

FIR in pellet injury case after Rahul's 7-hr dharna



New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): The FIR was registered under Section 118(1) of the BNS, which deals with voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means.

Rahul, who arrived with Lochab, his mother and their lawyer around 11.30 am, remained at the police station until evening after talks with senior police officers failed to break the deadlock. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra later joined him and held multiple rounds of discussions with Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Sachin Sharma before the FIR was registered. The dramatic face-off ended shortly before 7 pm when Lochab and his mother emerged from the DCP's office carrying a copy of the FIR.

"Today, with the support of Rahul, we were able to get the FIR registered. It has been a month since the incident. Sahil has pellets in his body and injuries in his eyes. The police have taken so long to get even the FIR registered," Lochab's mother said.

Lochab and his mother said they had been ap-

proaching the police since August 14. Referring to what, they claimed, was the eventual clearance from the Union Home Ministry, they alleged that the delay had now raised questions over who had prevented the registration of the case earlier. Rahul called the FIR merely the "first step towards justice" and questioned why it required his intervention and hours of protest for a citizen's complaint to be registered. "A month has passed. There are pellets in his body, three pellets in his eye and he cannot see from that eye. Three-four pellets are near his heart," Rahul said after the FIR was registered.

Pointing to the hours spent at the police station, Rahul said they had arrived around 11.30 am and the case was registered only in the evening.

"If this is what happens at a police station in the heart of New Delhi, imagine what happens in a police station in a village or a small town," he said, linking Lochab's case to the larger question of access to justice for ordinary citizens. He alleged that

police officers were willing to register the case but were being prevented from doing so "from above". He claimed that the "final permission" had to come from the Union Home Secretary and Home Minister Amit Shah before the FIR could be registered. "You can understand who was stopping the FIR," he said.

Earlier in the day, Rahul first accompanied Lochab to the Mandir Marg police station seeking the registration of an FIR. After the demand was not accepted there, he reached the Parliament Street police station and met DCP Sharma. When the meeting failed to produce a breakthrough, Rahul sat on a dharna with Lochab and his family outside the police station, which also houses the DCP office. Congress workers gathered outside and raised slogans amid a heavy police presence. The Delhi Police maintained that matters connected with the July 20 protest were already being examined. The DCP said a related matter was before the Supreme Court and the crime branch was looking into cases arising from the July 20 protest.

PM Modi interacts with 20 space startups

Calls for India to become global space tech hub

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday interacted with CEOs and founders of 20 Indian space startups at Seva Teerth here, highlighting the growing strength of the country's private space industry and calling for greater collaboration to position India as a global hub for space technology.

The interaction brought together leaders of startups working across a wide range of areas, including rocket and reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicle development, avionics, satellites, advanced propulsion systems, space and defence intelligence, space debris removal, and AI-powered hyperlocal weather and climate intelligence.

The startup founders highlighted the rapid progress made by India's private space sector and shared their vision for its future.



They said their companies had invested significant time and effort in developing capabilities and technologies indigenously, while expressing gratitude for the support extended by the Prime Minister and the government. The industry leaders also underlined the strong ecosystem being created through government support and collaboration among compa-

nies. They said their teams were highly motivated and working with determination to achieve ambitious goals in the space sector.

The founders recalled that the decision to open the space sector to private participation had generated significant enthusiasm and created new opportunities for Indian industry. They also noted that several companies are now show-

ing interest in adopting and leveraging technologies developed by the emerging private space industry.

Congratulating the space sector leaders for their courage and initiative, Prime Minister Modi said the confidence demonstrated by private companies had strengthened the vision behind opening the sector to private participation. The Prime Min-

ister pointed out that many countries either lack the resources to invest in the space sector or do not wish to make such investments, creating a major opportunity for India to rapidly strengthen its position in the global space industry.

PM Modi also encouraged space companies to explore new applications of their technologies and focus on developing solutions that can make people's lives easier. The Prime Minister called for greater collaboration between space startups and companies operating in other sectors. PM Modi suggested that companies working on space debris could collaborate with environmental organisations to expand the use of their technologies.

Bihar CM Meets Sitharaman, Jaishankar on State Development



Patna, Aug 21 (GNS): Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary met Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on Friday to discuss several issues concerning the state's development and financial interests.

The meeting, held at Kartavya Bhawan at around 11 a.m., was also attended by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary and

Janata Dal-United National Working President Sanjay Jha. According to CM Samrat Choudhary, the discussions covered India-Nepal water and dam projects, budgetary matters, tourism development, and other issues related to Bihar's interests.

Sharing photos of the meeting on social media platform X, Chief Minister Choudhary said the discussions were aimed at strengthening coordination with the Centre

and advancing matters related to Bihar's development, prosperity and public welfare. The meeting assumes significance amid the Bihar government's efforts to secure greater financial support from the Centre for major infrastructure and development projects. Several schemes and projects in the state require substantial Central funding, while the Bihar government is also seeking additional assistance for ongoing and proposed initiatives.

Mayawati Opposes Politics Over Vande Mataram Singing

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): Amid the ongoing debate in the country over the singing of Vande Mataram, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Friday said the politics surrounding whether the full song, only its first two stanzas, or none of it should be sung was 'not right'.

Mayawati took to social media 'X' and wrote in Hindi (loosely translated), "The ongoing politics in the country right now regarding whether to sing the full 'Vande Mataram', or just the first two stanzas (paragraphs), or not to sing it at all – this is not right, and in this matter, our party's stance is that the recent law passed in Parliament on singing 'Vande Mataram' is not happening for the first time."

