

CM Revanth Reddy to Invite US, UK Universities to Bharat Future City

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (GNS)Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will invite leading universities from the US and the UK to establish offshore campuses in Bharat Future City during his overseas tour covering the US, UK, Germany and China from August 17 to September 10. The state government will offer land to these institutions in a dedicated Education Zone being developed in Future City, official sources said.

Sources said Revanth Reddy's foreign tour was primarily aimed at attracting foreign higher educational institutions (FHEIs) to Future City and showcasing the state's vision of creating an international destination for higher education, research, innovation, sports and skill development. Revanth Reddy is expected to hold meetings with officials of Illinois State University in the US, the University of Aberdeen and the

University of York in the UK, besides interacting with investors, sports organisations and training institutes to explore long-term partnerships.

Sources said nearly 15 universities from the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand had expressed interest in establishing offshore campuses in Telangana, particularly in and around Hyderabad.

The University of Colorado in the US and the University of London in the UK had already submitted applications to the University Grants Commission (UGC), seeking permission to establish campuses in Hyderabad. In addition, representatives of nearly a dozen other foreign universities have approached the Telangana government, with discussions underway to identify suitable locations for their proposed campuses.

Among the institutions exploring opportunities in Telangana



are Purdue University and Northeastern University in the US, whose representatives are in discussions with state officials. The University of Birmingham in the UK and the University of Western Australia have proposed sports-focused campuses, while Newcastle University, the University of Chichester and the University of Hertfordshire are also holding consultations with the state gov-

ernment on establishing a presence in Telangana.

The proposed campuses would offer programmes in business, economics, accounting, finance, software engineering, data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, game design, entrepreneurship, innovation, biomedical sciences and several other emerging disciplines aligned with global academic and industry requirements.

Officials said the Chief Minister would use the visit to promote Bharat Future City as an international education and investment destination while seeking collaborations that would improve educational standards in Telangana, equip students with globally competitive skills and strengthen the state's sports ecosystem. Revanth Reddy is also scheduled to visit leading universities and skill development centres in the US,

UK, Germany and China, with the possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several educational institutions to elevate higher and skill education in Telangana to international standards.

The initiative comes as the UGC has opened the door for globally reputed universities to establish offshore campuses in India under the University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023. The regulations permit eligible foreign universities to establish independent campuses in the country through a structured approval process.

Under the framework, the UGC has introduced a single-window clearance mechanism and constituted a high-powered Standing Committee to evaluate applications from foreign universities.

Mecca Joint Defence Agreement: A New Security Bloc And India's Strategic Questions



New Delhi, Aug 7 (UNI): The newly signed Mecca Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey marks a significant development in regional security cooperation, as, according to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, it states that an armed attack against any one of the three countries would be regarded as an attack against them all, while also expanding defence cooperation across multiple domains.

Security analysts believe the agreement is largely a consequence of the changing strategic dynamics in West Asia following the US-Israeli military action against Iran, Tehran's retaliation against American bases, and growing concerns over the vulnerabil-

ity of Gulf energy and water infrastructure. In this view, the pact is primarily designed to strengthen collective deterrence in an increasingly volatile region, say experts. However, the agreement also raises important questions for India. "One key issue is how the mutual defence clause would be interpreted if India were compelled to conduct military action against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan following a major cross-border terrorist attack," an analyst noted.

India has consistently maintained that counter-terrorism operations conducted in self-defence are fundamentally different from acts of aggression against a sovereign state, say analysts.

Manipur remains cut off, prices of goods sky high

Imphal, Aug 7 (GNS) Essential and normal goods, petroleum products, e-business platforms remained completely cut off from the rest of the world due to stir, landslides causing intense hardships to the masses in Manipur. Manipur has two main national highways, Imphal to Jiribam and Imphal to Mao of which the first one which is lengthy and muddy remains the only reliable highway since the outbreak of the crisis in Manipur's Churachandpur district on 3 May 2023. Imphal to Mao highway passes through some pockets resided by Kuki communities and travel is not advisable for Naga, Meitei and other residents of the state.

Imphal to Jiribam highway is much safer as it has few Kuki villages and the

government is bringing in goods by providing escorts. Movement on the highway has also suffered a setback as Kuki militants stopped vehicles and looted. Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand discussed the situation with security personnel and assured them of adequate security.

The transporters said the highway is in pathetic condition, major portions filled with mud while miscreants extort money from the drivers. Most of the e-business services have stopped services to the state and stocks at most shops have depleted. Huidrom Bablu of the Kangleipak Students' Association (KSA) said essential items are sold at inflated prices. He said his organisation has started a campaign to check prices of goods.

LS passes MSME amendment bill amid opposition uproar

New Delhi, Aug 7 (GNS) The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 by voice vote amid persistent Opposition protests, paving the way for sweeping reforms aimed at strengthening the legal framework governing India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly in addressing delayed payments, improving dispute resolution and enhancing the ease of doing business.

The legislation, moved by union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Jitan Ram Manjhi, seeks to amend the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, the principal law governing the promotion, development and competitiveness of MSMEs. The Bill introduces a series of structural reforms intended to



improve liquidity for small businesses, ensure faster settlement of disputes and provide greater flexibility to states in administering dispute resolution mechanisms. The Bill was taken up for consideration and passing amid continued disruptions in the Lok Sabha, with Opposition members raising slogans and demanding that union Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement in Parliament

on the alleged police action against youth protesters at Jantar Mantar. Despite the uproar, the government proceeded with legislative business, and the Bill was passed by voice vote. Soon after its passage, the House was adjourned for the day as protests continued.

Moving the legislation, union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said the proposed amendments were designed to modernise the

existing legal framework governing MSMEs while improving the ease of doing business and strengthening institutional support for small enterprises. "The amendments seek to strengthen the existing legal framework, improve ease of doing business and provide greater support to small enterprises by modernising provisions of the 2006 law," Manjhi told the House while introducing the Bill.

