

CM Revanth Reddy directs speedy Old City Metro Works

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (Patriotic Views): Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed officials to expedite Metro Rail works in Hyderabad's Old City under the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2 project and initiate the tender process. Reddy held a review meeting with senior officials of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) on the Old City Metro project and directed them to complete road widening works along the 7.5-km stretch from MGBS to Chandrayangutta at a fast pace. The Chief Minister also enquired about pending land acquisition and instructed officials to finalise the Metro expansion plans immediately.

Noting the steadily increasing ridership on the Hyderabad Metro, Reddy directed officials to take appropriate measures to handle the growing passenger



load, including procuring additional coaches for Metro trains. Regarding the 7.5-km MGBS-Chandrayangutta corridor under Phase-2, the Chief Minister instructed officials to consult the Delhi Metro for assistance on the appropriate technology to be employed. During the meeting, Reddy also reviewed preliminary arrangements for the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit', scheduled to be held in December. The meeting discussed organisational arrangements for the

summit and plans to honour prominent persons from various business sectors during the meeting.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to organise the summit to international standards with the objective of attracting global investments to Telangana. He directed officials to submit a detailed report on investments attracted and progress made following last year's summit and instructed them to prepare plans to achieve

further progress in attracting investments. State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Government Advisors Ramakrishna Rao and NVS Reddy, Metro Rail MD Sarfaraz Ahmed, Additional MD Ajit Reddy and others participated in the meeting.

Earlier in June, the State and Union Governments had collectively appointed SBICAPS as the official consultant. The consultant has been tasked with a comprehensive mandate, including: Phase-I valuation by conducting a detailed study on the valuation of the existing Hyderabad Metro Phase-I; identifying necessary loans and selecting optimal lending agencies for the takeover process; providing a detailed analysis of expansion routes, construction costs, and sustainable financing models for the proposed Phase-II project.

India, Namibia agree to boost trade and investment ties

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI): India and Namibia have agreed to strengthen bilateral trade beyond a raw-material-based composition towards value addition, set up investment focal points and new working groups on pharmaceuticals and services at a two-day meeting between official delegations of the two countries, which concluded here on Tuesday. The two countries have also identified structured cooperation across exploration, offtake, processing and downstream beneficiation of critical minerals such as lithium, graphite, copper, cobalt, and rare earth elements, in line with Namibia's priorities of value addition and local employment creation.

The two sides have designated Invest India and the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board as Joint Trade Committee (JTC) investment



focal points, with a named official on each side, according to an official statement issued after the meeting. Closer cooperation has been identified in railways and rolling stock, solar and wind power, battery storage, transmission, green hydrogen, biofuels, and desalination.

A dedicated Services Working Group will also be constituted, which will meet no later than February 2027 and submit its work plan to the JTC. Namibian participation has been invited

in India's Special Notified Zones at Surat and Mumbai and in the India Rough Gemstones Sourcing Show, together with training support in diamond cutting, polishing and jewellery design.

The first Joint Working Group under the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicine will be convened by December 2026, while the Janaushadhi cooperation agreement with HLL Lifecare Limited is at an advanced stage of finalisation.

A decision was taken for the continued rollout of the instant payment system built on India's Unified Payments Interface, unveiled in Namibia as "Wayame" on 15 June 2026, with proposals for a FinTech Cooperation Framework between the Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Namibia.

Besides, the terms of reference have been finalised for the India-SACU PTA and scheduled for signature on 12 August 2026, with negotiations to commence within one month of signature and to conclude within one year, the statement added. Cooperation was also taken forward at the session on agriculture and food security, MSMEs, textiles, tourism, and sports. The Fifth Session of the JTC will be held in Namibia in 2028 on dates to be mutually agreed through diplomatic channels, the statement added.

Delhi HC to Hear Appeals in Ankit Sharma Murder Case

New Delhi, Aug 11 (UNI): Convicts Nazim and Kasim, who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the murder case of Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 North-East Delhi riots, have approached the Delhi High Court challenging their conviction and sentence.

As per the supplementary cause list published by the Delhi High Court, the criminal appeals filed by Nazim and Kasim are scheduled to come up for hearing on Wednesday before a Division Bench of Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Vikas Mahajan.

Nazim has filed Criminal Appeal No. 764/2026, along with an application seek-

ing suspension of sentence and bail, while Kasim has filed Criminal Appeal No. 766/2026 with a similar plea. Both appeals arise out of the judgment of the Karkardooma Court, which had convicted them along with former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain, Javed and Anas in connection with the killing of IB officer Ankit Sharma.

While pronouncing the sentence, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Praveen Singh had described the crime as a "very serious" incident and observed that Sharma was "brutally murdered" and his body was left "like an animal", adding that the incident had "shaken the conscience of society".

SC asks Centre to examine safeguards against deepfakes, online threats

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Tuesday disposed of a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking creation of a time-bound, URL-specific and legally or judicially supervised mechanism to deal with grave forms of online harm, including rape and death threats, doxing, exposure of children's private details and non-consensual intimate or deepfake content.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana directed the Union government to consider the issues raised by the petitioner in his representation and take such remedial measures as may be required.



During the hearing, advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami highlighted the urgency of dealing with online threats and asked: "Suppose a woman's home address is posted with a rape threat tonight, at 9 p.m. Will it be allowed to remain online at this stage?" The CJI Kant-led Bench observed that the petitioner had "highlighted very well"

the various modes, kinds and facets of cybercrime, but said that issues concerning their detection and preventive measures were matters for domain experts.

The petitioner then submitted that he had already raised the issue through a representation. When the apex court asked whom the representation had been addressed to, Goswami replied that it was sent to the Union Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology, Home Affairs, and Law and Justice. In its order, the CJI Kant-led Bench noted that the petition sought directions for creation of an effective supervisory mechanism to address grave unlawful digital harms.

Soren: Over 8,500 Suggestions Received on Exam Reforms

Ranchi, Aug 11 (GNS): Amid the student agitation in Jharkhand over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations, Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday evening once again reached out to the youth through social media, seeking their participation in reforming the state's examination system. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said that more than 8,500 suggestions had been received so far under the campaign "Students' Voice, With Students", aimed at improving the examination process.

