

Revanth Reddy begins UK-US tour to boost telangana investments

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS) Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday arrived in London as part of his 10-day two-nation tour to the United Kingdom and the United States. The Telangana delegation is scheduled to hold meetings aimed at attracting industrial investments and forging academic partnerships. The delegation, which includes senior state officials, will pitch Telangana as a global investment destination, with a focus on Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, life sciences, green energy and skill development.

Revanth Reddy left New Delhi on a post-midnight flight after attending the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on August 19. On August 20, he is likely to attend the wedding of AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's daughter Fatima Owaisi. On August 21, the Chief Minister will visit the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University and attend an English Premier League football presentation at Emirates Stadium. The following day, he will interact with the Cambridge team, visit Senate House at the University of London and tour the London Business School.

Revanth Reddy will leave London for Boston in the US on August 23. On August 24, he will hold academic meetings at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before travelling to New York at night. On August 25, the delegation will visit Northeastern University and hold talks with representatives of Virginia Tech University.



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has arrived in London as part of his 10-day UK-US tour aimed at attracting industrial investments and forging academic partnerships for Telangana. The delegation will promote the state as a global investment destination, focusing on IT, AI, life sciences, green energy and skill development.

The Chief Minister will attend a 'Meet & Greet' event organised by the Indian Overseas Congress in New York on August 26 to interact with members of the Indian diaspora and business leaders. On August 27 and 28, the delegation will participate in industrial roundtable sessions with global CEOs, venture capitalists and multinational companies on data centre expansion and manufacturing facilities in Hyderabad. Revanth Reddy will leave New York on August 29 and return to Hyderabad on August 30.

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India, Singapore deepen ties in advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy

Singapore, Aug 20 (GNS): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Thursday said that India and Singapore concluded a "very productive" Ministerial Roundtable meeting in Singapore. Along with EAM Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry; Electronics and Information Technology, Jitin Prasada, participated in the high-level 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR).

EAM Jaishankar also thanked Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Home Affairs K Shanmugam, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Digital Development and Informa-



tion Minister Josephine Teo, and Minister for Transport Jeffrey Siow for engaging the visiting delegation positively. "Our discussions explored deeper ties in advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, connectivity, digital, fintech, skilling, green economy and clean energy domains," EAM Jaishankar stated on X.

He added that the ISMR also interacted with participants of the India-Singapore

Business Roundtable (ISBR). "Shaping this contemporary and forward-looking India-Singapore partnership is truly a shared endeavour," he highlighted. Earlier in the day, the Indian ministers called on Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and discussed the progress across various dimensions of India-Singapore relations.

"A real pleasure to call on PM Lawrence Wong of Singapore, along with Ministers

Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, and Jitin Prasada. Discussed the progress across various dimensions of India-Singapore relations. Value his thoughts on taking the partnership forward," EAM Jaishankar stated on X. According to the Finance Ministry, the leaders also discussed "ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across economic cooperation, digitalisation, connectivity, skills development and sustainability.

Himanta Sarma meets PM Modi Seeks support for Assam flood recovery



New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and sought his guidance on the state's flood recovery efforts, rebuilding plans and key initiatives undertaken by his government during its first 100 days in office.

CM Sarma said the meeting focused primarily on the next phase of Assam's flood response, including reconstruction of affected areas, restoration of

livelihoods and ensuring comprehensive rehabilitation of people impacted by the floods. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said PM Modi had remained in constant touch with the Assam government during the flood situation, closely reviewing developments and extending all possible assistance from the Centre. "Today in New Delhi, I had the privilege of calling upon Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji to seek his blessings and guidance," CM Sarma said.

India, Japan Deepen Defence Cooperation, Sign Maritime Security Pact

Tokyo/New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): India and Japan on Thursday welcomed the steady strengthening of bilateral defence cooperation, including engagement between their respective ministries and services, based on shared strategic perspectives under the 'Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership' which constitutes one of the pillars for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

In a joint statement issued after the Japan-India Defence Ministers' Meeting between Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart, Shinjiro Koizumi, in New Delhi, the two sides stressed the importance of sharing assessments of the regional and international



security environment amid heightened global tensions. They also expressed their strong opposition to any unilateral actions that impede freedom

issued in July 2026, both Singh and Koizumi affirmed their commitment, under their leadership, to further deepen defence cooperation to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The two ministers agreed to deepen operational cooperation in the field of maritime security in a practical and effective manner. They accordingly affirmed their commitment to strengthening Maritime Security Cooperation and signed the Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation. "The Memorandum provides a framework for further advancing cooperation between the two countries in the field of maritime security.

1984 Anti-Sikh Riots Convict Sajjan Kumar Dies at 80

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): Former Congress MP, Sajjan Kumar, who was serving life imprisonment in connection with cases arising from the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, died on Thursday at a Delhi hospital. He was 80. Kumar, lodged in Tihar Jail, was taken to Safdarjung Hospital after his health deteriorated. Doctors declared him brought dead on arrival.

The former Congress leader had been convicted for his role in the killings of five people during violence in Delhi's Palam Colony on November 1 and 2, 1984, following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. On December 17, 2018, the Delhi High Court overturned a trial court's 2013 verdict acquitting Kumar in the case. He



was subsequently convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. The case related to the murder of five Sikh men in Raj Nagar Part-I, Palam Colony, as well as the burning of a gurdwara during the widespread violence.

The High Court held Kumar guilty of criminal conspiracy and abetment and directed that he remain in prison for the remainder of his natural life.

