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A tougher law against paper leaks deserves debate

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): The introduction of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha marks the Narendra Modi government's strongest legislative response yet to the challenge of examination paper leaks. Coming in the wake of the NEET-UG 2026 controversy, the proposed amendments reflect the Centre's determination to restore public confidence through tougher laws, faster investigations and time-bound justice.

Analysts say that the introduction of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 should have marked a rare moment of consensus in Parliament. At a time when millions of students and their families are demanding stronger safeguards against paper leaks and examination fraud, the Modi government has responded with one of the toughest legal frameworks ever proposed to protect the integrity of public examinations, they remark.

Instead of engaging with the substance of these reforms, however,

Not opposition's politics of obstruction



the Opposition "chose disruption over deliberation", stalling debate on legislation aimed at dismantling organised examination mafias. Preventing Parliament from discussing measures that promise swifter investigations, harsher punishments and time-bound trials ultimately does little to serve the interests of India's aspirants, say analysts. "On an issue that transcends partisan politics, the nation deserves constructive debate—not parliamentary obstruction," they opine. Recognising that the scale and sophistication of organised examination fraud demand stronger deterrence, the government has proposed a significant overhaul of the existing legal framework.

In fact, the Bill increases the minimum punishment for major offences from three to five years' imprisonment. Significantly, it proposes to double the maximum sentence to 10 years. Moreover, fines have also been substantially enhanced.

Organised paper leak rackets face penalties of up to Rs 5 crore, while certain offences will attract fines of as much as Rs 10 crore. The bill, through these proposals, sends out a clear message that the government intends to dismantle criminal networks that are operational to kill the future of millions of students. The Bill also focuses on ensuring swift justice. Investigating agencies will be required to complete probes within two months.

SC: Peaceful protest is a constitutional Rrght

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Monday observed that the right to hold peaceful protests is protected under the Constitution and that police excesses during demonstrations cannot be justified merely because an agitation is underway. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joyimalya Bagchi and V Mohana made the oral observations while hearing a batch of petitions seeking nationwide guidelines to regulate peaceful protests in the wake of police action against protesters at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and in Bihar.

The Chief Justice said the constitutional right to peaceful protest could not be denied and emphasised that an agitation, by itself, could not become a reason for the use of excessive force by the



police. He said that democratic protests also required self-discipline and observed that every protest should not end in a lathicharge. The Bench also underlined that the lives of all individuals, including police personnel, were equally valuable. Justice Bagchi remarked that the safety of every person, irrespective of who they were, must be protected.

Appearing for one of the petitioners, advocate Fauzia Shakil alleged that security

forces had used AK-47 rifles during the Bihar bandh in Siwan. Senior advocate Vikas Singh also referred to alleged police action against students in Bihar and urged the court to frame uniform guidelines applicable across the country.

Another counsel highlighted injuries suffered by police personnel during protests and urged the court to consider their concerns as well. Responding to the submissions, the Chief Justice said there should be a uniform protocol governing protests across the country, including designated spaces where demonstrations could be held without unnecessary restrictions. At the same time, he observed that anti-social elements could be dealt with separately through appropriate measures.

Cockroach Janta Party warns of fresh protest if FIRs against students are not withdrawn

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): The Cockroach Janata Party on Monday announced a fresh round of protests if the government fails to keep its promise of withdrawal of FIRs against the student protesters and organisers.

"Since the day we called off the protest, we have been pressing the government for the withdrawal of FIRs against the protesters and organisers. Union minister JP Nadda assured us that a written agreement in this regard would be provided to us by Tuesday. If it does not reach us, we will be forced to revolt again," Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka said at a press conference here.

"We are even ready to move court if the FIRs are not withdrawn," he added.

The CJP also launched 'Saakshi' portal to gather



evidence of "police brutalities" against the students during the NEET paper leak protests on July 20. It said it was making a database of lawyers willing to help the students booked for the protests across the country. CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das said the outfit has launched www.cockroachjantaparty.org/saakshi to gather evidence against the brutal lathicharge on the students by the Delhi Police on July 20.

"As we promised during the protest, we will identify

every uniformed man, be it the Delhi Police or RAF (Rapid Action Force), who tortured the protestors. The Saakshi portal is the first step in this direction. Anyone with videos or photographs of the brutality of that day can upload the same on the platform to help us bring these personnel to book," he said.

"We are also creating a database of lawyers who are willing to help our students booked by the police in various states for participating in the protest.

India, Côte d'Ivoire air chiefs discuss defence ties India, côte d'Ivoire air

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): India and Cote d'Ivoire on Monday held discussions on strengthening defence cooperation, military-to-military engagement and issues of mutual interest.

The discussions were held during a meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, and the Chief of Air Staff of the Cote d'Ivoire Air Force, Major General Koffi N'Guessan who was presented a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Air Headquarters in New Delhi ahead of the meeting.

"The visit featured discussions on issues of mutual interest and, avenues to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and enhance military-to-military engagement," the Indian Air Force (IAF) posted on X.

Earlier in the day, Major



General Koffi N'Guessan Alfred held a meeting with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, with discussions held on strengthening defence cooperation and enhancing the capabilities of the Ivory Coast Air Force. "Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh met Chief of Air Staff of the Cote d'Ivoire Air Force, Air Maj Gen Koffi N'Guessan

Alfred, in New Delhi on July 27, 2026. The two sides discussed ongoing and potential avenues for defence cooperation and exchanged views on strengthening collaboration to enhance the capabilities of the Ivory Coast Air Force, reaffirming the shared commitment to deepening bilateral defence ties," the Ministry of Defence posted on X.

Azam Khan's Jauhar University Demolition Stayed

Moradabad, July 27 (GNS) In a big relief to Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, founded by Samajwadi Party leader and former MP Azam Khan, the Uttar Pradesh government's Divisional Commissioner has stayed, for now, the demolition order issued against 38 campus buildings by the District Magistrate of Rampur, an official said on Monday. The Divisional Commissioner has directed the Rampur district administration to maintain status quo till the next hearing, thus putting the brakes on bulldozers heading towards the campus.

