

CM Revanth Reddy Orders Probe Into BRS Assembly

Hyderabad, Sept 9 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the chain of incidents involving BRS leaders, including the violence at the Legislative Assembly, derogatory remarks against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Dalit protests at BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao's Erravalli farmhouse and the subsequent "purification" of roads near the farmhouse. The Chief Minister alleged that a "conspiracy" was hatched at Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse ahead of the Assembly's monsoon session to target the Speaker and disrupt the proceedings. The probe will cover the BRS Legislature Party meeting chaired by the party chief at the farmhouse on



September 6, the violence at the Assembly gates, alleged abusive remarks against the Speaker and attacks on police personnel and government employees on September 7, the Dalit protests at Erravalli on September 8 and the alleged purification programme carried out by BRS workers on September 9. The inquiry will be headed by Hyderabad City Special Branch joint commissioner of police S.M. Vijay

Kumar. Revanth Reddy said the investigation would establish the roles of those who allegedly planned as well as those who executed them. Criminal cases would be registered against all those found responsible, he warned. Making a statement in the Assembly, Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS leadership had deliberately planned to prevent the House from functioning.

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Tribal communities key partners in building India's future: V-P

Itanagar, Sept 9 (GNS): Vice-President (V-P) C.P. Radhakrishnan, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi" (development along with heritage), has said that tribal communities are not merely custodians of India's rich past but also important partners in building the nation's future. The Vice-President on Wednesday visited Nyedhar Namlo in Itanagar, a sacred place of worship and community hub associated with the indigenous Donyi-Polo faith of the Nyishi community and other indigenous groups of Arunachal Pradesh. He offered prayers at the prayer hall and was briefed on the Nyishi indigenous faith, beliefs and prayer systems, the Yerko



indigenous Gurukul system, preservation of traditional knowledge and medicinal practices, and efforts to promote the mother tongue. Addressing a community gathering, Vice-President Radhakrishnan said that he felt blessed to visit Nyedhar Namlo during his first visit to Arunachal Pradesh. He added that he was honoured to be at a place

"where traditions become modern thinking, and modern thinking is not destroying traditions". Describing Arunachal Pradesh as a proud embodiment of India's unity in diversity, where ancient traditions and modern aspirations walk together, the Vice-President also said that the people of Arunachal Pradesh stand as proud sentinels of India's territorial integrity. Highlighting the values of the Donyi-Polo tradition, Vice-President Radhakrishnan said its emphasis on nature, truth, harmony and community remains deeply relevant to the modern world. He stressed that development must go hand in hand with cultural preservation. Appreciating the efforts of

the Nyishi Nyidung Mung-jwng Rallung, Vice-President Radhakrishnan said its work in documentation, research, traditional festivals, cultural activities and preservation of customary laws and social values is making an important contribution to the community's cultural future. He also highlighted the Yerko Gurukul system, saying it offers an important model of combining con-temporary education with indigenous knowledge, enabling children to embrace modern opportunities while remaining connected to their roots. He noted that the recognition of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas has brought renewed national attention to the invaluable contributions of India's tribal communities.

'Vande Mataram' row in Gujarat assembly after Cong MLA sits down during rendition



Gandhinagar, Sept 9 (GNS): The opening of the Gujarat Assembly's Monsoon Session was marked by a controversy over the rendition of 'Vande Mataram' on Wednesday, after Congress MLA Imran Khedawala was accused by the State Forest and Environment Minister Pravin Mali of sitting down after the national song began. Mali said the proceedings of the Assembly traditionally begin with 'Vande Mataram' and questioned Khedawala's conduct during the rendition. He demanded that the Congress must clarify whether the MLA's decision was personal or reflected the party's position.

"Today, during the Monsoon Session, on the first day, as per tradition, the proceedings begin with Vande Mataram. Today, when Vande Mataram started, Congress MLA Imran Khedawala sat down, and we demand an answer from the Congress party regarding this insult — whether it was his personal decision or the agenda of the Congress party," Minister Mali added. The Minister also said Khedawala initially stood when 'Vande Mataram' began but immediately sat down.

Bombay HC questions DGP over Parth Pawar's omission

Mumbai, Sept 9 (GNS): The Bombay High Court on Wednesday raised sharp questions over the non-inclusion of Parth Pawar, son of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister late Ajit Pawar, as an accused in a high-profile government land deal case in Pune, despite his alleged connection to the purchasing firm. During a hearing, Justice Madhav Jamdar noted that M/s. Almeida Enterprises LLP acquired 40 acres of government land in Pune's Mundhwa area at a price significantly below its market value. Investigation records revealed that the firm had two directors: Parth Pawar and Digvijay Patil. However, the state police chose to charge only Digvijay Patil, omitting Parth

Pawar from the list of accused. In an order released this September, Justice Jamdar highlighted allegations that Parth Pawar was spared from prosecution due to his high influence as the son of the Deputy Chief Minister. Querying the state police on why Parth Pawar was not named alongside his aide, the Bombay High Court directed the Maharashtra Director General of Police (DGP) Sadanand Vasant LLP to personally file an affidavit addressing the disparity in the investigation. The matter came to light while the court was hearing an anticipatory bail plea filed by Suryakant Yewale, a Pune Tehsildar, accused of misusing his official position to facilitate the fraudulent transaction.

Goyal calls upon BRICS countries to expand opportunities for women entrepreneurs

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said India would like to bring the lessons learnt from its experience in addressing the challenges faced by entrepreneurs, particularly women entrepreneurs, to the BRICS Women's Business Alliance and the larger BRICS business engagement. He called upon BRICS countries to work together to expand opportunities for women entrepreneurs and women-led enterprises in international trade, stressing the need for easier access to credit, markets and predictable rules of business. Addressing the 'BRICS WBA Women-Led Development Conference' or-



ganised by FICCI here, the minister said that an entrepreneur seeking to enter international business has to cross three key borders: access to credit, access to buyers and markets, and access to predictable rules that encourage free trade and open opportunities. He said India has focused on empowering women financially, socially and through education, skills

and improved quality of life, with the objective of making women the drivers of the country's growth. Goyal said around 100 million rural women are today members of nine million self-help groups, small cooperatives or groups of women working together on different ideas and enterprises. The number of women earning more than Rs. 1 lakh in personal income has crossed 30 million. These women are referred to as 'Lakhpati Didis', he said, adding that India hopes to continue expanding both their number and their income. Goyal further said that India has provided around 560 million loans to small entrepreneurs, with more than 68 per cent of these loans going to women entrepreneurs.

