

Revanth seeks 4-week extension for SIR claims, objections deadline

Hyderabad, Aug 30 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to extend by four weeks the September 16 deadline for filing claims and objections in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, expressing concern that the compressed schedule could result in eligible voters being left out of the final rolls.

In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday, the Chief Minister said the SIR had reached a stage where the numbers warranted the commission's attention. Against the 3.38 crore electors on the rolls as of June 10, 2026, 73.39 lakh entries, or 21.7 per cent, had been placed under the Absent, Shifted, Dead



and Duplicate (ASDD) categories. Of the 2.65 crore enumeration forms digitised so far, 60.5 lakh had been flagged for anomalies and another 32.36 lakh for lack of a link to the earlier electoral roll. The two categories were distinct and did not overlap, taking the total to 92.86 lakh electors requiring further verification, he said.

Revanth Reddy said the

composition of the ASDD list was particularly concerning, with 45.19 lakh of the 73.39 lakh entries, or nearly 62 per cent, classified as "permanently shifted". He cautioned that the existing verification process did not adequately distinguish between temporary absence and permanent relocation. Voters who happened to be away from home for work, travel or

other reasons when a booth level officer (BLO) visited could be treated in the same manner as those who had permanently moved.

The Chief Minister said genuine voters who had shifted residence were not being adequately facilitated to enrol at their new addresses, even as their names could be marked for deletion at their previous residences.

Nepal flood death toll hits 676; nearly 3,000 missing

New Delhi, Aug 30 (GNS): The death toll from the devastating flash floods and landslides along the Nepal Tibet border rose to 676 on Saturday, with 669 deaths reported in Nepal and seven in Tibet, even as nearly 3,000 people remained missing. India stepped up assistance by sending specialised teams to help rescue people feared trapped inside hydropower project tunnels. Rescue operations continued amid difficult terrain and fears of further bad weather. Nepalese authorities were also monitoring a newly formed Himalayan lake after concerns that it could trigger fresh flooding.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said a specialised Indian technical team carried out on site reconnaissance of hydro-



power tunnels in the flood affected region to facilitate the search and rescue of stranded people. Based on its assessment, a specialised tunnel rescue team with equipment was being deployed to Nepal.

As the bodies of victims swept away by the Bhotekoshi flood are being recovered downstream, hospitals are struggling to find space to store and identify them. The Himalayan nation has the capacity to

store only about 350 bodies in morgues nationwide, leading to a shortage of space to preserve the remains until families identify and claim them.

The remains of victims swept away by floods in Rasuwa and Nuwakot are being recovered in Nuwakot and downstream areas up to Chitwan, Tanahun, Nawalparasi and other low-lying regions. The district of Chitwan has already been filled with the bodies of

victims swept downstream, prompting authorities to set up temporary facilities. Hospitals in Pokhara have also reported that their morgues are filling up after bodies began arriving from several districts. "Here, we are maintaining the room temperature at zero degrees in the AC because there is a problem in identifying the victims. If relatives of missing persons come to inquire, we display photographs of the recovered bodies.

Suspected Pak Drone Spotted in Poonch; Search On

Jammu, Aug 29 (GNS): Officials said on Saturday that a suspected Pakistani drone was seen hovering in the forward area along the line of control (LoC) on Friday in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Officials said the drone was noticed at Balakote area's Behrooti village in Mendhar sector late Friday evening, and it moved towards the Mangalnar-Dabrote side near the border before returning to Pakistan. "Army troops guarding the LoC intensified surveillance and launched a search operation at first light to determine whether it had dropped or carried any suspicious material.

"The search operation is still underway, and the security forces remain on heightened alert along the

border. "At the same time, police, along with Army and paramilitary forces, have been engaging in a massive search operation in the vast forested districts of Udhampur, Kathua and Rajouri following information about suspicious movement," officials said.

According to officials, the joint search operation took place at Khuban, Nagain, Khtrail, Godu Falal, Pader, Chor Mottu, Kia, Kheba, Bhed, Marta, Joffar and the adjoining areas in the Udhampur-Kathua forest belt on Friday evening and is still underway. In Rajouri, another search operation was launched in Gaibas, Mithiyani, Mogla and Narla after villagers informed about the movement of two suspected armed persons, believed to be terrorists.

PM Modi receives warm welcome from Indian community in Uzbekistan

Tashkent, Aug 29 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday received a grand welcome from India community in Uzbekistan, with people cheering and chanting "Modi Modi", "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

A few women from the Indian community also tied a rakhi to PM Modi's hand as he was greeting the community members. He also witnessed cultural performances by artists. PM Modi was seen intriguingly observing dance performances by children and shook their hands after the performance.

Earlier, PM Modi visited the Yangi Uzbekistan Monument and said that it reflects the aspirations and progress of the Uzbek people. "Upon landing in Tashkent, went to lay a wreath at the Yangi



Uzbekistan Monument with President Mirziyoyev. The Yangi Uzbekistan Monument reflects the aspirations and progress of the Uzbek people. Glad to begin my visit by coming here," PM Modi stated on X.

PM Modi was accompanied by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev as both leaders examined the artwork representing Uzbek culture and history at the Yangi Uzbekistan Park.

Earlier, PM Modi thanked

President Mirziyoyev for the warm welcome at Tashkent airport as he began his two-day State Visit to the Central Asian nation.

In a special gesture, Mirziyoyev travelled to the airport and received PM Modi, highlighting the friendship between both countries that has grown immensely over the last 12 years. "Landed in Tashkent to a warm welcome by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Grateful to him for the special gesture.

