RNI Reg NO.TGENG/26/A3255

Editor in Chief: MOHD ATHER RAHEEM

FALAKNUMA NEWS
ENGLISH DAILY

www.falaknumanews.in

Email:falaknumanews@gmail.com

VOL: 1 Issue No: 61 THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD PAGES: 4 RS.1/-

India-UK CETA begins, PM Modi calls it a milestone

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday described the coming into force of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) as a significant milestone in bilateral ties, with the pact providing duty-free access to a majority of Indian exports to the UK and phased tariff reductions on British goods entering India. The agreement, signed in July last year, is expected to double bilateral trade from the current level of about £48 billion by 2030.

"With the coming into force of the comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA) and the agreement on social security, our economic linkages are going to get even deeper. Together, these agreements translate our shared ambition into tangible opportunities for our people," Modi said in a post on X. Under the pact, 99 per cent of Indian goods entering the UK and 90 per cent of UK goods entering India will either be duty-free or subject to reduced tariffs. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery and processed foods are expected to benefit.

Modi said the agreement would provide momentum to farmers, entrepreneurs and MSMEs, enhance access to the UK market and strengthen cooperation in technology, professional services and innovation. He added that the social security agreement would support Indian professionals working temporarily in the UK. Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal termed the agreement a "historic milestone" that would open new avenues for trade, investment and innovation.

The commerce department said the pact would expand market access for agricultural and processed food exports and strengthen agri-export clusters in states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said the agreement followed over 800 technical sessions and 14 rounds of negotiations, adding that goods worth $140 million were shipped on the first day under the pact.

The UK described the agreement as a "watershed moment", stating that bilateral trade is expected to see an immediate boost, with improved access to goods and services in both countries. British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron called the deal a "new gold standard" in trade agreements and said it would benefit multiple sectors. "From today, import duty on Scotch whisky has been cut from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, which should make a really significant difference to the price the consumer pays," she said.

Revanth: Investments, Jobs Key to TG Rising-2047

Hyderabad, July 15 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Wednesday that the state government is ready to provide all necessary infrastructure, facilities, and clearances for setting up industries in the state. The Chief Minister added that investments and job creation are crucial to achieving the goal of "Telangana Rising-2047" to transform Telangana into a $1 trillion economy by 2034 and a $3 trillion economy by 2047. He was speaking at the groundbreaking of Amazon data centre at Future City.

He said that as part of the goal to establish India as a $30 trillion economy by 2047 (Viksit Bharat 2047), the state government has prepared plans to increase Telangana's share of the national GDP from the current 5 per cent to 10 per cent. The Chief Minister said the state government conduct comprehensive monthly reviews on all aspects related to establishment of industries. Saying that Amazon is expected to invest Rs 1 lakh crore by 2034, the state government will hold a special monthly meeting regarding Amazon's investments.

The Chief Minister asserted that the state government aims to build a state-of-the-art city within 'Future City'; to attract investments from Fortune 500 companies.

He said that when companies like Amazon come forward to invest, it paves the way for other companies and industries to set up operations in those areas. He recalled that the state government organised 'Telangana Rising Global Summit' -- an event attended by 3,000 corporate representatives from major companies across 108 countries. "We formulated the 'Telangana Rising' policy with the vision of establishing the state as a model of development, creating specific policies for sectors such as industry, tourism, energy, health, and sports," Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said, adding that 'Young India Skill University' has been established to foster job creation.

He claimed that Hyderabad has become a global role model, featuring the Outer Ring Road, IT and pharma companies, and an international airport.

"With 1.34 crore people living within the Outer Ring Road area, our aim is to create job opportunities while also transforming the city into a pollution-free zone. There is a need to relocate industries currently within the city, as well as to rejuvenate the Musi River and expand the Metro rail network," the Chief Minister said. He added that the state government has prepared plans to convert three lakh Regional Transport Corporation buses into electric buses.

Steps are also being taken to transform the city's two lakh diesel-run auto-rickshaws into electric vehicles through retrofitting, the Chief Minister said.

The state government has taken measures to make Hyderabad pollution-free by completely waiving registration taxes for electric vehicles, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy added.

Government Launches 1,500 crore Biomedical Research Initiative

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): The Central government launched Phase III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme with a total outlay of Rs 1,500 crore to expand fellowships, research grants and translating discoveries into practical healthcare applications, an official statement said on Wednesday. The outlay includes Rs 1,000 crore from the Department of Biotechnology and Rs 500 crore from the London based Wellcome Trust, the statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology said.

The programme aims to nurture a globally competitive biomedical research workforce comprising basic scientists, clinician-researchers, public health experts, science communicators and research managers while creating greater opportunities for interdisciplinary and collaborative research, said Union MoS Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

He added that the initiative would also attract new philanthropic and international partnerships, multiplying the impact of India's investments in biomedical science. Dr Singh said biotechnology is set to become the defining force behind India's next phase of economic growth, scientific advancement and global competitiveness The minister noted India's bioeconomy has expanded nearly twenty fold from $10 billion in 2014 to more than $195 billion in 2025 and is projected to touch $300 billion by 2030.

India today hosts nearly 12,000 biotechnology startups, has emerged among the world's leading vaccine manufacturers, and is steadily strengthening its position as a global biotechnology hub. The programme included the ceremonial launch of Phase-III, interactions with researchers whose careers have been shaped through the initiative, and presentations showcasing the programme's scientific achievements and long-term impact.