ECI to Meet Trinamool Factions on Sep 12

Kolkata, Sept 9 (GNS): The Election Commission of India (ECI), which had already consented to meet a five-member delegation of the "rebel but majority" faction in Trinamool Congress led by the party's expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee on September 12, had now also given the consent to meet the "original but minority" faction of the party led by the former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the same venue in New Delhi on the same day. While the time fixed for the meeting with the Ritabrata-led faction is 11 a.m. on September 12, the time allotted for the Mamata Banerjee-led faction is 12 noon on the same day. The venue of the meeting with

both the factions of Trinamool Congress is India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) in New Delhi. Although in the communications to both the factions of Trinamool Congress, the Commission had not specified the agenda of the meetings, however, ECI insiders said that the discussions will be in relation to the arguments of both the delegations in favour of their claims for the party name and symbol. In the communications to both the factions, the ECI Secretary Ashwani Kumar Mohal had sought the names of the members of the delegations of both the factions as well as their vehicle numbers for necessary arrangements.

Pralhad Joshi Releases Commemorative Publication On Bharat Innovates 2026

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday released the commemorative publication on Bharat Innovates 2026, documenting the maiden edition of the initiative held in Nice, France, from June 14 to 16 under the India-France Year of Innovation. Speaking at the event, Joshi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently placed innovation, research, technology and entrepreneurship at the centre of India's development journey. He noted that Bharat Innovates reflected this vision by providing young innovators with opportunities to showcase their capabilities and connect with global stakeholders. The Minister said such



initiatives reflected the confidence and aspirations of young India and demonstrated the potential of the country's higher education and research ecosystem. "Bharat Innovates" showed what could be achieved when young talent was linked with opportunities, industry and global networks, he added. Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar highlighted the

important role of higher education institutions in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said the "National Education Policy 2020" accorded priority to research, innovation, creativity and scientific temper, and initiatives such as Bharat Innovates provided a platform for translating these priorities into tangible outcomes. Bharat Innovates is an initiative of the Ministry of Education aimed at discovering and nurturing high-potential deep-tech innovations emerging from India's higher education and research ecosystem. It seeks to connect innovators with industry, investors and other stakeholders, accelerate technology translation, and provide exposure to global markets and supply chains.

Political parties report election-period receipts, expenditure to ECI

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): Expenditure statements filed with the Election Commission of India (ECI) have detailed the receipts and balances of major political parties during the recent round of state Assembly elections held between March 15 and May 6. According to the statements, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) reported net receipts of Rs 1,472.8 crore at its central headquarters alone during this period. The party's closing balance at the central headquarters stood at Rs 7,627.2 crore on May 6, up from Rs 6,722.6 crore on March 15, reflecting an increase of Rs 904.6 crore over the election period. The BJP's expenditure reports for the Kerala and West Bengal elections are yet to be made



public. Once these are available, the consolidated figures will be known. Separately, the Congress submitted a consolidated expenditure report covering its central unit and the state units of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry. The grand old party reported net receipts of Rs 207.17 crore and an expenditure of Rs 248.55 crore during the same March 15-May 6 period. At the start

of the election period, the Congress had around Rs 169.06 crore across its central headquarters and the five state units (Rs 22.9 crore in cash and Rs 146.1 crore in bank accounts). By May 6, the combined balance stood at about Rs 103.2 crore. These figures are based on the expenditure statements submitted by the parties to the Election Commission as required under the rules governing election-related financial disclosures.

India, ASEAN agree to strengthen resilient agriculture

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): The 9th ASEAN-India ministerial meeting on agriculture and forestry, held here on Wednesday, reaffirmed the shared commitment of both sides to build a more food-secure, sustainable and resilient agricultural future. Co-chaired by The Philippines' Secretary of Agriculture, Francisco P. Tiua Laurel, and Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the meeting placed strong emphasis on practical, farmer-centred cooperation and strengthening the ASEAN-India comprehensive strategic partnership in agriculture and forestry, according to an official statement issued after the meeting. The ministers welcomed 'ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future' and the 'ASEAN Food,

Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030' as strategic frameworks for advancing sustainable and resilient development. They also looked forward to the adoption and implementation of the 'ASEAN-India Medium-Term Plan of Action for Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry 2026-2030', with priorities spanning policy dialogue, digital innovation, technology cooperation, joint research, capacity building, and farmer exchanges. The meeting also identified climate-resilient agriculture, low-emission rice, water productivity, AI-enabled digital agriculture, soil health, food safety, post-harvest management, circular bioeconomy, agroforestry and resilient value chains as key areas for practical and scalable cooperation.

Budget must spur deeper reforms

SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

THE 2026-27 Budget proposals are being formulated in the backdrop of continuing geopolitical tensions and the imposition of hefty US tariffs. At this juncture, the first advance estimates for the 2025-26 financial year have brought some glad tidings. The prospect of 7.4 per cent GDP growth is a turnaround from earlier predictions by the RBI of a moderate 6.5 per cent.

It has also shown that reforms make a difference and they need to be accelerated in order to sustain growth at this level. The restructuring and recalibration of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), for instance, has been a game-changer for the economy. It was a step that should have been taken much earlier, given the regulatory complexity in the system. The streamlining measures have led to a spurt in consumption during the festival season in October-November 2025 and this, in turn, looks set to revive the investment climate.

