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'Creating disruptions doesn't bring political gains': Rijiju to Oppn ahead of Monsoon Session

New Delhi, Jul 19 (GNS) The proposed reintroduction of the Delimitation Bill emerged as the principal flashpoint at the Centre's all-party meeting on Sunday ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, with the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition sharpening their positions over the politically sensitive exercise of redrawing parliamentary constituencies. The all-party meeting, convened a day before Parliament's Monsoon Session begins on July 20, was called by the government to seek cooperation from political parties and discuss its legislative agenda for the session, which is scheduled to continue until August 13.

However, discussions were dominated by concerns over the government's reported plans to once again introduce the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to redraw parliamentary constituencies and increase the strength of the Lok Sabha to 850 seats as part of the larger delimitation exercise linked to the implementation of the women's reservation law.

The meeting also witnessed a brief walkout by Opposition parties over the government's decision to invite the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), a grouping of 20 rebel Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MPs, with Opposition leaders alleging that the Centre had accorded legitimacy to the group even though its status remains under the consideration of the Lok Sabha Speaker.

The proposed delimitation legislation has become one of the most contentious

political issues before the Monsoon Session after an earlier version of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill failed to secure the constitutionally mandated two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha on April 17. Although the bill received 298 votes in favour, it fell short of the numbers required for a constitutional amendment, while 230 members voted against it, forcing the government to withdraw the accompanying Delimitation Bill and related legislation.

Opposition parties, led by the Congress and supported by several regional parties, have reiterated that any delimitation exercise based primarily on population figures would disproportionately reduce the parliamentary representation of southern states that successfully implemented population control measures over several decades. Leaders of parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam have argued that states should not be penalised for achieving demographic stabilisation while states with higher population growth stand to gain a larger share of Lok Sabha seats.

The Congress has also demanded greater transparency from the government before any fresh legislation is introduced. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking that the revised draft of the proposed legislation be shared with all political parties well in advance to enable meaningful consultation and scrutiny.

According to Opposition leaders, the issue is not merely about increasing the number of parliamentary seats but about preserving the federal balance and ensuring that states are not disadvantaged because of their success in implementing family planning policies. They have maintained that the proposed legislation requires wider political consensus given its far-reaching constitutional and political implications.

CM Revanth warns Congress leaders over SIR negligence

Hyderabad, July 19 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has once again asked all the party leaders to focus on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and warned that negligence will not be tolerated.

During a virtual meeting on SIR on Sunday, July 19, he directed the leaders to remain on the field to monitor the SIR process to ensure that the voting rights of all genuine voters are protected. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Goud, State Party Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, ministers, MLAs, MLCs, MPs, constituency in-charges, and SIR coordinators attended the meeting. The Chief Minister said ministers, MLAs, in-charges, corporation chairpersons, and party in-charges appointed for the SIR process must go to the field. Stating that ministers-in-charge must fully supervise the SIR process, he remarked that the ultimate responsibility lies with them.

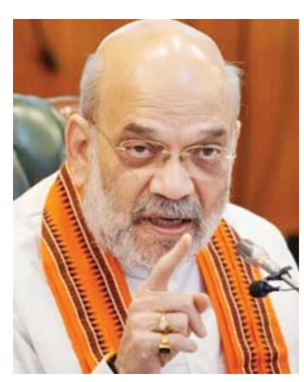
He said PCC President Mahesh Goud and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka must take greater responsibility in coordinating the ministers-in-charge, MLAs, and party in-charges. The Chief Minister said that with the deadline for SIR being extended to August 3, this should be viewed as an opportunity.

He announced that on Monday, 10 in-charge ministers will conduct review meetings on SIR across all districts. The Chief Minister said MPs must conduct regular reviews, even while attending Parliament sessions. He said that strict action will be taken if MPs fail to perform their duties in the areas where they are acting as in-charges.

Amit Shah backs one additional Indian language for students

Kolkata, July 19 (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday urged students to learn at least one additional Indian language besides their mother tongue to appreciate the country's diversity. "The language diversity in India carries the rich heritage of the country. Only through language can one understand a nation's culture. Hence, it is necessary for every student to learn at least one additional Indian language besides his or her own mother tongue," Shah said while addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the Museum of Word at the National Library campus in Kolkata. Speaking on the occasion, Shah said the Museum of Word is a new feather in Kolkata's crown. Its largest gallery is the 'Timeline of Languages'.

"This museum will showcase the evolution of 22 Indian languages. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of this museum in 2020. It has been created as per his instructions and plans. There is no place for narrow mindedness in our country. Narrow mindedness can-



not be the identity of Indian culture. We cannot create obstacles in anyone's way of judging," the Union Home Minister said. Also present on the occasion was West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who said the current Union Government was placing special emphasis on establishing the Bengali language in its full dignity and making it more widely recognised globally.

The first phase of the museum, which is being built under the Union Ministry of Culture, cost around Rs 14 crore. The total cost of the entire project is estimated at around Rs 41 crore. There are nine galleries, each showcasing the history of Indian languages from a different perspective. Each gallery features a collection of preserved words, ancient manuscripts, inscriptions, documents on the evolution of various scripts, and interactive presentations of language development using modern digital technology. Visitors will get the opportunity to see thousands of years of linguistic evolution under one roof.

According to government sources, this museum will not only be a language preservation project but also a permanent record of India's multilingual cultural heritage.

Zero tolerance is action, not just a statement: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi, Jul 18 (GNS) Calling Operation Sindoor a defining demonstration of India's modern military capability, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the operation reflected the country's transformed defence preparedness, built over the past 12 years under the government's "Nation First" and "Forces First" approach. Addressing an event here, Singh said the operation not only showcased the Indian Armed Forces' operational prowess but also highlighted the growing strength of indigenous defence manufacturing and technological self-reliance.

