

Revanth Reddy pushes for integrated Hyderabad road network system

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (Patriotic Views): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy drew a road-map to complete the radial works and land acquisition expeditiously by bringing all road networks under a single system. Holding a review with top officials of HMDA and HRDCLat the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion on Thursday, the Chief Minister emphasized that All road network development works including land acquisition, loans, and road maintenance should be integrated and brought under a single system . Outer Ring Road, Regional Ring Road, city flyovers, underpasses, and other roads should fall within the scope of the new system.

The CM instructed the officials to expedite the



construction of radial roads and set December 9 as a deadline to complete Radial Road 1, connecting Kongara Kalan to Future City. Hurdles in the construction of radial roads and quick resolve of such issues were discussed in the meeting. Quality in construction of the roads, soil used in

road construction, necessary precautions , greenery on both sides of the roads, crucial Badvel trumpet interchange , work progress of the Elevated Corridors I and 3, quick construction work on the Elevated Corridor III stretch from Banjara Hills to Shilpa Layout were also reviewed.

Stating that Hyderabad's future depends on road connectivity, CM Revanth Reddy stressed that land acquisition should be accelerated without any delay. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to involve the Traffic Department in road planning and construction and warned

that he will not the interference of middlemen in land pooling. The Chief Minister was serious about the poor maintenance of the Outer Ring Road. The CM enquired the officials about the reasons for the frequent road accidents on ORR and causing heavy traffic jams. The Chief Minister warned

the agency for not maintaining safety on the ORR and instructed the authorities to adopt all measures to stop road mishaps.

On the implementation of the TDRs (Transferable Development Rights), the Chief Minister gave specific instructions of issuing TDR only for the lands acquired by the government and digitize the entire process. The officials were also ordered to develop a robust system to eliminate irregularities in TDR. Special Chief Secretary (Municipal Administration & Urban Development) Jayesh Ranjan, Secretary to the Chief Minister Manik Raj, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, Ranga Reddy District Collector Narayana Reddy, and other senior officials were present.

Rijiju accuses opposition of blocking parliament, says govt ready for debate

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday accused the opposition of deliberately not allowing Parliament to function, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah remain present throughout the day and are available for discussions. The Minister added that despite the log-jam, legislative business is continuing and bills are being passed.

The remarks came amid continued adjournments of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha due to relentless protests by the opposition over student issues and the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Speaking to reporters in the Parliament House complex, Rijiju said the opposition is



preventing the House from functioning while alleging that the Government is avoiding a debate. "Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah remain present in Parliament since morning and leave only in the evening. It is the opposition that is not allowing the House to function while raising slogans outside. That is not correct," Rijiju told reporters.

He said the Government has continued to transact business and pass bills, particularly in the Rajya Sabha, where discussions have taken place despite protests by opposition members.

"We are passing bills and conducting House business. In the Rajya Sabha, bills are being passed after proper discussion. Congress and one or two of its allies may be walking out or creating a ruckus, but members are participating in debates and expressing their views," he said.

The parliamentary affairs Minister claimed the continued disruptions are hurting the Congress more than the Government, particularly its first-time MPs who are losing opportunities to speak in Parliament.

"It is the Congress that is suffering. Some of its new MPs are not getting an opportunity to speak. Who is suffering because of this? Their own MPs," he said.

Parliament Passes Appropriation Bill, Clears Excess Expenditure Funds

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): The Parliament has passed the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026, which seeks to authorise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India towards excess spending incurred during the financial year ended on March 31, 2023, with the Rajya Sabha returning the legislation to the Lok Sabha after a discussion on Thursday. The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill on Tuesday by a voice vote. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the bill for consideration and return.

In her reply to the debate in the Upper House, the Finance Minister said that the government has sought approval for excess expenditure incurred during the financial year 2023. She highlighted that the demand for excess grants pertains to two specific



items identified by the Public Accounts Committee in its 39th report presented to the House in April this year. Sitharaman stated that one of excess demand is of over Rs 196 crore, which relates to the Ministry of Railways, while the second demand of Rs 53,871 crore pertains to repayment of debt.

Referring to concerns raised by members regarding Jammu and Kashmir, Sitharaman assured the House that the government has extended substantial fi-

nancial and administrative support to the Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. She informed that the salaries and pensions of Jammu and Kashmir Police are being fully made by the Central government, involving an annual expenditure of around Rs 13,000 crore. Participating in the discussion, M Thambidurai of AIADMK said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is today progressing as one of the fast-growing major economies in the world. He said the government has taken important initiatives for infrastructure development, digital governance, manufacturing, connectivity, and welfare schemes. Mr Thambidurai said that these efforts contribute to economic growth and improve delivery of public services.

Cabinet Approves Rs 8,000-Crore Guwahati-Tezpur Corridor



Guwahati, Aug 6 (UNI): The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a four-lane access-controlled Guwahati-Tezpur Corridor on National Highway-15, a major infrastructure project expected to enhance connectivity between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh while reducing travel time, improving road safety and boosting economic activity across the region. Announcing the decision on social media platform X on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the project as a "major boost to connectivity and growth in Assam."

He said the corridor will reduce travel time, improve road safety and ease congestion through major bypasses at various locations. It will also include an Emergency Landing Facility at

Tezpur, along with bridges, flyovers, underpasses and service roads. Responding to the announcement, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked PM Modi and Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari for approving the project, estimated to cost over Rs 8,000 crore. Sarma said the corridor would provide a major impetus to trade and tourism while strengthening strategic infrastructure in the region by providing an Emergency Landing Facility.

He added that connectivity infrastructure across Assam and the Northeast has witnessed unprecedented expansion under PM Modi's leadership, accelerating economic development and creating new growth opportunities.

India and Singapore review progress in bilateral and multilateral cooperation



New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): India and Singapore reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation during the 19th round of India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on Thursday. "The 19th round of India-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held on 06 August 2026, in New Delhi. Indian delegation was led by Shri Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and the Singapore delegation was led by Mr. Luke Goh, Permanent Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore," stated the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"The two sides reviewed the progress of bilateral cooperation under the eight key areas outlined by the Roadmap for India-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP Roadmap)

that will be taken up under India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)," it added. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global developments and reaffirmed the importance of close coordination at international and regional fora, including ASEAN, in addressing shared challenges. India-Singapore relations were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Singapore in September 2024.