The other long-awaited measure taken recently has been the implementation of the four labour codes that were passed five years ago in Parliament. The codes replaced as many as 29 separate laws dealing with industrial relations, several of which had been on the statute books from colonial times. The multiplicity of legislation created enormous complexity in dealing with labour issues over the years. Compliance was



consequently a confusing affair for business enterprises. This may not have been a reform that gave an immediate impetus to growth, but it has brought clarity and simplicity in an area of serious concern for potential investors. Besides, the codes bring labour regulations into the modern era by giving greater flexibility in terms of work from home while providing a measure of social security for workers in the fast-growing gig economy. The codes may still have lacunae, which can be addressed in future, but scrapping the earlier laws has surely made doing business easier in the country.

The need for reforms in other areas is underlined by the fact that all is not positive in the first advance estimates. For instance, growth has slowed down in the second half of the year from October to March. The first two quarters recorded growth of 7.8 and 8.2 per cent, respectively, but the second two quarters are assumed to be at a lower level

of around 6.9 per cent.

On the plus side, the advance estimates show a rebound in manufacturing from 4.5 per cent to 7.4 per cent and this has given a big push to higher growth in the 2025-26 financial year. It is also significant that the pace of growth has stepped up over the past three years, with the average at nearly 8 per cent. Projections for the 2026-27 financial year made by institutions like the World Bank are lower at around 6.5 per cent, but it increasingly looks as if growth may now be sustained at higher levels. Though India has been the fastest-growing major economy for several years now, it needs to grow faster to escape the middle-income trap and become a developed nation by 2047.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will have to keep this in mind while drawing up the Budget, especially as external headwinds have been growing in recent months. Trade is the big issue on the horizon in

a world with fast-changing alignments due to US President Donald Trump's maverick economic and foreign policies. While exports to the US have to face 50 per cent tariffs, there is now talk of penal tariffs on countries trading with Iran. As for the India-US trade pact, it has clearly got bogged down by a variety of factors, including Trump's ego. The positivity shown by the new US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor has given a sliver of hope that the deal may ultimately go through. Even so, the Budget will now have to provide support for export-led industries which could face tough times.

For the time being, however, the anticipated impact on labour-intensive industries like gems and jewellery as well as readymade garments has been muted due to rapid diversification of markets. The data for November 2025 shows a surprising rise in exports in these areas. These shot up by as much as 19 per cent during the month. The

surge has largely been due to electronics, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products and readymade garments. What is even more unexpected is that exports to the US have risen by 22 per cent despite the hefty tariff barriers. A big component has been mobile phones which recorded a three-fold increase in the course of just one year.

Another element of economic growth that is not captured by much of the data is the extent of joblessness. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the unemployment rate reached a three-month low of 8.6 per cent in December due to a decline in rural joblessness. The data does not reflect the fact that India has not been able to utilise its much-lauded demographic dividend by providing enough jobs to the youth. Agriculture continues to be the biggest employer with 45 per cent of the workers in this sector alone. Manufacturing has not yet expanded sufficiently to absorb unskilled or skilled personnel available in the market.

It is in this sector that lessons can be learnt from other Asian economies that have managed to expand small and medium enterprises sufficiently to provide more labour-intensive employment. The new labour codes are bound to be helpful in this regard by making job issues easier to tackle, thereby removing one big hurdle in the way of new investors and existing employers.

China's Discursive War Less reasons for India to indulge

A report by the US Pentagon recently became the reason for unease amongst the apparatchiks in the Chinese political circles with the US disclosing a huge build-up of China's military arsenal. The assessment exposed that in 2024 China "tested essential components" of Taiwan invasion options, "including through exercises to strike sea and land targets, strike US forces in the Pacific, and block access to key ports." US assessment of China's military capabilities took into consideration the fact that its primary focus will be the First Island Chain that runs from the Japanese archipelago to the Malay peninsula and the PLA continues to make steady progress toward its 2027 goals whereby PLA will try to achieve "strategic decisive victory" over Taiwan. That is, to be able to fight and win a war on Taiwan by end of 2027.

US experts believe that China would not rule out unification of Taiwan by brute force and this could mean an amphibious invasion, firepower strike and possibly a maritime blockade. This is augmented by its ambitions to crackdown on proponents of separatist movements such as the "Tibetan independence" and the creation of "East Turkistan." The report also highlighted that since the first full year of Xi Jinping in power, China's announced defense budget has nearly doubled. In July 2024, Beijing announced a new wave of reforms for the PLA focused on political discipline and military modernisation, largely on spurring military-civilian fusion. This would be achieved through three major strategic capabilities – "Strategic decisive victory, strategic counter balance and strategic deterrence and control." An interesting aspect of their understanding of Chinese strategic behaviour was how China views defense and military engagements as a tool to punish or reward the US for its perceived behaviour.

The reaction from Chinese officials was strong. The Chinese Ministry of National Defense and Foreign Ministry have strongly pushed back on the Pentagon's annual report by stating that it misrepresents the country's military intentions and distorts its defense policy, accusing the US of harbouring a 'cold-war thinking.' China also urged the US to stop fabricating false narratives and avoid stoking confrontation by interfering in its internal affairs. China strongly rejected claims by the US that it may have deployed over 100 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Chinese officials denied this interpretation and countered that the US is using such narratives to justify its own nuclear expansion, calling on Washington to reduce its arsenal and promote real arms control. Even Chinese state media and military experts echoed government criticisms that US warnings were exaggerated or misinformed, sometimes framing the report as part of sustained US efforts to contain China.

As a response to the US report, China imposed sanctions on 30 US firms and individuals on 26 December 2025, after the Donald Trump administration approved a USD 11.1 bn arms sale to Taiwan. It also imposed sanctions on several US defence firms, including a branch of the US's Boeing and Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, over their sale of weapons worth over USD11 billion to Taiwan. Notably, even the Taiwanese Parliament faced hurdles to push through a USD37 billion special military spending package due to political disagreements between China and the US.