The controversy over Jauhar University erupted after the Rampur Development Authority (RDA) flagged multiple violations inside the varsity, claiming that 38 out of 40 buildings were made without necessary approvals. The RDA had also

asked the University to remove them on its own within a time frame, failing which the district administration will step in to raze them. Earlier last week, a group of SP leaders and workers hit the streets in Ayodhya in protest against the Rampur Development Authority's order to demolish 38 out of 40 campus buildings, allegedly built without approved sanctioned plans.

They submitted a memorandum, addressed to the President of India, to the city's District Magistrate and demanded a halt to the proposed flattening of the varsity buildings. In the memorandum, the SP workers have sought his intervention against the proposed action against Jauhar University and insisted that all parties be given an opportunity to present their case in accordance with legal procedures.

India and China discuss ways to enhance bilateral exchanges at political, people-to-people levels

Beijing, July 27 (GNS): Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges between India and China at the political and people-to-people levels during his meeting with Hong Liang, the Deputy Secretary General of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), in Beijing on Monday.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met with H.E. Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). They discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges at the political and people-to-people levels," the Indian Embassy in Beijing wrote on X. Secretary Misri started his official visit to China on Monday with a meeting with Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.



na. "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri commenced his official visit to China today with a meeting with H.E. Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. They discussed ways to deepen implementation of the guidance of the leaders for bilateral relations, including addressing issues of priority to both sides and by promoting political, people-to-people,

academic and think-tank exchanges," the Indian Embassy noted.

India's Ambassador to China, Vikram Doraiswami, was also present during the meeting. Last week, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar said that the ties between India and China have been gradually normalising since the 2024 meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan.

Assam flood due to 500 PC excessive rain, says BJP MLA

Guwahati, July 27 (GNS): Assam BJP legislator, Manab Deka, on Monday said the devastating floods that affected several parts of Assam recently were triggered by high rainfall rather than the usual riverine flooding, while extending support to the Centre's initiatives aimed at reforming the country's examination system and strengthening laws against unfair practices.

Speaking to reporters here, Deka said the recent floods were unlike previous monsoon disasters as they struck areas that have historically remained outside the flood-prone zone.

According to him, some parts of the state recorded

rainfall between 400 and 500 per cent above the normal average, leading to widespread inundation in elevated areas that are generally considered safe from floods.

"The affected areas are traditionally regarded as flood-safe because they are located on higher ground. However, this time the rainfall was unprecedented, reaching nearly 400 to 500 per cent above normal levels, which resulted in extensive flooding," the BJP MLA claimed.

"The disaster claimed several lives and caused significant damage to property, which is deeply unfortunate," he added.

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Middle East model for land restoration



Nizar Haddad

At a time when political instability dominates the Middle East and North Africa region, climate change, floods and fires tend to get less attention than usual. And the problems of desertification and droughts become almost forgotten. But this neglect is not only unjustified, it is dangerous. While desertification and droughts are slow-moving and less dramatic than wars, floods and fires, they are just as devastating. Just ask the more than 500 million people living in the MENA region who must cope with them each day.

Whereas healthy land produces food, retains water, absorbs carbon and supports livelihoods, degraded land does not. And from the Atlas Mountains to the Tigris-Euphrates river valley, the MENA region features some of the driest — and most rapidly degrad-

ing — landscapes on Earth. With temperatures in the region rising nearly twice as fast as the global average, water scarcity, extreme heat waves and desertification are increasingly shaping everyday life. Add to that some of the world's fastest-growing populations and the risks to food security, economic stability and social cohesion will only grow.

MENA's experiences are an ominous portent of what awaits other regions, which will soon find themselves facing many of the same challenges. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the frequency and duration of droughts have increased globally by nearly 30 percent since 2000. More than 3.2 billion people worldwide are now affected by land degradation, with 12 million hectares of arable land lost each year.

But the MENA region also offers reason for hope.

For example, Saudi Arabia — for which I am the FAO's program director — has been investing heavily in mitigating and, where possible, reversing the effects of climate change, including through land rehabilitation, rangeland restoration, reforestation and climate adaptation.

The Kingdom's ambition is exemplified by the Saudi Green Initiative, which includes pledges to plant 10 billion trees and rehabilitate 40 million hectares of degraded land.

Innovation is central to this effort. One novel land restoration technique, developed through a collaboration between Saudi technical institutions and the FAO, uses dry palm leaves to stabilize sand dunes in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province. This organic material, which was historically considered waste, protects topsoil from wind erosion and slows the rate at which

water evaporates, thereby ensuring enough moisture for dormant native seeds to germinate.

The FAO is also working with Saudi Arabia to implement science-based land monitoring systems, scale up sustainable land management techniques and train national experts in climate-smart practices. More than 40 professionals have been trained across key regions, including Jouf, Riyadh and the Eastern Province. While solutions are always adapted to the local ecosystem, they are designed with scalability in mind. But climate change is not bound by national borders. That is why Saudi Arabia created the Middle East Green Initiative, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation. At the global level, the Kingdom is spearheading the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, aimed at helping the most vulnerable coun-

tries cope with drought.

Since the initiative's announcement at the 2024 UN Convention to Combat Desertification, known as COP16, more than \$3 billion has been mobilized. It helps that, beyond being crucial to human well-being, land restoration is a high-return investment: the FAO estimates that every dollar invested in it can yield up to \$30 in economic and environmental returns.

Local nongovernmental organizations and communities are playing a growing role in land restoration efforts, such as by establishing nurseries for native plants, building green belts and raising public awareness. This combination of local action, national direction and international cooperation delivers the kind of robust, lasting results that are needed to build true climate resilience. And it should serve as a model for the rest of the world.

Can BRICS reshape the global financial order?