This is the third social media message posted by Soren in the last three days addressing young people amid growing concerns



over examination-related issues in the state. He said that students and aspirants have shared several valuable suggestions on matters such as OMR-based examinations, a fixed examination calendar, scorecards, question papers, transparency in recruitment tests, greater use of technology, and necessary reforms within the constitutional frame-

work of both recruitment commissions, including the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC).

The Chief Minister said the government's objective is not merely to discuss existing problems but to develop a robust examination system that is transparent, fair, secure, reliable, and accountable for present as well as future generations. Appealing to young people to continue sharing their views, Soren said that every suggestion received has the potential to contribute not only to reforms in the current examination system but also to improving the future prospects of thousands of students and job aspirants across Jharkhand.

Marine biotechnology open new opportunities for science-led growth: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Tuesday laid out an integrated roadmap that ties Central government's 'Rare Earth Corridor' proposal, state's rich marine and coastal resources, biotechnology ecosystem, space capabilities and network of scientific institutions.

The meeting finalised expansion of "Institute of Life Sciences", Bhubaneswar belonging to the Department of Biotechnology, with provision for additional 50 acres land from the Odisha State Government, according to an official statement. The expanded institutional



capacity can provide a stronger base for research in life sciences and biotechnology and for initiatives linked to the Bio-E3 framework, Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment. Dr Singh said the Eastern Coastal Region can play a much larger role in India's emerging Nuclear

and Marine roadmap, with Odisha well placed to contribute through coordinated efforts involving Central scientific institutions and the State Government.

The approach seeks to move from individual institutional initiatives towards a connected ecosystem spanning ocean resources, critical minerals, life sciences, space technology and technology-led economic development. Dr. Singh was discussing the roadmap with Odisha's Cabinet Minister for Science & Technology, Krushna Chandra Patra, who presented a series of proposals relating to the State's science and tech-

nology priorities.

The discussions covered the expansion of marine biotechnology, strengthening of life sciences infrastructure, greater utilisation of Odisha's coastal and mineral resources, space applications and manufacturing, Rare Earth exploration, scientific infrastructure and participation of coastal districts in national marine-environment initiatives. Discussions covered Odisha Marine Biotechnology Research & Innovation Corridor (OMBRIC), being developed as a collaborative platform bringing together leading academic and research institutions in the state.

Mamata Banerjee Faces Protest In Kolkata After Bijpur Incident

Kolkata, Aug 11 (GNS): Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday afternoon faced protest slogans at Shyambazar five point crossing in North Kolkata, just two days after she was targeted by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers while visiting the family of a Trinamool Congress worker who allegedly died in police custody in Kancharpara, North 24 Parganas district.

Tuesday's protests were restricted to "thief" and "go back" slogans, unlike the incident at Kancharpara on Sunday when demonstrators surrounded Mamata Banerjee's car, hurled mud and a torn

slipper towards her, and shouted slogans calling her a "thief". On Tuesday, Mamata Banerjee arrived at Shyambazar to garland the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The situation was peaceful while she garlanded the statue.

After completing the garlanding process, she launched a scathing attack against the party of insulting several legendary freedom fighters, including Netaji. As she was about to leave, some BJP activists assembled and shouted slogans calling her a "thief". The tension escalated briefly, but a large police contingent quickly brought the situation under control.

India to import oil from diversified sources: MEA

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): India is focused on securing its energy needs through diversified sources in order to meet its national priorities amid the supply chain disruptions due to the West Asia conflict, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday. "Our energy security, what it is predicated on, is meeting our national priorities, which is securing the needs of our 1.4 billion people," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"This remains the cornerstone of our energy security approach. And this is what we want to achieve through diversified sources. We want to source our energy through diversified

sources," he told journalists in answer to a query. The statement comes against the backdrop of the US Senate passing legislation which grants President Donald Trump authority to levy tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods exported by top buyers of Russian oil, including India. Western countries see these oil imports helping Russia finance its war against Ukraine. "As far as tariffs are concerned, talks are ongoing between the United States and India on a bilateral trade agreement," the MEA spokesperson added.

India has diversified its sources for the import of crude oil to 41 countries compared with 27 earlier.

Time to revisit Special Intensive Revision

Such a comprehensive exercise can't be abrupt in its timing & aggressive in its procedure

Ashok Lavasa

THIS has been a year of good monsoon with no noticeable sandstorms save the dust raised by the Election Commission of India (ECI) winning the electoral rolls of Bihar through an unprecedented process named the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The dust turned into a virtual storm because the state elections are to follow.

Political parties and civil society organisations have raised the spectre of mass disenfranchisement and dragged the ECI to the Supreme Court (SC). Sixty days after the launch of the SIR and several hearings by the SC, the dust hasn't settled.

Meanwhile, the SC passed two interim orders interpreted by the petitioners as vindication of their stand and by the ECI as an endorsement of its proclaimed intent and indubitable authority to carry on with the exercise. The petitioners claim partial victory; the ECI is equally determined to demonstrate its triumph. It is like an uphill run in which the runners feel rehydrated by an energy-boosting drink along the way. No one questions the unjustified gradient of the forced climb. Both parties seem to be panting as they attempt to prove their point.

The SC appears to back the ECI with one hand and help the elector with the other, apparently easing



the burden of proof the poll panel has unduly cast on the voters. The two SC orders essentially ask the ECI to do what it was always known for -- be transparent and ease compliance by accepting a document that is easily available. With the SC slated to hear the case on September 8, it is hard to say at this stage where this exercise is headed, but it is time to dispassionately look at its purpose and evaluate the process followed by the ECI to achieve that purpose. Fair ends must be achieved by fair means. Attributing motives to the ECI other than what it publicly stated would lead to greater contumely; examining the procedure employed would be more instructive.

The ECI has already announced that all states must go through the rigorous SIR exercise next year. In some states, the preliminary work might have begun. Can some lessons be learnt from the ongoing SIR? Can the SC and the ECI cobble together

an acceptable framework that achieves the purpose of purification without causing confusion and inconvenience to the electorate in securing their constitutional right? Can Bihar be the pilot to pave a smoother path for the rest of the country?

The right framework can be evolved if the right questions are raised regarding the procedure employed in the current revision as stipulated in the ECI's June 24 order, including the unanswered questions pertaining to the exercise thus far:

Why is the ECI order on the intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls in 2003 not in the public domain for people to assess the change in procedure and its rationale? How did the EC verify death/permanent migration of those who didn't submit the enumeration forms as no house-to-house survey or field investigation was stipulated? Did it consult any authorised record or was this based on hearsay? If the enumeration forms are prefilled

based on existing ECI data, leaving no scope for the elector to correct an error, would the ECI not inherit the errors and leave the rolls unpurified to that extent?