The Roadmap for Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was launched during the India visit of Singapore PM Lawrence Wong in September 2025, and covers cooperation in the areas of economic cooperation, skills development, digitalisation, sustainability, connectivity, healthcare and medicine.

Bhagwat: Gen Z protests have genuine grievances

Mumbai, Aug 6 (GNS): Addressing the gathering amid recent student-led protests over issues including the alleged NEET paper leak, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Thursday that the Gen Z movement was not against the country and that the protesters' grievances were genuine.

He stressed the need for reforms in India's education system and emphasised that dialogue was essential. "If Gen Z is protesting, they are not anti-nationals. They are our own people, our next generation... I do not believe Gen Z is like that... I think the new generation — the Gen Z and Gen Alpha, is more honest than our existing generation,

and honest appeal of patriotism and service works with them," he noted.

"The new generation appeared more honest, with appeals of patriotism and service resonating with them." Bhagwat addressed and interacted with more than 2,000 students representing Generation Z and Generation Alpha at the inauguration of the annual championship conference organised by India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN), which is celebrating its 15th anniversary. "A protest is also a way of dialogue," the RSSS Chief said. "In a democracy, protests are also a way of building consensus. A lot of views come together, and consensus is evolved after discussions.

BRICS nations have unique opportunity to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): BRICS nations have a unique opportunity to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness, deepen technological collaboration, build resilient value chains and promote sustainable industrial growth, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Addressing the BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur under India's BRICS 2026 Chairship, Goyal said the discussions focused on

the future of industrial cooperation and economic collaboration among BRICS member nations.

"Delighted to address the BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur under India's BRICS 2026 Chairship, where we discussed the future of industrial cooperation and economic collaboration," Goyal stated.

"Emphasised that BRICS nations have a unique opportunity to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness, deepen techno-

logical collaboration, build resilient value chains, and promote sustainable industrial growth," he mentioned.

He said India highlighted its priorities of strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), fostering startup innovation, expanding clean energy cooperation and building technology-enabled logistics ecosystems to drive sustainable industrial development.

The minister said a key

outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the Joint Declaration, which reaffirmed the member countries' shared commitment to advancing practical cooperation under the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR).

"Also highlighted India's priorities of strengthening MSMEs, fostering startup innovation, expanding clean energy cooperation, and building technology-enabled logistics ecosystems," the minister stated.

SPiRiT OF VIKSIT BHARAT

A century of India’s Development

Ayaan Saroori

A land regarded as the largest democracy in the world is moving to complete its 100 years of independence with ultimate development— with respect to integrity and unity of nation.Once termed by the British as a “land of snake charmers”,India now stands as the fifth-largest economy,a testament to the major leaps we have made.With its diversity of cultures,religions,languages and landscapes, India aims to achieve a stable stem in its economy, sustainability in environment and change in its socio-cultural development under the vision of Viksit Bharat. India being a democratic and federal country is also known for its brotherhood,integrity and landscapes of the meadows of Kashmir valley,temples of Jammu,oranges of Nag-pur, sweetness of Delhi and modernisation of Mumbai with technological development of Bangalore.The mission of India to complete the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 is crystally proportional to emerge as a global leader by developing its all the sectors,with utilizing its abundant natural resources and minerals—wether the Sapphire of Kishtwar or the Lithium metal of the Jam-mu’s Reasi.

India with a deep past has uphelded the real essence of development,socialism and true essence of communal harmony.From Jawaharlal Nehru to other statesman



like Atal bihari vajpayee and Dr.Manmohan singh,all had worked in the inter-est of nation besides from their political gain and ideo-logical differences.Over the decades,India has record-ed transformation into a model of achievement,self-reliant and modern na-tion.The vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’ is another key to progress and this vision will develop a nation,where truth will enlighten,justice will be delivered.We will uphold new sense of op-portunities, advancements in technology,quality of education and various prin-ciples of development.With our efforts and involvement of government with the resolution of by the people and by the people,we would attain the stature of our ‘Bharat Mata’ within the 100 years of independence under the vision of Viksit Bharat.While by thinking differently and creatively, dreaming and aiming big

with hard working free from corruption and stealing,we can turn our model of de-veloped nation into a reality. India is progressing towards this goal with attaining hold over various infrastruc-ture projects like the Atal Setu bridge, Chenab train bridge and several medi-cal institutes of national level as All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AI-IMS) are being constructed in various states of the country. In addition to the infrastructure,we have pro-gressed significantly in edu-cational reforms and had strengthened vocational training,under the national educational policy of 2020. The NEP of 2020 emphasis on the importance of skilled population and it becomes necessary to inculcate all the mentioned training in our curriculums of learning.

There are several factors responsible for attaining the true spirit of Visit Bharat by 2047 and some of them are

mentioned as below;

Economic development is vital for the progress of a nation to transform the infrastructure,facilities of a country.To term India as a complete self sustaining and Viksit nation we have to attain the goal to reach more nearer to the 1 or 2 place in the world econo-my.While in the economic sphere,our nation,is the at the world’s fifth-largest eco-nomic place,which shows gain momentum after the indeoence.By attaining more highest rank,India can prioritise policies to ensure economic benefits,reduce income inequality and al-leviate over sections of the population.The rank of 5th largest economy of world has become due to several government schemes,timely financial helps with proper plannings and policies.Also the sense of taxation in the country had created more chunk of black money under checks

and balances while others to pay justified taxes for the nation’s development— which will directly help India to be Viksit by 2047. to abstain black money and corruption.Several policies and subsidized loan plans by the government institu-tions around the startups and encourage more youth to invest in business and boom the economy of a country. With economic upliftment,educational sphere stands vital to be progressed for a civilized countrymen with the true virtue of justice and liter-acy.While education be-ing necessary,India has reformed the education with improvement in its educational policy,that is NEP-2020,which focuses on the delivery of quality and skilled education,which has developed an interest with-in the students.