Rajnath Singh tells youth to rely on constitutional means to bring about change

Lucknow, Aug 29 (GNS): Calling upon students to help build Viksit Bharat by 2047, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday emphasised the importance of constitutional methods in bringing about social transformation and questioning injustice. Addressing students at the convocation ceremony of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow, Rajnath Singh said Dr Ambedkar's mantra of 'Educate, Agitate and Organise' means acquiring knowledge, questioning injustice not by violence but through constitutional means and uniting to bring about change through democratic methods.

He said that Dr Ambedkar, in his final speech to the Constituent Assembly, had



clearly stated that social and economic objectives must be pursued through constitutional means.

Babasaheb had warned that when democratic and constitutional avenues are available, resorting to violence, anarchy or unconstitutional methods cannot be justified, said Rajnath Singh, describing such methods as a "grammar of anarchy" that must be abandoned.

Asserting that the world

is changing rapidly, with new technologies and innovations creating fresh opportunities, the Defence Minister urged the students to remain committed to continuous learning and adaptability.

Those willing to continuously learn and acquire new skills will be best equipped to progress in a rapidly evolving world, he said. He said that universities should focus on shaping young minds inspired by the ideals of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Highlighting the importance of holistic education, he stated that true education develops the ability to think and understand, while honing practical and problem-solving skills.

Nepal Flash Floods: Congress expresses solidarity, says India will continue to be trusted partner

New Delhi, Aug 30 (GNS): The Congress on Saturday sent its deepest condolences and expressed solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastation caused by the flash floods, which have claimed over 650 lives and have left hundreds missing. The party said that India is ready to assist the Himalayan nation as a "trusted partner" in times of crisis. According to Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), a total of 626 bodies recovered from the floods had been collected as of Saturday at 10 a.m.

In a statement, the Congress party said, "On behalf of the people of India,



the Indian National Congress conveys our deepest condolences and solidarity with the people of Nepal in the wake of the devastating flash floods that have claimed hundreds of lives and caused severe economic and humanitarian damage. Our thoughts are with the bereaved families and all those still awaiting news of their loved ones."

Stressing the longstanding ties with the neighbouring nation, the party said, "India and Nepal share a civilisational bond that predates the modern nation-state, rooted in common faith, culture, and the Himalayan ecology that has bound our peoples for millennia.

"It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who first insti-

tutionalised this kinship through the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, envisioning a relationship defined by openness and mutual care." "The Indian people are ready to assist tangibly in a way that the people of Nepal see fit, and we will continue to be a trusted partner of Nepal as it steers through this crisis," Congress added.

Govt kicks off preparations for Union Budget 2027-28, pre-budget meetings from Oct 12

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 high-level engagement reaffirms the deep-rooted maritime bonds between India and Sri Lanka and contributes to sustained peace and stability across the IOR, in line with India's vision of MAHASAGAR," the Indian Navy posted on X.

Earlier in August, during his official visit to Sri Lanka, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri reaffirmed India's unwavering commitment to the island nation under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and 'Vision MAHASAGAR', said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as he concluded his visit to Colombo.

In Venezuela, an invasion for oil

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 out-

comes are measured, AI risks improving process speed without improving citizen experience — a technological upgrade to an unchanged state. An AI-first state without institutional-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 deter-

mine 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.

Verification, accountability, and transparency will no longer be regulatory burdens; they will be strategic advantages. Nations that invest early in trust infrastructure will shape standards rather than inherit them. The coming years will test whether India is digitally sovereign — whether it owns the intelligence it deploys, secures the systems it depends on, and shapes the standards it must live by. India's real risk is not missing the next technology wave, but entering it with an industrial policy designed for a century that has already ended. It demands sustained investment in education, patient capital for frontier technologies, and institutions capable of learning faster than the risks they

Why India's digital health stack must be a public good

India's digital health ambitions are both timely and necessary. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has laid the foundation for a national digital health ecosystem through unique health identifiers (Ayushman Bharat Health Account, or ABHA), registries of health facilities and professionals, consent-based data sharing, and interoperable health records. These are significant building blocks. As the system scales, now is an appropriate moment to reflect on what kind of digital health system India is consciously building-and to consider how early design choices can maximize long-term public value.

As India's digital health stack evolves, its ability to deliver efficiency, equity, and affordability will depend on whether its core digital foundations remain open, interoperable, and publicly governed. To realize its full potential, the health stack must be designed, financed, and governed as a public good-much like essential physical infrastructure or core public utilities. In economic terms, a public good is non-excludable and designed to maximize collective benefit. Applied to digital health, this means foundational elements-such as health identifiers, registries, consent frameworks, and interoperability standards-remain openly accessible, publicly governed, and insulated from commercial capture.

This approach is not theoretical. India has already demonstrated its effectiveness through digital public infrastructure such as Aadhaar and UPI, where open standards and public stewardship have enabled innovation, competition, and inclusion at scale. A similar design philosophy in health can unlock comparable system-wide gains. The early momentum of ABDM is encouraging. Millions of health records are being generated and linked, hospitals are adopting digital workflows, and citizens are becoming familiar with digital health identifiers. Scale is an important first step, but the next phase must focus on translating this momentum into sustained value. For many patients, health care still begins with a familiar ritual: carrying thick paper files from one hospital to another. These files often contain old prescriptions folded at the corners, fading laboratory reports, and handwritten notes whose meaning is often lost over time. Each visit requires retelling the same medical history, repeating tests because previous records are unavailable, and hoping that a critical detail has not been misplaced. A well-designed digital health stack can replace this burden with continuity-meaning a patient's records follow the person rather than the file-reducing repetition, cost, and anxiety. Ultimately, what matters is whether the system reduces duplicative tests, shortens patient journeys, improves continuity of care, lowers out-of-pocket expenses, and strengthens public health planning. These outcomes depend less on technology itself and more on how the system is designed and governed.

