

CM Revanth Reddy reviews Mir Alam Tank tourism development



Hyderabad, Aug 27 (GNS): The Telangana government envisaged a big plan for the makeover of the famous Mir Alam Tank with modern facilities aiming to promote the historical site as one of the best Tourist hubs. Under the plan, new facilities are being developed to upgrade the tank as a prominent tourism and recreation hub for the visiting families who spend the day enjoying nature, entertainment, and relaxation.

Chief Minister Sri A Revanth Reddy conducted a surprise inspection of Mir Alam Tank on Thursday and reviewed the ongoing development works with officials. The Chief Minister inspected the progress of the works around the tank and the construction of the iconic suspension bridge over the tank. Officials briefed the CM on the progress of the projects in a photo presentation.

The CM enquired the officials about the status of the various works and directed them to complete the project within a stipulated time frame. The Musi

Rejuvenation Development Corporation Limited has taken up the works at the Mir Alam Tank where the works are being taken up in 3key aspects- rejuvenation of the tank, development of the surrounding areas with islands and the construction of the iconic bridge.

During the visit, the CM also instructed officials to take robust measures to prevent sewage from flowing into the Mir Alam Tank and suggested widening the drainage channels (nalas) to ensure the smooth flow of floodwater from the lake into the Musi River. The Chief Minister stressed that focus should be more on improving water quality alongside the lake's rejuvenation.

CM Revanth Reddy directed the officials to formulate development plans to introduce water sports at Mir Alam Lake. Exploring the possibilities of boating, water sports and adventure activities by adhering to necessary technical, environmental, and safety standards was discussed in the meeting.

NEPAL FLOOD: India to mobilise bailey bridges to assist relief and rescue efforts

New Delhi, Aug 27 (UND): The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that India will send Bailey bridges to assist Nepal in the rescue and relief efforts after flash floods swept through the Himalayan nation on Wednesday, killing hundreds of people and causing widespread devastation.

Addressing a press briefing on the Nepal disaster in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India sent 47.5 tonnes of relief material to Nepal through two aircraft.

"Two aircraft with humanitarian assistance have been sent to Kathmandu. A C-130J aircraft took off yesterday at around 8:30 pm, carrying 10 tonnes of relief material, including temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, medicines, etc. And then this morning, a



C-17 aircraft departed with 37.5 tonnes of supplies, comprising 28.5 tonnes of relief items such as tents, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, dewatering pumps, kitchen sets, gensets etc, eight tonnes of medicines, and one tonne of food items," said Jaiswal on the relief assistance sent by

India to Kathmandu. "In total, across the two departures by air, India has sent 47.5 tonnes of emergency supplies aimed at supporting Nepal's ongoing rescue and relief operations. Let me say that further assistance is also being considered. We are also mobilising Bailey bridges to assist

in rescue and relief efforts," he added. Jaiswal stated that MEA has set up a control room which will operate round the clock and is in touch with the state governments from where people have travelled for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

"We have set up a control room here in the Min-

istry of External Affairs, which will function round the clock. Details of the helpline and the control room telephone numbers are being put out on our X handle, and you should be getting them soon. Our embassies in both Kathmandu and Beijing have also set up 24/7 helplines.

We have also been in touch with the state governments from where people have travelled on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. We have also been in touch with them through the Ministry of Home Affairs."

The massive flood, originating in the Tibetan region of China, swept through the transboundary Bhote Koshi River, leaving a trail of destruction in Nepal.

The death toll from Wednesday's tragic Bhote Koshi floods has reached 270, with bodies still being recovered from several downstream districts, Nepal Police confirmed on Thursday afternoon.

The highest number of bodies, 108, was recovered from Chitwan district in the southern plains, followed by 62 from Nawalparasi East, 27 from Dhading and 17 from Rasuwa, according to the police.

Gyanesh Kumar Urges Youth to Promote Electoral Literacy

Chennai, Aug 27 (GNS): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday called upon young and first-time voters to uphold democratic values, make informed electoral choices and promote voter literacy through educational institutions. Addressing a regional conference on Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) and the ECINET platform at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai, the CEC interacted with nearly 1,000 students and educators from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) organised the day-long programme in coordination with the office of the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik. The conference was designed as a collaborative forum linking young



citizens, teachers and grassroots election officials while strengthening electoral preparedness and encouraging broader participation in inclusive democratic processes. The delegates represented 300 schools, 75 colleges and 25 universities across Tamil Nadu's 38 districts and Puducherry.

During the afternoon session, CEC Gyanesh Kumar delivered the keynote address after the welcome

remarks by the State Chief Electoral Officer. An interactive question-and-answer session gave students an opportunity to raise issues relating to elections, voter participation and electoral awareness. The CEC also held a separate interaction with more than 500 Booth Level Officers, describing booth-level personnel as the backbone of India's democratic system. The Commission reviewed the progress

of electoral roll revisions, door-to-door verification and the use of modern digital service tools. Field officials shared feedback on the practical challenges they encounter while carrying out election-related duties. The Chennai District Election Officer G.S. Sameeran concluded the session with a vote of thanks. Senior Election Commission officials made technical presentations on voter education, digital services and electoral integrity. Ashish Goyal, Director General (Media), explained strategies for expanding Electoral Literacy Clubs and institutional voter-awareness programmes. Seema Khanna, Director General (IT), outlined the features of the ECINET application and its role in delivering digital services to voters and election personnel.

India, Sri Lanka review bilateral defence cooperation

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): Sri Lanka Navy Commander, Vice Admiral Damian Fernando, on Thursday called on Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi, with the discussions focusing on the progress of various initiatives under the Bilateral Defence Cooperation Plan between the two countries.

