

Nepal floods leave 100 dead, 750 missing

Kathmandu/New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): Nearly 100 people were killed, and over 750, including 133 Indian nationals, remained missing after a massive flash flood originating in Tibet swept through central Nepal, devastating several towns and villages, washing away critical bridges, and crippling a dozen hydropower projects on Wednesday, August 26.

India has dispatched 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance for disaster relief (HADR) and essential medicines to support Nepal's response. The relief supplies included emergency items such as temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, and medicines. "Additional air effort by C-17 and C-130 aircraft will transport further relief supplies, with helicopters earmarked for rescue and evacuation operations. From the skies to the ground—respond-



ing with speed, agility, and precision, delivering hope when it matters most," the IAF posted on X. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescuers will also be sent to initiate relief and rescue operations in the affected areas of Nepal, they said. Reacting to the news of devastation coming in from the neighbouring country, President Droupadi Murmu conveyed her deepest sympathies to her Nepalese

counterpart Ramchandra Paudel and the people. "I convey my deepest sympathies to Rt Hon President Mr. Ramchandra Paudel @OOP_Nepal and the people of Nepal on the devastation caused by the flash floods today. We express our solidarity with Nepal at this difficult hour," the President said on X. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X, "Spoke to Prime Minister Balendra

Shah and conveyed condolences on the loss of life due to the floods in Nepal. The people of India stand in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Nepal at this difficult time.

In Kathmandu, officials said the flood surged through the Bhote Koshi River at around 9 am (local time), coming from the Tibetan side, affecting the Rasuwa and Dhading districts bordering Tibet and the Nuwakot district,

southwest of Kathmandu. Multiple downstream districts, including Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Chitawan, have been placed on high alert even as officials started search and rescue operations with the help of the Nepal Army in the affected areas.

The sudden rise in water caused widespread destruction in Timure in the Rasuwa district and the nearby Syafrubesi area, with vehicles, goods and other property washed away, the Nepal Army said in a statement. The most affected is Rasuwa, about 125 km north-east of Kathmandu, situated near the Tibet border.

In a statement, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRM) of Nepal called on people residing near the river banks of Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, and Gorkha to remain on high alert and take safety measures until further notice.

NDA leaders back Amit Shah's strong anti-infiltration stand



New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): Leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Wednesday welcomed the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's strong remarks on illegal infiltration, describing his position as an essential step towards safeguarding India's national security and protecting the country's interests.

Their reaction came after Union Minister Shah outlined an expansive internal security vision for the next two decades, asserting that India's ambition of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 would depend significantly on maintaining a strong and effective internal secu-

rity framework.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Intelligence Bureau's National Security Strategy Conference in New Delhi, the Union Home Minister called for proactive and coordinated measures to deal with infiltration, terrorism, narcotics trafficking and other emerging threats to the country's security. "This country is not a Dharamshala, and only the citizens of the country have the right to live in this country," he said, warning that the presence of illegal infiltrators could pose serious challenges to national security, economic stability and demographic balance.

Backing Union Minister Shah's remarks, Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Ram Kadam told IANS that the Union Home Minister had spoken in the larger interest of the country and that the issue of infiltration could not be ignored. "The Home Minister (Amit Shah) has spoken in the interest of the nation. This country is a family, and the people of this country have the primary right to it. If infiltrators come here, compromise the nation's security, usurp the rights of the local people, and fuel terrorist activities, what else can be expected?" Kadam said.

Six killed as bus rams into truck in Telangana



Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS): Six people, including five women, were killed and 20 others injured after a private bus rammed into a container truck in Telangana's Suryapet district in the early hours of Wednesday.

The accident took place on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway Dwarakunta in Kodad Mandal. The accident took place at around 4.30 a.m. when the bus, which was travelling from Hyderabad to Eluru via Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, collided with the stationary truck from behind.

Police suspect that the truck had come to a halt after hitting a road divider before the speeding bus rammed into it from behind. The impact of the collision left the front portion of the bus severely damaged. According to police, the bus was carrying 42 people. Six passengers died on the spot while 20 others were injured. The injured were shifted to government hospital at Kodad. Some of them were stated to be in critical condition.

Police rushed to the spot and launched rescue and relief operations with the help of personnel.

Three of the deceased were identified Y. Chinni

(32), B. Mary Joshna (29) and Chennakeshavulu Nagendrababu (21).

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed shock over the road accident in Suryapet district. He conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased.

The Chief Minister directed the Chief Secretary to ensure that the injured receive best medical care.

Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy expressed condolences over the death of six people in the accident.

He conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the families of the deceased. The minister directed officials to ensure that the injured receive quality medical treatment. He wished for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The transport minister said there should be no compromise on safety standards in private buses and driver alertness. He said officials must enforce stricter monitoring to ensure strict adherence to road safety regulations.

The minister advised private bus travellers and drivers to prioritise passenger safety above all else.

He instructed officials to take all necessary measures to prevent road accidents.

Annual aid of Rs 40,000 to every woman Akhilesh's electoral promise ahead of 2027 UP polls

Lucknow, Aug 26 (GNS): Ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Wednesday made several major election announcements focusing on women, including an annual financial assistance of Rs 40,000 to every woman under the 'Stri Samman Samridhhi Yojana'. SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav said that this amount would be further increased if they came to power in Uttar Pradesh.

He also promised laptops for girls who passed the 12th grade, transportation facilities for girl students, reopening 26,000 closed primary schools, and ensuring women's safety. Mainpuri MP



Dimple Yadav, referring to the "A" in the party's PDA as "half the population", said that respecting women and empowering them economically is the party's priority.

PDA stands for Pichhda (backward classes), Dalit, and Alpsankhyak (minorities), a core social coalition strategy coined by Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav. She appealed to women not to be "bound by old customs and social restrictions".

