

Allahabad HC Rejects Plea for Hijab in School Uniform

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): A major political controversy erupted after the Allahabad High Court, in a significant judgment, clarified that students cannot insist on altering the dress code prescribed by an educational institution based on their personal preferences. The court dismissed a petition seeking directions to school authorities to permit a student to wear a headscarf along with the uniform prescribed by the institution. The petition was filed by a minor girl studying at a private school in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. According to details of the case, the student had completed her high school education and was seeking admission to Class 11 in the same school.



leaders backed the court's position, saying that educational institutions have established dress codes, discipline and regulations that students are required to follow, others said that students should not be prevented from following their religious faith within the educational system. Reacting to the Allahabad High Court's judgment, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that the issue should not be allowed to become a source of communal tension. "I think no one should try to create communal controversy or communal tension in the name of hijab. Educational institutions have their own dress codes, discipline and regulations. Everyone should respect that. This is what the Allahabad High Court has also said," Naqvi added. Communist Party of India MP, P. Santhosh Kumar, however, said that while uniforms were important as a symbol of equality, students should also be allowed to retain

their religious identity and practise their faith. "Uniform is compulsory, but at the same time, this has been a controversial issue over the years. A student has every right to continue with his or her religious faith. One's right to believe in and practise the religion or faith of their choice cannot be undermined. So, we need to protect that as well," Kumar added. Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) National Spokesperson Vinod Bansal strongly backed the court's position and said

that courts have repeatedly dealt with questions surrounding hijab and burqa. "Not once, but many times, the courts have said regarding the hijab, burqa and all these things that neither are they a part of Islam, nor are they part of Islamic beliefs or the Quran, nor does Indian civilisation and culture say that small, innocent girls should be kept captive by your extremist mindset," Bansal said. He also added that schools are meant to teach students values such as equality, unity, integrity and brotherhood and questioned the need to distinguish students on the basis of their religious identity. "The way young girls go to school where they are taught equality, unity, integrity and brotherhood, why do you want to isolate them there and make them appear different from the other children with their religious identity," the VHP Spokesperson said.

CM Revanth Reddy orders speedy land acquisition for Musi Project

Hyderabad, April 25 (Patriotic Views): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to expedite land acquisition for the prestigious Musi Rejuvenation project. The Chief Minister held a review of the Musi project at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion today. During the meeting, the CM enquired the officials about the status of land acquisition for the Musi project. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that a policy for land pooling should be formulated. The policy should also focus on land acquisition falling under FTL (Full Tank Level), buffer zones, and assigned land categories. The Chief Minister warned that legal complications should be avoided during the land acquisition. The officials were also instructed to invite tenders for Phase 2 of the Musi Project at the earliest. The CM suggested the Municipal



Commissioners to focus more on securing low-interest loans for the projects and also review TDRs (Transferable Development Rights) every week. Tenders for the Manchirevula Omkareshwara Swamy Temple and publicity to the Kothwalguda Bird Park were also discussed in the meeting. CM Secretary Manik Raj, HMDA Commissioner Sar-

faraz Ahmed, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Malkajgiri Municipal Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, Cyberabad Commissioner Srujana, Ranga Reddy District Collector Narayana Reddy, Medchal Collector Manu Chowdary, MRDCLMD E.V. Narasimha Reddy, MRDCL JMD Gautami, and other senior officials were also present.

Bihar Students Step Up Protest Over 70th BPSC Exam

Protesters march towards Lok Bhawan, demanding exam cancellation, TRE-4 reforms and probe into recruitment irregularities.

Patna, Aug 25 (UNI): The students' demand for cancellation of the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) Examinations intensified on Tuesday, as many student organisations took to the streets in the state capital and marched towards the Lok Bhawan, demanding that the state administration address their grievances and make the necessary amends. The protesting students marched from Gandhi Maidan towards Lok Bhawan; they broke barricades and engaged in a scuffle with policemen. The protest march was planned, with student organisations calling for laying siege to the Chief Minister's



residence. Extensive security arrangements were put in place across the capital, in anticipation of the proposed march. Additional police personnel as well as officers were also deployed at key locations leading to Lok Bhawan, including Da-

kbungalow Crossing and Income Tax Golambar. Water cannons and 'Vajra' (riot control) vehicles were also kept on standby to handle any untoward incidents. The agitating students tried to break through the barricades, erected by the

police at multiple checkpoints, ignoring repeated warnings by the Patna Police. The students gathered in large numbers near the barricades and attempted to advance towards Lok Bhawan, while the police tried to contain them.

Rajnath Singh Approves DRDO Missile Tech Transfer to Private Firms

New Delhi, Aug 25 (UNI): In a major strategic move to build up domestic missile production capabilities, defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) conventional missile technology to the domestic private players for production within the country as part of a larger goal to enhance domestic defence manufacturing. Under the initiative, the DRDO will transfer missile technologies to eligible defence firms. The move comes at a time when India is reportedly looking to build a new "Rocket Force" with long-range tactical and non-nuclear vectors, which,



among others, is also likely to include the Pralay missile, an indigenously developed missile with range of up to 200 km. The transfer of technology decision is unlikely to involve the Agni series of five missiles — with ranges from 700 km for Agni 1 to 5,000 km for Agni V and the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile which has

Russia as a joint partner. The state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has been traditionally the manufacturing base for guided missile systems and allied equipment for the Indian armed forces. BDL may now have to compete with the private players to get orders for missile production. "In a significant step

towards achieving the vision of 'aatmanirbharta' in defence, Mr Singh has approved the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to the Indian defence industry for production within the country," said the defence ministry in a statement. The defence ministry statement added that the transfer of technology (TOT) marks an important milestone in promoting greater participation of the domestic industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production, as per applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements.

Centre Tells SC 2011 Caste Census Data Is Unreliable

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): The Centre had told the Supreme Court that the raw caste data collected during the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 is riddled with inaccuracies, including instances where enumerators recorded numbers or symbols instead of caste names, making the data unreliable for determining reservation or other official purposes. In a reply affidavit filed in September 2021 in a writ petition by the Maharashtra government seeking disclosure of the SECC-2011 raw caste data of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Em-

powerment said there was no registry of castes prepared before the 2011 exercise, which contributed to inconsistencies in the data. The Centre had said that "in several hundred cases, the caste column mentions about number or symbol against caste names", adding that there was no registry of caste prepared prior to the conduct of the 2011 Census. "It would have been ideal for the Registry of Castes that there should have been given a drop down menu for selection of the castes which could have made some consistent data available which can be relied upon," the affidavit said.