"The two sides reviewed activities and projects under the Bilateral Defence Cooperation Plan and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation in areas of mutual interest," the Ministry of Defence stated on X. Earlier in the day, Fernando met Indian Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, where the two sides discussed ways

to strengthen maritime security cooperation between the two countries.

According to the Indian Navy, during the meeting both sides reaffirmed commitment to uphold peace and stability in the Indian Ocean (IOR) region, aligned with India's Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth across Regions (MAHASAGAR) vision. Fernando, who is on a three-day official visit to India, was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block Lawns in New Delhi before holding bilateral discussions with Swaminathan.

"The deliberations focused on strengthening maritime security cooperation, institutionalised training and capacity-building initiatives.

Kharge Urges 25-Year Freeze on LS Seats

New Delhi, Aug 27 (UND): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to share with all political parties the government's proposals for delimitation and called for a 25-year freeze on the Lok Sabha's existing strength of 543, as well as the introduction of one-third reservation for women from the 2029 elections.

In a letter to the PM, the Rajya Sabha Leader of the Opposition renewed his demand for an all-party meeting on delimitation, urging him not to rush through any proposal in Parliament without giving political parties and state governments adequate time to examine its implications. The Congress president's fresh letter comes amid indications from the



Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that a special session of Parliament could be convened, setting the stage for a potentially major political confrontation over the future composition of the Lok Sabha. Kharge said he had earlier written to the PM on July 16, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss the government's proposed approach to delimitation. "I am writing now to reiterate this request since the Par-

liamentary Affairs Minister publicly stated in a television interview last night that a special session of Parliament could well be convened," Kharge said.

He also suggested that this could explain the continued delay in the prorogation of the monsoon session. Kharge further said that the Congress had a clear position on the contentious issue and listed three demands: Maintain the existing strength of the Lok

Sabha at 543 for another 25 years; maintain the existing state-wise strength in the Lok Sabha for another 25 years and introduce one-third reservation for women from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. "This is an issue that has enormous significance for the country... Please do not again try and bulldoze as you attempted on April 16 and 17," Kharge said.

Recently, the party had questioned why the government had not prorogued the Lok Sabha even 10 days after it was adjourned sine die, raising suspicions over the delay. The Congress had asked whether the government was keeping the session technically open to muster the numbers required to push through a Constitutional Amendment Bill on delimitation.

Deputy Divisional Officer M.A. Khan Passes Away

Colleagues Pay Tribute

Aurangabad, Aug 27 (GNS): M.A. Khan Sahib, Deputy Divisional Officer (Senior), passed away suddenly on August 26, 2026, following a brief illness. His unexpected demise has left colleagues and well-wishers deeply saddened.

Colleagues remembered Khan Sahib as a sincere and respected officer who maintained warm relationships with those around him. They recalled his guidance, companionship and support during official duties, describing his contribution and personal warmth as deeply valued. Paying heartfelt trib-



ute, colleagues expressed their grief over the loss and said his memory would continue to remain with them. They prayed to Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength and patience to his family members to bear the irreparable loss.





35th Jalsa Rahmat-ul Lilalameen

29th AUGUST 2026 (SATURDAY)

UNDER THE BANNER OF
MAJLIS BACHAO TAHREEK

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CHANCHALGUDA, HYDERABAD

From 7:30pm Onwards - After Namaz e Isha.

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India's digital future sovereignty or stagnation?

SRINATH SRIDHARAN

As India enters 2026, it is tempting to declare victory in the digital race. Over the past decade, the country has built population-scale platforms that work: payments that move at near-zero cost, identity systems that reach the margins, and digital rails that have quietly reshaped everyday life.

But there is an uncomfortable possibility we are mistaking velocity for depth - treating digital progress as a festival rather than a sovereign foundation. The years ahead will test whether India has merely digitised consumption, or whether it has built the authority to shape the global digital order itself. The shift from being a user of systems to an author of them is where India's real reckoning begins.

For years, India's scale compensated for structural weakness. A vast user base made platforms viable even when technological depth was thin and R&D uneven. That comfort will now fade. Global technology is consolidating around end-to-end control — chips, cloud infrastructure, proprietary models, and intellectual property. India processes the world's transactions but does not yet sell the systems that define them. We export engineers, not operating systems. We generate data at planetary scale, yet import the intelligence built on it. The digital century will belong to those who design the rules, not merely comply with them.

The same acceleration that unlocked efficiency has



also created a parallel shadow economy that moves just as fast. Digital fraud is becoming a full-fledged industry — automated, adaptive, and relentlessly scalable. AI-native systems will personalise attacks in real time, fuse synthetic identities with deepfake extortion, and exploit regulatory lag at machine speed.

This is not a policing failure. It is an architectural one. Weak digital stacks and uneven capacity in our supervisory and policing frameworks invite criminal innovation. Reactive enforcement will always arrive too late. Prevention must be embedded by design — through real-time intelligence, AI-driven supervision, and systems built on adversarial assumptions. In the digital economy, trust will be the foundation of legitimacy.

The early AI moment felt open and decentralised. That phase is ending. AI is consolidating around access

to compute, energy, proprietary data, and national policy alignment. The world is dividing between countries that can train frontier models and those that merely deploy them — between those who own intelligence and those who rent it. Despite abundant talent and widespread adoption, India's AI ecosystem remains thin in foundational research, indigenous models, and large-scale compute capacity. AI will no longer be a sector. It will become an industrial input — like electricity once was.

Recent commentary has rightly observed that the future of AI will not be decided by chips or data centres alone, but by how technological capability translates into real-world impact and public trust. This is precisely why India must prioritise indigenous models, localised data, and institutional value creation if it is to shape the next era of digital power.