There are four reasons why a public good approach is essential. First, equity and inclusion: Health care delivery in India is highly heterogeneous, ranging from tertiary hospitals to small clinics and primary health centres in remote areas. If participation in the digital ecosystem depends on expensive proprietary software or closed platforms, smaller providers and vulnerable populations risk exclusion. Public funding of core digital infrastructure and open APIs ensures that participation is possible regardless of size or location, allowing innovation to occur at the edges without creating barriers at the centre.

Second, system efficiency and interoperability: Fragmented digital systems are costly. When hospitals, laboratories, insurers, and public programmes operate on incompatible platforms, the result is repeated diagnostics, delayed referrals, and administrative inefficiency. A publicly governed, interoperable stack enables seamless data exchange, reduces transaction costs, and supports continuity of care across all levels of the health system. International guidance-including from the World Health Organization-has consistently emphasized the importance of common standards and interoperability for safe, scalable digital health.

Third, long-term cost control and avoidance of vendor lock-in: Health systems are durable institutions, and digital choices made today will shape costs for decades. Proprietary systems can create dependence, making future upgrades expensive and complex. An open, standards-based public stack lowers switching costs, preserves institutional flexibility, and encourages a competitive market of solutions built on common foundations rather than in isolated silos.

Fourth, trust, privacy, and legitimacy: Health data is widely regarded as among the most sensitive forms of personal information. Countries that have successfully scaled digital health systems have typically done so with clear legal and institutional safeguards-such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in the United States-that define permissible data use, ensure accountability, and establish penalties. In India, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act) provides a necessary baseline. However, a national digital health system will also require sector-specific operational rules, privacy-by-design architecture, and independent oversight to translate legal intent into sustained public trust. Such trust will be central to deepening adoption and ensuring long-term success. Designing the digital health stack as a public good is an ongoing process that requires deliberate and coordinated policy choices. Core components such as ABHA, the Health Facility Registry, and the Healthcare Professional Registry should be explicitly recognized as national digital public infrastructure, supported by stable public funding for operations and maintenance. Open and well-documented APIs must remain the default, allowing multiple vendors and solutions to coexist while ensuring interoperability and data portability.

It is equally important to enable participation across the health system. Many public facilities and small private providers lack the resources or skills to adopt digital systems. Targeted financial support, shared digital services, and structured capacity building can bridge this gap. When combined with certification mechanisms that ensure compliance with national standards, such support protects public investments while expanding the ecosystem.

Governance is the other critical pillar. A multi-stakeholder digital health governance framework-bringing together the Centre, states, clinicians, technologists, privacy experts, and patient representatives-can provide oversight, monitor performance, and ensure accountability. Transparent reporting on uptime, data protection, interoperability compliance, and user outcomes would shift attention from headline enrolment numbers to the system's real value.

Finally, success must be measured by outcomes rather than enrolments. Indicators such as reduced patient waiting times, fewer duplicate tests, faster insurance claims, improved referral completion, and lower out-of-pocket spending offer a more meaningful assessment of impact. Public dashboards tracking such metrics would strengthen accountability and guide iterative improvement.

Encouragingly, the financial implications of this approach are modest relative to the potential gains. Redirecting a small portion of existing digital health budgets towards sustaining core infrastructure, supporting facility digitisation, and strengthening governance could yield substantial efficiency dividends. In health economics, investments that reduce transaction costs and information asymmetry can deliver returns that exceed their upfront costs.

India is at a promising stage in the evolution of its digital health architecture. Like any large-scale public digital infrastructure initiative, the health stack is a work in progress. Decisions taken now will determine whether early gains consolidate into a shared national asset or fragment over time. By treating the digital health stack as a public good-open, inclusive, interoperable, and trusted-India can ensure that digital transformation steadily translates into tangible health system gains. India's earlier digital public infrastructure initiatives suggest that when the foundations are public, innovation can flourish and citizens can benefit.

India-Bangladesh relations at a crossroads

CHANDNI S CHANDEL

With four Hindu men killed in Bangladesh, the likelihood of internal insurgencies creeping up in our country has risen again, especially in the Northeast. Growing discontent, if not contained, can become a source of major instability in the region, writes former Manipur Governor and J&K ex-DGP Gurbachan Jagat Look to the Northeast. The linking of neighbouring Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China is a fact and not a figment of the imagination, he writes. There is an unstable Myanmar; an erstwhile friend but a now hostile Bangladesh, and Pakistan, with the covert help of the Chinese, is with them providing men, material and moral support.

However, despite setbacks in the security arena this year, New Delhi did well on the geopolitical front, says ORF Distinguished Fellow Manoj Joshi in his Edit piece Terror keeps India on its toes. 2026 should be the year in which India must work out a new geopolitical orientation to replace the one lost with the US. Besides emphasising multi-polarity, it also needs to take steps to boost the country's defence expenditure in keeping with trends around the world. America's ties with Pakistan and China suggest abundant caution not to rely on the US too much, he writes.

As domain experts continue to rework the definition of the Aravallis, the



goddess of Justice, although blindfolded, has demonstrated that it can both 'see' and 'hear' when it is under vehement, largely justified, attack, writes ex-Secretary, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ashok Lavasa in his Op-Ed article Aravallis, like old parents, can't be abandoned. Has the design of vested interests of turning a mountain into a molehill been defeated or have the saviours of the Aravallis succeeded in making a mountain of a molehill? he wonders. Cynics argue how could the court accept a definition without understanding its impact on the ground, both in terms of the extent of actual area covered by the definition and the effect of the permitted activities on the environment.