Trump considers renaming lake ontario 'Lake America' amid trade war

Washington, Aug 25 (GNS): President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he is considering changing the name of Lake Ontario to "Lake America" as the trade war between the United States and Canada intensifies. Such a change would be reminiscent of the Republican president's unilateral action last year by executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. The United States and Canada are locked in a trade dispute, with Canada expected to announce retaliatory measures on Tuesday. That's in response to the Trump administration enacting 50 per cent tariffs on \$20 billion of Canadian



goods over the weekend after talks between the countries broke down. "The United States is giving serious consideration to changing the name of Lake Ontario to Lake America in that we don't expect to doing much business with Ontario any longer," Trump said on Tuesday on social media. Ontario is Canada's

most populous province and is home to the country's auto industry. The rhetoric between the two countries is escalating, with Trump telling Canadian leaders on Monday to "fall in line" or face consequences "far WORSE" than existing tariffs. Prime Minister Mark Carney has accused Washington of trying to subordinate Canada. Trump also threatened new 50 per cent tariffs on Canadian vehicles, auto parts and steel, while Carney said US trade demands showed that Washington wanted to "destroy our major industries", including autos, steel and aluminium. Canada and the United

States share one of the world's largest trading relationships, with deeply integrated supply chains across autos, energy, agriculture and manufacturing, making a prolonged trade fight potentially costly for businesses and workers on both sides of the border. Businesses and consumers are caught in the middle, facing uncertainty about how much prices may increase. Michael Howard II, owner of a furniture business in Warren, Michigan, outside Detroit, said the tariffs will hamper the "ability for us to put food on the table for our family, but also impact the ability for us to give back to our community".

CEC Gyanesh Kumar Calls BLOs 'Cornerstone of Democracy'

Lucknow, Aug 25 (GNS): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Tuesday interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), terming them "the cornerstone of India's democracy". Meeting reporters after the interaction at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Gomti Nagar here, he praised the dedication and transparency of BLOs, highlighting their crucial role in the electoral process. "BLOs are the cornerstone of India's democracy. Every Booth Level Officer is known among the voters at their booth for their transparency and dedication, and is also recognised and respected across India and the world," the CEC said.

He said the interaction was aimed at understanding the experiences of BLOs and seeking their suggestions. "The way every BLO works with dedication and hard work is commendable. We came here to interact with them and also take their suggestions," Gyanesh Kumar said. Gyanesh Kumar, on Monday, had described India, with approximately 97 crore voters, as "the biggest family in the world", underlining the enormous scale of the country's democratic system and election machinery. Speaking at the regional conference of ELC 2.0 and ECINET here, he also highlighted ECINET as a platform connecting election officials at various levels.

Why India and Oman remain among the oldest strategic partners of the Indian Ocean world

ASHWIN PARIJAT ANSHU

A sea may seem to represent a vast distance between two frontiers. But when civilisations come close to a sea, it is transformed into a bridge for people and culture to move. Such has been the case between India and Oman, where the Indian Ocean maritime network turned the Arabian Sea into one of the most vital and dynamic zones of interaction in human history.

More than the much-hyped Silk Roads, it is this sea-borne enterprise of people, commerce, and ideas that has been of great significance in the advancement of human civilisation. It is this maritime network that has turned India and Oman relations into one of the most enduring partnerships in the history of international relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Sultanate of Oman on 17-18 December, accompanied by a high-level delegation, offers a good opportunity to look at India-Oman relations in a long historical perspective.

The history of this partnership dates back to the Harappan times when ships from western ports like Lothal, Dholavira and Balakot sailed toward the land of Magan (ancient name for the Oman region in Mesopotamian sources) carrying beads, pottery, ivory objects, cotton – both raw and textile and even rice. Archaeological discov-



eries in ancient Oman ports like Sohar and Sumhuram/ Khora Rori and other sites have furnished evidence of a flourishing trade since the third millennium BCE.

In return, Oman traders brought copper, frankincense (used for aromatic oils and sticks), certain kinds of stones, and dates, which were an Arabian staple product. Omani ports also served as exchange centres for trans-shipping Indus Valley products to Mesopotamia and further west, greatly expanding the markets for goods from the Indian subcontinent. Stamp seals found in Omani ports, along with weights and measures and button seals found in Indus sites, illustrate the systematic nature of trade between ancient Oman and the Indus Valley civilisation.

By the early Christian centuries, Omani seafarers had developed great ex-

pertise in shipbuilding (innovations like fast-moving ships called dhow) and sea navigation, having acquired the knowledge of monsoon winds and navigation using stars and simple instruments like the Kamal.

The entire Indian trade with the Roman world, which figures prominently in Roman sources like Natural History by Pliny the Elder and the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, was forged with Arabian-Omani traders acting as intermediaries for both the Indians and the Romans. It was this trade that made Indian spices an item of daily use in both the Roman and the Arabian worlds. One can refer to this classical epoch as constituting one of the first globalisation in human history that had such far-reaching consequences in the progress of human civilisation.

Ports like Sohar and Muscat in Oman, Aden in

Yemen and Bharuch (Gujarat), Muziris (Pattanam), Nelcynda (Kerala), Sopara (Maharashtra) and Arikamedu (near Puducherry) became ancient cosmopolises having significant Greek, Roman, Omani, and Syrian presence.

The rise of Islam and the bringing of a large Eurasian region under the Caliphate added new layers to the relationship between Oman and India. By now, Gujarati merchants—Hindus, Jains, Muslim Bohras and Khojas—had a sizeable presence in Oman. These traders were formally welcomed and recognised by rulers in Oman.