Becoming AI-first nation is less about software and

more about institutional fitness. Without reforming how decisions are made, data is governed, and outcomes are measured, AI risks improving process speed without improving citizen experience — a technological upgrade to an unchanged state. An AI-first state without institution-first reform risks becoming a faster, colder version of the same old distance between power and people.

Quantum computing will not disrupt consumer life overnight, but strategically it is already reshaping power. Its real impact lies in cryptography, national security, optimisation, and scientific advantage. Countries that invested early — not only in labs but in talent pipelines and applied research — will gain asymmetric leverage.

India's quantum efforts remain fragmented and under-scaled relative to ambition. In deep technologies, there is no safe middle.

After decades of software-

first thinking, hardware is once again decisive. Semiconductors, sensors, robotics, edge devices, and specialised chips now determine latency, security, energy efficiency, and autonomy. Software ambition without hardware access is aspiration without leverage.

This asymmetry matters. Hardware sets the limits of software sovereignty. Any serious industrial strategy for the digital century must reunite hardware and software — linking semiconductor manufacturing, electronics ecosystems, and applied research into a coherent national capability. As AI-generated content floods markets and automation mediates decisions once made by humans, credibility will become scarce. The next phase of competition will not be driven by novelty alone, but by integrity. Systems that can prove provenance, auditability, explainability, and resilience will command disproportionate value.

ISRO's BlueBird launch is a new phase in India-US space ties denial to cooperation

AJEY LELE

On 24 December 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation launched the LVM3-M6 / BlueBird Block-2 mission for its US-based commercial customer, AST SpaceMobile. This was the ninth flight of the LVM3 rocket, which has maintained a perfect track record so far. Beyond the operational success, it is important to assess the mission's broader importance across the technological, commercial, and geopolitical arenas. From an Indian perspective, this launch highlights ISRO's ability to handle complex, high-stakes missions for global clients. In two earlier launches in October 2022 and March 2023, ISRO successfully placed 72 satellites into orbit for the UK-based agency OneWeb as part of its global Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation for internet connectivity.

With the launch of the BlueBird-6 communications satellite (for mobile telephony), ISRO further demonstrates to satellite manufacturers and operators that it offers a proven, reliable, and time-tested launch services capability. It's also another significant chapter in the evolving India-US space partnership. Technologically, the mission establishes ISRO's heavy-lift credentials and the viability of direct-to-device satellite connectivity. Developed by the Indian space agency, LVM3 is a three-stage launch vehicle comprising two solid strap-on motors (S200), a liquid core stage (L110), and a cryogenic upper stage (C25). It has a lift-off mass of 640 tonnes, a height of 43.5 m, and a payload capability of 4,200 kg to geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).

In its earlier missions, LVM3 successfully launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and two OneWeb missions carrying a total of 72 satellites. The previous LVM3 launch was the LVM3-M5/CMS-03 mission, which was successfully completed on 2 November 2025. With this mission, ISRO has put the BlueBird Block-2 satellite into Low Earth Orbit. At 6,100 kg, it is the largest commercial communications satellite deployed in LEO so far and the heaviest payload launched by LVM3 from Indian soil. For ISRO, this is a major achievement and opens the door for undertaking heavy satellite launches in future for scientific, strategic, and commercial purposes. The LVM3's configuration, with two S200 solid boosters, a liquid core stage, and a high-thrust



cryogenic upper stage, is central to this capability. For long, cryogenic propulsion posed a technological challenge for ISRO. But with the success of this mission, it has demonstrated growing confidence in designing and operating high-thrust cryogenic systems. The precise orbital injection of the BlueBird Block-2 satellite further demonstrates the technical maturity of the LVM3 vehicle and ISRO's integration of propulsion, guidance, and satellite systems, enabling a smooth mission execution. After ISRO put the satellite in a perfect location, the owner company, AST SpaceMobile, took control of the system and confirmed nominal telemetry. The platform is an answer to dead zones, one of

the most persevering problems in mobile telephony. Unlike conventional systems, it does not rely on ground towers or specialised satellite phones, but connects directly with mobile handsets. For this purpose, there is a massive phased-array antenna connected to the satellite, covering approximately 223 square metres of area. This will allow the satellite to pick up faint signals from a smartphone and beam back high-speed 4G and 5G broadband. In short, the satellite itself functions as a powerful cell tower, without the obstructions that cell towers on Earth confront.

In recent years, cooperation between the United States and India has expanded to areas such as human spaceflight and Earth observation. Notably, NASA supported India's plan to send an astronaut to the International Space Station during the Axiom-4 mission. Earlier this year, ISRO also successfully launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Earth observation satellite, a major joint mission that reflects growing trust and technical collaboration between the two agencies. At the same time, there is some historical irony in the backdrop of this cooperation. In the early 1990s, the US actively worked to block India's access to cryogenic engine technology, significantly limiting ISRO's ability to launch heavy satellites. Decades later, the situation has reversed. Today, a US private company has approached ISRO to launch its satellite, underlining how far India's launch capabilities have matured. It's a statement not just on ISRO's technological self-reliance and credibility, but on how India-US relations have transitioned from technology denial to cooperation in space.

Climate crisis in India is being normalised

As the year comes to an end, it's the perfect time to look back—not to count how much I wrote, but to sit with what it all meant. Writing week after week, I moved through conflicts, controversies, injustices, silences, and moments of uneasy hope. Each article felt urgent in the moment; in hindsight, that urgency shifts into reflection. What did we speak about repeatedly? What remained unresolved? What truths were too uncomfortable to stay in headlines for long? Before writing the final piece of the year, it feels necessary to look back at what stood out, what lingered, and what we collectively chose not to see. Amid all the headlines, the shouting debates, and the endless political distractions, one reality stands out to me most sharply—and ironically, it is the one I barely wrote about. The climate crisis. Global warming. The slow, relentless unravelling of the world we live in. It is not absent because it is insignificant; it has become normal. Heatwaves that kill, floods that erase livelihoods, winters that arrive late or not at all—these are no longer treated as emergencies but as seasonal inconveniences. In India, especially, where millions live at the mercy of monsoons, heat, and agriculture, climate change should have been at the centre of every conversation. Instead, it has been pushed to the margins, mentioned only when disaster strikes and forgotten the moment the news cycle moves on.