In terms of tourism and development in the related sectors is another aspect to attract tourist and fa-cilitate best facilities to the citizen of India.Our coun-try being full of nature— trees, valleys,meadows and mountains.Developmental and attractive initiatives like Smart city projects—a sig-nificant project to transform cities into advanced—has prompted the development in Jammu and Kashmir.For instances,both the head-quarters, Srinagar as well as Jammu are undergoing the initiative with a major grab of tourists through attrac-tion and cleanliness.

America’s AI energy revolution has global stakes

Dalia Al-Aqidi

The next great Ameri-can industrial revo-lution is not being shaped in think tanks; it is being built in real time. In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, once a powerhouse of steel and smoke, the US has launched a future rooted in artificial intelligence, energy innovation and indus-trial revival. What unfolded at the Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit last week was not just a do-mestic policy pivot. It was a global declaration.

With more than \$90 billion in private sector commitments, this initia-tive, spearheaded by the President Donald Trump-aligned state administra-tion and welcomed by leaders on both sides of the aisle, sends a clear mes-sage to the world: the US intends to lead the AI era with power, precision and pragmatism.

That message matters far beyond American bor-ders. For leaders across the Middle East, this moment is worth watching, not just because of its scale but be-cause of what it signals: the future of AI will be forged by the nations that control the energy, infrastructure and values that guide its use. AI is not an abstract Western luxury. It will soon define everything from national security and energy man-agement to education, ag-riculture and healthcare. AI is already reshaping global trade, defense and diplo-macy. In the Middle East, governments are investing heavily in smart cities, sur-



veillance systems, digital health and fintech, all of which are powered by AI. But AI is not magic; it de-mands enormous amounts of energy to train, deploy and sustain. The summit in Pennsylvania highlighted this reality with refreshing honesty. Rather than chas-ing slogans or downplay-ing the environmental and industrial demands of AI, American leaders there did something rare: they con-fronted the energy chal-lenge head-on.

Their answer? Build data centers adjacent to power plants, particularly those utilizing natural gas and nuclear energy. This strat-egy, known as co-location, dramatically improves ef-ficiency and allows for rapid expansion. It offers a potential model for energy-rich nations worldwide to consider as they scale up their own AI ambitions.

Many global commenta-tors will ask: is this Ameri-can model just a return to fossil fuels? Is it an envi-ronmental rollback? The answer is not that simple.

Washington is not aban-doning its climate goals. However, it acknowledges a simple truth: wind and solar are essential, but they cannot yet deliver the reli-able, large-scale power that AI systems need. For now, only natural gas and nucle-ar energy can provide that kind of steady and scalable supply. This is not about giving up on renewables; it is a practical step. A way to keep innovation moving forward while the clean en-ergy future catches up.

For Middle Eastern countries, especially those investing in AI through sovereign wealth funds and national tech strategies, this approach resonates. Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and the UAE are threading this same needle: investing in renewables while recog-nizing the transitional role of hydrocarbons and nu-clear energy. What the US is doing in Pennsylvania may not just inspire them but also offer a playbook.

At its core, the summit’s announcements promise more than megawatts and

microchips. They offer a blueprint for economic dig-nity. America’s heartland, often overlooked by glo-balization, is being revital-ized through high-skilled, future-focused jobs in en-ergy, cybersecurity, engi-neering and data science. This is a model the world can learn from. Instead of viewing AI as a threat to traditional labor, the US is building an industrial policy that connects digital growth to human oppor-tunity. The lesson is clear: if AI is built in a vacuum, it will deepen inequality. If it is built alongside energy, training and infrastruc-ture, it can be a ladder. For Middle Eastern countries investing in youth-driven economies, that distinction is crucial. The AI revolution must be both technologi-cal and human. There is a bigger reason the summit matters: it proves that who builds AI, and the values behind it, matter.

By leading with clean energy and private sector strength, America is do-ing more than securing its

own future — it is offering a better option for others. The global market now has a choice: work with a democratic AI system built on trust and cooperation or risk getting locked into one built for control, not collaboration. Washington is not looking to go it alone. At the summit, Trump and others emphasized the im-portance of international cooperation, especially with energy producers and tech innovators abroad.

That is where the Middle East comes in. The region is home to some of the world’s most ambitious AI visions, from Saudi Ara-bia’s NEOM to the UAE’s national AI strategy. It is also home to some of the world’s most valuable en-ergy assets. A new partner-ship model could emerge, in which American AI ex-pertise is combined with Middle Eastern energy foresight, leading to shared leadership in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This is not science fiction. It is strategic alignment.

Of course, no policy is perfect. Environmen-tal concerns must be ad-dressed and the digital di-vide must be bridged, not just within nations but be-tween them. However, what is clear is that a vacuum of leadership is no longer an option. The world needs bold ideas and, more im-portantly, the courage to act on them. What happened in Pennsylvania is not a solution for every country. But it is a signal to all: the AI energy era has arrived and the stakes are global.

Interesting

battlelines drawn

Battlelines have been drawn for the impending Vice President election sooner than expected. No one was in any doubt about the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) quickly deciding on its nominee, primarily it had to be the decision of the BJP. What caused a surprise, surely even the BJP quarters were taken aback, was the alac-rity with the which the Opposition’s I.N.D.I.A combine finalized their joint candidate quickly and without any fuss. The line-up is CP Radhakrishnan, Maharashtra Governor and a senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu before entering Raj Bhawan, versus former Supreme Court Judge Justice B Sudershan Reddy who hails from Telangana (Telugu land). The contest is between a hardcore politician with a strong RSS background and a legal luminary with a firm inclination towards social, political and economic justice which the legal experts feel was apparent from his observations and judgements dur-ing the course of legal career.

The fact that both the candidates belong to South India with different political formations ruling in Telangana-Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, and of course the domicile factor that plays an important role in deciding the voting pattern, holds a promise,the contest to be interesting. Numerically the BJP-led alliance leads the field, but the political contours in these states coupled with the fact that the electors- mem-bers of the two Houses of Parliament- are not bound by any whip, makes it look in-teresting. It was never in doubt that fully equipped with the statecraft machinery, the ruling BJP will make a head-start in this race. Contrary to the expectations in the NDA camp that the rivals will quibble on candidate selection till the last day of filing nomi-nation, it turned the other way round. The ruling dispensation’s head-start advantage lost some sheen with I.N.D.I.A bloc quietly and quickly deciding their candidate that too an apolitical, non-controversial and one with impeccable track-record public fig-ure. The common denominator in Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led dispensation’s thinking in any situation is how to derive the electoral benefit apart from juggling to get the votes and support from the rival camps. Simply speaking the end matters more to them than the means. And that has been the case with the selection of Mr Rad-hakrishnan, a former MP and Tamil Nadu BJP president, as his native state is due to face assembly elections early next year.