On the Indian side, there developed an equally sizeable presence of Omani Muslim traders in India, the greatest being on the Malabar coast. Arab Historian al-Masudi, writing in the 10th century, mentions that 10,000 Arab

Muslims, including those from Oman, were residing on the western coast of India. Omani traders were the biggest sources of Arabian horses coveted by Indian rulers, while spices, textiles, sandalwood, teak, Indigo, Sugar, rice and other products reached Sohar and Muscat, which had emerged as international hubs in this period. In the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal period, the Hajj pilgrimage to Arabia also contributed to the constant movement of people between the two realms.

The stories of Sindbad, the sailor in the Arabian Nights, highlight the cultural linkages that centuries of relations with the Arab world had forged. Aptly, the fictional home of Sindbad was Sohar, one of the most important coastal cities in Oman. Indian mathematics and science travelled to the Western world through the highway represented by the Indian Ocean maritime network. The Arabs greatly enriched this knowledge and passed it on to the Western world, contributing to the rise of the modern world. This wouldn't have been possible without the dynamism provided by India-Oman linkages.

The establishment of European dominance across the Indian Ocean network from the 17th century onwards brought the Indian and Omani commercial enterprise into closer alliance to resist European dominance.

Why district judges almost never make it to India's Supreme Court

GOKUL SUNOJ
SIDDARTH RAMAN

A recent analysis in ThePrint on judicial composition underscored how slow career progression and systemic barriers prevent members of the subordinate judiciary from meaningfully entering the higher courts. A bench led by Justice BR Gavai, which flagged this concern, even floated the idea of quotas for district judges. Our analysis of data from major high courts reveals that roughly three quarters of judges are elevated directly from the Bar. The highest percentage composition for service elevated judges is at the High Court of Sikkim. Deceptively at a 50-50 split, the court has just two judges as of 14 December — one of whom has been inducted from service and the other from the Bar. There is not a single case where in the percentages switch the other way round.

The piece went on to note that judges from the subordinate judiciary were elevated to high courts much later in their careers. We dived into the data to find the claim to be true. As Table 2 shows, judges elevated from service, in most major courts, lag behind their peers from the Bar by about half a decade (Madras being an exception). This has material effects on their seniority there-



after as elaborated below.

The inevitable downstream consequence is that rarely does a judge of any high court elevated from judicial services ever stand a chance at appointment to the Supreme Court. Far too few have had this trajectory. The current apex court composition bears witness to this observation. Of the current 33 judges, 31 were first elevated from the Bar to high courts and then to the Supreme Court, and two handpicked directly onto the Supreme Court bench without even serving as

high court judges.

This composition might seem benign. It reflects a classical risk-reward trade-off. Those who venture into the space of private practice with greater risks and show immense potential are presented with opportunities of elevation sooner. This divide strikes at the root of the institutional legitimacy of the judicial system for three reasons.

High court judges oversee the entire district judiciary in their role as 'administrative judges'. In Uttar Pradesh, for example, 67 judicial districts

fall under the administrative supervision of high court judges. Yet nearly 85 per cent of the administrative judges have little experience of the system they oversee.

While some of these members elevated from the Bar have experience practicing in trial courts, it is unrealistic to expect that these judges have had sustained engagement with the district courts that they now oversee. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court advised high courts to consider trial court lawyers for senior designation. It suggested reaching out to district court judges and officers presiding over tribunals to seek recommendations. The same applies to elevations as well. As the situation stands, to gain visibility for elevation, lawyers must have substantial practice in the high court or Supreme Court, not careers rooted in district courts. Those who supervise and exercise inordinate control over the district judiciary today do so without the institutional memory or lived experience that is essential for meaningful reform. Diktats from the upper judiciary demanding "expeditious disposal" or "strict timelines" often ring hollow precisely for this reason. A system that rewards star-studded lawyers creates a corrosive imbalance between the

Bar and the bench. The symbolic architecture of judicial authority presumes the primacy of a judge within a courtroom. Within its four walls, even the grandest of lawyers bow before the might of the judicial office. In practice, things are far messier. As high court judges are drawn predominantly from the Bar, their professional and social networks remain lawyer-centric. These are the very lawyers who enjoy the greatest visibility, wield disproportionate influence, and frequently appear before those elevated from their own circles.

For members of the subordinate judiciary, this dynamic produces difficult pressures. This is not to say that these judges aren't independent or steadfast in their commitment to their oath of office. They certainly are. But that — issuing adverse orders against powerful senior lawyers may carry unspoken risks for their career progression, particularly when their own pathways to the high court are already narrow — puts them in a precarious spot.

This divide is only set to increase with the minimum practice requirements that have recently kicked in. A person is required to practice for three years before attempting the judicial services exam.

A city without water is a harbinger of a thirsty planet

The history of our cities has been written in water. In Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Indus valley, the first urban settlements were built around irrigated farmland. Flooded terrace fields for rice, corn and quinoa accompanied the spread of civilization in East Asia and the Americas. Without water, the megacities that will define the 21st century would wither and perish.

That's looking like a risk factor in an increasing number of locations. Cape Town and Chennai in recent years endured punishing droughts that left them on the brink of crisis. Similar conditions afflicted the upwardly-mobile Indian cities of Bengaluru and Hyderabad last year. Now Tehran (biggest of all, with about 15 million people) is facing the same emergency.

Residents of Iran's capital are having their taps turned off for hours at a time to ration usage, amid a five-year drought and rainfall that's been running at 96% below average levels. The city may have to be evacuated altogether if a current dry spell doesn't break soon, President Masoud Pezeshkian said last month. That underlines a grim fact of modern life: Even relatively affluent and sophisticated cities might be just a few dry years away from "day zero" — the point where life-giving water supplies run out.

Tehran's desperate situation has its origins in the same mania for food and energy security that's causing many nations to raise trade and regulatory barriers to clean power right now. A commitment to food self-sufficiency following the 1979 Iranian revolution — spurning imports of nutritional energy in favor of home-grown wheat and rice — has drained aquifers and reservoirs to feed thirsty crops. More than 90% of water goes to agriculture, leaving precious little left over for the needs of urbanites.

That might be excusable given the widespread sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy for decades, but it's been accompanied by wasteful usage, too. Per-capita water resources are greater than in Germany, India or South Korea, so should be sufficient to supply most of Iran's needs, if they were well managed. That's not what's happened. Flood irrigation, an ancient practice that wastes immense amounts of H2O through evaporation when compared to drip irrigation that uses pipes, is still the predominant method of watering fields.