During the event, Akhilesh Yadav said that the progress of the country and the state is impossible without the participation of half the population.

He asserted that the Samajwadi Party will work for the respect, security, and economic self-reliance of women. Taking a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the SP Chief said, "Even those who do not understand technology are now talking about distributing tablets... For the

BJP, women have become merely a political slogan."

Referring to the '1090' women's helpline and the '102' ambulance service launched during the Samajwadi Party government, Akhilesh Yadav said that the party had done "concrete work" in women's safety and healthcare. He raised the issue of women's reservation, questioning the delay in implementing the Women's Reservation Act, which had already been passed.

Trump considers renaming lake ontario 'Lake America'

New Delhi/Imphal, Aug 26 (GNS): Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday met Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju in New Delhi and discussed a wide range of issues concerning the state, officials said. A senior official of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Imphal said that Khemchand Singh met Rijiju at the Union Minister's official residence in New Delhi, and the two leaders discussed various issues related to the development and welfare of Manipur.

Khemchand Singh requested the Union Minister to help the development and welfare of minority commu-



nities in the state, the official said. The Chief Minister sought help from the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs on various developmental projects. "The two leaders also discussed issues relating to the Manipur Assembly elections slated for early next year," the CMO official said. Rijiju assured Khemchand

Singh that his ministry will provide all possible help to the state. The Union Minister is a native of Arunachal Pradesh and has a close connection with Manipur. Taking to X, Union Minister Rijiju wrote: "Met with the Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh ji, in New Delhi.

Indian, Vietnam coast guards reaffirm bilateral cooperation ahead of joint exercise

Kolkata/Chennai, Aug 26 (GNS): The Indian and Vietnam Coast Guards held their 7th high-level meeting at Chennai on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

Co-chaired by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) DG Paramesh Sivamani and Major General Luong Dinh Hung, vice commandant, Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG), the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in key areas including maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), maritime law enforcement, marine pollution response and capacity building.

Both sides reviewed ongoing bilateral engagements, including



professional exchanges and ship visits, and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation and interoperability. The meeting was held under the framework of the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding on Coast Guard Cooperation. The

importance of regular institutional interactions, training programmes, professional exchanges, sharing of best practices and ship visits was emphasised during the meeting to further strengthen mutual trust, coordination and operational cooperation.

India’s strategic shift to strengthen rare earth supply chains

RAHUL SHARMA
PRADEEP KARUTURI

India has signalled a significant shift in its rare earth strategy, with the Union Cabinet approving an Rs 7,280 crore (approximately \$820 million) scheme to build 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing. This marks the country's first such initiative. The move comes as rare earths are increasingly shaping diplomatic priorities in both New Delhi and Washington, amid tightening Chinese export controls.

Over the past few weeks, the United States has signed multi-billion-dollar frame-works with Australia and announced collaborations with Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and Saudi Arabia to strengthen the rare-earth supply chain. US President Donald Trump even hosted leaders from Central Asian nations, which are home to significant rare earth deposits, signalling Washington's intent to rebuild resilience across the value chain.

Rare earth elements are not “rare” in terms of abundance; they are considered rare because separating them from one another is technically complex. These elements are present in almost every modern device – mobile phones, laptops, automobiles, medical devices, wind turbines, refineries, and even advanced defence systems. For example, an F-35 fighter jet requires more than 900 pounds (408



kilograms) of rare earth elements. China currently dominates every stage of the rare earth supply chain, not only in mining and refining but also in the technology and machinery required for separation and processing. The world's second-largest economy controls approximately 70% of global rare earth mining and over 90% of refining. It processes not only its own ore but also most of Myanmar's and nearly half of the United States’ production.

This dominance was not built overnight. Beijing has had its eye on rare earth metals for a long time, working on controlling capacities and capabilities. In 1992, former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping famously remarked that while the Middle East had oil, China had rare earths. Over the past year, China has imposed a

series of restrictions on rare earth materials, technologies, and processing equipment. These curbs have triggered temporary factory closures around the world. For example, Ford Motor Co. shut down production of its Explorer SUV in Chicago for a week due to a shortage of rare-earth magnets.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook 2025 report suggests that although rare earths represent small markets, supply disruptions could have outsized economic consequences. A mere 10% drop in rare-earth magnet exports could disrupt the production of 6.2 million cars, nearly 1 million industrial motors, 230,000 civilian aircraft, or more than 650 hyperscale AI data centres. Securing a reliable rare-earth supply chain is therefore a strategic

priority for both the United States and India.

The United States has taken decisive action to strengthen its domestic base. The government has acquired a minority stake in MP Materials, a Nevada-based company, catalysing private capital and setting a floor price for MP Materials' rare earth output, nearly double the then-prevailing market rate. These measures aim to ensure that domestic production remains viable despite global price fluctuations, while guaranteeing the purchase of magnets. Recently, two startups – Vulcan Elements and ReElement Technologies – sealed a \$1.4 billion deal with the US government and private investors to support rare earth projects.

India, too, has begun recalibrating its approach to rare earths. Until recently,

these resources were restricted by the country's atomic mineral regulations. However, the 2023 amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, has changed that. For the first time, private and foreign-linked Indian firms can now compete for government-auctioned critical mineral blocks, with the central government directly leading the process.

While the rare earth permanent magnet scheme is an important step in strengthening the country's rare earth supply chain, India must address several bottlenecks. For instance, the machinery required for rare earth separation is still largely dependent on China. Additionally, Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), under the Department of Atomic Energy, is the country's only commercial producer of Rare Earth Oxide (REO), but it produces barely 500 tonnes a year – far below the 6,000 MTPA required to support the new magnet manufacturing capacity.

Despite holding around 6% of global rare earth reserves, India accounts for less than 1% of global output, estimated at around 2,900 tonnes in 2024. Closing this gap will require a complete overhaul of the value chain, with significant investments in exploration, refining and separation capacity, metal and alloy production, and the establishment of competitive magnet manufacturing at scale.