If the Aravallis are made to conform to the new definition, land degradation will only hasten, writes food and agriculture specialist Devinder Sharma in

his Edit Aravallis are vital for food security. There is a dire need to protect the hills that serve as a green wall against desertification. The true economic cost of their ecological and environmental services has not been worked out. Once this cost is known, the nation will realise the economic necessity of keeping the hills intact, he argues.

Talking of Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had stormed to power in 2022 riding the wave of disillusionment and got a massive mandate from an electorate desperately looking for an alternative. However, power's intoxicating effect has changed AAP from what it promised to be — a different party, writes senior journalist Nirmal Sandhu in his Op-Ed article Tu Mann na Mann, Punjab is sinking deep in debt, writing exhaustively about what has gone wrong in Punjab's political hotpot. Punjab has be-

come the second most indebted state in the country after Arunachal Pradesh. Instead of debating this issue, special Vidhan Sabha sessions are called to discuss politically useful matters, he writes. And AAP's contribution to the fiscal mess is no less significant. AAP had vowed to stop illegal mining and generate revenue, but the problem continues to persist after almost four years in power. Problems kept multiplying. Despite all shortcomings, the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government has done some good work, but there is more over-projection than concrete results on the ground, he thinks.

From AAP to the BJP, though the BJP government has had two terms of majority rule and it has re-consolidated political power by winning many Assembly elections, it has not moved significantly towards building consensus on crucial issues, writes

senior journalist R Jagannathan in his Op-Ed article Why BJP needs dialogue, not deadlock. It does not mean everything has to be done by consensus — the Budget and some economic policies, for example, can be exceptions — but in most other cases, the government should seek as wide a consensus as possible so that there is less internal heartburn. The BJP has to look beyond mere electoral gains, it has to begin discussions with major opposition parties on everything — from electoral and economic reforms to delimitation of constituencies and sharing of resources between the Centre, states and local bodies.

The Higher Education Regulatory Bill, being projected by the government as a decisive break from the failures of the UGC, is being offered as a solution to many ills plaguing education in India. By separating funding, accreditation, regulation and academic oversight into distinct functions, the government claims to eliminate overlap, reduce arbitrariness and introduce transparency, writes ex-PU professor Shelley Walia in his article Illusion of reform in universities. But the Bill is detached from the complex social, caste-based and linguistic realities that shape academia. This contradiction is stark when read alongside the NEP's commitment to creativity, critical thinking and multidisciplinary exploration, he writes.

Centre seeks proposals under Rs 500 crore scheme to cut medical device imports

New Delhi, Aug 29 (GNS): The Centre has invited proposals under two marginal investment sub-schemes to reduce India's heavy dependence on imported medical devices and support clinical studies in the medtech sector, more than a year after the schemes were first announced.

India currently imports nearly 70 per cent of its medical device requirements. To address this gap, the Department of Pharmaceuticals launched a Rs 500 crore support package in November 2024 to strengthen domestic manufacturing and innovation in the medical device industry. According

to a recent notice, eligible applicants have been asked to submit their proposals by January 10, 2026. Under the first sub-scheme, the government has earmarked Rs 180 crore to support 30 applicants through marginal investment assistance. The aim is to encourage domestic production of key components and raw materials used in medical device manufacturing and reduce reliance on imports.

At present, Indian manufacturers depend heavily on imported raw materials and components, making supply chains vulnerable and costs higher. To address this, the scheme offers a

one-time capital subsidy ranging from 10 to 20 per cent of the project cost, capped at Rs 10 crore.

The support will be provided on a reimbursement basis. The scheme covers projects related to the production of key components, raw materials, accessories and finished medical and in-vitro devices that fall under the Global Tender Enquiry list. This list includes advanced medical equipment that government bodies are allowed to procure through global tenders when such technology is not easily available in India. The second sub-scheme focuses on supporting clinical studies

for medical devices. Called the Medical Device Clinical Studies Support Scheme, it has a total outlay of Rs 110 crore and is designed to help both established companies and start-ups generate clinical evidence for their products. Under this scheme, manufacturers can receive financial support of up to Rs 2.5 crore for animal studies and up to Rs 5 crore for clinical investigations and post-market clinical follow-up studies on approved devices. In addition, support of up to Rs 1 crore is available for clinical performance evaluation of new in-vitro diagnostic products. The government said the measures are

intended to strengthen the domestic medical-device ecosystem by supporting both manufacturing capacity and product validation. The focus is expected to help Indian companies develop indigenous technologies and improve their ability to compete in the global medtech market.

The component manufacturing support is particularly aimed at areas where import dependence remains high. By providing capital assistance for eligible projects, the scheme seeks to encourage companies to establish production facilities for critical inputs and reduce vulnerabilities.

Guwahati to Host Human Capital Working Group Meeting Ahead of India AI Impact Summit 2026

New Delhi, Aug 29 (GNS): IndiaAI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Assam, and IIT Guwahati, will convene the Human Capital Working Group Meeting on January 5-6, 2026, in IIT Guwahati campus. The Working Group is chaired by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chair of the Human Capital Working Group and former Chairman, AICTE, Government of India. The two-day meeting will bring together senior policymakers, academic leaders, industry experts, and practitioners to deliberate on the future of education, skilling, and workforce readiness in the age of Artificial Intelligence.