Think about it: rising heat is now claiming one life every single minute across the globe. In India alone, 4,064 people have perished in just nine months. India also faces 4.2 per cent of global economic loss due to extreme weather events. And yet, does this stir the headlines, the debates, the sense of urgency it deserves? These aren't isolated disasters; this is the slow, creeping toll of extreme weather, already showing its bite. And it's only the beginning. But instead of waking up to a crisis, somehow, for us, it feels like it's becoming the "new normal."

What worries me most is the acceptance that this is just how things are now. That temperatures will rise, water will run out, air will choke us—and we will simply adjust. When a crisis stops shocking us, it stops mobilising us. And that, perhaps, is the most dangerous phase of all.

Cities crossing 45–50°C. Workers are collapsing on roads and construction sites. Elections held in searing heat. Schools shutting down, water tankers becoming lifelines. What this heatwave revealed is that global warming in India is no longer a future threat or an environmental issue. It is a governance crisis. A labour issue. A public health emergency. A gendered burden. A quiet culling of those least equipped to escape it. Climate experts have been warning us for years that by 2050, India will be among the first places where temperatures will cross the limits of human survivability. Yet what we rarely discuss is the nature of the heat India faces. It is not just heatwaves—it is heat trapped inside humidity. The kind of heat where sweat no longer cools the body, where even a healthy person cannot survive outdoors for long. This is what wet-bulb temperature measures, and it is far more dangerous than dry heat alone. Surveys already show that over 70 per cent of Indians have experienced severe heatwaves, drought, water shortages, and suffocating air pollution in recent years. This is a lived reality now. If we zoom in, the climate crisis in India is also a class crisis, and nowhere is this clearer than in the lives of workers. Heat does not fall equally. For those who can afford air-conditioned rooms, flexible work hours, and healthcare, rising temperatures are an inconvenience. For daily-wage labourers, construction workers, sanitation workers, farmers, street vendors, and gig workers, heat is a direct threat to survival. Missing a day of work because the body cannot endure 45 degrees means missing a day's food. There is no paid leave from climate collapse. Climate change, in this sense, is not just melting glaciers or rising seas—it is extracting labour from bodies already pushed to their limits, quietly deciding whose lives are expendable and whose comfort will be preserved.

At the same time, India's position in this crisis is deeply paradoxical. We are not among the historical giants of carbon pollution, yet we stand on the frontlines of its consequences. This gives a responsibility—to play a firm diplomatic role and push the world's biggest emitters out of their comfort zone. Climate action can no longer be treated as charity or goodwill; it is a legal, moral, and survival obligation. For countries like India, it strengthens the case we have long made: that development and climate justice cannot be separated, and that those who profited most from industrialisation must carry a proportionate share of the burden.

There were many notable events in 2025, but sometimes it is what slips through the gaps that is the most important. In a media cycle driven by the latest outrage, we must pay attention to the threats of the future and demand they be solved before it's too late. The vulnerable in India are already paying the price of climate change. If not addressed, it will lead to a cascade of even more devastating and unpredictable consequences—social, economic, and political. Let's make sure this is addressed—before it's the only headline. The climate crisis also forces us to rethink what we mean by development. Concrete roads, expanding cities, new industries and rising consumption are often presented as signs of progress, but progress becomes fragile when the natural systems supporting it begin to collapse. A city that cannot keep its residents cool, provide reliable water or protect them from flooding cannot call itself truly resilient. Development must now be measured not only by economic growth, but by how safely and sustainably people can live. Water may become one of the most visible fault lines of this crisis. Erratic monsoons, prolonged droughts, shrinking groundwater reserves and sudden floods are already placing enormous pressure on communities. Farmers face uncertainty over sowing and harvesting, while cities increasingly depend on tankers and emergency supply systems. The irony is stark: the same region can experience devastating floods one month and severe water shortages shortly afterward. Climate change is making water less predictable, and unpredictability is itself becoming a form of insecurity.

Agriculture deserves particular attention because climate shocks do not end with a failed crop. A heatwave, delayed monsoon or unseasonal rain can wipe out months of labour and investment, pushing families deeper into debt. Food prices then rise, affecting consumers far beyond farming communities. Protecting agriculture therefore means more than providing compensation after disasters; it means investing in climate-resilient crops, irrigation, forecasting systems, storage infrastructure and better access to timely information.

The climate crisis is also changing the way children grow up. For many young people, extreme heat, polluted air, water shortages and climate-related disasters are becoming part of everyday life. Schools may close during heatwaves, outdoor activities are restricted, and families are increasingly forced to make difficult choices about health and household expenses. Children will inherit the consequences of decisions being made today, yet their voices remain largely absent from climate policy discussions.

Women, too, carry an unequal share of the burden. In many households, women are responsible for securing water, caring for children and older family members, and managing food when resources become scarce. When droughts force families to travel farther for water or when extreme weather destroys livelihoods, that unpaid burden grows. Climate policy that ignores gender will therefore miss a significant part of the crisis. Adaptation must recognise who performs the invisible work of keeping families and communities functioning.