The poll panel would understandably be under pressure to show the efficiency of its exercise, but if all that it succeeds in doing is de-duplication and removing dead electors, where was the need to subject every elector to a stress test? In removing those who have supposedly 'migrated' but are keen on voting in the place where they belong, is the ECI not restricting their choice of participating in the political process of the place of their preference?

After all, NRIs have the right to vote at the place of their claimed origin even if they ordinarily reside elsewhere, and so do defence personnel and parliamentarians. The ECI should not choose for them; they should be free to make their choice based on their democratic inclinations. A

migrant worker might lead a peripatetic existence and feel that he belongs where he has his land, family or moorings. The compassionate approach that the ECI has hitherto followed must imbue its zeal for correctness. The ECI has a reputation of being sound on protocols, managing the most arduous exercise through elaborate and meticulous standard operating procedures, which it drills down to its machinery through repeated training. That its instructions lacked clarity in the Bihar SIR is surprising.

For example, it should spell out in detail the basis on which booth-level officers (BLOs) are expected to make their recommendations on the enumeration forms submitted by the electors, which was not clearly specified in Bihar. Similarly, the criterion for scrutiny by the supervisory officers of cases not recommended by BLOs and the stage of the scrutiny should be clearly stated.

Of Politics, Polemics and Power Battles

Politics in Bihar has once again turned into a boiling cauldron, an arena where ballots and barbs collide with ferocity. What should have been a basic bureaucratic exercise of revising electoral rolls, has instead metamorphosed into a logomachies of politics, polemics, and power, a rhetorical duel where every word has become a weapon, every accusation a salvo, and every rebuttal a counterstrike in the struggle for electoral dominance.

On the one side stand opposition, hurling thunderous charges of "vote chori" (vote theft) portraying the exercise as nothing less than a sacrilegious assault on Bharat Mata. On the other side, the Election Commission and ruling party retaliate with equal force, branding these allegations as manufactured hysteria designed to tarnish democratic institutions. In this theatre of democracy, press briefings, affidavits and social media videos have transformed into ammunition that shows no sign of abating.

The polemics have reached a boiling point. Escalating his fusillade against the Election Commission, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently thundered a dire warning, declaring that stern and unforgiving action awaits the Chief Election Commissioner and his colleagues when the INDIA bloc ascends to power. His words rattled the guardians of the electoral machinery, who fear that their credibility built over decades, is being undermined in the public mind.

For the Election Commission and the ruling BJP-NDA combine, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a constitutional exercise designed to cleanse voter lists and restore electoral integrity. For the opposition, however, it is nothing short of a political weapon, engineered to disenfranchise the vulnerable, tilt the scales, and entrench the incumbents.

The Congress-RJD bloc, backed by INDIA alliance partners, has positioned itself firmly against the SIR. Their accusation: the revision, initiated just months before the Bihar Assembly elections, is less about cleansing rolls and more about strategic excision, targeting Muslims, Dalits, and migrant workers, groups that form the backbone of opposition support. To them, the timing is proof of conspiracy; the intent, they argue, is nakedly partisan.

Rahul Gandhi has spearheaded the campaign with his rhetoric. Branding the exercise a conspiracy to "steal" elections, he coined the phrase "Vote Chori" as his political battle cry. He warned that Bihar could witness an "NRC-like situation."

Gandhi highlighted stories of alleged disenfranchisement as 100% proof of fraud, such as Ranju Devi, who initially claimed her family's names had vanished from the rolls. However, the Election Commission countered by releasing a video where she admitted her family's names were intact and that she had been misled by political operatives. This dented the opposition narrative. For the ruling NDA, this episode was termed as opposition's strategy to manufactured victimhood lacking credible evidence.

In yet another fiery intervention, Gandhi released a video featuring Subodh Kumar, claiming is name was deleted from the rolls and declared it proof of "vote theft" and an assault on Bharat Mata. The Election Commission retaliated swiftly, revealing that Kumar was not an ordinary voter but an RJD Booth Level Agent whose name never existed in the rolls. With deletion lists corroborated by Supreme Court guidelines, the Commission dismissed the episode as a manufactured farce, pointing out that Kumar had never filed the requisite Form-6 or objections.

On August 19, psephologist Sanjay Kumar, affiliated with Lokniti-CSDS, publicly apologized for his posts on the Maharashtra elections. He had claimed two assembly constituencies saw a sharp voter decline compared to the recent Lok Sabha polls, sparking debate and raising concerns about electoral integrity. Later, Kumar admitted his interpretation was flawed, based on misreading official data, and clarified he never intended to mislead or question the Election Commission. For the Election Commission, the apology reinforced its stance that allegations of irregularities put forth before the public are out of hasty or erroneous analysis.

Legally, the Election Commission stands on firm ground. Invoking Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, it insists it has both mandate and duty to revise rolls. Its objective, it asserts, is "purification," weeding out deceased, migrated, or duplicate entries to uphold the principle of one person, one vote. The Commission emphasized that the 65 lakh deletions were the product of cross-verification, not arbitrariness, and that the process included multi-layered checks, including scrutiny by polling agents from all parties. However, the Supreme Court's intervention, directed the Commission to publish, district-wise, the names of all 65 lakh deleted voters along with explicit reasons for their removal.

In the unprecedented press briefing, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar demanded Gandhi's sworn affidavit substantiating his allegations within seven days, which ends on this Sunday, or apologize to the nation. The ruling BJP and its allies have launched a counter-offensive too. Leaders like Tarun Chugh and Ajay Alok have gone further, accusing Gandhi of undermining institutions for petty mileage and even hinting at foreign influence. For the NDA, the opposition's campaign is not about democracy's defense but about delegitimizing the system itself. Opposition leaders fear that millions who work outside the state, yet remain registered in their native villages, could lose their votes under the Commission's strict insistence on "ordinary residence." Since migrants are a crucial base for RJD-Congress, their exclusion could dramatically reshape Bihar's electoral landscape. The ruling alliance, however, argues this is essential to prevent double voting and ensure territorial accuracy. As this battle intensifies, the stakes transcend Bihar. The confrontation between Rahul Gandhi and the Election Commission has crystallized into a test of political rhetoric versus constitutional authority. Gandhi refuses to retreat, warning darkly that the "thief has been caught" and that the Commission must itself stand accountable before the people. The Commission, equally resolute, insists it will not permit institutional erosion through what it deems reckless demagoguery. The logomachy of politics, polemics, and power is more than a clash; it is a mirror of India's democratic turbulence, where rhetoric sometimes, eclipses reason, logic and rationale.

