

Revanth Reddy: Telangana on Fast Track to Growth, Jobs, Investment



Hyderabad, Aug 15 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday said the fruits of the Congress government's 32 months of hard work were becoming visible across Telangana, with record job creation, a surge in investments, major infrastructure projects and an expanded welfare network driving the state's growth. He said Telangana's per capita income had reached 4,18,931 in 2025-26, according to the latest RBI statistics, 91 per cent higher than the national average. Addressing the Independence Day celebrations after hoisting the National Flag at Golconda Fort, Revanth Reddy said the government had demonstrated that welfare and development could move together while creating employment in both government and private sectors. He said the

government would not compromise on securing Telangana's rightful share of Krishna and Godavari waters and would complete pending irrigation projects, including Thummadihatti and Palamuru-Rangareddy. Revanth Reddy said more than 72,000 government jobs had been filled after completing recruitment for Group-I, II, III, IV posts and via the Mega DSC, while notifications had been issued for another 456 posts through TGPSC and 7,437 posts through the Police Recruitment Board. The Young India Skills University (YISU) had trained 1,190 youth in advanced skills, with 838 securing jobs, while 40,000 youth participated in job fairs under the 99-day Praja Palana-Pragathi programme and 5,700 found employment. Sixty-five government ITIs and 57

polytechnics were being upgraded into Advanced Technology Centres. The Chief Minister said Telangana had attracted 1.29 lakh crore in investments through TG-iPASS, creating potential employment for more than 78,000 people, while MoUs worth 5.75 lakh crore were signed at the Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025. The state would host the global summit again this year to showcase investment opportunities. He said Telangana had emerged as a top achiever in business reforms and was targeting new opportunities in life sciences, semiconductors, electronics and advanced manufacturing through the Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy-2026. The IT sector remained a major engine of growth, with exports reaching 3.97 lakh crore in 2025-26 and direct employment rising to 12.14 lakh.

Dipke launches 'School Thik Karo' campaign, alleges govt neglect

Seeks capping of fees at private schools

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS) Cockroach Janta Party convenor Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday launched the 'School Thik Karo' campaign from his native village in Hingoli district, alleging that poor students suffered due to the government's neglect and demanded capping of fees of private schools. CJP will also undertake a similar movement regarding poor health conditions at public hospitals. Dipke travelled to his native village, Santuk Pimpri, and attended a flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of Independence Day. He visited a Zilla Parishad school and checked basic facilities, where he found that toilets lacked water supply. "If basic things like water are missing from government-run schools even 80 years after India became independent, how is the country going to develop?" Dipke told reporters. Dipke flagged the alleged precarious condition of the school, claiming broken windows and inadequate benches for students. "We have a form comprising a checklist where it can be mentioned whether there are basic



amenities available in the school or not. We will gather the data from schools located in Maharashtra and nationwide. Then we will compile the data," he said. The CJP convenor said he would visit government-run schools in other talukas of Maharashtra to check whether facilities are available for students in the next phase of the 'School Thik Karo' campaign. "The budget of the Central Government has been curtailed for education," he alleged. Dipke alleged that government-run schools are being shut to benefit private ones. "We have seen that over 94,000 state-run schools have been shut down in the past ten years in India. How can a nation be strengthened by shut-

ting down schools when more schools need to be opened?" he asked and accused the government of favouring private schools. If children achieve big after studying in government schools, who will go to private schools, Dipke questioned. He alleged the government has failed to provide facilities in schools and there is no equal opportunity for students. "There should be freedom of equal opportunities. Until equal opportunity is available, we cannot say that our country is developing. The students are making videos saying they don't have good roads to reach their schools. This shows the government has failed to provide facilities at state-run schools," he added.

I-DAY SPEECH: PM Modi Puts Youth At Centre Of India's 2047 Vision With Skills, Sports, Wellness Push

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): In his 80th Independence Day address from the ramparts of Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed the country's young generation at the heart of India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, outlining a multi-pronged approach that blends opportunity, capability and well-being. Speaking to the nation, the Prime Minister zeroed in on a quiet crisis facing millions of middle-class and poor families; the relentless pressure to spend heavily on coaching centres. Parents, PM Modi said, often feel that skipping expensive coaching classes somehow means failing



their children or losing social standing. To break this cycle, the Union government will roll out free online coaching for a wide range of competitive examinations. The programme will draw on India's digital public infrastructure and pool

the best teaching talent so that quality preparation becomes available without draining household savings or forcing young people to leave home. In the same breath, Prime Minister Modi announced an ambitious target to train

one crore youth in artificial intelligence skills within the coming year. The goal is clear: ensure Indian talent does not merely participate in the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution but leads it. The Prime Minister linked this push to the larger ecosystem already taking shape — more than 2.5 lakh start-ups, a Rs 1 lakh crore Innovation Fund, thousands of Atal Tinkering Labs, and a private space team with an average age of 28 that successfully launched a rocket on its first attempt. Prime Minister Modi also turned to sports as a powerful vehicle for youth development. With India eyeing the 2036 Olympics and

preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, he unveiled a nationwide talent-hunt campaign focused on children between 5 and 15 years. The idea is to identify potential early, especially in disciplines where India currently has little presence, and give those youngsters specialised training so the country can compete across a much wider range of events. Beyond skills and sports, PM Modi called for a collective 100-week campaign to build a drug-free India, urging families, My Bharat volunteers, NGOs and spiritual organisations to protect the physical and mental strength of the young generation.

Opposition Slams PM Over 'Dimaagi Naxal' Label, Women's Quota Pitch



New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS) Opposition parties on Saturday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "dimaagi Naxal" remark, saying he should not have used his Independence Day speech for politics, and claimed his pitch on 33 per cent women's reservation in legislatures displayed the ruling BJP's "hypocrisy" after not implementing the quota in the 2024 general election. Senior BJP leaders, however, hailed the Prime Minister's speech as a roadmap for achieving the goal of a developed nation, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah terming it a resolve for indigenous development, prosperity and self-reliance. BJP chief Nitin Nabin said the 'Saptadhar' (seven streams of strength) listed by

Modi will become new foundations of India's development journey. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that PM Modi's resolve "is firm and clear: reform with conviction, empower the youth, strengthen our nation and make India a global powerhouse". In his 13th consecutive address on the 80th Independence Day, the Prime Minister urged political parties to rise above differences to help secure 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures, called upon the youth to take the lead in building a developed India and warned against being misled by "dimaagi Naxals". The day also saw a row over leaders of opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha — Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge

— not attending the official Independence Day event at the Red Fort. BJP also attacked the Congress over its former president Sonia Gandhi's alleged objection to the full rendition of 'Vande Mataram' during the Independence Day event at the Congress office. On the other hand, the Congress took a swipe at PM Modi over the sequencing of his tri-coloured pocket squares, saying it seems he is celebrating the Independence Day of Ireland instead of India's. Attacking PM Modi for his 'dimaagi Naxal' remark, leaders of several opposition parties said it was intended to stigmatise his opponents and those questioning the government, with the Congress terming it a "sure sign of desperation".