VP Radhakrishnan Urges Young IAS Officers to Lead with Integrity

Dehradun, Aug 20 (GNS): Describing character and integrity as the foundations of public service, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Thursday told young IAS officers that leadership is not measured by power but the ability to act ethically in difficult situations. Addressing the valedictory programme of Phase-II training of the IAS Officer Trainees of the 2024 batch at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie, the Vice-President asked officers to make their service meaningful by transforming lives.

Referring to the journey towards 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047', Radhakrishnan asked the officers to ensure that development reaches the last mile and every grievance is heard and every citizen is empowered. The



Vice-President also called upon the officers to embrace emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning and Blockchain, to improve efficiency, transparency and citizen service delivery. He emphasised continuous learning, adaptability and being future-ready and urged the young officers to strive for team excellence rather than individual or group excellence,

an official statement said.

He stressed the importance of building cohesive teams, motivating colleagues and carrying forward good practices established by their predecessors. Congratulating the Officer Trainees on the successful completion of their training, the Vice-President said that civil services have made immense contributions to the country's development and remain a vital link between policy and its implementation at the grassroots level.

During his visit to the Academy, Vice-President Radhakrishnan also paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. Governor of Uttarakhand, Lieutenant General (Retd.) Gurmit Singh; Uttarakhand Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Soldier Welfare, Ganesh Joshi; LBSNAA Director B. Rajender were present at the event held on the concluding day of Vice-President Radhakrishnan's two-day visit to Uttarakhand.

On Wednesday, the first day of his state visit, the Vice-President visited the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) in Dehradun, where he interacted with Indian Forest Service (IFS) probationers of the 2025-27 batch.

Border development now top priority under Modi Govt: Rijiju

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday reiterated the Central government's commitment to strengthening development and infrastructure along India's border areas, asserting that regions neglected in the past have now become a "top priority" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Rijiju took to X and shared a video from his recent visit to the remote border areas of Maza, Galemo and Taksing in Arunachal Pradesh. The video showed construction equipment being used for infrastructure work, the Minister interacting with military personnel and local residents, as well as the challenging and rugged Himalayan terrain surrounding the strategically important border region.



Emphasising the government's focus on improving infrastructure in remote areas, Rijiju said that border development had received insufficient attention in the past but was now being given top priority by the Modi government.

"Some people casually commented on border. Border areas are tough but Narendra Modi govt is committed to border development. I went to Maza, Galemo, Taksing areas in Arunachal Pradesh to speed up infrastructure works. Borders were neglected in the past but it's

top priority now," Rijiju posted on X, while reposting a clip from his interview. The Union Minister's remarks came amid repeated allegations by Opposition leaders that the Central government has concealed information regarding alleged Chinese incursions and has failed to adequately safeguard Indian territory along the country's borders. Earlier on Wednesday, speaking exclusively to IANS, Rijiju dismissed the allegations made by Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi regarding alleged Chinese intrusion into Indian territory asserting that the concerns being raised in Arunachal Pradesh need to be viewed in the context of the long-standing lack of a formally demarcated India-China boundary.

Why joint parliamentary committees are an exercise in futility



Derek O'Brien
The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) and the Samajwadi Party (SP), the second largest Opposition parties in Parliament, decided not to nominate any of its members to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) being proposed to examine the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, calling the committee a 'farce'.
One, the chairperson of the JPC is decided by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the chairperson of Rajya Sabha, in consultation with each other as may be necessary, and its members are subsequently nominated by each party according to the party's strength. This makes these committees skewed towards the ruling majority because of their numbers in the Houses.

The chairperson of the JPC would have been a BJP MP. Second, in almost every JPC there is no consensus on the final report. Whenever important amendments are proposed by an opposition MP, the amendments are defeated in the committee by a show of hands. The ruling party uses its brute majority to do this. This has become a trend. Instead of coming to these meetings with an open mind, Members of Parliament representing the treasury benches come and rubber stamp the views of the ruling party. Those in the opposition, holding an alternate view, are outvoted. The only recourse left is to table a dissenting note - for the record. Third, let me pluck out a few examples - from 1987, 1992 and 2001. In the Bofors case of 1987, it was alleged that a

Congress member had taken bribes while settling the deal of purchasing the Bofors 'shoot and scoot' guns. The JPC report was boycotted by the opposition highlighting that the committee was packed with members of the ruling party. When the Harshad Mehta scam (1992) surfaced, a JPC was set up to inquire into allegations that Mehta diverted funds to Maruti Udyog Limited and provoked a major fall in the Sensex. However, the recommendations were neither accepted nor implemented. During the Share Market Scam (2001), the Ahmedabad-based Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank had big exposure to the stock market, courtesy former stockbroker Ketan Parekh. The JPC suggested stock market regulations, which were subsequently diluted.

There have been other cases where a JPC has been formed for investigations. For example, the Joint Committee on pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages (2003) and the Joint Committee to examine matters relating to allocation and pricing of telecom licences and spectrum (2011). While only some recommendations were implemented from the former, the latter was mired in controversy. (Extract from column which appeared on NDTV on 6 March, 2023)
Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) were originally conceived as democratic and well-intentioned mechanisms, established through motions passed by both Houses of Parliament and endowed with exceptional powers,

such as summoning witnesses, demanding documents, and examining experts. These are far beyond what ordinary committees can do, to ensure transparency and public accountability. However, this purpose has eroded significantly post-2014, with JPCs increasingly being manipulated by the government in power. Now, in the same committee which represents public accountability, procedures are bypassed, opposition amendments rejected, and meaningful debate replaced by partisan fluff. The Modi coalition pushing to form this JPC to examine an 'unconstitutional bill' is a stunt performed to create a distraction from Special Intensive Revision (SIR - vote chori). Someone needed to call a stunt a stunt. I am glad we did.