Yet, beneath this cacophony lies the strength of democracy. However, the weapon of falsehood must never be allowed to corrode the sanctity of this democratic institution, the Election Commission of India. Let this democratic exercise affirm the triumph of truth. The controversy also raises a larger question about the delicate balance between electoral vigilance and political responsibility. Electoral rolls must undoubtedly remain accurate, inclusive and free from duplication or fraudulent entries, but the process of revision must also inspire confidence among every section of the electorate. Transparency, accessible grievance mechanisms and timely disclosure of evidence are therefore essential to ensure that genuine voters are not caught in the crossfire of administrative scrutiny and political confrontation.

For Bihar, the implications extend beyond the immediate electoral contest. The state has a large population of migrant workers who frequently live and work outside their native constituencies while retaining their political and social links to their villages. Any alteration in their electoral status could have significant consequences. The challenge before the authorities is to distinguish between genuine migration and permanent relocation without inadvertently depriving citizens of their constitutional right to participate in elections. Political parties, too, carry a responsibility that goes beyond mobilising supporters and winning elections. Allegations concerning electoral manipulation are serious and must be supported by verifiable evidence rather than isolated anecdotes or unverified social media claims.

Money gaming ban set to play spoilsport

The creation of a strong regulatory system could have been the first step before imposing a ban

Sushma Ramachandran

DREAM11, Rummy-Circle, Pokerbaazi — these are just some of the familiar names associated with the online gaming industry. The first is well known due to its connections with cricket and football as fantasy sports games have become hugely popular. The others are linked to popular games of skill played all over the world at social and professional levels. The online versions of these and innumerable other games are played largely with real money, and this practice has now come under scrutiny. The outcome is the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act that bans all real money games (RMG) but seeks to support social and educational online games as well as electronic sports.

At the outset, one must explain what defines a real money game. The new law says an RMG is any online game, which could be based on skill or chance, where a user deposits money or places a stake with the hope of winning something valuable, usually money. This is completely different from simply purchasing a game online. The passage of the law has created an uproar in the country's burgeoning real money gaming sector. Industry associations estimate that about two lakh people are directly employed by such



platforms, with another one lakh in related jobs. They argue that the ban on RMG could lead to most losing their livelihoods at a time when the IT industry in general is going through a shakeout, with jobs being lost due to the advent of artificial intelligence.

The ban will undoubtedly have a devastating effect on those employed in the sector and will equally impact the government's tax revenue of Rs 20,000 crore. Venture capitalists are also worried about the \$2 billion raised for investments made in this sector. Most online RMG platforms now have few options — either to shut down or pivot to the much-less-lucrative advertisement-based model. The

beleaguered gaming industry may even be gearing up to make a legal challenge to the new Act. In its defence the government claims that these gaming platforms have caused addiction and financial ruin to millions of families. It says that as many as 45 crore people have been negatively affected and faced losses of over Rs 20,000 crore because of these platforms.

The question is: what prompted the government to take such a hard line on real money gaming, after allowing the industry to carry on operations in an unchecked manner for so long? One reason given is the failure of the industry to do self-regulation. It has not been able to implement

measures to safeguard players from the danger of addiction, which often leads to financial distress. In addition, there are now concerns over terror financing and money laundering being linked to RMG entities. What is unique about this legislation is the bipartisan support to it. Apparently, online gambling addiction has become such an endemic problem that politicians of all hues feel the need to protect their constituents from its disastrous impact. Besides, it may appear as if the law has been imposed suddenly, but there were clear indications over the past two years that the industry was treading on thin ice. The Information Technology Ministry laid

down rules in 2023 to allow the creation of self-regulatory bodies for online gaming. These were aimed at certifying games and blocking illegal offshore betting platforms. Such self-regulation efforts did not meet with much success.

Subsequently, Goods and Services Tax (GST) levies on the full face value of deposits in RMG were hiked to 28 per cent. Thus, the gaming industry should have been cautious, given the nudges being given to regulate RMG with more care.

As for the need to protect users of these online games, even young gamers recognise the pitfalls. It starts out as a catchy game and the user is then lured into pumping more and more money into it. The suggestion of gamers, as well as of industry associations, is that the ban on RMG should be replaced by a strict regulatory framework. This is based on the premise that bans rarely work effectively. Those who are desperate to gamble are bound to move to unregulated offshore platforms to satisfy their urge to play these games. The decision to impose an outright ban may have been influenced by revelations in the Rs 6,000-crore Mahadev online betting scam. It involved a betting platform that enabled illegal gambling on card games and sports.

RBI Chief: India Should Seize Growth Opportunities

Mumbai, Aug 11 (GNS): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Sanjay Malhotra, on Monday emphasised the crucial role of monetary policy in maintaining stability and supporting growth as India is poised to become the third-largest economy amid the challenges posed by the global economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions.

Addressing the FIBAC 2025 annual conference organised by business chamber FICCI and Indian Banks Association, the RBI Governor underlined that amid the slowing down of advanced economies and supply chain disruptions, it was important to seize new opportunities that may arise.

"We are now at a critical juncture as we navigate a choppy global environment characterised by heightened trade uncertainty and persisting geopolitical tensions. We need to push the frontiers of growth. We must step up our efforts to address the emerging challenges, and at the same time, seize the opportunities that are coming our way," the RBI Governor remarked. He highlighted that the world economy is facing a challenging phase marked by persistent trade frictions, heightened uncertainty and geopolitical tensions. On the US tariff hike that is poised to kick in, the RBI Governor said that there was still hope that negotiations will play out and the impact on the Indian economy will be negligible.

"We are hopeful that negotiations on tariffs will play out and there will be minimal impact on India's economic growth," he said.

The RBI Governor said that central banks today face the dual challenge of curbing inflationary pressures without choking recovery, a balance made more delicate by volatile commodity prices and uneven capital flows.