Dr. John Sfakianakis

In August 2023, the leaders of the BRICS nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — gathered in Johannesburg to declare their ambition to rewire the international system. A centerpiece of that ambition was a call to reduce dependence on the US dollar. For some, the idea sounded like déjà vu; de-dollarization has been a recurring theme in emerging markets since the early 2000s. But this time, the stakes feel different. Global polarization is intensifying, financial weaponization has become normalized and the credibility of existing multilateral institutions is eroding. Yet, for all the hype, the BRICS project remains deeply flawed and uneven.

The notion that BRICS could reshape the global financial order rests more on aspiration than reality. While dollar dominance is indeed being reassessed — not just by geopolitical rivals but also by pragmatic middle powers — building a credible alternative requires more than shared discontent. It demands deep capital markets, interoperable infrastructure, credible institutions and above all mutual trust. On all these counts, BRICS is still struggling. The desire to reduce dollar reliance is not simply ideological but a reaction to a financial architecture long shaped by US interests. The 2008 financial crisis exposed the dangers of global dependency on Wall Street. The 2022 sanctions on Russia, which froze hun-



dreds of billions in central bank reserves and cut Moscow off from SWIFT, sent a clear signal to other BRICS members: your assets can be turned into weapons overnight.

But does fear translate into capability? Not necessarily. Incremental moves are already underway. China has expanded its Cross-Border Interbank Payment System and accelerated digital yuan pilots across Asia and Africa. India has begun settling some trade in rupees, particularly with Russia and the UAE. Russia is developing Mir and the System for Transfer of Financial Messages to bypass Western financial rails. Brazil and South Africa are exploring fintech-led payment corridors. Yet, taken together, these initiatives remain fragmented, politically fragile and institutionally weak. The internal

contradictions of BRICS are glaring. China's outsized role in the bloc breeds discomfort among its partners. The yuan remains nonconvertible. India and China are strategic competitors. Russia is economically isolated. Brazil and South Africa are preoccupied with their own fiscal instability. What unites them is not a shared monetary strategy but a defensive impulse — a desire to insulate themselves from the coercive tools of the current system without agreeing on a viable alternative to replace it.

In this respect, the BRICS bloc echoes the spirit of the Non-Aligned Movement of the 1960s — born from frustration with superpower domination, yet too ideologically and strategically diverse to forge a coherent economic alternative. These aspirations are further undercut by a chronic

lack of fiscal and data transparency across the bloc, which undermines investor confidence and complicates efforts to build trust in any shared monetary or institutional arrangement.

Moreover, the dollar is not just a medium of exchange — it is an ecosystem. From commodity pricing and bond issuance to foreign exchange markets and central bank reserves, it is woven into the plumbing of global capitalism. Displacing it would require an alternative that is not only politically palatable but technically superior. BRICS is nowhere near delivering that. The New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement — touted as BRICS' answer to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank — have underperformed. Lending volumes are limited. Governance structures are

opaque. And the credibility of any shared macroeconomic framework remains questionable in the absence of institutional convergence. Even digital currencies, often billed as a leapfrog solution, are no silver bullet. China's e-CNY remains tightly controlled and untested at scale. Interoperability with other BRICS central bank digital currencies remains aspirational. Moreover, few of these economies inspire enough investor confidence to turn their currencies into regional, let alone global, anchors.

One point bears repeating: the US may well benefit from a credible external challenge. A push from BRICS could serve as a cold slap in the face — forcing America to reckon with the fragility of its own advantages. For too long, dollar dominance has bred complacency. If confronted with a viable challenge, the US could rediscover its competitive edge — leveraging innovation, capital markets and entrepreneurial dynamism to future-proof its leadership. But let's be clear: BRICS is not that challenge yet. It is a concept in search of coherence — a geopolitical brand lacking operational capacity. Its declarations are bold but its execution remains underwhelming. The underutilization of the New Development Bank, for example, is telling: with lending volumes far below expectations and project delivery uneven, the institution reflects the broader gap between BRICS' ambitions and its administrative muscle.

Public safety, security and effective policing

The safety, security and safe environment on day to day basis is the need of general public, without mincing words. Who is to provide safety, security and safe environment? It is the Government of the day and Government cannot shrug its responsibility by passing the buck to some other agency. Whenever, Wherever and Whoever talks, talks of unsafe living in Jammu, which is very dangerous situation. Broad daylight thefts, dacoity (armed robbery), murders, burglaries (chain, mobile phone or purse snatching) have become order of the day. There is no fear of police or one may say deterrence. There is free for all spurt in such avoidable activities as enunciated above without any fear, which is causing total insecurity in the minds of general public. The public is not safe, a major cause of concern to be taken cognizance of by the Government. There is total lawlessness and total breakdown of law and order, which is giving impetus to criminal activities. Such a breakdown of law and order is not good at all for general public, who otherwise feels unsafe environment all around and hence must be tackled or managed properly and immediately.

Our aim is not to set in motion blame game attitude. But realistically, suggest ways and means to tackle lawlessness. How can these thefts, robberies, burglaries (chain, mobile or purse snatching) and murders be controlled effectively? Few measures are given below in the succeeding paragraphs. Police public meetings must be organized on regular basis, which is not being done presently, so as to sensitize people. Police public friendly meetings will definitely bear fruits and give desired dividends. The SHO's of police stations and police post incharges (OICs police chowki) must utilize services of Ex-Servicemen of the area, who are more than willing always and every time to help Government and police as they enjoy good reputation with the Government agencies, round the clock to curb the ongoing menace as discussed above. The police must utilize these ESM as their radars (ears and eyes) to their advantage towards the cause, who can detect and report relevant information as relating to criminal kind of activities if ever brewing up in their area. This way the police will be able to create deterrence as desired. The cohesiveness is a must clarion call.

Aggressive Patrolling must be organized on regular basis. The patrolling programme, routes and the passwords to be utilized for identification must be coordinated at the Police Headquarters level for better synchronization and ensuring synergy between the troops on the similar lines as is done in the army. The common junction points must be decided between the opposite parties conducting patrolling. The peripheries of respective police stations areas must be patrolled on regular basis. Surprise visits by police teams flying squads at odd timings must be carried out to different suspected places. The aim being to create deterrence of sort. The police must have Quick Action Teams concept as exists in Army basically to quickly act, react and respond to a given situation and nab the criminals on time.