Use GST recast mood to cast reform net wider

Shankkar Aiyar
The good news is that the much-expected simplification of the goods and services tax regime has arrived. You could argue that the urge was driven by political considerations. The trail of alterations since 2017 often carries the scent of electoral economics, and one does remember the khakra tax saga. It could be also argued that the changes are much-needed measures propelled by the challenge posed by slowing demand amid Trumpian tariff tactics. Of course, the government says the GST reforms are neither about Bihar nor Trump, but the result of 18 months of meetings. That the Centre and states must take 18 months to do 'good' is a testament in its own class!
Be that as it may, the hope is that the GST rate cuts will trigger demand and propel growth. The thesis belongs to the 'only time will tell' category. The tax reliefs of Budget 2025 are yet to reveal the torque on consumption. As forecasters shift around the decimals of GDP growth, questions hang in the air. Will the cuts boost consumption? The loss of revenue to the government, estimated at Rs 330 lakh crore—effectively, money moved from the public to the private sector—is expected to stimulate an economy of Rs 330 lakh crore.
Oftentimes, political intent is waylaid by the hurrahs emanating from the surround-sound amphitheatre. Hopefully, the cliché of missing the woods won't



play out. The GST recast presents an opportunity to leverage the mood and push for deeper reforms. The challenge of 50 percent tariffs on India's exports to the US is aggravated by the perennially pending structural reforms highlighted in this column earlier.
The economic cost imposed by politics makes Indian exports less competitive vis-à-vis Vietnam, Sri Lanka, or Bangladesh. It is estimated that \$48-60 billion of Indian exports to the US are under tariffs. The sectors affected are mass employers and the pain could traverse India's export geography from Tiruppur to Noida to Surat. Between them, the gem & jewellery and textile sectors employ over 50 million people. The circumstance necessitates the relief promised by the government and calls for resource mobilisation.
The headroom in the government's balance sheet is limited—the commitment

to bring fiscal deficit down to 4.4 percent and the recent upgrade of ratings by S&P will inform the quantum of funds made available. This brings the spotlight on the old chestnuts: asset monetisation and disinvestments. The Niti Aayog identified projects worth Rs 6 lakh crore for monetisation. The 2025 Budget unveiled a new asset monetisation target of Rs 10 lakh crore. The government must disclose the amount realised in the first programme, debate its use, and set a deadline for the new target.
The biggest opportunity to raise moolah is in unlocking the value of government holdings in public sector enterprises. Three decades after liberalisation, the government of India continues to be one of the largest business houses! This column had, precisely for such contingencies and funding development, proposed that the government's holdings be parked in a sovereign fund called Amrit

Kaal Fund, to be leveraged to raise resources. To paraphrase Victor Hugo, it is an idea whose time has come.
Consider the following. The total market value of listed public sector enterprises is Rs 34.33 lakh crore and that of all listed public sector banks is over Rs 15.9 lakh crore. The government's holdings in undertakings such as LIC, GIC, RVNL, IRFC, Mazgaon Docks and many banks are in excess of 80 percent. If the government were to park its holdings in excess of 51 percent into a fund and offer it in the market as part of a Bharat Fund, it would address the concern on valuations and afford a substantial sum over a period of time.
Money makes the mare go round, but is only a means to execute intent. India's economy is shackled by systemic sloth, archaic laws and regulatory cholestrol. The Economic Survey 2024 presented a framework for growth, highlighting the

need for deregulation. In September 2025, the idea is still being debated in committees. Investors queue up at state capitals and in Delhi for permits; businesses are haunted by a plethora of compliances.
The GST system hailed this week is still a work in progress shackled by cess, inverted duties, classifications and the threat of imprisonment. Of the over 1,843 laws governing businesses, more than 800 carry imprisonment clauses. The promise to decriminalise some of the provisions, as of now, is still a bill. The Trump tariff threat calls for expansion to newer markets. Samsung, Sony, Toyota and Xiaomi have engineered leverage for their nations with global brands. The unstated truth about Indian corporates is that they have struggled to build scale and distinctive quality. One reason, among many ranging from systemic rigidities to poor credit markets, is lack of investment in R&D.