Supreme Court Seeks Status Report on CBSE Digital Evaluation System

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed concern over the difficulties being faced by students due to the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) system for evaluation of Class 12 board examination answer sheets.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking supervision and regulation of the CBSE's digital evaluation mechanism and directions for remedial measures in cases of alleged irregularities. Observing that students had been facing persistent problems under the newly introduced digital evaluation mechanism, the CJI-led Bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist the top court in resolving the issue. The apex court said the Union government should not treat the proceedings as adversarial and stressed that it was looking for a permanent solution to the concerns raised over the evaluation process.

Appearing for the Centre, SG Mehta submitted that while most of the individual marksheet-related grievances referred to in the petition had been resolved, the government was taking the broader concerns regarding the evaluation system seriously. He informed the bench that a one-member commission headed by S. Radha Chauhan had been constituted to review the OSM mechanism and recommend reforms. "We are not taking this adversely," SG Mehta told the top court, adding that the panel was already examining the grievances raised by students and other stakeholders.

Taking note of the submission, the Supreme Court directed the Solicitor General to place a status report on record detailing the steps taken by the government and the CBSE to address the issues. The matter has been posted for further hearing next week on July 24.

India Pushes Worker-Centric Reforms at BRICS Meet: Mandaviya

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): Labour Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said that we are confident and committed to building resilient labour markets that are formal, inclusive, gender-responsive, digitally empowered and future-ready, ensuring that no worker is left behind.

Addressing the 'BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting' in Hyderabad under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, Dr Mandaviya said India's Chairship has been guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approached with a 'people-centric' approach and in the spirit of 'Humanity First'. The minister told the gathering that India consolidated 29 outdated labour laws into four modern Labour Codes in November 2025, marking a landmark reform that creates a worker-centric ecosystem for India's 1.4 billion citizens. He said that the e-Shram portal has enabled unique identification, de-duplication and seamless access to welfare benefits for over 317 million registered unorganised workers.

The National Career Service portal combines job-matching, skills mapping and counselling, with the flexible design of India's digital platforms allowing rapid expansion of services to new worker categories such as platform workers.

India has also shared this technology with partner countries, including Mauritius, he added. Notably, Dr Mandaviya underlined India's consistent initiatives to strengthen international labour mobility by connecting its skilled, future-ready workforce with emerging global opportunities.

He said that India today hosts more than 2,100 Global Capability Centres employing 2.35 million professionals and generating nearly USD 98 billion in annual revenue.

BRICS shares a responsibility to shape a future of work that is productive and equitable. "This forum provides a unique opportunity for the Global South to shape solutions that are practical, inclusive and people-centric," he emphasised. In his video message, Gilbert F. Houngbo, Director General, International Labour Organisation (ILO) commended India's leadership for placing labour and employment at the heart of the BRICS agenda. The Director General extended his appreciation for India's robust social security ecosystem, which has seen rapid expansion in the past decade.

Indian trade unions need to reform themselves

By Nantoo Banerjee

Trade unionism seems to have lost focus in India. It has failed to reform itself to keep pace with economic reforms and globalisation, and changing job scenarios. It is also facing the biggest leadership crisis. The poor public and industry response to the nationwide strike call by 10 central trade unions on July 9 once again exposed the irrelevance of such an action in a country where the informal sector employs nearly 44 crore workers today, representing 85 percent of the total workforce. The informal sector encompasses a wide range of activities and workers, including those in agriculture, construction, small factories, domestic work, and various other self-employed and micro-enterprise roles. Workers in this sector don't enjoy job or wage protection. As a result, the old-style trade unionism has become irrelevant in the present-day scenario.

The so-called central trade unions exist mostly in the public sector where they play some constructive role in the collective bargaining, especially for periodical wage settlement. The shrinking public sector is a matter of concern to them. However, they could do little when the government decided to hand over the control of the country's largest petrochemical company, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), a highly profit-making public sector enterprise, to the Ambani group's Reliance Industries. The central TUs also made no attempt to prevent total privatisation of Bharat Aluminium (BALCO) in favour of Anil Agarwal-promoted Sterlite Industries (now Vedanta Limited). Even before the total privatisation of IPCL and BALCO, the government sold the prestigious Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) to the Tata group. The company has been renamed as Tata Communications. Where were the leaders of the central TUs, then?

Between 2014 and 2024, the government disinvested from as many as 179 central PSEs without any resistance from the trade unions. This explains why workers even from the central PSEs do not trust their trade unions. It could be the key reason behind the near rejection by a vast section of workers of the 'Bharat Bandh' call on July 9 by a forum of 10 central trade unions, including the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Labour Progressive Federation (LPF), and United Trade Union Congress (UTUC). Before the failed 'Bandh', the forum had claimed that over 250 million workers from diverse sectors—including banking, insurance, postal services, and coal mining—are expected to participate in the nationwide strike to protest against what the unions described as "anti-worker, anti-farmer, and anti-national pro-corporate policies" of the Centre.

Incidentally, this one was the fifth nationwide general strike (Bharat Bandh) since 2015, including a two-day strike on January 8-9, 2019 and another two-day strike on March 28-29, 2022. All the TU strikes had more or less the same old issues, protesting against the government policies such as PSE privatization, erosion of labour rights, the increasing use of contractual labour, anti-worker, anti-farmer, and anti-national pro-corporate agenda, the government's unwillingness to engage in dialogue with unions, and the proposed amendments to the Trade Union Act, 1926. According to the government, the proposed amendments to the TU Act, 1926, are aimed to modernize and strengthen the framework for trade union registration, recognition, and collective bargaining. Key features include facilitating recognition of trade unions at the central and federal levels, enhancing transparency in the nomination of worker representatives, and potentially reducing industrial unrest. The amendments may also address the number of mmbers required to form a union and the extent of outside leadership.