India closely monitoring Pakistan-Somalia defence pact, says MEA

New Delhi, Aug 7 (GNS) India on Friday said it is "closely" monitoring developments surrounding the recently signed defence cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Somalia, while reiterating its commitment to strengthening ties with African nations and expressing hope that the next India-Africa Forum Summit will be held at a mutually convenient date. Responding to questions during the weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We continue to follow the developments between Somalia and the other country (Pakistan) that you mentioned closely." His remarks came days after Somalia and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation in Islamabad aimed at expanding collaboration in counter-terrorism, military training, defence capability development and broader security cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Somalia's Defence Minister Ahmed Moallim Fiqi and Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif during the Somali minis-

ter's official visit to Pakistan. According to Somalia's Ministry of Defence, the MoU establishes a framework for cooperation in "counter-terrorism, military training, the exchange of military expertise and knowledge, defence capability development, and enhanced security cooperation" to promote peace and stability. The ministry described the agreement as reflecting the two countries' "shared commitment" to strengthening their strategic partnership and creating a "practical and enduring partnership."

Asked about the schedule for the next India-Africa Forum Summit, Jaiswal underlined India's long-standing engagement with the African continent.

Chess: Praggnanandhaa clinches St.Louis Rapid and blitz title

St. Louis, Aug 7 (UNI): Indian grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has clinched the Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid and Blitz title with a round to spare. A draw between Praggnanandhaa and Javokhir Sindarov in their final head-to-head secured the title for the Indian Grand Master. The 20-year-old India secured the championship after finishing with 23 points out of a possible 35. Sindarov claimed second place with 22 points after a fantastic tournament, while Wesley So finished third on 20.5. Levon Aronian took fourth with 19, and Fabiano Caruana, Leinier Dominguez, and Jorden van Foreest shared fifth place on 17.

He earned USD 50,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points for winning outright, avoiding a playoff. The result moved



Praggnanandhaa into second place in the Grand Chess Tour standings ahead of the Sinquefeld Cup. Fabiano keeps a leading the overall Grand Chess Tour standings. Praggnanandhaa maintained the lead throughout the five-day event, while Sindarov mounted a strong challenge in the final stages but fell short, finishing runner-up with a 1.5-point deficit. In June, Praggnanandhaa scripted

history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title.

The 2026 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz brought ten elite grandmasters to the Saint Louis Chess Club from July 31 to August 7. Across five days of play, the field contested nine rapid rounds and eighteen blitz rounds; 135 games in all, with critical Tour Points on the line before the Sinquefeld Cup and GCT Grand Finals. The tournament combines two fast-paced disciplines: a 9-round single round-robin Rapid tournament (played at a time control of 25 minutes plus a 10-second increment from move one) and an 18-round double round-robin Blitz tournament (played at 5 minutes plus a 2-second increment from move one).

Heavy Rain Alert for Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh; Himachal Till Aug 12



Panchkula, Aug 7 (GNS) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts widespread rain with isolated heavy showers in Delhi, Haryana, and Chandigarh on Friday. Himachal Pradesh is expected to experience heavy rainfall through August 12, while rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to intensify from August 9. According to the IMD's All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin issued at 9:02 am on August 7, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi are expected to receive fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, with isolated heavy showers in some areas.

Other parts of northwest India are likely to receive isolated to scattered rainfall during the following period. No Specific Heavy Rain Forecast for Punjab Punjab is not specifically

mentioned for heavy rainfall in the August 7 bulletin and falls under the general forecast for isolated to scattered rainfall in northwest India. This indicates that Punjab will likely receive less rainfall than Delhi, Haryana, and Chandigarh, which are forecast to experience widespread rain and isolated heavy showers on Friday.

Heavy Rain in Himachal Pradesh expected until August 12 Himachal Pradesh is expected to experience an extended period of active monsoon conditions, with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall forecast from August 7 to 12. Isolated heavy rainfall is likely in Himachal Pradesh each day from August 7 to 12, making it one of the few northwestern states facing a sustained heavy rain spell during this period.

The mystery of Indian citizenship

The flavour of the season is citizenship, something we thought had been decided 75 years ago by a liberal Constitution

Avay Shukla

So you think the issues uppermost in the minds of those who rule would be the landslides in the Himalayas or Trump's tariffs, or our global isolation? Well, you would be wrong, but you can be forgiven for thinking so, for that is how a rational, logic-driven nation should think. But we have lost that status for a decade now and have become a Blunderland of nonsense. We are now firmly in the position of Lewis Carroll's Alice:

"If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary wise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?" You probably don't, so let me explain. The flavour of the season is none of the issues mentioned above: it is citizenship, something we thought had been decided 75 years ago by a liberal Constitution which allowed citizenship on grounds of birth (jus soli), descent (jus sanguinis), naturalisation and registration. But, as Ambedkar said, any Constitution is only as good as those who are charged with implementing it — and that is why we are a Blunderland. For, the Constitution, though unamended in this respect, is being spray-painted in many parts of the country to ensure that certain sections of our vast



population are denied citizenship. An attempt to do so through legislation some years back (the Citizenship Amendment Act) hangs in limbo, or the deep freeze which is the Registry of the Supreme Court. So now it is being done through a game of smoke and mirrors — a Bangladeshi here, a Rohingya there, an encroacher here, a Bengali-speaking person there. But the message is loud and clear — we are the new India, we no longer brush a problem under the carpet, we now push it into Bangladesh in the dead of night, or into a detention centre under the gavel of a Foreigners' Tribunal. But there's a problem: the Constitution has been shoved into the background, and a new set of (con)found-ing fathers have replaced it with their version of what constitutes citizenship. The

ball was set rolling in 2019 through the CAA, implicitly propounding the theory that only a Hindu was entitled to citizenship of India. This doctrine has come in handy in Assam to include the few lakh Hindus excluded from the NRC there.

