

CM Revanth Reddy Secures Academic Collaboration Talks During UK Visit

Hyderabad, Aug 23 (GNS): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy invited the Telugu diaspora in the United Kingdom to become strong proponents and ambassadors of Telangana Rising. He urged them to actively promote the 'Telangana Rising' goals across the globe. He also said that he would speak

about all issues related to the Centre's denial of permission to him to visit the US once he returned to Hyderabad on Monday.

Revanth Reddy along with industries and IT minister D. Sridhar Babu addressed the Telugu community diaspora in London on Sunday. Discussing Telangana's development and its future progress, Revanth Reddy emphasised that the diaspora should also become partners in the state's development. They urged the attendees to serve as effective ambassadors for the state by vigorously promoting the 'Telangana Rising' objectives at the global level.

During his visit to the United Kingdom, Revanth Reddy secured preliminary agreements for academic collaborations with institutions like the University of Cambridge and Impe-



rial College, London while showcasing the state's progress in London. Following the denial of political clearance for a planned trip to the United States, Revanth Reddy is scheduled a return to Hyderabad early on Monday.

"I have concluded all my meetings and scheduled events in London and I am grateful for the overwhelming support that I have received in the past three days. In a few hours, I will be taking a flight back home to Hyderabad instead of proceeding to Boston as per original schedule, after the MEA (Central Govt) denied permission for my USA tour for 'political reasons'. I will speak about all the related issues once I return to Hyderabad," the Chief Min-

ister posted on X. Separately, the Chief Minister thanked AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and other party leaders for supporting him after the Centre denied him permission to travel to the US.

Reddy, in a post on 'X', said: "My deepest gratitude for the strong support from our leader and Congress party national president, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji @kharge on the issue of the Centre denying me permission to travel to the USA. I am very thankful to my party, all the leaders and people across the country who supported in this issue in national interest."

Reddy said he has concluded all his meetings and scheduled events in London. "Revanth Reddy

had planned to undertake a 10-day visit to the UK and the US, the visit primarily focusing on discussions with renowned institutes of higher education including Harvard University and MIT to tie up with the Telangana government. Following the denial of permission, he decided to return to Hyderabad from London while directing a delegation of officials who accompanied him to proceed with the US leg of the trip. Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao had alleged that Revanth Reddy had sought to meet New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani. CMO sources, however, said a meeting with Mamdani was not part of the CM's proposed itinerary in the US.

India Must Be World's Laboratory: Anupriya Patel

Ahmedabad, Aug 23 (GNS): India must move beyond its established role as the "pharmacy of the world" and emerge as the "laboratory of the world" by placing research, innovation and artificial intelligence at the centre of its healthcare ambitions, Minister of State (MoS) for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilisers, Anupriya Patel, said at the IIMA

Healthcare Summit 2026 in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Addressing the third edition of the summit at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), held on the theme "Advancing AI in Healthcare", MoS Patel said India's pharmaceutical sector needed to progress from manufacturing medicines and vaccines developed elsewhere towards greater innovation

and drug discovery. The summit brought together policymakers, healthcare industry representatives and academics to discuss the role of AI in building a healthy and developed India by 2047.

The Minister of State highlighted India's contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic, saying "the country's pharmaceutical industry maintained sup-

plies of vaccines and essential medical products to more than 200 countries, while India's vaccination programme administered more than 2.2 billion doses". She said that AI could advance drug discovery, support personalised treatment and improve healthcare delivery through better screening, clinical decision-making and disease surveillance.

Aadhaar biometric update for children free till Sept 30: UIDAI

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS): The mandatory Aadhaar biometric update for children aged 5 to 17 years will remain free of cost until September 30, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has said, while urging parents and guardians to complete the process within the stipulated period.

UIDAI has advised parents to ensure that children undergo the Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU) when they turn five and again at 15 years of age. In addition, the update is aimed at keeping Aadhaar records accurate and enabling children to verify their identity smoothly for school admissions, examinations, scholarships and access to government schemes. "Complete Mandatory Biometric Updates

of children when they reach the age of 5 and 15," UIDAI said in a social media post and noted that the service is free until September 30.

Moreover, Aadhaar enrolment for children below five years captures demographic details and a photograph, while fingerprints and iris scans are not recorded as these biometrics are still developing.

Children are therefore required to provide their biometric information after turning five and repeat the exercise at 15 to ensure their Aadhaar records remain updated. To encourage wider participation, the UIDAI waived charges for mandatory biometric updates for children aged 7 to 15 from October 1, 2025 for a period of one year.

Rajnath Singh Calls For 'Atmanirbharta' In Defence, Says It Will Act As Multiplier In India's Military Capabilities

Kolkata, Aug 23 (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while calling for the industrial resurgence of West Bengal, laid out the roadmap for India's development into a global shipbuilding hub.

He was speaking at the foundation stone-laying event for five brownfield expansion projects of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and Yantira India Ltd (YIL) in Kolkata on Sunday. Singh also laid stress on Atmanirbharta, citing the successful use of indigenous weapons and systems during Operation Sindoor.

"Atmanirbharta acts as a multiplier to battlefield capabilities. Our Prime Minister spoke about Atmanirbharta in his Independence



Day address. He said that the country will have to be totally Atmanirbhar in defence by the time the country turns into Viksit Bharat," the defence minister said.

Both GRSE and YIL are playing important roles in self-reliance in the defence

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended greetings to countrymen and scientists on National Space Day, hailing India's global rise in the space sector and praising Gen Z for building new technologies.

He said this rise has made India a "magnet" for investors. Sharing a video of his speeches, PM Modi said, "I said in Ayodhya that this is the beginning of a new cycle of change. In this new cycle, India is steadily expanding its space presence in the global order, and this is clearly reflected in our space program." "Together, we have resolved to make India a developed nation by 2047, and the space sector plays a vital role in achieving this goal," he said in the video.

Praising the youth of the nation, the Prime Minister said, "Today, these Gen Z engineers, designers, coders and scientists are build-



ing new technologies. Be it propulsion systems, composite materials, rocket stages or satellite platforms, India's youth is working in areas that were not even imagined some time ago."

He also hailed the private space sector of the country and said, "India's private space talent is making its own identity in the world. Today, India's space sector has become a magnet for global investors." He said

that ISRO is inspiring India's next generation of scientists. "Seeing the success of ISRO, many children think that when they grow up, they too will become scientists," PM Modi added.