Overall, the report highlights several issues that are critical to understand the Chinese military modernisation from the US perspective but more importantly, only a few days before, China had also published its White paper on 'China's Arms Control, Disarmament and Nonproliferation in the New Era' (27 November 2025, previous ones in 1995 and 2005), which re-emphasized its position vis-à-vis the current international security situation and reiterated its commitment to governance norms based on peaceful use of science and technology; entwining it with its peaceful rise and harmonious society perspectives. China's assurances that it is firmly opposed to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery, and it intends to strengthen its domestic export controls, are however by no means a guarantee against its domestic use of force against any threat that it considers needs a military response. In fact, the White paper only bolsters its confidence and showcases its increased capabilities as far as new frontiers of strategic security including outer space, cyberspace and artificial intelligence.

Notwithstanding the retorts from the Chinese government, it is extremely clear that the US assessment is likely the closest to reality that one can get considering China's opaqueness in sharing its data and technology. While the US report is sensitive in nature due to the issues it raised, the Indian defence establishment has less inclination to comment on our neighbour's military build-up and its cooperation with Pakistan. There was no formal statement from the Ministry of external Affairs directly addressing the Pentagons' 2025 'China military and Security Developments report.' On the other hand, China itself accused the US of trying to "undermine Sino-Indian ties" and distort its policies stating that China's relationship with Pakistan was driven by Indian concerns.

So, though tensions have eased between the two Asian neighbours, renewed risks of friction on territorial issues could be portended. Perhaps, India has taken note of China's attempts to frame its position on Arunachal Pradesh as a "core interest" but has not responded to a US sponsored document. India's position on Arunachal has been clear and the understanding to resolve it bilaterally is what drives responses from the Indian government and the strategic community. India is likely to continue to handle its relations with China based on its own risk assessments and also the need not to derail the process of disengagement at the border.

The developments also underline the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific and the First Island Chain in shaping regional security calculations. Any military escalation around Taiwan could have wider implications for sea lanes, trade and the strategic balance across the region, making stability in the Indo-Pacific a key concern for countries including India.

For India, China's military modernisation and its expanding defence cooperation with Pakistan remain important security considerations. New capabilities in missiles, maritime power, space, cyber and artificial intelligence could influence the broader regional military balance and require continued assessment by Indian defence planners. At the same time, India is likely to maintain a cautious approach towards China, balancing security concerns with efforts to preserve dialogue and stability along the border. New Delhi's strategy will continue to focus on safeguarding its territorial interests while avoiding unnecessary escalation and supporting a stable regional security environment.

The evolving military balance also highlights the need for greater transparency, confidence-building measures and sustained diplomatic engagement among major powers. Any miscalculation in the Taiwan Strait or along other contested fronts could have consequences well beyond the immediate region, making dialogue and crisis-management mechanisms increasingly important.

Farmers want assured returns to diversify

HARVINDER KHETAL

India has overtaken China to become the world's largest rice producer with 150.18 million tonnes, as per the Union Agriculture Ministry data. Wheat acreage across states has risen to a record 334.17 lakh hectares during the current rabi season (2025-26), as farmers favour wheat amid weak prices of other crops, raising prospects of another bumper harvest and easing export curbs. This ascent may appear, at first glance, as an unalloyed success. For Punjab, however, these milestones are less a cause for celebration than a reminder of a deepening structural crisis.

The state that once powered the Green Revolution now finds itself trapped by its legacy — a farming system built for food security in the 1960s that has become ecologically and economically unsustainable in the 21st century. Punjab's agriculture remains overwhelmingly dominated by the wheat-paddy cycle. Together, these two crops account for nearly 85 per cent of the state's gross cropped area. This dominance is a matter of policy design. Decades of assured procurement at minimum support prices (MSPs), subsidised electricity for irrigation and a procurement infrastructure unmatched anywhere else in the country have made wheat and paddy the safest choices. In an environment of rising costs and uncertain markets, farmers grow what the system rewards.

This explains why crop



diversification has remained more rhetoric than reality. Successive governments have urged Punjab's farmers to shift towards maize, pulses, oilseeds and horticulture. Yet these alternatives rarely come with the same guarantees. Market prices fluctuate sharply, procurement is patchy or absent and processing and storage infrastructure weak. Faced with such uncertainty, diversification becomes a gamble rather than a transition. Not surprisingly, security trumps sustainability.

However, the ecological costs of this model are now impossible to ignore. Paddy cultivation in a semi-arid region has driven groundwater depletion to alarming levels. Official estimates say that over three-quarters of Punjab's groundwater blocks are overexploited. Recent reports from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reveal that Punjab records the highest rate of groundwater extraction in India. The water table is falling by nearly a metre annually in

several districts. Paddy cultivation — a water-intensive crop in a semi-arid region — is the primary driver for this dire situation. Tube wells are drilled ever deeper, electricity consumption soars and the cost of cultivation rises year after year.

Soil health has also suffered. Repeated monocropping of wheat and rice, combined with heavy fertiliser use, has depleted organic carbon and micro-nutrients. Stubble burning, a byproduct of mechanised paddy harvesting and compressed cropping cycles, has become an annual environmental crisis, choking cities beyond Punjab's borders. These problems are structural outcomes of a cropping pattern frozen in time.

Economically, the picture is equally troubling. While MSP procurement ensures price stability, farm incomes have stagnated. Input costs — seeds, fertilisers, diesel and labour — have risen faster than returns. Small and marginal farmers, with limited land and high de-

pendence on credit, are especially vulnerable. Punjab continues to report farmer suicides every year. The numbers underline a hard truth: procurement-led security has not translated into lasting prosperity.

This distress has increasingly spilled onto the streets. In recent years, Punjab's farmers have repeatedly mobilised against what they see as broken promises and policy neglect. Thousands converged on Chandigarh to mark five years since the 2020-21 farm laws agitation, demanding a legal guarantee for MSP, debt relief and accountability for assurances made at the time of repeal.

