



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at the Hindi Diwas 2026 and 6th All India Official Language Conference, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

UCC Debate Intensifies After HM Amit Shah's 2029 Implementation Push

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): The debate over the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) intensified on Monday, a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that it would be implemented in all 21 states governed by the BJP-led NDA before 2029, with BJP leaders and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) backing the move while some NDA partners and Muslim organisations called for wider consultations. BJP leaders strongly endorsed Shah's announcement, arguing that a common set of laws was necessary for national unity and social reform.

BJP MP Naresh Bansal said Uttarakhand, his home state and the first in the country to enact a UCC law, had shown the way for other states. He described the legislation as necessary for the country and said it would help safeguard demographic balance. BJP West Bengal President Samik Bhattacharya said the party had consistently supported a UCC and asserted that there should be "one law in one country". State Minister

Dilip Ghosh also backed implementation, saying the process should begin in Bengal and subsequently extend to other states. BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said Shah's announcement was in line with Article 44 of the Constitution, which directs the state to endeavour towards securing a Uniform Civil Code for citizens. Bihar Minister Ram Kripal Yadav also welcomed the move, saying the UCC should be implemented in BJP-ruled states before 2029. The VHP welcomed Shah's announcement, with spokesperson Vinod Bansal saying implementation would be a milestone for women's and children's rights by addressing gender inequality and discrimination. He also appealed to non-BJP-ruled states to initiate the process. However, the announcement has also exposed differing views within the NDA. Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas leader Chirag Paswan called for the proposed UCC draft to first be made public and

Congress holds tonk fort, BJP sweeps 5 municipalities; Deoli, Niwai face hung boards

Jaipur, Sept 14 (GNS): The civic body election results in Rajasthan's Tonk district have redrawn local political equations, with the Congress retaining control of the Tonk Municipal Council, while the BJP emerged dominant across five other municipalities, underlining its growing footprint in the district.

The Congress won 32 of the 59 wards declared in Tonk, securing a clear majority and retaining control of the municipal council. The result is being viewed as a significant political boost for former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, whose Assembly constituency is Tonk. The BJP won 19 wards, while 8 seats



went to independents. The council has 60 wards, but no election was held in Ward 2, leaving 59 wards for which results were declared. While the Congress maintained its grip on Tonk, the BJP registered decisive victories in Malpura, Todaraisingh, Lambaharisingh, Diggi and Dooni.

The BJP secured clear majorities in these five municipalities, making the formation of their municipal boards largely straightforward. The results are being seen as a major political gain for the BJP in the district. The victories in Lambaharisingh, Diggi and Dooni are particularly

significant as these bodies have recently been upgraded from gram panchayats to municipalities. The BJP's strong performance in its first municipal elections has strengthened its position in the newly created urban bodies. Except for Dooni, the other three bodies are located in the Malpura Assembly constituency, represented by Rajasthan Water Supply Minister Kanhaiyalal Chaudhary. The political picture remains uncertain in Deoli, where the BJP fell just one seat short of the majority mark. Of the 35 wards, the BJP won 17, Congress secured 8, and independents won 10. Since 18 councillors are required to form

the board, the BJP will need support from at least one independent councillor. The independents have therefore emerged as the key players in the board formation. While the BJP is expected to approach them, the Congress could also attempt to influence the final equation. In Niwai, the Congress emerged as the single largest party but failed to secure a majority. As a result, the party's lead in seats alone will not be enough to guarantee control of the municipal board. Independent councillors are once again expected to play a crucial role, with both major parties likely to explore possibilities to secure the numbers needed for board formation.