The RSS, not one to be left behind in the Hindutva sweepstakes, proclaimed that Hindustan was for Hindus alone, that an Indian citizen should possess both "Bharatiyata" and Bharati "swabhav" (no prizes for guessing who would define these terms!). The BJP's eminence grise, Ram Madhav, went a step further and demanded that India should have not a democracy, but a "dharmocracy". That would in effect transform us into a twin of a country like Iran, presumably with a different religion at the helm, of course. Believers of other

religions could lump it, as second class citizens. In short, Indianness would be defined by faith and belief, notwithstanding the Constitution. Enter the Deletion Commission of India (formerly the Election Commission of India), which finds conducting elections a boring job and so has now decided to identify citizens instead, something it is neither qualified nor mandated to do. Not knowing which document to rely on for proving citizenship, it has prescribed an a la carte menu of 11 documents to choose from. It is another matter that 90 per cent of Indians do not possess these certificates. Many experts estimate that this could result in the disenfranchisement of as many as 20 per cent of voters in Bihar. This shortfall will, presumably, be made up by importing

voters from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, as a recent report by the Reporters Collective seems to indicate.

As if these versions of citizenship were not enough, the Supreme Court, too, has entered the fray by prescribing a test for a "true citizen" or "Indian" — not questioning the government on any matter relating to defence. This novel definition has been provided in a defamation case against Rahul Gandhi. The Bombay High Court has also pitched in by ruling that Aadhaar and Epic (electoral photo identity card) do not prove citizenship. It has also added that any protest relating to matters of any other country — such as the genocide in Gaza by Israel — does not behove any patriotic Indian citizen, who should be protesting on domestic shortcomings such as piling up of garbage, etc. In other words, any dissent disqualifies one from claiming citizenship.

So here's what all this pontificating boils down to: although there appears to be no dearth of definitions as to what constitutes citizenship, there is no official single document which can prove one's citizenship! [The government conceded as much recently in Parliament when, in response to a question as to which document establishes citizenship, the MoS (Home) evaded any answer on this specific point].

A technical look at India's Online Gaming Bill 2025

Dr Navin Kumar

India's digital landscape is on the cusp of a fundamental transformation with the passage of the Online Gaming Bill, 2025. This isn't merely a legislative act; it is a decisive declaration that, in the face of burgeoning digital harms, the government will prioritize public welfare over unfettered economic expansion. The rationale is stark and sobering: an estimated 45 crore individuals lose a combined ₹20,000 crore annually to online money games, with the human cost extending to addiction, psychological distress, and tragic suicides. The crisis is particularly acute among the youth, who, instead of spending time in playgrounds or parks, became fixated on these platforms in pursuit of easy money. However, these games are designed with predatory algorithms that prohibit substantial wins. In the rare instance a player does win, the earnings are sometimes spent on abusive substances, a trend associated with gaming addiction. The absence of physical activity has put their physical health at risk, with reports linking excessive screen time to issues like eye strain, neck pain, and even more serious health problems. Psychologically, the games have caused significant mental suffering, with research correlating addiction to heightened levels of depression, anxiety, and stress, to the point that the World Health Organization



tion has classified it as a gaming disorder. Beyond this societal crisis, the government has framed the bill as a non-negotiable national security imperative, citing the misuse of offshore gaming platforms for financial fraud, money laundering, and even terror financing. While the bill's intent is clear, its practical implementation faces significant technical and legal friction. A key challenge lies in what can be termed the "black market paradox." By driving domestic, tax-paying firms out of business, the law risks pushing millions of users toward unregulated, offshore platforms. These black-market operators utilize sophisticated technical mechanisms to subvert regulatory oversight. They leverage Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to "get past location restrictions by virtually changing your location," masking a user's IP address and de-

feating traditional geo-blocking techniques. Furthermore, they utilize anonymous payment systems, particularly cryptocurrencies, to bypass the bill's restrictions on banks and financial intermediaries. The government's reliance on the Information Technology Act, 2000, to "block access to unlawful gaming platforms" may prove to be a blunt instrument against such a fluid and decentralized technical landscape. A particularly critical, unaddressed nexus exists between online gaming and predatory online lending. The technical and psychological models of these two ecosystems are deeply intertwined. Predatory loan sharks actively target gaming addicts in financial distress, preying on their need for quick cash to fuel their habits. These unregulated apps operate with a brazen disregard for ethical boundaries. As a pre-

requisite for loan dispersal, they often illegally access a user's contact lists and photo galleries, using manipulated images to blackmail borrowers into repayment. These operations are often technically designed to evade law enforcement, with many apps using virtual numbers from neighboring countries to make it challenging for authorities to track their operations and recovery agents. The Online Gaming Bill, 2025, represents a decisive and necessary intervention into a burgeoning social crisis. However, the true measure of its success will not be in its passage, but in its execution. The bill's implementation will need to overcome significant technical hurdles posed by the black market's use of VPNs and cryptocurrencies. Its scope must also be broadened to address the full spectrum of digital harm, including the psychological aspects of gaming and

the intertwined crisis of predatory online lending. To counter platform evasion via VPNs, a multi-pronged technical strategy must be implemented. Instead of relying solely on basic IP blocking, which is easily bypassed, enforcement should leverage more advanced techniques like Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) and Transport Layer Security (TLS) fingerprinting. These methods can analyze data packets and network handshake patterns to identify and block VPN traffic, regardless of the IP address being used. The government can also mandate that internet service providers (ISPs) actively filter traffic at the transport layer to block ports commonly used by VPN protocols, although this can be circumvented by protocols that use common ports like TCP 443, making it harder to distinguish between legitimate and illicit traffic. Furthermore, a comprehensive strategy must address the financial underpinnings of these platforms, particularly their use of cryptocurrencies. While crypto transactions are often considered anonymous, they are in fact "pseudonymous" and can be traced. The government can leverage sophisticated blockchain forensics and analytics platforms to trace illicit fund flows between cryptocurrency wallets and link them to real-world entities. These tools can automatically identify suspicious patterns

Haryana also needs a capital of its own

A wide range of political formations in Punjab held rallies and meetings to commemorate the death anniversary of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal last week. He was killed by militants on August 20, 1985, for signing an accord with the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Representing the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), he had reached an agreement with the Union government on several contentious demands of Sikhs, for which his party had been agitating for years. As is well known, the Akali movement, though initially raised "secular" demands, it soon took a violent form, with a section of Sikh militants demanding a separate state for Sikhs. Given that Sant Longowal had signed the pact in the backdrop of the Indian armed forces' attack on the Sikh holy shrine in Amritsar, the murder of Indira Gandhi and widespread violence against innocent Sikhs in Delhi and other cities, led other prominent Akali leaders to distance themselves from both the accord and Sant Longowal. It is 40 years after his death that his legacy is being claimed by different factions of the SAD, even declaring him a martyr for the cause. While recalling his sacrifice, leaders of the two prominent factions of the SAD invoked the Rajiv-Longowal accord. They reminded their audience and the Union government that the promises made by it in 1985 had still not been implemented — the most prominent of them being the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab as its capital. By implication, Chandigarh should no longer be a union territory and should no longer be the capital of Haryana.