Tariffs and subsidies mean trade with more productive countries is fragile. China and India are the biggest producers of grain, and also major participants in the barter-style oil trade that gets around international sanctions on Tehran. China, however, barely exports food to Iran, while India's basmati farmers have to contend with occasional import bans imposed whenever the Iranian government wants to prop up its local growers.

Comments from energy minister Abbas Aliabadi earlier this month supporting the import of "virtual water" — thirsty crops that should be produced in countries with more abundant rainfall — are a rare official admission that the drive to self-sufficiency is failing, and more food is going to need to come in from overseas.

This crisis is a sign of a planet whose cycles are increasingly slipping out of balance. While a shortage of water is crippling Iran, on the other side of the Indian Ocean an excess from monsoonal rains has caused \$20 billion of flood damages from Sri Lanka to Vietnam. Both situations would have been unlikely without the effects of climate change. Whereas Iran can now expect a drought like that of 2025 every 10 years, in a pre-warming world it would have happened as rarely as once a century. As the world's sixth-biggest emitter and one of the largest exporters of oil, it bears much of the responsibility for the warming now making Tehran unlivable.

It's not alone. Many of the countries hit by the recent Asian floods could find their current conditions flipping to Tehran-style droughts in future. In a 2020 study of 12 megacities in developing countries at risk of water shortages, the city ranks relatively low. To meet a basic standard of health and hygiene, Lagos, Jakarta, Mumbai, and Kolkata all need at least 50% more water per person than their systems are capable of supplying. Tehran's deficit is a relatively modest 29%.

Evacuation isn't the solution. Like pollution-choked Delhi and the sinking metropolis of Jakarta, Tehran has reached a scale where it will become impossible to move it to another location, regardless of the wishes of businesses or government officials. Better options are available. Reduce the barriers to food imports, to lessen the strain on local fields. Use Iran's vast reserves of oil and gas to churn out hoses and pipes, to ensure the water it does have isn't lost to evaporation. Most of all, use that barter trade with China to switch to renewable energy. Iran's future will only be truly secure when it starts cutting its own carbon footprint.

Securing Bengal Frontier

India today finds itself pursuing two border security goals at once: sealing the frontier against fresh infiltration from Bangladesh and confronting the reality of those who have already slipped through. The announcement of a technology-enabled "smart border" - drones, radars and surveillance cameras strung across hundreds of kilometres of frontier - is the most ambitious border security initiative independent India has attempted. The logic is unimpeachable. Geography and sheer scale have always defeated a boots-on-the-ground strategy alone; only smart technology can close gaps that manpower cannot.

But sealing the border addresses only the inflow. What of those already within? A dedicated committee has rightly been charged with recommending a streamlined mechanism for identification, detention and deportation of illegal migrants already resident in India. States governed in alignment with the Centre's policy orientation - particularly those along the sensitive eastern frontier - are well placed to demonstrate what real political will can achieve.

Nowhere is this more evident or more overdue than in West Bengal. Decades of porous borders have allowed vast numbers of illegal immigrants to settle quietly across the state, blending into the social fabric with an ease that owes much to the absence of any language barrier. Over time, entire pockets have witnessed a demographic shift so pronounced that indigenous residents have found themselves migrating away, while illegal settlers have become the deciding electoral bloc in several assembly segments. Resources to which locals hold an absolute claim - land, water, ration entitlements, and local infrastructure - are now shared, often unequally, with those who have no legal right to be there.

None of this could have happened at scale without an enabling ecosystem. The manner in which infiltrators obtain Aadhaar cards, voter identity documents, electricity, water and gas connections points not to isolated administrative negligence but to organised syndicates of touts and complicit officials operating with calculated impunity. Some migrants have gone further, marrying into local families and putting down roots that make removal considerably more complex. This compromised ecosystem - part bureaucratic rot, part deliberate conspiracy - must be dismantled from within even as the border is tightened from without. Who are the officials, touts, and middlemen facilitating the issuance of documents for those with no entitlement to them? How deep do these syndicates run? These questions demand forensic inquiry, not conjecture, and must culminate in prosecutions rather than mere recommendations.

For decades, this flourished under the State Government of West Bengal that placed political patronage above national security. Confrontation between State and Centre meant central schemes went unimplemented and land for border fencing was withheld - the Centre's repeated requests for over a thousand acres to the Border Security Force and hundreds more for the sensitive Siliguri Corridor went unanswered for years. Transport corridors through border districts, vital for both security and commerce, suffered the same fate.

“Administrative expenses have been raised from 6 percent to 9 percent to prevent delays in salary payments and stoppages for employment assistants”: Chouhan

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): Union Minister for Rural Development, and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan participated today in a special Gram Sabha held in Loni Budruk village, Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra. Addressing the gathering of sarpanchs and Gram Panchayat members, the Union Minister outlined the key provisions of this new Act.

The entire event was streamed online nationwide. Over 6 million people, including common citizens, Self-Help Group members, farmers, and others, viewed the programme from more than 100,000 locations across the country. In his address,



Union Minister Shri Chouhan explained that the new framework solidifies workers' employment rights through a guarantee of 125 days of work. Emphasising the scheme's added benefits, he stated that this legislation strengthens MGNREGA

provisions to make the programme more robust, effective, and transparent, while introducing improved monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan further highlighted that the 'Viksit Bharat - G Ram G

Act, 2025', provides a legal guarantee not for 100, but 125 days of employment, with enhanced provisions for unemployment allowance if work is not provided. He added that under this law, wages must now be disbursed within one week.

Moreover, if payments are not made within 15 days, workers will get 0.05 per cent extra as interest on their dues. He pointed out that earlier, delays went unpunished, but now those responsible will have to pay the price for their lapses.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan elaborated that under the 'Viksit Bharat: G Ram G Act, 2025', decisions on undertaking any village-related work will now rest solely with the Gram Sabha. He stressed that works will align with the actual needs of the village —

this is the true spirit of the scheme. With this Act's implementation, villages can focus on water conservation, infrastructure development, livelihood-generating activities, and measures to mitigate natural disasters.