National Space Day is celebrated in India on August 23. The day marks the historic soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander near the Moon's south pole in 2023, making India the first nation

to reach that region of the Moon. The achievement became a defining milestone in the country's space programme and demonstrated the growing strength of India's scientific and technological capabilities.

As India observes National Space Day 2026, ISRO Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space Dr V Narayanan has called for greater innovation, collaboration and ambition as

ED Arrests Former Andhra In Liquor Transport Scam

Hyderabad, Aug 23 (GNS): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday arrested former Andhra Pradesh minister Karumuri Nageswara Rao in connection with the transport scam linked to the liquor scam. The ED officials took him into custody from his residence at Kondapur in Hyderabad. The Central agency is probing the alleged irregularities in liquor transport tenders and financial transactions.

It has already arrested three accused, including Nageswara Rao's son Karumuri Sunil Kumar, former Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Cor-

poration Ltd (APSBC) Don-tiredly Vasudeva Reddy and Raj Kesireddy. Nageswara Rao was a minister for Civil Supplies in the YSR Congress Party government. After the arrest of Sunil Kumar in June, ED had told the Special Court (PMLA) that, as the son of the minister, he managed to secure liquor transport sub-contracts for his business associates. The court was told that Sunil Kumar and his associates derived unlawful pecuniary gains. ED initiated an investigation based on an FIR registered by CID, Andhra Pradesh, under various sections of the IPC and the BNS.

India-Mauritius Discuss Strengthening Energy Partnership



Port Louis, Aug 23 (GNS): Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri called on Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and discussed possibilities for furthering cooperation in the energy sector, the Indian High Commission said on Sunday.

"Hon'ble Minister called on Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius. Both leaders discussed possibilities for furthering India-Mauritius cooperation in the energy sector. Hon'ble Minister conveyed India's continued commitment to supporting Mauritius' energy security and energy transition," the Indian mission said on X.

Following the meeting, a Government-to-Government Memorandum of Understanding on oil and gas cooperation and an agreement between Indian Oil Corp Ltd and the State Trading Corporation of Mauritius were exchanged. "These agreements will meet Mauritius' requirements of petrol, diesel, marine gas oil and Aviation Turbine Fuel, providing long-term supply certainty and protection from price

volatility, thereby enhancing energy security," the High Commission said.

Puri made an official visit to Mauritius from August 20-22.

Last week, Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool joined Indian High Commissioner Anurag Srivastava to celebrate the longstanding friendship between India and Mauritius at a reception hosted by the High Commission to celebrate the 80th Independence Day.

"Toasts were raised by President Dharambeer Gokhool and High Commissioner Anurag Srivastava, celebrating the longstanding friendship between India and Mauritius," the Indian High Commission said on X.

During his remarks, High Commissioner Srivastava highlighted key achievements over the past year, including the Enhanced Strategic Partnership, the announcement of a Special Economic Package worth \$680 million, the inauguration of the Renal Transplant Unit, and the handing over of 100 e-buses. He also underscored upcoming projects, such as a joint satellite and an e-judiciary.

2025: The Year India Turned Momentum into Power

DR SHENAZ GANAI

Some years pass quietly into memory; others set the course of a nation's destiny. For India, 2025 was such a moment, a year when an ancient civilisation, shaped by centuries of challenge and renewal, moved forward with quiet confidence and clear purpose. Drawing strength from a past marked by endurance, adaptation and reinvention, India revealed in 2025 a rare harmony , firmly rooted in its civilisational ethos yet open to change, tradition walking alongside transformation. As long held aspirations took concrete shape through policy, performance and institutional strength, the country turned vision into action, signalling to its people and the world that India's rise is neither sudden nor accidental, but deliberate, sustained and deeply anchored in history.

Against a turbulent global backdrop marked by geopolitical conflicts, economic slowdowns and climate uncertainty, India under Modi's leadership projected calm confidence. What unfolded over the year was a consolidation of India's rise across diplomacy, welfare, infrastructure, economic management and crucially, national security. India's foreign policy in 2025 was not performative; it was productive. The advancement of high-impact Free Trade Agreements, including with the United Kingdom and key Indo-Pacific economies, reflected India's readiness to integrate more deeply



into global value chains while safeguarding domestic interests. These agreements are expected to significantly enhance exports in textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, engineering goods and IT services, sectors that together employ tens of millions of Indians. Preferential trade access now extends to markets accounting for more than a quarter of global GDP, strengthening India's export resilience.

On multilateral platforms, India emerged as a persuasive voice of the Global South, articulating demands for climate justice, equitable finance and inclusive growth. Strategic partnerships with the United States, Europe, West Asia, Africa and ASEAN matured, reinforcing India's image as a dependable democratic partner at a time when trust is in short supply globally.

Power with Purpose
If diplomacy showcased India's influence, defence readiness demonstrated its resolve. The year 2025 marked a decisive strength-

ening of India's military posture, underpinned by sustained investments in modernisation and indigenous capability. Defence acquisition approvals running into tens of thousands of crore rupees enhanced the operational readiness of the Army, Navy and Air Force, while significantly expanding domestic defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework.

This strategic preparedness found its most compelling expression in the successful execution of Operation Sindoor, a precisely calibrated military operation that underscored India's ability to protect its sovereignty, deter aggression and act decisively when provoked. Conducted with speed, accuracy and professionalism, the operation achieved its objectives while minimising collateral impact, reflecting the evolving doctrine of the Indian armed forces: firm yet responsible, powerful yet measured.

Operation Sindoor sent a clear message, not of es-

calation, but of capability. It reaffirmed that India's commitment to peace is anchored in strength, and that its armed forces possess the technological sophistication, intelligence integration and tactical clarity required in modern warfare. In 2025 , India's defence posture was not about display, it was about credibility.

On the domestic front, governance continued its transition from intent to impact.The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system anchored in the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile architecture ,further reduced leakages and improved targeting. Government estimates suggest cumulative savings from welfare reforms now exceed ₹3.5-4 lakh crore, resources redirected toward infrastructure, health and human capital. Expanded rural employment andlivelihood initiatives strengthened income security, particularly in agrarian regions. Social security coverage for unorganised workers widened substantially, extending

pension, insurance and accident cover at a scale rarely attempted globally, earning India international recognition for social protection innovation. The welfare narrative of 2025 moved decisively beyond dependency. Skills, entrepreneurship, women led development and access to formal credit aligned welfare policy with productivity and dignity.