The event will see participation from Shri Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Shri K. S. Gopinath Narayan, IAAS, Principal Secretary (IT), Government of Assam, Shri. Ashwani Kumar, IAS, Director IT Dept, Government of Assam

Prof. Jalihal, Director IIT Guwahati , Prof. Gautam Barua, Former Director IIT Guwahati , Smt. Shikha Dahiya, Joint Director, IndiaAI, MeitY, and other government officials, academicians and dignitaries. The inaugural session will also feature a Summit Address by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, outlining the Human Capital vision under the India AI Impact Summit framework. Anchored in the objec-

tive of treating AI as a public utility, the Working Group Meeting will focus on designing inclusive, scalable, and responsible approaches to AI-led workforce transition. Deliberations will place particular emphasis on education reform, gender-responsive AI strategies, and domain-specific augmentation of human capabilities, ensuring that AI adoption strengthens human potential rather than displacing it.

The agenda includes expert panel discussions on Gender-Responsive Strategies for the AI Transition, Redefining Education for the Cognitive Age, The Architecture of the National Language Translation Mission, Building an Inclusive and Empowered India, and The Reverse Engineering Approach to AI Education.

Together, these sessions will examine how India can reimagine learning systems, language access, and skills pathways to prepare citizens for an AI-enabled economy. The Guwahati convening will serve as a key regional and thematic precursor to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from February 15–20, 2026, in New Delhi, where national and global stakeholders will converge to shape the future of inclusive, responsible, and impact-driven AI.

Outcomes from the Human Capital Working Group Meeting are expected to directly inform the Summit's deliberations, reinforcing In-

dia's commitment to building a workforce that is resilient, future-ready, and empowered to thrive alongside AI.

The meeting will also examine ways to make AI education accessible to students and professionals from diverse social and economic backgrounds. Participants are expected to discuss affordable training models and digital learning resources that can be scaled across urban and rural regions.

Special attention will be given to preparing teachers and trainers for the changing education landscape. Experts will explore new teaching methodologies, curriculum updates and capacity-building programmes to help educators effectively integrate AI tools into classrooms.

The Working Group is also expected to deliberate on industry-academia partnerships to bridge the gap between academic learning and emerging workforce requirements. Stronger collaboration with technology companies and employers could help align training programmes with real-world skills and job opportunities. Language inclusion will form another important part of the discussions, particularly through the National Language Translation Mission. Expanding access to AI-enabled translation and language technologies could help citizens interact.

Rajasthan Deputy CM inaugurates two-day medical camp for ex-servicemen

Jaipur, Aug 29 (UNI) In a significant tribute to the spirit of service and sacrifice of India's veterans, Military Hospital, Jaipur, organised a two-day medical camp for ex-servicemen on Monday.

The camp is a part of the lead-up to Army Day celebrations, which were inaugurated by Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. The initiative marked a historic step towards ensuring comprehensive, free-of-cost medical care for veterans and their families. The camp offers integrated healthcare services, including a Bone and Joint Wellness Clinic with on-the-spot X-ray and BMD testing, specialist con-

sultations by eminent orthopaedic surgeons and personalised physiotherapy with live exercise demonstrations. Comprehensive cardiac care is also offered through expert cardiologist consultations, supported by on-site ECG and ECHO facilities, along with same-day availability of prescribed medicines. While addressing the august gathering, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander, Sapta Shakti Command, highlighted that within the Command, there are approximately 3,70,000 ex-servicemen and 7,30,000 dependents, out of which around 31,000 are cardiac and nearly 16,000 are ortho-

paedic patients. Recognising this essential need, the medical camp was designed to provide targeted, high-quality healthcare facilities catering specifically to them.

He also mentioned the previous health care activities organised for ex-servicemen by Military Hospital Jaipur, like cataract surgery eye camp and establishment of a cardiac lab. The camp served as a one-stop centre for diagnostics, medical advice and health guidance, reflecting the Indian Army's enduring commitment to the welfare of its retired personnel and their families. Beyond clinical care, the initiative

sought to motivate veterans to remain active, self-reliant and health-conscious, promoting physical fitness and mental well-being in their post-service life.

Military Hospital, Jaipur, continues to uphold its reputation as one of the premier military medical institutions in the region, dedicated to delivering world-class healthcare to serving and retired personnel alike.

Monday's camp stands out as a testament to its vision of compassionate, inclusive and community-driven medical service. The medical camp brought together specialists from multiple disciplines to provide vet-

erans with comprehensive consultations and diagnostic services under one roof. The organisers said the initiative was aimed at reducing the need for ex-servicemen and their families to travel to different facilities for specialised medical care.

The Bone and Joint Wellness Clinic provided facilities for X-rays and Bone Mineral Density (BMD) testing, enabling doctors to assess common orthopaedic concerns among ageing veterans. Specialist orthopaedic consultations and guided physiotherapy sessions were also arranged to help beneficiaries manage mobility-related issues.

Indian scientists find missing link in body's cells to boost therapies for Alzheimer's, cancer

New Delhi, Aug 29 (GNS): Researchers from the Jawaharlar Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have uncovered a surprising player in autophagy, or the "self-eating" process that removes damaged parts of cells that can pave the way for developing therapies for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cancer.

Autophagy is a key biological process where cells clear out damaged and unwanted materials. When a cell fails to clear waste, its health suffers, especially in long-lived neurons. The autophagy pathway, which removes damaged material and defends against infections, is disrupted in

diseases like Alzheimer's and Huntington's. In cancer, autophagy plays dual roles. Autophagy initially prevents cancer but later supports tumour growth. Autophagy also acts as a tumour suppressor by maintaining genome integrity and cellular homeostasis by clearing cellular junk such as protein aggregates and damaged mitochondria.