In his speech, the Union Minister asserted that the nation will progress only when its villages do, as India still resides in its rural heartlands. He recalled Mahatma Gandhi's words: "The village is India's soul, and the path to national prosperity runs along the ridges of our fields."

He also noted that mandating 33 percent of work for women ensures their interests are protected, with ample opportunities secured

not just in wage labour but in various other tasks as well.

Considering peak farming seasons, the Union Minister mentioned that state governments now have the authority to notify the deployment of workers for agricultural operations for a maximum of 60 days during sowing and harvesting, ensuring farmers do not face labour shortages. Shivraj Singh Chouhan added that administrative expenditure has been increased from 6 percent to 9 percent, guaranteeing no delays or halts in payments to employment assistants. He assured that necessary instructions will be issued in coordination with the states to facilitate this.

MSDE Concludes Week-long Kaushal Manthan to Shape Skilling Roadmap for 2026

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, chaired the concluding session of the week-long (23rd December 2025-31st December 2025) Kaushal Manthan, bringing together senior officials across divisions, institutions, and key stakeholders from MSDE.

The objective of the discussions held over a period of one week was to identify priority reforms and initiatives, aligned with national priorities. Deliberations focused on building a robust, responsive, and outcome-oriented skilling ecosystem. The session culminated in the firming up of Skill Resolutions for 2026, which will guide policy action and programme implementation in the coming year.

Emphasis was placed on the next phase of reforms, with a sharper focus on outcomes, stronger convergence with State Governments and industry, and improved monitoring of training quality, assessments, and certifications.

A key theme of the discussions was the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms while simplifying systems. Proposed directions include outcome-based grading mechanisms for ITIs to drive quality improve-

ment, delegation of powers to regional and institutional levels to enable ease of doing business

The reorganization and strengthening of Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) was also discussed, along with regular review of SSCs and assignment of KPIs. The deliberations highlighted the need for continuous curriculum upgradation in line with technological change and industry demand. Modernising curriculum and, strengthening industry co-creation, and ensuring flexibility and adaptability in training design were identified as key enablers for building a resilient skilling ecosystem.

Creation of clear and seamless pathways across skill levels was emphasized upon; from school to post-school, for dropouts, working professionals, and lifelong learners supported by credit frameworks and mobility across programmes.

During the recently held CS Conference MSDE had committed to establishing a National Federated Skill and Workforce Registry, operationalising a National Trainer Framework, repositioning apprenticeships as the primary school-to-work pathway, and integrating MSMEs into national skilling and apprenticeship frameworks in a time-bound manner.

The Kaushal Manthan reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment.

Indian exports shift strategy toward diversification to offset US tariff impact

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): Indian exporters have begun a strategic shift toward market diversification as a primary mechanism to counter the impact of significantly higher US tariffs and the absence of a formal trade deal. According to a report from the Bank of Baroda, this transition follows a period of rapid frontloading of shipments earlier in 2025 as businesses sought to secure cost advantages before new trade barriers took effect.

The report identifies a structural change in India's export profile, specifically highlighting two distinct phases influenced by US policy shifts. Following the US tariffs announcement on April 2, 2025, exports to the US surged by USD 6 billion during the April-August period compared to the previous year. This spike occurred while older tariff rates of 0.5 per cent to 10 per cent remained in place.

However, the environment changed on August 7 when a 25 per cent tariff rate was implemented, followed by an increase to 50 per cent on August 27. The latter included a 25 per cent penalty linked to India's status as a major buyer of Russian oil.

The report noted in the report that while the US remains a critical market, the subsequent September-November period showed a "degree of diversification with exports to the rest of the

world excluding the US picking up and some trimming down of exports to the US." The report data indicate that during this second phase, exports to the rest of the world grew to USD 89.9 billion from USD 86.2 billion in the prior year, while the US-bound shipments saw a slight moderation. This shift suggests that "the beginning of the substitution effect has already started taking shape."

Sector-specific data reveal that marine products, electronic goods, and gems and jewellery are leading this diversification. For marine products, the US market share fell by 13.6 per cent in the September-October period, while the share of exports to China and Thailand

rose to 20.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively. Similarly, electronic goods saw a sharp increase in shipments to the UAE, with its share rising to 15.3 per cent from 8.8 per cent. The report also highlights that Hong Kong has become a significant destination for gems and jewellery, with its export share reaching 11 per cent. The report emphasises that certain sectors, including readymade garments, textiles, and machinery, require further country-wise diversification to "negate the impact of any loss in output from higher tariff rates."

Average monthly exports to the US dropped to USD 5.9 billion in September-October 2025, down

from USD 8.1 billion during the April-August period.

The report concludes that while individual market shares may currently be small, a focus on "integration with global supply chains, competitive pricing and improved logistics" may help insulate the Indian economy from output losses until a formal trade agreement is established.

Indian exporters are also increasingly exploring emerging markets in West Asia, Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia to reduce excessive dependence on the US. Industry players are focusing on building new buyer networks and strengthening long-term trade relationships in these regions. The shift is

expected to encourage Indian companies to improve product competitiveness and adapt their offerings to meet different international market requirements. Exporters are also looking at value-added products and improved quality standards to gain a stronger foothold in alternative markets.

The government and industry bodies are likely to play a key role by facilitating trade delegations, supporting market research and helping exporters navigate regulatory requirements in new destinations. Such measures could accelerate the diversification process and create fresh opportunities for small and medium-sized exporters.

India Manufacturing PMI Slips to 2-Year Low in December

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): India's manufacturing sector activity witnessed the weakest improvement in the sector in two years in December on account of softer expansions in new orders, prompting firms to limit input purchases and job creation, a monthly survey said on Friday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) — an indicator of sector performance — fell from 56.6 in November to 55 in December.

In the PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Even with growth momentum easing, India's manufacturing industry wrapped up 2025 in good shape. The sharp rise in new

business intakes should keep companies busy as we head into the final fiscal quarter, and the lack of major inflationary pressures could continue to support demand," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The end of the 2025 calendar year was characterised by a loss of growth momentum across several measures tracked by the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI survey. Production growth slowed to a 38-month low amid the weakest upturn in new orders for two years.