"Operation Sindoor is testimony to India's up-to-date, up-to-the-mark, and up-to-the-standard defence preparedness, sharpened by the transformation of the defence sector through sustained efforts over the last 12 years," he said. Describing the operation as a reminder of the "unmatched valour" of the armed forces, he asserted that it reflected the government's uncompromising policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

The Defence Minister said the operation proved that India possesses the capability to strike terrorists not only at its borders but also at their bases. He added that advanced indigenous systems, including the Akash Teer air defence control system, the Akash missile system and the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. were effectively deployed alongside other state-of-the-art military equipment during the operation. Singh said the success of Operation Sindoor underscored the government's sustained investment in indigenous defence capabilities and demonstrated the confidence placed in Indian industry. According to him, the technological sophistication displayed during the operation was the outcome of reforms undertaken over the past decade to modernise the armed forces while reducing dependence on imported equipment.

Highlighting the government's push for self-reliance, the Defence Minister said five positive indigenisation lists issued by the armed forces now cover 509 defence items, while Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) have notified five additional lists containing 5,012 items.

Wangchuk under round-the-clock medical care, condition stable

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS): Activist Sonam Wangchuk is under "required medical intervention" at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, where a team of specialists is closely monitoring his condition. His blood parameters remain slightly altered due to the physiological stress and systemic effects of prolonged fasting, the hospital said on Sunday.

This comes a day after the hospital had stated that Wangchuk has refused intravenous fluids, oral rehydration solution and all medications despite repeated counselling by the treating team and an independent AIIMS expert, while his family is yet to provide consent for the recommended medical intervention.

Wangchuk was on Saturday taken forcibly to Safdarjung Hospital by the Delhi Police on the 21st day of his hunger strike. He has been on an in efinite hunger strike since June 28 in support of the CJP-led protest over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and the reported deaths of students linked to the controversy.

Delhi SHGs to make 2 lakh flags for Har Ghar Tiranga

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS) The Delhi government will source around 2 lakh Tricolours from self-help groups (SHGs) for distribution under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign ahead of Independence Day, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) on Sunday. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the government will distribute more than 15 lakh national flags across Delhi as part of the campaign.

She said the government has assigned an important role to SHGs across the national capital to promote public participation, patriotism and national unity. Around 2 lakh national flags will be produced through eligible SHGs identified by the State Urban Livelihood Mission. Gupta said the Delhi government remains committed to making the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign a success by involving every section of society while also creating opportunities for the economic empowerment of SHGs.

The CMO said all national flags produced by the SHGs will strictly comply with the Flag Code of India, 2002, its amendments issued from time to time, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, and the prescribed technical standards.

MP cabinet approves Uniform Civil Code Bill

Bhopal July 19 (GNS): In a landmark decision, the Madhya Pradesh cabinet on Sunday approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill during a special meeting held at Jagdishpur, a historic town near Bhopal once known as Islamnagar.

The venue, steeped in stories of valour and sacrifice, was chosen to underline the cultural and historical significance of the move. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, addressing a press conference, described the decision as a tribute to the state's glorious past and a step towards ensuring equality for all citizens. He recalled the courage of Rani Kamalapati, who defended her dignity in difficult times, and

linked the present decision to the spirit of sacrifice and national pride embedded in the soil of Jagdishpur.

He said the UCC Bill does not violate the fundamental rights of the citizens.

Chief Minister Yadav emphasised that the UCC would provide equal opportunities and rights to all communities, stating, "For us, whether Ramchandra or Rahim, everyone deserves equality. This law is a major step in that direction." He highlighted that before drafting the Bill, a committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai was formed, which conducted consultations across all districts and divisions of the state. State-level discussions in Bhopal also included political parties and social organisations from diverse faiths.

However, Chief Minister said, Congress chose to stay away from any meeting. The Chief Minister noted that while parties, such as the Aam Aadmi Party and Communist Party, participated in the consultations, the Congress party chose to stay away. He criticised their reluctance, remarking that Congress has always struggled with the idea of "one nation, one law, one leader". Chief Minister Yadav further pointed out that the consultations revealed strong support among the Muslim community, with nearly 80 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men favouring the implementation of a uniform law.

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A fragmenting world can unite around immunization

Jose Manuel Barroso

We live in a world that seems increasingly fractured and prone to conflict. But experience in both the public and private sectors has taught me that periods of geopolitical unrest are precisely the moments when we should take a step back and consider what unites us. The ties that bind people together across borders, generations, and cultures must be celebrated and strengthened.

Many of our differences and disagreements melt away when we recognize the simple truth that everyone wants the next generation to grow and thrive in a world that is safer, fairer, and more prosperous than the one they entered. The question is how to translate this universal instinct into concrete collective action.

One answer that almost everyone can agree on is protecting children and communities through immunization. To show their commitment to this important cause, heads of state and government will convene in Brussels on June 25 for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's Global Summit: Health & Prosperity through Immunization. With their pledges of support, Gavi — where I have chaired the board for the past five years — can continue preventing the spread of deadly and debilitating infectious diseases, especially among the most vulnerable segments of society. Increased uptake of vaccines has already transformed the world for the better. When Gavi was established a quarter-century ago, millions of children died annually from diseases such as measles and pneumonia. These deaths represented an unconscionable tragedy because they could have been prevented easily. Gavi was founded to put a stop to this needless suffering. Gavi's public-private model is unique among global health organizations. By bringing together vaccine manufacturers, national governments, donors, and grassroots organizations, Gavi has vaccinated more than 1 billion children in low- and middle-income countries since its inception, preventing nearly 19 million deaths and helping to halve childhood mortality. Moreover, the organization has built effective global defenses against pandemics and other infectious threats by creating and maintaining emergency vaccine stockpiles.

Investing in Gavi's immunization efforts has produced remarkable returns. Since 2000, the organization's work has generated $250 billion in broader economic benefits in the low- and middle-income countries where it operates, helping 19 of them to outgrow the need for vaccine support. Recognizing the vital role that immunization plays in enhancing public health and resiliency, several of these "Gavi graduates" are now donors themselves.