India's quest for knowledge

India formulated its latest National Education Policy, NEP-2020, after a long gap, as the earlier National Policy on Education was formulated only in 1992. There was a major attempt to formulate a new curriculum framework for school education 25 years ago. It was released on November 14, 2000, the birthday of Pandit Nehru, by the then Minister of HRD, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi.
Based upon it, the school textbooks, some of which were more than three decades old, were rewritten and revised. Focus must now be on where we stand at this juncture in education and how far we are preparing ourselves for the future in the national and global context. Unprecedented changes are taking place both in the content and process of education everywhere. Simultaneously, there is an ever-increasing global realisation of the interdependence of nations, communities, and people all around. It is now left to India to resume its leadership role in the process of the reshaping of the world, which was taking shape anyway! It needs to create a vibrant knowledge society, a highly acculturated people, and excellence in spirituality. Obviously, it has to be achieved only by seriously envisioning and implementing a dynamic and visionary Indian education system.
New challenges were emerging before the education systems globally, and every nation has to decipher its own challenges. India attempted the same through the reformulation of its education policy, the NEP-2020: "This National Education Policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all... The vision of policy is to instil among the learners a deep-rooted pride in being Indian, not only in thought, but also in spirit, intellect, and deeds, as well as to develop knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development." This is a very comprehensive statement that would require not only tremendous efforts in implementation but also a modern comprehension of the Indian tradition of knowledge quest, which in the ancient days commanded global respect and adulation. It shall have to be supplemented by the global philosophical and epistemological comprehension.
The Centre for Contemporary Studies, PMML, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi, has been re-energised under Nripendra Misra, chairman of the executive committee. He inspired a study on how education development during the second half of the 20th century could be reviewed and recalled for the benefit of the millennials, who would be holding the reins of power in practically every country in years to come. This study has been completed over a period of two years, and a manuscript of 553 pages entitled Millennial Transition: Leadership, Education, Culture, and Social Cohesion has been written. It has been prepared as an outcome of the study and submitted to the organisation on July 8, 2025. The National Book Trust of India, NBT, has accepted it for publication.
This study finds that India initially began its post-independence journey of education, knowledge, and development under the shadow of the times that were characterised by STPG: Science, Technology, Production, and Gandhi, an acronym often used by an outstanding scientist and academician, Prof Daulat Singh Kothari. This motto was the futuristic vision of those days and has subsequently been substituted by STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It was incorporated for implementation in the National Policy on Education, 1986, which was revised in 1992. Afterwards, there was a long gap, and the next policy formation was completed only in 2020. The biggest challenge that India faced during the first five to six decades after independence was to take education to every child.
Focus at this stage is on excellence and skill acquisition. Today the biggest challenges are acculturation, social cohesion, and religious amity. Towards this, the passage passes through VAT-G, the ideas, thoughts, philosophy, and pragmatism of Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Gurudev Tagore, and Mahatma Gandhi. Swami Vivekananda was the most brilliant interpreter of the Indian quest for knowledge and wisdom in the contemporary context for international audiences. Sri Aurobindo, who understood Western culture and its inadequacies and dwelled in great depth on the universality of the Indian interpretation of spirituality in the global context, and the Gurudev, who developed a subtle comprehension of the beauty of the man-nature interdependence. The comprehension of the thought, philosophy, and pragmatism of the great quartet offers an effective understanding of India, its knowledge traditions and systems, and its relationship to the global developments. Crossing this stage, one could go deeper into the works of the galaxy of illustrious persons and their works. Gurudev Tagore had highlighted the need to encourage the divine gift of the power of ideas and the power of imagination given in abundance to every child. The two I's, if inspired and nurtured with empathy, would lead to the third, Innovations, which constitutes the I³. To make it easier for the teachers and learners, three C's — Curiosity, Creativity, and Commitment — are also added: C³. Thus, the VAT-G, together with the I³ C³, constitutes the perfect combination for those interested in understanding and also in finding a solid base for Indian education, rooted in culture and committed to progress.
This identification comes after a thorough study and analysis of the initial post-independence emphasis on STPG — Science, Technology, Production, and Gandhi. It was followed by the STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Whatever the challenges, a nation like India cannot ignore its national and international responsibilities in the world of knowledge and skill acquisition. As the Indian tradition of knowledge quest, which is not confined to a particular region, community, religion, or language, has to be studied in its broader framework and, more importantly, in light of the modern traditions of knowledge generation and creation being developed on the international map.
India's education journey must therefore move beyond the conventional pursuit of degrees and employment towards the creation of informed, responsible and innovative citizens. The emerging knowledge economy demands a strong foundation in scientific temper, critical thinking, creativity and ethical values. At the same time, education must remain connected to India's cultural heritage and diverse intellectual traditions.
The rapid expansion of Artificial Intelligence, automation, biotechnology, digital learning and other emerging technologies is transforming the nature of work and knowledge. The education system must prepare learners not merely to use these technologies but also to understand their social, ethical and human implications. Teachers, too, will require continuous opportunities for professional development to remain effective in this changing environment.
Another important priority is strengthening social cohesion through education. Schools and higher educational institutions must become spaces where students learn to respect diversity, appreciate different perspectives and develop a shared sense of citizenship. Education can play a decisive role in promoting constitutional values, mutual understanding and harmony among communities. The success of NEP-2020 will ultimately depend on its implementation at the grassroots level. Adequate infrastructure, trained teachers, quality learning materials, technology-enabled education and equal opportunities must reach students across urban and rural India. Special attention is also required for disadvantaged sections so that the promise of inclusive and equitable education becomes a reality.

Manufacturing PMI which is at 17.5 year high need to be sustained by greater investments in Make in India programme- Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): India has a history of converting a difficult situation into an opportunity, said Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, while addressing the 21st Annual Global Investor Conference 2025 today. He highlighted India's remarkable economic performance, strengthened fundamentals, and the nation's vision towards Viksit Bharat 2047. Recalling how India emerged stronger from the crises of 1991, 2008, and the pandemic, Shri Goyal said the country is once again poised to turn challenges into opportunities. He emphasized the collective responsibility of government and industry in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Minister highlighted India's manufacturing PMI at a 17.5-year high and called for greater investment in Make in India. He emphasised the role of in-



frastructure as a force multiplier, driving consumption and boosting the economy.