Part of the slowdown in total sales reflected a softer increase in international orders. New export orders rose to the least extent in 14 months. Where growth was

signalled, panellists cited better demand from clients in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. "We have seen a steady spell of softer growth in new export orders. In fact, the share of companies signalling higher international sales in December was about half of the average for 2025. The survey's anecdotal evidence has also pointed to a narrower range of export destinations, with goods mainly heading to Asia, Europe and the Middle East," Lima said.

A softer increase in new business intakes prompted companies to limit the extent to which inputs were purchased. Moreover, amid a general lack of pressure on operating capacity, factory employment increased only marginally in December.

"The pace of job creation was the lowest in the current period of growth that began in March 2024," the survey said. On the price front, the survey said input costs rose at a historically negligible pace. Concurrently, the rate of 'charge inflation' eased to a nine-month low.

Going ahead, Indian goods producers foresee an increase in output during 2026 relative to present levels, but the overall sentiment level has faded to its lowest in close to three-and-a-half years. While advertising, positive demand trends and new product releases were seen as tailwinds to the outlook, some firms were concerned about competitive pressures and market uncertainty. "With Indian manufacturers facing less

intense cost pressures than elsewhere, many will be hoping that competitive pricing can help bring in new business from other regions in the new year," Lima said. S&P Global compiles the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 purchasing managers. The moderation in manufacturing activity indicates that companies entered the new year with a more cautious approach to production and inventory management. Firms remained optimistic about demand but were less aggressive in expanding capacity amid uncertainty in global markets.

Domestic demand continued to provide support to manufacturers, even as

export growth weakened. Companies reported that demand from Asian, European and Middle Eastern markets remained relatively resilient, helping offset some of the slowdown in international orders.

The survey also pointed to subdued cost pressures, which could provide some relief to manufacturers. With input prices rising only marginally, companies may have greater flexibility to maintain competitive prices and attract new customers in both domestic and overseas markets. Employment growth remained limited during the month as manufacturers adopted a wait-and-watch approach. The weaker pace of hiring suggests that firms are prioritising productivity.

SUV boom, new launches drive India's auto industry to strong finish in 2025

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): India's automobile industry entered 2026 on a strong and confident note, with several leading car manufacturers reporting solid growth and renewed momentum in calendar year 2025. Despite a year shaped by changing market conditions, customer demand picked up steadily, especially in the second half, driven by new launches, festive-season buying, and improving consumer confidence.

Luxury carmaker Audi India closed 2025 with retail sales of 4,510 units, supported by steady demand for its SUVs, performance cars, and top-end models. Vehicles such as the

Audi Q7, Q8, RS Q8 Performance, and S5 Sportback continued to attract buyers, while popular models like the Audi Q3, A4, A6, and Q5 maintained consistent traction. The company highlighted that regulatory support such as GST rationalisation and strong festive demand helped boost customer sentiment.

Looking ahead, Audi India said it is preparing for an action-driven 2026 with new launches, expanded customer engagement, and people-focused initiatives. Renault India also reported a clear turnaround in the second half of 2025, posting an 18.2 per cent year-

on-year growth in H2. The momentum strengthened from the third quarter and peaked in the fourth quarter, which saw a growth of over 27 per cent.

December 2025 emerged as one of Renault's best months, with sales rising 33.4 per cent year-on-year to 3,845 units. Skoda Auto India marked 2025 as its most successful year ever, coinciding with the brand's 25th anniversary in the country. The company recorded sales of 72,665 cars, more than doubling its volumes compared to 2024 and registering a remarkable 107 per cent growth.

Kia India ended CY2025 with total wholesale sales

of 280,286 units, reflecting a 15 per cent growth over the previous year.

The company recorded its best-ever December since inception, with sales jumping 105 per cent year-on-year to 18,659 units.

The Kia Sonet crossed the 100,000-unit sales mark for the second year in a row, underlining its strong leadership in the compact SUV segment. Kia also continued expanding its presence across India, reaching 369 cities with 821 touchpoints by the end of the year.

Mahindra & Mahindra capped off December 2025 with its highest-ever volumes in SUVs and light commercial vehicles.

BSNL launches Voice over WiFi services nationwide to connect underserved areas

New Delhi, Aug 25 (GNS): The government on Thursday announced the nationwide rollout of Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi), also known as Wi-Fi Calling, on New Year. This advanced service is now available to all BSNL customers across every telecom circle in the country, ensuring seamless and high-quality connectivity even in challenging environments, said Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), India's premier state-owned telecommunications provider.

The service is now available to BSNL customers across all telecom circles in the country. According to BSNL, the service

is particularly beneficial in rural and remote areas where mobile coverage may be limited, provided a stable Wi-Fi connection is available, including BSNL Bharat Fiber or other broadband services.

VoWiFi also helps reduce network congestion and is offered free of cost, with no additional charges for Wi-Fi calls. "VoWiFi enables customers to make and receive voice calls and messages over a Wi-Fi network, ensuring clear and reliable connectivity in areas with weak mobile signal such as homes, offices, basements, and remote locations," Ministry of Communications said in a statement.

VoWiFi is an IMS-based service that supports seamless handovers between Wi-Fi and mobile networks.

Calls are made using the customer's existing mobile number and phone dialer, without the need for third-party applications.

"VoWiFi is supported on most modern smartphones. Customers only need to enable Wi-Fi Calling in their handset settings. For device compatibility and support, customers may visit the nearest BSNL customer service centre or contact the BSNL helpline – 18001503," said the ministry.

The launch of VoWiFi is an important step in BSNL's network moderni-

sation programme and its commitment to improving connectivity across the country, especially in underserved areas, said the ministry in a statement.

The nationwide rollout is expected to improve indoor connectivity for BSNL users, particularly in locations where mobile signals are weak or inconsistent. Customers can use an available Wi-Fi connection to make calls without relying entirely on cellular network coverage. The service could be especially useful for users in rural and remote regions, where broadband connectivity may be available even when mobile network strength is limited.