The two-pronged strategy behind his selection seems to be (1) impact the assembly elections, (2) and more importantly to push the ruling DMK and its leader Mr M K Stalin to a corner where he will have to think hard to vote against a fellow Tamilian. It could be fraught with serious electoral consequences for Chief Minister Stalin if not carefully handled, with Mr Modi and his team perfectionists in polarizing and elector-ally exploiting such a situation.

No one had expected a deft counter move by the Congress-led combine, and within 24 hours (unlike Congress which is beset with indecision and factionalism). The fact that Congress and allies, after long spell of dithering, strongly came together on the issue of Special Intensive Review (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar barely three months before assembly elections, and painstaking effort of Rahul Gandhi in culling out de-tails of “fake voters and fake polling” in states such as Karnataka and Maharashtra, has led to I.N.D.I.A bloc acting from a position of strength.

Under the given circumstances, the Vice-President election is also about outdoing each other in the matter of setting a strong narrative. The I.N.D.I.A by fielding Justice Reddy and terming the poll as an “ideological contest” has stolen the march over the Modi brigade. Of course, winning is the ultimate goal of every election.

Selection of Justice Reddy, in fact, has turned out to be a jaw-whacking and unset-tling punch for the NDA’s candidate. If Radhakrishnan was brought to corner Mr Stalin in the former’s home state into voting for the fellow Tamilian, Justice Reddy’s, though a non-political entity, is in a similar vein targeted at the Telugu Desam Party chief and Andhra Pradesh- part of the Telugu land- Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu who is an NDA ally. And also, the main opposition party, YSR Congress president and for-mer Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy who had announced his support for the NDA candidate even before the I.N.D.I.A bloc had announced its candidate. It will be in-teresting to see how the situation now pans out in Andhra Pradesh. As it is Telangana is ruled by the Congress all eyes will be rivetted on Mr Naidu and to some extent on Jagan Mohan Reddy on whether they will shut eyes on a fellow Telugu and a Reddy (in the case of Jagan). Both of them will be at a greater risk to invite local ire. After all, Mr Naidu had, despite his strong anti-Congress background, backed P V Narasimha Rao, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh, when he became Prime Minister. He had justified his support for Mr Rao calling him ‘Telugu Bida’ (Telugu elder brother).

Nevertheless, the BJP has a clear advantage on another front-the MPs are not bound by any whip and have the opportunity to caste a conscience-vote. Will the saffron party, with all the where-withal- be able to exploit this situation or will the I.N.D.I.A bloc voters be guided by “ideological battle”theme of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge made at the time of announcing Justice Reddy’s candidature?

An unrelated but not totally detached development which took place as the rival sides were announcing their candidates, was the curious turn which election to the Constitution Club of India, a Club for the MPs and ex-MPs, took place. It was the BJP versus BJP direct contest for the post of all important secretary (administration) which saw two fellow partymen pitted against each other, representing two powerful lobbies within the BJP. As the grapevine has it the winner Rajiv Pratap Rudy was backed by Ut-tar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath He defeated former MP and an acolyte of Home Minister Amit Shah, Sanjeev Balyan, convincingly.

This is for the first time in the last over a decade that the current BJP’s internal dis-sent became public that too in an insignificant club election. If the theory of the two powerful leaders testing their might and the mightier losing it out, is true, then chanc-es of replays in the Vice-Presidential elections cannot be ruled out. The one BJP leader backed by Congress and entire opposition won over the other having blessings of the BJP’s top brass in Delhi. The star-studded electorate was led by Congress veterans, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, Mr Kharge and Home Minister, Shah and others which was unprec-edented.

Can Mr Rudy, also a commercial pilot apart from being a six-time MP, become cata-lytic in lending more strength to the opposition? This is a very interesting proposition the outcome of which is in the realm of probabilities.

Will the fall-out of the Constitution Club election impact Vice-Presidential polls? It will be interesting to see what role Mr Rudy, a dynamic leader and parliamentarian, who has openly taken cudgel with the Modi-Shah combine, plays in the Vice-Presi-dential election. After all he has the backing of fellow Thakur, the UP Chief Minister. Isn’t it the pay-back time for him since the main architect of opposition backing him was Mr Rahul Gandhi?

BSNL's tie-ups with tech giants positions India as global hub for telecom innovation: Minister Scindia

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia sees BSNL's strategic partnerships with the Big 4 global technology giants Ericsson, Qualcomm, Cisco Systems and Nokia as a transformative initiative that will not only upgrade India's telecom capabilities but also equip India's young talent with future-ready skills. Aimed at accelerating India's digital transformation and strengthening the skilling ecosystem, these partnerships will roll out advanced training initiatives in 5G, AI/ML, networking, and digital technologies at BSNL's apex training institute, Bharat Ratna Bhim Rao Ambedkar Institute of Telecom Training (BRBRAITT) in Jabalpur.

The minister has stated in a media article that from local to global, India won't just make in India but for the world. And Jabalpur

will be at the heart of this transformation. Aligned with existing initiatives like Digital India, Skill India, Make in India and Startup India, this collaboration positions India as a global hub for telecom innovation and expertise, he said, adding that it also gives a fresh boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat with BSNL's remarkable comeback, achieving consecutive quarterly net profits after 18 years on its path to profitability. Under the partnership announced by the Minister last week, Ericsson will set up a 5G centre of excellence at BRBRAITT, delivering hands-on training supported by world-class online modules, enabling students to gain exposure to global best practices, while benefiting from BSNL's robust telecom infra.