Mayawati further said that

during changes in power, all parties keep doing this sort of thing. "Because during changes in power at the centre and in the states, all parties keep doing this sort of thing based on their political interests/benefits or to divert the public's attention from their own shortcomings – that is, they keep changing each other's enacted laws," she said in the post. "Whereas at this time, the central and all state governments, as well as all political parties, should properly pay appropriate attention to issues concerning the country and public interest – and especially to unemployed youth and male-female students of Gen Z, schoolchildren of Gen Alpha, and the severe loss of life and property due to the devastating,

Governmentt empowering farmers, food manufacturers to expand global presence: Union Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that new avenues are being created for Indian farmers and processed food manufacturers to expand presence in the Singapore market and further to the whole ASEAN region and Australian market. Goyal met Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry, Singapore, and other dignitaries at the APEDA-FairPrice roadshow-cum-instore promotion being organised for expansion of exports of diverse range of India's agricultural & processed food products.

"Organic products, fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen fruits and vegetables, dairy products, cashew, rice,



millet-based products, and products sourced from different regions of India are being promoted through this engagement," the minister posted on X.

He also held a meeting with Sopnendu Mohanty, Group CEO, Global Finance and Technology Network, a global advisory and investment firm based in Singapore. They discussed opportunities to deepen India-Singapore cooperation in financial innovation,

technology, and emerging areas of the digital economy. "We also exchanged views on how India's dynamic financial ecosystem and Singapore's global financial and technology network offer significant opportunities for greater collaboration," said Goyal. The minister also met Cindy Lim, CEO of Keppel Infrastructure, in Singapore. "We discussed opportunities for greater collaboration in infrastructure and sustainable develop-

ment, building on the strong economic partnership between India and Singapore. India remains committed to enabling investments and partnerships that support resilient infrastructure and sustainable growth," Goyal highlighted.

Goyal earlier joined Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, in engaging "with our Singaporean counterparts at the 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable". "We discussed deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) across advanced manufacturing, fintech, digitalisation, healthcare, and sustainability."

Emerging technologies need stronger global cooperation to remain accessible, affordable, trusted: MoS

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): Emerging technologies create new opportunities for progress but require stronger international cooperation to keep innovation accessible, affordable, trusted and sustainable, Union MoS Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Thursday at 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting.

Dr. Singh urged BRICS partners to pursue practical pathways for deeper collaboration in frontier research, innovation financing, talent mobility, research infrastructure sharing, startup partnerships and capacity building, an official statement said. Such cooperation can help create a future ready BRICS STI architecture



that is responsive to global challenges and supportive of the aspirations of the Global South, Dr. Singh said. The minister said the world is undergoing rapid transformation driven by emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced materials, biotechnology, photonics, geospatial technologies and high-performance computing. The minister de-

finied India's growing global outreach in science, technology and innovation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Singh said India remains committed to advancing an open, inclusive and human-centric approach to science and innovation. He referred to India's initiatives including the National Quantum Mission, National Supercomputing

Mission, BioE3 Policy, National Geospatial Policy and the expanding Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystem, which reflect an approach where innovation improves people's lives, and supports sustainable economic transformation. Welcoming the delegations from BRICS member countries, Dr. Singh said India has chosen "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" as the theme of its BRICS Presidency in 2026. The theme reflects the shared conviction that science, technology and innovation must serve humanity by enhancing resilience, driving inclusive growth, promoting sustainable development and fostering equitable partnerships among nations.

GST reform just a first step to making it good and simple

Sushma Ramachandran

THE overhauling of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) after a lag of eight years is a welcome reform. The only fault in the exercise is that it has been delayed too long. The GST system has been in dire need of simplification and rationalisation. Originally conceived as a single tax that would replace the multiplicity of levies comprising the indirect revenue structure, it ended up becoming a tangle of red tape.

While the GST collections have been increasingly buoyant over the years, there has been an equally rapid rise in complaints by small and medium enterprises over harassment by zealous tax authorities. Disputes over minute issues arising from the complexity of the tax structure should be dealt with as minor economic offences rather than as criminal acts. One can only hope that the current restructuring will also ensure an end to the harassment of trade and industry.

The big bang reform this time is the reduction of tax slabs from the original four - 28, 18, 12 and 5 per cent, respectively - to only two - 18 and 5 per cent. This is expected to shrink the revenue collections by as much as Rs 48,000 crore annually. The hope is that the cuts will spur consumption sufficiently to launch a virtuous cycle of higher pro-



duction and investments. There is no doubt this will stimulate the economy. The only question is: to what extent, and whether this will be sufficient to make up the revenue shortfall to Centre and states. State governments, whether helmed by the BJP or other parties, are naturally apprehensive over the prospect of reduced finances despite having voted unanimously for the measures in the GST Council. But the political gains from supporting price cuts on virtually the entire range of essential goods has not escaped their notice.

Despite the potential revenue loss, cutting the number of tax slabs makes eminent sense. The 28 per cent slab should not have been created in the first place even as having four tax rates created enormous complexity. Even now, a punitive 40 per cent

rate has been created for so-called "sin" goods. So, effectively there are still three tax slabs.

There are also multiple versions of GST. There is integrated GST on inter-state supplies of goods and services, and there is central, state and union territory GST, imposed on intra-state supplies.

Till now, there has also been a compensation cess meant to cushion states from the loss of revenues, having sacrificed their own levies in favour of this tax. Fortunately, this is now being done away with in the next few months. The imposition of GST on health and life insurance should also not have been introduced in the first place. Given the need to expand the insurance coverage throughout the country, this should not have been chosen as an avenue to

raise revenue. With private healthcare costs rising rapidly, insurance is the only way to shield those at the bottom of the pyramid from crippling medical expenses. On the other hand, one of the big positives in the entire exercise is the effort to reduce the inverted duty structure created in many sectors. An inverted duty means that raw materials or inputs are taxed at a higher rate than the finished product. It has been corrected, for instance, in the textile sector with man-made fibre and yarn being brought down from 18 and 12 per cent, respectively, to a uniform 5 per cent.

