

Godrej to Launch TG's First Integrated Oil Palm Unit in Khammam



Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS): Godrej Agrovet is set to operationalise Telangana's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Khammam district. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the facility shortly.

On Wednesday, Rakesh Swami, president (corporate affairs) of Godrej Industries Group, and Sougata Niyogi, CEO of Godrej Agrovet's Oil Palm Business, met the Chief Minister at MCRHRDI. They briefed him on the company's expansion plans and submitted a report on oil palm cultivation in Khammam district.

The project is coming up at Gubbagurthi village in Konijerla mandal with an investment of 300 crore. The unit will provide employment to over 700 locals. The state government has allotted 113.5 acres for the factory, nursery, R&D centre and seed garden. The company has requested an additional 35-40 acres for the seed garden. During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed officials to widen the roads leading to the unit under the supervision of TGIC. The factory will have the capacity to crush 15 tonnes of fresh fruit bunches per hour.

SC seeks CBSE reply on gulf class 12 exam plea

New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on a writ petition filed on behalf of Class 12 students from Gulf and West Asian countries seeking multiple reliefs, including compensatory grace marks, special examinations, relaxation in admission eligibility and protection against loss of an academic year following disruption of the 2026 board examination cycle. A Bench of Justices K.V. Viswanathan and Alok Aradhe issued notice on the petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution and directed the petitioner to furnish a copy of the plea to the Solicitor General before the next date of hearing.

It sought a declaration that students appearing

in the CBSE Class 12 Examinations, 2026, from GCC/West Asian countries constitute a distinct and specially affected class entitled to equitable relief owing to the extraordinary circumstances faced during the examination cycle. The petition has also challenged the CBSE's assessment scheme dated March 27 to the extent it allegedly adversely affects the interests of affected students, and sought directions to adopt a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory evaluation mechanism. Seeking compensatory measures, the plea has prayed for directions to the CBSE to grant one-time moderation and/or grace marks to affected students in recognition of the adverse impact of the prevailing conflict, disruption of studies.

PM Modi begins Indo-Pacific tour to boost strategic ties

New Delhi, July 8 (GNS) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand this week to shore up ties with Indo-Pacific nations as questions grow over the US's commitment to the region and China's influence expands.

Modi arrived in Jakarta late Monday, and will hold talks across sectors with President Prabowo Subianto Tuesday, he said in a post on X. Indonesia is a natural partner for New Delhi: the world's largest archipelago is strategically located between the Indian and Pacific oceans and also has sensitivities over China's maritime assertiveness. Defense is expected to feature prominently in Modi's meeting with Prabowo. India's ambassador said the two countries are in "very advanced" talks on the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system and that New



Delhi hopes to conclude other deals during the visit. Any progress would signal a larger Indian defense role in the region while helping Indonesia diversify its security partnerships. Modi's focus in recent weeks has been on bolstering ties with nations in the western Indian Ocean region, where he visited Sey-

chelles and also met with the leader of Mauritius. He's now shifting to the eastern part of the Indian Ocean, having hosted Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi last week and heading to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand this week, according to Rudrendra Tandon, an

official in India's Ministry of External Affairs. The key themes of the visits this week are trade, defense and security cooperation, as well as highlighting cultural connections, said Tandon, who is secretary for the eastern region at the ministry. "But of course, at the same time, we deal with emerging

issues like energy, like critical minerals," he said. Washington has sent mixed signals about its commitment to the Indo-Pacific. Weeks after Secretary of State Marco Rubio attended a meeting of Quad members - a strategic grouping comprising India, Australia, Japan and the US - the Pentagon said it

would rename the Indo-Pacific Command as the US Pacific Command, reversing a change made during Trump's first term. Coming after the US president's visit to China, the move was widely seen as signaling reduced US focus on the region and giving Beijing greater strategic space. "The timing can't be more conspicuous," said Dinakar Peri, a security studies fellow at Carnegie India. "The unpredictability of the US, especially in the Indian Ocean Region", reinforced by the renaming of their command in the region, adds to the urgency, he said. Defense and security ties will likely be a feature of Modi's talks with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Australia. Defense ministers from both countries met in June and pledged stronger military cooperation, including finalizing a joint maritime security roadmap.

Trump Declares Iran Ceasefire 'Over' After Fresh US Strikes

Ankara, July 8 (GNS): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced that the ceasefire with Iran "is over" for him. Speaking to reporters at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Ankara on Wednesday, Trump called Iranians "liars and sick people."

On the US peace deal with Iran, he said, "To me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them anymore. They're scum...They are sick people. They're led by sick people. They are vicious, violent people and if they had a nuclear weapon, they would use it. As far as I am concerned, its over. I'll speak to our negotiators. They want to negotiate. They're good people - Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner but they have to come back to me. As far as I'm concerned, it's just a waste of time dealing with them. They're liars. We make a deal...Everyone's agreed. No nuclear weapon. We make a deal. They go outside, talk to the press. They say, we never even talked about it. There's something wrong with them. They're cuckoo. As far as I'm concerned, it's over."

Trump accused Iran of killing 54,000 protesters and said that the press did not report it. US President said that he does not want to waste his time negotiating with Iran. He went on to add: "They're liars, they're cheats, they're sick people, they've hurt their people, they have killed 54,000 people as of now that were protesting. You know, when people say, how come they haven't taken over? They can't take over because they're dead. They killed them. Nobody's going to take over. They have no guns and the other side has machine guns and they're killing them."



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Vice P to Launch High-Seas Fishing Authorisation, Odisha Deep Sea Mission

Bhubaneswar, July 8 (GNS) Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan will on Thursday launch the Letter of Authorisation (LoA) for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas and unveil the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026-2036) Document at a national-level event in Bhubaneswar.