Indian delegation arrives in Cape Town for commonwealth parliamentary conference

Bengaluru, Sept 14 (GNS): The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in Bengaluru has demanded that the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) cancel a proposed campus screening of filmmaker Lalit Vachani's documentary on imprisoned activist Umar Khalid, titled 'Prisoner No. 626710 is Present'. The documentary is scheduled to be screened at NLSIU on September 14 by the Law and Society Committee (Law Soc), a student organisation at the university. The event is being organised in solidarity with Umar Khalid and marks six years since his imprisonment without trial under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



(UAPA) in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots. The proposed screening is part of a wider series of solidarity screenings and gatherings being organised at different locations across the country. The event comes just a day after Political Prisoners' Day, observed in India on September 13 (Sunday), and also coincides with the

date of Umar Khalid's arrest in 2020. Umar Khalid, a former student leader at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), was arrested in connection with the Delhi riots case and has remained in custody since September 2022. He has been charged under the UAPA and other provisions of law, but the trial in the case is yet to begin.

India, Canada Kick Off 4th Round Of Trade Talks

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): India and Canada on Monday began their fourth round of talks here for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) as the two countries aim to seal the deal by the end of this year, a senior official said. The issues that would figure in the five-day talks include trade in goods, services, rules of origin, and technical trade barriers. The round follows the third round, which was held in Ottawa in July. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney set a year-end target to complete the negotiations for the CEPA between the two countries and agreed to deepen bilateral collaboration in the energy and critical mineral sectors



during their meeting in New Delhi in March this year. The leaders expressed confidence that a comprehensive trade framework would serve as a durable economic anchor for the partnership and support the shared aspiration of expanding bilateral trade to (Canadian) \$70 billion (Rs 4.65 lakh crore) by 2030," according to a joint statement issued after the summit between the two leaders.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar calls on Bhutan King in Thimphu

Thimphu, Sept 14 (UNI): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar called on Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in Thimphu on Monday as he began his three-day visit to the Himalayan kingdom during which he will also join celebrations on country's National Voters' Day. "His Majesty, The King with the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Gyanesh Kumar. His Majesty granted an audience today to the Indian Chief Election Commissioner, who is on a 3-day visit to Bhutan," King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck stated on Facebook. The visit will further strengthen the close institutional cooperation between the Election Commission of India and the Election Commission of Bhutan, building on their continued engagement, an official statement detailed. A key engagement



during the visit will be the celebration of Bhutan's National Voters' Day at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Paro, on Tuesday, where the CEC would be the Chief Guest, it said. On Wednesday, Gyanesh Kumar will call on Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, in Thimphu. He will also hold an interaction with senior civil servants of Bhutan, the statement said. Last month, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, along with his wife, Jetsun Pema and Bhutan India Friendship Association office-bearers, met at the India House, the Embassy of India in Bhutan said.

Food prices push up CPI; weather, energy risks loom

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): Retail inflation rose to 4.82 per cent in August from 4.5 per cent in July, driven primarily by higher food prices, while core inflation also edged up, CareEdge Ratings Chief Economist Rajani Sinha said on Monday, warning that the inflation outlook remains vulnerable to weather-related and external risks. According to Sinha, core inflation increased marginally to 4.4 per cent in August from 4.2 per cent in July, although core inflation excluding precious metals remained relatively benign at 3.3 per cent. The rise in headline inflation was largely attributed to higher food prices across several categories, including sugar, rice, edible oil and select vegetables such as onions. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a year-on-year increase of 4.82



per cent in August 2026, according to data cited by industry body PHDCCI. Food inflation rose to 5.66 per cent in August from 5.52 per cent in July, while rural food inflation was higher at 6.13 per cent. Among key food items, ginger, onion and garlic recorded particularly sharp price increases of 73.82 per cent, 48.27 per cent and 43.60 per cent, respectively. Tomato and potato, however, provided some relief, with prices declining 31.09 per cent and 13.14 per cent, respectively, during the month. Sinha said onion prices have been affected by delayed new plantings.