On the other hand, anomalies remain, with steel being taxed at 18 per cent while many finished products are at the lower 5 per cent. The inverted duty structure creates huge complications for business

as they pay greater tax on inputs than is being collected from the output. The tax authorities must iron out all these wrinkles and ensure there is genuine ease of doing business.

The classification of goods, which had created multiple disputes and sparked prolonged litigation, has now thankfully also been eased to a great extent. By placing the entire category of food into the lowest 5 per cent slab, it no longer matters whether popcorn is sold in the salted, caramel, packaged or loose versions. Similarly, other classifications have been made much broader, making compliance easier.

The next step being talked about is whether trade and industry will pass on the benefits of the tax cuts to consumers. This is not an issue that should be considered as another way to penalise trade and industry. Business associations have already pointed out the process of shifting to the new system will not be an easy one.

It is for revenue agencies to help enterprises to make the shift a relatively painless one, rather than adopt a punitive approach. There are bound to be some enterprises seeking to defraud consumers, but the fact that tax rates have been brought down has been widely publicised, ensuring that the general public is educated well on the issue.

A throwback to the age of monsters

IT was in 2005 that the United Nations, celebrating its 60th anniversary, adopted, by consensus, a resolution on the principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The initiative was a response to the international community's failures to prevent the genocides in Rwanda and the massacre at Srebrenica in the 1990s. The principle established that sovereignty is not absolute and that states have a primary responsibility to protect populations everywhere from mass atrocity crimes: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. If a state failed in this responsibility, the international community had the duty to take collective action. Despite its adoption by consensus, there were fears among developing countries that this principle would be used selectively to intervene in their domestic affairs. R2P was used by the West to intervene with military force against Muammar Gaddafi in Libya in 2011, ostensibly to prevent large-scale violence against those opposing the regime. The assumption was that a regime change would lead to a stable and humane political dispensation. Instead, it spawned a violent civil war that still rages on, fuelled by external forces.

The problem with such interventions is that the "morning after" is never part of the intervention. The violence continues, perpetrated by a different set of actors. Libya gave R2P a bad name. While it has been invoked in several UN resolutions since then, it has not resulted in coercive intervention sanctioned by the UN Security Council.

There have been recent instances of horrific violence against, and displacement of, innocent men, women and children. Think of civil wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and the Central African Republic and now the genocide in Gaza — there has been unprecedented and barbaric violence against civilians. There may be pockets of popular outrage and reluctant condemnation by some governments, but it is difficult to avoid the feeling that we are indeed in an era ominously not unlike the turbulent interregnum between the two World Wars (1918-39), described thus by Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci: "The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born: now is the time of monsters."

Hitler's Holocaust against the Jews was only the most extreme example of monstrosity. There were several others often cloaked in patriotic impunity.

Far from accepting the internationalist obligation to protect populations against indiscriminate violence and genocide, even the readiness to call the perpetrators to account is half-hearted and selective. It is the US political shield and unstinting economic and military support which has enabled Israel to act with impunity. A reverse holocaust is taking place in Palestinian lands and the conscience of the world is barely shaken. The pervasive outrage one may have expected has failed to manifest itself and this has implications far beyond the current instances. Is geopolitics in a transitional era enabling another "time of monsters"?

There have been several violent conflicts and immense human suffering in the post Second World War period. Recall the indiscriminate violence unleashed upon the people of Vietnam in the US-led war in Indochina. Millions died of starvation and utter deprivation in Mao's pursuit of a Great Leap Forward in China (1959-63). Apartheid in South Africa took its own horrific toll until it came to an end in 1994. The birth of Bangladesh in 1971 occurred in the wake of violent suppression and genocide by Pakistani forces against their compatriots in then East Pakistan.

What distinguishes the present are the muted voices and the absence of people's and civil society protest movements, which could confront the perpetrators of violence. There are courageous individuals and committed groups who do keep the flame of dissent alive and call the powerful to account. But the State everywhere is shrinking the space for conscience-keepers.

The dawn of the nuclear age in 1945 brought with it the danger of human extinction. This mobilised both states and civil society across the world to promote nuclear disarmament and oppose doctrines of deterrence based on the dystopian concept of Mutually Assured Destruction. In the 1980s, there was a worldwide Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and non-nuclear weapon states were very active and vocal in demanding a world free of nuclear weapons. While the world is fortunate that it has not been incinerated so far in a nuclear Armageddon, the threat from nuclear weapons has only increased, intertwined as it is with advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and remote sensing and targeting. There is little popular concern and the UN is unable to go beyond rhetorical flourishes. Silicon Valley icons talk glibly about the 'singularity' that AI will achieve in our lifetime, surpassing and dominating humanity. If what makes us human — our emotions, our creativity and unique aesthetic sense — is replicable in machines, then defences against crimes against humanity would become feeble and eventually vanish. That's because having a moral centre is uniquely human.

In a landscape of competing states, it is unlikely that there will be a renewed commitment to multilateral processes overseen by empowered institutions of global governance. There is a surfeit of nationalist chest-thumping and no sense of international solidarity without which multilateralism cannot work.

It is a paradox that precisely at a time when the salience of cross-border and global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics and cyber security, has increased, the readiness to collaborate has diminished. The world has leaders galore. It has no statesmen who go beyond the nation to embrace humanity, no country that stands for something more than itself.

What is the answer to this dilemma? It can only come from the people of the world whose present and future are being threatened by a descent into another "age of monsters", whose end is too horrifying to contemplate. There are green shoots of reason and occasional flashes of wisdom that should make one hopeful. If these coalesce together into a powerful global movement for peace and shared humanity, the age of monsters will recede from this blighted century of ours.