While the TU Act amendment proposals have understandably created tenions among the traditionally-oriented trade unions, the latter are more upset as the government never consulted with the central trade unions for the purpose. The TUs had submitted a 17-point charter of demands to the Union Labour Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, last year. According to the unions, the government paid little attention to their demands and never bothered to convene the annual labour conference in the last 10 years, an omission the trade unions interpret as indifference towards the nation's toiling labour force. Unfortunately, today's trade unions lack the leadership of those in the 1970s such as Sripad Dange, B T Ranadive, Satish Loomba, George Fernandes, Mahesh Desai, who forced the then Prime Minister form the country's.

India-Pak Conflict New Strategic Paradigm

Piotr Opalinski

The May crisis between India and Pakistan revealed the fragility of the security architecture in South Asia. Although the formal de-escalation ended the armed conflict, it does not mean a return to the status quo ante. On the contrary, we are dealing with a permanent degradation of relations: deepening distrust, intensified signals of deterrence and the lack of effective mechanisms to prevent further tensions. This crisis was not an episode, but a signal of deeper and more lasting strategic changes in the region.

Over 30 countries, including global actors: the US, Great Britain and China, supported the diplomatic efforts to de-escalate. The talks between US Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan – Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif – and also with the Chief of Staff of the Pakistan Army, Gen. Asim Munir.

Although President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire on 10 May, the agreement proved fragile and quickly became the subject of differing interpretations. Pakistan presented it as a statement of responsibility, signalling its readiness to respond with a nuclear weapon if escalated. India stressed that the ceasefire was reached "at Pakistan's request", solely through bilateral contacts and without the involvement of third parties. Indian commentators, in turn, criticised the manner in which Trump announced it, claiming that it had saved Pakistan from military defeat. They emphasised that it had damaged the image of Prime Minister Modi, who had denied that the talks with the US had influenced the decision to call a ceasefire. It also highlighted an investment deal with Pakistan by a cryptocurrency company linked to the Trump family, as well as extraordinary foreign aid relief for Islamabad, including the exemption of $396 million in security aid and the omission of Pakistan from a list of countries subject to U.S. travel restrictions.The crisis has revealed a change in Washington's approach – a shift away from preventive action towards reactive interventions, which is lowering the security threshold in the region and increasing the sense of instability.

As a result, de-escalation was purely tactical – it limited kinetic actions but did not bring about real strategic détente. At the structural level, the fundamental divergence over Kashmir remains an obstacle, and the asymmetry of nuclear doctrines increases the risk of miscalculations. There is also a lack of institutional instruments for crisis management, such as permanent channels of military communication or mechanisms for preventing incidents.Tourist guide to Jammu and Kashmir

Despite the declared defensive nature of nuclear doctrines – India's "No First Use" and Pakistan 's flexible deterrence strategy – in conditions of intense conventional conflict, the line between deterrence and actual use of nuclear weapons can blur rapidly. Public pressure, disinformation and the automation of military decisions increase the risk of unintended escalation. The Indian subcontinent remains an area particularly susceptible to escalation due to persistent territorial disputes, acts of cross-border violence. The problem is not only the presence of "triggers" of the conflict, but above all the lack of effective "fuses" – institutional mechanisms of crisis communication, common procedures, and political channels for de-escalation. Developing these should become a priority if the region is to avoid an accidental nuclear catastrophe.

India's shift in approach has far-reaching implications for regional stability, the interpretation of international law, and the strategic calculations of actors such as China, the United States, and the UN in the context of managing low-intensity conflicts.For Islamabad, this means revising its deterrence strategy, strengthening alliances and pursuing more offensive public diplomacy aimed at building long-term partnerships. Awareness of India's advantage may encourage Pakistan to more strongly emphasize the threat of early use of nuclear weapons within the framework of the "first use", which paradoxically deepens regional instability.

The exchange of blows with India has prompted Pakistan to increase its defence spending by 20%, or $9 billion a year, in the budget for the new fiscal year starting July 1. The increase comes despite an overall 7% cut in public spending, clearly indicating a shift in government priorities towards national security.

Given the escalation in May, Pakistan's "full spectrum deterrence" doctrine has proven inadequate, failing to deter even limited enemy military operations. Islamabad may therefore consider shifting its strategic emphasis.

No One is Getting Retired

In a world increasingly driven by soundbites and social media half-truths, it's becoming harder to separate what was said from what was meant. One such distortion now doing the rounds is the claim that RSS Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat has suggested that leaders above the age of 75 should retire — with an unsubtle insinuation that this was directed at Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This is not just a misquote — it's a complete fabrication, ripped out of context, laced with innuendo, and pushed into the bloodstream of political commentary with barely a shred of credibility. Let's begin with the basic truth. Mohan Bhagwat did not, at any point, say that those above 75 should retire. There is no such directive in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh — no such resolution, no written or unwritten rule dictating exits once someone hits a particular birthday. The RSS does not operate on mechanical age limits. Its ethos are based on purpose, self-discipline, and commitment — and certainly not expiry dates. While some leaders of the BJP have chosen to quit active politics once above 75 years of age, this has always been a political and strategic decision, and certainly not an ideological diktat from the Sangh or even from the party. It certainly, in any way, does not translate to a broader expectation that leadership ends at a certain number.