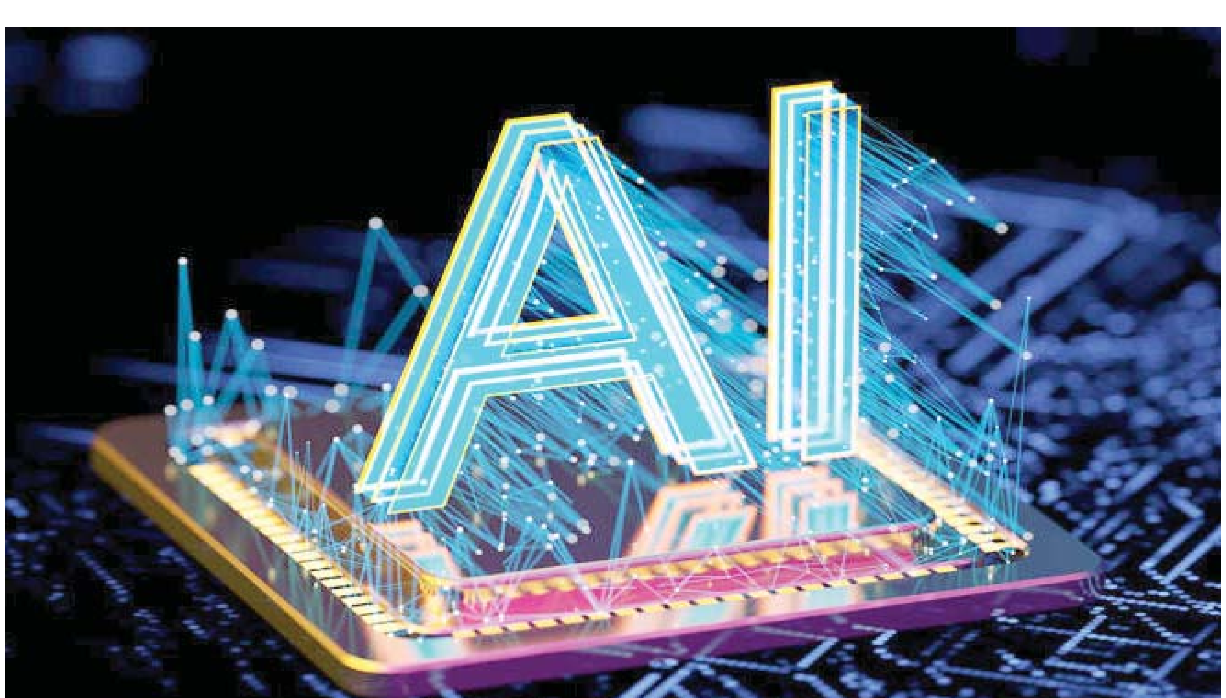
This week's global summit will determine the future of Gavi's immunization efforts. As the organization approaches its next five-year strategic period — possibly the most consequential in its history — we are calling for renewed financial and political commitments to protect the next generation. Our goal over the next five years is to vaccinate 500 million children in the world's poorest countries against 19 diseases.

For the first time in history, we have a vaccine that can turn the tide against malaria. We can also protect millions of girls against cervical cancer with the HPV vaccine, maintain progress against preventable killers such as measles and typhoid, and provide children in conflict-riven and displaced communities with basic vaccinations. But none of this can be achieved without the financial backing of donor countries and partners.

Of course, most donors are juggling competing budget priorities, particularly as policymakers, confronting geopolitical uncertainty and deepening polarization between countries, push for higher defense spending.

AI disruption is real and so are the opportunities

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh



Artificial intelligence has become a powerful and visible force that is rapidly transforming how work is done across all industries, job categories and economic levels. From factory floors to corporate boardrooms, AI is automating tasks, shifting responsibilities and even altering the definition of entire professions. What began as a tool to enhance productivity has now evolved into a disruptive presence that is challenging the foundational structures of modern employment.

In the industrial and blue-collar sectors, AI is driving dramatic changes that were once thought to be decades away. Smart robots and AI-driven machinery are taking on tasks once carried out by humans — such as quality control, equipment monitoring and even basic assembly. Warehouses and fulfillment centers like those operated by Amazon now rely on automated systems not just to move goods, but to predict inventory levels, route shipments more efficiently and even communicate with customer service systems. These developments do not simply reduce the number of people needed; they also reduce the need for human decision-making in day-to-day operations. What is especially striking is that these technological advancements were not introduced gradually over a generation they have arrived and taken hold within just a few years. White-collar professions are undergoing their own revolution. Traditionally thought of as insulated from automation, jobs in finance, law, marketing and administration are now increasingly being augmented — or even replaced — by AI tools. Companies are using natural language processing models to write legal documents, analyze spreadsheets, draft marketing campaigns and even screen job candidates. For example, customer service centers have begun deploying conversational AI agents capable of resolving complex inquiries without any human intervention. AI is not merely a background support system anymore — it is becoming the face of many services. Large corporations like IBM and BT have announced the elimination of thousands of white-collar roles, explaining that AI systems can now perform certain functions faster, more accurately and at a lower cost than humans.

Yet the story is not solely about loss. New roles are emerging in the shadows of the old ones. The rise of AI has created an entirely new category of employment — roles that would have sounded strange just a few years ago. Jobs such as AI prompt engineers, data annotation specialists, algorithmic auditors and machine learning operations managers are now being listed alongside traditional career paths. Major institutions like the US army and Carnegie Mellon University have launched programs to train "AI technicians" — a sign that the need for skilled personnel to manage, interpret and maintain AI systems is already pressing. This is a fundamental shift. Whereas previous waves of automation might have displaced workers and then paused, AI is creating a cycle of destruction and regeneration that isstill accelerating. The broader implications for the global workforce are profound. As AI continues to mature, it is expected to impact nearly every economic sector — altering not just which jobs are available, but also what those jobs demand in terms of skill, knowledge and mindset. A growing body of research suggests that AI's reach will be both wide and deep. In fields like finance, healthcare, legal services, transport, education and manufacturing, AI is already altering employment patterns. Companies are rethinking job descriptions, team structures and even organizational hierarchies. Where once a financial analyst might have spent hours poring over spreadsheets to detect market patterns, AI models can now generate predictive analytics in seconds — leaving the analyst to focus on interpreting results and providing strategic recommendations.

Crypto Terror Funding Raises Security Concerns

The J&K Police's State Investigation Agency on July 11, 2025 raided three places in connection with a terror funding case involving the use of cryptocurrency. These searches were aimed at collecting critical evidence involving cross-border funding through cryptocurrency for fuelling terrorism in J&K. They recovered vital electronic devices, marking a breakthrough in exposing the clandestine financial networks that keep the pot of terrorism boiling.