The first task, therefore, is to rebuild the idea of collective responsibility. International institutions cannot remain effective if powerful states invoke rules when convenient and disregard them when their allies are involved. The credibility of the United Nations and other multilateral bodies depends on applying international law consistently, irrespective of the identity or geopolitical influence of the perpetrator. Without such consistency, principles such as R2P risk becoming empty declarations rather than instruments for protecting human life.

Civil society has an equally important role in resisting the normalisation of violence. Universities, journalists, human rights organisations, religious institutions and citizens must be able to question governments without fear. History shows that atrocities often become possible when silence is gradually accepted as normal. Protecting dissent and independent voices is therefore not merely a democratic ideal; it is an essential safeguard against mass violence and authoritarian impunity.

The international community must also invest far more seriously in prevention. Humanitarian crises rarely emerge without warning. Rising ethnic tensions, forced displacement, hate speech, political repression and the systematic destruction of civilian institutions are often visible well before violence reaches catastrophic proportions. Early diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance and independent monitoring can prevent conflicts from reaching the point where military intervention becomes the only option.

A home-grown uprising in Nepal

Ranjit Rae

THE situation in Nepal today is unprecedented, unimaginable, very serious. It is a demonstration of the anger, the revulsion and the fury of the people, which has spilled out into the streets.

The lynching of senior politicians, the burning of government property, of the new Parliament built by the Chinese, of the official home of the Prime Minister, called Baluwatar, of the home of President Ram Chandra Poudel, of private homes of former and current prime ministers, is something I have not seen in my living memory anywhere in the world — not in Bangladesh, not in Sri Lanka, not in Indonesia. This is much worse than the situation in Bangladesh just over a year ago, when the protests led to the flight of the former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. It is much worse than the situation in Sri Lanka in 2022, when the homes of several politicians were burnt down, but politicians weren't attacked.

In Kathmandu on Tuesday, former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and his wife, foreign minister Arzoo Rana, were beaten up. They are lucky to escape with their lives. Former PM Jhalanath Khanal also suffered the same fate; his wife has been burnt — some say she was burnt alive.

The fact that the Nepal Army has taken all the top politicians in its security is good — fact is, today, they have no alternative but to seek shelter under the um-



brella of the Nepal Army. It is too unsafe for them to be anywhere else. And yes, the Army must step in and control the situation. It is, potentially, the only stabilising force in Nepal today. It has a very critical role to play. The country needs to return to some law and order.

What has happened in Nepal over the last two days is largely a home-grown uprising. The intensity of the violence is directly linked to the 19 people killed in the protests. If the situation had been handled better yesterday, if political steps had been taken, if Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli had announced his resignation earlier, Nepal would not find itself in the state it is right now. The disenchantment in Nepal that has manifested in this utter chaos has several causes. The younger generation, the so-called Gen Z, is in despair. They've lost hope. It was a foolhardy decision to ban social media apps, there should have been other ways of ensuring that these companies abide by Nepalese laws. The mal-

aise is very deep in Nepal.

There is huge corruption in high places. Worse, no investigation is being carried out in these scams, which, allegedly involve top leaders of political parties. Nepalis believe that the unholy coalition between the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal, UML, between Nepali Congress leader and former PM Sher Bahadur Deoba and UML leader and (just resigned) PM Oli exists because it was meant to stop investigations into corruption allegations between its top leaders. And that these two big parties came together to squeeze all the opposition inside Parliament. The second key reason for the despair in Nepal is unemployment. There are no jobs. Large numbers of young people are leaving the country for menial jobs in the Gulf that don't even pay well. So when the armed police on Monday tried to stop the young protestors and even used live ammunition against them, it unleashed a fury in Nepal

that was never seen before. I have seen pictures of young children in school uniform bleeding from shotgun wounds. This anger against the political parties is manifesting across the board — the Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), the Communists. It points to a deep sense of alienation that Nepal's young people feel about their political parties and the kind of governance they provided. Significantly, this is a nameless, faceless kind of agitation. Unlike the 'jan andolan' or 'people's movement' of 2006, when the political parties as well as the Maoists led the charge against the monarchy, one doesn't really know who the leaders of this 'andolan' are or what their demands are.

Significantly, the young people leading this spontaneous uprising are also protesting against what they call "nepo kids" or "nepo babies", the children of rich politicians who flaunt their luxurious lifestyles on social media. That has caused a lot of resentment amongst the Nepalese. These young peo-

ple travel in fancy cars, live in palatial bungalows while the poor — well, the poor have nowhere really to go.

It is important to note that this agitation is taking place across Nepal, in the Kathmandu valley and in the Terai, which shows the extent of alienation in the country. Certainly, the callous manner in which this people's agitation was handled speaks of a disconnect between the leadership and the led. It is a worrying undercurrent that the young believe that the system, the 2015 Constitution that was crafted after years of Maoist insurgency, Madhesi agitation and endless debate, is not delivering. This was supposed to be a federal democratic, secular, inclusive republic of Nepal. But because the peace and prosperity dividend has not been forthcoming, people are questioning not just the people who implemented the Constitution, but the very Constitution itself.

Naturally, India is watching the situation closely. We have an open border between our two nations, more than 2000-km-long, along the states of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttarakhand, so security along the border has been tightened and travel across some districts completely shut down.

India has always been on the side of the aspirations of the people of Nepal. If you look at India's role in Nepal since 1950, this has always been the case. I trust that India will continue to support the aspirations of the Nepali people.