Qualcomm will specialise in advanced 5G and AI courses, offering internships and sponsoring train-

ing for the first 100 students, thereby directly boosting employability and opening pathways to careers in high-demand tech sectors. Cisco will expand its renowned Networking Academy to democratise access to quality training in networking and cybersecurity. By collaborating with non-profit institutions, it will ensure that learners across India, regardless of location, have access to industry-relevant skills. Nokia will establish a 5G and AI-ML Lab, focusing on training in core networks and emerging telecom applications, with joint certification from Nokia and BSNL, enhancing graduates' industry credibility.

The curriculum, spanning from intensive two-week modules to comprehensive 84-hour programmes, is designed for students, working professionals and public sector employees. Beyond skilling, the initiative will encour-

age product innovation, prototyping and telecom entrepreneurship, turning learners into creators, not just consumers, of tech. The minister has highlighted that local economies, especially in Madhya Pradesh, will benefit from increased employment opportunities, while India as a whole gains a workforce equipped to compete on a global stage. For consumers, the ripple effect will be better connectivity, more innovative telecom solutions, and faster rollout of next-gen services. "India's achievements in expanding affordable broadband, enabling digital payments like UPI, and using tech for governance have become case studies across the world.

The next wave of digital growth will be defined by technologies like 5G, AI, IoT and cybersecurity, and India won't be a bystander. It will lead, innovate and set global benchmarks,"

the minister stated.

The initiative is expected to create a strong bridge between academia, industry and government, ensuring that India's telecom workforce remains aligned with rapidly evolving global technologies. By bringing leading technology companies into the training ecosystem, BSNL aims to provide practical exposure and industry-oriented learning opportunities to thousands of aspiring professionals. Officials said the collaboration will also support the development of indigenous telecom solutions by encouraging research, innovation and entrepreneurship among trainees. With access to advanced labs, certification programmes and mentorship from global technology experts, young innovators will be better positioned to develop products and services for both domestic and international markets.

Hydrogen at \$1 per kg can make India an energy exporter: Gadkari

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): Hydrogen today costs around \$5 per kilogram and if India can bring this down to \$1 dollar per kilogram, we won't just achieve energy independence, we can become a global exporter of clean energy, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said on Wednesday. Highlighting India's leadership in renewable energy, Gadkari said that solar energy is the 'Sanjeevani Booti' for our planet and hydrogen is the fuel of the future.

"I drive a Toyota Mirai, which itself means 'future' in Japanese, because I believe hydrogen will transform mobility and energy," he added.

Speaking at the 24th Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) here, the minister emphasised that true progress lies in making "our villages stronger than our cities". "With 80 per cent of people still connected to agriculture, we must diversify

farming towards energy and power, invest in water conservation, and harness technologies like AI for rural prosperity. Jal, Jameen, and Jungle must remain the pillars of our growth model," he told the gathering. The minister further stated that ethics, economy, ecology, and environment must move together — only then can development generate employment, alleviate poverty, and inspire pride and self-reliance. The 24th Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture was delivered by Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance (ISA), and presided over by Gadkari.

India aims to capture nearly 10 per cent of global green hydrogen demand, which is expected to exceed 100 million metric tonnes by 2030.

According to Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Power and Renewable Energy, India has made substantial progress towards its ambitious green hydrogen production targets. , with 862,000 tonnes per

annum of production capacity already awarded to 19 companies under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The government has awarded 3,000 megawatts of electrolyser manufacturing capacity to 15 companies, marking significant industrial development in the sector.

The minister said reducing the cost of green hydrogen will require advancements in renewable energy, electrolyser technology and large-scale production. He stressed that innovation and policy support would play a crucial role in making clean energy solutions affordable and accessible for industries as well as consumers. Gadkari highlighted that hydrogen-powered mobility can significantly reduce dependence on fossil fuels and help India cut carbon emissions. He said the transition towards cleaner fuels would create new opportunities in manufacturing, research and employment while supporting the country's climate goals.

Starlink joins hands with UIDAI for Aadhaar-based customer verification in India

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has onboarded Elon Musk-owned global satellite internet provider Starlink Satellite Communication Private Limited, allowing the company to use Aadhaar authentication for verifying its customers, Ministry of Electronics and IT announced.

Officials said this step will make the process of customer verification smooth, secure and hassle-free.

Under the arrangement, Starlink will use Aadhaar e-KYC to onboard new users. This means customers can complete their verification quickly and paperlessly while staying compliant with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. UIDAI clarified that Aadhaar authentication will be voluntary, as per existing rules.

The appointment of Starlink as a Sub-Authentication User Agency and Sub-eKYC User Agency was formalised in the presence of UIDAI

CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar, Deputy Director General Manish Bhardwaj, and Starlink India Director Parnil Urdhwaresh. Officials described the collaboration as a powerful synergy between India's trusted digital identity system and global satellite technology.

With Aadhaar e-KYC, Starlink will be able to seamlessly bring high-speed satellite internet to homes, businesses and institutions across the country. UIDAI noted that Aadhaar has become the backbone of India's digital public infrastructure, easing both everyday living and business processes. Its face authentication solution, which allows Aadhaar holders to verify themselves with a simple scan, is also seeing rapid adoption due to its convenience. By adopting Aadhaar authentication, Starlink is demonstrating confidence in India's digital systems. The move, experts say, highlights the scalability and reliability of Aadhaar and

shows how it can drive innovation in service delivery while ensuring transparency and accountability. Meanwhile, the earlier this month, the Ministry announced that UIDAI signed an umbrella agreement with the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) for joint research and development (R&D) to further enhance the robustness, security and reliability of Aadhaar operations through data-driven innovations.

The partnership is expected to support Starlink's planned expansion of satellite-based broadband services in India, particularly in remote and underserved regions where traditional internet infrastructure remains limited. Aadhaar-based verification will help streamline customer onboarding while maintaining regulatory compliance and security standards.

Officials said the integration reflects the growing role of digital identity solutions in enabling access to emerg-

ing technologies. By combining Aadhaar's authentication framework with satellite connectivity, the initiative could help bridge the digital divide and expand reliable internet access to rural and difficult-to-reach areas.

The collaboration also highlights India's focus on strengthening its digital public infrastructure through partnerships with global technology companies. The government believes secure identity verification systems will play a crucial role as more digital services, including connectivity, financial services and e-governance platforms, expand nationwide.