The Minister highlighted 7.8% GDP growth in the first quarter of financial year 2025—the fastest growth in the last five years for a quarter. He underscored that private capex is up by 66%, foreign direct investment has increased by 14%, and millions of new demat accounts are being opened every month. Strong macroeconomic fundamentals, lowest CPI inflation in a very long time, and significant domestic capital inflows

reflect renewed confidence in India's growth story, he added. Goyal said India's banking sector has achieved its highest performance in many years, providing safety and confidence to depositors and borrowers alike. He noted that India's sovereign rating has been upgraded from BBB- to BBB with a stable outlook, backed by robust growth and strong external financial stability.

On trade, the Minister recalled the FTAs already concluded with Mauritius, UAE, and Australia, and noted ongoing engagements

with the EFTA bloc, European Union, and the United Kingdom. He informed that discussions with the EU are advancing, with senior delegations visiting both sides. Shri Goyal expressed hope of concluding a bilateral trade agreement with the USA by November, as discussed by the two leaders earlier this year.

He emphasised that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, continues to work towards ease of doing business and ease of living by

deregulating, reducing procedures, simplifying policies, and decriminalising laws. He invited suggestions from industry leaders to further improve the investment climate, avoid duplication, enhance use of technology, and strengthen ethics and fairness in markets.

The Minister stated that upcoming GST 2.0 reforms, expected in the forthcoming GST Council meetings, will boost consumer sentiment, spur demand, and simplify compliance. He also highlighted the government's significant reduction in corpo-

rate and personal tax rates, coupled with RBI's reduction in policy rates and CRR, while maintaining inflation at 1.5%.

Goyal reiterated India's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat—not by closing doors to international engagement, but by building resilient supply chains to avoid dependency on any one geography. He cited the government's push for manufacturing in key sectors including drones, semiconductors, and CRGO steel, noting growing commitments by Indian industry and buyers to source domestically. Speaking on sustainability, he urged industry participants to support energy efficiency and renewable energy, citing examples such as LED bulbs and 5-star appliances. He recalled the Prime Minister's call for Zero Defect, Zero Effect, stressing on quality manufacturing that neither harms the environment nor compromises standards.

Bhupender Yadav urges resilience, regeneration & responsibility for a sustainable world

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): At the 20th Global Sustainability Summit, organized by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, described India's journey towards resilient, regenerative and responsible growth. Dignitaries on dais included Shri Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Shri Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII. The gathering included representatives from over 10 countries and stalwarts from the industry.

Addressing global delegates in New Delhi today, Shri Yadav underlined that India's model of development is deeply rooted in balancing economic progress with ecological stewardship. "Sustainability should not be considered as a goal or an objective. I believe it is a lifestyle choice, an evolving commitment to be resilient, regenerative, and responsible," he said. The Minister highlighted that the prevailing global trade tensions, policy uncertainties, geopolitical conflicts, and barriers to global financial investments by major economies, collectively create a fragile environment. The Minister called upon all countries to make sustainability foundational to growth by embracing economy-wide solutions that encompass circular economy models, nature positive actions, green manufacturing and advancing behaviour change for responsible practices.

Yadav highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry has recently issued very critical notifications with the aim of building a sustainable future. He informed that on 29th August 2025, the Government of India notified the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, which create a formal framework for envi-

ronmental auditing across the country. These rules establish a two-tiered system of auditors and set up a dedicated agency to transparently oversee the process. "These rules are designed to supplement the existing monitoring and inspection framework of the government, not to replace it", Shri Yadav stated.

The Minister further informed the gathering about the notification of a revised methodology for the Green Credit Programme on 29th August 2025. Originally launched in October 2023 to encourage voluntary environmental action, the programme has now been strengthened with provisions that allow direct participation by private entities, establish minimum restoration commitments, mobilize private capital for climate action, and utilize Earned Green Credits.

The revised methodology ensures that the Green Credit Programme becomes a catalyst for meaningful eco-restoration, the Minister explained.

In addition, Shri Yadav highlighted that on 31st August 2025, the Ministry amended the Forest (Conservation and Augmentation) Rules, 2023 to facilitate the objectives of achieving self-reliance in the Critical Mineral sector under the newly launched National Critical Mineral Mission, 2025. Under this mission, 24 minerals have been identified as critical and strategic, and 29 others have been recognized as important for strengthening the country's economy and national security. The amended rules simplify the approval process for mining these minerals in forest areas for both public and private entities.

Reflecting on India's broader sustainability achievements, Shri Yadav observed that the country has emerged as the fastest-growing major economy while also leading global efforts on climate action.

Sonowal sets 2047 target: 10,000 MMT EXIM cargo, 500 MMT via waterways

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the upcoming 'India Maritime Week' in Mumbai from Oct. 27-31, where he will deliver the keynote address at the Global Maritime CEO Forum.

Speaking at the Water Voyage Northeast 2025 conference in Guwahati, Sonowal described the event as "a historic opportunity to showcase India's maritime strength to the world" with participation expected from over 100 countries and more than 100,000 stakeholders. Sarbananda Sonowal said the Prime Minister's presence will reaffirm India's global maritime leadership at a time when the sector is undergoing unprecedented transformation.

"India Maritime Week will not only be a confluence of ideas, but a confluence of confidence," Sarbananda Sonowal said. "The way Prime Minister Modi has guided our maritime vision, the world now looks at India as a trusted partner and a rising maritime power. His presence at the Global Maritime CEO Forum will inspire global industry leaders to invest in India's growth story."