But it is also a double-edged sword as certain types of cancer cells hijack autophagy for their own survival and propagation. Understanding its regulation is crucial for the development of effective therapies. The team from JNCASR, an autonomous institution under the Department

of Science and Technology (DST), found that a group of proteins called the exocyst complex, which normally helps move important molecules to the cell surface, also plays a key role in autophagy. This complex comprises a team of 8 proteins; interestingly, 7 of the 8 proteins are required to help the cell grow the trash bag so that it can completely wrap up the waste. When this complex is missing, the cell's bag-making factory stops working properly and even starts producing faulty, non-functional factories.

The researchers led by Prof. Ravi Manjithaya used simple yeast cells to elucidate the formation of autophagosomes (cellular

"trash bags"), thereby providing insights into how this vital process operates in higher organisms.

They elucidated the mechanism by which a protein complex, exocyst, previously recognised for its role in secretion, also contributes to the autophagy pathway, which is crucial for maintaining cellular health. Since defects in autophagy are linked to several neurodegenerative diseases and cancers, the findings published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences will open new avenues for modulating this pathway to restore cellular balance and develop potential therapeutic.

US researchers find gut bacteria that can help lose weight, boost metabolic health

New Delhi, Aug 29 (GNS): US researchers have found a gut bacterium that may help people lose weight and enhance their metabolic health. This comes amid several weight-loss injections and medications that have proved their ability to help people lose weight.

In studies on mice, the team from the University of Utah found that a specific type of gut bacteria, called Turicibacter, can improve metabolic health and reduce weight gain.

People with obesity tend to have less Turicibacter, suggesting that the microbe may promote healthy weight in humans as well. The results

could lead to new ways to control weight by adjusting gut bacteria, said the team, in the paper published in the journal Cell Metabolism. Turicibacter, a rod-shaped bacterium, was found to single-handedly reduce blood sugar, levels of fat in the blood, and weight gain for mice on a high-fat diet. Turicibacter's effects are unlikely to be unique; many different gut bacteria probably contribute to metabolic health. And results based on animal models may not apply to people. "We have improved weight gain in mice, but I have no idea if this is actually true in humans," Round said. But the researchers remain

hopeful that Turicibacter could provide a starting point for developing treatments that promote healthy metabolism and prevent excessive weight gain. Turicibacter appears to improve metabolic health by affecting how the host produces a fatty molecule called ceramides, the researchers found. Ceramide levels increase on a high-fat diet, and high levels of ceramides are associated with many metabolic disorders, including type 2 diabetes and heart disease. But the fats produced by Turicibacter can keep ceramide levels low, even for mice on a high-fat diet. "With further investigation of individual mi-

crobes, we will be able to make microbes into medicine and find bacteria that are safe to create a consortium of different bugs .hat people with different diseases might be lacking," said first author Kendra Klag from the varsity.

The researchers said the findings point to a possible connection between specific gut microbes and the body's ability to regulate metabolism. In the mouse experiments, Turicibacter was associated with lower blood glucose and blood lipid levels, along with reduced weight gain despite a high-fat diet. The study focused particularly on ceramides, a class of lipid molecules .

Govt approves 22 proposals under the 3rd tranche of Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

New Delhi, Aug 29 (GNS): In continuation to the approvals of 24 applications for INR 12,704 crore announced earlier, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has further approved 22 proposals under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) with projected investment of INR 41,863 crore, projected production of INR 2,58,152 crore. These approvals are expected to generate 33,791 direct employment opportunities.

These approvals include manufacturing of 11 target segment products, which have cross sectoral application such as mobile manufacturing, telecom,

consumer electronics, strategic electronics, automotive and IT hardware products. These 11 products are as follows: 5 bare components like PCB, Capacitors, Connectors, Enclosures and Li-ion Cell 3 sub-assemblies like Camera Module, Display Module and Optical Transceiver 3 supply chain items like Aluminium Extrusion, Anode Material and Laminate (Copper Clad)

The approvals for PCBs (including HDIs) have been given to 9 applicants which include India Circuits Private Limited, Vital Electronics Private Limited, Signum Electronics limited, Epitome Components Private Limited, BPL Limited, AT & S India

Private Limited, Ascent-K Circuit Private Ltd, CIPSA TEC India Pvt Ltd and Shogini Technoarts Pvt Ltd. Further, approval for manufacturing of Capacitors, which are essential for energy storage and power conditioning in electronic circuits, has been awarded to Deki Electronics Limited and TDK India Private Limited, a major global manufacturer of electronic components and systems. For manufacturing of high-speed Connectors, approval has been given to Amphenol High Speed Technology India Private Limited. Further, approval for manufacturing of Enclosures for Mobile, IT Hardware products and related devices are granted to

Yuzhan Technology (India) Private Limited, a global manufacturer of electronic components, Motherson Electronic Components Private Limited, a leading Indian manufacturer of electronic components and systems, and Tata Electronics Private Limited, a leading Indian electronics manufacturer and a trusted global brand. Also, an application for manufacturing of Li-ion cells for digital applications, which serve as rechargeable energy storage units for consumer and industrial electronics, has been approved for ATLBattery Technology (India) Private Limited, one of the leading global players in Li-ion cells manufacturing.

In sub-assembly category, approval has been given to Dixon Electroconnect Private Limited for manufacturing of Optical Transceiver (SFP); Kunshan Q Tech Microelectronics (India) Private Limited for manufacturing of Camera Module Sub Assembly; and Samsung Display Noida Private Limited, one of the top global Electronics brands, for manufacturing of Display Module Sub-Assembly.

Further, to deepen the electronics manufacturing supply chain, approvals have also been given to NPSPL Advanced Materials Private Limited for manufacturing of Anode material which is a critical item for lithium-ion cell

manufacturing that determines energy density and life-cycle of Li-ion cells; Wipro Global Engineering and Electronic Materials Private Limited for manufacturing of Laminate (Copper Clad), which is the base material for PCB manufacturing and constitutes a significant part (~30%) of the bill of materials of PCB manufacturing; and Hindalco Industries Limited for manufacturing of Aluminium Extrusion for mobile phones enclosures, which are currently being 100% imported.