It was on September 1, 1966, nearly 59 years ago, that Haryana became a separate state. In the federal history of independent India, every time a new state is created, it also gets a new capital city of its own. By virtue of being the seat of legislative power, the capital city attracts a wide range of institutions: educational, medical, social, juridical and many more. It is in the capital city that a new region-specific middle-class elite consolidates itself. Besides seeking mobility through education, employment and engagements with such modern-day institutions, this middle class articulates an identity for the region. The process is very similar to the growth of nationalism during the late 19th and early 20th century India. The cities of Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi acquired prominence not merely as industrial cities, they also shaped the Indian middle-class elite and identity of the new nation. Likewise, cities like Gandhinagar, Dehradun, Ranchi and Raipur provided such spaces for the newly formed states to consolidate their regional aspirations and identities. More recently, when the state of Andhra Pradesh was separated from Telangana, it also envisioned a new capital city for itself, Amaravati.

As a part of the Indian union, Haryana has emerged as a significant state over the past 59 years. With a population of more than 2.5 crore, it is counted among the 'large-sized states'. It has not only successfully emerged from the shadow of Punjab but also surpassed it in many respects. Haryana ranks among the top five states in terms of the popular indicators of economic growth, leaving behind Punjab. Even though its share in the national population is a little above 2 per cent, its contribution to national income is close to 4 per cent. However, a closer look at the social and economic life on the ground in the state presents a rather disheartening picture. Despite being among the prominent states, it lacks a sense of its cultural self. Most of its urban population is concentrated in the National Capital Region (NCR). While Gurugram may figure among the top happening cities of South Asia, it has very little to do with the social and cultural life of Haryana. Likewise, the new private universities near Sonapat are beginning to be ranked among the institutions of academic excellence by global ranking agencies. Still, they contribute very little to the educational well-being of the state.

For Haryana, such urbanisation has only created a class of real estate agents and a small number of individuals/households with a large volume of wealth acquired through the sale of agricultural land, but with no meaningful economic engagement. Unfortunately, there are not many people who speak up for Haryana and articulate the aspirations of its youth and the ordinary people. Like most other regions, its political elite has, strangely, mostly been indifferent to such cultural and social needs of the state. The most critical reason for such a fragmented nature of the regional social and political elite has been the absence of a capital city, a centre of social and political life where such a voice could have been articulated and heard.

Whether Chandigarh remains a union territory or is transferred to Punjab does not benefit the long-term interests of Haryana. Instead of wasting its energy on resisting such a transfer, Haryana needs to negotiate with the Union government for a capital city of its own, which houses its legislative Assembly, offices of the state government and a high court of its own that could enable the state to acquire an identity for itself.

The question of a capital, therefore, is not merely about administrative convenience or territorial ownership. It is fundamentally about the political and cultural imagination of a state. A capital provides a physical space where institutions, professionals, intellectuals, civil society organisations and political representatives interact regularly. Over time, these interactions create a distinct public sphere. Haryana has largely been denied the opportunity to develop such a space because its administrative and political institutions have remained tied to Chandigarh, a city that was conceived in a very different historical context and is shared with Punjab.

This dependence has also influenced the way Haryana's regional identity has evolved. The state's social and cultural traditions are dispersed across towns and villages, while its most visible urban centres are increasingly shaped by the economic influence of Delhi and the NCR. Gurugram's transformation into a major corporate and technology hub is undoubtedly an economic success, but it has not automatically translated into a broader cultural renaissance for Haryana. A state cannot build its identity merely through office towers, expressways and real estate development. It requires institutions that consciously preserve, reinterpret and promote its history, language, literature, arts and social traditions. A purpose-built capital could become the centre of such an institutional ecosystem. Alongside the Assembly and secretariat, it could accommodate a state university, cultural academy, archives, museums, libraries, research institutions, courts and specialised centres for agriculture, rural development and public policy. Such institutions would create opportunities for young people within Haryana and encourage scholars, professionals and artists to engage with the state's distinctive social realities. The objective should not be to create another metropolitan enclave, but a city that reflects the aspirations and character of Haryana.

The location of such a capital would naturally require careful consideration. It should be accessible from different parts of the state and connected through modern road and rail networks. Rather than allowing the capital to become an isolated administrative island, the government could develop it as part of a wider regional growth corridor. Planned urban development, affordable housing, educational institutions and employment opportunities could be integrated from the beginning. This would also provide Haryana an opportunity to demonstrate a model of urbanisation that is more balanced than the unplanned expansion witnessed in several parts of the NCR.

There is also a strong economic argument for such an initiative. The creation of a new capital would generate demand for construction, transport, professional services, education, healthcare and hospitality. If planned carefully, it could attract public and private investment while distributing economic activity beyond Gurugram and the NCR. More importantly, it could help develop a new generation of entrepreneurs, professionals and institutions whose primary economic and social interests are rooted in Haryana rather than being oriented towards neighbouring Delhi.