Documented origins of terrorists using cryptocurrency date back to 2019 when Hamas engaged in a cryptocurrency donation campaign that led to the US seizing several websites and 150 cryptocurrency accounts linked to its armed wing. In India, this is, perhaps, the first reported incident of cryptocurrency being used to fund terrorist activities distinct from money-laundering. Money-laundering is largely a legitimisation-oriented process for dirty money while terrorist financing does not emphasise legitimisation. However, both aim to erase money trails. This has to be viewed in the background of Pakistan, a country suspicious of digital currencies till a few months back unveiling hasty efforts in embracing crypto. It created the Pakistan Crypto Council in March 2025, appointing a Canadian-Chinese businessman, Changpeng Zhao, founder of Binance, world's largest crypto exchange, as its adviser and signing an agreement with World Liberty Financial, a crypto company linked to the US President's family. While the official reason advanced for the change of heart was attracting investments, strategic angle to curry favour with the US President is apparent.

What India needs to be worried about is the anonymity that digital currencies and blockchain technology provide to Pakistan. Sponsoring terrorism is an expensive affair and its funding comes through both legal and illegal channels. Accordingly, a vital prong of a counter-terrorism strategy is launching a financial war to choke the flow of funds to terrorists. Combating the financing of terrorism has a long gestation period and does not show immediate results. Presently, the resources being devoted towards this are inadequate, with the establishment preferring to focus on visible security measures and offensive actions to eliminate terrorists and their sanctuaries. It stems from the fact that protective measures are reassuring for the public and thus politically expedient.

Terrorist financing consists of two activities – money generation and its distribution to the terrorists. Till now, the main sources of funding for terrorist and insurgent groups in India have been clandestine contributions from the ISI of Pakistan, contributions from religious, fundamentalist and pan-Islamic terrorist organisations in Pakistan, donations from ostensibly charitable organisations from Islamic countries, contributions from transnational criminal groups, such as the mafia group led by Dawood Ibrahim, narcotics smuggling, fake Indian currency notes (FICN), diverting overseas donations to non-profit organisations and contributions by Indian diaspora.

The distribution of money or value to terrorists has been carried out largely through three channels the use of the financial system; physical movement of money such as through cash couriers; and the international trade system. Terrorists use both the organised financial sector and alternative remittance systems like hawala to move money.

It has been found that the movement and distribution of terrorist funds in India is mostly conducted through informal channels such as hawala, couriers and smuggling of FICN. Presently, terrorists do not rely much on the formal banking sector to generate or move their funds, however, a close watch needs to be maintained. The Pakistan High Commission has also been known to act as a conduit of funds to terrorist groups in Kashmir.

The Indian policy for CFT is grounded in anti-money-laundering laws and predates virtual assets and virtual asset service providers. Laws scattered over a number of Acts deal with various aspects of terrorist financing. The major ones include The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as amended, The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2003, Foreign Exchange Management Act. While the MHA is responsible for implementing the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act under which terrorist financing is an offence, economic offences are dealt with by the Finance Ministry.

The Central Bureau of Investigation also has responsibilities for economic offences, terrorism and FICN. The contemporary structures and procedures in place, including the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), are focused on large-scale financial fraud and cannot detect the money being canalised to terrorists. It is difficult for the agencies dealing with economic offences to distil terrorist financing cases from the reports they receive. The FIU received 1,81,27,460 cash and 3,68,592 suspicious transaction reports in 2023-2024 and disseminated 2,750 cases to intelligence and law enforcement agencies. However, its effect on CFT has been negligible.

Terrorist financing related information at present is not a priority for the central or state intelligence agencies and the police at the grassroots level. As a result, intelligence reporting on the issue lacks overall coordinated direction and is incident driven. Moreover, the responsibility for the problem is diffused, fragmented amongst a plethora of agencies, each working in watertight compartments, resulting in lack of accountability.

Law enforcement and intelligence agencies need to assign additional resources for gathering critical information related to terrorist financing, conduct proactive investigations and follow leads provided by financial oversight agencies. A comprehensive law to combat terrorism, with explicit provisions to counter terrorist financing, will also be indicative of the declared intent of the nation to effectively deal with the menace of terrorism.

While terrorist funding is a global problem, free market economy and new user friendly technologies accentuate the problems in tracking the flow of money. Moreover, free market principles are often not compatible with the regulatory mechanisms that are intended to protect them from terrorist abuse.

We need to identify the risks of emerging technologies like generative artificial intelligence, blockchain on financing of terrorism. Terrorists are further going to exploit information technology to maximise the effectiveness of their operations. They are already using cellular / satellite phones, internet, email and chat rooms. International financial movements are facilitated by IT. E-commerce and internet financial services add a further dimension of risk and open up additional mechanisms for fraud, money-laundering and tax evasion. E-money and internet banking reduce face-to-face contact and the ability of the financial institutions to verify the identity of the customer. India needs to adapt to the growing nexus between crypto and terror financing to make its security frameworks more agile and responsive.

The growing use of cryptocurrency by terrorist networks has emerged as a serious national security concern, prompting Indian agencies to strengthen surveillance over digital financial transactions. Experts warn that virtual assets and blockchain technology are increasingly being exploited to conceal cross-border terror funding.

A major breakthrough came on July 11, 2025, when the Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) raided three locations in connection with a terror funding case involving cryptocurrency. The searches led to the seizure of crucial electronic devices and uncovered evidence of cross-border digital transactions allegedly used to finance terrorist activities in the Union Territory. Security analysts note that this marks one of the first reported instances in India where cryptocurrency has been directly linked to terror financing rather than conventional money laundering. Unlike money laundering, which seeks to legitimize illicit funds, terror financing primarily focuses on secretly transferring money to support extremist operations. The development comes amid Pakistan's recent push towards embracing cryptocurrency despite its earlier reservations. The establishment of the Pakistan Crypto Council and its engagement with global cryptocurrency firms have drawn attention from strategic observers, who believe digital assets could potentially be misused to obscure financial trails linked to extremist networks.