The launch marks the beginning of a regulated, transparent and sustainable framework for authorised fishing by Indian-flagged vessels beyond India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The initiative is aimed at promoting responsible high-seas fishing while empowering Indian fishing vessels to sustainably harness marine resources. Around 1,000 fish farmers and fishers, including women, are expected to participate in the programme, along with senior officials from



the Government of Odisha, the union Government and various line departments. As part of the event, the Vice President will distribute Letters of Authorisation to fisheries cooperative societies, including the National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), and eligible fishing vessel owners, enabling Indian-flagged vessels to undertake regulated fishing operations in the high seas. The LoA is a mandatory requirement under the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in

the High Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025. It provides a transparent, accountable and digitally enabled framework for vessels engaged in high-seas fishing and related activities. The vessel-specific and non-transferable authorisation is integrated with the ReAlCraft Fishing Vessel Registration Portal, ensuring traceability, monitoring and orderly management of fishing operations. The online system enables real-time application tracking, minimal compliance costs and hassle-free renewal, making it easier for fishers and vessel operators to comply with regulatory requirements. Vessels operating under the LoA will be required to adhere to conservation and management measures prescribed by the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

AI Intervention Can Transform India's Agriculture Economy; Agri-Startups Key To Future Of Farming: MoS

New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven interventions and science-led agri-startups have the potential to significantly boost India's agricultural economy by improving farm productivity, increasing farmers' incomes and creating large-scale rural employment, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday. He stressed that integrating technology, innovation and entrepreneurship into agriculture will be crucial for achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047. Addressing a gathering, the Minister said India has witnessed an extraordinary expansion of its startup ecosystem over the past decade,



growing from nearly 350 registered startups in 2015 to more than 2.3 lakh today, making the country the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. However, he said the next phase of this startup revolution must be driven by agriculture, where innovation can directly improve farmers' incomes while creating employment opportunities

for rural youth. Dr. Singh said the perception that startups are limited to the information technology sector or metropolitan cities needs to change, as agriculture presents one of the country's biggest entrepreneurial opportunities. He noted that practical knowledge, innovation and a willingness to learn are often more important than formal

academic qualifications, adding that government support, scientific institutions and digital learning platforms have made advanced technologies increasingly accessible to rural communities. Emphasising the growing role of AI in agriculture, the Minister said artificial intelligence is becoming an indispensable tool for predictive crop management, precision irrigation, weather-based advisories and efficient utilisation of agricultural resources. Citing estimates, he said AI-driven optimisation alone could help every farmer save nearly Rs 5,000 annually, resulting in an estimated Rs 70,000 crore value addition to the country's agricultural economy.

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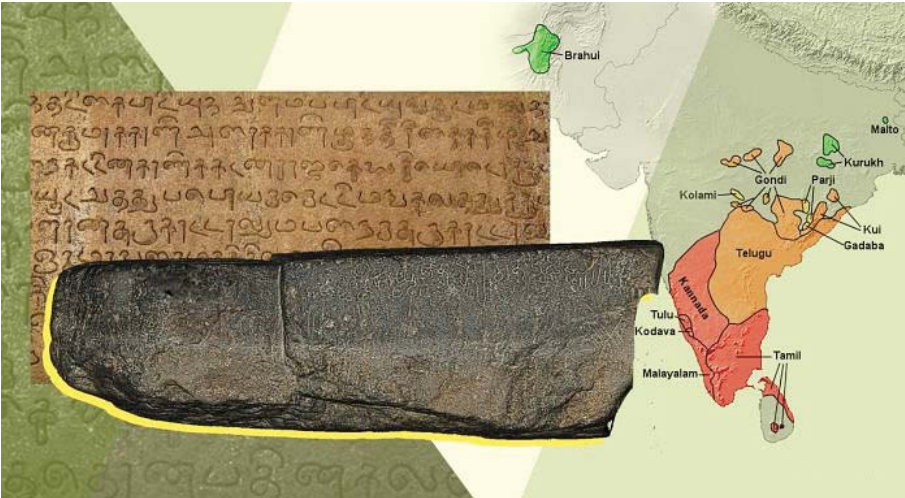
Which is the oldest Dravidian language Kannada or Tamil? Listen to scientists, not celebrities

Anirudh Kanisetty

Last week, veteran actor Kamal Haasan courted controversy by declaring that “Kannada was born out of Tamil.” The question of which Indian language is oldest—and, by extension, most native to the soil—has been a political hot topic since the mid-20th century. Some say Sanskrit, others say Tamil. But beneath the nationalist furore, paleobotanists, historical linguists, and archaeologists have made stunning discoveries about the linguistic heritage of all Indians. From the lost Gangetic ‘Language X’, to the possible origins of Southeast Asian languages, to the homeland of Proto-Dravidian speakers, it turns out pre-historic Indian languages were as diverse as today’s.

The term “Dravidian” today is often associated with India’s southern states, linked to ideas of ethnicity, culture and politics. Here I use it only in the linguistic sense. In *The Dravidian Languages* (2003), linguist Bhadriraju Krishnamurti writes that Dravidian languages are spoken from the tip of the peninsula deep into Central India; one isolated Dravidian language, Brahui, is spoken as far west as Balochistan in present-day Pakistan.

Anthropologist and historian Thomas Trautmann, in *Dravidian Kinship* (1981), also found a Dravidian substrate in many place-names in Maharash-



tra, and pointed out that Dravidian cultural practices—such as first-cousin and maternal uncle-niece marriages—are practiced by a few castes in Sindh and even Gujarat. Speakers of Dravidian languages, and their descendants, are extremely widespread.