Infrastructure remained the most visible expression of India's long term confidence. India added over 40 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity in a single year, pushing non fossil capacity beyond 260 GW. This placed India among the world's fastest growing clean energy economies, balancing developmental imperatives with climate responsibility. Simultaneously, large scale investments in expressways, rail corridors, port modernisation and logistics hubs reduced freight costs, integrated regional markets and unlocked economic potential across states. Infrastructure in 2025 was not episodic ,it was transformational, reshaping how India moves, trades and grows. Economy: Stability Amid Despite global headwinds, India's economy in 2025 remained one of the world's fastest growing, with growth estimates in the 7-8% range. Inflation stayed broadly manageable, fiscal consolidation continued, and public investment anchored growth.

The Union Budget for 2025 balanced fiscal prudence with ambition, prior-

were copied by Aesop, a Greek storyteller, from an old Sanskrit book: it has also given the 'Arabian Nights', even the story of 'Cinderella' and the 'Bean Stalks'. In manufacture, India was the first to make cotton and dye; and was proficient in all works of jewellery. Vivekananda had satirically said that it was due to superiority of India in every respect that drew to her borders the hungry cohorts of Europe, thereby indirectly bringing about discovery of America". Today, over half the world's population lives in areas, where Indian religions and cultures were once dominant. Xuanzang, one of China's greatest scholars, travellers and translators, gave an interesting account of his journey from western China to Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu). In particular he mentioned about India's prestigious Nalanda university, housing about 10,000 monks, and international scholars, who studied texts of different schools of Buddhism, sacred Vedas, philosophy, medicine, mathematics and astronomy. Above all he described the magnificence of 9 storied Nalanda's library, regarded then as the greatest repository of knowledge. Xuanzang studied for five years, copied out by hand the Sanskrit manuscripts, which he took back home to China. India produced not just pioneering merchants, astronomers, scientists, mathematicians, doctors and sculptors, but also the holy men, monks and missionaries of several distinct brands of Indic religions- of Hinduism, and of various sects of Buddhism.

India auto growth seen holding in 2026

After a record-breaking year, India's automobile industry is entering 2026 on a relatively strong footing, with sales growth expected in the 6-8 per cent range. The outlook is underpinned by policy support, including GST rationalisation, easing monetary conditions, and income tax relief, which together are likely to improve affordability and sustain consumer demand across vehicle segments. The momentum reflects more than cyclical recovery. Passenger vehicle volumes in 2025 rebounded sharply after a slow start, aided by stronger urban demand, stable rural incomes and improved financing availability. SUVs continued to dominate demand, while CNG and electric vehicles gained traction, indicating a gradual but steady shift in the powertrain mix rather than a disruptive transition.

However, 2026 is shaping up as a preparatory year ahead of tighter regulations. The industry faces rising compliance costs as it readies for CAFE norms from 2027 and future emission standards, which could pressure margins and pricing. Mandatory safety requirements, such as ABS and CBS for two-wheelers, are already pushing up entry-level prices and could temper volume growth in price-sensitive segments. Supply-side constraints remain a structural challenge. While localisation has improved, global uncertainties, tariffs and currency depreciation continue to pose risks, particularly for component-intensive and premium vehicles. Gridlock in supply chains and pricing discipline by OEMs will be critical to sustaining dealer confidence into the first half of 2026.

At the same time, investment cycles are shifting. Automakers are increasingly allocating capital toward electrification, charging infrastructure, and platform upgrades, while also scaling conventional powertrains to meet near-term demand. This dual-track strategy reflects a market that is transitioning gradually rather than pivoting sharply. Overall, the auto sector's outlook for 2026 is positive but nuanced: growth is likely to persist, supported by policy tailwinds and consumption resilience, yet increasingly shaped by regulatory readiness, cost pressures and the pace at which consumers absorb higher prices and new technologies.

"We expect GST benefits to fully unfold in 2026, driving industry growth to 7-8 per cent annually, which will fuel employment generation within the country. In line with market demand, in both domestic and export markets, we will expand our capacity to meet consumer needs," Maruti Suzuki MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi. The auto major looks at 2026 with optimism and confidence for the overall industry, he stated. Takeuchi noted that 2025 marked a landmark year for Maruti Suzuki and the Indian automobile industry. After a slow start, the industry accelerated into a high-growth trajectory, thanks to the progressive GST reform, he stated. "This mega reform rejuvenated the economy, and the passenger vehicle industry is poised to achieve its highest-ever calendar year volumes of 45 lakh units with a growth of 5 per cent over the previous year," Takeuchi noted.

Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) president CS Vigneshwar said that the dealers were confident of closing the 2025 calendar year with double-digit growth in both two-wheeler and passenger vehicle categories. "With stable rural incomes and the ongoing marriage season, we expect this positive momentum to carry forward into the early part of 2026," Vigneshwar stated.

As per our latest Dealer Satisfaction Index (December 2025), 74 per cent of dealers across India expect good to very good growth in the next three months (December-February) period, he added. If OEMs ensure timely stock availability and avoid abrupt pricing actions, the current momentum should sustain well into the first half of 2026, he said. Speaking about possible dampeners for the growth story, Vigneshwar said steep price hikes by OEMs from January could exert pressure on demand in the near term.

Besides, the mandatory implementation of a combined braking system (CBS/ABS) across all two-wheeler categories can lead to an increase in entry-level prices by at least Rs 5,000, thus impacting consumer sentiments. The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), which represents the domestic automotive components industry, also expects the growth momentum to continue in the next year. "The Indian auto component industry is expected to continue to grow steadily next year, with domestic demand and localisation providing support, even though global uncertainties and supply-chain risks persist," ACMA Director General Vinnie Mehta stated.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD and CEO Shailesh Chandra said GST rationalisation, coupled with policy tailwinds, such as repo rate cuts and income tax benefits, will enhance accessibility and stimulate demand.

"We are uniquely positioned to lead in high-growth segments, including the continued surge in SUV demand, alongside the accelerating adoption of CNG and EV technologies. Our strong portfolio across these categories places us squarely in the sweet spot of this market transition," he added. Overall, 2026 offers unprecedented potential for growth, anchored by brand strength, a powerful launch calendar, regulatory tailwinds, and leadership in future-ready powertrains, Chandra said. Touching upon the upcoming CAFE III norms, Chandra said: "While the exact contours of CAFE III have not been finalised, we earnestly believe that the government will articulate it in a manner that supports a directional shift towards sustainable technologies".