Officials say India has strengthened its legal framework through laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). However, experts argue that existing systems were designed before the rise of virtual assets and require significant upgrades to effectively monitor blockchain-based transactions. Experts have called for closer coordination among intelligence agencies, financial regulators and law enforcement authorities, along with greater investment in cyber capabilities to counter emerging threats. They stress that adapting to evolving technologies will be crucial to preventing terrorist organisations from exploiting cryptocurrencies and other digital financial platforms.

Over 1.53 lakh offers made by big firms to youth under PM Internship Scheme: FM

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS): Over 1.53 lakh offers have been made by the top companies in the country to youth during the first two rounds of the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) that was launched in October 2024, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, informed the Lok Sabha.

The minister said in a written reply that in round one of the PM Internship Scheme Pilot Project, the partner companies posted more than 1.27 lakh internship opportunities on the PMIS Portal across the country.

Against this, more than 6.21 lakh applications were received from about 1.81 lakh candidates. Partner companies made over 82,000 internship offers to over 60,000 candidates, out of which more than 28,000 candidates accepted offers to join the internship, and over 8,700 candidates joined their internship.

She further stated that in round two of the PM Internship Scheme Pilot Project, which commenced on January 9, 2025, about 327 partner companies have posted over 1.18 lakh internship opportunities (new and edited unfilled opportunities of previous round) across 735 districts of the country. Over 4.55 lakh applications were received from over 2.14 lakh applicants, in this round. As on July 17, 2025, partner companies have made over 71,000 offers to youth and over 22,500 offers have been accepted.

"Currently, rolling out of offers and the process of acceptances/ joining by interns is in progress," Sitharaman added. The PM internship scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25. It aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in top 500 companies in five years.

As an initiation to this scheme, Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched a Pilot Project of the scheme on October 3, 2024, which is targeted to provide 1.25 lakh internship opportunities to the youth in one year.

Youth between the age group of 21-24 years, who have passed High School, Higher Secondary School, possess a certificate from an ITI, hold a diploma from a Polytechnic Institute, or are graduates with degrees such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, B. Pharma, etc. and are not employed full-time and not engaged in full-time education are eligible to apply.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is actively working with various stakeholders such as state governments, industry associations, educational institutions etc. for promotion and implementation of the scheme, Sitharaman said.

The ministry is also carrying out information, education and communication activities to reach out to the target groups across the country, she added.

Microsoft issues urgent security patch after 'active attacks' on document-sharing software

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS): Tech giant Microsoft has issued urgent security patch after observing "active attacks" on server software used by government agencies and businesses to share documents within organisations. According to Microsoft, the vulnerabilities apply only to SharePoint servers used within organisations. SharePoint Online in Microsoft 365, which is in the cloud, was not hit by the attacks, the organisation informed.

"Microsoft is aware of active attacks targeting on-premises SharePoint Server customers by exploiting vulnerabilities partially addressed by the July Security Update," said the tech giant in ints security advisory. The company recommended security updates that customers should apply immediately.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also said it is aware of the attacks and is working closely with its federal and private-sector partners. The vulnerability is related to a case of remote code execution that arises due to the deserialization of untrusted data in on-premise versions of Microsoft SharePoint Server.

Microsoft said the current published content is correct and that the previous inconsistency does not impact the company's guidance for customers.

"After applying the latest security updates above or enabling AMSI, it is critical that customers rotate SharePoint server ASP.NET machine keys and restart IIS on all SharePoint servers," Microsoft said. "If you cannot enable AMSI, you will need to rotate your keys after you install the new security update," its added.

The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has added 'CVE-2025-53770' vulnerability to its Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (KEV) catalog, requiring Federal Civilian Executive Branch (FCEB) agencies to apply the fixes by July 21, 2025.

"Microsoft has released security updates that fully protect customers using SharePoint Subscription Edition and SharePoint 2019 against the risks posed by CVE-2025-53770, and CVE-2025-53771. Customers should apply these updates immediately to ensure they're protected," said the company in its security update.

India's GDP to grow at 6.5 pc this fiscal, inflation to soften at 4 pc on average: Crisil

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS): A Crisil report on Monday projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 6.5 per cent this fiscal (FY26), supported by improving domestic consumption, among other positive indicators.

The Crisil Intelligence's near-term outlook report suggested US tariff-related global uncertainty as the top risk to India's growth. "However, growth is expected to be supported by improving domestic consumption driven by an above-normal monsoon, income tax relief and the RBI MPC's rate cuts," the report mentioned.

GDP growth accelerated to 7.4 per cent on-year in the fourth quarter of last fiscal from 6.4 per cent in the previous quarter. Overall, GDP grew 6.5 per cent last fiscal (FY25).

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation slid to 2.1 per cent in June, the lowest in 77 months, as food inflation turned negative.

"Based on the inflation trajectory, prediction of an above-normal monsoon, and the expectation of soft global oil and commodity prices, we expect CPI inflation to soften to 4 per cent on average this fiscal from 4.6 per cent last fiscal," the report mentioned.

The report expects one more RBI repo rate cut this fiscal, and a pause thereafter. "The MPC cut the rate by 100 bps between February and June 2025. Its change in stance from accommodative to neutral in June highlights the front-loading of rate cuts and the data-dependent approach hereon The 100 bps CRR cut will be implemented in four tranches between September and November 2025," it mentioned.

On fiscal health, the Union Budget has targeted a reduction in the central government's fiscal deficit to 4.4 per cent of GDP this fiscal from 4.8 per cent last fiscal. "Gross market borrowing is estimated at Rs 14.8 lakh crore for this fiscal, 5.8 per cent higher on-year. The government plans to carry out 54 per cent of the budgeted borrowing in the first half of the fiscal," said the report.

Mahindra Logistics' Q1 loss widens to Rs 9.44 crore

Mumbai, July 19 (GNS): Mahindra Logistics on Monday reported a wider net loss of Rs 9.44 crore on sequential basis in the first quarter (Q1) of FY26, compared to a loss of Rs 5.29 crore in the previous quarter (Q4 FY25).