Elsewhere, farmers blocked highways and protested at mandis over unsold paddy stocks and delayed procurement. Police action at protest sites such as Shambhu and Khanauri has further deepened mistrust. It highlights how economic distress is translating into political confrontation.

Successive governments have recognised the prob-

lem and introduced crop diversification schemes. Incentives to shift from paddy to maize, for instance, are well-intentioned. But they remain piecemeal. A one-time payment cannot offset the absence of assured buyers, storage facilities or processing units. Nor can it compensate for the institutional familiarity farmers have with wheat and rice. Diversification, to be credible, must offer a similar certainty of returns.

Punjab's predicament also exposes a national policy contradiction. On the one hand, India celebrates record rice production and expanding wheat acreage as symbols of food security. On the other, it urges states like Punjab to diversify for environmental reasons.

As long as the Food Corporation of India procures rice and wheat in bulk while alternatives are left to the vagaries of the open market, farmers will stick to staples. You cannot preach diversification while rewarding monoculture.

Institutional knowledge of humans central to developing accountable AI for Parliaments: Deputy Chairman Harivansh

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha Harivansh highlighted the importance of institutional memory of humans in shaping application of Artificial Intelligence in legislatures. Harivansh emphasised that if AI is to enter legislatures, it must become accountable, contextual, and trustworthy. He made these remarks at the workshop on the adoption of AI in Parliament at the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in New Delhi. During his addresses he also listed the various digital and AI tools being developed for efficient functioning within the Indian Parliament.

MP Showcases AI-Enabled Governance and Public Service Delivery

Bhopal, Sept 9 (GNS): The Madhya Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026, organised by IndiaAI Mission, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh, concluded today in Bhopal. The event showcased cutting-edge AI use cases and best practices in governance and public service delivery, successfully aligning state-level initiatives with the IndiaAI Mission's national ambitions.

The Conference is part of the eight Regional AI Impact Conferences being organised across the country as precursors to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, set to take place from 16-20 February, 2026 in New Delhi.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh and IndiaAI Mission also signed an MoU to expand access to high-quality AI education and skilling across the State. Under the collaboration, IndiaAI Mission, in partnership with the Department of Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, will support the establishment of 30 Data and AI Labs across Madhya Pradesh as part of the national initiative to set up 570 such labs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The event witnessed a series of major launches and announcements, including the unveiling of four citizen-centric digital portals, and the announcement of MoUs with Youngovator, CEEW, Google,

Contextualising the need for hybrid approach to developing AI he added, “When a human enters a new organisation, they bring with them two essential attributes: skill and knowledge. Skills can be acquired, transferred, or outsourced. Knowledge, however, is contextual and deeply embedded within the institution. Parliamentary knowledge is unique. It is built over decades through debates, rulings, conventions, and constitutional practices. The same principle applies equally to Artificial Intelligence.” He further added that Institutional knowledge of humans is central to developing accountable AI for Parliaments. “Human over-

sight and the ability to intervene must be integral to the system. Innovation without restraint carries risk, while restraint without innovation can lead to stagnation.” Therefore, Parliament must maintain a careful and deliberate balance between the two, he added. Elaborating on the practical use cases of AI already underway in Parliament, Harivansh cited the use of models to carry out translation of business documents, analysis of Parliamentary debates and framing of questions across 22 languages. “We have developed a Parliamentary Language Dictionary consisting of approximately 48 thousand terms, which has

been integrated into a custom AI model designed exclusively for parliamentary use. This has significantly increased acceptability among internal users and improved its accuracy. Human translators remain firmly in control, with AI serving as an assistive tool.” However, he stated that in the legislative context “artificial Intelligence in Parliament must be rooted in truth, bound by ethics, guided by human judgment, and accountable to democratic values”.

In his concluding remarks, he also called for greater Parliamentary cooperation on application of AI among Commonwealth nations.

The two-day conference

is being hosted by India for the fourth time with the previous ones hosted in 1971, 1986 and 2010. The conference was inaugurated earlier in presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Central Hall of Parliament (Samvidhan Sadan).

Harivansh said the adoption of AI should strengthen the efficiency of parliamentary institutions without weakening established procedures and democratic traditions. He stressed that technology must complement, rather than replace, the experience and judgment of elected representatives and parliamentary officials. He noted that AI can help legislators access large

volumes of parliamentary information quickly, identify relevant debates and documents, and improve communication across languages. Such applications, he said, can make legislative processes more accessible and efficient.

The Deputy Chairman also stressed the importance of data security and ethical safeguards while deploying AI in parliamentary institutions. He said systems handling legislative information must ensure accuracy, confidentiality, transparency and clear accountability. He called upon Commonwealth parliaments to share experiences, best practices and technological solutions.

GeM Marks Seven Years of Womaniya Initiative to Strengthen Women-Led MSE Participation in Public Procurement

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): Government e-Marketplace (GeM) marked seven years of the Womaniya initiative, its flagship programme aimed at strengthening the participation of women-led Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in public procurement. The commemorative event was held at Jeevan Bharti Building, New Delhi.

Seven years on, the impact of the initiative is evident. As of 14 January 2026, more than two lakh women-led MSEs are registered on the GeM portal. Collectively, these enterprises have secured public procurement orders exceeding 80,000 crore, accounting for 4.7 per cent of GeM's total

order value, significantly surpassing the mandated three per cent procurement target for women-owned and women-led enterprises.

Launched on 14 January 2019, Womaniya was conceived to address the limited access of women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to government markets. By providing a direct, transparent and fully digital interface with government buyers, the initiative eliminated intermediaries and reduced entry barriers that had historically constrained participation. Over the years, Womaniya has evolved from an access-enabling platform into a national ecosystem

of opportunity. The event brought together policymakers, multilateral institutions and ecosystem partners to reflect on this journey. Addresses were delivered by Joint Secretary (SME), Ministry of MSME, Smt. Mercy Epao; Chief of Staff, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Smt. Radhika Kaul Batra; and Country Programme Manager, UN Women India, Smt. Suhela Khan. The speakers highlighted the importance of institutional access, capability building and sustained policy support in advancing women's economic participation, and underscored the need for promoting gender-responsive public pro-

urement. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer, GeM, Shri Mihir Kumar, stated that Womaniya has grown into a structured and scalable ecosystem and has emerged as a flagship initiative enabling women-led enterprises to scale their businesses through resilience and credibility.