Given this vast geographic range, it’s natural to ask: who were the ‘original’ Dravidian speakers? How did they spread and why? By looking at the earliest shared features of all Dravidian languages, we can assemble a hypothetical Proto-Dravidian language from which all modern Dravidian languages descend. We can figure out what plants and animals they saw, what their climate was like, and what their politics and settlements were like. Then we can look at the ecology of the subcontinent, archaeological digs, and we can see what matches. Distinguished linguist Franklin C Southworth, in his paper ‘Proto-Dravidian Agricul-

ture’ (2005), made the most rigorous attempt yet to reconstruct this lost world. Proto-Dravidian speakers had a word for ‘king’. They used a similar word for ‘hut’ and ‘village’, suggesting small populations of related families. They knew of various agricultural and hunting tools, and a wide variety of wild animals.

Around the 3rd millennium BCE—when the Harappan civilisation was thriving on the Indus Valley—the speakers of Proto-Dravidian were also aware of many crops, such as sorghum and various types of millet and gram. They also had terms for cattle pens and domesticated sheep and goats. Finally, as archaeobotanist Dorian Q Fuller writes in ‘Non-Human Genetics, Agricultural Origins and Historical Linguistics in South Asia’ (2007), Proto-Dravidian speakers seem to have lived in a dry, deciduous forest environment.

One region seems a good match for all these crite-

ria. It is a region where the ranges of the modern Dravidian language families—Northern, Central, South-Central and South—overlap, and possibly where they radiated from. This is supported by extensive archaeological findings of a “Southern Neolithic” period, with evidence of small mud homes, remains of domesticated and wild animals, and crops.

There is a 73 per cent match between Southworth’s Proto-Dravidian vocabulary of plants and those found in Southern Neolithic sites. Surprisingly, these sites are rather distant from the hotbeds of South Indian linguistic nationalism today. They are neither in south Karnataka nor in Tamil Nadu. Rather, the speakers of Proto-Dravidian, according to archaeological and linguistic streams of evidence, lived in the Krishna-Godavari valley in present-day north Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. To be clear, this is not to say that all Dravidian

speakers originated from the Krishna-Godavari valley. (If we are being cheeky, no human being truly ‘originated’ anywhere except Eastern Africa.) The fact is, even the Proto-Dravidian language has some words borrowed from other language families, namely Austro-Asiatic—spoken mostly in Southeast Asia today, with the Munda families of Odisha and Chhattisgarh being the Indian representatives. This may suggest that the speakers of even earlier stages of Dravidian migrated to the Krishna-Godavari valley from elsewhere, picking up influences from other languages on the way. Some genetic and linguistic theories link early Dravidian speakers to the Iranian Plateau and the Harappan civilisation, but that’s a matter for another day.

Interestingly, the Proto-Dravidian language is not a perfect match for Southern Neolithic excavations: the peoples of the Southern Neolithic practised urn burials, but there’s no vocabulary for it in Proto-Dravidian. It also doesn’t match other archaeological candidates, such as the Harappan civilisation. If their cities are anything to go by, Harappans must have had a vocabulary for engineering and geometry, but it’s practically nonexistent in Proto-Dravidian. Proto-Dravidian also doesn’t have a word for ‘rhinoceros’, which are often depicted on Harappan seals.

TV news is always enthusiastic about a ‘war’ India-Pakistan, Putin-Zelenskyy, Kannada-Tamil

Shailaja Bajpai

War is the No. 1 entertainer on television news in India. It has washed TV soaps down the tube. Who wants to watch a mother-in-law slap her daughter-in-law when we can watch India slap down Pakistan—or Zelenskyy deliver a stinging blow to Putin? Take last Monday: you could watch drones rise into the sky—as only drones can—and swoop down on defenseless Russian aircraft with precision. Slam! Bang! Explosion after explosion lit up the TV screen, flames billowed into smoke, and in the distance, we heard the scary sound of sirens. ‘Badla,’ said Republic Bharat. ‘Badla,’ said Zee Bharat. Operation Sindoor once more? No, it was Operation Spider’s Web.

This was ‘Pearl Harbour 2.0’—the ‘Maha Yudh,’ ‘Full and Final’ (Republic Bharat) running on Indian television news channels. It was ‘Putin v/s Trump’, declared TV9 Bharatvarsh. Why watch a girl named Saru in plaited pigtail confront Ankita in tight skirts (Saru, Zee TV) when you can watch US President Donald Trump, the “Lord of Lunacy”—as TV9 Bharatvarsh called him—oustare Russian President Vladimir Putin? If it’s not actual war, TV news conflicts are more entertaining than the family court-martials on TV soaps. On Wednesday there was a ‘Kannada-Tamil War’ in the TV newsrooms ‘starring’ Ka-



mal Hassan as the ‘villain’ (Times Now). Cut to a visual of the film star, long, stringy strands of hair framing his villainous face, looking exactly like he led a ‘Thug Life’—the title of his latest film. The Mani Ratnam film is now caught in the battle of Bengaluru, as Karnataka threatens to boycott Thug Life after Kamal Hassan appeared to offend Kannadiga pride by stating that “Kannada was born out of Tamil.”

Wouldn’t you rather watch this case of exploding linguistic identities than Akshara swooning here and there during her pregnancy while trying to withstand the nauseating behaviour of her would-be saas, who is trying to prevent her son from marrying Akshara in the TV soap Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai (Star Plus)?

This family drama has aired since 2012 and has so many internal conflicts, great epics pale in comparison. Still, it can’t compare with the drones of war on television news. The comparison between war among nations and war within

a joint family isn’t a false equivalence: both thrive on constant conflict and keep us round-eyed with astonishment at the unfolding events.