180 Cr Wildlife Conservation Initiative launched to boost Lion Conservation and Ecotourism

New Delhi, Aug 7 (GNS): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat celebrated today World Lion Day – 2025 at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat. The celebration was graced by Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav, along with Gujarat Forest Minister Shri Mulubhai Bera, Members of Parliament, State legislators, and other public representatives.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav expressed happiness over the significant rise in India's lion population, which has grown to 891, up from 674 in 2020. Union

Minister Shri Yadav further said, “The Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*) is a global symbol of successful wildlife conservation, and on this World Lion Day, we celebrate their remarkable recovery. From just 284 lions in 1990, the population has now risen to 891 in 2025 — a 32% increase since 2020 and over 70% growth in the past decade.” Calling it an “astounding success of conservation,” the Minister credited this achievement to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who, first as Chief Minister of Gujarat and later as Prime Minister, made Project Lion a priority area of action. Union Minister Shri Yadav congratulated every forest official, wildlife lover, and environment enthusiast for their role in this success story. “It is heartening to note that such remarkable growth has been made possible

through collective will, dedication, and policies rooted in co-existence,” he said. The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards building a Viksit Bharat where humans and wildlife flourish together, ensuring that the conservation momentum continues for generations to come.

Yadav also said, “It is a matter of immense national pride that if the Asiatic lion exists anywhere in the world today, it is in Gir, Gujarat. Our relentless conservation efforts have doubled their population in the past decade, giving hope to global wildlife protection. Let today's inauguration inspire all to protect this majestic animal—the true symbol of Gujarat's heritage and India's ecological strength.”

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel reiterated Gujarat's commitment to

the protection and growth of the Asiatic lion population, stating that the state continues to serve as the global home of this iconic species. The Chief Minister informed that under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the lion population in Gujarat has increased from 674 to 891 over recent years through scientific conservation measures and sustained community participation.

Bhupendra Patel noted that the inauguration of new habitats, advanced veterinary care facilities, and eco-tourism infrastructure worth 180 crore marks a significant milestone for lion conservation in the state. He said that, after 143 years, lions have returned to the Barda region—restoring ecological balance and adding to the state's natural heritage. He emphasised that

Gujarat will continue to lead with proactive habitat management, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and livelihood opportunities for local communities, ensuring that “the roar of the Asiatic lion remains the pride of Gujarat and the heritage of India.”

The Chief Minister commended the Forest Department, local communities, and conservation partners for their role in achieving these milestones.

World Lion Day, celebrated annually on August 10, aims to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of lions worldwide. In Gujarat, the Asiatic Lion is a unique ecological and cultural treasure, found only in the Saurashtra region. The Ministry and state's consistent efforts under Project Lion and the leadership of the Gujarat government have made significant strides in ensuring

the survival and growth of this iconic species.

74th Independence Day address from the Red Fort, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced Project Lion to ensure the long-term conservation of Asiatic Lions. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has approved a 10-year project with a total budget of 2,927.71 crore for lion conservation. A National Referral Centre for wildlife healthcare has been approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with 20.24 hectares of land allocated by the state government at New Pipliya in Junagadh District for this purpose. The project is currently under progress.

The grand celebrations of ‘World Lion Day’ was also organized across 11 districts of Saurashtra, Gujarat, to promote aware-

ness about the conservation and protection of the ‘King of the Jungle’—the Asiatic Lion. These majestic animals roam freely in their natural habitat across approximately 35,000 sq. km in 11 districts of Saurashtra. The lion population in Gujarat has increased by 32% since 2020, rising from 674 in 2020 to 891 as per the May 2025 lion population estimation. The Barda Wildlife Sanctuary spans 192.31 sq. km across Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts. Barda is emerging as a second home for Asiatic Lions. After the natural migration of lion to the area in 2023, the lion population has grown to 17, including 6 adults and 11 cubs. The sanctuary is a significant biodiversity hotspot and a key area for the conservation of Asiatic Lions. Being in the vicinity of the Dwarka- Porbandar-Somnath tourist circuit, the

Barda area holds a significant tourism potential. A safari park in about 248 Ha area is planned to be initiated for which land have been allocated by the State Government. Wildlife conservation works amounting to about Rs 180.00 crore will also be launched at the event. The Government of India has also granted in-principle approval for the development of the Barda Safari Park and Zoo, which will strengthen ecotourism in the region while providing a significant boost to lion conservation efforts within the Barda landscape.

The event was also joined through satellite communication by the lakhs of students from the schools and colleges across the 11 districts of the Greater Gir Lion Landscape. During 2024, 18.63 lakh students participated in the event on World Lion Day.

Sustainable Mining & Environment Management

New Delhi, Aug 7 (GNS): Ministry of Coal is committed to promote sustainable coal mining practices. Coal and Lignite Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), namely Coal India Limited (CIL), NLC India Limited (NLCIL), and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), have adopted sustainable mining practices. These include advanced technologies for underground and opencast mines such as surface miner, xcentric rippers, continuous miner and high wall mining. In addition, First Mile Connectivity projects to minimize road transportation, water sprinklers and fog canons to mitigate air pollution, drills fitted with wet drilling and dust extractors have been implemented to control the generation of dust.

These PSUs have also undertaken initiatives in bio-reclamation and afforestation as per the approved Mining and Environmental Management Plans. Mined-out areas, overburden (OB) dumps and other disturbed lands in and

around mining areas are being progressively reclaimed and afforested. These PSUs are implementing scientific reclamation methods, including multi-tiered plantations and the use of innovative techniques like seed ball plantations and drones for seed casting. From FY 2019–20 to FY 2024–25, about 13,400 Ha of land have been brought under green cover by these PSUs through the plantation of millions of saplings in and around mining areas.

The adoption of advanced sustainable technologies in coal companies is an ongoing process. For the financial year 2025–26, CIL has set a target of producing 537.92 million tonnes of coal from opencast mines and 23.63 million tonnes of coal from underground mines using blast-free mining technologies. Additionally, Coal and Lignite PSUs have set a target of 2,800 hectares for plantation in and around coal and lignite mining areas during the same year.

“From local to global—India will not just make in India, but make for the world. Jabalpur will be at the heart of this transformation”: Scindia

New Delhi, Aug 7 (GNS): In a significant move towards creating industry-ready skilled manpower, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) today signed strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with four global technology leaders: Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd., Qualcomm Technologies Inc., Cisco Systems, and Nokia Solutions and Networks India Pvt. Ltd. in the presence of Union Minister of Communications and DoNER, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Aiming at accelerating India's digital transformation and strengthening the skilling ecosystem, these partnerships will roll out advance 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. This development is a step towards a broader plan by the Department

of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, to establish a Telecom Innovation, Research and Training Centre (TIRTC) at BRBRAITT. Envisioned as an industry-led national hub, TIRTC will focus on developing telecom-specific R&D talent and a future-ready workforce — aligning with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Skill India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. TIRTC will also support product innovation, prototyping, and telecom entrepreneurship in the long term.