Stricter and stringent enforcement of laws including stricter and exemplary punishments and effective initiatives (no criminal should be left scot free) be implemented to curb unabated criminal activities. It should be considered a matter of worry. The out of the box methods be worked out to nab the criminals so as to put a full stop to criminal activities once for all. Tenant background verification for all people especially living in Jhuggi Zhopdi must be carried out on priority without fail. Very important step in the right direction. How? This police authorities have to work out and they are quite professional and highly efficient and they can, what you and me as citizens cannot. Police must maintain high vigil and step up pro-active vigil stance. How? By carrying out increased surveillance on ground and by establishing effective police check posts and nakas from time time wherever required the most. Trust deficit of police be restored (won) back as Full Trusted hamari police.

Apply par excellence professional expertise and matured experienced knowledge on ground of experts and use minds and wisdom together to create effective deterrence. As it is said prevention is better than cure. Similarly deterrence is the best form of constructive and productive handling and management of law and order. And there are umpteen ways of effectively handling the law and order issues well known to highly professional competent personalities without maltreating, misbehaving or using foul language with the erring individuals. Use mere professional competence. Police ka dar hona bada jaruri hai (the fear of police is very important) to control criminal activities. The criminal should have fear in his mind that if he commits a wrong act he will be prosecuted and heavily punished. If this kind of fear exists, a criminal dare not do a wrong act. But probably the criminals feel kuch nahi hota (nothing happens). Chhoot jayenge (will be left). Institute measures to create police deterrence, of which supercops are highly capable of. They need to be more hyper active. That's all. Our police, our pride and glory. Our police our majesty, dignity and honor. Hamari police, hum sabh ki aan, baan aur shaan. Hum sabh hain apni police ke saath. We all together will root out criminals activities altogether and make the environment fully safe and secure. Nothing to worry. Hamari police hai saksham (our police is highly capable belt force). Some loose ends are required to be tied up. The people of Jammu deserve a safe and secure environment. Rising crime rate not only threatens public safety and security, but also impacts tourism and economic development. We on behalf of the people urge the administration to institute effective measures/ methods as deemed appropriate to effectively control the menace, causing worry to the public. The aim being to enhance public safety and ensure peaceful environment all around, so that people can move around and without any anxiety or fear.

The aim of the Government should be to ensure a safer, more secure and prosperous Jammu and as it was during Maharaja Hari Singh's time. We urge the citizens to remain vigilant, cooperate and support the law enforcement agencies. The citizens have the yearning to live in peace and it is the responsibility of the Government to provide safe and secure environment. We the citizens and the police will work in tandem and weed out criminal activities soon and for sure provide safe and secure environment. Hum sabh hain police ke saath. Hum sabh ki ek awaaz. Hamara pucca irada. Hamara pucca biswas. Hum honge kamyaab. We all together can and we all together will.

Drug trafficking could be tackled successfully by working in tandem with educational institutions and NGOs to launch awareness and de addiction campaigns. Bovine smuggling at night poses a serious threat to peace and communal harmony. More robust night patrolling required. Establishment of check points on the NH coupled with use of drone surveillance in vulnerable zones will be the right step in the right direction. Rise in anti – social and criminal elements operating in both urban and rural pockets has become the norm. Proactive intelligence input, cyber monitoring and swift legal action to curb any activities aimed at disrupting public peace and order is the need of the hour. Widespread use of gattu/ manjha thread which has caused deaths and injuries and fatalities particularly to two wheeler riders and birds. Complete ban on use of such life threatening threads be imposed. The importance of improving women and senior citizens safety through dedicated helpline, patrolling units and a quick response mechanism by police should be known to all. Coordination between traffic authorities, police, public and municipal authorities very essential.

Need unified approach to boost infra growth in northeast: Scindia

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jyotiraditya Scindia, has underscored a unified approach to accelerate infrastructure growth in northeast region (NER), an official statement said on Friday.

The minister outlined five suggestions for bridging infrastructure and connectivity gaps — convergence of NER Infrastructure Grid by preparing a regional Master Plan; establishment of a Monitoring Mechanism for priority projects for the NER; policy push for Multimodal logistic park by way of offering various tax and other concessions; boosting cross border connectivity to promote International trade with neighbouring countries; and enhancing digital connectivity and power transmission infrastructure. Speaking at the High-Level Task Force

(HLTF) on 'Logistics, Infrastructure Connectivity in NER,' Scindia further added that all the infrastructure projects in the NER should be mapped on the PM GatiShakti Portal for better planning of future projects.

The minister urged all the NER states that they should update their state Logistics Policy as per the metric prepared by the Ministry based on the best practices throughout the country, preferably before the next NEC Plenary Session. The industrial clusters may be developed in the NER along the transport corridors for rapid economic growth of the region. The HLTF meeting focussed on critical gaps in the North Eastern Region in the sectors of Highways, Railways, Waterways, Airways, Logistics, and digital connectivity.

To bridge these gaps, the HLTF meeting decided to formulate a comprehensive Infrastructure Masterplan.

The plan will be developed in consultation with all eight northeastern states and Central Ministries, ensuring a collaborative approach to regional development. The key points of discussion during the meeting included identification of state-specific bottlenecks and challenges, critical connectivity gaps and prioritised infrastructure needs, integration of state budgets & national investments for capital formation, and implementation a road map for Viksit NER at 2047.

Earlier this year, the Centre had formed eight HLTF, each headed by one of the Chief Ministers of the NE State along, with Union Minister (MDoNER) and three chief ministers of other states as members.

The meeting also emphasised the need to improve last-mile connectivity in remote and border areas to ensure faster movement of

people, goods, and essential services. Officials noted that better connectivity would enhance access to healthcare, education, markets, and government services across the northeastern states.

Scindia highlighted that the North Eastern Region has immense potential to emerge as a major gateway for India's trade with South-east Asia under the Centre's Act East Policy. He stressed that improved transport and logistics infrastructure would strengthen regional economic integration and boost exports.