What’s clear is that TV news coverage of modern warfare is more eye-catching: boots on the ground have been replaced by flying machines. This allows TV channels to play video war games. Digital technology and now AI help newsrooms come up with high-quality maps, detailed graphics, and advanced animation to bring action to life. Just look at this one by AiTelly. Hindi news channels have also taken to war enthusiastically. TV9 Bharatvarsh is also known as ‘Yudh TV’ for waging ceaseless battle on air, 24×7. The conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Balochistan regularly show up on the news.

How can any mere mortal TV soap actor—who is there to weep, shout, stand, and stare without messing up the make-up—compete with this? The primary purpose of the characters they

play is to look soulfully into the eyes of a beloved or narrow their eyes into venomous slits while they spit out poisonous threats like, “You will not steal Adit from me” (Mangal Lakshmi, Colors). Alternatively, the one happy family has to reinforce the ideals of the patriarchal Hindu value system: In Udne ki Asha (Star Plus), the mother-in-law comes up with a brilliant idea: “All the wives will cook for their husbands!” Well.

TV soaps have not reinvented themselves with the times, perhaps because they’re targeting audiences in smaller cities and rural areas. They’re still about the Hindu parivaar – loving, a fighting, feuding—while urban viewers have moved on to watch OTT shows like the recently released The Royals (Netflix). Even when they attempt change, they fall back on old stereotypes. In Jagruti, Ek Nai Subah (Zee), the lead female character is a policewoman from an imaginary backward community called ‘Chitta’. She is up against the mafia king

– Thakurji. Thakurji profits from drugs, animal skins, and other illegal trades. He lives a lavish lifestyle, sprawled out on a couch with a glass of Scotch whiskey dangling from his fingers as he threatens the police chief. And when he’s angry, he shatters the glass with his bare hand.

Also, everything moves in slow motion; the camera still does a 360-degree twirl to capture the expressionless faces of the family members. And then there’s the music... There’s plenty of music on news channels too—and special effects galore. For shouting matches, we have TV news anchors and their guests—BJP and Congress play the lead roles of warring families. We’ve even watched people assault each other in the newsroom. And if you are loyal viewers of Crime Patrol or the other popular crime shows C.I.D (Sony) and Savdhaan India (Star Bharat), you’ll find enough murder on news channels to slake your blood thirst. Wednesday morning, India Today had news of a “Ghastly crime in Shillong” where honeymooners were “hacked to death”. It also had mobile video footage of a ‘murder in a bakery’. Let’s remember the Shraddha Walkar case that was telecast for weeks across news channels. Lastly, everyone has credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for coming up with the name Operation Sindoor.

IWT in Abeyance: Serious Implications for Pakistan

After the decision to keep Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance was announced, Pakistan’s Power Minister Sardar Awaish Leghari said India had suspended it “in haste and without regard for its consequences amounts to water warfare”. Mr Leghari said: “India’s reckless suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is an act of water warfare; a cowardly, illegal move. Every drop is ours by right and we will defend it with full force – legally, politically and globally”.

On April 23, 2025, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India decided to keep the Treaty in abeyance. The possibilities opening up with India’s announcement is what worries Pakistan. The very first impact it had was Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conceding defeat before Bilawal Zardari Bhutto on April 29, by announcing stoppage of all work on six new canals on Indus. This was a stinging slap for Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir who had inaugurated this project along with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on February 15, 2025.

Pakistan’s Arguments

Be it Sherry Rehman of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) or someone like Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar of Pakistan Muslim League-N, their argument against the Indian action makes interesting reading. Both of them, and some other prominent Pakistani leaders, have said that the IWT has no provision for “unilateral suspension”. Indeed, in all the 12 Articles and appendices, the Treaty doesn’t have a provision for unilateral suspension. However, we also need to see what is there in the Treaty.

According to Article XII, called Final Provisions, the Treaty can be modified from “time to time”. This Article XII was invoked by India, for the first time ever, on January 25, 2023, and Pakistan did not respond. It refused to start fresh negotiations for modification of the Treaty, under this provision.

Does it not amount to Pakistan’s “unilateral” nullifying Article XII of the Treaty?

Knock-out punch The Indian government under Atal Behari Vajpayee talked of the possibility of scrapping the Treaty after December 13, 2001, attack on Parliament. On April 23, 2025, almost 65 years later, PM Modi has done to IWT after the Pahalgam terror killings what earlier wars could not do. Keeping IWT in abeyance was the first of five major punitive steps that the Modi government has initiated against Pakistan to go after it. Keeping the IWT in abeyance is a real knock-out punch that Modi has delivered to our western adversary. Incidentally, it has been Modi’s consistent policy to use IWT as a cornerstone of his government’s diplomatic policy for mounting pressure on Pakistan. It needs to be mentioned here that this was Modi’s punch on IWT delivered to an adversary when least expected.

Just as Pakistan has been consistent in engineering terror attacks, Modi had started flirting with IWT soon after the Uri attack in September 2016. It was perhaps then that Modi toyed with the idea of using water as a tool for coercive diplomacy. A statement attributed to him then was: Blood and water can’t flow together. Just as the Pahalgam terror attack was the handiwork of Lashkar e Toiba (LeT), the attack on Mumbai during November 2008 was directed and choreographed by Hafiz Saeed and Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) in tandem. The difference being that despite the death of 166 people in an orgy of death perpetrated by Ajmal Kasab & Co in 2008, IWT was not even discussed then. It has gone into abeyance with immediate effect this time, sowing the seeds of its modification in the long term.