The so-called "evidence" being cited is a speech in which Bhagwat, in a completely anecdotal and light-hearted tone, recalled a remark made by senior RSS pracharak Moropant Pingle on his own 75th birthday. Moropant had joked that maybe it was time for him to slow down. Bhagwat recounted this as a fond memory — not as a principle. Anyone who has heard the speech in its full context can see it for what it is: a moment of personal recollection, not a policy announcement. To extrapolate from this that the Sarsanghchalak was laying down a retirement age for everyone is not just sloppy interpretation, but a deliberate mischief. To take that reflection and weaponise it as a coded message is not just disingenuous — it's intellectually lazy. Worse, it is being used to plant the idea that there is some hidden tension between Bhagwat and Modi.

The relationship between Mohan Bhagwat and Narendra Modi is not defined by political calculus. It is rooted in a shared ideological training, and shaped by the discipline, simplicity, and commitment that the RSS instils in all its swayamsevaks. Both men are products of that same culture — one that sees public life not as a route to personal benefit but as a path of service. They are not rivals. There is no contest for control. The very idea of a feud misunderstands the entire grammar of their bond. This relationship is not based on personal need or ambition. It is based on a joint commitment to the nation and to the larger cause that animates the Sangh Parivar.The RSS does not dictate day-to-day governance, and the Prime Minister does not run to Nagpur for instructions. But they are aligned in values, in long-term vision, and in national priorities. The mutual trust and respect between the two has been consistent and well understood by anyone who has watched them work over the years — which is why the present attempt to drive a wedge between them finds no resonance among either RSS swayamsevaks or BJP karyakartas.

At the ground level, there is total clarity and confidence in the leadership of both Mohan Bhagwat and Narendra Modi. No one is confused about their roles or the bond they share. These are not leaders who have emerged from dynasties or backroom deals. They have risen through decades of ground-level work, built credibility step by step, and carry the faith of an entire ideological ecosystem. What makes the entire narrative even more absurd is the fact that both Modi and Bhagwat, at 74 years of age, are in exceptional form. Their energy, mental sharpness, and stamina are well known. Prime Minister Modi is, by every visible measure, at the peak of his abilities. So is Mohan Bhagwat. Their engagements are demanding, thinking razor-sharp, and their leadership clear-eyed. The idea that either man is slowing down is not just inaccurate — it's laughable. So, the larger question is: why does this sort of rumour gain traction?

Because in the absence of facts, speculation is cheap. Because there is always an audience ready to believe there is palace intrigue behind every public remark. And because some sections of the commentariat remain eager to frame every event as part of a power struggle, even when the facts don't support it. But here's what stays constant. The RSS functions with institutional clarity. It does not believe in public posturing. It communicates through channels that are deliberate — not dramatic. And when it wants to convey something of importance to the Government or to political leadership, it does so directly and respectfully — not by quoting jokes from someone's birthday. And the people — those who watch, who vote, who volunteer — are not buying the theory of a so-called power struggle. RSS swayamsevaks and BJP workers across the country see both leaders not as men holding onto posts, but as individuals leading with conviction and sacrifice.

No amount of speculative commentary can shake that ground-level trust. This episode is yet another example of a growing trend where commentary replaces journalism and speculation poses as fact. A stray sentence is yanked out of a nuanced speech and flung into the public square as a weapon of political gossip. It is amplified by those who never paused to listen to what was actually said. This is not just unfair to the individuals involved — it is corrosive to public discourse. When you take a personal anecdote meant to recall the humility of a veteran swayamsevak and twist it into an indictment of a sitting Prime Minister, you're not reporting the news — you're distorting reality.

If anything, the takeaway from Bhagwat's anecdote is the exact opposite of what is being projected. It was a tribute to humility — not a hint at retirement. And humility is something both leaders possess in abundance. Despite the power and responsibility they carry, both continue to live simple lives, grounded in discipline and duty. They are not guided by personal ambition but by a lifelong dedication to nation.

Ultimately, the public sees through these narratives. They understand that the attempt to drive a wedge between Bhagwat and Modi is both uninformed and unsuccessful. Both men remain committed to their roles and to each other — not out of convenience but out of shared conviction.

The story being peddled today will fade like many before it, but the work these men are doing, and the trust they command, will endure. The truth, as always, is less dramatic — but far more important. Mohan Bhagwat never asked Modi to retire. He shared a memory. The rest is a fiction created by those who neither understand the Sangh nor respect the intelligence of the Indian public. Another important aspect often overlooked in this debate is that the RSS has consistently maintained that leadership is determined by capability, commitment, and organisational requirements rather than age alone. Throughout its history, the organisation has entrusted responsibilities to individuals based on their ability to contribute effectively, with transitions taking place through consultation and consensus rather than arbitrary benchmarks.

Political observers have also pointed out that drawing sweeping conclusions from isolated remarks without examining the complete speech or its context risks misleading the public. In the age of viral clips and selective excerpts, nuanced observations are often reduced to sensational headlines, creating narratives that bear little resemblance to the speaker's original intent. The broader focus of both the RSS and the government continues to remain on governance, nation-building, social development, and economic growth. Issues such as infrastructure, employment, technological advancement, social welfare, and national security continue to dominate their public engagements, leaving little basis for speculation about internal disagreements based on anecdotal references.

Democratic discourse benefits when public debate is anchored in verified facts rather than assumptions. Responsible journalism and informed political commentary require presenting complete context, allowing citizens to evaluate statements on their merits instead of relying on selective interpretations that can distort public understanding.

As with many viral political claims, the full speech and verified record provide a clearer picture than snippets circulating on social media. Examining primary sources before forming conclusions helps strengthen public trust, encourages healthier democratic debate, and ensures that discussions remain focused on facts rather than conjecture.