Coconut Board marks World Coconut Day with revised schemes, export awards in Kerala

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has celebrated the World Coconut Day by launching its newly revised schemes and presenting the Export Excellence Awards at the Adlux Convention Centre, Angamaly in Kerala. Speaking on the occasion, Shri. M K Raghavan, MP and CDB Board member emphasised on the need for concerted efforts in procesing and product diversification in coconut. The Government has introduced many schemes for the development of coconut cultivation and industry and the financial assistance under various schemes of the Board has been increased manifold. He urged the farmers to utilise the opportunity in increasing production and productivity of coconut. Kerala was in the forefront in area under coconut cultivation, production and productivity. But the state lags behind now

and we need to work more for regaining our lost glory. He motivated the coconut farmers of Kerala to work in a focussed manner towards improving the coconut situation in the State.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, CEO of CDB, highlighted the need for sustainable coconut production and profitability in farming. He announced that under the revised cost norms, the subsidy for the Area Expansion Programme has been raised from Rs 6,500 per hectare to Rs.56,000. Similarly, the subsidy for seedling production has been enhanced from Rs. 8 to Rs. 45. He emphasized that integrated efforts in production, processing, marketing, and exports are crucial for ensuring the long-term growth of the sector. He urged the stakeholders to work in unison towards integrated development of coconut sector in India. Shri Suba

Nagarajan, Chairman of CDB, stated that the Board has been allocated a higher budget for schemes supporting integrated development of coconut cultivation and industry. He reiterated the Board's commitment to building a climate-resilient coconut economy through revised schemes, value addition, and skill development initiatives which aim to ensure sustainable livelihoods for millions of farmers and workers.

The Export Excellence Awards, instituted by CDB to recognize outstanding performance in the coconut industry, were presented during the function. United Carbon Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, won the Gold award for Best Coconut Shell-Based Product Exporter, while Nova Carbons India Pvt. Ltd, Tirunelveli, and Jacobi Carbons India Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, received Silver and Bronze respectively. In the

Best Coconut Kernel-Based Product Exporter category, Marico Ltd., Mumbai, won Gold, followed by Mezhukattil Mills, Aluva, Kerala (Silver), and Fair Exports India Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai (Bronze). Sakthi Coco Products, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu.

, received the Gold award for Best Coconut Water-Based Product Exporter. Carbure Activated Carbon Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, was honored as the Best Women Exporter, and Global Coconut Farmers Producer Company Ltd., Tirupur, was recognized as the Best Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Exporter. CDB publications were also released during the event. Shri M.K. Raghavan released Improved Coconut Cultivation Technologies, while Dr. Prabhat Kumar, CEO, CDB released the CDB Schemes booklet in English Shri Suba Nagarajan released the Hindi version of the CDB Schemes book-

let, and Dr. B Hanumanthe Gowda, CCDO, released the Guidelines on CDB's Revised Schemes.

The revised schemes are expected to provide a major boost to coconut farmers by improving access to financial assistance for plantation expansion, quality planting material and other development activities. The enhanced subsidies are aimed at encouraging farmers to adopt improved cultivation practices and expand coconut acreage in suitable regions. The Coconut Development Board stressed that increasing productivity must go hand in hand with better farm management and climate-resilient practices. With changing weather patterns posing growing challenges to agriculture, the Board highlighted the importance of sustainable cultivation methods that can protect farmers' incomes while ensuring steady coconut production.

BHARATI to support 100 agri-food startups, aims \$50B exports by 2030

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched its new initiative BHARATI on the sidelines of the “Food & Beverages Sector Stakeholders Meeting” chaired by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, alongside H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE's Minister of Foreign Trade, and Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Shri Chirag Paswan.

BHARATI, which stands for Bharat's Hub for Agri-tech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement, has been designed to empower 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups, accelerate their journey, promote innovation and create new export opportunities for young entrepreneurs. Conceived as APEDA's vision to achieve \$50 billion in agri-food

exports for its Scheduled Products by 2030, the initiative marks a significant step to strengthen India's agricultural and processed food exports.

Starting in September 2025, the inaugural pilot cohort will empower 100 startups, including high-value agri-food producers, technology-driven service providers and innovators. The BHARATI initiative is structured to complement and enhance industry and government-led incubation programmes in the agriculture, food and food processing sectors. It seeks to drive innovation in high-value categories such as GI-tagged agri-products, organic foods, superfoods, novel processed Indian agri-foods, livestock products and AYUSH products. The initiative also aims to attract startups working on advanced technologies such as AI-based quality control, blockchain-

enabled traceability, IoT-enabled cold chains and agri-fintech, while addressing critical areas like innovative packaging, sustainability and sea protocols.

BHARATI seeks to resolve export challenges related to product development, value addition, quality assurance, perishability, wastage and logistics. By fostering a collaborative ecosystem, the programme will connect agri-food innovators, tech-driven solution providers and SPS-TBT-focused startups to deliver scalable, cost-effective solutions that enhance India's global competitiveness.

Aligned with the Government of India's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, Digital India and Start-Up India, the BHARATI initiative will create globally competitive agri-products, fuel demand-driven backward integration for food inno-

Govt unveils incentives to boost battery, e-waste recycling for critical minerals

New Delhi, Sep 9 (UNI) The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved a Rs.1,500 crore Incentive Scheme to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources.

This scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity of and supply chain resilience in critical minerals. The critical mineral value chain comprising exploration, auction and mine operationalization, and acquisition of foreign assets, has a gestation period before they could supply critical minerals to Indian industry. A prudent way to ensure supply chain sustainability in the near term is through the recycling of secondary sources.

The Scheme will have a

tenure of six years from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31. Eligible feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste & LIB scrap e.g. catalytic convertors in end-of-life vehicles. Expected beneficiaries will be both large, established recyclers, as well as small, new recyclers (including start-ups), for whom one-third of the scheme outlay has been earmarked. The Scheme will be applicable to investments in new units as well as expansion of capacity / modernization and diversification of existing units. The Scheme will provide incentive for the recycling value chain which is involved in actual extraction of critical minerals, and not the value chain involved in only black mass production.