On April 23 itself, once the decision regarding keeping IWT in abeyance had been taken, India stopped providing different types of data relating to all six rivers to Pakistan. These data sets pertained to river flows recorded on the Indian side which indicated both low and high flows. This data was given to Pakistan on real time basis and was also broadcast on specific channels of the All India Radio (AIR). It was immensely helpful for our adversary as it would aid in scheduling of water releases from their dams like Mangla (on Jhelum), Tarbela (on Indus) and Marala headworks (on Chenab) downstream of Akhnoor town of Jammu district.

The data also helped in predicting high flows and thereby aid in mitigating the impact of floods by asking the people living near the banks of rivers to move out to higher areas. The data, of low flows, on the other hand, helped in mitigating drought like conditions, deploying tankers to supply drinking water to population and such other measures. In summing up the impact of data deficiency on Pakistan, we can say that it will become very challenging for it to plan its crops which depend on periodic releases from the dams. Putting the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance immediately effectively means it is being mothballed and put in cold store. The weaponisation of water has just got real and before long Pakistan will feel the heat.

It needs to be mentioned here that under the Treaty, Pakistan gets 135.6 MAF of waters of the three Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab). On the other hand, India got only 32.7 MAF of waters of three Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej). It means Pakistan gets over 80 per cent share and India just 20 per cent share of waters under the IWT. This Treaty is truly 80: 20, with Pakistan getting bulk of the waters available in the Indus system. For Tulbul Navigation Project, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), functioning under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has established a new office in Srinagar as part of efforts to boost inland water transport infrastructure in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The IWAI office will oversee the works related to water transport in the Jhelum as also other rivers. The office of this ministry was opened on May 13 officially in at Srinagar’s Transport Bhawan.

India has maintained that its decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance was prompted by Pakistan’s continued support for cross-border terrorism, which it says undermines the spirit of bilateral cooperation on which the treaty was founded. New Delhi has argued that while it has consistently honoured the agreement for over six decades, repeated terror attacks have compelled it to reassess the framework governing water cooperation. The move is expected to have long-term strategic implications, particularly for future hydroelectric and water infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir. Experts believe India could now expedite projects on the western rivers within the limits of its sovereign rights, strengthening water management, irrigation, and power generation in the region while reducing procedural constraints that existed under the treaty. Diplomatic observers note that any future modification or restoration of the treaty will likely depend on broader developments in India-Pakistan relations. They argue that meaningful dialogue on water-sharing may only become possible if there is sustained progress on security concerns and an end to cross-border terrorism, which India has consistently identified as a prerequisite for normal bilateral engagement. Despite the current impasse, water experts stress that the Indus river system remains vital for millions of people on both sides of the border. They emphasize that any long-term solution should balance national security considerations with sustainable water management, regional stability, and humanitarian concerns to ensure the equitable use of shared river resources.

Need to link Innovation with Business Opportunities to End Plastic Waste: Union Minister Bhupender Yadav

New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, today celebrated World Environment Day 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the slogan ‘One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution’. In a video message broadcasted at the event, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted that maintaining environmental balance is part of Indian culture. He emphasized that India had started to take action on plastic pollution much before the issue had gained global traction.

The event witnessed the august presence of Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi; Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister for Environment, Forest & Wild Life, Government of NCT of Delhi and Dr.



Pankaj Kumar Singh, Minister for Transport, Government of NCT of Delhi. The event also saw the participation of members of industry, civil society, students and Government officers from States and concerned central Ministries, following the ‘Whole of Government’ and ‘Whole of Society’ approach. In his keynote address,

Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav highlighted that vehicular pollution is an important issue in Delhi and that the use of Electric Buses will help in reducing air pollution. He also emphasized that pollution of river Yamuna needs to be collectively addressed by the states. He stated that though plastic is an important material the

improper disposal of plastic waste is leading to the problem of plastic pollution.

The Minister urged the citizens of Delhi not to use plastic carry bags below 120 microns in thickness and avoid the use of single use plastics. He underscored the need to adopt technologies which allow us to reuse and recycle plastic waste,

and highlighted the need to link innovative technology with business opportunities to reduce plastic pollution. Shri Yadav further emphasized that EPR Guidelines promote circular economy and ensure environmentally sound management of plastic waste. He highlighted the urgent need to adopt the principles of Mission

LiFE and promote recycling to reduce consumption of virgin natural resources. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor, Delhi, emphasized on the green initiatives taken in Delhi in last three years and that the tree cover of Delhi has increased. He also highlighted the importance of greening of Aravallis.

In her address, Chief Minister of Government of NCT of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta highlighted the importance of collective action and behavioural change for addressing plastic pollution. She also underscored the need for innovative technologies in solving the problem of plastic pollution.

Two important publications were released today. The first publication on Government Initiatives on Ending Plastic Pollution covers the steps taken by the Government to address plastic pollution.

Mission Karmayogi Ushering a Cultural Shift in Governance, Says Jitendra Singh



New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): As the Modi Government completes 11 years in office, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh described the journey as one of “bold decisions, futuristic reforms and transformative governance,” asserting that these years have redefined India’s development narrative and restored public faith in the system.

In an exclusive interview, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the past decade has seen the government under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi setting new benchmarks in decision-making by prioritizing long-term national interest. “Whether it was the rollout of GST, the push for Digital India, or the opening up of strategic sectors like space and atomic energy to private players, each initiative has been driven by the vision of a self-reliant and globally competitive India,” he said. He also pointed to the Department of Biotechnology’s (DBT) expanded role in fostering innovation, particularly in vaccine development, genetic research, and bio-entrepreneurship, as part of the broader science and technology thrust that has positioned India as a rising global tech hub.

