomes over the past decade. He said India's space startup ecosystem had grown from a single-digit number of startups a few years ago to around 400 today, with one startup re-cently attaining unicorn sta-tus. India's space economy is now valued at nearly \$9 bil-lion and is projected to reach \$45 billion by the end of the next seven to eight years. The Minister said the country's startup ecosystem had ex-panded from about 350-400 startups in 2014 to more than 2.3 lakh at present, generat-ing nearly 24-25 lakh jobs. Nearly \$9 of these startups



are located in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, while 35-39 per cent are women-led. He also noted that a recent space launch witnessed the partici-pation of around 1,500 media personnel and nearly 10,000 spectators, reflecting growing public engagement with science and technology.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said some of the government's earliest reforms symbolised a shift towards a citizen-centric governance model. He cited the decision to end the re-quirement of gazetted-officer attestation of documents and permit self-attestation as a landmark step that signalled trust in citizens, particularly the youth. The Minister also referred to the abolition of in-terviews in several categories of government recruitment, saying the move reduced opportunities for nepotism, discretion and malpractice while strengthening merit-based selection. These re-forms helped create confi-dence that success could be achieved through ability and hard work rather than influ-ence or recommendation,

the Minister added.

Arguing that the most profound change of the past 12 years has been psycho-logical, in addition to proced-ural, Dr Jitendra Singh said India had witnessed the rise of a new aspirational culture. "The change of mindset that has happened in the last 12 years under Prime Minister Modi is one of the biggest hallmarks," he said. "The kind of aspirational surge that has happened — 'I can also do it' — was not there earlier." The Minister said this shift was visible in the growing number of civil services toppers emerging from small towns and non-metropolitan backgrounds, reflecting the democratisa-tion of opportunity through technology, transparency and fair competition.

The Minister also linked India's scientific achievements to this broader transforma-tion. Referring to the Chan-drayaan missions, he said the government had fostered a culture in which citizens increasingly identify with national scientific achieve-ments and view innovation as a shared national endeav-our. He recalled that Prime Minister Modi encouraged scientists after setbacks and celebrated their successes, helping normalise the idea that failure is a part of innova-tion and progress. Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's successful landing near the Moon's south pole had strengthened pub-lic interest in science, while earlier discoveries by Indian lunar missions had helped identify evidence of water molecules on the Moon.

1.5 Metric Tonnes of Amrapali Mangoes from Women-Led FPC in Jharkhand Exported to UK

New Delhi July 9 (GNS): In a significant development for agricultural exports from Jharkhand, the Agricultural and Processed Food Prod-ucts Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, flagged off the first commercial con-signment of fresh mangoes from the State to the United Kingdom. The flag-off cer-emony was held in Kolkata on 4 June 2026.

The consignment com-prises 1.5 metric tonnes of fresh Amrapali mangoes sourced from Beura Farmer Producer Company Ltd., an all-women Farmer Pro-ducer Company (FPC) lo-cated in Bano Block of Sim-



dega district, Jharkhand. The consignment is being exported by M/s JGB Agro-fresh Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, to London, United Kingdom.

The export follows an Export-Oriented Capacity Building Programme orga-nized by APEDA on 5 May 2026 for Farmer Producer

Companies (FPCs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and progressive farmers of Simdega dis-trict. The programme fo-cused on export require-ments, quality standards and market opportunities.

Subsequently, APEDA fa-cilitated linkage between

Beura Farmer Producer Company Ltd. and M/s JGB Agrofresh Pvt. Ltd. for pro-curement of export-quality mangoes from the district. The present shipment is the outcome of this initiative.

The linkage has enabled direct participation of the FPC in the export value

chain and provided market access for its member farm-ers. The farmers associated with the FPC realized higher returns for their produce compared to prevailing do-mestic market prices.

The initiative is expected to encourage adoption of quality production prac-tices, improved post-harvest management and compli-ance with international standards among farmer groups in the region.

Jharkhand possesses favourable agro-climatic conditions for horticulture cultivation. The Amrapali variety of mango grown in the State is known for its quality characteristics and market acceptance.

New digital initiatives aimed at enhancing visitor convenience through smart navigation and seamless ticket booking

New Delhi, July 9 (GNS): Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Kirti Vard-han Singh today launched the "NZP Saathi App", a smart digital zoo guide, and inaugurated Self-ticketing Kiosks at the National Zoo-logical Park (NZP), New Delhi, aimed at enhancing visitor experience through smart navigation and easing online ticket booking.