India, Argentina agree to bolster ties in agriculture sector

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): India and Argentina have agreed to work more closely in agricultural mechanisation, pest control, climate-resilient agriculture, and joint research, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The discussion took place at the 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Agriculture between India and Argentina, with the Indian Co-chair Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, joining the session virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Sergio Iraeta, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, from Argentina.

Both sides underscored the significance of the meeting as a key milestone in deepening bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors.

Chaturvedi highlighted that Argentina is a crucial partner for India. He said that the partnership between the countries is rooted in a spirit of collaboration-sharing knowledge, technologies, and best practices that benefit both nations. Cahturvedi emphasised that opportunity exists in areas such as agricultural mechanisation, pest control, climate-resilient agriculture, and joint research.

Iraeta underscored Argentina's commitment to strengthening its valued partnership with India. He highlighted Argentina's strong interest in deepening cooperation in key areas such as agricultural mechanisation, genome editing, and plant breeding technologies, among others.

Iraeta further emphasised that both countries, with their rich agricultural experience, have the potential to complement each other in enhancing productivity, promoting mechanisation, and improving farmers' welfare. Muktanand Agrawal, Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), provided an overview of the agriculture and allied sectors, emphasising India's agricultural achievements. He highlighted a series of innovative initiatives launched by the government to strengthen the agricultural sector, which included the use of digital solutions, promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices, risk mitigation, and credit to the farmers.

Both sides discussed key issues related to cooperation in horticulture, value chain of oilseed and pulses cultivation, mechanisation, precision agriculture, carbon credit for farmers

SBI may launch Rs 25,000 cr QIP with up to 3 pc discount to current price

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has consistently strengthened the startup ecosystem and remains focused on further empowering entrepreneurs, especially from tier 2 and 3 cities, through inclusive efforts and a commitment to unlocking India's entrepreneurial potential, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has reiterated.

Chairing the 10th meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) here, which brought together industry leaders, startup founders, policymakers and key stakeholders, the minister highlighted innovation as the foundation for reimagining India's startup ecosystem, with emphasis on advancing R&D and fostering collaboration.

"Underscored that joint efforts will be key to nurturing a vibrant entrepreneurial landscape, supporting India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047," Goyal said in a post on X social media platform. The Union Miniter held a constructive interaction with deep-tech startups to understand their experiences and insights and get their feedback.

"Discussions focused on enhanced access to funding, infrastructure support, regulatory facilitation, and global market linkages. Valuable inputs were shared on how to strengthen the deep-tech ecosystem and foster innovation across sectors. The dialogue reaffirmed our commitment to building a supportive and future-ready environment for emerging technologies and entrepreneurs," Goyal highlighted. Meanwhile, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has opened applications for the fifth edition of the National Startup Awards (NSA), a flagship initiative under the Startup India programme.

NSA covers a wide range of domains including agriculture, clean energy, fintech, aerospace, health, education, cybersecurity, and accessibility, among others. Each ed ition introduces new categories to align with evolving challenges and opportunities. Launched in 2016, Startup India has transformed India's entrepreneurial landscape, fostering innovation and empowering youth, women, students, and first-time founders, particularly from tier 2 and 3 cities.

India's green warehouse space likely to jump 4-fold to 270 million sq ft by 2030

Mumbai, July 15 (GNS): The green warehousing sector in India is poised for exponential growth, with certified sustainable warehouse space expected to quadruple from current levels to approximately 270 million sq. ft by 2030, according to a report released by global real estate services company JLL.

Since 2019, Grade A warehousing stock across India's major cities has expanded dramatically, growing 2.5 times from 88 million sq. ft to an impressive 238 million sq. ft by 2024. This growth reflects the increasing demand for high-quality storage and distribution facilities as the country's economy modernises, and e-commerce continues its rapid expansion, the report said.

More striking is the rise of institutional-grade warehousing space, which has tripled from 28 million sq. ft in 2019 to 90 million sq. ft by end of 2024. This surge demonstrates the growing confidence of major global investors who are bringing international sustainability standards to the Indian market, according to the report.

"Out of the 90 million sq. ft of institutional Grade A supply, around 72 per cent or 65 million sq. ft is green certified or at different stages of green certification currently. Perhaps the most encouraging is that this 65 million sq. ft is anticipated to quadruple by 2030, as institutional players prioritise sustainability through LEED, IGBC, and other certifications. This green revolution isn't just good for the environment; it represents a fundamental shift toward future-proofed assets with improved operational efficiency, reduced energy costs, and enhanced marketability," the report observed. "India's green warehousing transformation is driven by not only Institutional investor-backed developers but also by corporate occupiers or tenants.

India's festive season to generate over 2.16 lakh jobs, hiring demand up 15-20 pc

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): India's festive season this year is set to generate over 2.16 lakh seasonal jobs, reflecting a 15–20 per cent year-on-year rise in gig and temporary employment during the second half of 2025, a report said.

Key sectors driving this surge include retail, e-commerce, BFSI, logistics, hospitality, travel, and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Hiring activity has gained momentum in anticipation of marquee events such as Raksha Bandhan, Big Billion Days, Prime Day Sale, Dussehra, Diwali, and the wedding season, Adecco India, an HR service provider, said in its report. Many companies are advancing their hiring cycles to stay ahead of demand and ensure operational readiness for what is expected to be a stronger-than-usual festive period. As per the report, this year's hiring uptick is being driven by improved consumer sentiment, a favourable monsoon boosting rural demand, post-election economic optimism, and aggressive seasonal promotions. Metro cities such as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Pune continue to lead in seasonal hiring demand, up 19 per cent from last year.