Vijay Vows to Foil Plots Against TVK Government



Chennai, Aug 15 (GNS): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday assured cooperation to the Union government on administrative matters and asserted that, however, his government will always oppose policies going against the state's rights. In his maiden Independence Day address delivered from the Fort St George premises, Vijay said eliminating corruption is equivalent to freedom and his government is working towards that goal. "Government's revenue going to private individual has been prevented and continuous action is being taken to eliminate graft in all departments," he said and underlined a transparent, good govern-

nance under his watch. Without making any specific reference, he said forces working against his government will be defeated and conspiracies against his regime will also be thwarted. His government is run based on the lofty principle of "All lives are born equal," and it is transparent, genuine, and honest; free of bribery and corruption, drug culture, and grounded in women's safety and social justice. He said: "There must never be any compromise in public life. The welfare of the people is the most important thing. It is on that basis that the Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) government has been functioning.

Time for young law graduates, lawyers to carry the Bar's responsibility forward: CJI Surya Kant

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS) Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday said the nation has overcome several formidable challenges in the last eight decades but much remains to be done, urging young law graduates and lawyers to be ready to shoulder the responsibilities of the future. Speaking at the national flag hoisting ceremony organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on the occasion of 80th Independence Day at the apex court premises, CJI Kant said the journey of the nation does not end with what



it has accomplished. "The journey of a nation does not end with what it has accomplished. Every achievement also brings with it a renewed sense of responsibility and duty. There is much that re-

mains to be done, and many more miles to travel in our journey ahead," he said. The programme was attended by several senior judges, lawyers and court staff. Addressing young law-

yers, Kant said the responsibility carried by the Bar since the days of the freedom struggle would soon rest on their shoulders. "To our young law graduates and young lawyers, I want to say this: the responsibility that this Bar has carried since the days of the freedom struggle will, before long, rest on your shoulders. The institutions of justice that generations before you have built and strengthened are now yours to protect and to carry forward," he said. "Please know that the Bar and the Bench remain com-

mitted to your growth: by extending mentorship, by creating meaningful opportunity, and by placing our confidence in you. The miles that remain are yours to walk, and we walk with you," he added. CJI Kant said the freedom struggle had a deep and enduring connection with the law and it was through the vision and work of some of the finest legal minds of that generation that we began to discover that the true purpose of law is not just to command or regulate, but to serve justice, protect liberty and uphold human dignity.

The case for a single-theatre defence model in India

Air Marshal Amit Tiwari Retd

ON August 26, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, cautioned against rushing into the formation of theatre commands, stating, "India should not be inspired by US." As part of the ongoing defence reforms, India is seeking to improve operational efficiency by the theaterisation of its armed forces. However, even after 10 years, there remains a difference of opinion among the three services regarding the structure of integrated theatre commands.

The template for the Indian theatre command is based on the US' theatre command. In the US, the reforms were implemented by the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 in response to the shortcomings noticed in operations. Conversely, India is striving to enhance the efficiency of a system that has thus far performed reasonably well in all the wars. Given the limited defence budget and the constant threat of a two-front war, it would be prudent for India to not replicate the US system, which has given mixed results so far and is still evolving.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the US was involved in various military operations. In many operations, poor inter-service coordination, fragmented command structures and inter-service rivalry were observed. The shortcomings were particularly glaring during the Vietnam War, Iran hostage rescue attempt and Grenada invasion. The Iran mission



collapsed due to the lack of a unified command, poor planning and inadequate coordination of assets.

To address these shortcomings, the US Congress debated the issue for over four years and passed The Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defence Reorganisation Act of 1986. The Act created three separate command structures with the intention of ending inter-service rivalries and fighting the wars under a single theatre commander. The reforms included the following: I Combatant or theatre commanders were given full operational control of the forces and they reported directly to the President. I Service chiefs lost operational authority and were only responsible for training, equipping and doctrine development. I The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was designated as the principal military adviser to strengthen joint planning, but didn't have control over

operations or training.

However, these reforms couldn't end the inter-service rivalry. The competition merely shifted from operations to budgets, doctrines and resource allocations. Moreover, the reforms created a new disconnect. The services, responsible for training and doctrines, were not accountable for actual war-fighting. On the other hand, the combatant commanders in charge of conducting operations had minimal influence over training, doctrine and force development. Additionally, because of the limited tenure of combatant commanders, they were not concerned with the long-term development of the forces. This mismatch created capability gaps between what the forces were trained for and what the combat demanded. The system is under review. The US could absorb these shortcomings because there was no threat to its territorial integrity and

it had substantial resources to tolerate duplications and inefficiencies. But, India cannot afford such luxuries. With immediate threats and limited depth, it cannot risk similar inefficiencies.

Firstly, India has a limited defence budget, which is barely sufficient for the maintenance and modernisation of the forces. Creating multiple integrated commands, over and above the existing geographical commands, risks spreading the budget too thin.

Secondly, unlike the US, India faces two nuclear-armed adversaries and any dilution of combat efficiency may prove disastrous.

Furthermore, while the US theatre commands are located far apart and are separated by oceans, India's combat commands, geographical commands and headquarters will all be co-located. This arrangement would simply add an extra bureaucratic layer to the existing structure. Even

for a short skirmish of four days, the IAF had to pool resources from multiple regional commands to meet operational objectives. Dividing the limited resources in a piecemeal manner may reduce their effectiveness.

Another often-quoted advantage of the theatre command is that the political leadership will be able to obtain a comprehensive status of operations from a single source, which would help it in taking a timely and informed decision. It is possible for the US, where the theatres are far apart and operations in one theatre don't affect the others.