Governor urges modern farming, better markets to boost turmeric farmers' income

Falaknuma News
State Bureau M.A.Samad
Nizamabad, August 25
Governor of telangana
Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla on
Tuesday called for greater
adoption of modern tech-
nology, natural farming
practices, processing, value
addition and stronger mar-
ket linkages to enhance the
incomes of turmeric farm-
ers. Addressing a farmer
interaction programme
organised at the National
Turmeric Board (NTB)
headquarters in Nizam-
abad, the Governor said the
welfare of farmers was fun-
damental to the prosperity
of both the State and the
nation. He also launched
the ‘Sunhari Mitti Abhi-

yan’ and a market linkage
programme in the pres-
ence of turmeric farmers
and felicitated outstanding
farmer organisations with
mementos.

Mr. Shukla said Nizam-
abad had earned a special
place in the country's tur-
meric sector owing to its
fertile soil and the hard
work of its farmers. The es-
tablishment of the National
Turmeric Board headquar-
ters in Nizamabad marked
a significant milestone and
fulfilled a long-standing as-
piration of turmeric farmers
in the region, he said.

The Governor said the
establishment of the Board
had been made possible
through the special initia-



tive of MP Shri Dharmapuri
Arvind and the support and
blessings of Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi. The
Prime Minister had under-
taken several initiatives to

make agriculture more re-
munerative and improve
the livelihoods of farmers,
he said. “Turmeric is not
merely an agricultural com-
modity. It is deeply inter-

twined with India’s culture,
traditions, Ayurveda, spiri-
tuality and everyday life,”
the Governor said, describ-
ing it as an important sym-
bol of India’s rich agricul-

tural heritage.
He said the objective
of the National Turmeric
Board was not merely to re-
tain India’s position as the
world’s largest turmeric pro-

ducer, but also to develop
the country into a global
hub for turmeric process-
ing and value-added prod-
ucts. Ensuring remunerative
prices for turmeric grow-
ers and strengthening the
global identity of Indian
turmeric should remain key
priorities, he said.

The Governor appreci-
ated the initiatives of the
National Turmeric Board
in providing farmers with
training in quality improve-
ment, modern agricultural
practices and post-harvest
management. Facilities
such as boilers, polishers
and mini-processing units
would help farmers and
Farmer Producer Organisa-
tions (FPOs) move towards

value addition and improve
their incomes, he said. De-
scribing the ‘Sunhari Mitti
Abhiyan’ as a forward-look-
ing initiative, Mr. Shukla
said it would promote natu-
ral farming and contribute
to export promotion.

Reducing dependence
on chemical fertilisers and
other external inputs could
help improve soil health,
protect the environment
and reduce cultivation
costs, he said. There was
growing demand in interna-
tional markets for residue-
free and high-quality tur-
meric. Greater emphasis on
quality would enable farmers
to secure better prices and
expand their access to over-
seas markets, he added.

Massive Participation Sought for Pancha Janyam Sankalpa Sabha

Falaknuma News
State Bureau M.A.Samad
Nizamabad, Aug 25
TRS minority leaders have
appealed to the people of
Nizamabad to make the
“Pancha Janyam Sankalpa
Sabha”, scheduled for Au-
gust 31, a grand success by
participating in large num-
bers. The leaders made the
appeal while addressing a
press conference in Nizam-
abad, where posters relat-
ed to the proposed meet-
ing were released. They
said the Sabha would be
held under the leadership
of TRS chief Kalvakuntla
Kavitha and would focus
on key issues concerning
the people and the future
development of Telangana.



various problems, particu-
larly relating to basic ame-
nities and development. He
called upon the people to
support the efforts aimed at
strengthening development
and social justice. TRS Na-
tional Media Spokesperson
Mohammed Ashfaq and
senior minority leader Syed
Mateen Ahmed said Ka-
vitha had a clear vision for
ensuring social justice and
improving the living stan-
dards of ordinary people.

They said the Pancha
Janyam Sankalpa Sab-
ha had been organised
around five major priori-
ties — free education, free
healthcare, employment
opportunities, farmers’
welfare and social justice.

The leaders stated that
these priorities were in-

tended to address impor-
tant concerns of students,
youth, farmers, working
people and economically
weaker sections. They said
the Sabha would also pro-
vide an opportunity to
highlight public issues and
discuss a broader vision for
welfare and development.

The minority leaders ap-
pealed to people from all
sections, party workers and
especially members of mi-
nority communities to at-
tend the August 31 meeting
in large numbers and make
it a successful public gath-
ering. Rafiq Qureshi, Mo-
hammed Shah Nawaz Khan,
Mohammed Shoaib Ali,
Mohammed Azam, Azha-
ruddin, Shoaib Ahmed and
other TRS minority leaders
were present.

Kavitha’s TRS to study impact of GO 97 on polytechnic education

Hyderabad, Aug 25 (GNS)
A day after the Telangana go-
vernment announced a high-
level committee to examine
concerns of all stakeholders,
Telangana Rakshana Sena
(TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Ka-
vitha on Tuesday, August 25,
announced the constitu-
tion of a panel to study the
continuation and necessity
of polytechnic education in
the state.

Students across the state
were protesting against the
state government’s decision
to bring polytechnic educa-
tion under the purview of
Young India Skills Univer-
sity and the newly formed
Skill Human Capital and
Knowledge Training Initia-
tives (SHAkti) department
through GO 97.

The TRS committee,
comprising educationists
and party leaders, will ex-
amine three critical areas:
preserving polytechnic
education in its current for-

mat, analysing the impacts
of GO 97, and evaluating the
potential fallout of bringing
polytechnic education un-
der SHAkti (Department of
Labour and Employment).

Kavitha has directed the
committee to submit its
report within a week. Com-
mittee members are Du-
guntla Naresh Prajapati,
Moram Veerabhadra Rao,
Surabhi, Kongara Dharani
Rani, Kotla Mahendar Red-
dy (Kanishka).

PIB Hyderabad Organises ‘VARTA’ Media Workshop on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan at Maheshwaram

Hyderabad, Aug 25 (GNS)
The Press Information Bu-
reau (PIB), Hyderabad, or-
ganised ‘VARTA’, a Media
Workshop on ‘Nasha Mukh
Bharat Abhiyaan’ (NMBA)-
Drug Free India Campaign
for media representatives at
Maheshwaram, Ranga Red-
dy District, today.