The incentives under the Scheme will comprise 20% Capex subsidy on plant & machinery, equipment and associated

utilities for starting production within specified timeframe, beyond which reduced subsidy applicable; and Opex subsidy, which will be an incentive on incremental sales over the base year (FY 2025-26) viz. 40% of eligible Opex subsidy in the 2nd year and balance 60%.

in the 5th year from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 on achievement of specified threshold incremental sales. In order to ensure greater number of beneficiaries, total incentive (Capex plus Opex subsidy) per entity will be subject to an overall ceiling of Rs.50 crore for large entities and Rs.25 crore for small entities, within which there will be a ceiling for Opex subsidy of Rs.10 crore and Rs.5 crore respectively.

In terms of key outcomes, the Scheme incentives are expected to develop at least 270 kiloton of annual recycling capacity resulting in around

Gadkari chairs meet on urban decongestion, road upgrades & NH Act reforms

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) convened a State Consultation Conference under the chairmanship of Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, in the presence of Ministers of State Shri Ajay Tamta and Shri Harsh Malhotra, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 3rd September 2025. The consultation was aimed at seeking views and suggestions from State and UT governments on a set of key policy initiatives under finalization by the Central Government, expected to play an important role in supporting infrastructure development and coordinated urban planning along the National Highways across the country.

The Urban Decongestion Policy aims to reduce traffic bottlenecks on National Highways passing through cities with a population of more than one lakh by developing access-controlled

ring roads, bypasses and elevated corridors. The policy emphasizes close integration with urban master plans to ensure that new highway infrastructure complements city development and helps prevent unplanned growth along corridors. It also introduces flexible financing mechanisms, including cost-sharing arrangements and innovative tools such as Value Capture Financing, to expedite project implementation.

The Ministry is promoting the reuse of inert waste from urban landfills in the construction of highway embankments. This approach reduces dependence on precious natural soil, lowers overall construction costs and addresses the growing challenge of solid waste management in cities. Successful pilot projects, including UER-II in Delhi and Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway, have already

demonstrated the technical feasibility and economic benefits of the initiative. The Ministry has identified 15 dump sites which have about 50% of total legacy waste of 1200 lakh MT in the country. NH projects in the pipeline have been mapped with these dump sites for utilization of inert material.

MoU is proposed to be signed with respective municipalities for the same.

The State Road Development Policy is being designed to provide central support for the upgradation of high-traffic State Highways to four lanes or more. The policy proposes a cost-sharing framework between the Centre and States, complemented by Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements to attract private investment. By focusing on corridors with significant traffic volumes, the initiative seeks to improve regional connectivity, reduce travel time and

Incentives rolled out for battery, e-waste recycling to recover critical minerals

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved a Rs.1,500 crore Incentive Scheme to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources.

This scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity of and supply chain resilience in critical minerals. The critical mineral value chain comprising exploration, auction and mine operationalization, and acquisition of foreign assets, has a gestation period before they could supply critical minerals to Indian industry. A prudent way to ensure supply chain sustainability in the near term is through the recycling of secondary sources.

The Scheme will have a tenure of six years from FY

2025-26 to FY 2030-31. Eligible feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste & LIB scrap e.g. catalytic convertors in end-of-life vehicles. Expected beneficiaries will be both large, established recyclers, as well as small, new recyclers (including start-ups), for whom one-third of the scheme outlay has been earmarked. The Scheme will be applicable to investments in new units as well as expansion of capacity / modernization and diversification of existing units. The Scheme will provide incentive for the recycling value chain which is involved in actual extraction of critical minerals, and not the value chain involved in only black mass production. The incentives under the Scheme will comprise 20% Capex subsidy on plant & machinery, equipment and associated utilities for starting production.

Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Stresses Nationwide Adoption of 'Har Ghar Ayuryog' for Better Health and Policy Impact

New Delhi, Aug 21 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav inaugurated today the Departmental Summit on 'National Ayush Mission and Capacity Building in States' at All India Institute of Ayurveda, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi in august presence of Member NITI Aayog, Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul and Secretary, Ministry of Ayush Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Shri Jadhav emphasized the Government's commitment to building a resilient and inclusive healthcare framework tailored to state-specific needs. Shri Jadhav highlighted the Government's approach to develop comprehensive standard operating procedures (SOPs) for enhancing healthcare delivery across the country. “Our aim is to create state-specific frameworks, develop comprehensive SOPs to build better

health infrastructure, provide quality services to the people, and ensure the integration of Ayush with modern health systems,” he stated.

Reflecting on the progress of the National Ayush Mission since its inception in 2014 under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, the Minister noted that the mission has significantly advanced affordable and inclusive Ayush healthcare services. He particularly underlined the transformative initiative of establishing 12,500 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across India, marking a paradigm shift from OPD-based services to a holistic service delivery model with a focus on preventive and promotive healthcare.

He further informed that on March 4, 2024, the Ministry launched the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Ayush health care facilities. These standards, developed in consultation with NITI Aayog and

the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), are a milestone towards ensuring uniformity and quality in Ayush infrastructure, human resources, capacity building, medicines, quality assurance, clinical trials, and branding.

In a significant announcement, Shri Jadhav declared that Ayurveda Day will now be celebrated every year on September 23rd, with the 10th anniversary being observed this year under the theme “Ayurveda for People and Planet”. This theme underscores Ayurveda's relevance in promoting individual well-being while ensuring ecological sustainability. He urged all States and UTs to actively participate and work collectively to elevate Ayurveda Day into a global health initiative.

On the institutional development front, the Minister announced the operationalization of the Project Management Unit (PMU) at All

India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) to assist stakeholders on Ayush-related insurance matters. The PMU will serve as a dedicated interface for facilitating access to Ayush treatment through insurance mechanisms.