Starlink's adoption of Aadhaar e-KYC is expected to improve operational efficiency by reducing paperwork and simplifying the user registration process. Customers will be able to complete verification remotely, making satellite internet services more accessible for individuals, businesses and institutions.

Apple to make all iPhone 17 models in India as production expands across 5 plants

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): Apple is stepping up its manufacturing push in India, with all models of the upcoming iPhone 17 series, including the high-end Pro versions, being assembled in the country from the start. This is the first time the company will produce every new iPhone variant in India, a move seen as part of its strategy to reduce reliance on China and safeguard against US tariff risks.

According to sources, Apple has spread iPhone 17 production across five local factories, two of which have just begun operations. However, the sources confirmed that the tech giant is expected to manufacture fewer units of the 'Pro' models. Tata Group's new plant at Hosur in Tamil Nadu and Foxconn's large new hub near Bengaluru airport are at the centre of this expansion. Tata, which has rapidly risen as one of Apple's key partners, is expected to handle nearly

half of India's iPhone output within the next two years. Foxconn has already started rolling out iPhone 17 units at its new \$2.8 billion facility in Devanahalli, near Bengaluru. The plant, which is Foxconn's second-largest iPhone factory outside China, is now running alongside its Chennai unit. The company overcame an early setback this year when several Chinese engineers left, bringing in experts from Taiwan and other locations to keep production on track.

Apple's bet on India has a ready started to pay off. Between April and July this year, iPhones worth \$7.5 billion were exported from India, compared to \$17 billion in the entire previous fiscal year. In the financial year ending March, Apple assembled iPhones worth about \$22 billion in India -- marking a 60 per cent jump from the year before. The tech giant is expected to scale up production to 60

million iPhones this year, compared with around 35–40 million in 2024–25. Apple CEO Tim Cook recently underlined India's growing role in the company's supply chain, revealing during a July earnings call that a majority of iPhones sold in the US in June 2025 were made in India. Analysts say Apple's shift has boosted India's status as a global manufacturing hub. With S&P Global estimating US iPhone sales at nearly 76 million units in 2024, Apple will need to double its shipments from India or reallocate devices from other markets to meet American demand.

Apple's presence in India's own smartphone market is also growing steadily. Shipments rose 21.5 per cent in the first half of 2025 to 5.9 million units, with the iPhone 16 emerging as the most shipped model. In the June quarter, Apple's shipments in India rose nearly 20 per cent year-on-year,

giving it a 7.5 per cent share of the market.

Industry experts view the Bengaluru factory's launch and the broader manufacturing shift as a major milestone in Apple's diversification strategy.

The expansion of iPhone manufacturing in India is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities across electronics manufacturing, logistics, component supply and related sectors. Industry officials believe the move will strengthen India's position in the global electronics supply chain.

Apple's growing ecosystem in India is also encouraging local suppliers to expand their operations and invest in advanced manufacturing capabilities. The development is aligned with the government's push to promote domestic production and increase India's share in global technology manufacturing.

Retail major IKEA to double down on India market in 12–18 months

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): Multinational conglomerate IKEA plans to double the number of its stores and customer touchpoints across the nation over the next 12 to 18 months, according to Jesper Brodin, CEO of Ingka Group, which owns IKEA globally. The expansion will include both large-format stores and smaller outlets in malls and city centres.

According to Brodin, the company is committed to rapid expansion in India and plans to increase local sourcing from its current 30 per cent to 50 per cent by 2030 as part of its long-term strategy. Additionally, he disclosed that plans to open 5–6 new touchpoints in India every year over the next five years. IKEA intends to double the number of its stores and customer service centres nationwide. IKEA has big plans for the Delhi NCR area as part of its retail expansion, with big stores opening in Noida and Gurgaon. Two additional

large stores are also planned for South India, though the precise locations have not yet been disclosed. IKEA currently runs three sizable stores in Bengaluru, Navi Mumbai, and Hyderabad. The company has already invested Rs 10,500 crore in India and has ventured into online retail, providing 24-hour delivery services in a few locations. Regarding sourcing, IKEA has 45 Indian suppliers, mostly in the textile and toy industries. The company's products are well-known throughout the world for their modern design, affordability, and usefulness. The Swedish firm anticipates India to be its fastest-growing market over the next 20 years, with a particular emphasis on customer experience, product range, and expansion.

In order to reach a larger consumer base, IKEA's growth strategy consists of a combination of large-format stores, smaller city

centre outlets, and an online presence. Since its 1943 founding in Sweden, IKEA has expanded to become a major player in the home furnishings industry, operating more than 400 stores across multiple nations.

The company said India's growing middle class, urbanisation and increasing demand for affordable home furnishing solutions are key factors driving its expansion plans. IKEA expects its wider retail network to make its products more accessible to customers across major cities and emerging markets.

IKEA's increased focus on local sourcing is aimed at strengthening its supply chain in India while supporting domestic manufacturers and creating new business opportunities for suppliers. The company is also exploring ways to enhance sustainability through responsible production and efficient logistics.

14,329 electric buses operating on Indian roads under NEBP: Minister

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): India now has 14,329 electric buses operating on the roads as part of the National Electric Bus Programme (NEBP), the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

NITI Aayog has requested Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) to perform the role of a programme manager for the demand aggregation of 50,000 e-buses. The government has introduced a number of schemes, such as "PM-eBus Sewa" and "PM E-Drive", which extend financial assistance for electric vehicles.

"State Transport Corporations may send proposals to the departments concerned for assistance. No fund has been allocated as financial assistance to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation in the last five years," Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply. Earlier this month, the Central

government extended the PM E-Drive scheme for electric buses, ambulances, and trucks by two years to March 2028. According to a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries, the scheme will now lapse in March 2028 instead of March 2026.

Fund allocation for the scheme has been maintained at Rs 10,900 crore, and no additional allocation will be made under the scheme, according to the notification. As per the notification, incentives for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers will end by March 2026. The PM E-Drive scheme supports decarbonisation with up to Rs 9.6 lakh incentives for switching to electric trucks, targeting approximately 5,600 e-trucks nationwide. In July, the government launched a groundbreaking scheme to provide financial incentives for electric trucks (e-trucks) under the PM E-Drive ini-

tiative, with the maximum incentive set at Rs 9.6 lakh per vehicle. This marks the first time the government is extending direct support for electric trucks, aiming to accelerate the country's transition to clean, efficient and sustainable freight mobility.