The Minister also revealed a major development for the Northeast: two luxury cruise ships are being built at a combined investment of 250 crore for deployment on the Brahmaputra River. These ships, currently under construction at Hooghly Cochin Shipyard in Howrah, Kolkata, will be launched in 2027, providing a new dimension to Assam's river tourism under the Cruise Bharat Mission.

Sonowal said India's maritime ecosystem has been reshaped since 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Flagship initiatives such as Sagarmala, the Maritime

India Vision (MIV) 2030, and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047 are transforming ports, shipping, and inland waterways. Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted that port capacity has nearly doubled, cargo handling has reached 1,600 million metric tonnes, and turn-around time at ports has reduced to 22 hours.

"From five operational waterways in 2014, we now have 30 today," Sonowal noted. "Cargo movement on inland waterways has grown from 18 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 145 million tonnes last year. These are not just statistics, they are milestones of transformation." The Minister underscored the green transition being led by the Harit Sagar policy and Harit Nauka initiative, which promote clean fuels, renewable energy, and eco-friendly inland vessels.

He also highlighted the Jalvahak Scheme, launched in December 2024, which incentivises cargo transport over 300 km on National Waterways 1, 2, and 16 through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route with up to 35% reimbursement of operating expenditure.

"With the Jalvahak scheme and fixed day scheduled sailings, we are not just moving cargo, we are moving confidence. We are providing the industry with predictability, affordability, and sustainability," Sarbananda Sonowal said. Northeast at the Center of Growth

The Union Minister placed special emphasis on the Northeast's role in the maritime roadmap. Over 1,000 crore has been invested in inland waterway infrastructure in the region, of which 300 crore worth of projects are complete and the rest nearing completion. Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, we are unlocking the immense maritime.

Tata Motors to pass on full GST cut, commercial vehicles to get cheaper from September 22

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): Tata Motors on Sunday announced that it will pass on the entire benefit of the recent GST rate cut to its commercial vehicle customers. The new prices will be effective from September 22, the day the revised GST rates come into force.

"Tata Motors will pass on the full benefit of the recent GST reduction on its entire commercial vehicle range to customers, effective September 22, the date the revised GST rates come into effect," the company said in a statement. The price cuts will vary across different vehicle categories. Heavy commercial vehicles (HCVs) will see a reduction ranging between Rs 2.8 lakh and Rs 4.65 lakh.

Intermediate, light, and medium commercial vehicles (ILMCVs) will become cheaper by Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. Buses and vans will see reductions between Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 4.35 lakh. Small commercial pas-

senger vehicles (SCVs) will get price cuts between Rs 52,000 and Rs 66,000, while SCVs and pickups will become cheaper by Rs 30,000 to Rs 1.1 lakh. The company said the GST on commercial vehicles has been reduced to 18 per cent, a move that it believes will help revive India's transport and logistics sector.

Girish Wagh, Executive Director of Tata Motors, said the decision reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the country's economic backbone. He added that Tata Motors is proud to extend the full GST benefit to customers, ensuring lower costs and better access to modern vehicles. Tata Motors highlighted that commercial vehicles play a crucial role in India's growth by driving logistics, trade, and connectivity. With the GST reduction, the company expects the total cost of ownership for transporters, fleet operators, and

small businesses to come down. This will encourage faster fleet modernisation and wider adoption of advanced, cleaner mobility solutions, helping operators cut costs, improve efficiency, and boost profits. The company has also encouraged customers to book vehicles early to take advantage of the reduced prices during the upcoming festive season.

Tata Motors' decision to pass on the full GST reduction is expected to provide significant relief to transporters, fleet operators and small businesses. Lower vehicle prices could reduce the upfront investment required for expanding or replacing commercial fleets.

The price cuts across different categories are likely to make new commercial vehicles more accessible to a wider section of customers. Heavy commercial vehicles, which involve substantial capital expenditure, will receive some of

the biggest benefits under the revised pricing structure. The reduction in GST to 18 per cent is also expected to improve affordability in the bus and van segment. This could benefit passenger transport operators, institutional users and businesses that depend on commercial mobility for their daily operations.

Small commercial vehicles and pickups are particularly important for last-mile deliveries and small enterprises. Lower prices in these segments could support local traders, delivery operators, farmers and other businesses that rely on light commercial transport.

The company expects the lower cost of ownership to encourage fleet operators to replace older vehicles with newer and more efficient models. Such fleet modernisation could improve fuel efficiency, safety and operational reliability while reducing maintenance costs.

India backs WTO-centred fair trade system at SCO trade ministers' meeting

New Delhi, Aug 20 (GNS): India emphasised the need for an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system centred around WTO norms, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, amid the ongoing uncertainty in global trade triggered by the US tariff turmoil, the Commerce and Industry Ministry announced on Sunday.

India highlighted the scope to leverage the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) collective strengths for shared prosperity and the need for export diversification, reducing dependency, and building resilient supply chains at the meeting held on Saturday. Amitabh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, who represented the Commerce Minister on behalf of India, came out strongly for coordinated action to enhance trade flows, address vulnerabilities, and support inclusive growth

across the region, which accounts for 42 per cent of the world's population and 17.2 per cent of global trade.

He highlighted the importance of a development-centred agenda that includes a permanent solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes, effective Special & Differential Treatment (S&D;DT) for developing countries, and restoration of a fully functional two-tier WTO dispute settlement system. He also underlined the role of services trade and the temporary movement of skilled professionals, in line with national laws and transparency, to strengthen economic growth and support greater participation of MSMEs in global value chains.