In India, the theatres are small and contiguous. With the threat of a two-front war, any operation in one theatre is likely to affect adjacent theatres also. The political leadership will have to talk to all theatre commanders before deciding on operations, thereby defeating the basic concept. True jointness can be achieved by common training, interoperable equipment and joint planning; not by creating another layer over the existing ones.

Instead of replicating the US system, which has multiple theatre commands because of the expeditionary requirement across the globe, India could adopt a single-theatre model, reflecting its defensive nature, geography, resource limits and threat profiles. The entire country may be considered as a single theatre so that there is a flexibility to shift forces between the fronts, as per the requirement.

Uniform to unicorn

MUCH of India's policy language still describes service pensions as a "burden." This is a misnomer. What is called liability is, in fact, deferred recognition; what is dismissed as cost is, in truth, the Republic's second dividend. From Kurukshetra to Op Sindoor, fidelity has been India's continuum, and it does not expire at the age of 40. Op Sindoor was the most recent proof: 22 minutes of precision, 88 hours of vigilance, and conflict stopped cold. Few nations in today's fractured order can claim such discipline at scale. Fidelity is not new. It carried tanks across the Meghna river in 1971; it carried precision across an unseen frontier in 2025. Fidelity is India's greatest strategic inheritance. The British never designed pensions as recognition. They were a leash, enough to tether loyalty, never enough to grant independence. Free India inherited this design without recasting its purpose, and economists reinforced the mistake, treating pensions as deficit and drain.

But what our ledgers call "pension burden" is in fact renewable capital: 70,000 trained leaders a year, released into the economy with no plan for reuse. Each rupee carries decades of skill, judgment and endurance, capital no other nation discards so lightly. As Pratap Bhanu Mehta noted in The Indian Express: "Business leaders often complain of weak human capital. Yet they were historically unwilling to invest in building it." Meanwhile, every year the Republic treats its most disciplined, mission-ready talent as surplus while spending billions to import or retrain in the same domains. This is not inefficiency, it is industrial blindness, policy can correct.

India understands enduring trust; it is written into memory. Yet in policy language, that trust is too often flattened into employment. In a democracy where jobs are shortcuts to power, pensions are miscounted as entitlements, and truncated schemes recast service as exposure, covenant as contract.

Short-service schemes have value: they widen intake and bring youthful energy. Many who leave carry discipline into society. But a contract, by design, prepares for exit even at entry. The second dividend rests on long service, where commitment matures into judgment and then into capital; it then links experience to renewal, where startups find their seed. Steadfastness arises only when the soldier can claim the uniform as home, honour, and, in many cases, legacy. Where India misnames fidelity as burden, others have abandoned it altogether. Russia and Ukraine fall back on mass conscription — trading experience for numbers, youth for attrition. West Asia fragments into militias where loyalty is bought, not earned. The result is conflict without closure, wars that drag on for years, measured only in ledgers and casualties. India, by contrast, has within reach a disciplined dividend of veterans — not raw recruits, not hired guns, but men and women at the height of skill and judgment.

Thousands of soldiers join the veteran category each year at the height of their professional ability — leaders, engineers, logisticians, medics, communicators. The Republic spends decades shaping this capital, then discards it with little plan for reuse. A logistics officer could transform fragile supply chains. A nursing assistant trained in field hospitals could extend primary care to villages. A technician skilled on advanced systems is too often reduced to guard duty at a bank, stick in hand.

Even a reimagined Territorial Army, with urban and rural components, could bridge gaps in security and civic resilience. These are dividends awaiting reinvestment. The Republic already forges soldierly skills that mirror the most sought-after capabilities of a startup economy: judgment under stress, logistics at scale, technology in the field, endurance in adversity, and the ability to lead teams in uncertain terrain. These are not abstractions; they are the DNA of unicorn creation. A second-dividend policy could deliberately match veterans with sectors crying out for precisely these abilities — cyber, artificial intelligence (AI), healthcare, supply chains, clean energy. What India now discards as surplus is the raw material of its next wave of billion-dollar enterprises.

Western veterans have founded unicorns in cybersecurity, logistics and AI, turning battlefield problem-solving into billion-dollar creation. In South Korea, compulsory service has produced leaders in shipbuilding, electronics and gaming, the anchors of its economy. Israel has turned its veterans into the bedrock of its startup ecosystem. India has its own proof. Naval officer Arogyaswami Paulraj's work on sonar led to MIMO (multiple input and multiple output) technology, which underpins modern wireless networks. Billions of devices depend on his breakthrough, yet India captured little of that return, letting one soldier's genius benefit the world but not the nation that trained him. The characteristics of warfare today are no longer defined by numbers and firepower alone. Abroad, the best deployable hardware is on display, yet wars drag into their fourth year without resolution.

During Op Sindoor, we saw something different: affordable imports and smart indigenous hardware, steered by experienced and deeply trained cognitive "skinware." Twenty-two minutes and 88 hours to conflict termination, followed by the political grand strategy of restraint. This is a discipline-driven, unbearable combination for any adversary — today, tomorrow, whenever. Every conflict we witness abroad is a trial by fire, costly for others, instructive for us. It exposes the limits of contract, and reminds us of what endures. The lesson is clear: India's second dividend is waiting at home, to serve in uniform and to build unicorns when the spurs are hung. Affordable and smart hardware. Unicorns, supported by the second dividend. Fidelity that never retires. Legacy strength as our spine, spread across the nation. It worked in 1971. It worked in 2025. It will work again. This is the continuum. Our covenant is fidelity, carried through generations. Our inheritance is strength, tempered by restraint.

ISRO-NASA Moon Mission

NASA's invitation to the Indian Space Research Organisation to join its Moon Base programme marks a defining moment in the trajectory of bilateral space relations. Building on the foundation laid by the Artemis Accords, this development signals that the partnership between the world's most technologically advanced space agency and one of its most cost-efficient is entering a genuinely new phase - from cooperation on individual missions to joint participation in what could become humanity's first permanent lunar outpost. For decades, NASA has been synonymous with the frontier of space exploration, possessing capabilities in propulsion, life-support systems and deep-space engineering that few nations can match. India, meanwhile, has carved out its own formidable reputation - not through scale or budget, but through frugality and precision. ISRO's Chandrayaan missions, executed at a fraction of the cost incurred by comparable Western programmes, have demonstrated that ambition need not be shackled to expenditure. It is this very combination - American technological depth paired with Indian cost discipline - that makes the proposed collaboration so compelling.