However, the Mumbai-based company's revenue from operations rose to Rs 1,624.59 crore in Q1, up 3.54 per cent from Rs 1,569.51 crore in the previous quarter, according to its stock exchange filing. Its total income also saw a growth of 3.69 per cent on quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis, reaching Rs 1,629.66 crore compared to Rs 1,571.68 crore in Q4 FY25. However, total expenses during the quarter grew at a faster pace -- rising by 4.12 per cent to Rs 1,635.44 crore from Rs 1,570.75 crore in the previous quarter, the company stated in its regulatory filing.

The increase in expenses was mainly due to higher operating costs and employee benefits. Operating expenses stood at Rs 1,407.4 crore, employee costs were Rs 104.48 crore, while finance cost and depreciation amounted to Rs 22.53 crore and Rs 64.57 crore respectively. Other expenses came in at Rs 36.46 crore.

Mahindra Logistics Limited (MLL) is one of India's third-party logistics (3PL) companies. It is part of the Mahindra Group, operating under Mahindra Partners, the group's private equity arm. It provides supply chain and enterprise mobility solutions to over 400 corporate clients across sectors such as automotive, engineering, consumer goods, and e-commerce. The company follows an 'asset-light' model, focusing on customised and technology-driven logistics solutions rather than owning a large fleet. It also offers employee transportation services under brands like Alyte and Meru, and has a freight forwarding division that manages air, ocean, and project cargo logistics.

India's listed startups raise over $5 billion from public markets in FY25

Mumbai, July 19 (GNS): RBL Bank on Saturday posted a net profit of Rs 200 crore for the first quarter of current financial year (Q1 FY26), down 46 per cent year-on-year (YoY), the private sector lender said in an exchange filing. The bank had posted Rs 371.5 crore profit in corresponding quarter a year ago (Q1 FY25). However, the private bank saw a strong rebound sequentially from the Rs 69 crore reported in Q4 FY25.

Meanwhile, the bank's total standalone income stood at Rs 4,510 crore, marginally higher than Rs 4,475.6 crore recorded in Q4 FY25. At the same time, interest income remained steady at Rs 3,441 crore, while non-interest income that includes fees, commissions, forex earnings, and investment gains rose to Rs 1,069 crore from Rs 1,000 crore in the preceding quarter. Operating profit before provisions came in at Rs 702.9 crore, down from Rs 861 crore in Q4 FY25 and Rs 859 crore in Q1 FY25, indicating pressure on core operating performance.

On the asset quality front, gross non-performing assets (GNPA) rose slightly to Rs 2,685.9 crore. Despite the increase in absolute terms, the GNPA ratio improved to 2.78 per cent from 2.60 per cent in Q4 FY25. Net NPAs increased to Rs 428.6 crore, with the net NPA ratio rising to 0.45 per cent from 0.29 per cent in the previous quarter, as per the filing.

"We have navigated a challenging environment with resilience and discipline, delivering strong momentum in secured retail and commercial banking while deepening our granular deposit base, said R Subramaniakumar, MD and CEO, RBL Bank.

During Q1 FY26, slippages in the JLG portfolio have moderated, with SMA levels reverting to Q1 FY25 level. The core engine remains robust—anchored in disciplined execution, profitability-driven growth, and a sharp customer focus, the CEO added. Meanwhile, the shares of the bank fell nearly 2 per cent on Friday amid selling pressure, a day ahead of Q1 results. The stock closed at 266.14, down 1.95 per cent.

India houses nearly 53 pc of world's global capability centres

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS): India houses nearly 1,700 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) spread across tier 1 and 2 cities, accounting for around 53 per cent of the total number of GCCs worldwide, a report said. Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Pune account for 94 per cent of the total number of GCCs in India, said Vestian Research, an occupier-focused global workplace solutions provider, in its report.

The rest 6 per cent GCCs are spread across Kolkata, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Nashik, Trivandrum, Jodhpur, Warangal, Baroda, Visakhapatnam, Bhogapuram, Jaipur, Surat, Mohali, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Mysuru, Madurai and Bhopal. According to Vestian Research, the total number of GCCs in India is projected to exceed 2,100 by FY28, growing at a CAGR of 8 per cent. On average, approximately 150 new centres are expected to be established annually. The IT sector leads the landscape in India, accounting for approximately 49 per cent of the total number of GCCs nationwide, followed by the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) sector, which holds a 17 per cent share.

Collectively, the Healthcare and Lifesciences, Engineering and Manufacturing, Consulting Services, and Telecom and Media sectors contribute around 19 per cent to the overall number of GCCs in India, the report highlighted. "India's leading office markets continue to offer a compelling value proposition to GCCs, characterised by competitive costs, a highly skilled workforce, robust infrastructure, progressive policy incentives, and a conducive business environment," said Shrinivas Rao, CEO, Vestian.

However, selecting the right location remains critical to the long-term success of any GCC, he added.

Bengaluru has the highest number of GCCs (487) spread across various industries, accounting for 29 per cent of the total number of GCCs in the country.

With the presence of 273 GCCs Hyderabad has emerged as the fastest-growing GCC hub in the country. While the NCR region houses 272 GCCs, Mumbai has 207 GCCs, and Pune accounts for 178 GCCs , as per report. GCCs have evolved significantly since their emergence in the 1990s, as companies began leveraging offshore locations for cost-efficient operations and a skilled workforce. From initial focus on IT support and back-office services, GCCs have now become hubs for innovation, research, and development, and their number reached approximately 3,200 centres around the world, according to the report.

Zomato's parent firm Eternal clocks huge 90 pc drop in Q1 net profit, revenue up

New Delhi, July 19 (GNS): Eternal, the parent company of online food delivery platform Zomato, on Monday reported a massive 90 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 25 crore in Q1 FY26, compared to Rs 253 crore in the same quarter last fiscal (Q1 FY25).

On the sequential basis (month-on-month), Zomato clocked 35.89 per cent drop in net profit, from Rs 39 crore in the Q4 FY25, according to its stock exchange filing. The Zomato and Blinkit operator registered revenue from operations at Rs 7,167 crore, up around 70 per cent from Rs 4,206 crore a year ago.