The MoUs signing ceremony, held in New Delhi, was witnessed by dignitaries including Shri. Rakesh Singh, PWD Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Ashish Dubey, Member of Parliament (Jabalpur, MP), Secretary (Telecom) Dr. Neeraj Mittal, senior officials from the DoT, BSNL leadership, and representatives from partner companies. MoUs

were signed by Shri A. Robert J. Ravi, MD, BSNL with Shri Tarun Chhabra, Country Head, Nokia India; Shri Harish Krishnan, MD & Chief Policy officer, CISCO; Shri Nitin Bansal, MD, India Head Network Solutions, South East Asia, Oceania & India, ERICSSON India; Shri Savi Soni, President, Qualcomm India.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia described the initiative as “a landmark step in building a skilled and future-ready telecom workforce through collaboration between BSNL and leading global technology companies.” He noted, “Backed by industry leaders such as Ericsson, Nokia, Cisco, Qualcomm, and BSNL, the program will train over 2,000 students annually, with Phase 1 investments exceeding 1 crore.”

The Minister added that the courses—ranging from short two-week modules to intensive 84-hour pro-

grams—“aim to position Jabalpur as a hub for cutting-edge technology education.” Reaffirming India's global ambitions, Shri Scindia stated, “From local to global—India will not just make in India, but make for the world. Jabalpur will be at the heart of this transformation.” Calling for stronger partnerships, he emphasized, “Government and industry are two sides of the same coin. Together, we can turn the aspirations of our youth into reality.”

Secretary (Telecom), Dr. Neeraj Mittal highlighted the unique nature of the initiative, saying, “It's a private-public partnership where four companies, along with BSNL, are joining hands to train not only public sector staff and trainers, but also students and employees of telecom service providers through short, medium, and long-term courses.”

“And we hope that this will provide a fillip to the

employment, economy, not only to the state of Madhya Pradesh, but to the rest of the country”, the Telecom Secretary added.

The key initiatives under these MoUs are: As part of this initiative, Ericsson India will help establish a dedicated Ericsson 5G Centre of Excellence at BRBRAITT to provide hands-on 5G training as well as online learning modules under the Ericsson Educate Program to 2000+ students annually. The students undergoing the 5G Onsite training will benefit from the classroom infrastructure being provided by BSNL. Students undergoing the online training part of the Ericsson Educate program, will benefit from Ericsson's global curriculum, trainers, and lab facilities — creating a world-class learning environment aligned with national priorities.

Qualcomm Technologies Inc. will set up a Qualcomm

Institute at BRBRAITT, focusing on advanced 5G and AI training for students, BSNL trainers, and government stakeholders. The programme will include premium online content, live sessions, and internships. Qualcomm will sponsor training for the first 100 participants in the inaugural year. This initiative aims to position BRBRAITT as a hub for advanced, scalable, and industry-relevant digital skill development.

Cisco Systems will leverage its Cisco Networking Academy Program to enhance skills in networking, cybersecurity, and IT infrastructure. Cisco will provide free access to online curriculum and digital tools, while BSNL will coordinate implementation across non-profit educational institutions nationwide — promoting equitable access to digital learning. The collaboration seeks to create a digitally enabled, job-ready youth workforce.

More than 5 lakh youths have registered as volunteers for Tiranga Campaign: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

New Delhi, Aug 24 (UNI) The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, proudly announces the 4th edition of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, launched under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to inspire citizens across the nation to bring the Indian National Flag the Tiranga into their homes and hearts. Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, this year, we are going to celebrate the fourth edition of Tiranga campaign, for which more than 5 lakh youths have registered as volunteers. These youths will inspire people for the Tiranga campaign.

Addressing a press conference here today, Shri Shekhawat said, Har Ghar Tiranga is more than a campaign — it is an emotional movement that unites 1.4 billion Indians under the timeless colours of our National Flag. It aims to in still patriotism, foster civic pride and spread awareness

about the significance of the Tiranga as a living symbol of our democracy and independence. On this occasion, Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture presented a detailed overview of the Tiranga Campaign with PowerPoint presentation. Shri Abhijit Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Shri Samir Kumar, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti presented the details of events to be organised by their respective ministries. Senior officials from Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), Ministry of Culture were also present on the occasion.

Conceived to transform the relationship between citizens and the National Flag from a formal and institutional association to a deeply personal bond, Har Ghar Tiranga encourages every Indian to hoist the Tiranga with pride and honour, marking the celebration of India's independence. The initiative

holds profound symbolic value — bringing the Tiranga home is not only an expression of personal connection but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to nation-building. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made for our freedom and as a pledge to uphold the values of unity, integrity, and progress. The Ministry of Culture is the nodal Ministry for this campaign and is working in close collaboration with State Governments, Union Territories, educational institutions, community organisations, and the general public to ensure widespread participation. Citizens are encouraged to hoist the Tiranga at their homes, offices, and public spaces, and to share their celebrations through photographs and stories on social media using the hashtag #HarGharTiranga. With enthusiastic participation over the last three years, Har Ghar Tiranga has become a

people's movement — transforming Independence Day into a vibrant, nationwide celebration of unity in diversity. The 2025 edition aims to reach even greater heights, reaffirming our national spirit and pride.

The Ministry of Culture has called upon citizens, schools, colleges, youth organisations and community groups to actively participate in the campaign and make the Tiranga a visible symbol of national unity. Special programmes, awareness drives, cultural events and flag-hoisting activities will be organised across States and Union Territories, with volunteers playing a key role in mobilising communities and encouraging wider participation.

The campaign will also promote responsible and respectful use of the National Flag, with citizens encouraged to follow the Flag Code of India while displaying the Tiranga.