The Minister said the National Ayush Mission has helped expand access to traditional healthcare systems, particularly in underserved and rural areas. He stressed that stronger coordination between the Centre and States is essential to ensure that Ayush services reach more people and become an integral part of the country's broader healthcare framework.

The summit also focused on strengthening the capacity of States and Union Territories through training, infrastructure development and improved institutional mechanisms. Officials were urged to identify state-specific challenges and formulate practical strategies to improve the quality and ac-

cessibility of Ayush services.

The introduction of the Indian Public Health Standards for Ayush facilities is expected to provide a clear framework for improving healthcare infrastructure and service delivery. The standards will also support better availability of trained personnel, medicines, quality assurance systems and other essential facilities at Ayush institutions.

The Minister highlighted the importance of integrating Ayush systems with modern healthcare while maintaining their distinct strengths. Such integration, he said, can provide people with wider healthcare choices and encourage greater emphasis on preventive care, wellness and healthy lifestyles.

The Departmental Summit provided a platform for Central and State stakeholders to exchange ideas and review the progress of Ayush programmes.

Farmers get self-registration, slot booking on 'Kapas-Kisaan' app

New Delhi, Sep 9 (UNI) Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, chaired a high-level review meeting on 2nd September 2025 in New Delhi in the presence of Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary Textiles, Smt. Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary (Fibre), Shri Lalit Kumar Gupta, CMD, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and other senior officials from Ministry of Textiles & the Cotton Corporation of India to assess the preparedness for Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations for cotton during the upcoming Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26 commencing from 1st October 2025.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to the welfare of cotton farmers, Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh assured that all kapas arriving under MSP guidelines will be procured without disruption, with a focus on timely, transparent, and farmer-centric service delivery. He reaffirmed Govern-

ment's vision to protect the interest of cotton farmers by ensuring remunerative price for their produce and accelerate the shift towards a digitally empowered cotton ecosystem. In line with the Government's Digital India vision, all processes—right from procurement of cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) under MSP operations to sale of stocks—are now completely faceless and paperless, strengthening farmers' and other stakeholders confidence and trust in MSP operations, said Union Minister. For the first time, uniform norms have been laid down for the establishment of procurement centres, factoring in key parameters such as cotton cultivation area, availability of functional APMC yards and at least availability of one stock processing

factory at cotton procurement centre. As a result, a record 550 procurement centres have been set up

across major cotton-producing states. Procurement of cotton under MSP will commence from 1st October in the North States, 15th October in the Central States and from 21st October 2025 in the South States. Starting this season, nationwide Aadhaar-based self-registration of cotton farmers and 7-day rolling slot booking will be facilitated via the newly launched ‘Kapas-Kisaan’ mobile app. This digital platform aims to streamline procurement operations, ensure transparency and enable direct Aadhaar-linked payments to farmers' bank accounts through the National Automated Clearing House (NACH). The SMS-based payment intimation service introduced last year will also continue.

To enhance on-ground support, Local Monitoring Committees (LMC) will be constituted at each APMC mandi for immediate grievance redressal by the States.

Newly appointed Collectors call on Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy



Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): Newly appointed District Collectors of Jogulamba Gadwal, Karimnagar, Rajanna Sircilla, Vikarabad, Medak, Bhadradi Kothagudem and Hanumakonda met Revenue, Housing & I&PR Minister Shri Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy at the Secretariat. The Minister urged them

to work in line with the vision and aspirations of Hon'ble CM Sri A. Revanth Reddy's people-centric government. He said that over the past two years, several welfare and development programmes have been launched for the poor, and it is the responsibility of Collectors to ensure that benefits reach every eli-

gible person. Emphasising balanced progress, he advised Collectors to combine welfare and development, adopt a humane approach in decision-making, stay connected with people at the grassroots and function as a coordinated administrative team for effective governance.

Global level investment Telangana summit management- CS

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): The state government has directed the concerned officials to make arrangements to successfully conduct the Telangana Rising - Invest Telangana Global Summit, which is being conducted with great prestige by the state government. On Friday, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar held a high-level review meeting at the Telangana State Secretariat regarding the arrangements for the Telangana Rising - Invest Telangana Global Summit to be held in Hyderabad in December.

On this occasion, the officials reviewed various aspects related to the conduct of the summit. The CS suggested that special invitations be sent to the ambassadors and high commissioners of various countries in the country, and also to the promi-



nent industrialists and investors of the respective countries to the summit.

Similarly, it has been ordered to send invitations in advance to prominent industrialists from various sectors of the country, including prominent figures in the fields of science-technology, medical, education, infrastructure, and other sectors, to participate in the summit.

It was suggested to

form various committees required to conduct the summit effectively and to assign clear responsibilities to each committee to work in coordination.

The Chief Minister has directed to set up Expos related to various sectors that showcase the capabilities and investment opportunities in Telangana to the world and to take steps to involve major companies and organiza-

tions in them. Likewise, the officials were advised to form an Advisory Council comprising prominent personalities and experts from various fields to provide guidance for the conduct of Telangana Rising - Invest Telangana Global Summit.

The Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed the officials to work in coordination with all departments to conduct the summit

with the highest standards and further establish Telangana as a destination for global investments. In this meeting, Future City Development Authority Commissioner Shri Shashank, Industries Department Commissioner Shri Krishna Aditya, IT Department Joint Secretary Shri Anudeep Duriseti, Invest Telangana CEO Shri Ajit Reddy, Shri Nikhil Chakravarti and others participated.

PIB's role crucial in taking Central schemes to people: Guv

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): The role of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is crucial in taking Central Government schemes and programmes to the people, Governor of Telangana Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla said here on Friday. The Governor called for wider dissemination of information on Central schemes so that people are able to access and make effective use of the benefits available to them. A delegation led by Smt. Shruti Patil, Additional Director General, PIB, including Dr. Manas Krishnananth, Joint Director,



PIB, and K. Srinivasa Rao, Assistant Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan.