He noted that policy-enabled digital procurement through the GeM portal has played a key role in nurturing women entrepreneurship and advancing gender inclusion in public procurement. He emphasised the importance of price discovery and product comparison for government buyers, the need

for women entrepreneurs to understand procurement patterns on the portal, awareness of Government Financial Rules (GFR), and the convergence of stakeholders to collectively support and promote women entrepreneurship.

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GeM and the Women's Collective Forum (WCF). The MoU was signed by Additional Chief Executive Officer, GeM, Shri Ajit B. Chavan, and Chief Community Officer, WCF, Ms. Richa Sharma. The partnership aims to strengthen institutional support for women entrepre-

Union Minister urges youth to internalize democratic values, parliamentary ethics, and national harmony

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): The Prize Distribution Function of the 26th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2024-25 for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas was held on Thursday, the 15th of January, 2026 at Mavalankar Auditorium, Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Law and Justice and Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, presided over the function and distributed prizes to the winning teams of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for their meritorious performance in the Competition. The Minister also interacted with the

students during the programme and highlighted the importance of teachers in shaping a student's life and encouraged students to dream big, recalling Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's words that dreams are not those which come while sleeping, but those that do not let one sleep. On the occasion, the Minister also administered the “Life Pledge” to all participants for protecting the environment.

While delivering the Welcome Address, the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Satya Prakash, called upon the students to act as torchbearers of hope, innovation, and change, and contribute actively towards realising

the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. On this occasion, the students of PM Shri School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh, Sriganaganagar-II, Rajasthan (Jaipur Region), which stood first at the National Level in the 26th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2024-25 for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, presented a repeat performance of “Youth Parliament”, which was highly appreciated by the august gathering. Dr. Sameer Pandey, Joint Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (Hqrs), congratulated the winning team for their commendable presentation of the Youth Parliament sittings. He appreciated the

students for showcasing parliamentary practices in an effective and dignified manner and expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for providing a valuable platform to the students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas to demonstrate and imbibe democratic values.

Shri Niraj Verma, Secretary, Department of Justice, and Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Additional Charge) appreciated the commendable efforts of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for organizing the Youth Parliament Programme in JNVs. He highlighted the Youth Parliament programme as a vital platform for nur-

turing democratic values among the youth and congratulated the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for its schemes that have made Parliament more accessible to students. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been organising Youth Parliament Competitions for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for the past 29 years.

Under the scheme of the National Youth Parliament Competition for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the 26th Competition in the series was organized during 2024-25 among 88 Vidyalayas spread over 8 regions of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, all over India.

The Youth Parliament Scheme provides a plat-

form for young minds from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across the nation to converge and showcase their eloquence, critical thinking, and leadership skills. Besides, the scheme acquaints students with the practices and procedures of Parliament, techniques of discussion and debate, and helps in developing their self-confidence, leadership qualities, and the art and skill of effective oratory. This prestigious event encourages some of the brightest and most articulate students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas to engage in spirited debates on matters of national and global significance.

The Summit Will Bring Together Key Stakeholders to Engage for a Sustainable and Resilient Future for the Sector: Manohar Lal Khattar

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, a global conference-cum-exhibition for the power and electricity sector, will be held from 19-22 March 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. A formal announcement to this effect was made today by Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs at New Delhi. The Minister also unveiled Brochure and Teaser Film for the Summit.

The theme of the four-day Summit is “Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally”. It will showcase India's leadership in the global energy transition while addressing challeng-

es and opportunities in the power sector. The Summit will bring together domestic and international stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to deliberate on the future of electricity and sustainable energy systems, facilitate cross-sector dialogue and for strengthening global cooperation, fostering strategic partnerships.

The event will feature more than 50 high-level conference sessions, a series of expert-led panel discussions, thematic pavilions and technology showcases representing the full spectrum of the electricity and clean energy value chain. The event will host over 500 exhibitors, wel-

come 25,000+ attendees and attract 1,000+ delegates and 300 speakers from India and around the world. Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 shall be a platform to convene global policymakers, CEOs, government leaders, electricity experts, investors, regulators, innovators, suppliers, and solution providers. Through stakeholder engagement and networking, the Summit shall enable discussions that impact progress across the entire electricity value chain—from generation and transmission to distribution, storage, and smart consumption.

One of the features of the Summit would be a ‘Buyer Seller Meet’ that would seek

to accelerate partnerships and unlock new business opportunities across the global power supply chain. Thus, the Summit shall be a forum for fostering cross-border collaborations and mobilising investments, to accelerate clean electricity deployment. The event shall offer a unique opportunity to different players in the Electricity Sector to exhibit their technologies, systems and solutions at the Summit. These include manufacturers, suppliers, contactors, innovators, and solution providers in Power Generation, Power Transmission, Distribution, Energy Storage and Battery tech, Energy Efficiency, Energy Transition, Startups and

other areas. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Manohar Lal, said that Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 reflects India's resolve to shape the future of electricity systems. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has said- We are entering to an era of energy abundance.

There was a time when our discussions centred on bridging shortages and meeting basic needs. Today, we are talking about managing surplus, ensuring resilience, and delivering universal excellence.

The Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 will not just display what we have achieved; it will be a launchpad for what we will achieve together, by bringing on

one platform technology providers, infrastructure developers, innovators and decision-makers. The Summit offers a unique environment where local capabilities connect with global vision to shape a sustainable and resilient electricity future, he said.

The Minister also commended the collaborative efforts of Ministry of Power, its CPSEs, other supportive Ministries, States/UTs and industry bodies for advancing India's electricity vision and marking the official beginning of summit preparations. The event was also attended by Shri Pankaj Aggarwal, Secretary (Power) and other senior officers of Ministry of Power, CEA.