‘Fraud-stack’ can’t be defeated by front-door surveillance

SRINATH SRIDHARAN
ANAND VENKATANARAYANAN

The story begins, as many policy panics do, with a crisis. Across government departments and regulators, senior officials are staring at charts that rise too fast and fall too slowly: scam calls sweeping the country, cyber-fraud syndicates evolving faster than enforcement, FATF sanctions architecture-driven broken-KYC loopholes spawning endless impersonations, and citizens losing money at a scale that can no longer be hidden in outdated calculations showing fraud as a small proportion of transaction volumes.

It is in this climate of urgency, and a lot of institutional embarrassment, that a dramatic proposal seems to be taking shape: to require all smartphone manufacturers to keep satellite-based location tracking permanently enabled, giving the state a clear, continuous view of a device's movements.

The logic is seductive in its simplicity. Fraudsters are elusive; precise tracking might help corner them. But desperation is a poor designer of public policy and always produces ill-effects even as a first-order effect.

For the truth is this: India's fraud crisis is grave, but redesigning every smartphone into a surveillance device is not a reme-



dy. It is an over-correction so sweeping that it risks killing the very foundations of a society in the digital era. Fraudsters do not thrive because citizens can switch off their GPS; they thrive because the enforcement ecosystem meant to catch them is running on archaic machinery. Investigative pipelines still move at analogue speed in a digital age, struggling to keep pace with criminals who operate with agility and anonymity. Inter-agency coordination is uneven, often leaving vital intelligence stranded in silos rather than stitched into actionable insight.

Compounding this are deeper structural weaknesses. Telecom distribution networks continue to harbour pockets of corruption that allow fraudulent SIMs and compromised identities to slip through the cracks. Bank officials often collude to open

bank accounts to facilitate money laundering. Cyber-policing capacity varies dramatically across states, creating uneven lines of defence, while international cooperation against cross-border fraud syndicates remains sluggish and bureaucratically heavy. Faced with this messy, multi-layered reality, it is tempting for the state to reach for a shortcut: if the plumbing is so broken that sewage floods often, why not re-engineer the whole house and the people who live in it? The problems that cripple fraud enforcement lie within systems and institutions, not in the privacy settings of ordinary citizens.

Mandating always-on A-GPS tracking would mark a radical departure from India's surveillance norms. Today, the state must request location data through telecom providers, however imperfectly. Under the proposed regime, the state would not

request: it would receive, silently, perpetually. This shifts the presumption at the heart of the Republic: from targeted scrutiny of suspects to ambient tracking of everyone.

Supporters of this idea often lean on a familiar refrain: “law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear.” But freedom to be oneself is not protected by innocence; it is protected by the ability not to be watched without cause. A country that normalises round-the-clock tracking of everyone to fight cybercrime will unleash so much distrust among people that it will destroy the already fragile societal trust within communities. And what comes after is a well-known and worn lesson of history – a transition of a society of demos into that of helots.

Mass surveillance may begin as an anti-fraud tool, but it rarely stays that way. What makes the pro-

posal more perplexing is its timing. India is simultaneously positioning itself as a global force in ethical digital governance: championing data localisation, exporting India Stack, and enacting privacy legislation, at least in aspiration.

How then does a nation present itself as a guardian of user data on the world stage, while considering a policy that would harvest the clearest, most intimate data of all—one's physical movements without pause or consent? Even China, despite its expansive surveillance apparatus, does not publicly mandate always-on, hardware-level location tracking on every smartphone. To adopt it would make India a global outlier—for reasons that diminish rather than enhance its digital credibility. A credible response to fraud demands strengthening the state's capabilities and not simultaneously shrinking citizens' rights to non-existence. That means building modern cyber-forensics units, enabling real-time fraud-intelligence sharing between banks, fintechs and telecom companies, and re-imagining KYC given its now well-documented failures when stress-tested by fraudsters at scale. It also requires cleansing corruption within telecom and banking distribution chains, where weak points often become entry gates for fraudulent identities.

VB-GRAM-G 2025

India has embarked on a new chapter in rural development with the passage of the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), 2025 (VB-GRAM-G, 2025), which replaces the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005. The new law, having received Presidential assent, is scheduled for implementation across the country in FY 2026-27, marking a visionary shift from employment guarantee to a mission-oriented model of comprehensive rural transformation.

As someone closely observing rural governance in Kishtwar district, I view this change as a turning point for our region. Kishtwar – the largest district of Jammu & Kashmir in terms of area, covering 7,824 sq km – is home to 13 CD Blocks, 136 Gram Panchayats (GPs) & 156 Revenue Villages. Its rugged mountains, dispersed settlements and limited connectivity have long posed formidable challenges to infrastructure creation and equitable growth. The launch of VB-GRAM-G offers a real opportunity to bridge these enduring gaps. Under the new framework, rural households will be entitled to 125 person-days of wage employment per financial year, providing a stronger livelihood safety net within their own Gram Panchayat. A notable innovation is the 60-day pause for agricultural activity, allowing rural workers to engage in their farming seasons without losing guaranteed employment benefits. This flexibility reflects a responsive policy design, aligning rural employment with the rhythm of local agrarian cycles-a long-standing demand of our farming communities.

Kishtwar's rural landscape faces a significant infrastructure deficit, with many villages lacking adequate schools, roads and public amenities. The new scheme's design includes wide-ranging infrastructure creation – from additional classrooms and laboratories in rural schools to playgrounds, compound walls and kitchen sheds. There are 712 schools across our rural areas, many housed in old or temporary structures; this scheme could dramatically uplift the education infrastructure and learning environment. Water scarcity is one of Kishtwar's chronic issues. VB-GRAM-G prioritizes water conservation, watershed development, groundwater recharge and rejuvenation of water bodies, interventions critical to sustaining agriculture and livelihoods in our hilly terrain. Afforestation and eco-restoration components promise both climate resilience and ecosystem stability, especially in snow-fed but water-insecure villages.