The Minister visited an ex-hibition showcasing creative works prepared by students who participated in the re-cently concluded Summer Vacation Programme 2026. He appreciated the creativ-ity of the young participants and commended the zoo



authorities for organising educational and awareness programmes that foster a deeper understanding of wildlife conservation among students. The Minister formally launched the "NZP Saathi App" and inaugurat-

ed the Self-ticketing Kiosks, marking a significant step towards visitor convenience and digital transformation at the National Zoological Park. The "NZP Saathi App", available on both Android and iOS platforms, features

The Self-ticketing Kiosks will facilitate online ticket booking through UPI-based digital payments with free Wi-Fi connectivity for on-the-spot ticket booking.

Following the inaugura-tion, the Minister held a meeting with officials and section in-charges to review ongoing initiatives and dis-cuss strategies for the overall

enhancement, modernisa-tion and efficient manage-ment of the National Zoo-logical Park. The Minister also in-spected the bird houses and reviewed the summer management arrangements for the avian collection. He assessed the enclosure con-conditions and offered sugges-tions for further improving animal welfare and habitat management. During his visit to the Vet-erinary Hospital, the Minis-ter observed the care being provided to in-house sick animals and held detailed discussions with zoo veteri-narians and animal health staff regarding healthcare and management practices.

More than 4 lakh individuals took part in the single day event across thousands of locations emphasizing the need for keeping oneself fit and promoting sustainability

New Delhi, July 9 (GNS): A sea of people converged at the iconic Jawaharlal Ne-hru Stadium as the National Capital celebrated World Bicycle Day with Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr Mansukh Manda-viya leading the nationwide special edition along with fa-mous actor Vikrant Massey, World Championships silver medal-winning boxer Nupur Sheoran and famous Kan-nada actor Ragini Dwivedi.

More than 15,000 fitness enthusiasts rode a bicycle in New Delhi and over 4 lakh people participated in the single day cycling drive at thousands of loca-tions across the length and breadth of India from Kar-

gil and Leh to Kanyakumari and Alleppey, from Tripura to Vadodara. Started by Dr Mansukh Mandaviya in De-cember 2024, the cycling initiative has touched more than 30 lakh lives and thou-sands of locations in India. The Union Sports Minis-ter defeated actor Vikrant Massey in a friendly tug of war and then rode a bicycle with the following cyclists chanting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Fit India, Hit India."

The sports departments of several State Govern-ments, Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, Cen-tral Industrial Security Force (CISF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police



Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) and Sa-shastra Seema Bal (SSB) also participated throughout India in large numbers.

Emphasising on the ben-

efits of cycling, Dr Man-daviya said later: "Today marks the 77th edition of 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle'. Cycling improves health and keeps you mentally fit.

It also helps save fuel and keeps the planet clean. It is also an effective solution to the growing problem of traf-fic congestion. Cycling ad-dresses many challenges at

once... Prime Minister Modi has also advised dedicating at least 30 minutes daily to fitness. If we include cycling in this daily fitness routine, it can help solve many of our problems. Let us all adopt cycling in our daily lives... I expect you to join the 'Sun-days on Cycle' initiative. Cycle regularly, stay fit, and contribute to taking forward Prime Minister Modi's Fit India Movement."

Institutions like National Cadet Corps (NCC), Agrivision, Kisan Sanghs, ath-letes, common people, My Bharat Volunteers, Physi-cal Education Foundation of India (PEFI) members, Kreedha Bharati members and multitude of Namo Fit

India Cycling Clubs aided by sponsors like Heka, Fitspire, Desi Farms, Avon Cycles and Cyclofit etc took part in the cycling drive.

Various Municipal Cor-porations also organised cycling events under their jurisdiction. The Cycling Federation of India organ-ised Asmita cycling tourna-ments across India only for women. The international body of cycling sports, the UCI, also collaborated with the event. For popular film star Vikrant Massey, the Fit India Sundays on Cycle brought back childhood memories and reminded him of the importance of maintaining good health in the age of sedentary life-

styles and heavy screen time. "After many years, this Sunday morning brought back memories of how we used to go out with our friends during childhood. Many old memories were refreshed. Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has been very committed to this initiative for the past 1.5 to 2 years. He cycles daily and participates every Sunday, which is truly inspiring. It has become a movement. Today, at least 15000 to 18000 people are here, which reflects his hard work. We all understand the importance of good health. We should ask our kids to cut down on screen time and actually go and play in the grounds.