The minister called for greater coordination among Central Ministries, state governments, and implementing agencies to ensure timely completion of infrastructure projects. He stressed that regular monitoring and effective interdepartmental coordination would help avoid delays and cost overruns.

50 pc tariffs by US bad policy move, India must continue to protect its farmers: SBI

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): Imposition of 25 per cent penalty on goods trade with India, with a proposition of additional 25 per cent on the world's largest democracy, can be a bad policy decision for the US and its people, an SBI Research report said on Friday.

On the other hand, India — strategically protecting its sovereignty — must continue to protect its farmers from likelihood of predatory practices of select global conglomerates who may vie for a lucrative 'Desi' pie without investing in sustainable market infrastructure creation, anchoring agri value chain financing and being a partner in welfare schemes that upend 'Ease of Living' for our farming community, the report stressed.

Significantly, India has trumped global giants in milk production between 2015-2024. In the year 2015, India's total milk production stood close to 155.5 million

tonnes (EU 154.6 MT and US 94.6 MT). By 2024, India's share had swelled to 211.7 MT (growth of 36 per cent), while EU (including Britain) grew to 165.9 MT and the US 102.5 MT, according to the report.

When it comes to the pharmaceuticals market, India has been a cornerstone of the global supply chain for affordable, high-quality, essential medicines, particularly life saving oncology drugs, antibiotics, and chronic diseases' treatments. "In the generic drug market, India supplies nearly 35 per cent of the pharmaceutical needs of the US. If the US shifts manufacturing and API production to other countries or domestic facilities, it will take minimum 3-5 years for meaningful capacity," said the report. In the US, health expenditure per person per annum is around \$15,000, and hence with 35 per cent, India's share in generic drugs tariff is going

to impact US citizens significantly. "Putting tariff on India pharma exports hurts the US objective of reducing the size of general government and goes against the objectives of DOGE. The US national health expenditures is 17.6 per cent of the GDP and the government-sponsored Medicare and Medicaid account for 36 per cent of the total expenditure," said the report, adding that higher price of affordable medicines increase both expenditure under Medicare and Medicaid and also the out-of-pocket expenditure of private citizens.

The report observed that higher tariffs on Indian exports could also disrupt well-established supply chains that have evolved over decades, increasing costs for businesses and consumers in the United States. It noted that replacing reliable Indian suppliers would require significant investments and time. According to the analy-

sis, India has emerged as a trusted manufacturing and export hub across multiple sectors, supported by competitive costs, skilled manpower, and strong production capabilities. Any abrupt shift in trade policies could create uncertainty for global industries dependent on Indian products.

The report further stated that agriculture remains a critical pillar of India's economy, providing livelihoods to millions of farmers. It argued that trade negotiations should take into account the country's food security concerns and the need to safeguard rural incomes while promoting balanced market access.

SBI Research also highlighted that India continues to strengthen its domestic manufacturing ecosystem through policy initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, enhancing productivity, and increasing exports.

Govt caps ceiling price of 4 emergency-use medicines, 37 antibiotics, painkillers

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): The Union government has fixed the ceiling price of four emergency-use medicines and 37 other drug formulations, which include antibiotics and painkillers. The prices were fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), and the medicines range from treating infections, heart ailments, and inflammation to diabetes and vitamin deficiencies.

"Manufacturers selling branded or generic or both versions of the medicines at a price higher than the ceiling price (plus GST) shall revise the prices downward not exceeding the ceiling price...", the NPPA said. However, manufacturers having an MRP lower than the ceiling price shall continue to maintain the existing MRP, the NPPA added. The emergency-use medicines include Ipratropium, used to prevent wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing, and chest tightness in

people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Its ceiling price was fixed at Rs 2.96 per ml.

For Sodium Nitropruside, an injectable used to rapidly lower BP in hypertensive emergencies, during surgery to reduce bleeding, and in cases of acute heart failure, it was fixed at Rs 28.99 per ml; for Diltiazem, used to treat high BP and chest pain, it was fixed at Rs 26.72 per capsule; and for Povidone Iodine, used for skin disinfection before and after surgery and minor wound care, it was fixed at Rs 6.26 per gram. Other medications with prices slashed include paracetamol, atorvastatin, amoxycillin, and metformin. Among the drugs affected is a composition of Aceclofenac, Paracetamol, and Trypsin Chymotrypsin for use as an anti-inflammatory and cardiovascular drug, which comes as a combination of Atorvastatin 40 mg and Clopidogrel 75

mg. According to the NPPA, the notified prices are GST-free, which may be charged additionally if needed.

The NPPA said the revised ceiling prices have been notified under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013, with the objective of ensuring that essential medicines remain affordable and accessible to patients across the country.

The authority clarified that all manufacturers and marketing companies are required to comply with the revised price limits immediately. Any company charging above the notified ceiling price may face action under the relevant provisions of the DPCO and the Essential Commodities Act. The price revision covers several commonly prescribed formulations used in the treatment of chronic diseases, infectious illnesses, cardiovascular conditions, and pain management, benefiting millions.

India may well become OpenAI's largest market: CEO Sam Altman

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): India is OpenAI's second-largest market in the world after the US, and it may well become its biggest market in the near future, according to its CEO Sam Altman. OpenAI sees India as a rapidly growing market, with plans to enhance AI accessibility and affordability, he added. "It's incredibly fast-growing, but what users are doing with AI, what citizens of India are doing with AI, is really quite remarkable," Altman said while launching GPT-5, the latest version of the artificial intelligence system that powers ChatGPT.

He further stated that the company was working with local partners to make its products more effective and affordable for Indian users, and he plans to visit the country in September. In June, OpenAI, in partnership with the government's IndiaAI mission, on Thursday launched the first international expansion of its education platform, that

will help expand access to AI skills training across the country. The initiative, called 'OpenAI Academy India', aims to broaden access to AI education and tools, tapping into India's fast-growing developer community, digital infrastructure, and network of startups and innovators.