Preserving Villages is a Great Cultural Awakening – Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, when the God Sun enters the Capricorn constellation from Sagittarius, and the entire country celebrates this festival with enthusiasm in various forms such as Makar Sankranti, Uttarayan, Bihu, Pongal, and Khichdi, the National Cultural Mapping Mission (NMCM) division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) celebrated its Foundation Day with a dignified and culturally rich program. The event was held on January 14, 2026, at the Samvet Auditorium of IGNCA, New Delhi.

The chief guest at the event was Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GoI, while the guest of honor was Dr. Shah Faisal, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI. The program was presided over by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of IGNCA, and the welcome address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) R. C. Gaur, Head of the kala Nidhi Division and In-Charge of NMCM. Dr. Mayank Shekhar, Director of NMCM, was also present on the occasion.

In his presidential address, Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi said that the Makar Sankranti festival is celebrated throughout the country, under different names. It's called Bihu in some places, Pongal in oth-

ers, Sankranti in some, and Uttarayan elsewhere. Despite being celebrated in different ways, the entire country observes this festival at the same time. He suggested that the traditions of celebrating this festival in different states and regions, including the food, clothing, rituals, and customs, could be documented. He urged the National Mission for Cultural Mapping division to come with a publication on how Makar Sankranti is celebrated across India when they hold their annual day next year.

He spoke about the challenges and achievements of NMCM, saying, "When this task was initially assigned to us, it was a huge challenge in itself. Documenting 650,000 villages is no easy feat. But the way NMCM started its work, the hard work put in by everyone here, and the cooperation received from various agencies, has resulted in us having documented 623,000 villages today." He added that amidst increasing urbanization, we often think fondly of our villages, where our traditions and cultural heritage still exist. If we preserve these villages, we will undoubtedly be contributing to a significant cultural awakening in these times.

Chief Guest Mr. Rajesh Singh said that the cultural mapping of villages is a very ambitious project of the government.

Govt allows IBPS to use Aadhaar for verifying exam candidates

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): The government has issued a notification authorising the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) to use of Aadhaar authentication, on a voluntary basis, for verifying the identity of candidates appearing in its examinations.

"The notification issued by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, authorises IBPS to use Aadhaar authentication using Yes/No or/ and e-KYC authentication facilities, on a voluntary basis, for verifying the identity of candidates during examinations and recruitment processes conducted by it," said an official statement issued on Thursday.

Scheme convergence to unlock greater efficiency in MSME sector

New Delhi, Sept 9 (GNS): NITI Aayog today released a comprehensive report titled “Achieving Efficiencies in MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes”, outlining a strategic roadmap to strengthen the effectiveness of government support for India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The report was launched by Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog & Sh B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog.

The report presents a detailed blueprint to improve outcomes for MSMEs by streamlining scheme implementation, strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, and enhancing the

delivery of financial, skill, marketing, and innovation support. It evaluates existing Government of India schemes and programmes for the MSME sector, assesses the current level of convergence among them, and identifies best practices from central, state, and international experiences. Based on this assessment, the report offers actionable recommendations to unlock convergence opportunities and undertake corrective measures to improve efficiency, outreach, and impact of MSME schemes. Need for Convergence

The Ministry of MSME currently administers 18 schemes spanning critical support areas such as credit.

CM Revanth Reddy Orders Probe Into BRS Assembly

From page 1

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the government had convened the session to discuss public issues, including Section 22A lands, and alleged that the BRS feared that a debate on such matters would cause political damage to the party.

The Chief Minister said the inquiry would also examine incidents involving inappropriate behaviour towards women personnel during the BRS protests at Assembly gates. The investigation would also establish the role of those who issued instructions and those who implemented them on the ground.

The controversy escalated after Dalit activists protested near Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse on September 8, demanding an apology over the abusive remarks against the Speaker and his mother.

Revanth Reddy said the protesters had chosen the Erravalli location because they believed the conspiracy had been planned there. He maintained that Dalits had conducted a democratic protest by beating drums and raising slogans and had neither entered the farmhouse nor attacked anyone.

The Chief Minister strongly objected to the al-



leged "purification" of roads near the farmhouse by BRS workers, who reportedly sprinkled turmeric water on roads used by the Dalit protesters. Congress leaders alleged that the act amounted to treating the presence of Dalits in the area as desecration. The issue triggered a political storm in the Assembly on Wednesday, with Congress members demanding a debate in the House.

Revanth Reddy said the government would not tolerate untouchability, caste discrimination, attempts to create social tensions or incitement of violence. He said the roads did not need purification and that it was the discriminatory mindset that needed to change.

He also said political differences could not justify insulting the Speaker or his mother and recalled that several political parties had

urged the BRS leaders concerned to apologise. Citing a social media post by BRS leader Sandhya Rao, he said that the purification programme was carried out on the instructions of Chandrashekar Rao.

"Using loopholes in legislations, people resorting to such acts may secure bails from courts, but society will not give them bail," Revanth Reddy said, asserting that both the conspirators and those who carried out their instructions would face legal action.

He said the inquiry would examine the entire sequence of events from the September 6 farmhouse meeting to the incidents at the Assembly and Erravalli, and vowed that his government would uphold constitutional safeguards and take action against caste discrimination and untouchability.

BRS MLCs suspended from Telangana Legislative Council over remarks against Speaker

Hyderabad, Sept 9 (GNS): The Telangana Legislative Council on Tuesday, September 8, suspended two BRS MLCs, T Madhusudhan and N Naveen Kumar Reddy, for the remainder of the ongoing monsoon session following allegations that they made derogatory and unparliamentary remarks against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

The action followed a resolution adopted earlier by the Legislative Assembly and subsequently forwarded to the Council. Legislative Affairs Minister



D Sridhar Babu moved the suspension resolution in the Council, which was passed unanimously. Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy then announced the suspension and adjourned the House. The entire contro-

versy started when police didn't allow BRS MLAs and MLCs to enter the assembly for wearing black T-shirts and sarees. As attempts to detain the opposition continued, a video of BRS MLC Madusudhan using abusive

language while referring to Speaker Gaddam Prasad, a Scheduled Caste leader, has gone viral. Both Madusudhan and MLC Naveen Kumar, who was also accused of making offensive remarks against the Speaker, were named in the complaint submitted by Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Pollepalli Venkatesam.