One of the standout fea-

tures of the Modi era, the Minister noted, has been the seamless integration of traditional governance goals with modern technology. “Under Modi’s leadership, sectors like space, atomic energy, and biotechnology received unprecedented push. The global recognition India enjoys today in these fields is a direct result of consistent support and visionary policies,” he noted.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that space technology, once limited to rocket launches, is now improving daily life through applications like telemedicine, agricultural weather updates, and online education. “Science is no longer confined to labs—it’s simplifying life, and that’s the true essence of innovation,” he remarked. He also highlighted transformative initiatives such as the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity, which redefined service delivery across the country. Equally impactful, he said, was the Swachh Bharat Mission, which evolved into a mass social movement, cutting across political lines and reshaping public behaviour.

The Minister also drew attention to Special Campaign 4.0, an initiative aimed at promoting cleanliness, efficiency, and responsible disposal practices within government offices. “Under this campaign, departments not only cleared massive backlogs of files but also turned e-waste into valuable resources,” he said.

Maithili cuisine: A one of its kind



New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): An inalienable part of the robust culinary offerings from Bihar is the Maithili or Mithila cuisine. It spans across parts of Bihar, Jharkhand (Part of Bihar till 2000) and the Koshi, Bagmati and Madhesh provinces of Nepal. Mithila first gained prominence after being settled by Indo-Aryan people who established the Videha kingdom. During the Later Vedic period (c. 1100-500 BCE), Videha became one of the major political and cultural centres of Ancient India, along with Kuru and Panchala. The kings of the Videha Kingdom were called Janakas and the Videha Kingdom was incorporated into the Vajjika League, which had its capital in the city of Vaishali and is also in Mithila. Mithila is one of the most significant pilgrimage sites in Jainism and is associated with Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara. Lord Buddha also visited this region and during his visit, he is recorded to have preached the Makhadeva and Brahmayu suttas, which are part of the Pali canon.

The region’s legacy therefore is unparalleled, and it extends to the culinary sphere as well. In the 14th century, the Maithili book titled Varnaratnakara discussed Maithili cuisine and mentioned the importance of yoghurt (dahi), fish (machha), and various other elements. This historical reference suggests that Maithili cuisine has remained relatively unchanged for many centuries. Maithili cuisine isn’t just about tradition, it also follows Ayurvedic prin-

ciples and adapts to seasonal food cycles. Special dishes are prepared during Maithili festivals like Juddhashtami, Dashahara, Tila Sankranti, and the Chhath Puja.

Local produce is the fundamental and star element of the cuisine, there is also the incorporation of meticulous techniques, leading to dishes known for their simplicity as well as sophistication which resonate with the rich cultural history of the area. Did I mention the simplicity of dishes? There is also an element of grandeur that is associated with the food of this region — the ‘Chhappan Bhog’! a feast in honour of people, usually, revered guests, friends, and family. This has its beginnings in being offered to Lord Krishna in gratitude, a total of 56 dishes offered to him by the Brijwasis, representing eight meals for each of the seven days he shielded the people of Vrindavan from Lord Indra’s wrath. Chhappan Bhog represents a harmonious blend of six tastes: bitter (karwa), spicy (teekha), astringent (kasaila), sour (khatta), salty (namkeen), and sweet (meetha). By skillfully combining these tastes in various ways, 56 distinct and delectable dishes are made and include Parwal Tarua — Parwal, also known as pointed gourd is sliced into two halves lengthwise, coated in a thick batter, and deep-fried, Kadima Tarua — Kadima refers to the fresh leaves of the pumpkin in Maithili, after washing the fresh leaves of Kadima, it needs to be folded like a triangle, the leaves are then heated on a low flame.

“India’s maritime prowess soars, global collaborations give thrust to Make in India”: Sarbananda Sonowal

New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, attended the MoU signing ceremonies in Oslo, as Indian maritime companies inked them with leading global players, exploring opportunities for collaboration and future business.

A Memorandum of Intent (MOI) was signed by Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler und Rehder GmbH & Co. KG, Germany and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) for construction of additional 4 numbers of 7,500 DWT multi-purpose vessels. These vessels will be having hybrid propulsion and will be adhering to the latest cyber security norms. This is additional to an existing order of 8 such vessels currently being constructed at GRSE’s Kolkata yard. GRSE also signed MoUs with Aries Marine LLC from UAE on collaboration on “Construction of Offshore platforms and Vessels” and



with a Global Engine Manufacturer. During the Union Minister’s visit to the Norway pavilion, an MoU was signed between India’s Larsen & Toubro (L&T) group and Norway’s DNV covering multiple areas of collaboration. It includes shipbuilding, Offshore & Maritime and Expanding Port Infrastructure, Energy Systems, Industrial Solutions and Smart Infrastructure, Sustainability, ESG and Risk Services, Software, cyber security, plat-

forms and digital solutions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, “It is a privilege to join you here at the Norwegian Pavilion—an impressive showcase of maritime innovation, deep-rooted seafaring tradition, and forward-looking sustainability. Norway has long been a valued partner of India. Our enduring collaboration is built on shared values, mutual respect, and

ICA Conference Reaffirms Arbitration’s Central Role in Cross-Border Dispute Resolution Across the India-UK Economic Corridor

New Delhi, July 8 (GNS): The Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) organized the 3rd edition of its International Conference on “Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes” during the London International Disputes Week (LIDW) 2025. The symposium laid emphasis on “Synergizing India UK Arbitration Practices” with dedicated panel discussions on “Hybrid Dispute Resolution Models in Indo-UK Commercial Conflicts” and “Bridging Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in India-UK to Enhance Trade & Investment”.