The approved units are spread across eight states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh

and Rajasthan, reinforcing the Government's focus on geographically balanced industrial growth and expansion of electronics manufacturing across the country. With the latest tranche of approvals, a total of 46 applications have been approved under the ECMS so far across 11 states, with a total investment of Rs. 54,567 crores, generating direct employment for about 51,000 people. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw noted that this programme has strengthened India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem. , enabling large portions of domestic demand to be

met indigenously. Outlining the vision for the electronics sector, he noted that India would still be a very young demography in 2047 when growth would have stopped in many other economies. He added that India would be the only economy which will continue to grow till 2100 and hence it is important to set all the structural foundational blocks in place, so that the growth continues. Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Shri. Jitin Prasada said that India is being seen as the next big Electronics manufacturing destination and is emerging as a reliable partner amidst global geopolitical uncertainty.

Ponguleti: Indiramma towers to help poor own homes

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the State Government's prestigious Indiramma Towers initiative is aimed at fulfilling the dream of home ownership for poor and middle-class families by providing them with permanent, quality housing free of cost. The Minister was speaking after inaugurating the Indiramma Towers Lucky Draw for beneficiaries under the CURE limits at Lakshmi Bhavan-Self Help Group Hall in Lakshmiguda, Rajendranagar constituency, on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the government has set a target of constructing 4.5 lakh houses in the first phase and 2.5 lakh houses in the second phase across Telangana. He added that the government has also decided to build one lakh houses for the urban poor in Hyderabad. As part of the pilot phase, tenders have already been final-



ized for the construction of 480 houses each in four Assembly constituencies, and the programme will soon be expanded to four more constituencies.

The Minister said each Indiramma Towers flat will have a built-up area of approximately 525 square feet. Including land value, each unit is estimated to be worth 60-70 lakh, with land valued at 50-60 lakh and construction costing around 10-15 lakh. These houses will be provided entirely free of cost. The houses will be registered in the name of the woman of the beneficiary family, while the government will bear the registration fee and all associated charges.

He noted that in the past,

houses for the poor were often constructed 30 to 40 kilometres away from their original places of residence, causing hardship in terms of employment, children's education and social connections. To address this issue, the government has decided to provide houses within the beneficiaries' own constituencies or nearby areas through the Indiramma Towers scheme.

Emphasising transparency, the Minister said beneficiary selection is being conducted strictly in accordance with government guidelines through an open lucky draw while adhering to reservation norms.

He clarified that selection in the lucky draw does not amount to final allotment.

Uttam: Talks to Boost Pranahita Water Diversion to Sundilla

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Saturday that the inter-State talks convened by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti between Telangana and Maharashtra could pave the way for diverting nearly 80 TMC of Pranahita water by gravity to the Sundilla barrage.

The negotiations, scheduled for September 1 in New Delhi will examine Telangana's proposal to construct the Pranahita barrage at Tummidli Hatti at full reservoir level of 150 metres. The meeting will be chaired by the Central Water Commission Chairman and attended by senior officials and heads of key CWC directorates. Ahead of the talks, Uttam Kumar Reddy

held a preparatory meeting with Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar, Engineer-in-Chief (General) O.V. Ramesh Babu and other senior officials.

The commencement of formal discussions between the two States is a major step forward. It is the result of sustained efforts and correspondence by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Irrigation Department to restore the benefits originally envisaged under the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella project," he said. Telangana will seek Maharashtra's consent for the 152-metre level, which is two metres higher than the 148-metre level accepted by the previous State government in 2016. The Minister said technical studies conducted by the



Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, estimated submergence in Maharashtra at about 1,150 acres at 148 metres and over 2,500 acres at 152 metres.

"Since submergence is involved at both levels, the previous government should have negotiated more effectively to secure Maharashtra's consent for the technically advantageous 152-metre level. Telangana lost an impor-

tant opportunity by agreeing to 148 metres without adequately safeguarding the State's interests," he said.

According to the Minister, the higher barrage level would enable nearly 80 TMC to be conveyed by gravity to Sundilla, reducing dependence on costly and energy-intensive lift irrigation. Gravity conveyance would also provide a more dependable and sustainable source of irrigation.

The proposal draws its legal and institutional basis from the inter-State agreements of 1975 and 1978, which permitted the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to develop the Pranahita project jointly or independently for their respective benefit.

The original Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi scheme was conceived to irrigate nearly 16.40 lakh acres. Its subsequent redesign and restructuring, however, excluded substantial portions of the proposed command area.

Nearly two lakh acres in the erstwhile Adilabad district, located in the head reaches of the original project, were left without an effective irrigation source even after the formation of Telangana.

Farmers in these areas have waited for more than a decade for the irrigation benefits promised under the original project. The present government is determined to correct this injustice," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Gridhar Reddy Attends SIR Phase-II Training in Amberpet

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): The Phase-II training programme on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for the Amberpet Assembly Constituency was held today at Diya Suswagath Banquets in Kachiguda, under the leadership of DCC President Motha Rohith Mudiraj. Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao and State SETWIN Corporation Chairman N. Gridhar Reddy attended the programme as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, they emphasized the need to ensure that every eligible voter is included in the electoral rolls. They directed party workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to carry out the SIR process with utmost responsibility.