The programme was in-
augurated by Shri K. Narayana
Reddy, IPS, DCP, Mahesh-
waram Zone, along with Shri
Ravula Giridhar, IPS, Super-
intendent of Police, EAGLE
Force, Dr. Manas Krish-
nakanth, Joint Director, PIB
Hyderabad, and Smt. N.
Sharadhamma, MPDO, Ma-
heshwaram. Addressing the
gathering, Shri K. Narayana
Reddy, IPS, DCP, Mahesh-
waram Zone, said that “Drug
abuse cannot be tackled



through enforcement alone;
it requires the collective par-
ticipation of society.”

He emphasised that pre-
vention must begin within
families, educational institu-
tions and communities, with
parents, students and peers
remaining alert and sharing
timely information. Protect-
ing youth from drug abuse,

he said, is not only a law-
and-order priority but also
essential for safeguarding
their health, skills and pro-
ductivity. Shri K. Narayana
Reddy further stated that in-
itiatives such as ‘Nasha Mukh
Bharat Abhiyaan’ have be-
come a nationwide people’s
movement against drug and
substance abuse. He also

stressed the need to encour-
age such initiatives to build
a drug-free India. He urged
media personnel to dissemi-
nate verified information,
highlight the harmful effects
of substance abuse, promote
early intervention and in-
form the public about coun-
selling and rehabilitation
services. EAGLE Force high-

lights coordinated efforts to
combat drug abuse

Conducting the aware-
ness session on Nasha Mukh
Bharat Abhiyaan, Shri Ra-
vula Giridhar, IPS, Super-
intendent of Police, EAGLE
Force, Telangana, said that
drug abuse has evolved from
an individual or family con-
cern into a serious social,
law-and-order and national-
security challenge, requiring
coordinated action by all
stakeholders.

He informed that the EA-
GLE Force has seized around
8,000 kg of ganja across
Telangana since January,
while more than 30,000 po-
lice personnel and officials
from other departments
have been trained through
around 22 types of training
programmes.

Tummala Flags Rising Urea Use, Urges Fertilizer Price Rationalisation

Hyderabad, Aug 25 (GNS)
Agriculture Minister Tum-
mala Nageswara Rao stated
that the significant price
disparity among fertilizers
is driving farmers towards
urea, which is available at
a lower cost; consequently,
the inability to provide a
balanced supply of essential
nutrients to crops is nega-
tively affecting soil health.

Urea consumption in
Telangana has risen signifi-
cantly over the past few years.
Urea usage increased from 14
lakh metric tonnes in 2015-16
to 20.70 lakh metric tonnes
by 2025-26. Consumption
has notably risen due to the
high subsidies provided for
urea and DAP. Currently, the
NPK usage ratio in Telangana
stands at 12.6:4.8:1, whereas
the recommended ratio is



only 4:2:1. While a 45 kg bag
of urea is available for ap-
proximately 240-266, a 50
kg bag of DAP costs 1,350,
and a bag of 19:9:19 com-
plex fertilizer costs 1,750.
Due to this price disparity,
farmers tend to use exces-
sive amounts of urea and
DAP, often disregarding the
balanced nutrient require-
ments of their crops.

Excessive urea usage
harms soil health...

It has been observed that
farmers are applying higher-
than-recommended levels
of phosphorus and nitro-
gen to paddy crops. In the
case of maize, instead of the
recommended three bags of
urea, farmers are using any-
where from five to ten bags.
Similarly, for cotton, nitro-
gen application exceeds the
recommended dosage by
10-15%, while potash us-
age is about 30% lower than
recommended. This imbal-
anced fertilizer use leads to
deficiencies in micronu-
trients like zinc and boron
in the soil and increases
nitrogen leaching, resulting
in soil and water pollution.
Furthermore, it exacerbates
pest and disease infesta-
tions, thereby driving up
cultivation costs for farmers.

CS Jaju reviews El Niño, NEET-PG and tourism plans

Hyderabad, Aug 25 (GNS)
Chief Secretary Holds Video
Conference with District
Collectors on El Niño Im-
pact, NEET-PG Exam Ar-
rangements, and Tourism
Development State Chief
Secretary Sanjai Jaju held a
video conference with Dis-
trict Collectors on Tuesday
from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Telangana State Secretariat
to review the prevailing sea-
sonal conditions, arrange-
ments for the NEET-PG
entrance examination, and
the development of tourism
sites in the state.

Speaking on the occa-
sion, the Chief Secretary
directed District Collectors
to raise farmer awareness
regarding crop-switching
strategies in light of the El
Niño impact and to focus

on adopting new agricul-
tural practices. He inquired
about district-wise sea-
sonal conditions and the
precautionary measures
being taken to ensure the
public faces no inconve-
nience. He instructed the
Collectors to continuously
monitor weather condi-
tions and take immediate
action wherever necessary.

He emphasized the need
for effective implementa-
tion of the contingency crop
plan, formulated in antici-
pation of potential rainfall
deficits. Highlighting the
importance of crop diver-
sification, he advised offi-
cials to continuously edu-
cate farmers on cultivating
crops that require less water
and are suitable for current
weather conditions.



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Jubilee Hills Inspector suspended in case linked to Minister's former OSD

Hyderabad, Aug 25 (GNS)
Inspector of Jubilee Hills
Police Station in Hyderabad
has been suspended over
Forest and Endowments
Minister Konda Surekha's
former OSD, N. Sumanth's
case. Muttu Yadav, the In-
spector (Station House Of-
ficer) of Jubilee Hills Police
Station, faced the action
over the alleged delay in fil-
ing the First Information
Report (FIR) and failure to
trace Sumanth.

Police Commissioner V. C.
Sajjanar issued orders, sus-
pending the SHO. A depart-

mental inquiry has also been
ordered into the handling of
the case by the police.

Sumanth remained at
large in a case of alleged as-
sault on a real estate busi-
nessman. His driver was
picked up by police on Sun-
day. Sumanth and five oth-
ers were booked following a
complaint filed by the real-
tor, who alleged that he was
assaulted with iron rods and
that the accused demanded
Rs 10 crore from him. An at-
tempt to murder case was
registered against the for-
mer OSD and five others.



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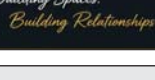
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