There is also a growing economic cost that cannot be dismissed as a distant projection. Extreme heat reduces productivity, damages infrastructure, disrupts supply chains and increases pressure on healthcare systems. Businesses lose working hours, governments spend more on disaster response, and households pay for repairs, medical treatment and lost income. Every year of delayed action can make adaptation more expensive. Prevention may not always produce dramatic headlines, but it is almost certainly cheaper than repeatedly paying for destruction.

Bharat's energy security journey hits major milestone with HPCL's RUF commissioning: Hardeep Puri

India likely to outperform global markets in 2026

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): Bharat's journey toward achieving energy security has reached an important milestone with the successful commissioning of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's Residue Upgradation Facility at the Visakh Refinery in Andhra Pradesh, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.

Sharing the development on social media platform X, Puri said the commissioning of the facility marks a decisive step toward a self-reliant India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. He described the project as a major boost to Bharat's energy security ambitions. "Bharat's journey toward achieving energy security has reached a milestone with the successful commissioning of HPCL's Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF) at the Visakh Refinery," Puri said on X.

"This critical infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh is a decisive leap toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat, under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi and CM N Chandrababu Naidu," he added. The Residue Upgradation Facility at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's Visakh Refinery is designed to convert low-value refinery residue into high-value petroleum products using advanced residue hydrocracking technology.

With a capacity of 3.55 million metric tonnes per annum, the facility can achieve a conversion rate of around 93 per cent, helping maximise the use of every barrel of crude oil. Puri highlighted that the project stands out for its strong focus on indigenous engineering and manufacturing. The facility houses three LC-Max reactors, each weighing nearly 2,200 metric tonnes, making them among the heaviest engineering blocks in the world. He noted that these reactors were fabri-

cated and assembled entirely within Bharat, reflecting the country's growing capabilities in complex industrial engineering. According to the minister, the commissioning of the RUF will not only improve fuel efficiency and refinery output but also reduce dependence on imports by extracting more value from existing crude supplies. He said such projects are critical for supporting India's fast-growing economy and meeting rising energy demand in a sustainable manner.

Puri added that the Vizag refinery project strengthens India's push toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat and showcases how large-scale infrastructure, powered by domestic expertise, can play a key role in securing the nation's energy future.

The commissioning of the RUF is expected to significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the Visakh Refinery by enabling greater utilisation of refinery residue. By converting heavier and lower-value streams into more valuable products, the facility can improve the refinery's overall product yield and economic performance.

The project also reflects the growing role of domestic engineering capabilities in India's energy sector.

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): Indian equity markets, which remained largely subdued in 2025 despite strong macroeconomic fundamentals, are expected to outperform global peers in new year, says S Naren, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund.

Naren stated, the year 2025 turned out to be a "year of hibernation" for Indian markets despite broader economic indicators remaining strong. India posted low fiscal and current account deficits, low inflation and strong economic growth. He said, "despite that, Indian rupee

underperformed against all currencies of the world including the dollar".

In his annual outlook for 2026, Naren sees a turnaround, he said, "We think 2026 should be different and India should outperform most markets in 2026". Naren believes strongly in India growth story, he says, "We continue to like India's story considering India is one of the best growth prospects in the next one decade and has a very good demographic profile for long-term investors".

He advises asset allocation key for portfolio with a little higher portion towards equities.

Naren says, "We think at this point of time the best way to invest would be in the form of asset allocation, and one can take a little bit of higher risk towards equity compared to where you were taking risk in 2025 January simply because in the last one-year Indian markets have underperformed most markets in the world".

He also advises, moderation in exposure to precious metals. As precious metals have emerged the best-performing asset class over the past one year, five years, and may be even over longer periods, raising concerns of stretched valuations.

Centre sanctions 24 chip design projects in big push to India's semiconductor industry

Centre proposes Aadhaar-like ID for EV batteries to boost tracking—details here

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): As many as 24 chip design projects have been sanctioned across areas such as video surveillance, drone detection, energy meters, micro-processors, satellite communications, and broadband and IoT Systems-on-Chip (SoCs) under the Centre's Design Linked Incentive Scheme (DLI) scheme, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

Additionally, 95 companies have received access to industry-grade Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools, significantly reducing design and infrastructure costs for Indian chip design startups. Semiconductor chip design is the main value driver in the supply chain, contributing up to 50 per cent of value addition and 30–35 per cent of global semiconductor sales via the fabless segment.

DLI-supported projects are scaling rapidly, with 16 tape-outs, 6 ASIC chips, 10 patents, 1,000+ engineers engaged, and over 3× private investment having been leveraged, the statement said.

The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore. The programme supports investments in semi-

conductor and display manufacturing as well as the design ecosystem. The DLI Scheme operates under this programme, ensuring end-to-end backing for design, fabrication and production. C-DAC, a premier R&D organisation of the MeitY, is responsible for the implementation of the DLI Scheme as the nodal agency.

The Semicon India Programme aims to catalyse a strong, self-reliant chip design ecosystem by providing financial incentives and access to advanced design infrastructure for domestic startups and MSMEs.

The scheme is now driving the transition from de-

sign validation to production, enabling start-ups and MSMEs to move toward volume manufacturing, system integration, and market deployment. This evolving ecosystem not only strengthens India's domestic semiconductor capabilities but also positions the country as a credible player in global chip design and innovation, the statement said. India's semiconductor ecosystem is being strengthened through a coordinated institutional framework that combines policy leadership, investment support, capacity building, and indigenous technology development.

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): The road transport ministry has proposed a new system to give electric vehicle batteries a unique identification number, similar to Aadhaar, to improve tracking, safety and recycling. The move is aimed at ensuring complete traceability of batteries from manufacturing to final disposal. Under the draft guidelines issued by the ministry, every battery producer or importer will be required to assign a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number, or BPAN, to each battery introduced in the market or used for self-consumption.