Mahindra & Mahindra Auto Division CEO Nalinikanth Gollagunta said the copany is committed to continuing to achieve operational excellence and setting new benchmarks in design and product innovation next year. "On the electric front, our focus is twofold: ramping up operational capacity to 8,000 eSUVs per month and strengthening the public charging ecosystem," he added. "With customers at the centre of our vision, I believe 2026 will be a defining year, where Mahindra strengthens its leadership, and India asserts itself as a global force in SUVs," Gollagunta stated. EY-Parthenon Partner and Future of Mobility Leader Som Kapoor said the industry is likely to grow by 5-8 per cent in 2026. "With forthcoming regulations, such as BS7 and CAFE 2027 currently under active deliberation, 2026 will reveal long-term transition strategies for PV OEMs," he added.Honda Cars India VP (Sales and Marketing) Kunal Behl said continued SUV demand and gradual electrification will further strengthen India's position as a key global automotive market.

"Looking at 2026, we remain confident of sustained demand and steady growth, supported by a strengthening economy, easier access to financing, and supportive government policies," he added.

Echoing similar sentiments, Renault Group India CEO Stephane Deblaise said 2026 will be pivotal for the firm, with the return of the iconic Renault Duster.

"We are in the right place at the right time, with the government's landmark GST 2.0 reforms and progressive policies creating a dynamic environment that will strongly support our ambitions in India," he added.

A Toyota Kirloskar Motor spokesperson stated that the automaker's commitment to decarbonisation remains steadfast through its multipath approach, offering a broad range of technologies tailored to diverse customer needs and real-world usage.

Elaborating on the luxury car segment, Mercedes-Benz MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said the impact of GST 2.0 has been strong on the overall economy, and the recent GDP growth data further reinforces the confidence in this growth trajectory.

"However, the positive effect of the GST 2.0 may erode in the mid- to long-term as prices will go up due to deteriorating forex," he added.

The luxury car market leader has a positive outlook for the segment for 2026, as customers can expect new product introductions, both in the ICE and BEV segments, Iyer stated. BMW Group India president and CEO Hardeep Singh Brar said that after closing 2025 with high double-digit growth, expectations for 2026 will, of course, be high.

LALIT MENGI

India had blazed a trail across the world, in the millennium and a half from 250 BC to 1200 AD in art, religion, astronomy, music, literature, mathematics and mythology, but somehow remained in oblivion, yearning to find its rightful place. It is an irony that ancient India's footprints and remarkable achievements remained frozen rather than in the headlights of world's history.

I happened to go through a beautiful book "The Golden Road" by William Dalrymple, which deals comprehensively with ancient Indian history, revealing how Indian ideas transformed the world. Before that I had made a humble endeavour to bring to light India's enviable past and devoted an exclusive chapter in my book "Musings Unabated". But after going through Dalrymple's book, I was prompted to go a step further and share with the readers India's unrecognised past in greater detail.

India is one of the oldest civilisations in the world spanning a period of almost 5000 years, with a rich cultural heritage: It is also called a cradle of civilisation, for establishing Harappan culture in Sindhu valley (Indus valley civilisation) which was most extensive of the three earliest civilisations, with Mesopotamia and Egypt, the other two. Our lofty mountains, the Himalayas kept us safe long enough. But then, hordes of invaders from north-western passes one after the other ravaged our landscape. Yet India's strong

India's Proud Heritage



resilience and intense spirituality withstood repeated plunder and did not let its precious civilisation to perish under the wheels of the testing times of history.

Philosophy in ancient India was essentially spiritual in nature. The Mundaka Upanishad speaks of Brahma-Vidya or the science of the eternal as the basis of all sciences. Our supremacy nonetheless was not confined to the subjective. Ancient Indians measured the land, divided the year, mapped out the heavens and traced course of the sun and planets.

"Swami Vivekananda, in his lecture at Brooklyn (New York, USA) on the subject "India's Gift to the World" in 1895, spoke of the wondrous beauties of his native land. India was said to have made great contribution to mathematics: algebra, geometry, astronomy, mixed mathematics, the ten numerals, the very cornerstone of present civilisation, were all discovered in India and

are indeed Sanskrit words". There is an interesting story of how these Indian discoveries from India, passed on to Baghdad (Arabia) in the late 8th century. There the Viziers were a family of Sanskrit-literate hereditary Buddhists, from Afghanistan who had converted to Islam; had studied Indian mathematics in Kashmir, the then one of the great centres of learning. In Baghdad, the knowledge of ancient India was cross-fertilised with that of ancient Greece. Envoys were sent to India to learn Indian medicine, mathematics and astronomy.

From Baghdad these ideas spread across Islamic world: 'Fibonacci' a brilliant Italian mathematician who had grown up in Algeria, where he learnt Arabic mathematics, authored Liber Abaci- the 'Book of Calculation'. It was he who first popularised in Europe the use of what was later thought of as Arabic numerals, but these numbers were not Arabic in origin,

as Fibonacci and his Arab masters recognised, that they were Indian, besides accepting a revolutionary Indian concept of Zero (Al-Sifre in Arabic and Shunya in Sanskrit). The "nine figures" (numerals) of India were first written down in the Brahmi script in 3rd century BCE in Bihar at the time of emperor Ashoka. Europeans made their best efforts to erase these facts, and its high time, these need to be retrieved from oblivion. Nonetheless our Sanskrit language is now universally acknowledged to be the foundation of all European languages. In literature our epics, poems and plays ranked as high as those of any other language, like Kalidas's play Shakuntala. In music India gave to the world her system of notation with the seven cardinal notes and the diatonic scale, as early as 350 BC while it came to Europe in eleventh century. India also gave to the world the fables of Aesop, which

India's hospital sector poised for 11–12 pc growth over next 3–5 years

Mumbai, Aug 23 (GNS): India's hospital industry is set for strong and sustained growth over the next few years, with revenues expected to rise at a healthy pace of 11–12 per cent annually, a new report said on Wednesday. The growth will be driven by rising healthcare needs, higher insurance coverage, increasing medical tourism, and fresh investments in hospital infrastructure, according to data compiled by CareEdge Ratings.

A key reason behind this optimistic outlook is India's long-standing shortage of healthcare infrastructure. Despite being home to nearly 18 per cent of the world's population, the country has only about 16 hospital beds for every 10,000 people.

This is far below the World Health Organisation's recommended level of 30 beds. As a result, India faces a shortage of nearly two million hospital beds, pointing to a large and long-term demand for new hospitals and healthcare facilities. The report also highlights a sharp imbalance between urban and rural healthcare availability. Nearly 65–70 per cent of hospital beds are located in cities, even though around two-thirds of India's population lives in rural and semi-urban areas.