The issue triggered heated exchanges in the Council, with Congress, BJP, Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) and other members condemning the alleged conduct of the two BRS legislators. On

his end, BRS floor leader S Madhusudhana Chary questioned the detention of the two MLCs and argued that the House should hear their version before taking any decision.

Congress members rejected the argument and accused the BRS leadership of defending the alleged remarks instead of tendering an apology. They also cited the 2018 expulsion of Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and former MLA SA Sampath Kumar while demanding stringent action against the two MLCs.

BRS complains to Telangana Governor about alleged assault on its legislators



Hyderabad, Sept 9 (GNS): The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Wednesday sought the intervention of Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla for a thorough investigation into alleged assault on its legislators by the police at the Assembly and subsequent developments. A delegation of BRS leaders led by party Working President K.T. Rama Rao met the Governor at Lok Bhavan and submitted a memorandum.

Rama Rao later told media persons that they apprised the Governor of the prevailing situation in the state. Alleging that the Constitutional machinery has failed, the opposition party requested the Governor to exercise his Constitutional powers to require the Chief

Minister to furnish information relating to the administration of the affairs of the state. It is the duty of the Union to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the BRS said.

Rama Rao said they submitted evidence of the police assault on BRS MLAs and MLCs after obstructing them while they were entering the Assembly wearing black T-shirts to highlight the failures during 1,000-days rule of the Congress party. The Governor was told that when they approached the Police Commissioner's office, no case was registered, but the police booked false criminal cases against the same legislators. The

BRS delegation alleged that the state is no longer being carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, but a 'Hitler Rule' is being embraced and dictatorial governance is being implemented.

The opposition party alleged incitement to violence against the Leader of the Opposition, and what it called inaction upon a publicly stated design to eliminate and orchestrated attack on the residence of former Chief Minister K. Chadrasekhar Rao at Erravalli. It complained that police erected targeted barricades to intercept and arbitrarily detained BRS MLAs en route, deliberately barring them from reaching the residence of KCR to protect his life.

Punjab Heritage Shared with Telangana Governor



Hyderabad, Sept 9 (GNS): Heritage Beyond Boundaries: Punjab and Chandigarh's Heritage Legacy Shared with Hon'ble Governor of Telangana for the State of Telangana by the State Information Commissioner of Punjab 9th September 2026, Lok Bhawan Hyderabad Today an innovative distinguished meeting was held between Shri Harpreet Sandhu, State Information Commissioner, Punjab, with the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhawan Hyderabad During the interaction, State Information Commissioner Punjab Shri Harpreet Sandhu presented his authored books showcasing the rich Agrarian Heritage of Punjab

and the iconic landmark heritage of Chandigarh, Book on Sukhna Lake, along with his acclaimed artwork The Pride of Peacock - Glory of India, portraying the National Bird of India for the State of Telangana to the Governor at Hyderabad.

The presentation was a humble initiative towards highlighting India's diverse natural, cultural, agrarian and architectural heritage across different States, strengthening the spirit of cultural exchange and fostering greater appreciation of the nation's rich and multifaceted heritage of the State of Tegalana and Punjab Telangana Governor acknowledged the art work on National Heritage prepared.

Jupally Hails Kaloji as Voice of Telangana

Hyderabad, Sept 9 (GNS): Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao stated that Kaloji Narayana Rao stood as the voice of the people and a symbol of Telangana's self-respect. He participated in the celebrations held at Ravindra Bharati on Wednesday to mark Kaloji's birth anniversary.

On this occasion, the 2026 Kaloji Narayana Rao Literary Award was presented to V.R. Vidyarthi (Veluri Ramulu), a

poet renowned for his patriotic and universal themes. Minister Jupally Krishna Rao warmly congratulated V.R. Vidyarthi and conveyed his best wishes.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao urged individuals like V.R. Vidyarthi to embrace and carry forward Kaloji Narayana Rao's literary legacy. He noted that the lives, struggles, hopes, aspirations, fights, and self-respect of the people of Telangana were clearly re-

flected in Kaloji's writings. The Minister remarked that Kaloji's work, *Naa Godava* (My Struggle/Voice), was not merely his personal struggle; rather, Kaloji adopted the struggles of the downtrodden, the aggrieved, and the common people as his own. He lauded Kaloji as a "People's Poet" who used his pen to articulate the issues faced by the public and who remains an enduring figure in people's hearts.

The question is not only about a Mosque, but about conscience

Hyderabad, Sept 9 (GNS): The voice of Indian Muslims must be represented firmly in Parliament, state assemblies and democratic institutions. In this context, Muslim leader, writer and social worker Irfan Jamiawala has raised a difficult but important question.

Having raised issues concerning the Muslim community in JPC meetings related to Waqf matters, Irfan Jamiawala asks: If the concerns of Muslim representa-



tives are not being heard by the government, and if an incident involving the demolition of a mosque takes place, where are the Muslim MPs and Muslim MLAs of Uttar Pradesh?

The question is not about which political party they belong to. The real question is whether elected representatives, who took an oath under the Constitution, have a responsibility to raise their citizens' concerns and defend their constitutional rights.

If an elected representative believes that injustice is being done to the people they represent and their voice is repeatedly ignored, they should register their democratic dissent. If necessary, they should even consider stronger democratic options, including resignation.

Irfan Jamiawala's question is simple: If people's voices cannot be heard while sitting in power, then what is the purpose of that power?



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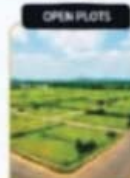
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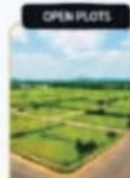
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