India, MERCOSUR sign protocol to allow electronic certificates of origin for trade



New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): India and MERCOSUR signed the first additional protocol to their preferential trade agreement (PTA) to facilitate acceptance of electronic certificates of origin, marking an important step towards facilitating paperless trade and modernising customs procedures between the two sides, the Commerce Ministry announced on Monday. The protocol was signed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal and Uruguay's Ambassador to India Alberto Guani, and Paraguay's Ambassador to India, Fleming Raul Duarte Ramos, in the presence of Uruguay's Foreign Affairs Minister Mario Lubetkin, in the exercise of the pro tempore Presidency of MERCOSUR and the representatives from the Embassies of Argentina and Brazil. The India-MERCOSUR preferential trade agreement was signed on January 25, 2004 and entered into force on June 1, 2009. The agreement provides preferential tariff concessions on 450 tariff lines by India and 452 tariff lines by the MERCOSUR side. MERCOSUR has six full

member countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela (full member, but suspended since December 2016) and Bolivia. The bloc also has seven associate members which include other Latin American countries such as Chile, Columbia and Peru. The first additional protocol amends Article 16 of Annex III (Rules of Origin) of the PTA by providing that certificates of origin issued in electronic format shall have the same legal validity and identical value as certificates of origin issued

in paper format. Such electronic certificates of origin will be required to be issued and electronically signed in accordance with the respective domestic legislation of the parties, by duly authorised entities and officials. The move is expected to facilitate the transition towards digital and paperless trade documentation, reduce transaction costs and processing time associated with the issuance and verification of certificates of origin, and improve the efficiency of preferential trade under the existing India-MERCOSUR PTA.

Chenab powerplay india’s hydropower push and the geography of deterrence

LOKESH DHAR

Jammu & Kashmir today sits at the intersection of water, power, and geopolitics. With nearly 15 GW of assessed hydropower potential most of it concentrated in the Chenab basin the Union Territory holds one of South Asia’s most consequential energy endowments. Yet for decades, this natural abundance translated into scarcity on the ground. What has changed since 2025 is not merely execution speed, but a decisive break from the policy paralysis that defined earlier political dispensations.

J&K’s rivers the Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi together offer 14,867 MW of hydropower potential, of which 11,283 MW lies in the Chenab basin alone. Despite this, operational capacity entering 2026 stands at just 3.36-3.54 GW, barely a quarter of what is technically feasible. The consequences were economically irrational. Each winter, J&K imported 1,500-2,000 MW of electricity from the national grid, spending Rs 3,000-4,000 crore annually, while earning only Rs 400-500 crore from hydropower royalties and free power allocations. The region exported raw water but imported costly energy-an inversion sustained not by geography, but by political indecision.

While difficult terrain and decades of terrorism played a role, the most binding constraint was governance failure under successive



UPA Governments and their local partners. During this period, hydropower development became hostage to bureaucratic caution, fear of Pakistani objections, and an absence of strategic resolve. Between 2004 and 2014, when the Indian National Congress led the Union Government and governed J&K in alliance with the National Conference, hydropower policy stagnated despite favourable technical assessments. There was no expansion of storage-based capacity even where it was technically permissible, repeated acquiescence to Pakistani objections that delayed projects such as Baglihar, Kishanganga, and Ratle for years, weak bargaining on royalty structures that left J&K fiscally dependent despite bearing social and ecological costs, and no serious strategic push to renegotiate or reinterpret the Indus Waters Treaty even as Pakistan actively weaponised dispute-resolution mechanisms. This was not treaty compulsion alone; it

was political risk aversion. Instead of treating hydropower as a strategic asset, UPA-era policy reduced it to a diplomatic liability, resulting in a lost decade for Chenab Valley development.

The April 2025 decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance marked a structural rupture with this legacy. By suspending notification, inspection, and dispute-settlement obligations, New Delhi dismantled the procedural vetoes that had paralysed hydropower construction for six decades. The timing proved decisive. During Operation Sindoor in May 2025, coordinated flushing at Baglihar and Salal temporarily reduced downstream Chenab flows by an estimated 20-30 per cent.

Though short-lived, the episode demonstrated a new reality: operational discretion over timing and sequencing of releases now rests upstream. For Pakistan whose Punjab heartland depends on Indus waters for 70-80 per cent of irrigation

the signal was unmistakable. Water had entered the deterrence equation, not as denial, but as uncertainty.