India has stressed the importance of diversifying and de-risking supply and production chains through geographical spread, interoperable logistics, predictable market access, and enhanced

connectivity, while upholding principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. It noted that persistent trade imbalances must be addressed through better market access, cooperation on standards, and streamlined trade facilitation. India cautioned that export-related measures should not be weaponised or misused to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains, and emphasised that their calibrative and transparent use is essential to maintain trust in international commerce.

On the digital economy, India proposed SCO workstreams focused on fair, transparent and predictable regulatory frameworks, voluntary cooperation on best practices, and capacity-building for secure, innovation-led digitalisation. India also showcased its achievements in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including UPI for real-time payments, India Stack for identity and consent manage-

ment, and ONDC for unbundled digital commerce. These initiatives were presented as low-cost, standards-based and replicable models to reduce MSME costs, expand access to markets, and enable real-time settlements, including through pilot projects among trusted partners.

On sustainable development, India emphasised equity and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). It highlighted the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative and underscored that climate action must be supported by finance and affordable technology flows. India also cautioned that trade-linked climate measures should not result in arbitrary or unjustified discrimination.

India called for stronger co-operation among SCO members to ensure that global trade remains predictable and supportive of developing

economies. It stressed that collective action is essential at a time when geopolitical tensions and tariff-related disruptions are creating uncertainty for businesses and exporters.

India also underlined the importance of strengthening market access for developing countries. Better access to international markets, simplified trade procedures and cooperation on technical standards can help exporters, particularly small and medium enterprises, expand their presence in global value chains. A key priority highlighted by India was food security. It called for a permanent solution on Public Stockholding at the WTO, allowing developing countries to maintain adequate food reserves and protect the interests of vulnerable populations without facing unnecessary trade restrictions. India further advocated restoring a fully functional WTO dispute settlement mechanism. A

credible multilateral system, it argued, is necessary to ensure that trade disputes are resolved fairly and that smaller and developing economies have confidence in the global trading framework.

The country also emphasised the growing importance of services and skilled professionals in international trade. Facilitating the temporary movement of skilled workers, while respecting national laws and maintaining transparency, could strengthen economic cooperation and create new opportunities for employment and investment.

On digital trade, India proposed greater cooperation among SCO countries in developing secure and transparent digital ecosystems. Its experience with UPI, India Stack and ONDC was presented as an example of how digital public infrastructure can reduce costs, improve access and help MSMEs participate more effectively in international commerce.

TG Seeks Fair Water Rights, AP Reorganisation Settlement at Southern Zonal Council

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (Patriotic Views): The Southern Zonal Council is an important forum for deliberating upon and amicably resolving issues of mutual interest between the Centre and the States and among the States themselves, and for expediting implementation of decisions. Referring to Mahabalipuram and its enduring monuments, the Hon'ble DCM observed that a strong structure does not require every part to be identical; it requires every part to carry its share of the weight. He said India's federal structure should be viewed in the same spirit.

He emphasised that a federation is not really tested when everyone agrees; it is



tested when legitimate interests collide and a fair way forward can nevertheless be found. Telangana's approach is therefore to seek fair, time-bound and legally sustainable resolution of inter-State issues. Competition among States must coexist with cooperation. The Hon'ble DCM said that States naturally compete, and should

compete, for investment, industry, jobs and talent. However, many important issues do not respect State boundaries: rivers cross borders; power grids cross borders; workers and businesses cross borders.

He also observed, in lighter vein, that "problems cross borders faster than government files do." It is precisely

because of such interdependence that institutions like the Southern Zonal Council are necessary. Telangana's understanding of cooperative federalism For Telangana, cooperative federalism has a very practical meaning: the rules must be clear; institutions created to settle disputes must be respected; the same rules must ap-

ply to everyone. Telangana stressed the need to move from prolonged discussion towards final decisions and effective implementation.

The Hon'ble DCM observed that disagreement itself is natural in a democracy; the real test is whether disagreement can be converted into a decision: Overall position on Krishna

waters Telangana seeks no special privilege in respect of Krishna waters.

It seeks its fair entitlement through the legal mechanisms already established. Telangana also sought protection against unilateral actions that prejudice the rights of downstream States. The State's approach is that established adjudicatory

mechanisms must be respected and the same principles applied to all riparian States. Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS and Nakkalagandi LIS Telangana reiterated that it retains lower-riparian rights over surplus waters. The allocation of Krishna waters between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is already under consideration before

KWDT-II. Telangana therefore stressed that the matter should be dealt with through the established legal and adjudicatory process. Central support for Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS Telangana sought Central financial support for Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

GHMC steps up preparations for Ganesh Festival 2026

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): RV Karnan IAS, Commissioner, GHMC, on 20th August has convened a review meeting at GHMC Head Office with all Additional Commissioners, Zonal Commissioner and HODs and reviewed comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and peaceful conduct of Ganesh Festival 2026, with special focus on the newly added circles and zones and the newly incorporated areas, which is expected to witness significant movement of Ganesh idols and devotees. Vinayaka Chavithi will be celebrated on 14 September 2026. While Ganesh Nimmajan is scheduled for 25 September 2026.

As part of advance preparedness, all Zonal Commis-



sioners have been instructed to conduct zonal-level convergence meetings with internal GHMC departments and all concerned line departments, including Police, Fire, Irrigation, TRANSCO, R&B, HM-WSSB, HMDA, DM&HO, Metro Rail, HRDC and Tourism, to ensure coordinated arrangements. Special convergence meetings will also be conducted in the newly added circles and zones, with particular attention on covering procession routes, immersion points, traffic management, sanita-

tion, lighting, power supply, medical facilities, emergency response and public safety.