It will support the IndiaAI Mission's 'FutureSkills' pillar by expanding access to AI skills training for a wide range of learners — students, developers, educators, civil servants, nonprofit leaders, and small business owners. "India is one of the most dynamic countries in the world for AI development, with adoption and innovation accelerating at remarkable speed," said Jason Kwon, Chief Strategy Officer, OpenAI. GPT-5 brings together the best of ChatGPT into one unified experience that's designed to get the users best answer, every time. "We are introducing GPT-5, our best AI system yet.

GPT-5 is a significant leap in intelligence over all our previous models, featuring state-of-the-art performance across coding, math, writing, health, visual perception, and more.

It is a unified system that knows when to respond quickly and when to think longer to provide expert-level responses," according to the company.

GPT-5 is available to all users, with Plus subscribers getting more usage, and Pro subscribers getting access to GPT-5 pro, a version with extended reasoning for even more comprehensive and accurate answers.

"GPT-5 is a unified system with a smart, efficient model that answers most questions, a deeper reasoning model (GPT-5 thinking) for harder problems, and a real-time router that quickly decides which to use based on conversation type, complexity, tool needs, and your explicit intent," the company noted.

LIC clocks 4 pc rise in Q1 consolidated profit

Mumbai, July 27 (GNS): Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest life insurer, on Thursday reported a 3.91 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter of the current financial year (Q1 FY26). The profit rose to Rs 10,957 crore from Rs 10,544 crore recorded in the same period previous year (Q1 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing. LIC's net premium income also showed steady growth. For the quarter under review, it stood at Rs 1,19,618.41 crore -- marking a 4.7 per cent rise from Rs 1,14,230.24 crore in Q1 FY25.

"During the first quarter of this financial year, our overall market share by First Year Premium Income was 63.51 per cent and we maintained our leadership in both Individual and Group Business," R Doraiswamy, CEO and MD, LIC said.

"Key elements of our strategy like increase in

Non Par share in Individual business, increase in VNB margin, increase in Banca share are fully on track," Doraiswamy added. On a standalone basis, LIC posted a 5 per cent YoY increase in profit, which rose to Rs 10,986.51 crore compared to Rs 10,461.05 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The company saw strong momentum in its non-participating (non-par) business. The share of non-par APE (annualised premium equivalent) in the individual segment climbed to 30.34 per cent during the quarter, up from 23.94 per cent in the same period previous year.

The individual business non-par APE rose significantly by 32.63 per cent to Rs 2,142 crore, as per its regulatory filing. LIC's group business APE also posted a healthy growth of 16.14 per cent, reaching Rs 5,590 crore. Overall APE for the quarter increased by 9.45 per cent to Rs 12,652 crore.

Signature Global's Q1 net profit drops 44 pc

Mumbai, July 27 (GNS): Real estate developer Signature Global on Thursday reported a sharp 43.71 per cent drop in net profit for the first quarter (Q1) of FY26, coming in at Rs 34.4 crore compared to Rs 61.1 crore in the previous quarter (Q4 FY25).

The decline came even as the company witnessed strong growth in operational revenue -- highlighting rising expenses and lower other income during the quarter. The revenue from operations jumped 66.33 per cent to Rs 865.6 crore in Q1 FY26, up from Rs 520.4 crore in the previous quarter, according to its stock exchange filing. However, other income fell by 34.80 per cent to Rs 32.6 crore, down from Rs 50 crore in Q4. As a result, total income stood at Rs 898.3 crore, marking a 57.49 per cent increase from the previous quarter's Rs 570.4 crore, the company said in its regulatory filing. On the cost front, total ex-

penses surged by 71.30 per cent to Rs 852.6 crore in Q1 FY26, compared to Rs 497.7 crore in Q4. Despite the drop in profit, Signature Global maintained its expansion momentum. In line with its long-term growth strategy, the company acquired 9.96 acres of land in Sohna during Q1, with a development potential of around 0.53 million sq. ft. Commenting on the performance, Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal, Chairman and Whole-Time Director of Signature Global, said, "Building on the strong momentum of FY25, we delivered a robust performance in the first quarter of FY26, with our operational revenue doubling year-on-year. This growth reflects our continued focus on customer satisfaction and the timely delivery of quality homes." He added that the successful launch of the premium project Cloverdale SPR in Sector 71, along the Southern Peripheral Road.

Rs 96,000 crore invested in India's airports in last 5 years: Minister

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and public-private partnerships have incurred a capital expenditure (capex) of more than Rs 96,000 crore during FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25 on the development, upgradation, and modernisation of airports in the country to keep pace with the growth in air traffic, the Parliament was informed on Thursday.

This includes the AAI's share of more than Rs 25,000 crore and the remaining by private airport developers. The AAI incurs capital expenditure mainly from its own resources and in some part from the budgetary grant of Rs 4,500 crore allocated for the revival and upgradation of unserved and underserved airports, heliports, and water aerodromes under Phase I of the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN). Besides, Rs 1,000

crore has been allocated in Phase-II of the RCS-UDAN to revive additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advanced landing grounds during the period 2023-24 to 2025-26, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

The private airport operators incur capex from their own sources, he added.

The investments have been made in new airports, expansion and modification of existing terminals, addition of new passenger facilities, new terminals, expansion and strengthening of existing runways, aprons, and Air Navigation Services (ANS) work like control tower and technical blocks. Based on the reconciled figures for the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) period (FY 2019-20 to 2024-25), capex expenditure by AAI and private airportdDevelop-

ers during the last five years has been Rs 11,742 crore (FY 2020-21), Rs 13,294 crore (FY 2021-22), Rs 17,879 crore (FY 2022-23), Rs 19,260 crore (FY 2023-24), and Rs 19,317 crore (FY 2024-25).

The minister further stated that upgradation and modernisation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by the AAI and other private airport operators from time to time, depending on the availability of land, commercial viability, socio-economic considerations, traffic demand, willingness of airlines to operate to and from such airports. Since FY 2019-20, airport projects have been undertaken by the AAI and private airport developers at several airports across the country, including at Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Mopa, Navi Mumbai, Noida (Jewar), Bhogapuram, Ayodhya.