At the same time, tier 2 cities like Coimbatore, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru and Varanasi are witnessing a 42 per cent increase in job demand. In addition, tier-2 cities like Kanpur, Kochi, and Vijayawada are emerging as new hiring hubs, the report noted. Compensation levels are expected to rise as well. It may go up by 12-15 per cent in metro markets and by 18-22 per cent in emerging cities.

Encouragingly, 23 per cent more women are participating in this seasonal hiring wave compared to previous years, driven by a rising preference for flexible, short-term roles. "This year's festive season is seeing a sharper and more structured demand curve, and we have proactively prepared to meet it well in advance. Unlike previous years where hiring was largely volume-driven, employers today are equally focused on deployment speed, workforce readiness, and regional agility," said Deepesh Gupta, Director and Head of General Staffing, Adecco India.

Hiring in logistics and delivery is projected to rise by 30–35 per cent as companies scale up last-mile operations in preparation for peak festive demand. In the BFSI sector, firms are significantly ramping up field force deployments for credit card sales and POS installations, particularly across tier 2 and 3 cities. The hospitality and travel segments are expected to see a 20-25 per cent increase in hiring, while e-commerce and retail will continue to dominate, accounting for 35-40 per cent of total seasonal job creation, said the report.

Cabinet approves up to Rs 20,000 crore investment by NTPC to boost renewable energy capacity

New Delhi,July 15 (GNS): As India achieves 50 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved enhanced delegation of power to NTPC Ltd for investing in NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. and its other joint ventures/ subsidiaries to set up renewable energy capacity with an outlay of up to Rs 20,000 crore. The Cabinet granted enhanced delegation of power to NTPC Limited from the extant guidelines of delegation of power to Maharatna CPSEs for making investment in NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a subsidiary company and subsequently, NGEL investing in NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) and its other JVs/ subsidiaries, "beyond the earlier approved prescribed limit of Rs 7,500 crore up to an amount of Rs 20,000 crore for renewable energy (RE) capacity addition to achieve 60 GW capacity by 2032".

According to an official statement, the enhanced delegation given to NTPC and NGEL will facilitate the accelerated development of renewable projects in the country. "This move will also play a vital role in strengthening power infrastructure and ensuring investment in providing reliable, round-the-clock electricity access across the nation," according to a Cabinet note.

Renewable Energy projects will also generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for the local people atthe construction stage as well as during operations and maintenance (O&M) stage. This will provide a boost to local suppliers, local enterprises/ MSMEs and shall encourage entrepreneurship opportunities within the country.

Cabinet approves PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana in big push to agriculture sector

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' for six years, beginning 2025-26, to cover 100 districts. The scheme draws inspiration from NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme, a first-of-its-kind initiative focusing exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors. It aims to enhance agricultural productivity, increase adoption of crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices, augment post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, improve irrigation facilities and facilitate availability of long-term and short-term credit, according to the official statement.

The scheme was announced as part of the Budget proposals for 2025-26 to develop 100 districts under 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana'. The scheme will be implemented through the convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 Departments, other State schemes and local partnerships with the private sector.

As many as 100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement. The number of districts in each state/ UT will be based on the share of Net Cropped Area and operational holdings. However, a minimum of 1 district will be selected from each state, according to an official statement. Committees will be formed at the District, State and National level for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the Scheme. A District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan will be finalised by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti, which will also have progressive farmers as members.

The District Plans will be aligned to the national goals of crop diversification, conservation of water and soil health, self-sufficiency in agriculture and allied sectors, as well as expansion of natural and organic farming.

The progress of the scheme in each Dhan-Dhaanya district will be monitored on 117 key Performance Indicators through a dashboard monthly. NITI Aayog will also review and guide the district plans. Besides, Central Nodal Officers appointed for each district will also review the scheme regularly, the statement explained.

Thermal investments in India to jump 2-fold to Rs 2.3 lakh crore in next 3 fiscals

New Delhi, July 15 (GNS): Investments to set up thermal electricity generation capacities will double to Rs 2.3 lakh crore in India over the three fiscals through 2028, compared with the preceding three fiscals, a report said on Wednesday. Renewed focus on the segment to help meet India's growing demand for energy and base load power requirement, said Crisil Ratings. In the preceding three fiscals, private companies accounted for only 7-8 per cent of the investments. Over the next three fiscals, private companies will expand their investment, contributing nearly a third, with central and state public sector undertakings accounting for the balance, the report stated. The government has set a target of at least 80 GW of thermal capacity addition by fiscal 2032. At present, nearly 60 GW has either been announced or is in various phases of implementation, with private developers taking up nearly 19 GW2, according to the report.

The majority of the private capacities will be operationalised only after fiscal 2028, given that these involve long construction periods.

"While the majority of these are brownfield expansions involving low implementation risks, timely delivery of equipment — mainly of boilers and turbines — remains monitorable, given limited supply capacity and substantial build-up of orders at major manufacturers," the report said. Meanwhile, other risks related to offtake, fuel and tariff adequacy remain low.

"Energy demand is expected to log a compound annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent to 2,000 billion units by fiscal 2028. Nearly 70 per cent of the incremental demand will be met by renewable sources," said Manish Gupta, Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, Crisil Ratings. However, with renewable energy being intermittent — solar is available only during daytime, while wind is concentrated from May to September — thermal power remains critical to meet the base load demand consistently, he added. Distribution utilities in four states have resumed offering 25-year thermal power purchase agreements (PPAs) to private sector generators after a 9-10 year break.