VB-G-RAM-G includes special provisions for disaster-prone districts like Kishtwar, emphasizing works to mitigate extreme weather events such as glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and cold waves. These align with the scheme's four thematic domains, integrating Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans with PM Gati Shakti for climate-resilient assets. Beyond wages, the scheme emphasizes productive and livelihood-oriented assets-a welcome step toward self-reliant rural economies. It envisions the construction of training cum-skill development centres, rural haats, storage facilities, cold chains and market infrastructure for agricultural produce. Dedicated provisions for livestock shelters, dairy and fisheries infrastructure and compost units will diversify income sources, empowering Self Help Groups, youth and marginal farmers. These interventions will sow the seeds of entrepreneurship and rural enterprise. Habitations like Marwah, Warwan, Dachhan, Bunjwah, Padder and Kuntwara, which often face geographic isolation and limited access to UT services, will greatly benefit from solar lighting, boarder infrastructure and library development works envisioned under the scheme. Such focused interventions will bring educational, economic and technological inclusion to even the remotest corners of Kishtwar.

A defining hallmark of VB-GRAM-G is its digital governance ecosystem. The scheme integrates biometric authentication, GPS-based work monitoring, real-time MIS dashboards, and AI-powered planning, audits and fraud detection. The use of geo-spatial tools under PM Gati Shakti, combined with Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans, will enable data-driven, saturation based planning. This will strengthen accountability, transparency and citizen participation at every administrative tier.

Implementation will rest with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, with experienced JKAS officers playing a central role. The scheme also envisages recognition and promotion pathways for officers handling complex developmental programmes, which will professionalize service delivery and motivate performance at the grassroots. The VB-GRAM-G, 2025 mission represents more than just a rebranded employment scheme-it is a composite framework for inclusive growth, local empowerment and digital-era governance. For Kishtwar, it holds the promise of reducing developmental disparity, boosting infrastructure creation, generating wage security and nurturing environmental sustainability.

With its emphasis on convergence, technology and local capacity-building, this initiative can lay the foundation for a self-reliant, equitable and vibrant Kishtwar-truly in step with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Missile boost : Quality control must remain top priority

INDIA has taken a major step towards indigenous production of conventional missile systems. The government's decision to transfer technologies developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to eligible Indian industries is aimed at closing the gap between developing advanced weapons and manufacturing them at scale. The development is expected to put the country on track to build a stronger and more self-reliant defence manufacturing base.

The government has made it clear that the transfer of technology will not mean unrestricted production. Companies will have to meet applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements. The Ministry of Defence has not yet specified which missile systems will be opened for private production, even as reports have indicated that Akash, Astra and Nag could potentially benefit. The broader objective is nevertheless clear: DRDO-developed technologies must move efficiently from laboratories and testing ranges to factories capable of producing reliable systems in substantial numbers. Greater private-sector participation can expand manufacturing capacity, encourage competition and create opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises across the supply chain. This is particularly important because missile manufacturing extends well beyond final assembly. Propulsion, electronics, guidance systems, sensors and other specialised components require a robust industrial ecosystem. A larger domestic supplier network can increase indigenous value addition while reducing dependence on imported components. The private sector accounted for 24% of India's defence production in 2025-26, up from 22% in the previous financial year. However, technology transfer alone will not guarantee success. Shorter development-to-production timelines and simpler manufacturing processes can make a big difference. Above all, there must be no compromise on quality control, particularly for systems on which national security depends.

The move is also expected to strengthen the government's broader Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence. By enabling Indian companies to access proven DRDO technologies, the policy could reduce duplication of research efforts and help industries focus on manufacturing, integration and product improvement. Increased participation from domestic firms could also generate skilled employment in areas such as aerospace engineering, electronics, precision manufacturing and advanced materials. Collaboration between DRDO, established defence companies, startups and MSMEs could further support innovation and improve the competitiveness of Indian defence products. The initiative may also enhance India's ability to respond quickly to future security requirements. A wider industrial base with multiple qualified manufacturers can provide greater production flexibility and help build adequate stocks of critical defence systems during emergencies. The success of the technology-transfer programme will ultimately depend on effective implementation, transparent selection of industry partners and strong quality assurance. If these elements are maintained, the initiative could mark an important step towards making India a major hub for indigenous defence manufacturing and reducing reliance on foreign suppliers.

Technology to drive space, economic transformation in India: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): Technology is acting as the central force behind space and economic transformation in the country, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology on Friday. Addressing a press conference on the achievements of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2025, the Minister said innovation-driven sectors such as space, oceans, biotechnology, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing will lead India's growth over the next two decades.

“India's reform express is being driven by science, technology, and innovation, with technology acting as the

central force behind governance, administration, and economic transformation,” Singh said. Singh said that every major reform undertaken by the government, across departments and ministries, is enabled by technology.

“This transformation has been possible due to the consistent prioritisation of science, technology, and innovation in national policy-making,” the Minister said.

The Minister underscored flagship missions such as Deep Ocean Mission and Gaganyaan, stating that “India is preparing simultaneously for human spaceflight and deep-sea exploration”.

He said that while an Indian astronaut will venture into outer space, India will also send a human-occupied

submersible to depths of up to 6,000 metres, marking a historic dual achievement in 2027. He also highlighted the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore, under which the government is directly supporting private sector R&D; and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) aimed at democratizing research funding.