The scheme is expected to support the deployment of approximately 5,600 e-trucks across the country.

The expansion of electric bus fleets is part of the government's broader strategy to reduce carbon emissions, improve urban mobility and promote cleaner transportation solutions. Officials said increased adoption of electric buses will help cities reduce dependence on fossil fuels and improve air quality.

Under the National Electric Bus Programme, demand aggregation and large-scale procurement are expected to lower costs and encourage more states and transport agencies to adopt electric mobility.

India's 8 core industries record 2 per cent growth in July

New Delhi, Aug 6 (GNS): The combined index of India's eight core industries increased by 2 per cent in July this year compared to the same month of the previous year, according to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry. The production of steel, cement, fertiliser, and electricity recorded positive growth in July, the official statement said.

The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and are an indicator of the overall industrial growth. The final growth rate of the eight core industries for June this year was observed at 2.2 per cent, while the cumulative growth rate during April to July, 2025–26 works out to 1.6 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Steel production, which has a 17.92 per cent weight in the index, posted a robust growth of 12.8 per cent in July

compared to the same month of the previous year on the back of increased demand from big-ticket infrastructure projects being carried out by the government. The cumulative index for steel during April to July, 2025–26, increased by 8.5 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

Cement production also recorded an 11.7 per cent jump in July as demand in large infrastructure and construction projects picked up. Its cumulative index increased by 8.9 per cent during April to July, 2025–26, over the corresponding period of the previous year. Fertiliser production increased by 2 per cent in July over the same month of the previous year as the kharif sowing season picked up momentum due to a good monsoon. Electricity generation increased by 0.5 per cent during the month, but coal production declined by 12.3 per cent due to the heavy monsoon.

State to Stand by Late Contractor’s Family: Minister Komatireddy

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday assured full support to the family of contractor and former Vice-MPP late Bandari Srinivas Reddy, and said State Government would stand by them and ensure justice. Minister Komatireddy visited the bereaved family at their residence in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, where he offered floral tributes to the late Srinivas Reddy and conveyed his condolences to the family members.

Addressing the media, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy described Srinivas Reddy as a reputed contractor and have generated employment for nearly 200 people through construction



works and crusher operations. Referring to pending payments, Minister Komatireddy said around 685 crore worth of CRF work bills executed during the previous government remained unpaid across Telangana, of which 5.3 crore was due to Srinivas Reddy. He said the long-pending amount had recently been cleared after

he personally pursued the matter with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Expressing concern over the mining notice served on Srinivas Reddy, Minister Komatireddy questioned the rationale behind issuing a 54-crore demand notice to a contractor whose legitimate government dues had remained unpaid. He

termed the action of the concerned mining official "irresponsible" and said the circumstances leading to the incident would be thoroughly examined.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that a review meeting with Mining Minister Vivek Venkataswamy will be held on Friday to discuss issues concerning mining operations, crusher units and the difficulties faced by contractors. He said the government will also examine whether any official negligence contributed to the unfortunate incident and take appropriate action. Appealing to small contractors across the State, Minister Komatireddy requested them not to lose confidence and asked those facing delays in payments or mining-related

issues to approach him directly, through their associations or the Minister's office Secretariat. "We will take every genuine issue to the notice of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and work towards resolving the problems of small contractors. The government is committed to ensuring that no genuine contractor is subjected to unnecessary hardship," Minister Komatireddy said.

The Minister reiterated that the State Government will extend all possible support to Srinivas Reddy's family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. Representatives of contractors' associations, builders, public representatives and senior Roads & Buildings Department officials were present during the visit.

Telangana HC takes up plea on Family Register Certificate as voter eligibility proof

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Thursday commenced hearing a batch of writ petitions challenging the inclusion of the Telangana Family Register Certificate as a valid eligibility document for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and posted the matter to August 12 after granting time to the Election Commission of India to obtain instructions. The petitioners have challenged G.O.Ms. No.172, Revenue (Ser. II) Department, dated July 25, 2026, contending that the Telangana Family Register Certificate, which is issued solely on the basis of the Food Security Card/ Ration Card database for the purpose of availing government services, cannot be treated as a valid eligibility document for voter enrollment under the Special Intensive Revision.

They have sought a declaration that the inclusion of the certificate under Item No. 10 of the SIR guidelines is illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional, besides seeking directions restraining the election authorities from accepting it as proof of eligibility for enrollment. During the hearing, the Standing Counsel for the Election Commission of India sought a short time.

GHMC commissioner reviews dengue Preparedness, Birth-Death Registration

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) The Commissioner, GHMC, Sri R.V. Karnan, today chaired a review meeting on entomological activities, vector-borne disease preparedness, birth and death registration, along with a sensitization programme on the upcoming Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal at the GHMC Command Control Centre.

The Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely registration of births and deaths and the prompt issuance of certificates as a key statutory responsibility of GHMC. The meeting re-



viewed the status of vector-borne disease prevention measures, with directions to ensure 100% utilization of adulticides and larvicides, intensify surveillance and source reduction activities, strengthen interventions around positive cases, and

conduct Special Friday Dry Day Drives across all GHMC Circles from 7 August 2026. Assistant Medical Officers of Health were also instructed to enhance monitoring of Annapurna Canteens.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health reviewed circle-

wise dengue cases, seasonal preparedness, mosquito behaviour, and outbreak response measures.

The Metropolitan Surveillance Unit (MSU) presented updates on disease surveillance, hotspot mapping, and coordinated field interventions. The Additional Commissioner (IT) briefed officials on the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act and the upcoming Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal, which will enable citizens to register births and deaths online through a simplified and citizen-friendly digital platform.

TPCC Gets New Social Media, Media Wing Chiefs

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed Naveen Pettem as the chairperson of social media department of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee. According to AICC General Secretary K. C. Venugopal, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the appointment of state chairperson, convenors, coordinators and co-coordinators of the social media department of TPCC.

Naveen Pettem was earlier the coordinator of the social media department. He is also a member of the State Transport Authority.