They explained the importance of identifying eligible voters, assisting them with the required documents, and ensuring that no genuine voter is left out of the electoral rolls. Secunderabad Parliamentary Constituency Coordinator Raghavendra Reddy, SIR Phase-II Trainer Randheer, TPCC General Secretary R. Lakshman Yadav.

Free Sewing Machines for BC Women Under Indiramma Scheme

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala announced that the Telangana State Government is distributing free sewing machines to women belonging to the Backward Classes (BC) category for the year 2026-27 under the "Intintiki Indiramma" (Indiramma in Every Household) automatic sewing machine scheme. She urged eligible women to apply via the TGOBMS online portal by September 15. She stated that priority under this scheme would be given to unemployed women, specifically the homeless, single women, widows, and destitute women.

As part of a pilot project, the government has decided to provide 1,000 sewing machines per constituency. With 15 constituencies in the district, a total of 15,000 machines will be distributed. Sewing machines worth 12,000 will be provided with a 100% subsidy. To be eligible, applicants must be between 18 and 55 years of age. Additionally, the annual income limit is 1.50 lakh for those from rural areas and 2 lakh for those from urban areas. A white



ration card or food security card is mandatory; only one unit per family is permitted. Preference will be given to candidates from the Meru community and those skilled in the tailoring profession.

Individuals who benefited from the BC Self-Employment Scheme during the 2023-24 year are ineligible. Educational Qualification: Preference will be given to those who have passed at least the 5th standard. Documents to be enclosed by applicants: 1. Tailoring training certificate 2. Income certificate 3. Caste certificate 4. Aadhaar card 5. Passport-size photograph The Collector announced that further details can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Backward Classes Development Officer, Hyderabad.

TG plans world-class golf courses to boost tourism

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): Telangana is planning to develop world-class golf courses to promote golf tourism and attract professional and amateur golfers from across the globe, Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said on Saturday.

The government is planning a 130-acre golf course at Jawahar Nagar near Shamirpet and another international-standard golf course at Somasila along the Krishna River. The Somasila project is expected to offer a unique combination of golf, nature and tourism, with the proposed course surrounded by the Nallamala forests and located near the Amrabad Tiger

Reserve. The project is likely to be developed with private participation under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Speaking at a press conference linked to the 12th Telangana Golconda Masters at Hyderabad Golf Club, Jupally said the tournament would help showcase Telangana's sporting and tourism potential to an international audience.

He said Telangana's tourism attractions extend beyond Hyderabad and include its lakes, forests, rivers, palaces and forts. The Minister also expressed the government's interest in utilising former India captain Kapil Dev's experience to promote tourism and sports in the state.

CEO orders faster SIR notice distribution, verification

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (Patriotic Views) State Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy stated that the special summary revision process for voters needs to be accelerated. On Saturday, he held a review meeting via video conference with District Collectors, District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) from all districts. The meeting focused on the issuance of notices and the resolution process regarding the special summary revision of the voters' list.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Chief



Electoral Officer directed officials to expedite the distribution of notices, conduct inquiries into complaints and objections within the stipulated timeframe, and speed up the verification of relevant records. He instructed that the notice distribution process be further accelerated to ensure all

pending notices reach the concerned individuals and that inquiries be conducted after the completion of the seven-day period following the delivery of notices. He stated that the list of anomalies and 'no-mapping' cases should be made available to agents of recognized political parties and that extensive publicity should be conducted to create clear awareness regarding the documents and evidence required for claims and objections. He further directed that the status of claims and objections be updated daily on notice boards and emphasized the need to maintain transparency.

Kishan Reddy Highlights India's Healthcare Progress

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday said India has made remarkable strides in the healthcare sector over the past decade, highlighting significant improvements in medical education, infrastructure, and access to quality healthcare. He was addressing the Kidney Symposium-2026 organised by Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, where he attended as the chief guest.

The Minister lauded the Department of Renal Sciences at Yashoda Hospitals for its outstanding contribution to kidney care, organ transplantation, and advanced medical treatment. He stressed the importance of preventing kidney diseases through early diagnosis, awareness, and healthy



lifestyle practices. Kishan Reddy said the Central Government has transformed India's healthcare landscape by expanding medical institutions and improving healthcare infrastructure.

He noted that the number of medical colleges has increased from 387 in 2014 to 846, while MBBS seats

have nearly tripled from 51,348 to around 1.4 lakh. The number of AIIMS institutions has also risen from 7 to 23 across the country. In addition, over 1.86 lakh Ayushman Arogya Centres have been established to strengthen primary healthcare services. The Minister said the Ayushman Bharat

scheme has reduced the medical expenditure burden on common citizens by nearly 2 lakh crore, while more than 20,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are providing quality generic medicines at affordable prices. Expressing concern over the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases

such as diabetes, hypertension, and thyroid disorders due to sedentary lifestyles, Kishan Reddy said these conditions significantly affect the kidneys, liver, and heart. He urged people to focus on prevention and early detection rather than treatment alone.

He highlighted the success of the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme, under which over 32 lakh patients have received more than 4 crore free haemodialysis sessions, helping families save over 10,000 crore in treatment expenses. Under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NPCDCS), more than 41 crore people have been screened for hypertension and another 41 crore for diabetes.

Mailardevpally police arrest man in umrah package fraud case

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (GNS): Mailardevpally Police arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly cheating the public by offering Umrah travel packages through Instagram and other social media platforms.

The accused, identified as Mohd Imran, a photographer and resident of Bahadurpura, was arrested on August 29. Police seized a mobile phone and documents related to the case. A case was registered at Mailardevpally Police Station under Sections 318(4)



and 316(2) of the BNS and Section 66D of the IT Act.

According to police, the complainant, Zeeshan Saad, was planning to undertake Umrah with his family during Ramadan.



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