Value Addition, Native Species Key to Boosting Seafood Exports: Minister

New Delhi, Aug 24 (UNI) The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying organized a Seafood Exporters Meet 2025 today at Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi. The meet was graced by Union Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh along with Minister of State, MoFAH&D and MoPR Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel and Minister of State Shri George Kurian, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Department of Commerce, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Export Inspection Council (EIC), National Bank for Agriculture and

Rural Development (NABARD), industry representatives and progressive farmers. It also saw participation of senior officials from the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, along with the Fisheries Departments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Gujarat. During the meeting, Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh underscored the importance of value addition in Indian seafood to enhance its export potential. He highlighted the ongoing government initiatives being taken in the fisheries sector, including the development of a single-window system for better market linkages for all stakeholders, strengthening of High Seas and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) fishing, and upgrading infrastructure, all aimed at further bolstering the fisheries sector. The Union Minister emphasized on MPEDA's

pivotal role in navigating the tariff challenges faced by the industry and urged MPEDA, along with state governments, to conduct stakeholder consultations for accurate mapping of state-wise species-specific exports and identifying new export opportunities. He also assured the stakeholders of the government's commitment to further strengthening Indian seafood exports. In his address, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel highlighted the vast fisheries resources of the country and urged the stakeholders to leverage them to boost India's exports.

He emphasised the importance of identifying and tapping new markets to mitigate global market risks and called upon all stakeholders to work in close collaboration with state governments to strengthen and expand the seafood value chain. George Kurian reiter-

ated the “Vocal for Local” vision, stressing that strengthening domestic markets would create fresh avenues for fishers and farmers, especially in the face of global tariff challenges.

Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), MoFAH&D, highlighted that only about 10% of India's seafood exports by value are currently value-added products, stressing the need to raise this share to 30–60% in line with global benchmarks through enhanced domestic production or import-and-re-export strategies. He expressed concern over the heavy dependence on a single species, Whiteleg shrimp which accounts for 62% of export value but only 38% of quantity. Dr. Likhi stated the urgency of reducing post-harvest losses and assured that issues related to tariff and non-tariff barriers would be addressed in coordination.

Sridhar Babu Assures Full Support to Telangana's Plastics Industry Growth

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (GNS) Telangana IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu today assured the plastics and polymer industry that the State Government would extend all possible support to accelerate the sector's growth and competitiveness, stating that industries and government are equal partners in Telangana's development journey. Inaugurating HIPLEX 2026, one of India's premier exhibitions for plastics, polymers, processing technologies and machinery, at the HITEK Exhibition Centre, the Minister urged entrepreneurs to view the current global economic and geopolitical uncertainties not as obstacles, but as opportunities to innovate, diversify and emerge stronger.

Addressing industrialists, polymer manufacturers, ma-



chinery manufacturers, exporters, recyclers, traders and representatives of AIPMA, TAAPMA and IPI, Shri Sridhar Babu said the confidence displayed by the industry despite a difficult global environment was both encouraging and inspiring.

"When I walk through an industrial exhibition, I do not merely see machines. I see dreams taking shape, cou-

rageous investments, thousands of families whose livelihoods depend on industry, and young innovators preparing India for the future. Above all, I see entrepreneurs who refuse to stop believing in tomorrow. That confidence is India's greatest strength," he said. The Minister described the plastics and polymer sector as one of the most important pillars of India's manu-

facturing economy, supplying critical raw materials to sectors such as housing, drinking water, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, electronics, food processing and infrastructure. Highlighting the sector's contribution, he said the plastics ecosystem provides direct employment to nearly 50 lakh people and indirect employment to over one crore people

across the country. In Telangana alone, the sector supports the livelihoods of nearly two lakh people, making it an important contributor to the State's industrial economy. "When the polymer industry grows, manufacturing expands. When manufacturing expands, employment grows. And when employment grows, society prospers," the Minister observed.

Acknowledging the difficulties experienced by the industry during the last financial year, Shri Sridhar Babu said geopolitical tensions in West Asia, volatility in crude oil prices, fluctuations in polymer prices, rising logistics and power costs, labour shortages and subdued infrastructure demand had affected production and investment decisions across the country.

Nizamabad Seeks Central Support for Mega Infrastructure Projects

Urban MLA Dhanpal Leads Delegation to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari with Road Development Proposals



Falaknuma News
Correspondent M.A.Samad
New Delhi Aug 7

In an effort to secure improved road infrastructure and enhance connectivity across Nizamabad, Dhanpal Suryanarayana called on Nitin Gadkari on Friday and submitted a comprehensive set of proposals seeking Central assistance for several high-priority development projects.

The meeting was attended by Nizamabad MP Dhanmapuri Arvind, who joined the MLA in presenting projects aimed at easing traffic congestion, strengthening urban infrastructure, and expanding the city's road network. The delegation urged the Union Minister to sanction an additional Railway Over Bridge (ROB) at Nandewada, undertake the widening and development of Devi Road and

Railway Station Road, and approve the construction of a Road Under Bridge (RUB) near Yellammagutta, adjacent to Sony Function Hall. According to the MLA, the ROB and RUB projects together require an estimated 170 crore.

Another major proposal sought 30 crore for upgrading the R&B road stretching from Radio Station Junction to the Old Gram Panchayat Office at Mudakpally, a project expected to improve commuter convenience and traffic movement within the city.

The delegation also proposed a new 107-kilometre National Highway connecting Varni Junction, Nizamabad, Dichpally, Indalwai, Bheemgal, and Kamareddy, stating that the corridor would provide seamless regional connectivity and significantly contribute

to economic and industrial growth. In addition, the Union Minister was requested to expedite the completion of the road linking the Rajiv Gandhi Statue, NTR Statue, Dubba, and Kalur Road, another key project intended to strengthen Nizamabad's urban road infrastructure.

Expressing confidence after the meeting, MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta said the proposed projects would address long-pending public demands and play a crucial role in the city's planned development. He expressed hope that the Union Government would respond positively and extend the necessary approvals and financial support. State Affairs In-charge Abhay Patil and Palvai Harish Babu were also part of the delegation that met the Union Minister.