In a packed hall of legal luminaries & other stakeholders, the Conference was inaugurated by Shri Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Chief Justice of India by delivering the inaugural address. Hon’ble CJI recapitulated the huge potential of growth in India-UK economic corridor aided by robust cross border commercial dispute resolu-



tion mechanism and said, “The very foundation of the concept of arbitration and mediation can be found in Indian traditional values, where disputes were referred to the elders of the village. As India continues to solidify its position as a major player in the world economy, the significance of arbitration institutions is becoming increasingly important in enhancing India’s standing as a hub for arbitration.”

Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of Law & Justice, while delivering the Keynote Address highlighted that “Our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at the “National Initiative towards Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement in Conclusion India organised on 23.10.2016 have highlighted the importance of ADR. Hence, we need to simultaneously facilitate a vibrant ecosystem for alternate dispute resolu-

tion including arbitration, mediation and conciliation. This will provide additional comfort to investors and business. More importantly it will also ease the case load on Indian Courts”.

Also, during the inaugural session The Rt Hon Lord Michael Briggs of Westbourne, Judge Supreme Court of the UK in his keynote address stated that, “The statutory arbitration regimes in India and the UK are similar, yet also different, in both the

statutory regime is embedded in our shared fabric of the common law, which has for centuries recognized the right to a fair hearing in court. The recent signing of India-UK FTA and the enhanced cooperation in terms of arbitral frameworks, replacing the mechanism of litigation for commercial dispute resolution, holds the potential to enhance the bilateral economic relations in times that come”.

Vikram K. Doraiswami,

High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, in his special address highlighted “The India-UK FTA is India’s most ambitious FTA to date. It isn’t just about the figures; it opens up government procurements on equal footing with British companies and spans a range of services and sectors to let both our countries benefit. The growth of commerce invites growth of disputes unavoidably, however eventually an efficient and effective dispute resolution is what will enhance innovation & private sector ingenuity aiding growth of commerce across the jurisdictions”.

N G Khaitan, President, ICA & Senior Partner, Khaitan & Co, in his welcome address highlighted, “The Indian arbitral landscape is pro-arbitration which heightens investor confidence making India a preferred destination for international commercial dispute resolution.

Canada invites Telangana CM to visit for trade, investment ties

Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) Canada's High Commissioner to India, Chris Cooter, on Wednesday, July 8, met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad and invited him to visit the country.

Reddy and Cooter held crucial discussions focused on strengthening Canada-Telangana trade, investment, and innovation partnerships. The deliberations focused on opportunities for enhanced collaboration in major infrastructure and urban development projects underway in Telangana, such as the Musi River Development Project, the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion, and the Future City being developed by the state government on the outskirts of Hyderabad, a state government release said. Cooter highlighted several recent developments reflecting Telangana's growing footprint in Canada, including Firan Technology



Group's decision to set up a manufacturing facility and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's opening of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad. He noted CPP Investments' major investment in Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters, committing up to one billion Canadian dollars under a strategic partnership. Reddy explained Telangana's success

story in various sectors such as IT, Life Sciences, Defence and Aerospace. He highlighted Hyderabad's dominance in attracting Global Capability Centres of Fortune 500 companies, the release said. The CM also stressed the state government's commitment to rejuvenate the river Musi, which would promote economic activity along the riverfront. He sought Can-

ada's support for the state's solar power push and its plans to promote a green economy, the release said. Elaborating on his plans to transform the state into a global knowledge hub, the CM said several top global universities are coming forward to set up campuses in Hyderabad. He pitched the idea of a group of Canadian universities establishing a multi-university campus in

Hyderabad. The CM welcomed growing Canadian engagement in the state and invited Canadian companies, investors and institutions to participate in the second edition of Telangana's Global Investors Summit, scheduled for December this year, to explore new business opportunities and partnerships. Cooter was all praise for Telangana's forward-looking vision and approach to job creation and development.

He said the state holds massive potential given its massive talent pool.

Offering to extend all support to the state government's initiatives, Cooter invited the CM to visit Canada and explore further opportunities across sectors.

In the coming months, a Canadian trade delegation will visit Telangana and hold extensive discussions on areas like energy, urbanisation, defence and aerospace, Cooter added.

Chief Secretary Reviews IT Dept

Focuses on Citizen-Centric E-Governance



Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Thursday reviewed the functioning of the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications at the

Dr.B.R. AmbedkarTelangana State Secretariat. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary assessed the department's ongoing activities and directed officials to identify new-generation citizen ser-

vice platforms, strengthen MeeSeva services, and accelerate the implementation of citizen-centric e-governance initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery across the state.

Jagga Reddy challenges Harish Rao to accept Revanth's debate on Kaleshwaram



Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President T Jagga Reddy on Wednesday accused the BRS of playing politics over the Kaleshwaram project and challenged senior BRS leader T Harish Rao to accept Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's invitation for a debate in the Assembly.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Jagga Reddy said Harish Rao, who handled the irrigation portfolio during the construction of

the Kaleshwaram project, should take responsibility for the reported structural failures instead of blaming the Congress government. He questioned why former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was not attending the Assembly despite being invited by the Chief Minister to discuss the issue.

Referring to the findings of the National Dam Safety Authority, Jagga Reddy said the authority had advised against storing water at the affected barrage and alleged that the previous

BRS government ignored expert recommendations, leading to the damage.

He accused the BRS leadership of misleading the public on the Kaleshwaram issue and urged Harish Rao to participate in an Assembly debate along with KCR and dam safety experts instead of making allegations outside the House. Jagga Reddy maintained that the Congress government was committed to transparency and said those responsible for the project's failures should be held accountable.