Malhotra said that the RBI

will continue to conduct its monetary policy with the objective of price stability and economic growth. "We will continue to strengthen financial stability, this is our primary objective," he remarked. He also stated that India was in a comfortable position on the external front with ample foreign exchange reserves that are sufficient to cover 11 months of the country's imports.

The RBI Governor also stressed the importance of strengthening domestic economic fundamentals to withstand external shocks. While global uncertainties may affect trade, investment and financial markets, India's relatively strong domestic demand provides an important cushion. He said continued efforts to improve productivity, competitiveness and the ease of doing business would be critical to sustaining the country's growth momentum.

50 pc US tariffs unlikely to significantly impact India's growth

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): As the August 27 deadline for US secondary tariffs of 25 per cent falls this week over Russian oil purchase, analysts and global reports say that a total of 50 per cent tariff is unlikely to significantly impact India's growth due to a robust domestic demand.

While labour-intensive textiles and gems and jewellery segment are expected to see a moderate impact, pharmaceuticals, smartphones and steel are currently relatively insulated because of exemptions, existing tariffs and strong domestic demand. According to S&P Global Ratings, the macroeconomic impact of the hike in tariffs would be cushioned by the large size of the India's domestic market. However, capital goods, chemicals, automobiles, and food and beverage exports would face the toughest adjustment, the report stated. The US is India's largest export destination for textiles. India is the third-largest exporter to the US af

ter China and Vietnam, with a 9 per cent share. Over the past five years, India has gained market share in the US at the expense of China, growing from 6 per cent to 9 per cent, while China's fell from 38 per cent to 25 per cent. The US relies on India and has established supply-chain arrangements. According to market watchers, domestic-consumption segments like financials, telecom, aviation, hotels, cement and segments of capital goods are better placed to withstand the adverse headwinds. India is the "best placed country in Asia," amid the global uncertainty triggered by US President Donald Trump's threat to jack up tariffs, because of the nation's low goods exports to GDP ratio, according to a latest Morgan Stanley report.

"While India is exposed to direct tariff risks, we believe on balance India is less exposed to global goods trade slowdown considering that it has the lowest goods exports to GDP ratio in the region,"

the report stated.

According to a recent Fitch report, the large size of India's domestic market, which reduces reliance on external demand, is expected to insulate the country from the US tariff hike, with the economy expected to maintain a growth of 6.5 per cent in FY26.

The impact of higher US tariffs, however, is likely to vary significantly across sectors. Export-oriented industries with high exposure to the American market could face pressure on margins, orders and competitiveness. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel and gems and jewellery may be particularly vulnerable if higher tariffs make Indian products more expensive for US buyers. At the same time, India's diversified economy provides a degree of protection against a sharp external shock. Services exports, private consumption and infrastructure spending are expected to remain important drivers of growth.

India sees record high domestic investor inflows in last 1 year, twice the FPI outflows

Mumbai, Aug 11 (GNS): The total inflows from domestic institutional investors (DIIs) in the secondary market stood at a record \$80 billion over the past 12 months, double the \$40 billion in foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows, according to industry data.

Despite recent volatility on the Dalal Street, the counter-buying by DIIs in response to significant selling by FPIs is greater than in past instances, including the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the 2022 sell-off, a report from ICICI Securities said. DIIs have pumped in over Rs 4 lakh crore into the Indian stock market this year, the largest inflow by this category in the cash market during the first seven months since 2007.

Despite this strong domestic support, the bouts of aggressive FPI selling in recent months have capped returns in Indian stock market. Indices across all market capitalisations have shown flat to negative performance over the past 12 months. FPI inflows from April to June ranged from \$1.2 to \$2.3 billion while in July, the trend was reversed, with outflows reaching \$2.9 billion, with continued selling in August.

ICICI Securities noted that prior to the FPI exodus in July 2025, foreign investors were net buyers across all market capitalisations in the first quarter of FY26. DIIs and FIIs accumulated shares, while promoters, individual investors (barring small caps), and foreign direct investors provided the equity supply.

In July 2025, FPIs pulled out \$2.9 billion from India. In contrast, Taiwan attracted \$18.3 billion, Japan \$16.1 billion, and South Korea \$4.5 billion in inflows.

SBI asks RBI to allow banks to finance acquisitions

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow banks to fund acquisitions, its Chairperson Challa Sreenivasulu Setty said. At present, Indian banks are not allowed to lend money for mergers and acquisitions. Because of this rule, companies usually turn to non-banking financial institutions or raise funds through bonds when they plan to buy other businesses. Speaking at the FIBAC event organised by FICCI AND IBA, Setty said SBI has asked the RBI to consider allowing acquisition financing, at least for large listed companies to begin with.

The request comes at a time when public sector banks (PSBs) have reported strong profits and improved balance sheets. Together, the 12 PSBs earned a record profit of Rs 44,218 crore in the April-June quarter (Q1) of FY26, an 11 per cent rise compared to the same period previous year.

SBI alone contributed 43 per cent of this, with a net profit of Rs 19,160 crore. With a net profit of Rs 19,160 crore for the April-June quarter, which was 12 per cent higher than Q1 FY25, the SBI was at the top of the pack. In terms of size and profits, the biggest lender in the nation still controls the public banking market. In the last three financial years (FY23 to FY25), PSBs also raised nearly Rs 1.54 lakh crore through equity and bonds to strengthen their capital base and support credit growth. The Finance Ministry is scheduled to review the performance of these banks this week, focusing on their financial health and growth outlook. If the RBI accepts SBI's proposal, it could open a new funding option for Indian companies looking at expansion through acquisitions.

Flipkart Announces 2.2 Lakh Seasonal Jobs for Festive Season

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): Ahead of the forthcoming festive season, Flipkart is scaling employment opportunities, infrastructure, and tech deployments across 28 states with the creation of over 2.2 lakh additional seasonal job opportunities, expanded last-mile reach, and inclusive hiring across Tier 2 and 3 cities, the e-commerce giant said. Employment opportunities have been created across the supply chain, logistics, and last-mile delivery roles, especially in Tier 2 and 3 cities.