With government healthcare spending limited to about 2–4 per cent of GDP,

the private sector is expected to play a major role in filling this gap. This makes private hospital chains the biggest beneficiaries of rising healthcare demand in the coming years.

Demographic changes are adding further momentum to the sector. India's ageing population is increasing the need for treatment of chronic illnesses, preventive healthcare, and specialised medical services. At the same time, health insurance coverage has expanded sharply, rising from around 20 crore people in 2014 to nearly 55 crore in 2024. Even so, only about 40 per cent of the population is currently insured.

CareEdge Ratings expects insurance penetration to improve to nearly 47–50 per cent by FY30, helped by schemes like Ayushman Bharat, growing health awareness, and easier digital enrolment. This is likely to lead to higher hospital admissions and stronger demand for organised healthcare providers.

The report also pointed to the growing role of medical tourism in supporting hospital sector expansion. India's comparatively affordable treatment costs, availability of skilled medical professionals and improving healthcare infrastructure are expected to attract more international patients, particularly for specialised procedures and complex treatments.

India's mining sector surges ahead on the back of radical reforms in 2025

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS): The Ministry of Mines implemented comprehensive policy reforms to modernise India's mining ecosystem and strengthen mineral security in 2025, an official statement said on Wednesday. Key measures included the enactment of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2025, expansion and renaming of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) to National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), reflecting its expanded role to not just explore but also facilitate the development and overseas acquisition of strategic minerals, funded by increased contributions from mining lessees as part of major 2025 mining reforms.

NMEDT's enhanced funding, streamlined auction processes with defined timelines, removal of restrictions on captive mine sales, reclassification of select minerals as major minerals, notification of royalty rates for critical minerals, promotion of mineral exchanges, and implementation of offshore mining reforms were important milestones achieved during the year, said the statement.

Together, these reforms aim to improve transparency, ease of doing business, accelerate mineral production, and support sustainable development, positioning the mining sector as a strategic pillar in achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', according

to a statement issued by the Ministry of Mines. The year 2025 witnessed a sharp acceleration in the country's mineral resource development. A total of 141 mineral blocks were successfully auctioned by December 5, 2025. This included 79 blocks auctioned for Mining Lease (ML) and 62 blocks awarded as Composite Licence (CL).

This is the highest number of blocks auctioned in a single year since the auction regime began in 2015, reflecting faster processes and stronger participation from states and the industry. Notably, Assam and Uttarakhand have auctioned mineral blocks for the very first time during this period, marking their presence into

the auction map of India.

Since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015, 585 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned in the country. During the year, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have auctioned the highest number of blocks, with figures of 33 and 22, respectively. Among the minerals, Limestone accounted for the largest number of auctions (41), followed by Iron Ore (32) and Bauxite (22).

A Mining Dashboard was also launched on April 4, 2025 to enable near real-time tracking of auctioned mineral blocks, associated clearances, and delays. The Dashboard serves as a critical tool to fast-track the operationalisation of mineral

blocks by monitoring key milestones such as issuance of letter of intent (LoI), execution of lease deeds, and grant of statutory clearance.

With both public and private access modes, it enhances transparency and accountability while enabling close oversight by the State and Central Governments.

In an important milestone, The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in January, 2025 with a financial outlay of Rs 16,300 crore and expected investment of Rs 18,000 crore from PSUs and other companies. The Mission aims to secure a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen India's critical

mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

India has also entered new US-led multilateral Minerals Security Partnership for secure supply chains of critical minerals, aimed at reducing dependency on China. This will help securing minerals for Indian Industries.

On December 4, 2025, India also held discussions with the International Energy Agency on strengthening cooperation in the critical minerals value chain, enhancing data-driven collaboration, and exploring joint opportunities to support India's clean energy ecosystem.

Swiggy, Zomato hike delivery incentives amid nationwide gig workers' strike call

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS): Food delivery platforms Swiggy and Zomato have rolled out higher incentives for its delivery workers during peak hours and year-end days amid a nationwide strike call by gig and platform workers.

The incentive push follows calls by delivery worker unions for strikes on December 25 and December 31 to protest pay, working conditions and lack of social security. Zomato has offered delivery partners payouts of Rs 120–150 per order during peak hours between 6 pm and 12 am as it is set to face higher order volumes around New Year's Eve.

The company also promised earnings of up to Rs 3,000 over the course of the day, subject to order volumes and availability. The platform has also temporarily waived penalties on order denials and cancellations to reduce income risk during uneven order flow.

Swiggy offered delivery workers earnings of up to Rs 10,000 across December 31, 2025 and January 1, 2026, with peak-hour pay of up to Rs 2,000 between 6 pm and 12 am on New Year's Eve. Quick commerce player Zepto has also increased incentives for delivery partners. Earlier on December 25,

2025 strike, brief, localised disruptions were reported in food delivery, though platforms said operations stabilised later in the day. Unions have claimed wider participation and urged continued mobilisation on December 31, 2025.

On NSE, Swiggy Limited shares were priced at Rs 390.55 apiece, down Rs 13.45 or 3.33 per cent over the past five days. Over the same period, Eternal Limited, parent company of Zomato dropped by Rs 5.60 or 1.96 per cent to Rs 280.

Gig and platform workers in India benefit from formal legal recognition, portable social-security benefits

and a national registration framework through e-Shram under provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020 of the new labour codes. Under the Social Security code, aggregators are required to contribute 1–2 per cent of annual turnover, capped at 5 per cent of payments made or payable to gig and platform workers to a Social Security Fund, an official statement said.

The incentive measures come as gig workers continue to raise concerns over declining earnings, rising fuel and maintenance costs, long working hours and limited access to social-security benefits.

60 railway stations being redeveloped in northeast: Govt

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS): Indian Railways has made major progress in the northeast, and 60 stations are being redeveloped in the northeastern region under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the government said on Tuesday.

Since 2014, more than 1,679 km of railway tracks have been laid in the northeast. Over 2,500 route kilometres have been electrified. More than 470 road overbridges and underbridges have been constructed, the Railways Ministry said in a statement.

The Bairabi-Sairang new line has been fully commissioned. This has connected Aizawl to the rail network for the first time. Aizawl is now the fourth capital in the northeast to be linked with

the national rail network.