There is also a broader strategic logic at play. In an age when communication satellites underpin everything from banking to broadcasting, the ability to launch reliably and affordably has become a currency of international influence. Nations increasingly look to established space powers to loft their payloads, and India's growing credibility in this domain positions it as an indispensable partner. For ISRO, the benefits of working alongside NASA extend well beyond hardware and funding. Exposure to NASA's institutional expertise - its systems engineering rigour, its decades of human spaceflight experience, and its approach to managing the immense complexity of crewed missions - offers Indian scientists and engineers an invaluable education. Skills honed through this exchange will inevitably filter into India's own independent ambitions, including its Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and future interplanetary missions. Equally, NASA stands to gain from India's demonstrated ability to deliver results economically.

The momentum built through the NISAR satellite launch, and now formalised through discussions under the Civil Space Joint Working Group and the TRUST initiative, suggests a long-term strategic alignment. As the two nations look towards a permanent human presence near the Moon's South Pole, their combined strengths-one rooted in technological mastery, the other in efficient execution-could well set the example. This is more than a bilateral achievement.

Safeguarding biodiversity in a warming world

Adnan Masoudy
Hassan Alzain

As global temperatures continue to rise, the resulting biodiversity loss has become one of the most urgent and underappreciated climate challenges. Yet within this crisis lies a tremendous opportunity for nations to lead with innovation, foresight, and inclusivity. Saudi Arabia, through its Vision 2030 reforms, is uniquely positioned to offer a regional model for protecting nature while advancing climate resilience and sustainable development.

According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded globally, with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts reporting an average surface temperature of 15.10 degrees Celsius — approximately 1.52 C above pre-industrial levels and 0.12 C warmer than 2023. This marks the first time global temperatures have exceeded the 1.5 C threshold for an entire calendar year, signaling an alarming acceleration in warming trends. Climate-induced warming is now one of the top five drivers of biodiversity loss, exacerbating other pressures such as land degradation and pollution. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that even small increases in global temperature can push entire ecosystems past tipping points, with desert, coastal, and coral reef ecosystems particu-



larly vulnerable. The fact that each of the past two years set new records underscores the urgency of systemic climate action.

In Saudi Arabia, biodiversity loss linked to climate change is increasingly visible. Marine heatwaves in the Red Sea have triggered extensive coral bleaching, affecting reefs that support more than 5,000 species, including fish, corals, invertebrates, marine mammals, seabirds, and mollusks, and contribute billions to the coastal economy. On land, extreme heat and reduced rainfall are accelerating desertification and shrinking the range of numerous native species such as the Arabian leopard, Asir magpie, and acacia trees. A recent study found that many Middle Eastern mammals may lose over 40 percent of their viable habitat by 2050 under high-emissions scenarios.

Saudi Arabia is taking a proactive approach to environmental challenges. Through the Saudi Green Initiative, the Kingdom has placed nature-based solu-

tions and climate adaptation at the heart of its national strategy. Since 2021, over 115 million native trees have been planted, more than 118,000 hectares have undergone ecological rehabilitation, and 18.1 percent of land has been designated for protection, with a goal to reach 30 percent by 2030.

The role of science and technology in scaling these efforts is expanding rapidly. Saudi Arabia is integrating advanced tools such as LiDAR, hyperspectral imaging, and artificial intelligence-enabled species distribution models to identify climate-resilient restoration zones and track progress in real time. These tools allow conservation authorities to prioritize interventions where ecosystems can be most effectively protected or rehabilitated. Local institutions such as the National Center for Wildlife and the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Royal Natural Reserve have spearheaded the reintroduction of endangered spe-

cies, including the Arabian oryx and houbara bustard, supported by climate-informed ecological planning. In parallel, marine biodiversity is being enhanced through coastal restoration, such as the regeneration of mangroves and seagrass beds, which not only store carbon but also buffer storm surges and enhance fisheries. These efforts are widely recognized as integral to Saudi Arabia's broader coastal resilience strategies. At the heart of Saudi Arabia's environmental transformation is a growing conviction that protecting nature is essential to securing the nation's future. Mohammed Qurban, CEO of the National Center for Wildlife, captures this emerging sense of purpose. "Our vision for the future is clear: a Saudi Arabia where wildlife thrives, habitats are restored, and the natural balance is maintained for the benefit of all," he said recently. "NCW's dedication to protecting Saudi Arabia's natural legacy remains un-

wavering. We are confident that, with continued effort and collaboration, we can build a future where the natural world is preserved for generations to come."

This vision underscores the critical link between biodiversity stewardship and climate resilience — and affirms that conservation is not a peripheral effort, but a national imperative and a central pillar of the Kingdom's long-term sustainable development, environmental security, and economic resilience.

Moreover, experts in the region echo the importance of strategic integration. As Chris Boland, director of the Arabian Biodiversity Consultancy, notes: "Climate change isn't just reshaping ecosystems — it's rewriting the rules of conservation. Saudi Arabia has a unique opportunity to unite traditional ecological wisdom with cutting-edge science to protect its species and landscapes. This is not only about conserving biodiversity, but about future-proofing the Kingdom's natural heritage in a rapidly warming world. It's now or never." His insight underscores the need for adaptive, forward-thinking strategies that address the complexities of conservation under uncertainty.

Saudi Arabia's ambitions are further strengthened by linking biodiversity with economic development. The Dasgupta Review emphasized that biodiversity must be treated as an asset, not an externality, in national accounts.

India’s passenger vehicle sales cross 10-lakh mark in Q1 FY26

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): Over 10 lakh passenger vehicles were sold in India in the April-June period, with Maharashtra topping the sales chart, according to latest data from industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). From April to June, 10.12 lakh passenger vehicles were sold in the country, and the western zone topped sales with 3.21 lakh units. As many as 1.19 lakh units were sold in Maharashtra in the June quarter. Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Haryana followed in the sales chart compiled by SIAM.

In the two-wheeler segment, 46.75 lakh units were sold in the country during this period, with sales in western states reaching 14.19 lakh units, the industry body said. Uttar Pradesh led in two-wheeler sales, totalling 8.18 lakh units, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.

In the commercial vehicle segment, Maharashtra led

the space with sales of 32,000 units in the June quarter. Overall, 2.23 lakh commercial vehicles were sold in the country during the period.