Singh also mentioned initiatives such as the National Quantum Mission, NIDHI, PRERNA / PURSE, and the VAIBHAV programme, aimed at strengthening startups, research infrastructure and global scientific collaboration, including structured engagement with the Indian scientific diaspora. Detailing CSIR's contributions,

the Minister cited globally relevant innovations including steel-slag-based durable roads, indigenous paracetamol production, India's first indigenous antibiotic Nafithromycin, sustainable food innovations such as millet-based products, and the HANSA-NG two-seater trainer aircraft developed under a PPP model. He described these efforts as examples of “foreign markets accepting Swadeshi innovation”. Public outreach initiatives like One Day as a Scientist were also highlighted for fostering scientific temper among students.

On the Earth Sciences front, the Minister said India has made significant advances in weather forecasting through IMD's Nowcasting

capability, enabling accurate three-hour predictions. He also highlighted the desalination plant in Lakshadweep as a global model for sustainable freshwater generation using ocean resources, alongside progress in ocean energy, marine observation systems, and climate resilience.

Concluding, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India has moved from being an importer to an exporter of high-end technologies, including vaccines and medical devices, with India's bioeconomy emerging as a major growth driver. “The best is yet to come,” he said, adding that science-led reforms will accelerate India's journey towards becoming a top global economy well before 2047.

The Minister said the gov-

ernment is focusing on creating a stronger ecosystem for research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Greater co-operation between government institutions, academia and industry is expected to help convert scientific discoveries into commercially viable technologies and products.

He noted that emerging fields such as biotechnology, artificial intelligence, quantum technology and clean energy have the potential to create new economic opportunities while addressing major national challenges. The government is encouraging young researchers and startups to contribute to these areas through dedicated funding and support programmes.

India's forex reserves rise by \$3.2 bn to \$696.6 bn

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): Continuing an upward trend, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$3.293 billion to \$696.610 billion in the week ended December 26, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

In the previous week, as reported by the central bank, the country's foreign exchange reserves had risen by \$4.368 billion.

According to RBI data, in the week ended December 26, the value of foreign currency assets (FCAs), the largest component of the reserves, increased by \$184 million to \$559.612 billion. Gold reserves registered a sharp rise of \$2.956 billion to \$113.320 billion. The increase in gold reserves was attributed to a surge in international gold prices during the period.

Meanwhile, the value of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) increased by \$60 million to \$18.803 billion. The reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also rose by \$93 million to \$4.875 billion. A country's foreign exchange reserves are a key indicator of economic health and play a crucial role in maintaining exchange rate stability.

The rise in reserves also reflects the central bank's efforts to manage liquidity and ensure stability in the foreign exchange market. The RBI has stated that it closely monitors develop-

ments in the forex market and intervenes when necessary to maintain orderly market conditions.

Such interventions are aimed at reducing excessive volatility in the rupee's movement and are not linked to any fixed exchange rate target.

The latest increase in reserves was also supported by the RBI's USD/INR buy-sell swap auction worth \$5 billion, conducted on December 16 to inject liquidity into the banking system.

Under the swap arrangement, banks sold US dollars to the central bank in exchange for rupees and agreed to buy back the same amount of dollars at the end of the swap period. The transaction was settled on December 18, contributing to the overall reserve position.

The steady rise in foreign exchange reserves comes amid strong capital inflows into the country, with India witnessing a notable increase in foreign direct investment commitments during the current financial year.

The latest increase strengthens India's external financial position and provides an important cushion against global economic uncertainties. Higher reserves give the country greater capacity to meet external payment obligations and manage sudden shifts in international capital flows.

Coal production up 5.75 pc in Dec, dispatches also surge: Govt

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): The government on Friday said that coal output and dispatches from captive and commercial mines recorded steady growth in the month of December. The coal production stood at 19.48 million tonnes (MT) during this period, while coal dispatches during the month were recorded at 18.02 MT. This represents a year-on-year increase of 5.75 per cent in production compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

During the third quarter (Q3) of FY 2025–26, cumulative coal production from Captive and Commercial mines reached 54.14 mil-

lion tonnes (MT), with dispatches recorded at 50.61 MT. The quarter registered a year-on-year growth of 5.35 per cent in production, reflecting sustained operational momentum across the sector, said the Ministry of Coal. Cumulatively, for the financial year 2025–26 up to December, the sector has demonstrated robust performance, with coal production registering a year-on-year increase of 9.72 per cent and dispatches rising by 6.98 per cent compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

“These encouraging trends reflect improved

operational efficiency and more effective utilisation of mining capacity across the sector. The Ministry attributes the sector's improved performance to a series of strategic policy measures, rigorous monitoring and consistent support to stakeholders,” it noted.

These efforts have been instrumental in expediting operational approvals and expanding production capacities, thereby contributing significantly to the growth in coal output and dispatches. The ministry said it remains focused on creating a stable and performance-driven environment for captive.

India's nominal GDP growth to improve to 11 pc in FY27

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): India's nominal GDP growth is expected to improve to about 11 per cent in FY27 with real growth at 7.2 per cent, driven by domestic credit-led consumption and policy support, a report said on Friday.

The report from SBI Mutual Fund said that it is "constructive on growth" in the medium term with structural reforms and premiumisation driving the outlook, though global slowdown and geopolitics remain key risks. Real GDP growth in FY26 averaged 8 per cent year-on-year in the first half while nominal growth was subdued

at 8.8 per cent. The fund house expected inflation to mean-revert to about 4 per cent in FY27, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) likely to keep policy on a long pause unless global growth deteriorates.

The mutual fund highlighted recent liquidity measures including a Rs 2 trillion Open Market Operations (OMO) round and a \$10 billion buy-sell swap in mid-January.

"Rural spending outlook is modestly positive as welfare measures and low inflation mitigate the kharif income setback.

A positive development of India-US trade deal could

only be mildly positive for growth outlook as the country still faces stiff competition from rising dominance in Chinese exports," the report noted. Fiscal deficit is projected to ease to 4.2 per cent in FY27 from a likely 4.4 per cent in FY26, though state deficits remain elevated. Government bond supply could rise to Rs. 29 trillion, keeping demand-supply dynamics tight.