The Balapur Ganesh procession and immersion arrangements will receive special attention, with coordinated planning involving the Utsav Committee, Police and all line departments. A dedicated coordination mechanism will be established to promptly address issues relating to roads, barricading, cranes, electricity, water supply, sanitation and emergency services.

Minister Ponguleti orders swift resolution of 22A land grievances

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): State Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy directed officials to accelerate Revenue Department efforts to reassure the public regarding '22A' prohibited lands. He instructed them to treat every application received by the call center not merely as a complaint but as a responsibility, ensuring the issue is monitored until resolved.

The Minister clarified that the public need not worry about this matter. He assured that the government stands by legitimate rights holders and pledged to ensure justice for every eligible applicant. During a teleconference



with officials on Wednesday, the Minister reviewed the status of the '22A' grievance call center, covering call volumes, resolution progress, common complaint categories, and the information provided to callers. He inquired about the current situation and application de-

tails regarding '22A' issues across four districts. Officials informed the Minister that approximately 400 calls had been received so far. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister directed that every complaint received by the call center must not merely be logged and left unattended; instead, the applicant's full details must be promptly forwarded to the relevant officials—such as the Tahsildar, RDO, and Sub-Registrar. He instructed that the progress of each issue be continuously monitored until it is resolved.

He ordered officials to respond immediately upon receiving a complaint online.

ARE WE REPEATING HISTORY? From the spark of “Anand Math” to today’s politics



This question has been raised by Irfan Jamia-awala, former student leader of Jamia Millia Islamia, one of India's prominent universities, and a social worker, writer, theatre personality and filmmaker. In 1882, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote his famous novel “Anand Math.” It was not merely a literary work; it also reflected the political, cultural and religious anxieties of its time.

But when elections become primarily a means of acquiring political power, genuine public concerns can disappear from the centre of political debate. Unemployment, education, healthcare, farmers' problems, inflation and livelihoods may be pushed aside. In their place come fear, anger and identity-based politics. This is not merely the problem of one political party or one ideology. Politics based on hatred and division ultimately weakens democracy itself. The fire lit in someone else's house today may eventually reach our own doorstep. Bengal's Pain and India's Future Bengal has witnessed the Bengal Renaissance, great literature, revolutionary movements, Partition and political violence. That is why Bengal is more than a state. It is a mirror of India's history.

If Bengal once again becomes a symbol of intense religious and ideological polarisation, the question cannot be limited to Bengal alone. It becomes a question about the future of India. Literature should not become a weapon of hatred. It should become a language of dialogue, questioning and human solidarity. If “Vande Mataram” represents love for the motherland, then respecting the dignity, equality and freedom of every citizen living in that motherland must be equally important — regardless of religion or identity. What Will Be Divided Next?

Sajjanar inspects KBR park one-way traffic system on Motorcycle

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, personally inspected the newly introduced one-way traffic system around KBR Park on Thursday, travelling on a motorcycle in civilian clothes to assess the traffic situation on the ground.

Without any official convoy or fanfare, the Commissioner rode through the area around 10 am, starting from Road No. 45 and passing through Jubilee Check Post, Venkatagiri, KBR Park Main Gate, Mugdha Junction, Basavatarakam, Agrasen Chowrastha and Film Nagar Junction before returning to Road No. 45. He made two rounds to observe traffic movement. The Commissioner also inspected the traffic pattern again during the afternoon. At various junctions, including Agrasen Chowrastha, Film Nagar, Journalist Colony, Jubilee Check Post



and KBR Park Main Gate, he interacted with traffic police personnel and sought details about the ground-level situation.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajjanar said traffic movement around KBR Park was running smoothly under the new one-way system.

and KBR Park Main Gate, he interacted with traffic police personnel and sought details about the ground-level situation.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajjanar said traffic movement around KBR Park was running smoothly under the new one-way system.

11 New Flying Training Organisations to Boost India’s Pilot Capacity

New Delhi, Aug 20 (UNI) In a significant step towards strengthening India's pilot training ecosystem and supporting the country's rapidly expanding civil aviation sector, Letters of Intent (LoIs) were awarded today for the establishment of 11 new Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) across seven Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports by Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu.

Forty-one Flying Training Organisations are currently operating from 63 flying bases across the country. With the addition of these



11 new FTOs across seven AAI airports, India's annual pilot training capacity is expected to increase by 750 cadets per year, providing a substantial boost to the domestic training ecosystem.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu said, “Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world. Guided by the vision of Viksit Bharat and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, we are simultaneously expanding aviation infrastructure and building a future-ready workforce to support the sector's long-term growth.”



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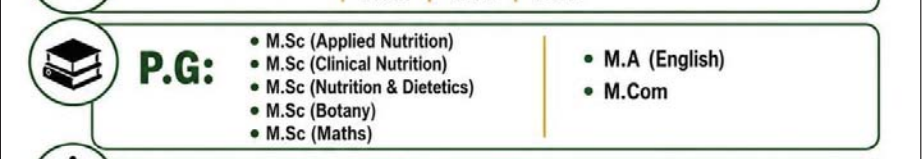
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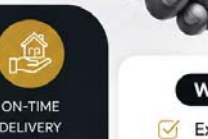
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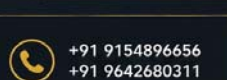


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