Sales in the three-wheeler segment reached 1.65 lakh units during this period, with Uttar Pradesh leading sales with 21,000 units, followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Telangana, according to SIAM. In July 2025, passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers declined marginally to 3,40,772 units, down from 3,41,510 units a year earlier.

In the upcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, the Centre is expected to lower the tax on entry-level passenger vehicles and two-wheelers to 18 per cent, making them more affordable ahead of Diwali.

Currently, all passenger vehicles powered by combustion engines are subject to a GST of 28 per cent, plus a compensation cess ranging from 1 per cent to 22 per cent,

based on engine capacity, length, and body type.

The data showed strong demand for personal mobility across the country, with passenger vehicles and two-wheelers accounting for the bulk of automobile sales during the quarter. Industry experts said improving consumer sentiment, rising incomes and growing demand in smaller cities continued to support the automobile market.

Maharashtra's lead in passenger vehicle and commercial vehicle sales highlighted the state's strong industrial base and large consumer market. Uttar Pradesh's dominance in two-wheelers and three-wheelers also reflected the growing demand for affordable mobility in one of India's most populous states.

Automobile manufacturers and dealers are closely watching the proposed GST changes, which could provide a boost to entry-level vehicles if implemented.

India’s engineering goods exports rise 13.81 pc in July; US, Germany lead as top importers

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): India's engineering goods exports surged 13.81 per cent (year-on-year) in July 2025, driven by increased shipments to the US, the UK, Germany, Japan, Brazil, and China, a report said on Saturday. Indian engineering exports crossed \$10 billion for the first time this fiscal, reaching \$10.43 billion in July, up from \$9.16 billion in July 2024, according to data from the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC).

The growth is despite the international trade facing tensions from escalating US tariffs, regional divergence, and heightened policy uncertainty. Engineering goods exports to the US rose 19 per cent YoY to \$1.81 billion in July. Engineering exports to Germany increased by 37.8 per cent YoY, reaching \$457.6 million. Shipments to the UK rose 46.5 per cent YoY, reaching \$402.5 million; exports to Japan increased

55.2 per cent YoY, reaching \$256.6 million; and exports to Brazil advanced by 26.4 per cent YoY.

Engineering goods exports to China reached \$263.9 million in July, a 35.8 per cent surge YoY. However, exports o Turkey sharply declined by 31 per cent, likely due to geopolitical tensions with India. Engineering goods exports to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore had also declined during the month. During the month, 29 of 34 engineering panels reported positive growth. Five product categories, primarily aircraft and spacecraft, ships and boats, and zinc and its products, fell in July 2025 compared to the previous year.

For the April-July period of FY26, engineering exports grew 6.1 per cent YoY, reaching \$39.34 billion, up from \$37.08 billion during the same period last year. Regarding the tariff tensions, Pankaj Chadha, Chairman,

EEPC India, said, "We need to diversify our markets and products to survive and increase our global market share. The support of the Government of India, both in terms of foreign policy and access to credit, would be of enormous importance at this juncture." Region-wise, North America maintained its spot as the number one engineering export destination with a share of 22 per cent, followed by the EU (18 per cent) and West Asia-North Africa (14 per cent) in April-July 2025. The WTO projects a 0.2 per cent decline in global merchandise trade for CY 2025 and a deeper drop of up to 1.5 per cent if trade tensions escalate.

The strong July performance marked a significant improvement for India's engineering sector, with exports crossing the \$10-billion monthly milestone for the first time in the current fiscal year. The increase reflects sustained demand for

Indian machinery, industrial equipment, transport-related products and other engineering goods in major global markets. The United States remained the largest destination for Indian engineering products during the month. Despite tariff-related uncertainty, shipments to the US recorded healthy growth, indicating continued demand for Indian products and the resilience of bilateral trade.

European markets also emerged as important contributors to the expansion. Engineering exports to Germany and the UK posted sharp year-on-year increases, while shipments to Japan and China also recorded substantial growth. The gains suggest that Indian exporters are increasingly benefiting from diversification across major international markets.

However, the decline in exports to Turkey, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Singapore

highlighted the risks posed by geopolitical tensions and changing trade conditions. Exporters are facing greater uncertainty as countries reassess tariffs, supply chains and import policies amid broader global economic challenges. The performance across individual product categories was largely positive, with 29 of the 34 engineering panels registering growth in July. The decline in aircraft and spacecraft, ships and boats, and zinc-related products partly offset gains recorded in other engineering segments.

During the first four months of FY26, engineering exports rose 6.1 per cent to \$39.34 billion. The sector's continued expansion is expected to support manufacturing activity, generate employment and strengthen India's position in global supply chains, provided exporters receive adequate policy and financial support.

HDFC Bank loses Rs 47,482 cr in market value this week

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): HDFC Bank's market valuation fell by Rs 47,482.49 crore this week to Rs 14,60,863.90 crore, making it one of the biggest losers among India's top 10 most-valued companies. Reliance Industries also faced a steep decline as overall market sentiment turned bearish. In total, eight out of the top 10 most-valued firms on the BSE lost a combined Rs 2,24,630.45 crore in market capitalisation during the week when the benchmark Sensex dropped by 1,497.2 points, or 1.84 per cent.

Apart from HDFC Bank, other major losers included ICICI Bank, which fell by Rs 27,135.23 crore to Rs 9,98,290.96 crore and Bharti Airtel, which declined by Rs 24,946.71 crore to Rs 10,77,213.23 crore. LIC's market value dropped by Rs 23,655.49 crore, while SBI lost Rs 12,692.1 crore.

Bajaj Finance and Infosys also ended lower, with losses of Rs 10,471.08 crore

and Rs 7,540.18 crore respectively. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Hindustan Unilever bucked the trend. TCS added Rs 11,125.62 crore to its market valuation, while HUL gained Rs 7,318.98 crore. Market experts said that while the broader tone was cautious, key support levels are holding firm and a reversal cannot be ruled out.

According to Amruta Shinde, Technical and Derivative Analyst at Choice Broking, Nifty briefly reclaimed the 24,500 mark during the week -- indicating resilience despite volatility. "The index is hovering near important support levels around 24,337-24,267. A rebound from this zone could take Nifty back toward 24,700-24,850, where strong resistance lies," she said. Momentum indicators have shown some weakness, with the RSI slipping to 39.14, but analysts believe this also opens room for recovery if buying interest returns.