The rupee's near 5 per cent depreciation in 2025 was attributed to hedging demand that has pushed up forward premiums in India and driven the Indian fixed income yields higher too, the report noted.

New PLI approvals to deepen value chains in components manufacturing: Industry

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): The industry on Friday welcomed the approval of 22 new proposals under the third tranche of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) by the government, saying that it marks a decisive inflection point in India's journey towards deep manufacturing and the creation of globally competitive Indian champions in electronics components. With this tranche, the total number of ECMS-approved projects rises to 46, taking cumulative approved investments to over Rs 54,500 crore. Earlier tranches saw seven projects worth Rs 5,532 crore approved on October 22 and 17 projects amounting to Rs 7,172 crore on November 17. The rapid scale-up across tranches underscores the strong industry response and the growing confidence in India's components manufacturing vision.

“The approval of the third tranche under the ECMS sets a powerful new trajectory for India's electronics manufacturing journey. Starting the New Year with investments of this scale and strategic depth is deeply encouraging and sends an unambiguous message that India is taking definitive strides towards deep, value-driven manufacturing,” said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

ECMS is accelerating the creation of Indian champions in components, strengthening domestic value chains, and position-

ing India as a trusted and indispensable partner in global electronics supply networks. “This momentum reflects strong global confidence in India's policy vision and reinforces our shared commitment to building a globally competitive, self-reliant electronics ecosystem,” he mentioned. According to MeitY, the 22 projects approved in the third tranche alone are expected to generate production worth Rs 2,58,152 crore and create 33,791 direct jobs. Notably, this single tranche more than doubles the combined projected production value of Rs 1,09,517 crore from the first two tranches, reflecting the accelerating momentum and maturing depth of India's electronics components ecosystem, according to ICEA.

The latest approvals span 11 critical product segments that serve mobile phones, telecom equipment, consumer electronics, automobiles, IT hardware, and strategic electronics. These include five core components such as printed circuit boards (PCBs), capacitors, connectors, enclosures, and lithium-ion cells; three advanced sub-assemblies including camera modules, display modules, and optical transceivers; and three key supply-chain inputs such as aluminium extrusion, anode material, and laminates.

Together, these categories address some of the most import-intensive and strategically vital layers of the

High-level panel takes up proposals of foreign banks to expand operations in India

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): An Inter-Departmental Committee, headed by the Union Secretary, Financial Services, M. Nagaraju, met here on Friday to consider the proposals of foreign banks wanting to set up branches in India. The meeting was attended by officials of the member ministries, including Home Affairs and External Affairs, as well as the Department of Commerce and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The meeting was convened to consider proposals received from the RBI in respect of foreign banks keen on opening their branches, representative offices and

subsidiaries in India, according to an official statement issued after the meeting.

During the meeting, after due deliberations, the Committee recommended the proposals placed before it, the statement said.

IDC is a committee wherein the Department of Financial Services (DFS), as the nodal Department, evaluates proposals received from foreign and domestic banks. Before reaching a consensus, the committee consults the proposal with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Department of Commerce, seeking their inputs in the matter from security, politi-

India's exports defy tariffs, post record trade growth in 2025

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): The Indian exports "defied global tariffs" in 2025, with policy support, trade pacts and digital tools, a new report has said. The report from Times Kuwait said that India achieved record trade growth in 2025 despite US' tariffs aimed at "pressuring nations pursuing economic sovereignty." Landmark agreements such as the India-UK CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), India-Oman CEPA, and India-EFTA TEPA (Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) have diversified market access and reduced customs duties. Further, it facilitated collaboration in sectors including renewable energy, AI, Information and Communications Technology

(ICT), and EVs, the report noted. It said the diversification of markets and stronger institutional support have reduced India's strategic dependence on any single trade partner.

"India's trade resilience lessens the strategic need for a dedicated India US trade deal, as the country has diversified markets, upgraded its export basket with manufacturing and technology-intensive goods, and expanded high-value global linkages," the media house said. Total merchandise and services exports reached \$825.25 billion in 2024–25, up 6.05 per cent year-on-year, while exports in the first half of FY26 (April–September 2025) rose to \$418.91 billion up 5.86 per cent, marking a re-

cord high for any half-year period. Non-petroleum exports climbed to \$374.32 billion, up 6.07 per cent.

Key sectors driving growth include electronics, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, marine products, and rice, with major export destinations spanning the UAE, China, Spain, and Hong Kong, it said.

Partnerships with ASEAN nations like the Philippines and Thailand have deepened regional integration and created new export opportunities. Domestic initiatives, such as the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), provided financial and non-financial support, including credit guarantees, trade finance, compliance assistance, and international branding. Digital transformation

initiatives, including Trade eConnect and the Trade Intelligence & Analytics (TIA) portal, have enhanced trade facilitation and data-driven insights, it noted.

The report said the expansion of India's export markets has helped businesses reduce exposure to fluctuations in demand from individual countries. Greater engagement with emerging markets is also creating opportunities for Indian manufacturers and service providers to build long-term international partnerships. The electronics sector has emerged as an important contributor to export growth, supported by rising domestic manufacturing capacity and integration into global supply chains.

SEBI bars 26 traders for price manipulation in DU Digital Global shares

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken strict action against alleged price manipulation in the shares of DU Digital Global, a company listed on the SME platform. The market regulator has barred 26 individuals from trading in the securities market after finding that they were involved in artificially inflating the stock price. In a detailed 142-page order, Sebi has directed the individuals to return illegal gains amounting to more than Rs 98.78 lakh. In addition, it has imposed monetary penalties totalling Rs 1.85 crore. The regulator's

action follows an investigation into an unusually sharp rise in the share price of DU Digital Global, which jumped from around Rs 12 in August 2021 to a peak of Rs 296.05 in November 2022. According to the market regulator, the steep rise in the stock price was not supported by the company's business performance or any positive corporate announcements.