Revanth: Telangana carrying forward best investment policies

Hyderabad, July 15 (GNS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said that his government was carrying forward the best policies of the previous government to attract more investments to the state. The Chief Minister said that the government was carrying forward the policies introduced by previous regimes of Chandrababu Naidu (1994–2004) and Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (2004–2014), as well as the BRS government from 2014 to December 2023.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the EV Cell Manufacturing facility of Amara Raja at the Amara Raja Giga Corridor in Divitipally, Mahbubnagar district. He said the government is adopting best practices and policies from previous governments, as it does not want to suffer from policy paralysis. He added that his government has introduced various policies mainly to promote industry, tourism, and health as part of the 'Telangana Rising 2047' initiative.

Stating that 'Telangana Rising' is unstoppable, he said the state government was improving infrastructure to attract more investment to the state. As infrastructure is crucial for establishing industries, the government was moving forward by formulating transparent policies, he said. The CM noted that Telangana was contributing 5 per cent to the national GDP, which is not satisfactory. He said their goal is to increase Telangana's share of the national GDP to 10 per cent and transform Telangana into a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2034 and a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047.

Announcing that the state government was holding talks with the neighbouring state, CM Revanth Reddy said he would soon share good news with the people of Mahbubnagar district.

He said talks were already in progress to secure an allocation of 90 TMC of water for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and an allocation of 30 TMC of water for the Dindi project. The Chief Minister stressed that the farmers who gave their land to the Amara Raja company should be provided jobs in the new EV cell manufacturing unit. The CM praised Amara Raja for drawing inspiration from China, Japan, Germany, and Korea. He said it is a proud moment for Amara Raja to be competing with China in the EV sector. He noted that 700 employees work at the Amara Raja unit in Divitipalli, of whom 400 are women, a testament to women's empowerment.

Expressing serious concern over increasing pollution and the threat of climate change, CM Revanth Reddy said rainfall is scarce due to the El Niño effect, causing difficulties for farmers. He added that significant climatic changes have occurred since the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is a need to reduce pollution, and electric vehicles are essential for pollution control.

CBI conducts searches in Rs 47 crore bank fraud case

Hyderabad, July 15 (GNS) The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday conducted coordinated search operations in connection with a bank fraud case against M/s Jupiter Bio Sciences Ltd, its MD, directors and unknown public servants and unknown private persons, based on the complaint of UCO Bank, Hyderabad, for causing wrongful loss of Rs 47.37 crore to the bank.

The Central agency said in a release that a case was registered on June 29, 2026, at the directions of the High Court of Telangana. The High Court had pronounced the orders on March 5, 2026 and April 24, 2026, in a writ petition filed by UCO Bank and a review petition filed by CBI, respectively.

It is alleged in the complaint that the accused persons defrauded the bank by producing fake and fabricated proforma invoices and inflated valuation reports of collateral securities while availing credit facilities, thereby causing a wrongful loss to the bank.

Post registration of the case, searches were conducted at several locations in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The premises covered include residential properties linked to the directors of the accused company M/s Jupiter Bio Sciences Ltd, the CBI said. According to the Central agency, during the searches, incriminating documents and digital evidence were recovered, including records relating to the diversion of funds, and other materials relevant to the investigation. These are being examined to identify the full extent of the conspiracy, the flow of funds, and the role of all persons involved, it said.

Further investigation is in progress, the release added.

The case arose from loans aggregating to Rs 56 crore sanctioned by the bank in 2008-2009, which later turned into non-performing assets.

Seethakka orders statewide rollout of Anganwadi breakfast scheme

Hyderabad, July 15 (GNS) Telangana Women and Child Welfare Minister Dr Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) on Wednesday directed officials to expand the Anganwadi breakfast scheme across the state from next month, citing encouraging results from the pilot project in Bhadradri Kothagudem and Kumuram Bheem Asifabad districts. Reviewing the department's welfare programmes through a video conference with district officials, the Minister stressed that childhood forms the foundation of a healthy society and said quality nutrition, education and care should remain the department's top priority.

She instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of nutritious food, eggs, milk, lentils and Take Home Ration (THR), warning that contractors supplying substandard materials would be blacklisted. Taking serious note of reports on poor-quality eggs supplied to some Anganwadi centres, she ordered district officials

to submit detailed reports immediately.

Seethakka directed district officials and supervisors to make regular field visits and even taste the meals served at Anganwadi centres to assess their quality. She also ordered speedy completion of 2,500 sanctioned Anganwadi buildings and preparation of an action plan for their simultaneous inauguration by the Chief Minister through a virtual event, while proposing construction of another 2,500-3,000 centres based on future requirements.

The Minister called for expediting Anganwadi staff recruitment with complete transparency and merit, strengthening child protection mechanisms, speeding up adoption procedures, and making Telangana a child-marriage-free state through coordinated awareness campaigns. She also instructed officials to expand mobile Anganwadis for migrant workers' children, ensure services reach remote tribal habitations, monitor the impact of initiatives such as the "Amma Maata–Anganwadi Baata" programme and milk distribution, and identify outstanding Anganwadi staff for felicitation on Independence Day.

ECI modifies SIR schedule for Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka and Telangana

Hyderabad, July 15 (GNS) The Election Commission today extended the schedule for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision SIR of electoral rolls in Punjab, Karnataka, Telangana and Delhi. In Delhi, draft electoral rolls will now be published on 17th August instead of 5th. House-to-house visits which were scheduled till 29th July will now continue till 8th August. The final electoral rolls will be published on October 19th.