"Major projects such as Sivok-Rangpo, Dimapur-Kohima, and Jiribam-Imphal are also progressing steadily. These projects are improving economic and social integration of the northeast with the rest of the country," the ministry said. Railways is carrying out some of the most ambitious infrastructure projects of the 21st century. These projects are strengthening national integration, improving logistics, and expanding the modern railway network.

From iconic bridges in difficult terrain to freight corridors and high-speed rail, they reflect India's growing engineering strength and long-term vision. "One of the most significant projects is the Udhampur-Srinagar-

Baramula Rail Link (USBRL). It is a project of high strategic and national importance. Built at a cost of approx. Rs 44,000 crore, the 272-km line passes through the Himalayan region," said the ministry.

The project includes the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge. It stands 359 metres above the river, higher than the Eiffel Tower. It is a 1,315 metre long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions.

The project also includes India's first cable-stayed railway bridge over the Anji River, known as the Anji Rail Bridge. Thirty-six tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges are part of the project. The USBRL provides all-weather rail

connectivity to the Kashmir Valley. It is boosting mobility, tourism, and economic activity in the region. Another major achievement is the New Pamban Railway Bridge in Tamil Nadu. The new bridge is India's first vertical-lift sea bridge. Built at a cost of about Rs 550 crore, the 2.08 km long bridge consists of 100 spans, with 99 spans of 18.3 metres each and one main span of 72.5 metres.

The bridge features a robust substructure system comprising 333 piles and 101 pile caps, ensuring structural stability. It also includes 99 approach girders designed for efficient load distribution. The new bridge ensures rail connectivity to Rameswaram, an important pilgrimage and tourism cen-

tre. Reflecting its advanced design and engineering excellence, the New Pamban Railway Bridge has been conferred the prestigious Steel Structures & Metal Buildings Award 2024 in the Bridge Design category.

Indian Railways is also moving ahead in the field of high-speed rail. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project is being implemented by the NHRCL.

As of December 21, 2025, 331 km of viaduct work has been completed out of the total 508 km alignment. Pier work has been completed for 410 km, the ministry said.

The Railways Ministry said the transformation of stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is focused on providing modern passenger amenities, better accessibility

and improved facilities while preserving the regional character of important stations. The redevelopment is expected to enhance the overall travel experience and support growing passenger demand in the region.

The expansion of railway connectivity in the northeast is also expected to strengthen trade and tourism by improving access to markets and reducing travel time. Better rail links will provide more efficient movement of goods and passengers, helping remote areas integrate more closely with major economic centres. The Sivok-Rangpo project is particularly significant for improving connectivity to Sikkim, while the Dimapur-Kohima and Jiribam-Imphal projects are expected to strengthen rail

Elon Musk's xAI to expand computing capacity to 2 GW

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS):

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's xAI company has purchased a third building near its existing Memphis sites in the US, that will bring its artificial intelligence (AI) computing capacity to almost 2 gigawatts (GW). Elon Musk has already built one data centre in Memphis, known as Colossus, and is constructing a second centre nearby dubbed Colossus 2, according to multiple reports.

The newly acquired building is in Southaven, Mississippi, and adjoins the Colossus 2 facility, according to reports citing people familiar with the matter. "xAI has bought a third building called Macrohardrr," Musk posted on social media platform X, saying it will "take @xAI training compute to almost 2GW." A gigawatt is enough to provide electricity for about 7,50,000 US homes. Musk has publicly discussed plans to build the world's largest data centre for AI training and previously said Colossus 2 will eventually have 5,50,000 chips from Nvidia, costing tens of billions of dollars.

Moreover, Musk's xAI Holdings is reportedly in talks to raise new funding at around \$230 billion valuation. Musk owns a 53 per cent stake in xAI Holdings, worth \$60 billion.

Musk took a dig at Wikipedia in October, claiming Grokikipedia, developed by xAI, will surpass the popular online encyclopedia "by several orders of magni-

tude in breadth, depth and accuracy."

Grokikipedia is an AI-powered encyclopedia that aims to challenge what Musk calls a "woke" and biased Wikipedia.

He described Grokikipedia as a "massive improvement over Wikipedia" and said it aligns with xAI's mission to help humanity better understand the universe.

Musk's net worth rose to nearly \$750 billion after a US court reinstated Tesla stock options worth \$139 billion. According to Forbes' billionaires index, this development has taken Musk closer to become the world's first trillionaire. Elon Musk's xAI has acquired a third building near its existing Memphis-area facilities, taking the company's AI computing capacity to nearly 2 gigawatts. The new facility, reportedly located in Southaven, Mississippi, is adjacent to the company's Colossus 2 data centre.

Musk announced the acquisition on X, describing the building as "Macrohardrr" and saying it would help xAI increase its training compute capacity. The expansion comes as xAI accelerates its efforts to build some of the world's largest AI computing infrastructure. The company has ambitious plans for Colossus 2, which is expected to eventually house around 550,000 Nvidia chips. The massive investment reflects the growing demand for computing power needed to train and operate advanced artificial intelligence models.

Coupang should come up with compensation acceptable for victims of data leak

Seoul, Aug 23 (GNS): The head of South Korea's data protection regulator said on Wednesday that Coupang should come up with compensation acceptable for victims of its massive data leak amid strong backlash against the online retailer's offer of vouchers and discounts.

Song Kyung-hee, head of the Personal Information Protection Commission, made the call during a parliamentary hearing over the company's data breach that affected 33.7 million users -- around two-thirds of South Korea's population, reports Yonhap news agency.

"It is very important to establish a compensation plan that makes victims feel they

have been remedied. The burden of proof lies with the company," said Song when asked about Coupang's plan to offer 50,000 won (US\$35) worth of coupons and discounts to each of the affected users. The plan, unveiled Monday, has drawn criticism because each customer is allowed to spend only 5,000 won at the online retailer's main platform, while the remaining vouchers worth 45,000 won have to be used at other commerce platforms, including one for luxury goods. Critics say such measures may be aimed at prompting customers to spend more at Coupang's other platforms.

When asked about the

need for a collective lawsuit against Coupang, Song noted that while the personal data protection law has a clause on such lawsuits, it does not address monetary damages, pointing to the need for a clearer legal basis.

Meanwhile, the interim head of Coupang, the South Korean unit of US-listed Coupang Inc., said on Wednesday that the company's compensation plan for a recent data breach will not include any conditions requiring customers to waive their right to file lawsuits against the e-commerce giant.