SEBI bars Golden Tobacco Ltd promoters for fund diversion, irregular financial practices

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): Golden Tobacco Limited (GTL) and its promoters have been subject of a new order from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which cited fund diversion, account misstatement, and disclosure violations. The order, which was issued following a thorough investigation, focuses on years of improper use of company assets and irregular financial practices.

Due to his violations of the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) Regulation and the Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) Regulation, SEBI has banned Sanjay Dalmia, the promoter of GTL, from the securities market for two years and fined him Rs 30 lakh. Another promoter and director, Anurag Dalmia, was fined Rs 20 lakh and banned for a period of one and a half years. Additionally, Ashok Kumar Joshi, the former director, was ordered

to pay a penalty of Rs 10 lakh and was banned from the capital market for a year. The order states that between FY10 and FY15, GTL made loans and advances totalling Rs 175.17 crore to Golden Real Estate Infrastructure Limited (GRIL), a subsidiary. SEBI discovered that the remaining funds were transferred from GRIL to promoter-related entities, even though only Rs 36 crore was paid back.

The regulator also observed that GTL's promoters and directors entered into agreements involving prime land assets of the company without making proper disclosures to shareholders. A number of agreements with outside parties for land sales or leases were either not optimal for the business or did not provide clear information to the stock exchanges. The promoters profited from the money diversion, according to SEBI's Quasi-Judicial Authority N. Murugan. He did clarify, though,

that neither GTL nor the promoter-affiliated entities were parties to the current proceedings and that no explicit orders could be made against them. However, according to the order, the money that was diverted was indirectly attributable to shareholders, meaning that they suffered a notional loss.

Once well-known for its cigarette brands, including Chancellor and Panama, GTL has steadily turned its focus to real estate, amassing sizeable land holdings in Delhi and Mumbai.

The company was admitted into insolvency proceedings in 2022 by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad, using the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

In this case, SEBI has already taken action, issuing adjudication orders against Sanjay and Anurag Dalmia in October 2013 and against other people in February 2014.

India to manufacture every component of mobile phones, including chips: Ashwini

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): India is looking at building global-scale capabilities to support the markets with best quality products and the country will manufacture each and every component used in mobile phones, including chips, cover glasses, laptop and server components, thereby positioning the country as a world player in electronics manufacturing, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The minister underlined that in the past 11 years, electronics manufacturing in India has grown six times to reach a production value of Rs 11.5 lakh crore, with exports of over Rs 3 lakh crore and direct and indirect employment for 2.5 million people. He said that the overall electronics ecosystem in the country is developing rapidly and value addition is being enhanced step by step.

The minister inaugurated India's first tempered glass manufacturing facility for mobile devices at Noida.

The facility has been set up by Optimus Electronics in collaboration with US-based Corning Incorporated, and will produce high-quality tempered glass under the globally recognised brand "Engineered by Corning".

The products will be supplied to both domestic and international markets.

Vaishnaw said tempered glass is an important accessory for mobile phones and its indigenous manufacturing is a major step forward in the success of 'Make in India' and the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The minister also informed that a Made in India chip is expected to roll out soon, marking another milestone in the country's journey towards self-reliance.

He also highlighted that India's design strength is its biggest strength, and the government will continue to boost research and development capabilities. Citing examples, he said that an IIT Madras-incubated startup has designed India's first microcontroller,

which will soon be deployed in Indian products. In the Railways sector, Indian manufacturers are already exporting equipment. of the highest global quality standards to European countries.

Vaishnaw further said that India's GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of financial year 2025-26 demonstrates that the country is a stable, vibrant and innovation-driven economy.

He called upon the youth to work hard and contribute to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047, stating that the world is looking towards India with great expectations.

Pankaj Mahindroo, Chairman, India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) said that "This product segment has a very high labour-intensive manufacturing process and presents a tremendous opportunity for India – not just to meet its own high domestic demand, but also to become a leading exporter."

Robust Q1 GDP makes India fastest-growing major economy in world: Sanjeev Sanyal

New Delhi, Aug 15 (GNS): The gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimates for the first quarter of current fiscal (FY26) at 7.8 per cent make India the fastest-growing nation among major economies in the world, Sanjeev Sanyal, a Member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council (EAC), said on Saturday. "The GDP estimate for the first quarter of 2025-26 has just come in, as you know. The number of 7.8 per cent is a good growth number by any standard. It easily makes us the fastest-growing major economy anywhere in the world," Sanyal told. Sanyal, however, sees certain fiction in the GDP's growth rate going ahead due to geopolitical issues, including US tariff jitters.

"Looking ahead, however, there are obviously certain areas of friction. Not surprisingly, one of them is going to be the US tariffs that

kicked in just last week. but also the general environment of global uncertainty that we find ourselves in," Sanyal noted.

Considering the favourable macro-economic numbers like ease in inflation, the leading economist believes that the policymakers have a lot of space that will help in confronting obstacles. "The good news, however, is that Indian policymakers have lots of space to respond to external shocks. Inflation is low. In fact, it is at the bottom of the 2-6 per cent range for the Monetary Policy Committee. You have very well-behaved external accounts," Sanyal stated.

"So, given all of this, let me say that policymakers are in a position to provide expansionary macro policy stimulus should the need arise," the economist said further. The PM EAC member further stated that S&P ratings upgrade, robust banking systems and

resilient financial markets will lead to a healthy GDP growth number this year.

"We have just had, as you know, an S&P Global rating upgrade. Of course, on the financial side, the markets remain in good shape and the banking system is well capitalised," the economist said further.

India's GDP growth accelerated to a robust 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter compared to 6.5 per cent during the same quarter a year ago. According to the data, compared to the 1.5 per cent growth rate recorded in the first quarter of the previous fiscal year, when farm output was impacted by an unpredictable monsoon, the agriculture sector recovered with a robust 3.7 per cent growth rate in the first quarter of 2025-2026.

The manufacturing sector posted a growth of 7.7 per cent, and the construction sector grew by 7.6 per cent. The latest GDP fig-

ures indicate that India's economic momentum remained strong at the beginning of FY26, with broad-based growth across key sectors. The 7.8 per cent expansion in the April-June quarter was supported by improvements in agriculture, manufacturing and construction.

The agriculture sector recorded 3.7 per cent growth during the quarter, marking a recovery from the weak performance seen in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Improved farm output provided additional support to rural demand and the overall economy. Manufacturing also remained a key driver, growing 7.7 per cent in the first quarter. The sector's performance reflects continued industrial activity and demand, while the construction sector expanded 7.6 per cent, supported by infrastructure development and investment.