On the profitability front, consolidated Adjusted EBITDA declined 42 per cent on-year to Rs 172 crore in Q1 FY26, "largely on account of the continuing investments in quick commerce and going-out", the company said in its shareholders' letter. It was "partly offset by the improvement in food delivery Adjusted EBITDA margin (as a percentage of NOV) to 5.0 per cent from 3.9 per cent a year ago, said Eternal.

In its quick commerce business Blinkit, the margins improved from -2.4 per cent of net order value (NOV) in Q4 FY25 to -1.8 per cent despite continued investments in new store roll-outs and seasonal factors. "We added 243 net new (Blinkit) stores this quarter, taking our store count to 1,544 stores by the end of the quarter. We are on track to get to 2,000 stores by Dec 2025," said the company.

The NOV of its B2C businesses grew 55 per cent YoY (16 per cent QoQ) to Rs 20,183 crore in Q1 FY26.

"This was the first quarter where our quick commerce NOV exceeded food delivery NOV for the full quarter. On an annualised basis, we are now at almost $10 billion of annual NOV across our B2C businesses and quick commerce is now our largest B2C business contributing to almost half of this annualised NOV," said Eternal ternal CEO Deepinder Goyal said that "the YoY growth is likely to bottom out now as we recover from the demand slowdown we started seeing in late 2024".

"For FY26, it looks unlikely that the business will deliver a 20 per cent+ NOV growth but we should be north of 15 per cent and hopefully trending towards 20 per cent YoY growth in FY27," said Goyal.

Going forward, the company will only be disclosing NOV (and will discontinue disclosing GOV), as "we believe that NOV is a better measure of growth in our B2C businesses including food delivery". Earlier this month, Eternal appointed Aditya Mangla as CEO of its food ordering and delivery business for a period of two years. "I am super excited to see how Aditya shapes the future of Zomato over the next two years, until it is time to hand over the baton to someone else," said Goyal in the shareholders' letter.

Telangana to nominate transgender persons as local body co-opted members

Hyderabad, July 19 (GNS): Describing the State Cabinet's decision as a landmark step towards inclusive governance, Telangana Minister for Scheduled Castes Development, Tribal Welfare, Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Transgender Persons, Shri Adluri Laxman Kumar, said the Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy, has moved beyond conventional welfare measures by creating avenues for the political empowerment of the transgender community.

He said the Cabinet's approval to facilitate the nomination of transgender persons as co-opted members in local bodies reflects the Government's commitment to social justice, constitutional values and participatory democracy.

"Humanity is not reflected merely in words but in the opportunities we create. By enabling transgender persons to participate in local governance, the Government has taken a historic step towards ensuring dignity, recognition and leadership for a long-marginalised community," the Minister said. On Saturday, nearly 25 members of the transgender community from across Telangana, including trans women rights activists, trans men rights activists, Hijra community gurus and representatives of various transgender organisations, called on the Minister at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State

Secretariat to express their gratitude for the Cabinet's historic decision.

The delegation conveyed its sincere appreciation to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy for initiating what they described as a transformative measure for the community. As a mark of respect and gratitude, the members felicitated Shri Adluri Laxman Kumar with a ceremonial shawl and thanked him for his sustained efforts towards advancing the rights and welfare of transgender persons. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the Government was committed to integrating transgender persons into the mainstream of governance rather than limiting its support to welfare schemes alone.

He observed that providing opportunities for transgender persons to serve as co-opted members in local self-government institutions would enable them to actively participate in decision-making processes and ensure that their voices are represented in the development of villages, mandals and urban local bodies.

Shri Adluri Laxman Kumar further stated that, under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy, the Government has been implementing several innovative initiatives aimed at the socio-economic empowerment of transgender persons. These include skill development programmes in driving, professional cooking and drone operations, besides facilitating employment opportunities at Hyderabad Metro stations. The Government has also created dignified livelihood opportunities by engaging transgender persons in traffic management and regulation, thereby promoting both financial independence and social inclusion. The Minister said that the Cabinet's decision to facilitate their inclusion in local governance marks the beginning of a new era of political empowerment, making Telangana one of the pioneering States in the country to institutionalise such representation. Representatives of the transgender community said the decision had instilled a renewed sense of confidence and belonging among them.

Osmania University Stresses Ethical AI at National Seminar

Falaknuma News Correspondent

Hyderabad, July 19: Reiterating that Artificial Intelligence should serve humanity with responsibility rather than merely accelerate technological progress, the Minorities Cell of Osmania University organized a National Seminar on "The Holistic Self in an Era of AI: Exploration of Human Values, Ethics and Future Skills" to commemorate World Youth Skills Day. The seminar witnessed the participation of distinguished academicians, researchers, corporate experts, students and representatives from various educational institutions, who explored the intersection of technology, ethics and human development.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, said the present generation of students is entering an era where Artificial Intelligence and next-generation technologies will redefine education, healthcare, governance, research and employment. He stressed that acquiring AI-related skills has become indispensable for young professionals aspiring to succeed in the global knowledge economy.

The Vice-Chancellor observed that technological excellence alone cannot ensure sustainable progress unless it is supported by compassion, ethics and a commitment to social welfare. Referring to the growing global population of nearly 830 crore, he pointed out that millions of people still remain deprived of quality education, healthcare and essential public services. He urged young innovators to develop AI-driven solutions capable of addressing real-life societal challenges and ensuring that the benefits of technology extend to marginalized and underserved communities.

Delivering the keynote address, Maulana Syed Bilal Abdul Hai Hasani Nadwi, Chancellor of Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, and General Secretary of the All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF), emphasized that humanity's greatest strength lies not in technological capability alone but in moral character and compassion. He said the principles of peace, justice, tolerance, empathy and selfless service remain timeless and should continue to guide every scientific and technological advancement. He appealed to students to use their knowledge for the welfare of society and contribute towards building a world founded on harmony, dignity and mutual respect.