Governor urges people's movement for a drug-free state



Hanumakonda, July 9 (GNS) Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Thursday urged citizens to actively participate in building a drug-free Telangana and a drug-free India, calling for the fight against narcotics to be transformed into a people's movement.

Addressing the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan – Drug-Free Telangana' programme organised by the Police Department at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) in Hanumakonda, the Governor said eliminating drug abuse was not merely the responsibility of the government but required collective efforts from families, communities and citizens. Shukla unveiled anti-drug awareness posters, signed the campaign register along with Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar and legislators, and administered the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' pledge to students, youth, government employees and members of the public.

The Governor also flagged off an anti-drug awareness

rally from the Collectorate to the Government Arts and Science College. The rally was organised jointly by the Telangana Excise Department, Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau, Police Department and the Department of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare.

Addressing the gathering, Shukla said the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, should evolve into a nationwide social movement. He stressed that eliminating drug abuse is not the responsibility of the government alone but requires the collective participation of families, communities and citizens. He urged every household to resolve that narcotic substances would have no place in their homes, stating that social transformation begins with individual commitment. The Governor appealed to people to stay away from drugs and motivate their families, friends and communities to do the same.

Highlighting the role of youth in nation-building, Shukla said greater participation in sports could help keep young people away from substance abuse. Recalling a similar campaign launched during his tenure as Governor of Himachal Pradesh under the slogan, "Promote Sports – Defeat Drugs – Save Himachal," he expressed hope that a similar movement would spread across every district of Telangana. The Governor appreciated the State Government's efforts in combating drug abuse and congratulated Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for supporting the campaign.

Calling for collective action, he urged citizens to work towards making every district drug-free and contribute to the vision of a drug-free India. Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar said the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', launched in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a drug-free India, has been progressing successfully across the country.

Telangana CS reviews Phase-I progress of Musi riverfront development project

Hyderabad, July 9 (GNS) Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao on Thursday reviewed the progress of the Phase-I stretch of the Musi Riverfront Development Project, focusing on flood mitigation, sewage treatment, land development and integrated infrastructure planning.

During the field visit, the Chief Secretary inspected key project locations, including Osmansagar, the Narsingi Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) site and the Gandhi Sarovar project area, which are part of the State government's river rejuvenation and urban resilience initiative. He held detailed discussions

with officials of the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. (MRDCL), Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) and other line departments regarding the implementation of the project. The review covered flood management measures, integration of sewage treatment infrastructure, preparedness for land development and corridor-level infrastructure planning.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for coordinated execution, scientific planning and strict adherence to environmental and technical standards to ensure the long-term sus-

tainability and ecological restoration of the Musi River while delivering lasting benefits to Hyderabad.

He also suggested that MRDCL and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) prepare a separate master plan for the area between the Musi and Esi rivers up to their confluence at Gandhi Sarovar to improve connectivity and promote sustainable riverfront-led urban development. Officials said MRDCL would incorporate the suggestions made during the review and expedite implementation of works under the Phase-I stretch of the project.

TG Govt on high alert over El Niño, farmers need not worry: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, July 9 (GNS) Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday said the state government was on full alert to tackle the possible impact of El Niño and assured farmers that there was no need for concern as comprehensive contingency measures were in place.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the State Secretariat, Uttam held a video conference with District Collectors and officials of the Agriculture and Irrigation Departments. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu attended the meeting, while Agriculture Minister Tummalu Nageswara Rao joined



through video conference.

Uttam said district-specific action plans had been prepared based on the likely impact of El Niño in coordination with the Meteorological, Agriculture and Irrigation Departments. He directed officials to create awareness among farmers through Gram Sabhas on suitable crop selection

based on rainfall forecasts and water availability, while ensuring that scientific and technical advice reaches every farmer.

The Minister said the government was closely monitoring water levels in reservoirs and would manage irrigation water scientifically. He also instructed officials to ensure adequate

availability of fertilisers and make all necessary arrangements so that farmers do not face any difficulties during the cropping season.