WaveX, IICT Mumbai launch ‘media tech incubator’ to support AVGC–XR startups

Mumbai, Aug 15 (GNS): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) Mumbai, has launched a new media tech startup incubator under its WaveX accelerator platform. According to the ministry, the incubator will provide a dedicated nurturing ecosystem for startups in the AVGC-XR sector, which includes audio, visual, comics, gaming and extended reality.

The initiative is designed to help high-potential media and entertainment ventures grow with the support of structured mentorship, advanced infrastructure, strategic advisory, and real-world testing through government media unit partnerships. The ministry said the incubator will make it easier for startups to scale and commercialise their ideas effectively.

The programme will fol-

low a two-phase model. In the first phase, startups will receive intensive support in areas such as business modelling, product development, fundraising, branding, pitching, and understanding media regulations. They will also get sandbox testing opportunities in sectors like OTT, VFX, VR, gaming, animation, publishing, and post-production. In the second phase, the focus will shift to global showcasing through WaveX's Waves Bazaar platform, lighter mentorship, investor engagement and industry partnerships.

Startups will also get access to co-working spaces, AV/digital labs, hosting servers, high-speed internet, cloud credits from AWS and Google, and India AI compute services in the near future. The programme will include masterclasses by global tech leaders from companies like Google, Microsoft and Amazon, along with bootcamps, policy

clinics and investor connect sessions. WaveX will oversee the governance of the incubator, with quarterly reviews under the mentorship of the Ministry of I&B.

First batch will include 15 startups, to be housed at IICT's Mumbai campus, with a monthly fee of Rs 8,500 plus GST. Applications for the first cohort are open until September 7. Interested startups can apply online by visiting wavex.wavesbazaar.com. The IICT, launched in July by Union I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, has been set up as a Section 8 joint venture company with the support of the Central Government, the Maharashtra government, and leading industry bodies like FICCI and CII. The institute aims to create a strong talent pool for India's creative economy and position the country as a global leader in immersive and digital content technologies.

The Ministry of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting, in partnership with the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), has launched a new startup incubator under the WaveX accelerator platform to support India's growing AVGC-XR ecosystem. The programme will focus on startups working in animation, visual effects, gaming, extended reality, OTT, publishing and other digital media technologies. Selected ventures will receive structured mentorship, product development support, business guidance and opportunities to test their solutions in real-world media environments.

The incubator will operate in two phases. The first will concentrate on business modelling, fundraising, branding, pitching and regulatory guidance, while the second will provide global showcasing, investor engagement and industry partnerships through WaveX's Waves Bazaar platform.

Revanth Reddy challenges KCR for debate on farmer

Sangareddy, Aug 15 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy challenged BRS President and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao for a debate on the welfare of the farmers during the 10-year BRS rule and in the present Congress regime, in the State Assembly. The Chief Minister claimed the people's government has spent 1.70 lakh crore towards farmers' welfare in just two and a half years.

Addressing a public meeting after launching the distribution of Smart Ration cards in Sangareddy on Saturday, the CM said: "Let us discuss the good we have done for farmers and the injustice the BRS inflicted upon them during its 10 year rule in the state". CM Revanth Reddy listed out the welfare measures meant for the entire farming community. The 'Rythu Bharosa' assistance

Welfare During BRS and Congress Rule in Assembly



has been increased to 12,000 and 36,000 crore was deposited into farmers' accounts through 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme till date. We waived farm loans up to 2 lakh, spending 21,000 crore which is unparalleled in the country. The Chief Minister advised the BJP leaders to study the Central Government reports

which stated about debt-free farmers in Telangana. In just 32 months, we transferred 90,000 crore to farmers' accounts for the purchase of paddy. "Our government fosters a culture that honours farmers as 'Kings' (respecting their dignity)."

Stating that ration cards are not merely a piece of paper

but represents the dignity of the poor, the CM questioned whether the BJP and BRS ever distributed fine-quality rice to the poor. The BJP and BRS are not different entities and the two parties are the two sides of the same coin. The credit for establishing ration shops to distribute essential commodities to the poor

goes to the Congress party. Today, people are discussing fine rice, 'Indiramma' houses, and the Arogyasri scheme. The credit for delivering fine rice to every poor household belongs to our government.

The CM took strong exception to the opposition's allegation of power cuts in the state. Has the state witnessed power outages for even a single moment during these 32 months? Is it not true that we are providing 24-hour free electricity to farmers in every village? We proved wrong the BRS leaders warning of suicides if paddy is cultivated. Congress government is providing 500 bonus to fine variety paddy. Appealing to the youth not to fall in the trap of the opposition's false propaganda, the Chief Minister declared that the government took the responsibility of recruitment of jobs regularly every six months. "

Flag hosting ceremony at Salar Park, Al Saboor Colony



Hyderabad, Aug 15 (GNS) AIMIM Area President, Al Saboor Colony, and Er. Mohd Jamal Uddin, MD, Falaknuma News Daily, and was attended by Janab Meraj Sahab, AIMIM MLA, Yakutpura. The ceremony was organised by Janab Mohd Mohsin Sahab,

Hyderabad, Aug 15 (GNS) AIMIM Area President, Al Saboor Colony, and Er. Mohd Jamal Uddin, MD, Falaknuma News Daily, and was attended by Janab Meraj Sahab, AIMIM MLA, Yakutpura. The ceremony was organised by Janab Mohd Mohsin Sahab,

MLA Dhanpal Calls for Stronger National Unity



Falaknuma News State Correspondent Nizamabad Aug 15: Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta called upon people to strengthen national unity, integrity and patriotic spirit while celebrating the 80th Independence Day. Dhanpal hoisted the National Flag at various locations in Nizamabad, including the Auto Stand Association at the Bus Stand, Mobile Shops Association at Lalitha Complex, his camp office and Sunrise Hospital.

Addressing the gatherings, he said the freedom enjoyed by citizens today was the result of the sacrifices and struggles of the freedom fighters. He urged people, especially the younger generation, to re-

member their contribution and work towards the nation's development.

The MLA welcomed the initiative to promote the singing of the complete Vande Mataram and appealed to citizens to sing the full song during National Flag hoisting programmes. He said achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires the collective participation of every citizen. He stressed the need to move forward with national unity, national security and self-reliance. Dhanpal also attended Independence Day celebrations organised at the BJP district office, Municipal Corporation office and Parade Ground. BJP corporators, senior leaders and party workers participated in the programmes.