Companies will also

have to upload all relevant battery data on an official BPAN portal. The guidelines state that the BPAN must be placed in a clearly visible and accessible location on the battery. The identification mark should be positioned in such a way that it does not get destroyed or damaged during the battery's life cycle.

According to the draft, the BPAN system will store key information related to a battery, starting from raw material extraction and manufacturing to its use, recycling or final disposal. If a battery is recycled or repurposed and its attributes change, a new BPAN

will have to be issued by the same or a different producer or importer. The ministry said the proposed system is designed to bring greater transparency, accountability and sustainability to the battery ecosystem. By tracking battery performance and environmental impact, the framework is expected to support better regulatory compliance, second-life usage and efficient recycling.

Electric vehicles currently account for nearly 80 to 90 per cent of India's total lithium-ion battery demand, far more than industrial or non-automotive uses. Given this scale and the safety and regulatory

concerns involved, the draft guidelines propose giving priority to electric vehicle batteries while framing standards under the BPAN system.

While the framework is recommended for industrial batteries above 2 kWh, the ministry said focusing on EV batteries in the initial phase will help address the most impactful segment of India's battery ecosystem.

The draft also suggests that the Battery Pack Aadhaar framework be developed through the Automotive Industry Standard route under the Automotive Industry Standards Committee.

Working with local govts, law enforcement to remove illegal content: X Corp

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): Elon Musk-run X Corp on Sunday said it continues to take action against illegal content on its social media platform, including Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), and is working with local governments and law enforcement agencies as necessary.

Responding to Musk's post that "Anyone using Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content," X Safety said that it removes such content, permanently suspend accounts, and "is working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary".

"For more information on our policies, please refer to our help pages for our full X Rules and range of enforcement options," X Safety said.

Earlier, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) cracked down on X Corp for failing to prevent the generation and circulation of obscene, nude and indecent content on its platform. The government on Friday directed X Corp to send an action taken report (ATR) "towards immediate compliance for prevention of hosting, generation, publication or transmission, sharing or uploading of obscene, nude, indecent and explicit content through the misuse of AI-based services like 'Grok' and xAI's other services" within 72

hours. The directive states that "non-compliance with these requirements shall be viewed seriously and may result in strict legal consequences against your platform, its responsible officers and the users on the platform who violate the law, without any further notice, under the IT Act, the IT Rules, the BNSS, the BNS and other applicable laws".

The ministry directed X to conduct a comprehensive review of Grok's technical and governance frameworks to prevent the generation of unlawful content. It said Grok must enforce strict user policies, including suspension and termination of violators. All offending content should be immediately removed without tampering with evidence, it said.

The MeitY said non-compliance could lead to loss of safe harbour under Section 79 of the IT Act and trigger penal action under multiple laws, including the BNS, the Indecent Representation of Women Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The government's action comes amid growing concerns over the misuse of generative artificial intelligence tools to create and circulate manipulated or sexually explicit material. The directive has placed greater responsibility on platforms to strengthen safeguards and ensure that AI services are not exploited to produce unlawful content.

Auto sector ends 2025 on strong note as GST relief, lift sales

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): The Indian auto sector closed the last quarter of calendar year 2025 on a strong footing, supported by GST tailwinds, improving macroeconomic conditions and positive rural sentiment. Despite some month-on-month moderation after the festive season, year-on-year growth remained robust across most segments, highlighting sustained demand momentum.

According to the latest December 2025 Auto Sales Report by Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates Ltd (ACMIL), retail traction stayed healthy even after the festive period, especially in passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, tractors and three-wheelers. "The auto sector closed the last quarter of CY25 on a strong note, supported by GST tailwinds, improving macro conditions, and positive rural sentiment," the report said. Passenger vehicles emerged as a key growth driver, aided by GST rate cuts, year-end discounts and pre-buying ahead of January price hikes. Domestic volumes remained strong, even as exports were weaker for some manufacturers. Data from Axis Securities showed that domestic passenger vehicle sales rose around 27 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in December 2025 and grew about 6 per cent year-on-

voice of the people, journalists have consistently worked to protect freedom of speech and ensure accountability," Sonowal said.

Highlighting the need for responsible journalism, he urged media professionals to prioritise truth, credibility and ethical reporting, and to resist misinformation and sensationalism. Sonowal said journalism must act as a bridge between the government and the people, amplifying public concerns while promoting social harmony. Sonowal also stressed the importance of coordination, dialogue and consensus-building, noting that the media can play a decisive role in strengthening society through constructive engagement rather than

year (YoY) on a cumulative basis. Commercial vehicles also showed clear signs of an early upcycle. Improved fleet utilisation, rising freight activity and infrastructure-led demand supported growth, marking the second consecutive month of strong performance.

Domestic CV volumes grew 26 per cent year-on-year in December, the report said. Axis Securities expects the CV industry to deliver high single-digit growth in FY26, led by demand in the bus segment.

The two-wheeler segment recorded strong year-on-year growth, although performance varied across manufacturers.

Sonowal said the evolving challenges faced by journalists demand continuous capacity building, professional integrity and adaptation to new technologies, while remaining firmly rooted in public interest journalism. MLAs Sanjay Kishan and Bolin Chetia, along with senior journalists and other dignitaries, were present at the event.

Earlier in the day, in the Makum LAC, Sonowal attended a programme marking the foundation stone laying and inauguration of various welfare schemes and interacted with beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's flagship welfare programmes. Sonowal also engaged with local entrepreneurs, acknowledging

India's economic interests in Venezuela minimal, not dependent for oil: Industry watchers

New Delhi, Aug 27 (GNS): As several countries across the globe criticised the US military attack on Venezuela on Saturday, industry watchers said that India's economic interests in the South American country are minimal and it is not dependent on Venezuela for oil. The bilateral trade between the nations was \$1.175 billion in 2023-24, according to information available on the website of the Embassy of India in Caracas. The main items of India's exports to Venezuela are mineral fuels and oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances, mineral waxes, iron and steel, aluminium, edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, copper and articles thereof, lead and articles thereof, zinc and articles thereof, wood and articles of wood, among others, according to the Embassy.