81 pc Indians use Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to discover financial products

New Delhi, July 27 (GNS): Indians are increasingly taking charge of their financial journeys through digital content, communities, and creators, as 81 per cent of consumers use Facebook, Instagram, or WhatsApp during the discovery phase of financial products, a report said on Thursday.

"Financial advice is no longer confined to expert columns or in-branch consultations -- it's happening on Reels, in WhatsApp groups, and through Instagram creators demystifying jargon in under 60 seconds," according to a joint report of Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, and global market research firm IPSOS. According to the report, 81 per cent of consumers use Meta platforms when first discovering financial products, and this influence continues through the evaluation

stage (79 per cent) and remains strong at the final purchase stage (83 per cent). The digital platforms play a key role throughout the decision-making journey for specific products, including loans (86 per cent), investments (84 per cent), insurance (78 per cent), and savings (82 per cent), the report stated.

"Financial planning is integral to the lives of most Indians across income groups. But this process is rapidly evolving, fueled by digital. Whether it's the growing role of Meta platforms in the purchase journey, the increasing influence of Reels and creators, the rising role of business messaging or the growing number of women who are taking independent financial decisions," said Shweta Bajpai, Director Financial Services, Media, Travel, Real Estate, & Services (India), Meta. Despite being an indus-

try with substantial offline presence and touchpoints, the report shows that 6 out of 8 touchpoints in the purchase journey of financial products are now digital, with 50 per cent of these digital touchpoints attributed to Meta platforms.

Additionally, more than 50 per cent of financial services consumers view personal finance and investing content on Meta platforms. Financial products might be complex, but consumers don't need long-form storytelling to resonate with the user, the report stated. Short-form content is capable and effective at turning complexity into clarity. Instagram Reels and Facebook videos are the new face of financial literacy. The study showed that 57 per cent of users rely on Instagram and 53 per cent on Facebook to make informed financial decisions, the report highlighted.

Telangana decides to issue Family Register Certificates

Hyderabad, July 27 (GNS) The Telangana government has decided to constitute the Telangana Family Register and to introduce a facility for the issue of a Family Register Certificate through the MeeSeva platform.

This has been done to ensure uniformity in the verification of family particulars and to provide a readily accessible record. The Revenue Department has issued orders to this effect.

According to the Government Order (GO), the decision has been taken after carefully examining the difficulties experienced by the citizens in producing an authenticated and reliable record of their family composition for availing various government services.

The state-wide Telangana Family Register will be maintained in electronic form and it will contain details like family register identification number (ration card number), name of the head of the family,



name of each member of the family, relationship of each member to the head of the family, age, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number of each member, and present address of the family.

A new citizen service styled 'Telangana Family Register Certificate' will be introduced in the MeeSeva platform. Any citizen may apply for a copy of the Family Register, pertaining to his/her family, through any MeeSeva Centre, through the MeeSeva online portal/mobile application, on payment of the prescribed charges. According to the GO, the

service shall be delivered within a timeline of two working days from the date of the receipt of the application. AIMIM President and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has welcomed the decision of the Telangana government to issue Family Register Certificate through the MeeSeva platform.

According to him, Rs 62 will be the service charge for issuing the certificate.

Owaisi posted on X that he had made a representation to the government along with Faheem Qureshi, Vice Chairman and President of Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS).

"The certificate is one of the 12 acceptable documents under the Special Intensive Revision. It will benefit many poor & undocumented people if they receive notice. I hope this facility is used by the people. I thank the state government for its timely decision," said Owaisi.

MLA Dhanpal Seeks Major Infrastructure Push for Nizamabad

Falaknuma News Correspondent M.A.Samad Nizamabad July 27: In a bid to strengthen Nizamabad's infrastructure and improve urban connectivity, Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta met Telangana Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad on Monday and submitted a comprehensive proposal seeking funds for several key road and bridge projects.



Hall at Yellammagutta and sought an allocation of 170 crore for the project. He said the proposed underpass would significantly ease traffic movement and improve connectivity between different parts of the city.

The MLA also requested 30 crore for upgrading the R&B road from the Radio Station to the old Gram Panchayat Office at Mudakpally, describing it as an important arterial road requiring immediate improvement.

In addition, he submitted a proposal for a new 107-km National Highway linking

Varni Junction with Nizamabad, Dichpally, Indalwai, Bheemgal and Kamarpally. He stated that the proposed highway would provide better regional connectivity, facilitate faster transportation and contribute to the overall economic development of the district.

Responding to the representations, the Minister assured the MLA that the proposals would be examined on priority and considered for implementation in accordance with the government's infrastructure development plans.

Telangana HC orders Chief Secretary to replace HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath

Hyderabad, July 27 (GNS) Justice Jukanti Anil Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Monday requested the Chief Secretary of Telangana to remove AV Ranganath as HYDRAA Commissioner, observing that an officer facing 63 contempt of court cases could not continue in the post.

The direction was passed while hearing contempt cases filed by M/s Shantha Sriram Constructions Private Limited, alleging repeated violation of the High Court's orders concerning its land admeasuring Ac.40.00 in Survey Nos. 1 and 2 of Lothkunta Village, Malkajgiri Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. During the previous hearings, the Court had expressed serious concern over the repeated alleged interference by HYDRAA officials despite assurances given on behalf of the State and had even considered deploying Army personnel to secure the disputed property before deferring the direction at the request of the Advocate General.



HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath filed an additional affidavit tendering an unconditional apology and stating that he held the highest regard for the judiciary and the rule of law. The Commissioner stated that neither he nor any HYDRAA official had entered the disputed 40-acre

land after the High Court's orders and denied carrying out any demolition or other activity on the property. He further alleged that the petitioner had attempted to mislead the Court by presenting distorted facts.