K. Ujwal Reddy and P. Vamshi Krishna have been



appointed as convenors of the department. Ambala Sive Kumar, Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Veerapuram Ram Laxman, Geetha Ainala, MD Abid Ali and Susheel Kumar have been named as the coordinators. According to the AICC statement, M. Bhargav Naidu, S. N. Dinesh and

Fareeduddin will be the co-coordinators.

The AICC president has also approved the appointment of Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy as the state chairperson of the media and publicity department of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee.

Kiran Kumar Reddy is the Member of Parliament from Bhongir constituency. He took to X to thank Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, K. C. Venugopal and AICC leaders for entrusting him with the responsibility of state chairperson of the Media & Publicity Department of TPCC. "I pledge to work tire-

lessly with TPCC leadership to effectively articulate our governance, fulfil our promises, and strengthen the party's voice across Telangana," he said.

Meanwhile, Geetha Ainala has declined to accept her appointment as one of the coordinators of the social media department.

Geetha, who is the state convenor of TPCC Media and Communications, while thanking for the appointment, posted on X that she was not accepting this. She requested Naveen Pettem to remove her name from the list. The reasons for her refusal to accept the appointment were not immediately known.

Sridhar Babu reviews MLC poll, SIR preparations

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) State Minister for Information Technology and Industries D. Sridhar Babu on Thursday asked Congress leaders and workers to accord top priority to voter enrolment for the forthcoming Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar Graduates' MLC election and ensure that all eligible graduates are registered. Addressing a meeting of senior Congress leaders from the erstwhile Ranga Reddy district at Mailardevpally, the Minister reviewed preparations for the election and the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across Assembly constituencies.

He urged party leaders to strengthen booth-level coordination and organise awareness campaigns on graduate voter registration. Corporation chairpersons, Assembly and Parliament in-charges, and District



Congress Committee presidents were asked to oversee the enrolment process and ensure that the targets set by the party were achieved. Mr. Sridhar Babu also asked party workers to explain to the public the State government's implementation of election promises, development initiatives and welfare programmes under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He urged them to highlight what he described as the failures of the BJP and the BRS during

their public outreach. The Minister said the Congress candidate for the Graduates' MLC election would be selected after considering feedback from the grassroots and consultations with party leaders, while reiterating that the final decision would rest with the party high command.

He also stressed the need for vigilance during the SIR process to ensure that all eligible voters were enrolled and that errors in the electoral rolls were identified and rectified. The meeting was attended by MLAs Mal Reddy Rangareddy, Prakash Goud, Kasireddy Narayana Reddy and Arikepudi Gandhi; Corporation Chairpersons Mal Reddy Ram Reddy, Gnaneshwar Mudiraj and Bandi Ramesh; District Congress Committee presidents Vajresh Yadav, Narasimha Reddy and Dhara Singh, among other party leaders.

Kavitha warns of ‘Chalo Delhi’ rally over pending OBC reservation bill

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief K Kavitha on Thursday, August 6, warned that her party would organise a “Chalo Delhi” rally with a thousand cars if the central government failed to pass the Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation Bill before the upcoming Budget Session.

Addressing the Samajika Nyaya Sankalpa Sabha, a social justice resolution meeting, at Saroornagar in Hyderabad, she said would dedicate her life to fighting for social justice for all marginalised communities. Backward Classes (BC) deserved 50 per cent representation in legislatures and TRS would continue to agitate nationally until that goal was achieved, Kavitha said. “My birth was not in my hands, but who I work for is my decision,” she said, addressing those who questioned why someone from an upper caste family was speaking for BCs. “I will not say or do anything that my conscience does not permit. I am here with the firm belief that change will come.”

Drawing on historical examples, she argued that many transformative



changes in India had been brought about by democratically-minded people from upper-caste backgrounds, citing the Buddha, Sahu Maharaj, former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who implemented the Mandal Commission report despite Congress sitting on it for 20 years, and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, who placed BC reservations under the Ninth Schedule.

“Social justice does not mean upper castes will lose their seats. The Buddha himself stepped outside the palace, saw the world and built a democratic republic. We must take such people as our inspiration,” she said. Kavitha said 71 per cent of BCs were in conditions worse than those of the Scheduled Castes (SC), and that SC and Scheduled Tribes (ST) backlog posts running into lakhs remained unfilled across

Late rains lift sowing, but water uncertainty clouds TG’s Kharif prospects

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) The Vaanakalam (Kharif) sowing in Telangana gathered pace in the second half of July, with the total cropped area crossing 73 per cent of the season's normal acreage by August 5. But the late surge offers little room for complacency, as reservoir storage remains substantially below last year's level and farmers continue to depend heavily on rainfall and uncertain irrigation supplies, including groundwater.

The cropped area surged from 68.43 lakh acres, or 51.69 per cent of the season's normal area of 132.38 lakh acres as on July 22, to 96.74 lakh acres (73 per cent of the season's normal area) by August 5. The pickup followed renewed monsoon activity across the State and heavy rainfall in the upper Krishna basin in Maharashtra and Karnataka, which increased inflows into Telangana. Heavy rains in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh also improved flows into the Godavari.

For farmers who had delayed sowing amid uncertainty over irrigation water, the rains provided a much-needed window. Rainfed crops, including jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, pulses, groundnut, soybean and cotton,



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Stakeholders Deliberate on Roadmap to Scale Up Manufacturing

Hyderabad, Aug 6 (GNS) Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal today announced the setting up of a task force to support the toy sector and identify interventions towards achieving the goal of reaching a 5 per cent share in the global toy market by 2032. The announcement was made at the stakeholder meet, “Team Up for Toys: Driving SCALE, Innovation and Exports”, organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at Vaniya Bhawan, New Delhi.

The task force will work towards achieving six objec-

tives, namely, integration with global value chains, strengthening manufacturing capabilities, resolving value chain bottlenecks, creating skilled workforce and employment, enabling design and innovation, and enhancing ease of doing business.

The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, manufacturers, startups, investors, artisans, designers and other key stakeholders from across the toy ecosystem to deliberate on the future growth trajectory of India's toy sector and marked the launch of the Toy Sector Playbook.



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