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Corporacion Venezolana del Petroleo (CVP) (subsidiary of PdVSA) have a joint venture called "PetroleraIndovenezolana SA" for the production and exploration of oil in the San Cristobal field, in which OVL has a 40 per cent stake, while PDVSA has 60 per cent of the remaining stake.

The OVL investment in the San Cristobal project is approximately US \$200 million. An international consortium comprising ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Repsol of Spain and Petronas

lakh during the 2024–25 financial year and is aimed at strengthening institutional support for senior citizens.

Sonowal said such infrastructure reflects the government's commitment to inclusive development, ensuring dignity, accessibility and community engagement for the elderly at the grassroots level.

Makum Municipal Board Chairperson Archana Saikia, Vice Principal of Makum College, Papori Baruah, Ashim Hazarika, Chairman of the Dibrugarh Development Authority, Pulak Gohain, Chairman of the Assam State Housing Board, Kushakanta Bora, district president of BJP Tinsukia, along with Lakhinath Koch, Jeuti Moran, Giraj Baruah

their contribution to the growth of the local economy. "Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, development has reached the last mile, ensuring that welfare schemes directly empower beneficiaries and strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship," Sonowal said. "This inclusive approach has transformed governance into a people-centric model that drives both social upliftment and economic growth." At Panitola, Sonowal inaugurated the newly constructed Senior Citizens' Office Bhawan, built under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The facility was developed at a cost of 15

Sonowal Underscores Media's Role As Fourth Pillar of Democracy at APCU Conference

Bhatti launches singareni gold, copper exploration in Karnataka

Hyderabad, Aug 27 (GNS): Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has called upon everyone to work together to extract gold and copper minerals on a large scale from the Devadurga mine in Karnataka and contribute to increasing the wealth of the nation.

The Deputy Chief Minister officially launched the gold and copper mining exploration programme undertaken by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) at Lingadahalli village in Devadurga taluk of Raichur district. Following the launch, he personally inspected the mineral exploration sites on the ground. On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister recalled that Singareni Collieries, which has nearly 136 years of extensive experience



in the mining sector, had secured exploration rights for the Devadurga Block through the tenders conducted by the Central Government.

Speaking after the field inspection, Bhatti Vikramarka said that Singareni would soon accelerate the exploration

activities. He expressed confidence that if the project succeeds and significant quantities of gold and copper are found, it would not only create large-scale employment opportunities for unemployed youth in the region but also accelerate the

development of the area.

He announced that Singareni would soon establish a site office at Devadurga to enable officials to stay at the location and closely monitor the exploration activities. A helipad would also be established to facilitate travel and

movement. Construction works would begin as soon as the local revenue authorities allot the required land.

Bhatti Vikramarka also highlighted the deep historical and cultural bond between the Telugu and Kannada people living on both sides of the Krishna River. He recalled that this region was once part of Hyderabad State and said that the people of both regions share common roots. He appealed to the local people to extend their cooperation and help complete the project successfully at the earliest. He expressed the hope that the exploration programme would contribute significantly to the progress of both Telangana and Karnataka and strengthen the country's economy by adding to its mineral wealth.

Uttam Directs Plan for 10 Lakh MT Grain Storage Capacity

Hyderabad, Aug 27 (GNS): Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation to prepare a comprehensive plan for establishing state-of-the-art grain silos with an additional storage capacity of five lakh to 10 lakh metric tonnes involving the women SHGs in building and operating them on a large scale. Reviewing the Corporation's affairs with senior officials, the Minister said Telangana's grain-storage infrastructure must keep pace with the phenomenal expansion of paddy cultivation and production in the State.

Improved irrigation support, expansion of the cultivable area and procurement at the Minimum Support Price have resulted in a steady year-on-year increase in paddy arrivals. Consequently, the requirement for safe, scientific



and strategically located storage facilities has also been growing rapidly. Uttam Kumar Reddy said conventional godowns alone would not be sufficient to meet Telangana's emerging requirements. The State must progressively develop a modern storage network incorporating automated handling, scientific preservation, mechanised movement, digital monitoring and protection against moisture, pests and other storage-related losses.

He suggested examining models under which women's Self-Help Groups, village-level institutions and

the Civil Supplies Corporation itself could participate in developing, managing or operating the modern storage facilities. The proposals should clearly define the respective roles of the Corporation, SHGs and other participating agencies. Suitable financing and operational models should be evolved to ensure that the facilities remain financially viable and professionally managed. "The State's storage infrastructure should be planned not merely for the next procurement season but for the requirements of the coming decades," the Minister said.

Ponguleti urges people to plant and protect trees

Khammam, Aug 27 (GNS): Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that trees are essential for human survival and environmental protection, urging people to actively participate in plantation and conservation efforts. The Minister planted saplings along with Khammam District Collector T.S. Divakara at the Gram Panchayat office premises in Erragadda village of Tirumalayapalem mandal as part of the Vanamahotsavam programme.

Addressing the gathering, Ponguleti said that maintaining ecological balance has become increasingly important as environmental degradation continues to worsen. He noted that the current El Niño conditions are a consequence of ecological imbalance and stressed that planting and protecting trees is the responsibility of every citizen.

He said that providing future generations with clean air and a healthy environment would be the greatest gift society can offer. The Minister called upon Panchayat staff and villagers to adopt and nurture every sapling until it grows into a fully developed tree.