Stating that farmer welfare remained the government's top priority, Uttam urged farmers not to believe rumours and instead follow the guidance of agriculture officials. He reiterated that

the Congress government was fully prepared to effectively address any challenges arising from El Niño and would stand firmly by farmers at every step.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, senior officials and experts from Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University also participated.

AIIMS Bibinagar to be fully operational by December 2026: Nadda

Hyderabad, July 9 (GNS) union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda on Thursday said the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, would be fully operational by December 2026, with 87 per cent of the construction already completed.



Talking to the media, after reviewing the progress of the institute, Nadda said the Centre had significantly strengthened the country's healthcare infrastructure under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership by increasing the number of AIIMS institutions to 23 and medical colleges from 370 to 820. He said 18 AIIMS are currently functional, while the remaining institutes are under construction.

Highlighting AIIMS Bibinagar's progress, he said over Rs 1,000 crore had been sanctioned for the project. The institute currently has 132 faculty members and 133 senior doctors, offers MBBS, MD and DM/

MCh courses, and treats around 1,800 outpatients daily. It also provides emergency services, advanced diagnostic facilities, telemedicine through e-Sanjeevani, and implements both the PM-JAY and AarogyaSri health schemes.

Nadda said AIIMS Bibinagar had received Rs 64 crore in research grants, with 129 research projects underway. He noted that the institute was the first AIIMS in the country to establish a Community Radio Station and had adopted six villages, organised 547 free medical camps, and pro-

vided healthcare services to over 66,000 rural residents.

He said the remaining construction, including advanced radiography and operation theatre complexes, would be completed by December 2026, enabling AIIMS Bibinagar to emerge as a Centre of Excellence in medical education, patient care and research.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, BJP Telangana president N Ramchander Rao, Rajya Sabha MP Dr K Laxman and BJP National Vice-President D.K. Aruna accompanied Nadda during the inspection.

POCSO case: Bandi Bhagirath granted conditional bail

Hyderabad, July 9 (GNS) Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay's son Bandi Sai Bhagirath got relief in the Telangana High Court. The court issued orders on Thursday granting him conditional bail in a case registered under the POCSO Act. The High Court has or-

dered Bhagirath to fully cooperate with the investigation. A POCSO case was registered against Bhagirath at the Pet Basheerabad police station on May 8 in an incident involving a minor girl. The police arrested him on May 16 in this case and since then he has

been in judicial remand at the Cherlapalli jail. He has been in jail for about 45 days. During the hearing on the bail petition, Bhagirath's lawyer, while presenting arguments, told the court that the accused is a student and his studies are being affected by being in jail.

BRS got Rs 1,400 crore as quid pro quo: Kavitha

Hyderabad, July 9 (GNS) Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief K. Kavitha on Thursday alleged that the Rs 1,400 crore in the bank accounts of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) came from "quid pro quo" deals. She demanded that BRS distribute the money to Telangana martyrs' families.

Addressing workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in Kothagudem, Kavitha also launched a scathing attack on her brother, BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), and her cousin, former minister T. Harish Rao, accusing them of corruption. BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter ruled out her return to the BRS. "As long as I am alive, I will not join



BRS." She claimed that Rs 1,400 crore in the BRS party's bank accounts came from Andhra contractors through "quid pro quo".

Stating that it is corruption money, she said the BRS should distribute it to the families of Telangana martyrs. She said the party should give Rs 1 crore each to the families of martyrs.

Kavitha alleged that KTR committed corruption through a quid pro quo deal with a construction company. Accusing Harish Rao

of corruption in the Kaleshwaram project, she called him 'Anaconda'. She said despite his involvement in corruption, the party was still pushing him forward. She remarked that BRS can never improve and it can never come back to power.

She accused Harish Rao's company of supplying milk to Sri Chaitanya educational institutions. She demanded that the government should make it mandatory for all private educational institutions with more than 500

students to procure milk from Vijaya Dairy. The TRS leader said that if her party comes to power, it will review all land allotted by both the BRS and state governments to Andhra contractors. "Every square yard of such land will be taken back," she said.

She accused BRS of hatching conspiracies to ensure that her party does not get the TRS acronym.

On statements by BRS leaders that they are not afraid of her party, she asked if this was true, why did they file over 1,000 complaints with the Election Commission of India?