In Punjab, the house-to-house visits by booth-level officers (BLOs) will continue till 3rd August. Earlier, the house-to-house visits were to conclude on 24th July. The draft electoral rolls in the State will now be published on August 13th in place of July 31st. The final electoral rolls will come out on October 12th.

In Telangana, the draft rolls will be published on 10th August while the final rolls will be published on 12th October. House to

House visit by BLOs will continue till 3rd August in the state. In Karnataka, the house-to-house visits by the BLOs will continue till 8th August in place of 29th July. Draft rolls in the state will be published on 17th August while the final electoral rolls in the State will be published on October 19th. Yesterday, the Commission had extended the SIR schedule for Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, the enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the Union Territory of Chandigarh has concluded successfully. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, 2026.

Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh today, Chief Electoral Officer Prerna Puri stated that the enumeration phase was conducted from June 15 to July 14. During this period, the electoral roll was verified and updated through extensive field verification and active citizen participation. She informed that a total of 5,16,427 registered voters were covered during the enumeration phase. Of these, 4,50,246 enumeration forms were received and digitized, while 66,146 forms could not be obtained despite repeated attempts by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to make contact.

Anti-drug drive intensified in TN, achieves record contraband interdictions : DGP

Chennai, July 15 (GNS) The Tamil Nadu police has achieve significant success in Anti-Drug Enforcement Operations with record contraband interdictions by adopting a multi-pronged strategy, Director General of Police/Head of Police Force K Mahesh Kumar Agarwal said today.

An official release here today said the Tamil Nadu Government has devised a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy to systematically eliminate drug trafficking and substance abuse across the state. By combining aggressive enforcement, asset freezing, institutional upgrades, and community-driven demand reduction, the state has achieved record contraband interdictions in the first half of 2026.

As part of this drive, intensive crackdown to neutralize drugs supply networks was launched. Following a highly successful three-day State-wide Special Enforcement Drive from July 3-5, the state launched a rigorous one-month intensive drive running from July 8, 2026, to August 8, 2026 to sharpen the enforcement activities.

In the current month of July, a total of 1,020 NDPS cases were detected, resulting in 1,270 arrests, alongside the recovery of 1,034 kg of Ganja, 4.5 kg of other drugs, and 4,579 narcotic tablets.

Intensifying hotspot and train surveillance, he said over 3,950 drug hotspots have been placed under strict surveillance, and 2,850 suspected operatives were checked. Furthermore, effective rail interdictions placed six major trains originating from Eastern / North-Eastern regions under strict watch, choking trafficking routes moving Ganja into Tamil Nadu from the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB), West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, and Tripura.

Special efforts are being taken by the Unit Officers to review cases, identify the suppliers, receivers, financiers and drug trafficking networks, Mr Aggarwal said, adding, as a preventive measure, 472 drug offenders have been detained under the Goondas Act in the current year. Further, convictions have been obtained after successful prosecution in 1,420 drug cases.

As part of rooting out the drug menace, the properties of Drug traffickers have been freezed/attached. To cripple the financial sources of the drug offenders, the state has aggressively targeted the wealth generated from narcotics crime and has started successfully freezing bank deposits and confiscating immovable properties.

The enforcement agencies including the Police and Food Safety Officers are also taking severe action against sale and consumption of Tobacco products. In the current year, about 1.6 lakh kgs of tobacco products have been seized in the State and 9,450 cases have been registered in this connection. So far, a fine amount of Rs. 5.85 crore was imposed and 2,453 premises have been sealed by the FSSD and LB authorities.

KTR meets Kumaraswamy, seeks revival of CCI at Adilabad

Hyderabad, July 15 (GNS): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday met Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H. D. Kumaraswamy in New Delhi and urged the immediate revival of the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) plant at Adilabad.

Rama Rao, who led a delegation of farmers and representatives of the CCI Sadhana Samithi, reminded Kumaraswamy of the assurance given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2019 to revive the plant.

KTR said that instead of allowing this valuable public asset to be reduced to scrap, the Centre must act decisively. Spread over nearly 2,300 acres with an installed capacity of 4 lakh

tonnes, the CCI plant can be revived with an investment of around Rs 2,000 crore, he said. The BRS leader stated that if the Centre and the state government contribute Rs 250 crore each as viability support, the project can be restarted, creating employment for nearly 6,000 people. He said just as the Centre extended a special package to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Adilabad CCI too deserves similar support, adding that the BRS will continue its fight until the CCI plant is revived.

Meanwhile, in an interaction with the media in the national capital, KTR clarified that his entire struggle and battle are directed solely at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for the sake of Telangana. He stated that he has no personal animosity towards Revanth Reddy; rather, he is questioning him because the decisions he is making are causing hardship to the people.

KTR remarked that Revanth Reddy has practically earned "four or five PhDs" in the art of diverting public attention. He questioned why the CM, who made it a daily routine to criticise them even 31 months after assuming power, repeatedly targets the BRS party despite dismissing it as a "corpse."

KTR demanded to know what the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, was doing about the reckless statements made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, asking whether he was indifferent to the matter.

EDITOR, PRINTER, PUBLISHER & OWNER by MOHD ATHER RAHEEM PUBLISHED From FALAKNUMA NEWS English Daily 19-4-276/5/A, Flat No.502. 5th Floor, Lake view Residency, Baquar Nagar, BNK Colony, Miralam Tank, Hyderabad 500 064. Printed at RIYAZ PRINTING PRESS. #22-8-161 Behind Nayaab Hotel Chatta Bazar, Hyderabad - 500002 Telangana. Head Office Contact No.0404537318, www.falaknumanews.in