Responding to a question from Democratic Party's Rep. Hwang Jung-a during a parliamentary hearing, Har-

old Rogers, the company's

interim chief executive officer (CEO), said the compensation would not be tied to a clause barring civil or criminal legal action.

"There are no conditions in those vouchers, and there will not be any conditions in those vouchers," he said.

He also said the compensation plan would not be used as grounds to seek a reduction in potential damages should claims be filed in the future.

"In U.S. lawsuits, I don't believe that would be (considered) a mitigating factor," said Rogers, the former chief administrative officer (CAO) of Coupang Inc., referring to the compensation plan.

Economic reforms in 2025 set stage for India's global rise: Economist

New Delhi, Aug 23 (GNS): Economist and former President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Ved Jain, on Tuesday said that allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector will prove to be a positive step for India's economy and consumers.

Speaking to IANS, Jain said that in developed countries, FDI in insurance has not created problems; instead, it has increased competition and improved services.

"With 100 per cent foreign investment, competition between local and foreign companies will naturally rise, leading to

cheaper insurance and services for people," Jain said. "Lower insurance costs will directly benefit consumers. Additionally, when logistic costs in insurance decrease, competitiveness increases and the overall efficiency of the sector improves," he added.

He also stressed the need to reform outdated colonial-era laws. Jain explained that many laws were created before 1947 to serve British interests, when India was under colonial rule.

Even after more than 75 years of independence, several of these laws still exist. He said there is a strong need to move away

from such outdated rules, especially those related to minor offences and complex procedures. As a democratic and welfare-oriented country, India's laws should reflect the expectations of today's society and support citizens rather than burden them. "Now, over 75 years after independence, there is a need to move away from these colonial rules and reform outdated laws, especially those concerning minor offences and procedural matters," Jain told.

"Today's society expects this. India is a democracy, and we elect the government, which functions as a social welfare institution.

Therefore, laws must be aligned with this perspective," he added.

Commenting on recent economic measures, Jain highlighted three key steps that would support the middle class and businesses.

He said raising tax-free income to Rs 12 lakh and lowering tax rates for income between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 24 lakh will directly increase disposable income for the middle class.

"Changes in GST rates, especially reductions from 12 per cent and 18 per cent to 5 per cent on certain goods, will lower prices and improve purchasing power," Jain mentioned.

Come to Telangana. Invest in Telangana. Innovate in Telangana: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, Aug 23 (GNS): Irrigation, Food and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday invited global investors, entrepreneurs and technology leaders to partner with Telangana, saying the State was positioning itself as one of the world's most competitive destinations for innovation-led, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Delivering the keynote address at the Global Business Excellence & Leadership Conclave 2026 at ITC Kohenur in Hyderabad, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana offered a powerful combination of skilled talent, world-class infrastructure, entrepreneurial energy and a government committed to facilitating investment with speed and transparency. He said Telangana's GSDP was estimated at around Rs 17.82 lakh crore in 2025-26, with nominal growth of 10.7 per cent, against the national growth rate of 8 per cent. Under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's Telangana Rising 2047 Vi-



sion, the State was aiming to become a \$1-trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, he said. The strategy envisaged development through three interconnected economic regions — CURE, covering the core urban economy driven by technology and high-value industries; PURE, focusing on peri-urban manufacturing, logistics and infrastructure; and RARE, promot-

ing agriculture, food processing and rural enterprise. "Development must not remain confined to Hyderabad. It must reach every district, every town, every village and every family in Telangana," Uttam said.

Highlighting Hyderabad's emergence as a global centre for IT, artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, life sciences and Global Capability Centres, the Minister said enormous investment opportunities were opening up in semiconductors, data centres, cybersecurity, aerospace, defence, electric mobility, clean energy and advanced manufacturing.

Referring to his portfolios, Uttam said the convergence of water, agriculture, food security and industry offered another major investment opportunity. Telangana welcomed technologies involving satellite imagery, artificial intelligence, drones, sensors and predictive analytics for efficient water management. He called for greater investment in food

processing, cold chains, warehouses, agricultural logistics, packaging and exports, saying agricultural produce should increasingly be processed, branded and marketed from within Telangana to generate better returns for farmers and create rural employment. The Minister also invited industries to look beyond Hyderabad to emerging centres such as Warangal, Karimnagar, Khammam, Nizamabad, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar.

Praising Dr. J.A. Chowdary and the International Startup Foundation for encouraging startups and rural innovators, Uttam said business excellence should ultimately be measured not merely by revenues and valuations but by livelihoods created and problems solved. "Come to Telangana. Invest in Telangana. Innovate in Telangana," he told business leaders, assuring them that the government would work as a transparent, professional and responsive long-term partner.

90% medical treatments to be available at district HQs

Sangareddy, Aug 23 (GNS): Telangana Health and Medical Services Minister *Sri Damodar Rajanarsimha* said that the state government is strengthening public healthcare systems to ensure that nearly *90% of medical treatments are available at the district level. The Minister made these remarks during his visit to



*Narayankhed constituency in Sangareddy district, where he inaugurated the newly established **Balaji Anuradha Super Specialty Hospital* in Narayankhed town along with local MLA *Dr. Sanjeeva Reddy*.

During the visit, Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha inspected various departments and facilities at the hospital. He appreciated the hospital management for establishing a modern super-specialty facility keeping in view the medi-

cal needs of the people of Narayankhed and surrounding areas.

The Minister said that the *Telangana government is giving high priority to the development of the education and healthcare sectors*. He stated that efforts are being made to strengthen government hospitals and public health services so that people can access nearly 90% of medical treatments at the district level itself. He further said

that *public confidence and acceptance of services provided by govt hospitals are increasing*, and the govt is committed to providing quality healthcare services to people.

The programme was attended by *District Collector Prateek Jain, District SP Paritosh Pankaj, Narayankhed Sub-Collector Hari-ni, hospital administrators Dr. Patlolla Anurag Reddy and Dr. K. Sridhar*, along with local public representatives and hospital staff.

ALL INDIA MILLI COUNCIL

Telangana legal aid team commences legal aid services at Abids

Hyderabad, Aug 23 (GNS) Telangana Legal Aid Team commenced legal aid services at the Milli Legal Aid Centre, Abids, Hyderabad, with the objective of providing accessible legal assistance and guidance to deserving and genuine cases.