The regulator noted that there was no legitimate reason for the share price to surge by about 2,467 per cent within a year. The investigation found that a group of connected traders had used deceptive and

coordinated trading strategies to create artificial demand and trading volumes in the stock. SEBI observed that such practices, including synchronised and circular trades, serve no genuine economic purpose and are aimed only at misleading investors by manipulating prices. SEBI also pointed out that some of the individuals involved had faced regulatory action in earlier cases, indicating a repeated pattern of market misconduct.

The regulator said that when connected entities manipulate stock prices in this manner, ordinary investors ultimately suffer losses.

Emphasising the need to protect investors and maintain trust in the SME segment, SEBI said strong regulatory action is necessary to deter such behaviour and preserve the integrity of the securities market.

The trading ban imposed on the 26 individuals will remain in force for periods ranging from one year to 30 months. DU Digital Global, earlier known as DU Digital Technologies, was listed on the NSE's SME platform in August 2021. SEBI said the case highlights the risks of price manipulation in smaller and less liquid stocks and the importance of investor caution.

KYV discontinued for cars on new FASTag issued after Feb 1: NHAI

New Delhi, Aug 26 (GNS): The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Thursday announced to discontinue the Know Your Vehicle (KYV) process for cars for all new FASTag issuances, with effect . This is a major step to enhance public convenience and eliminate post-activation harassment faced by highway users of cars, jeeps and vans. “This reform will bring significant relief to lakhs of common road users who were facing inconvenience and delays after FASTag activation due to post-issuance KYV requirements, despite having valid vehicle documents,” said the Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways in a statement. For existing FASTags already issued to cars, KYV will no longer be mandatory as a routine requirement.

KYV will be required only in specific cases where complaints are received, such as issues related to loose FASTags, incorrect issuance, or misuse. In the absence of any complaint, no KYV will be required for existing car FASTags.

To ensure accuracy, compliance, and system integrity while simplifying the process for users, NHAI has simultaneously strengthened pre-activation validation norms for Issuer Banks.

Telangana Sports University Signs MoU with South Korea's KNSU

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday announced that the Young India Physical Education & Sports University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Korea's Korea National Sport University (KNSU). The partnership aims to strengthen high-performance sports education, athlete development, sports science, and coaching standards in Telangana.

Sharing the announcement on X, the Chief Minister described the agreement as a significant milestone in connecting Telangana's sporting talent with global best practices. He recalled his earlier visit to South Korea, where he met KNSU President Moon Won-Jae and other senior officials to discuss collaboration between the two institutions.

Revanth Reddy highlighted KNSU's outstanding contribution to South Korea's sporting achievements, noting that athletes trained at the university won 16 of the country's 32 medals at the Paris Olym-



pics. He expressed confidence that Telangana could adopt the same culture of excellence to nurture world-class athletes. Calling the partnership "more than just an MoU," the Chief Minister said it would create new opportunities for aspiring sportspersons in the state through advanced training methods, sports science, and international exposure.

He also appreciated Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, officials of the Sports Ministry, and the Young India Sports University for their efforts in making the

collaboration possible.

Looking ahead, Revanth Reddy said Telangana is committed to preparing athletes capable of excelling at the highest international level as India sets its sights on the 2036 Olympics. He emphasized that the state's vision is not only to support India's Olympic ambitions but also to produce athletes who will bring pride to the nation. "From our villages and towns to the Olympic podium, Telangana is preparing for the journey. Young India. Sporting India," the Chief Minister said.

Telangana HC dismisses appeal seeking to halt criminal case

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) A land dispute between two farmers in Shamirpet has ended up defining the limits of a specific route of appeal before the Telangana High Court, after a division bench ruled that an appeal seeking to effectively halt a criminal case cannot be filed under the "letters patent" mechanism, a colonial-era provision that lets a person appeal a single judge's order to a two-judge bench of the same court, but only within a defined set of circumstances. Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin dismissed the appeal filed by 67-year-old farmer Kadannagari Babu, holding that what he was really asking for, which was a declaration wiping out the criminal case against him, amounted to seeking quashing of criminal proceedings.

The relief falls outside what such an appeal is meant to cover. The case began when another farmer, Kadannagari Munu Swamy, accused Babu of trespassing onto his land, damaging property and threatening him. Acting on Munu Swa-



my's complaint, Shamirpet Police registered a criminal case and eventually filed a charge sheet in court. Babu first went to a single judge of the High Court, seeking a declaration that the case against him was illegal, arbitrary and violated his rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. He maintained that the real dispute was a civil one, already the subject of litigation before a trial court, and alleged that Munu Swamy was using the criminal case as leverage to pressure him into a compromise in that civil matter.

The single judge did not go as far as quashing the case but did direct police to refrain from taking any coercive action against Babu unless they followed due legal process. Unsatis-

fied with only that protection, Babu took the matter further, filing the present appeal before the division bench. Babu's counsel argued that what a petition is called should not determine whether an appeal against it is allowed, relying on a Supreme Court ruling on this point, and separately cited a Punjab and Haryana High Court precedent involving preventive detention where a similar appeal had been allowed despite the case having criminal overtones.

The state's Home Department, represented by government pleader Mahesh Raju, along with counsel for Munu Swamy, opposed the appeal, arguing that Babu was, in substance, asking the court to quash the first information report (FIR) and the case built on it.