During the interaction, Smt. Shruti Patil briefed the Governor on the activities

of PIB and CBC in Telangana, including dissemination of information on Central Government policies, schemes and programmes through the media and public outreach initiatives. She also explained initia-

tives such as 'Vartalaps' and press tours for journalists, besides Integrated Communication and Outreach Programmes (ICOPs) conducted in rural areas by the CBC. She invited the Governor to participate in an ICOP on Poshan Abhiyaan to be organised in September as part of Poshan Maah. The delegation also presented the Governor with a book on Mahatma Gandhi published by the Directorate of Publications Division, along with publications highlighting the achievements of the Government of India over the past 12 years.

Telangana hosts PM GatiShakti, LEADS workshop for southern states

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, in association with the Commerce & Export Promotion (C&EP) Department, Government of Telangana, organized the PM GatiShakti & LEADS 2025 Dissemination Workshop for Southern States in Hyderabad. The workshop brought together senior government officials and stakeholders from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar



Islands, and Lakshadweep, along with representatives from industry bodies, trade associations, and logistics sector stakeholders. Discussions focused on enhancing logistics efficiency, promoting integrated infrastructure planning,

and improving ease of logistics across the region.

Telangana had the privilege of hosting the Southern Regional Workshop for the first time, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the State's logistics and supply chain

ecosystem. The workshop served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, inter-state collaboration, and accelerating the implementation of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan to enable integrated infrastructure development and improved logistics efficiency.

The workshop closely aligns with Telangana's Vision 2047, which aims to transform the State into a trillion-dollar economy, a leading manufacturing and services hub, and a globally competitive logistics gateway.

Raidurg Plot Sets Hyderabad Record at Rs 264 Crore per Acre

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): Raidurg Rewrites the Record Books: Plot P1 sells for Staggering INR 264 Crores per Acre, Hyderabad's Highest Ever! The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIIC) has achieved a strong outcome through its e-auction of Plot No. P1 in Raidurg, generating INR 1,386 Crores from 5.25 acres of prime multi-use land. The result underscores Hyderabad's emergence as one of India's most dynamic real estate markets and confirms Telangana's strategic approach to infrastructure-led growth.

Plot No. P1 (5.25 acres) was auctioned against a

reserve price of INR 175 Crore per acre, achieving a final realization of INR 264 Crores per acre—a 50.9% premium over the reserve price. This outcome reflects the intensifying competition among premier developers and the market's increasingly bullish outlook on Hyderabad's strategic corridors, confirming Telangana's position as a high-growth destination for institutional real estate capital.

The result marks a sharp escalation in Raidurg land values. TGIIIC's earlier auction fetched INR 237 Crore per acre in May 2026, a figure Plot P1 has now surpassed at INR

264 Crore per acre in August 2026, underscoring the sustained intensity of investor demand for the corridor's premium plots. The auction was conducted through the MSTC e-Auction platform with JLL serving as exclusive transaction advisor, ensuring transparency, and enabling competitive participation from leading national developers.

"The successful outcome of the Plot P1 auction speaks volumes about the confidence and conviction that the developer community places in Telangana's future. What we're witnessing is not just strong pricing.

Tummala calls for water conservation, crop diversification to tackle El Niño

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): Senior officials participated in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao expressed appreciation for the coordinated effort by officials from various departments in organizing the meeting. The Minister noted that rainfall levels have not been sufficient to replenish groundwater, nor have major reservoirs received the expected inflow of water. He advised officials to prepare daily estimates of available groundwater and create awareness among farmers regarding its judicious use. He urged them to take measures to prevent



the wastage of groundwater—such as running motors round-the-clock using auto-starters—and to ensure water is used only to the extent required for the crops.

The Minister emphasized the need to conserve the state's 44,000 tanks to maximize rainwater storage. He stated that diverting rainwater into these tanks and storing it would

help replenish groundwater levels in surrounding areas, thereby ensuring the continued functionality of borewells. He suggested that constructing trenches and rock-fill dams at strate-

gic locations along streams and rivers could facilitate groundwater recharge and enhance storage capacity. The Minister remarked that natural phenomena like El Niño should be viewed as opportunities rather than challenges. He advised that there is no need to wait for new technologies; instead, traditional water conservation methods practiced by our forefathers should be revived and put into practice. The Minister stated that any crisis situation could be effectively tackled if departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Forestry, Panchayat Raj, and Irrigation worked in coordination.



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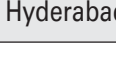
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TG Deploys 28 Greyhounds, OCTOPUS Personnel

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (GNS): In a decisive move to protect the state's supply chain, the Telangana State Civil Supplies Department today inducted 28 highly trained police personnel from the elite Greyhounds and OCTOPUS units into its Enforcement and Vigilance wing to crack down on defaulting rice millers.

Commissioner of Civil Supplies M. Stephen Raveendra, IPS, chaired a high-level briefing at Civil Supplies Bhavan this morning to formally welcome the newly attached commanders and outline their strategic mandate. Recognizing

that public distribution is a new operational domain for these tactical units, he noted they have already completed a specialized three-day training program tailored to departmental protocols. The above personnel were imparted training at the Telangana Police Academy in various legal aspects pertaining to essential commodities.

During the briefing, the Commissioner highlighted the scale of the department's operations, focusing extensively on the historic, record-breaking paddy procurement targets achieved during the KMS 2025-2026.



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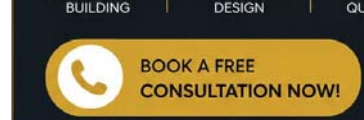
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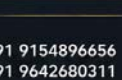


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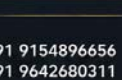


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