Momin Roshan Zameer, Advocate, State General Secretary & In-Charge Social Media, Legal Cell (Law, Human Rights and RTI Department), Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), Member, Hyderabad Waqf Protection and Co-Ordination Committee, Government of Telangana, and In-Charge, All India Milli Council – Telangana Legal Aid, along with Mir Mahmood Ali, Milli Council, Abids Branch and Family Counsellor, and team members Farhan, Hamza and others, commenced the legal aid activities at the centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Momin Roshan Zameer, Advocate, In-Charge, All India Milli Council – Telangana Legal Aid, stated that the legal aid services are being carried out under the guidance of Mufti Umar Abideen Sahab, Secretary, All India Milli Council – Telangana, and with the support and coordination of Afsar Jahan, Secretary, Milli



Legal Aid, Telangana. He stated that the primary objective of the Legal Aid Centre is to extend legal assistance, guidance and counselling to victims, innocent persons and economically or socially

vulnerable individuals who are in genuine need of legal support. The centre will also assist deserving persons who may be facing false or baseless criminal cases, cases involving alleged Islamophobic discrimination or targeting, family disputes and other genuine legal matters, subject to the facts and legal merits of each case.

Momin Roshan Zameer further stated that the Legal Aid Team would carefully examine each matter and provide appropriate legal guidance, counselling and assistance in genuine cases, while ensuring that the services are extended in accordance with law and due legal procedure.

He emphasized that the initiative aims to ensure that no genuine victim or innocent person is deprived of access to justice merely because of a lack of legal knowledge, resources or proper guidance. The Legal Aid Centre will continue to receive genuine grievances, understand the legal issues involved, provide preliminary legal guidance and, wherever appropriate, facilitate further legal assistance through the concerned legal and counselling channels.

COMMUNAL AWARD (1932)

Political Representation, Social Justice and the Poona Pact

Written by: Irfan Jamiawala

Indian leader, social activist and Bollywood writer Irfan Jamiawala sheds light on an important chapter of the political game On 17 August 1932, British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald announced a constitutional proposal for political representation of different religious and social communities in British India. It became known as the Communal Award.

The Award continued to separate electorates for Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans. More controversially, it also proposed separate electorates for the Depressed Classes, a term then used for communities that later came to be constitutionally recognised as Scheduled Castes.

The decision triggered a major political debate. Mahatma Gandhi strongly opposed separate electorates for the Depressed Classes and began a fast while imprisoned in Yerwada Jail, Pune. Gandhi feared that a separate electorate would deepen the political and social division of Hindu society.

On the other hand, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar approached the issue from the perspective of political empowerment and independent representation. His concern was that communities



facing generations of social exclusion needed meaningful political power and an effective voice in legislative institutions. After negotiations, the Poona Pact was signed on 24 September 1932. Separate electorates for the Depressed Classes were abandoned in favour of joint electorates, while the number of reserved seats for their representation was increased.

Why does this history matter today?

The Communal Award and the Poona Pact are not merely events confined to the history books. At a time when India continues to debate political representation, social justice, equality and participation of disadvantaged communities, the events of 1932 raise an important question:

Is the reservation of seats enough, or must every historically disadvantaged community also have a meaningful voice in political decision-making?

Contemporary Indian

politics continues to witness debates over representation, social inequality and the relationship between population, political power and institutional participation. In this context, revisiting the Communal Award and the Poona Pact can help us understand the historical roots of India's continuing debate over representation.

History reminds us that democracy is not merely about casting a vote. The real strength of democracy lies in ensuring that the voices of disadvantaged and marginalised communities reach the institutions where decisions are made.

Against this historical background, Indian leader, social activist and Bollywood writer Irfan Jamiawala seeks to bring this debate back into public discussion emphasising that political representation is not merely a numbers game; it is fundamentally a question of justice, equality and meaningful participation.

Sanjay condemns MP Arvind's remarks against CM Revanth Reddy

Political debate should focus on policies, not personal attacks: Former Mayor D. Sanjay

Falaknuma News State Correspondent M.A. Samad Nizamabad, Aug 23 : Former Nizamabad Mayor D. Sanjay has strongly condemned the alleged derogatory and arrogant remarks made by Nizamabad BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind against Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, describing them as highly inappropriate and against the dignity of democratic politics.

In a statement on Saturday, Sanjay said political leaders were free to question the government, criticise its policies and raise issues concerning administration and devel-

opment. However, he said, such criticism should remain within the boundaries of political decency and should not descend into personal attacks or comments about a person's physical appearance.

Sanjay said the Chief Minister occupies a constitutional position and deserves to be treated with due respect, irrespective of political differences. He questioned whether the language allegedly used by MP Arvind was appropriate for an elected Member of Parliament and said public representatives had a greater responsibility to maintain dignity in their statements. He alleged that the BJP MP was attempting to divert public at-



tention from developmental and political issues by making personal comments against the Chief Minister. Sanjay said people were more interested in employment, infrastructure, welfare programmes, roads, education, healthcare and economic development than in political leaders engaging in per-

sonal exchanges. According to Sanjay, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had received the mandate of the people of Telangana and was working to implement the policies and promises of the Congress government. He said political opponents could question the government's performance, but personal remarks would not alter the people's assessment of the govt or the Chief Minister.

Sanjay further alleged that BJP leaders were resorting to increasingly personal criticism because they were unable to effectively challenge the Congress government on governance and public welfare. He said political parties

should compete through constructive programmes, alternative policies and development-oriented agendas rather than through personal abuse. The former Mayor also raised questions over MP Arvind's focus on Nizamabad constituency. He alleged that several issues relating to infrastructure, roads, civic amenities, employment opportunities and other developmental requirements needed greater attention. Instead of concentrating on such issues and representing the concerns of the people in Parliament, the MP was allegedly engaging in unnecessary political controversy, Sanjay said.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Attends LFC-2 Fight Night in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Aug 23 (GNS): Telangana Sports and Youth Services Minister Vakiti Srihari attended the Legacy Fighting Championship (LFC-2) Fight Night at the Katedan Sports Complex in Hyderabad. As part of the event, Minister Vakiti Srihari participated in the fighters' meet-and-greet along with MLA Prakash Goud and SAT Chairman Shiv Sena Reddy, and congratulated the participating fighters.

The opening bout featured Hyderabad-based fighter Basa Sashreek taking

on Arun Varma from Indore. Following the bout, Minister Vakiti Srihari congratulated and felicitated the winner.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the Telangana government was committed to promoting sports among youth and providing greater encouragement to martial arts and combat sports in the state. He said the government's objective was to identify talented athletes and provide them with the required training, infrastructure and opportunities.



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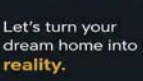
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