Kavitha demanded that dependent jobs in Singareni Collieries Company Limited be cleared by conducting medical board meetings twice a month.

Centre secures Singareni's future with new coal blocks: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, July 9 (GNS) union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said the Centre had taken historic decisions to safeguard the future of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) by allocating the Tadicherla-II and Naini coal blocks, which would ensure energy security, create thousands of jobs and generate a turnover of about Rs 2.25 lakh crore over the next four decades.



Addressing a press conference at a private hotel in Banjara Hills, Kishan Reddy said the Modi government had prioritised the welfare of Singareni and its 75,000 employees, besides protecting the livelihoods of nearly 10 lakh people who depend indirectly on the company. He said the newly allotted Tadicherla-II block, with reserves of 434 million tonnes, and the Naini block in Odisha, with 455 million tonnes, together would provide Singareni access to nearly 795 million tonnes of coal and ensure stable production for the next 45 years.

He said the Tadicherla-II mine would be operated entirely by Singareni, providing permanent employment to over 2,000 workers, while the two projects together would create around 3,500 jobs and boost infrastructure devel-

opment, including rail and road connectivity.

Kishan Reddy urged the Telangana government to immediately clear Singareni's outstanding dues of Rs 54,148 crore, including Rs 28,876 crore for electricity supplied by SCCL's thermal power plant and Rs 25,272 crore towards coal supplied to Telangana Genco. He alleged that the previous BRS government and the present Congress government together had pushed the company into financial stress by allowing arrears to accumulate.

The union Minister said the Centre had secured the coal block allocations after obtaining legal clearances and asserted that Singareni was not merely a company but a symbol of Telangana's self-respect. Calling for political consensus, he appealed to all parties and trade unions to work together to strengthen the coal miner and ensure its long-term sustainability.



Shalimar Construction

Follow us on
Instagram Facebook LinkedIn

We will find an ideal home for you

LET'S BUILD YOUR DREAMS TOGETHER

From Concept to Creation, We Build More Than Homes We Build Trust.

CUSTOM HOME BUILDING

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

PREMIUM QUALITY

ON-TIME DELIVERY

BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION NOW!

Let's turn your dream home into reality.

EXPERT TEAM

QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

TRANSPARENT PROCESS

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

BUILDING SPACES.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.

50+ PROJECTS COMPLETED

100+ HAPPY CLIENTS

100% QUALITY ASSURED

+91 9154896656
+91 9642680311

Santoshnagar, Hyderabad.

Shalimar Construction (LinkedIn)

DM us today for a FREE consultation and let's build something amazing together!

Your Dream. Our Commitment.

ISLAMIA DEGREE & PG COLLEGE

Affiliated to Osmania University (Estd : 1980)

BOYS & GIRLS

Separate Block for Girls

Govt. Scholarship DEGREE COURSES

DOST Convonor Code : 1102

Govt. Scholarship PG COURSES

CPGET Convonor Code: 1102

B.SC(Life Sciences)

B.SC(Life Sciences) (Botany-Chemistry-Applied Nutrition & Public Health)

B.SC(Life Sciences) (Botany-Chemistry-Bio-Technology)

B.SC(Life Sciences) (Botany-Zoology-Applied Nutrition & Public Health)

B.SC(Life Sciences) (Botany-Zoology-Chemistry)

B.SC(Life Sciences)(Micro Biology-Chemistry-Bio-Technology)

B.SC(Life Sciences)(Micro Biology-Zoology-Applied Nutrition & Public Health)

B.SC(Life Sciences) (Zooology-Chemistry-Bio-Technology)

B.SC(Life Sciences) (Zooology-Chemistry-Clinical Nutrition Dietetics)

B.Sc(Physical Science)

B.Sc(Bio-Medical Science)

B.Sc(Physical Science)(Mathematics-Statistics-Computer Science)

B.A(CBCS) B.A(CBCS)Economics-Political Science-Public Administration

BBA(Bachelor of Business Administration)

B.Com.(Computer Applications) B.Com.(General)

BCA(Bachelor of Computer Applications)

M.SC

NUTRITION & DIETETICS

CHEMISTRY

BOTANY

MATHEMATICS

M.A ENGLISH

M.Com

SRT COLONY, YAKUTPURA HYDERABAD - 500023.

Ph : 9347683872, 040-24561612