India's Forex Reserves Surge \$14.1 bn To Cross \$707 bn Mark

Hyderabad, Aug 15 (GNS) India's foreign exchange reserves rose sharply by \$14.136 billion during the week ended August 7, crossing the \$707 billion mark, driven by a significant increase in foreign currency assets and gold reserves, according to

data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. In rupee terms, the country's reserves expanded by Rs 1.19 lakh crore during the reporting week to Rs 67.32 lakh crore, underscoring the strength of India's external sector position.

Congress leaders hoist National Flags on 80th Independence Day

Falaknuma News State Correspondent M.A.Samad : Nizamabad, Aug 15 The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour by the Nizamabad District Congress. DCC In-charge Kaudapu Sharath Kumar hoisted the national flag at the District Congress Party office and Gandhi Chowk.

DCC Nizamabad Corporation President unfurled the Tricolour at Nehru Park, Railway Station and Shambhuni Gudi. Congress leaders, workers and supporters participated in the celebrations and paid tributes to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's Independence.

Speaking on the occasion, DCC President extended Independence Day greetings to the people of Nizamabad district. He said the Congress Party had made significant contributions to India's freedom movement and had played



an important role in the country's development after Independence.

He recalled the sacrifices of the martyrs and said their contribution would always remain an inspiration for future generations. He also highlighted India's progress in science, technology and space, stating that the country had transformed from a newly independent nation into a major global power. President criticised the BJP, alleging that its leaders were

attempting to take credit for the country's achievements despite having no role in the freedom struggle. He further alleged that democratic values and people's freedoms were being undermined under the BJP government.

Mayor Uma Rani, NUDA Chairman Kesha Venu, TPCC General Secretary Ram Bhoopal, Library Chairman Anta Reddy Raja Reddy, AMC Chairman Muppa Ganga Reddy, DCC Treasurer Dilli Bhaktavatsalam, TPCC Campaign Committee Member Javed Akram, Youth President Vipul Goud, Seva Dal President Santosh, ST President Yadagiri, SC President Lingam, Fisheries Chairman Srinivas, Former Municipal Floor Leader, Nuda Director & Corporator D. Rajendra Prasad, Senior Leader Bantu Balram, Corporators and several senior Congress leaders, party workers and supporters participated in the Independence Day celebrations.

Govt launches RSVC-AMRIT digital platform to connect rural needs with innovations

Hyderabad, Aug 15 (GNS) Apex advisory body, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the government and NABARD on Saturday launched the RSVC-AMRIT platform to strengthen technology-led rural development and accelerate the adoption of appropriate technologies in rural areas, according to an official statement.

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood launched the digital platform which is a step towards strengthening the RuTAGE Smart Village Centre

(RSVC) ecosystem. Developed by NABARD in collaboration with the PSA's office, the AMRIT platform is designed to serve as the digital backbone of the RSVC ecosystem, supporting technology discovery, validation, deployment tracking, collaboration, monitoring and knowledge management.

In addition, the platform will progressively bring together innovators, technology providers, startups, validators, accelerators, implementation partners, funding agencies, academic institutions and rural communities on a common platform.

Addressing the launch event, Sood said the platform would support the complete lifecycle of the RSVC initiative and help connect various stakeholders involved in developing and deploying technologies for rural communities. The initiative aims to strengthen collaboration and accelerate the dissemination of appropriate technologies closer to the last mile.

NABARD Chairman Dr Shaji Krishnan V said India has a rich ecosystem of scientific institutions, innovators, startups and technology providers, but connecting appropriate technologies with specific rural needs remains a challenge.

Students Urged to Embrace Education, AI and Technology

Independence Day Celebrated with Patriotic Fervour at Government High School, Darulshifa

Falaknuma News State Correspondent M.A.Samad Hyderabad, Aug 15 The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at Government High School, Darulshifa, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad. The celebrations combined patriotic fervour with a strong message on education, technology, character building and national responsibility.

Headmaster Maulana Mufti Dr. Hafiz Mohammad Sabir Pasha Qadri hoisted the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem and prayers for the peace, unity and prosperity of the country.

Addressing the gathering, he said that the future of the nation depended on an educated, skilled and technologically empowered younger generation. He urged students to develop scientific thinking, creativity, curiosity, research skills and knowledge of modern technologies instead of limiting themselves to classroom education.

He said Artificial Intelligence, computers, digital technology and innovation were transforming every sector and advised students to use mobile phones and the internet primarily as tools for learning, research and skill development.

Recalling the freedom struggle, Maulana Sabir Pasha Qadri said the independence enjoyed by the country was the result of the sacrifices, courage and determination of countless freedom fighters. He stressed the need to remember the contribution of Muslims and Ulema to the freedom movement and recalled the services and sacrifices of Siraj-ud-



Daulah, Haider Ali, Tipu Sultan, Shah Waliullah Mu-haddith Dehlawi, Shah Abdul Aziz Muhaddith Dehlawi, Syed Ahmad Shaheed and Shah Ismail Shaheed, among others.

He said Independence Day should inspire every citizen to work for national unity, communal harmony, brotherhood and the welfare of society. Students, he added, should make knowledge, discipline, character, hard work and service to the nation the guiding principles of their lives.

The celebrations featured a colourful cultural programme by students. Through patriotic songs, cultural presentations and traditional performances, students showcased India's rich heritage and conveyed messages of national integration, harmony and patriotism. Their performances received appreciation from teachers, former students and guests.

Former Headmaster Mohammad Masood-ud-Din Ahmed advised students to give equal importance to education and character formation, scientific awareness, literature, national integration and the all-round development of students.

Former students of the school shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to their teachers for the education, discipline and encouragement that helped shape their careers. They urged the present generation to respect teachers, value time and work with determination to achieve their goals.

They also encouraged Urdu-medium students to acquire additional skills in English and other languages, computers, digital technology and modern disciplines, stressing that professional competence and continuous learning were essential in today's competitive world.

Teachers including Mohammad Aqeel, Zaheeruddin, Vijay Kumar Reddy, Mohammad Zaemuddin and Mohammad Aiaz, along with other female teachers, actively participated in the programme.

The celebrations concluded with a commitment to strengthen the school's efforts in education, character formation, scientific awareness, literature, national integration and the all-round development of students.



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