The hiring is being done ahead of 'The Big Billion Days', Flipkart's annual comprehensive discounted sales event. According to the company, 15 per cent of new hires are first-time workforce entrants; roles include pickers, packers, sorters, and delivery executives, and there is a significant increase in hiring of women, PwDs and LGBTQIA+ associates compared to last year. "At Flipkart, The

Big Billion Days is a celebration of scale, speed, and shared progress. This year, we have strengthened our capabilities ahead of the festive season, focusing on building an inclusive workforce, expanding our supply chain people network, and creating more inclusive job opportunities in the ecosystem, backed by technology and sustainable practices," said Seema Nair, CHRO at Flipkart. "Our focus on festive readiness is on creating lasting value for the communities and partners who power our network and daily deliveries", she added.

Flipkart's logistics network, which covers all serviceable pincodes, will see the expansion of 650 new festive-only delivery hubs in cities such as Siliguri, Kundli, Jakhar, including Tier 2 and 3 cities, directly and positively impacting the seasonal job ecosystem, the e-commerce platform stated. "Additionally, through the Supply

Chain Operations Academy (SCOA), Flipkart has trained thousands of candidates so far and plans to upskill 10,000 additional associates by the end of 2025," the company said.

The e-commerce firm further said that over 6,000 students pursuing graduation have been trained on supply chain operations through a combination of digital and classroom training.

The company said the festive hiring drive is designed not only to meet the sharp increase in order volumes during the sales season but also to create opportunities for people entering the formal workforce. The addition of first-time workers is expected to provide candidates with practical experience in warehousing, logistics and delivery operations, while strengthening Flipkart's ability to manage peak-season demand. Technology is also playing a key role in the company's festive preparedness.

NTPC to kick off work for new nuclear power plant in Rajasthan next month

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): Government-owned power giant NTPC Ltd will kick off its foray into nuclear power with the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of a 2,800 megawatt (MW) nuclear power plant at Banswara in Rajasthan next month, the company's Chairman and Managing Director Gurdeep Singh said here on Sunday. The project will comprise four pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW capacity each.

"We will go very aggressive on nuclear. We plan to add 30 gigawatt (GW) nuclear power capacity by 2047," the NTPC chief said at the Bloomberg-NEF Summit here. The Mahi Banswara project is a joint venture with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), in which the NTPC holds a 49 per cent stake.

The NTPC plans to set up nuclear power projects both as part of the existing JV with the NPCIL as well as on a standalone basis. It plans to commission the first unit

of the Rajasthan project in 2031, while the full plant is scheduled for completion in 2036. "By that time, we will take up many other plants, too. We are in discussion with Tata Consulting Engineers, L&T, EDF, Rosatom, and Holtec and a few international consultants," Singh said.

The NTPC is keen to join hands with service and technology providers, and it is exploring many sites across the country, he added.

He said that India will be in a position to add around 10 GW of nuclear power generation capacity annually in the run-up to 2036-37, as work will be going on at three or four sites, and there is an exclusive mandatory zone for these nuclear power plants.

India's installed nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,380 MW by the year 2031-32 from 8,780 MW at present with the completion of the expansion plans that are currently being implemented, Minister of State for Atomic Energy Dr Jitendra

Singh had informed Parliament recently. Presently, the installed nuclear power capacity in the country comprises 24 reactors with a total capacity of 8,780 MW (excluding RAPS-1 (100 MW), which is under extended shutdown). In addition, a total capacity of 13,600 MW (including 500 MW PFBR being implemented by BHAVINI) is under different stages of implementation. On the progressive completion of these expansion plans, the country's installed nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,380 MW by the year 2031-32, the minister said.

The Banswara project is expected to mark a significant step in NTPC's transition towards a larger role in India's nuclear energy programme. The company's planned investment in nuclear generation is aimed at supporting the country's long-term energy requirements while reducing dependence on fossil fuels and strengthening the reliability of the power grid.

Attero's Selsmart expands to over 25 cities, targets Rs 500 crore revenue by FY26

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): Attero's direct-to-consumer take-back platform, Selsmart, has scaled up its operations across more than 25 cities, strengthening its position as the largest direct-to-consumer used electronics collection network in India. With a sharp focus on accessibility and convenience, Selsmart is now clocking over 30,000 monthly orders and has laid out a clear roadmap to reach 150,000 monthly orders and Rs 500 crore revenue run rate with 75,000 metric tonnes of e-waste by March 2026. The platform also expects to grow its user base sixfold, from half a million currently to over 3 million by the end of this calendar year.

Based on current volumes, Selsmart is set to process over 15,000 metric tonnes of e-waste annually and is already operating at a revenue run-rate of Rs 100 crore.

"What we are building with Selsmart is infrastruc-

ture that speaks to the future. The real value lies not just in the numbers, but in how we are shifting behaviour at the ground level. We have made it easy for people and businesses to take the right step with their old electronics," said Nitin Gupta, CEO & Co-Founder, Attero. "Every device picked up through the platform is one less item headed for a landfill and one more step toward recovering materials that India otherwise imports. The network we are creating will serve the country's growing demand for circular resources without putting additional pressure on mining or manufacturing. It is smart, local, and built for scale," Gupta added.

Launched in mid-2024, Selsmart was built to solve a growing gap in India's waste infrastructure – how to get unused electronics out of homes, shops, and offices, and into verified recycling channels. The return supply chain for electronics in

India has been historically fragmented and broken; Selsmart addresses this challenge through a fully digitised model that integrates OEM contracts, brand trade-in programmes, and retail partnerships into a single, organised system.

The model blends convenience, doorstep pick-up, instant digital payout, and end-to-end traceability, and allows anyone to schedule a pickup in a few clicks. As part of this integration, Selsmart has signed up with three leading air-conditioning majors to manage their complete offline and webstore exchange programmes, partnered with two large MNCs to run the full trade-in process for their electronics category at the webstore level.

, and joined hands with two home appliances majors to offer consumers vouchers and coupons for new sales at their brand stores both online and offline. Selsmart runs a network of strategi-

cally located warehouses in the cities it operates, positioned in high-density residential and commercial zones for faster doorstep collections.

The platform is active across major metros, growing Tier-2 hubs, and several partner-led locations, covering more than 25 cities in total. Through partnerships with leading electronics brands, retailers, and service networks, Selsmart is building a unified trade-in and take-back system for India, turning what was once an unorganised, fragmented e-waste and device exchange market into a structured, transparent, and scalable channel. Recognising that data security is a key concern for consumers, especially in the IT sector, Selsmart ensures secure data erasure for all collected devices before they enter the recycling process.