Speaking on "AI and Future Skills," Prof. C. S. Mujeebuddin, Founder and CEO of ClinoSol Research Pvt. Ltd., explained that future careers would increasingly depend upon AI literacy, innovation, analytical thinking, creativity and adaptability. He encouraged students to embrace continuous learning and multidisciplinary knowledge to remain competitive in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

Mayor Uma Rani Participates in Bonalu Celebrations

Prays for Peace, Good Health and Prosperity of Telangana

Falaknuma News Correspondent M.A.Samad

Nizamabad July 19: On the auspicious occasion of the Ashada Masam Bonalu festival, Nizamabad Mayor Mrs. Kuragayala Uma Rani visited the revered Sri Renuka Ellamma Temple and Sri Kota Maisamma Temple in the city, where she offered special prayers and sought the divine blessings of the presiding deities.

The Mayor prayed for the peace, prosperity, happiness and good health of all the people of Telangana. She also offered prayers for the continued progress and all-round development of the state, expressing hope that Telangana would continue to achieve greater heights in every sphere under the blessings of the Goddess.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Uma Rani said that Bonalu is one of Telangana's most cherished traditional festivals, symbolizing the state's rich cultural heritage, unwavering faith and vibrant spiritual traditions. She noted that the festival reflects the devotion of the people and strengthens the spirit of unity and harmony among communities.

She expressed her heartfelt wish that the divine grace of Goddess Renuka Ellamma and Goddess Maisamma should remain upon every family, bringing peace, prosperity, happiness and abundant well-being to all. She further prayed that the blessings of the Goddess would protect the people from all adversities and usher in an era of progress, harmony and collective prosperity across Telangana.

Pre-planning to face the impact of El Nino and protect crops

Hyderabad, July 19 (GNS): Dr. P. Archana, Scientist & Coordinator, advised farmers to be vigilant and plan agriculture according to weather conditions in the wake of less than normal rainfall due to El Nino effect in the district.

Farmers are advised to take precautions as the effect of El Nino may delay the arrival of monsoon, reduce rainfall and record high temperatures. He said that cotton is currently cultivated on about 1,07,082 acres, seed cotton on 24,840 acres, paddy rice on 965 acres, sorghum on 9,066 acres, and maize on 1,000 acres in the district. In the wake of 51 percent less rainfall than usual, farmers are advised to be more vigilant. If the rains are delayed, cotton, sorghum, millet, millet, sorghum, sorghum, sorghum, sunflower, castor oil, maize, and vegetables that ripen in a short period should be cultivated between July 16-31, and sorghum, sorghum, sorghum, sorghum, Castor oil, sunflower, vegetables, sesame should be cultivated between August 16-31. Seeds should be sown only after abundant rains and fertilizers should be applied only when there is sufficient moisture in the soil. Farmers should be advised to use water sparingly using micro-irrigation methods like drip irrigation, sprinklers and drip irrigation wherever necessary.

Urban MLA Dhanpal Participates in Bonalu Festivities

Extols Telangana's Tradition and Spiritual Heritage

Falaknuma News Correspondent M.A.Samad

Nizamabad July 19: Describing Bonalu as a vibrant symbol of Telangana's rich culture and age-old traditions, Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta participated in the Bonalu celebrations organized at the historic Katta Maisamma Temple in Kotagally and by the Namdevwada Goud Sangam in the city on Sunday.

Addressing devotees on the occasion, the MLA said that the sacred month of Ashada holds immense spiritual significance in Telangana. Bonalu, he noted, is a festival dedicated to offering prayers to village deities, seeking timely rainfall, agricultural prosperity, the well-being of livestock, and the overall welfare of society.

He remarked that Bonalu is much more than a festival—it is a living tradition that preserves the customs, beliefs, and devotion of the people towards their Gramadevatas (village deities), passing these cherished values from one generation to another. Explaining the significance of the ritual, Mr. Gupta said that "Bonam" is the sacred food offering made to the Goddess. Women prepare rice cooked with milk and jaggery, place it in a new earthen pot, decorate it with neem leaves, turmeric, and vermilion, and carry it on their heads in a devotional procession before offering it to the deity.

The MLA highlighted that traditional attractions such as the energetic dances of Pothuraju, the colorful Ghatam processions, and the ceremonial Rangam add grandeur and spiritual fervour to the celebrations, making Bonalu one of Telangana's most distinctive cultural festivals.

He prayed for the divine blessings of Goddess Maisamma upon every family, wishing all the people good health, happiness, prosperity, and peace.

Rotary Club of Nizamabad Plants Seeds of a Greener Future on District Environment Day

Massive Tree Plantation Drive Highlights Rotary's Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Community Participation

Falaknuma News Correspondent M.A.Samad

Nizamabad July 19: In a meaningful initiative to promote environmental awareness and sustainable living, the Rotary Club of Nizamabad, R.I. District 3150, commemorated District Environment Day by conducting a large-scale "Tree Plantation Drive – For a Greener Tomorrow" at the NRST campus on Nyalkal Road on Sunday. The programme brought together Rotary leaders, social workers and community members, who joined hands to strengthen the city's green cover and spread the message of environmental responsibility. The plantation drive was inaugurated by Rtn. PP. Akula Ashok, Chairman of NRST,

who stressed that protecting nature has become a shared responsibility in view of climate change, increasing pollution and rapid urban expansion. He observed that planting and nurturing trees is one of the most effective ways to safeguard the environment and improve the quality of life for future generations. Commending the Rotary Club for its continued commitment to community service, he said voluntary organizations play a significant role in inspiring public participation in environmental conservation. He appealed to citizens, students and youth to actively contribute towards preserving ecological balance through regular plantation activities. During the programme, more than 60 saplings comprising fruit-bearing, ornamental and medicinal species were planted across the Rotary Community Centre premises. Participants pledged not only to plant trees but also to ensure their proper care and survival, emphasizing that sustained maintenance is essential for achieving long-term environmental benefits. Speaking on the occasion, Rotary Club President Rtn. CA. Srikanth Jawahar reaffirmed the club's dedication to serving society through impactful and sustainable initiatives. He said environmental protection would continue to remain one of Rotary's priority areas, with several green campaigns and public awareness programmes planned in the coming months. The event was attended by Secretary Rtn. Dr. Ankit Agarwal, Treasurer Rtn. Pawan Pandey, Community Service Director Rtn. PP. B. Vijaya Rao, Past Presidents Katakam Srinivas, Ingu Rajeshwar, guests and well-wishers.

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