Telangana waqf board warns against fake land allotment pamphlet

Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) It has come to the notice of the Telangana Waqf Board that a Pamphlet /Notice is being widely circulated on social media platforms, purportedly issued by an organization styling itself as the "Sufi Ulama Council," claiming that the Board or the Government is allotting 99 Yards of land on lease to the wives, sisters, or mothers of Imams and Muezzins of the State who hold a Telangana ration card, ID card, or Aadhaar card, and inviting applications

for the same at an address in Kishan Bagh. The Telangana Waqf Board categorically clarifies that: No such scheme, notification, or land allotment process has been initiated, approved, or authorized by the Telangana Waqf Board or the Government of Telangana.

The Board has no association whatsoever with the said "Sufi Ulama Council" or the address mentioned in the circulating pamphlet.

No applications are being received by the Board in this regard, and no deadline

of 15 July or any other date has been fixed for any such purpose. The claim that land will be identified and allotted "based on survey number and location" after Waqf Board approval is entirely false and misleading.

Members of the public, Imams, Muezzins, and Waqf institutions are strongly advised not to submit any personal documents (Aadhaar, ration card, ID proof) or applications to the address mentioned in the said circular, and not to fall prey to this misinformation.

Young engineers should become job creators, nation builders: Governor

Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday called upon young engineering graduates to become job creators, innovators and nation builders rather than job seekers, saying they have a crucial role in shaping the country's future. Addressing the 6th Graduation Day ceremony of Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) at Gandipet as the chief guest, the Governor said a convocation was not merely about awarding degrees but a solemn occasion that entrusted young minds with the responsibility of building the nation's future.

Urging the graduates to contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, Shukla encouraged them to emerge as entrepreneurs, innovators and problem-solvers capable of generating employment and driving economic growth.

Highlighting Telangana's emergence as a global hub for technology, innovation, research, startups, aerospace and biopharmaceuti-



icals, he said Hyderabad offered immense opportunities for young talent to excel and make meaningful contributions.

Stressing that true education combines knowledge with character, the Governor advised students to uphold ethical values, discipline and lifelong learning.

He also appealed to the youth to stay away from drugs and become ambassadors of a "Nasha Mukh Bharat", promoting a healthy, disciplined and responsible lifestyle.

Congratulating the graduating Class of 2026, Shukla wished them success in bringing pride to their families, their institution, Telangana and the nation.

Emphasis on 'Clean and Green' in Gurukuls and hostels; no compromise on menu implementation

Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) With 20 days having passed since the reopening of Gurukuls and hostels, Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, held a review meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat. The meeting focused on the implementation of decisions made during the previous review and the general activities of the BC Welfare Department. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister directed officials to take special measures to ensure that Gurukuls and hostels maintain a clean and green environment. He instructed that the menu prescribed by the government must be strictly implemented in all Gurukuls and hostels.

The Minister emphasized that District BC Welfare Officers (DBCWs) must perform their duties with discipline and accord the highest priority to student welfare. Public representatives were advised to frequently visit residential schools and



hostels to personally inspect the conditions of the students. The Minister directed the formation of a special committee to enhance the quality of study circles and to effectively implement vocational training and skill development programs alongside Civil Services coaching. Officials were instructed to study successful study circle models from other regions—such as Delhi and Ahmedabad—and take steps to implement them within the state.

Instructions were given to ensure equal opportunities for traditional artisans from all communities at the 'Traditional Occupations Fair' (Kulavrutula Mela) scheduled to be held at the HMDA grounds

starting July 16. The Minister ordered the formulation of comprehensive guidelines for the implementation of the sewing machine scheme, aimed at fostering women's economic self-reliance. He also advised expanding skill development programs under the BC Welfare Department to boost employment opportunities and directed officials to conduct a thorough study on economic support schemes and prepare proposals for their implementation.

The Minister ordered the submission of a comprehensive report regarding the distribution of laptops to residential school students who secured seats in IITs and IIMs.

BJP credits Centre for Tadicherla-II coal block, slams Congress and BRS over Singareni, Dharani

Hyderabad, July 8 (GNS) Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao on Wednesday credited the Central Government for allotting the Tadicherla-II coal block to Singareni Collieries Company Limited and accused the previous BRS and the present Congress governments of neglecting the coal major and misusing its resources.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office in Nampally, Ramchander Rao said the allocation of the Tadicherla-II coal block, with coal reserves of about 182 million tonnes, was a major boost for Telangana and would help Singareni generate revenues exceeding Rs 64,000 crore

while creating employment opportunities for around 1,200 youths. Expressing gratitude to Narendra Modi and union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy, he said the allotment reflected the Centre's commitment to strengthening Telangana's future.

He rejected the Congress government's claim that it had secured the coal block, asserting that it was achieved through the efforts of BJP MPs, MLAs, district leaders and Kishan Reddy. He also questioned why the former Manmohan Singh-led government had failed to allocate the block. Ramchander Rao alleged that the previous BRS government had exploited Sin-

gareni for vested interests, while the present Congress government was diverting the company's funds for events such as football matches. He said Singareni currently operates 39 mines and employs about 41,000 permanent workers and 31,000 contract workers.

Highlighting the Centre's reforms in the coal sector, the BJP leader said coal production under Coal India had increased by around 70 per cent during the Modi government's tenure, with the sector now generating nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore in revenue annually.

On land administration, he demanded a comprehensive probe into alleged fake accounts in the

Dharani portal, claiming that around 2,000 fake accounts had surfaced during the Congress government's tenure. He urged the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to widen its investigation to include alleged irregularities in the Bhu Bharathi programme and sought stringent action against politicians and officials found involved in corruption.

The BJP leader further alleged that the Congress and BRS were attempting to divert public attention from alleged irregularities in Dharani and Bhu Bharathi by reviving discussions on the Kannepalli and Medigadda barrages under the Kaleshwaram project.



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