This approach is helping consumers get fair value for

Govt launching Rs 25,000 crore worth of schemes to boost exports

New Delhi, Aug 11 (GNS): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has drawn up a Rs 25,000 crore proposal for WTO-compliant support schemes, mainly to help finance small exporters in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems & jewellery, and marine products under the Export Promotion Mission for a six-year period. A senior official confirmed that the proposal has been sent to the Finance Ministry for approval, after which it will be forwarded for Cabinet approval before it is finally rolled out. These schemes have been designed to be compliant with World Trade Organisation (WTO) regulations and will focus on trade finance and improving market access for exporters.

The new package of schemes under the Export Promotion Mission follows the Rs. 2,250 crore mission announced in the 2025-26 Union Budget, which has

not yet been rolled out. The launch has gained further urgency given the uncertainties in the international market due to the hike in US tariffs. There is a need to diversify markets, and the schemes will also focus on developing the logistics chain and marketing to diversify markets for Indian exports. The government views this mission as a long-term strategy that addresses challenges beyond just tariffs and trade wars. The strategy includes promoting exports, diversifying both markets and the export baskets to make them more competitive. The high interest rates in the Indian banking sector tend to put the country's exporters at a disadvantage vis-a-vis their competitors, and financing on more affordable terms would help to bridge this gap. The schemes aim to help exporters by offering collateral-free loans, supporting alternative financial

instruments, and providing assistance for new markets.

The schemes will be implemented in coordination with the MSME Ministry, as the sector is the highest employer in the country. India's merchandise exports registered a 7.29 per cent increase to \$37.24 billion in July this year, compared with the corresponding figure of \$34.71 billion in the same month last year, according to the latest data compiled by the Commerce Ministry.

"Despite an uncertain global policy environment, India's services and merchandise exports in July and in FY26 so far have grown substantially, and are much higher than the global exports growth," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said. The surge in goods exports is also due to stepped-up shipments as exporters ahead of the higher US tariffs that have kicked in from August. Dur-

ing April-July 2025-26 of the current financial year, exports have now registered an increase of 3.07 per cent to \$149.2 billion, while imports have risen by 5.36 per cent to \$244.01 billion during this period.

Barthwal further stated that the government is making efforts to diversify the country's exports to other countries, following the steep hike in tariffs announced by the US. The government is seeking to fast-track free trade pacts and carry out a review of existing pacts such as those with the EU, the UK, the EFTA, Oman, the ASEAN, New Zealand, Peru, and Chile. He also said that the government wants to strengthen export promotion schemes. He said steps were being taken to expand focus to the top 50 importing nations via the mobilisation of missions abroad for export promotion efforts.

CM Revanth Reddy reviews preparations for Khelo India Youth Games 2026

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Tuesday reviewed the Khelo India Youth Games-2026 preparations at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Telangana (MCRHRD) here. Attendees included Minister Vakiti Srihari, Government Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) Chairman Shivasena Reddy, Special Chief Secretary (Sports) Jayesh Ranjan, and SATG MD Sony Bala Devi. Telangana will host the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2026 edition. The



eighth iteration of KIYG is expected to be held in November this year. Telangana will be the second southern Indian state in three years to host the Khelo India Youth Games. Tamil Nadu hosted the 2024 edi-

tion while the last edition was hosted by Bihar in May 2025. Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan finished No. 1, 2 and 3 in the Khelo India Youth Games in 2025. Hosts Bihar finished 15th while Telangana were 13th

on the medal standings. In KIYG 2024, hosts Tamil Nadu finished No. 2 behind Maharashtra while Telangana were in 6th position. The Bihar edition saw 28 sports. Medals were given away in 27 sports while

e-sports were introduced as a demonstration event. Twenty-six records were created in KIYG 2025, of which 13 were national youth records, all in weightlifting. The rest were meet records, all in athletics.

Amgen to Set Up Research Centre at Hyderabad's Genome Valley



Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS): Global biotechnology leader Amgen is set to establish a state-of-the-art Research and Innovation Centre at Genome Valley in Hyderabad, further strengthening Telangana's position as a leading global destination for life sciences research and innovation. Amgen India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana on Tuesday in the presence of IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat.

Earlier, a delegation from Amgen India met Minister Sridhar Babu and discussed the company's plans to expand its operations in Hyderabad and deepen its engagement with Telangana's rapidly growing life sciences ecosystem. Following the meeting, Naveen Gullapalli, Managing Director, Amgen India, and Krishna Aditya, Special Secretary, Industries, Government of Telangana, exchanged the MoU documents. Welcoming the development, Minister Sridhar Babu said the proposed Research and Innovation Centre at Genome Valley would create employment

opportunities for highly skilled professionals and add further momentum to Hyderabad's emergence as a global hub for advanced life sciences research.

Amgen, a global biotechnology company with a presence across around 100 countries and regions, develops innovative therapies across a wide range of areas, including oncology, cardiovascular diseases, bone health, inflammation, respiratory diseases, rare diseases and other serious medical conditions. The Minister recalled that Amgen had recently established a major Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad with around 3,000 employees, reflecting the company's growing confidence in the city's talent pool, infrastructure and life sciences ecosystem.

"The continued expansion of global pharmaceutical and biotechnology leaders in Telangana is a matter of great pride for our government. It reflects the growing confidence of global companies in our state's talent, infrastructure and innovation ecosystem," Minister Sridhar Babu said. He said Telangana was steadily emerging

as a preferred destination for global life sciences companies, supported by its strong research capabilities, skilled workforce, world-class infrastructure and the established ecosystem at Genome Valley. The Minister also urged Amgen to give priority to local youth and talent from Telangana while recruiting for the proposed research centre, so that the state's young professionals can benefit from the high-value employment opportunities being created by the growing life sciences sector.

The new centre is expected to further strengthen Genome Valley's position as a globally recognised cluster for biotechnology, pharmaceutical research and innovation and contribute to Hyderabad's growing reputation as a preferred destination for high-end R&D activities. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Krishna Aditya, Special Secretary, Industries, Commissioner Industries Nikhil Chkravarthi; Sarvesh Singh, CEO, Telangana Life Sciences; Amgen India MD Naveen Gullapalli, ED Srini Kosaraju, Anumitha, and other senior officials and representatives.

Komatireddy directs faster Uppal elevated corridor works



Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS): Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, the State Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, held a review meeting on Tuesday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat regarding the progress of the Uppal Elevated Corridor works.