Nizamabad Records 386 Successful Haj 2027 Applicants

Haj Society President Extends Greetings and Appeals for Spiritual Preparedness

Falaknuma News
Correspondent
Nizamabad, Aug 7

The announcement of the Haj 2027 draw has brought joy to the Muslim community of Nizamabad, with 386 applicants from the district being selected to perform the sacred pilgrimage to the Holy Cities of Makkah and Madinah.

Expressing his happiness over the selection, Maulana Hafiz Sheikh Ismail Arifi, President of Haj Society Nizamabad, congratulated the successful pilgrims and described their selection as a divine blessing and a privilege granted by Almighty Allah. In a press statement, Maulana Arifi said that the Haj Committee of India has allocated 5,594 Haj seats to Telangana for Haj 2027. Of these, 4,508 pilgrims were selected through the computerized lottery, while 1,086 applicants were accommodated under the reserved category. He further informed that 6,114 applicants have been placed on the waiting list from the total 11,708 Haj applications received by the Telangana State Haj Committee.

Maulana Arifi emphasized that Haj is not merely a physical journey but a profound spiritual transformation. He advised the selected pilgrims to begin preparing themselves



with sincere repentance, regular prayers, good moral conduct, and by fulfilling both the rights of Allah and the rights of fellow human beings. Such preparation, he said, would help them attain the reward of Haj-e-Mabroor.

Appealing to the Muslim community, he urged all financially capable believers, for whom Haj has become obligatory, to make every effort to fulfill this important religious duty without unnecessary delay. He also encouraged applicants who were not selected in the draw to avail themselves of the opportunity to perform Haj through authorized and recognized Haj and Umrah travel agencies.

Concluding his message, Maulana Arifi prayed that Almighty Allah grant every selected pilgrim a safe, healthy, and peaceful journey, accept their Haj, bless them with abundant rewards, and bestow His mercy and forgiveness upon the entire Muslim Ummah.

TG Minister Urges Ambedkar Portrait on Indian Currency Notes

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (GNS) Telangana Minister for Welfare Adhuri Lakshman Kumar on Friday urged the Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take a positive decision to print the portrait of Bharat Ratna Dr B. R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, on Indian currency notes.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, the Minister announced that he would take up the issue with Telangana Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy and the State Cabinet, with a view to persuading the State Government to make an official representation to the Union Government in support of the demand.

Later, the Minister extended solidarity to the ongoing peaceful protest organised at Jantar Mantar by the Currency Notes Ambedkar Photo Sadhana Samithi (CAPSS), which has been



spearheading a sustained campaign for the inclusion of Dr Ambedkar's portrait on Indian currency.

Describing Dr Ambedkar as the architect of the world's largest democracy, Shri Lakshman Kumar said the Constitution drafted under his leadership remains the enduring foundation of India's democratic governance, embodying the timeless principles of equality, liberty, fraternity and social justice.

The Minister observed that Dr Ambedkar was not merely a constitutional vi-

sionary but also an internationally acclaimed economist whose seminal work, The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution, made a profound contribution to India's monetary policy discourse. He noted that Ambedkar's economic ideas significantly influenced debates preceding the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India and continue to command scholarly recognition.

Reflecting on his own journey, Shri Lakshman Kumar said, "It is because of Dr B. R. Ambedkar that a Dalit like me could become a Minister. The constitutional guarantees of equality and equal opportunity enabled countless individuals from historically marginalised communities to participate in governance and public life. Dr Ambedkar dedicated his entire life to the empowerment of the oppressed and the underprivileged.

Telangana HC Advocates' Association President Invited to Welcare India National Excellence Awards 2026



Hyderabad, Aug 7 (GNS) Advocate Mir Qurram Ali, Chairman of the Society for Civil Legal Aids, along with Syed Taher Hussain, Founder of Welfare India Social Welfare Federation, paid a courtesy visit to Mr. S. Surender Reddy, President of the Telangana High Court Advocates' Association, and members of the Association's executive body. During the meeting, the delegation formally invited Mr. Surender Reddy to grace

the *Welcare India National Excellence Awards 2026* as a distinguished guest. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, with discussions focusing on legal awareness, social welfare initiatives, and strengthening cooperation between the legal fraternity and civil society organizations.

Several office-bearers of the Telangana High Court Advocates' Association were present during the meeting, including Adv.

P. Shravan Kumar (Secretary), Adv. K. Niranjan Reddy (Secretary), Adv. Balaji Banoth (Treasurer), Adv. V. Vardhan Jayasurya (Sports & Cultural Secretary), and Sri P. Naik Ramavath Ex-Member, along with other advocates. The delegation expressed its gratitude to the Association's leadership for their warm reception and extended their best wishes for the continued success of the legal fraternity in Telangana.

MLA Manik Rao Directs NH Underpass Construction

Zaheerabad MLA Shri Koninti Manik Rao Issued Important Directions Regarding the Proposed Construction of an Underpass on the National Highway Near Digwal Village.

A Special Review Meeting Was Held at the MLA's Camp Office with Officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in the Presence of Former DCMS Chairman Shiv Kumar. Fol-

lowing the Meeting, the MLA Visited Digwal Village and Interacted with Local Residents to Discuss the Issues, Requirements, and Difficulties they Face While Crossing the Highway.



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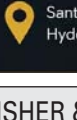
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Air India Express to Start Daily Hyderabad-Tirupati Flights

Hyderabad, Aug 7 (GNS) Air India Express on Thursday announced the launch of daily direct flights between Hyderabad and Tirupati from September 1, further expanding its domestic network and strengthening connectivity across southern India. The airline also announced the resumption of its daily non-stop Hyderabad-Chennai service from the same date.

Bookings for both routes have commenced through the airline's website, mobile application and other booking platforms, the airlines said in a release.

As part of its network ex-

pansion, Air India Express will also commence services to Aurangabad, Coimbatore, Jamnagar, Jodhpur and Madurai from September 1.

The airline said the new routes would enhance connectivity across western, southern and northern India, catering to business, leisure, cultural and pilgrimage travel.

Tirupati has been added as a key pilgrimage destination, while Coimbatore, Madurai, Aurangabad, Jamnagar and Jodhpur will strengthen the airline's presence in important commercial and tourism markets.



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