The explanation, however, did not satisfy the Court. Justice Anil Kumar noted that despite being granted multiple opportunities, the addition-

al affidavit was filed only later in the day after the hearing had first been adjourned from the morning session to the afternoon, and thereafter further time had been granted. The Court observed that the apology had been tendered only after it expressed its displeasure and insisted on an explanation, and not voluntarily. Referring to settled principles governing contempt jurisdiction, the Court observed that an apology must be an act of genuine contrition offered at the earliest opportunity, and that an apology tendered only when punishment appears imminent loses its sincerity and mitigating value.

During the hearing, Justice Anil Kumar observed that respect for judicial orders is one of the fundamental pillars of a constitutional democracy and that the implementation of judgments is inseparable from the rule of law.

Senior Citizens Welfare Society Completes 19 Years of Outstanding Public Service



Falaknuma News Correspondent M.A.Samad Nizamabad July 27: Celebrating nearly two decades of dedicated community service, the Senior Citizens Welfare Society, Nizamabad, held its 19th Annual General Body Meeting at Classic Function Hall, Quila Road, with a renewed resolve to expand its humanitarian and welfare activities. The meeting was chaired by the Society's Founder and Chairman Abdul Shakoor, and attended by eminent personalities from various fields, members, and well-wishers.

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Mohammed Ayub Khan, followed by the proceedings conducted by Mohammed Anwar Khan, Editor of Halchal Telangana. Society President Mohammed Faiyazuddin Aslam welcomed the gathering, while Jaleel Ahmed presented the annual report detailing the organisation's achievements and future plans.

Addressing the members, Abdul Shakoor said the Society has become a trusted platform for public service over the last 19 years by extending educational assistance, medical support, humanitarian relief, and welfare programmes for the poor and underprivileged. He highlighted that the Society's Aadhaar Centre has successfully facilitated more than 22,000 Aadhaar enrolments, a service that received appreciation from former District Collector Yogita Rana during her visit to the Society's office.

President Mohammed Faiyazuddin Aslam stated that the Society has distributed 2,14,000 as financial assistance to help poor families meet funeral and burial expenses. He said the organisation's achievements reflect the collective efforts of its members, donors, and volunteers, whose unwavering support has strengthened its humanitarian mission.

Prominent speakers including Bahekta Tasleem,

Ahmed Abdul Azeem, Shakeel Ahmed Fazil, A.K. Hafeez, Nayeem Shehran, Bhooma Goud, Khan Abdul Qayyum (NRI), Mohammed Anwar Khan, Yousufuddin, Nisar Ahmed, Sadakar, Sayeed ud-din Shalimar, Company Mahboob Ali, Khazin Ameeruddin, Sheikh Ali Yahya Baig, and others lauded the Society's remarkable contributions to social welfare. They described the organisation as a beacon of compassion and communal harmony, applauding its commitment to serving people irrespective of religion, caste, or economic background.

The dignitaries were felicitated with traditional shawls, and a lunch was hosted for all participants. The meeting concluded with a unanimous pledge to further strengthen the Society's welfare initiatives and continue its mission of serving humanity with dedication, compassion, and integrity, making its 19-year journey a source of pride for Nizamabad.

M.A. Samad and Shakeel Ahmed Join Valima Celebrations of Abdul Mannan Abid Khan



Falaknuma News Correspondent Hyderabad, July 26: Senior State Journalist M.A. Samad and prominent businessman Shakeel Ahmed participated in the Valima Reception hosted by Janab Abid Rasool Khan, former Chairman of the Minority Commission of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, on the occasion of the marriage of his youngest son, Abdul Mannan Abid Khan, with Zehra Abdul Aleem Syed.

They met Janab Abid Rasool Khan Sahab, congratulated the groom, and conveyed their warm wishes to the bride and groom, praying to Almighty Allah to bless the couple with a joyful, peaceful, and prosperous married life. The grand reception, held at Le Palais Royal, Secunderabad, was attended by a large number of distinguished guests, including political leaders, senior government officials, members of the judiciary, media personalities, industrialists, business leaders, social activists, relatives, and friends, making the occasion a memorable celebration of togetherness and goodwill.

to connect candidates with leading employers. The programme, organised through ICAI's Placement Directorate, is primarily meant for candidates who cleared the CA Final Examination held in May this year, the Institute said in a release on Monday.

ICAI to Hold 65th Campus Placement Programme Across 29 Centres

Hyderabad, July 27 (GNS) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will organise its 65th Campus Placement Programme for newly qualified Chartered Accountants across 29 centres in August and September providing a structured platform

to connect candidates with leading employers. The programme, organised through ICAI's Placement Directorate, is primarily meant for candidates who cleared the CA Final Examination held in May this year, the Institute said in a release on Monday.

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Telangana MP, minister urge Centre to expedite Tadicherla-2 coal block project

Hyderabad, July 27 (GNS) Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and Telangana Labour Minister Dr G. Vivek Venkataswamy called on Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy in New Delhi on Monday and urged him to expedite the Tadicherla-2 coal block project while ensuring maximum benefits for local people and Singareni workers. During the meeting, the MP and the minister pressed for early completion of the Tadicherla-2 project.

They requested that at least 1,000 jobs be provided to local youth, with priority given to those from project-affected villages. They also sought comprehensive rehabilitation and resettlement facilities for displaced families. The



Centre recently decided to allocate the Tadicherla-2 Coal Block to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a public sector company. The Telangana leaders appealed to the Central minister to ensure a minimum monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for retired workers of Singareni. They also discussed broader

development of the Singareni organisation, expansion of coal mines, infrastructure in mining-affected areas, and possible Central Government support for various initiatives. Responding positively, Kishan Reddy assured that the proposals would be considered favourably. He promised to take necessary steps,

including consultations with concerned departments, to expedite the Tadicherla-2 project, create local employment, implement the R&R package, and address the pension issue.

The MP and the state minister also met Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya. The discussions focused on employment generation, skill development, mining, infrastructure expansion, and labour welfare. The Telangana leaders sought enhanced Central support for expanding labour welfare initiatives, creating more employment opportunities, and strengthening the implementation of Central schemes in Telangana.

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