Emphasising that environmental conservation is a shared social responsibility and not merely a government initiative, he urged public representatives, officials, and local communities to work together to increase green cover in every village. Among those present at the event were PR SE Venkat Reddy, R&B SE Yugandhar Rao, Housing PD Bhukya Srinivas, Khammam RDO N. Srinivas, Tirumalayapalem MPDO Silar Saheb, Tahsildar Wilson, Yerragadda Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Nallamalla Keerthi Neeeran Kumar, public representatives, officials, and local residents.

CS Sanjay Jaju orders action plan to curb traffic, accidents



Hyderabad, Aug 27 (GNS): Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to regulate traffic congestion and prevent road accidents in Hyderabad city and across the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits. Chief Secretary reviewed traffic management and road safety issues extensively at a meeting with senior officials held on Thursday at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, as per the directions of the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

During the meeting, various issues including road safety, maintenance of traffic signals, identification of accident-prone locations and provision of faster routes for emergency services were

discussed. CS directed officials to strengthen the traffic signaling system in all cities, district headquarters, municipalities, urban areas and along the ORR across the State. He instructed the Municipal, Police, Transport and other concerned departments to work in coordination to prevent road accidents and prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) at the earliest. He also directed officials to take steps to install signaling systems at required locations by November and December.

Chief Secretary stated that traffic management and road safety cannot be confined to a single department and emphasised the need for coordinated efforts by the Police, Transport, Roads & Buildings, Municipal Administra-

tion, Urban Development and other departments. He directed officials to explore the establishment of an Integrated Traffic Data Platform to consolidate traffic data from different locations and analyse it on a common platform. Similar to the Narcotics Bureau and TG-SAFE, the Chief Secretary suggested preparing proposals for establishing a dedicated and independent system named TG-TMARS (Traffic Management and Road Safety) for traffic management and road safety. He also directed officials to modernize traffic signaling systems, strengthen electronic enforcement and implement road safety measures in accordance with the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Sridhar Babu urges industry partnership to boost youth skilling

Hyderabad, Aug 27 (GNS): Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Wednesday called upon industries and entrepreneurs to partner with the State government in strengthening the State's skilling ecosystem and building a future-ready workforce.

Speaking at a certificate distribution programme organised by Boeing, Learning Links Foundation (LLF) and the Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD) at Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, the Minister said the government was working to equip Telangana's youth with skills aligned with changing industry requirements and emerging technologies.

Mr. Sridhar Babu distributed certificates to youth, persons with disabilities and veterans who successfully completed the Boeing Skilling Programme.

He said rapid advances in technology and artificial intelligence were constantly changing the skills required by industry. "Preparing young people for these changes requires



close coordination among the government, industry, research institutions and educational institutions," he said. The Minister said the State was strengthening its skilling ecosystem with a focus on bridging the gap between industry and educational institutions. The Young India Skills University was providing training aligned with industry needs, while government ITIs were being transformed into Advanced Technology Centres to offer modern, industry-oriented training.

The government was also introducing changes to academic curricula and launching new courses to keep education and training in step with emerging

technologies and industry needs, he said.

Mr. Sridhar Babu said the government was preparing plans to expand skill development programmes across the State in partnership with industries and entrepreneurs. He urged industries to come forward and participate in the government's skilling, upskilling and reskilling initiatives. He said the objective was to create a workforce equipped to meet the evolving needs of industry and enable young people to take advantage of emerging opportunities. He also advised youth to continuously upgrade their skills to remain relevant in a rapidly changing technology landscape.

Kishan Reddy urges youth to prioritise sports alongside academics

Hyderabad, Aug 27 (GNS): Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy participated as the chief guest at the 'Khelo India Dialogue – Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath' programme held at The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) in the Osmania University campus, Hyderabad, on the occasion of National Sports Day.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted virtually with students and young sportspersons from 1,500 educational

institutions across the country as part of the Centre's initiative to promote sports. Nearly one million students took part in the nationwide programme.

Kishan Reddy said that promoting sports has become a key priority under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. He noted that in the past, sports often received inadequate attention, and political interference prevented many talented athletes from getting fair opportunities. Despite having the world's larg-



est youth population, India had long neglected sports, he said. However, with the government's focus on nurturing talent from the grass-

roots level, the country has been registering improved performances and winning more medals at international competitions.

The Minister highlighted the Prime Minister's personal encouragement for athletes, stating that Modi meets sportspersons before they participate in international events, congratulates medal winners personally, and motivates those who do not succeed, ensuring they remain confident and focused.

He added that the government is providing athletes

with nutritious food, world-class training facilities, and opportunities to train under coaches of their choice in countries best suited to their sporting disciplines. The objective, he said, is to enable India to win a significantly higher number of medals on the global stage. Kishan Reddy also expressed confidence that India is preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and is making strong efforts to secure the 2036 Olympic Games, with discussions underway at the international level.

Taher Urges Accurate Electoral Rolls During SIR

Nirmal, Aug. 27 (GNS): Telangana State Urdu Academy Chairman and SIR Coordinator for Nirmal Assembly Constituency, Taher Bin Hamdan, called for ensuring that no eligible voter's name is omitted from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists. He attended Gram Sabha meetings as the chief guest on Thursday in Kadthal and Siddalakunta villages of Soan mandal, Babapur in Laxmanchanda mandal, Koratikal and Dimmadurthi in Mamda mandal, Kanjar

and Madegam in Dilawarpur mandal, and Narsapur village of Narsapur mandal.

Addressing the gatherings, Taher Bin Hamdan said that voters whose names contain errors or other discrepancies in the draft electoral roll can approach election officials with the necessary supporting documents to have the details corrected. He urged the public not to worry, assuring them that the revision process provides adequate opportunity to rectify genuine issues.



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