Armed action for Telangana Rising Global Summit-2026

A special war room has been set up for the 'Invest Telangana' conference

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) To attract investments... roadshows, publicity programs at domestic and international levels: Deputy CM Bhatti Wickremarka

A ministerial subcommittee meeting was held at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju and others participated in this meeting.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka ordered the officials to speed up the arrangements for the 'Telangana Rising Global Summit-2026-Invest Telangana' conference to be held



in December with the aim of further strengthening Telangana as a world-class investment destination. He clarified that all arrangements necessary for the success of the summit should be completed in a coordinated manner within a specific time frame.

The Deputy CM ordered to set up a special war room

in Praja Bhavan immediately for the management of the summit. He suggested that the responsibility of continuously monitoring the summit arrangements should be taken firmly to continue the war room activities under the leadership of the senior officer. They want to use the war room as a focal point for coordina-

tion between different departments and committees.

Invitation documents were ordered to be sent to the domestic and international representatives, industrialists and investors attending the 'Invest Telangana' conference without any delay. It is suggested to speed up the process of invitations and pay special

attention to bring a large number of leading industrialists and investors to the conference. A comprehensive analysis should be done on the progress of the understanding agreements reached in the previous global summits. For this purpose, a special committee has been formed and ordered to review the implementation status of MOUs and the progress of investments.

In order to introduce the investment opportunities in Telangana to the world, extensive roadshows should be organized domestically and internationally, and publicity programs should be made to attract investors in large numbers.

Milad-un-Nabi processions held across Hyderabad amid tight security



Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) Milad-un-Nabi processions are being taken out in various parts of Hyderabad, especially the Old City, on Wednesday, August 26. Meanwhile, the Markazi Milad Juloos Committee has made arrangements for the main Milad procession.

The main procession commenced after Zohar prayers from the historic Makkah Masjid and will move through Gulzar Houz, Madina Building, Salar Jung Museum, Darul Shifa, Purni Haveli, Kotla Alijah and Bibi Bazaar. The procession will end near Volta Hotel.

Earlier, Hyderabad Police had made it clear that there will be a complete ban on DJs and bike rallies for Milad-un-Nabi, and anyone engaged in them will face strict action. Hyderabad City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar emphasised that the rally must conclude within the stipulated timeframe. He stated that under no circumstances would violations such as minors driving vehicles, triple-riding on bikes, or rash driving with modified silencers be tolerated.

In view of the Milad-un-Nabi festival, the government declared a holiday

for schools, educational institutions and government offices in Hyderabad and other districts of Telangana. It may be noted that this year, Milad-un-Nabi and Ganesh processions did not coincide, as happened in the last two years.

In 2024 and 2025, the Markazi Milad Juloos Committee postponed the Milad-un-Nabi processions in Telangana as the date coincided with Ganesh idol immersions. This year, Milad-un-Nabi falls on August 26, while Ganesh processions in Hyderabad are scheduled for September.

Telangana activists seek transparency in SIR notice process



Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) A group of civil society organisations and social activists has written to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana and all District Election Officers in the state, demanding stricter monitoring of how Forms 6, 7 and 8 are being processed during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The appeal, signed by 17 activists and organisations including SQ Masood of ASEEM, Meera Sangamitra of the National Alliance of People's Movements, Khalida Parveen and Rachana Mudraboyina of Hum Is Desh Wasi, asks authorities to ensure no voter is struck

off the rolls over unverified or politically motivated objections filed through Form 7, which is used to seek deletion of names.

The signatories said Forms 6 and 8, used respectively for fresh registration and correction of entries, were at risk of rejection without proper verification or adherence to prescribed procedure, and called on officials to guard against this.

A central demand in the appeal is that authorities stop issuing notices over what the group called "minor anomalies" in names and ages, arising from mismatches between the 2002 electoral data and current rolls.

Hyd police warn against hybrid cyber fraud targeting senior citizens

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Wednesday warned citizens about a new form of hybrid cyber fraud involving mobile phone theft and subsequent theft of money from victims' bank accounts.

Cybercrime investigations revealed that organised gangs were mainly targeting senior citizens and people with limited knowledge of technology,

Sajjanar said in a release here. Three suspects have been arrested and five mobile phones recovered, he said. The gangs reportedly identify victims at bus stations, railway stations, crowded RTC buses and other public places and observe their screen lock patterns, PINs or passwords before stealing their phones, he said. The Commissioner said the accused later pose as bus conductors, drivers or good



Samaritans when victims call the stolen phones and trick them into revealing screen lock passwords. After unlock-

ing the devices, the criminals search messages, WhatsApp chats, galleries and notes for banking and identity details. Using stolen SIM cards and OTPs, they reset banking passwords and UPI PINs and transfer funds from victims' accounts, he said.

The stolen money is allegedly routed through digital wallets, online gaming platforms and mule accounts before being withdrawn, he

said. Sajjanar urged citizens 'not to share screen lock passwords, OTPs or UPI PINs' and advised them against storing photographs of bank cards, Aadhaar, PAN cards and other sensitive documents on their phones. Victims of phone theft should immediately block the SIM card, contact their banks to freeze digital banking services and block the handset through the CEIR portal, he added.

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Krishnaiah seeks DSC notification to fill 34,000 teacher vacancies

Hyderabad, Aug 26 (GNS) Rajya Sabha MP and National BC Welfare Association president R Krishnaiah has urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to immediately issue a DSC notification to fill around 34,000 vacant teacher posts across government, aided, residential, model and Kasturba schools in Telangana.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Krishnaiah said more than 14,000 teacher posts were vacant in government schools alone, affecting the teaching of English, Mathematics and Science in

around 14,000 schools and contributing to declining student enrolment. He said vacancies included 5,900 in aided schools, 9,000 in SC/ST/BC/Minority residential schools, 3,000 in Model Schools and 1,500 in Kasturba schools. He urged the government to fill all posts through regular appointments instead of relying on guest and part-time teachers. Krishnaiah said around 16 lakh B.Ed. and D.Ed. qualified unemployed youth could be utilised to strengthen the education system.

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