R&B Chief Engineer Dharma Reddy, various officials, and representatives from the construction companies participated in the review. Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy made it clear that the Uppal Elevated Corridor works must be completed within the deadline set by the state government and emphasized that negligence or delays in the work would not be tolerated at all.

The Minister reiterated that the daily commute along this route has been a nightmare for years; the government had promised the public completion by Dussehra 2026, and that promise must be honored.

He stated that the people's government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, operates with full accountability. He urged officials to dedicate themselves to en-

suring safe travel and alleviating the traffic woes that have plagued the public for years. The Minister ordered an increase in manpower and directed that work be carried out in three shifts, with continuous operations taking place at night from 11 PM to 6 AM. He also firmly instructed that the 6.25 km BT road works beneath the corridor be completed by the end of this month. The Minister directed that he would personally review the progress of field-level works every ten days and instructed officials to review daily work progress accordingly.

The Minister held a comprehensive discussion on the ongoing field-level works and asked officials and the executing agency to provide the exact ground realities at the site. Officials and representatives of the executing agency explained that 60% of the work on the Uppal Elevated Corridor has been completed, while the remaining 40% is progressing rapidly. They informed the Minister that 300 workers are operating in two shifts, utilizing four casting beds and four gantries for segment fabrication at the site.

Tummala directs officials to ensure smooth, transparent cotton procurement

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS) Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao directed officials to ensure smooth and transparent procurement of cotton during the 2026-27 season and prevent any inconvenience to farmers.

Reviewing procurement arrangements with Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) officials in Hyderabad, the Minister said farmers must receive the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and there should be no interference by middlemen.

He urged Central and State officials to coordinate closely and prevent ir-



regularities reported during previous seasons. Cotton cultivation in Telangana is expected to cover 46.33 lakh acres, with an estimated production of 25.85 lakh metric tonnes. The MSP for Long Staple Cotton has been fixed at Rs 8,667 per quintal, an increase of Rs

557 over the previous year.

Tummala directed officials to notify all 356 ginning mills and ensure their availability based on demand. He said the number of CCI procurement centres had been increased from 122 to 131 and called for additional centres wherever necessary to handle heavy arrivals. He also ordered effective monitoring of procurement centres, functioning of quality-testing equipment and CCTV cameras, regular inspection of weighing machines, and prompt resolution of farmers' grievances.

Grant national status to Palamuru-Rangareddy project: Kunamneni

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS) CPI Telangana State secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao on Tuesday demanded that the Centre immediately grant national project status and financial assistance to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, alleging discriminatory treatment towards Telangana's irrigation projects.

Kunamneni said the Centre's position that there was no proposal to grant national status to the project, as stated in a reply by the union Minister of State for Jal Shakti in Parliament, was unacceptable. He said the project was crucial for providing Krishna river water to the drought-prone and backward districts of Mahabubnagar and Rangareddy. He criticised the

Centre for citing inter-State issues, the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II and legal disputes as reasons for delaying the project. Further delays, he said, would increase the financial burden and deprive people of the region of irrigation benefits. Kunamneni recalled that the BJP had promised in its election manifesto to provide necessary resources for the project and urged BJP MPs from Telangana to press the Centre for national status and funds.

He also demanded that the Centre persuade the Maharashtra government to facilitate construction of the proposed barrage at Tummidihetti and resolve pending inter-State issues between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh amicably and quickly.

KTR alleges Rs 200 cr land scam in Tesseract allocation, demands probe

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS) BRS Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday alleged that the Telangana government had allotted five acres of valuable government land to Tesseract at a heavily discounted price and demanded a thorough probe into the deal.

Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, KTR alleged that the land, which he claimed was worth around Rs 200 crore, was handed over to the company for about RS 7 crore. He questioned whether there were different standards for land allocations in Telangana and neighbouring Karnataka.

KTR alleged that Anumula Kondal Reddy, brother of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, was the chairman of Tesseract and said the company's own LinkedIn profile



and a statement issued by the US Consulate had mentioned his position.

He also alleged that the company was involved in manufacturing aerospace and defence equipment and had held discussions with representatives of the US Embassy in Hyderabad.

Questioning the credentials and functioning of the company, KTR claimed that Tesseract had no employees and had a capital of only Rs 1 lakh, while its registered

contact details and address also raised doubts. He alleged that the government had favoured the company by allocating valuable land at a nominal price.

KTR also levelled allegations against other members of the Chief Minister's family, including his brother Anumula Jagadish Reddy and brother-in-law Srujan Reddy, alleging their involvement in business deals and government contracts worth hundreds of crores.

He alleged that an MoU worth Rs 1,000 crore was signed with Swachh Bio during the Chief Minister's visit to the US and claimed that Srujan Reddy had secured an Rs 1,137-crore Amrut contract. KTR demanded that the government clarify the circumstances surrounding the Tesseract land

allocation and said the BRS would continue to pursue the matter until the alleged irregularities were exposed.

He also questioned Minister D Sridhar Babu's claim that there was no connection between Tesseract and the Chief Minister's brother, saying the company itself had identified Kondal Reddy as its chairman. KTR asked whether the alleged developments were taking place with the Minister's knowledge and warned that the BRS would not spare those responsible if irregularities were established. KTR said the issue raised serious questions about transparency and accountability in the allocation of public assets and urged the Telangana government to make all relevant records, valuation details and eligibility criteria public.



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BC Panel Seeks OBC Status for 40 TG Communities

Hyderabad, Aug 11 (GNS) Telangana Backward Classes Commission Chairman G Niranjan has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expedite the process of including 40 Telangana communities in the Central Other Backward Classes (OBC) List, citing the long delay and the upcoming Census 2027. In a letter to the Prime Minister, Niranjan said the issue had already been brought to his attention on April 13, 2026. Following an earlier representation, the union ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment sought details of the communities, after which the Telangana BC Commission forwarded the list of 40 com-

munities to the Centre on July 18, 2026.

He said the Ministry, in a letter dated August 3, stated that inclusion or exclusion of communities in the Central OBC List was governed by Article 342A of the Constitution.

Niranjan pointed out that some of the communities were included in the Telangana State BC List as early as 2008, while others had been awaiting inclusion in the Central OBC List since then. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) had also conducted hearings on the issue in December 2021 and September 2023, but the matter was yet to reach a final resolution.



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