Even under treaty-era constraints, J&K’s legacy hydropower assets Salal, Baglihar, Dulhasti, Kishanganga, and Uri generate 12-14 billion units annually and provide critical peaking support to North India. Yet these projects also expose the failure of earlier policy choices. Designed with minimal pondage to appease external objections, they delivered electricity but denied leverage. J&K absorbed displacement, ecological stress, and political unrest without receiving commensurate economic or strategic returns. Post-2025, the Chenab region has emerged as India’s most intensive hydropower construction zone. Projects stalled for years are now advancing simultaneously. Between 2026 and 2029, 4-5 GW of additional capacity is expected from Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, Ratle, and Dulhasti-II, with Sawalkote positioned as the next mega-stage. This is

no longer a collection of isolated dams, but an integrated system of reservoirs. Once complete, it could add 20 billion units annually, raise hydropower royalties to ₹1,200-1,500 crore, and convert J&K from a chronic power importer into a net exporter to the northern grid.

The most consequential shift, however, is strategic. Sequential reservoirs along the Chenab allow India to influence when water moves downstream, even if how much remains hydrologically constrained. Monsoon surges can be absorbed, winter flows timed, and maintenance or flushing cycles synchronised without third-party veto. This is not weaponisation of water. It is the exercise of state capacity that was conspicuously absent during the UPA-Congress-NC era.

The irony is sharp. Displacement, ecological stress, and political contestation now blamed on “rapid development” are in fact the deferred costs of earlier inaction. Had these projects been executed on schedule a decade earlier, today’s social and environmental pressures would have been far more manageable.

The Chenab is no longer just a river flowing out of the Himalayas; it is an engineered system embedded in India’s energy security and South Asia’s strategic balance. For Jammu & Kashmir, this marks a delayed but decisive transition from hydropower paradox to hydro-power sovereignty.

Name game is an insult to Dyal Singh’s legacy

SARDAR Dyal Singh Majithia (1848-98) was a great philanthropist, champion of intellectual freedom and social worker. He established three Trusts — the Tribune Trust, the College Trust and the Library Trust. He was also the founder of The Tribune (February 1881) and Punjab National Bank (May 1894).

Dyal Singh College, Lahore, was established in 1910 by the Dyal Singh College Trust Society, as per the instructions in Article 8 of Majithia’s will. Currently, it is known as Government Dyal Singh College, Lahore, and is among the best colleges in Pakistan. After Independence, most of the assets of the Dyal Singh College Trust Society remained in Lahore. The Trust faithfully carried forward Majithia’s legacy, will and ideology, establishing Dyal Singh College, Karnal (1949), Dyal Singh Public Library, Delhi (1954-55), and Dyal Singh Evening College, Delhi (1958). Dewan Anand Kumar, founding Vice-Chancellor of Panjab University, Chandigarh, played a crucial role in establishing these educational institutions. His father, Raja Narendra Nath, was Majithia’s associate.

Facing a financial crisis, the Trust had to sell land of the Karnal college and establish Dyal Singh Colony. However, the crisis deepened. As a result, in 1978, Dyal Singh College (Morning and Evening) was transferred to Delhi University (DU) through an agreement, and the Trust did not receive any compensation in return. According to Clause 12 of the agreement, “the institution will continue to be known as Dyal Singh College”. It is clear that no individual or government has the right to alter the terms of the pact.

As per data for the 2025-26 academic session, there are over 6,000 students in the morning college and around 3,000 in the evening college. The controversy surrounding the name change is not new. In November 2017, Amitabh Sinha, then Chairman of the Dyal Singh College Governing Body, announced that Dyal Singh Evening College would be renamed Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya College.

However, the proposal did not go through. On November 17, 2017, he succeeded in getting a proposal passed by the college’s Governing Body to rename the institution as Vande Mataram Mahavidyalaya and turn it into a morning college; the final approval was to be given by the Vice-Chancellor of the university. The move triggered a controversy. Leaders of the Shiromani Akali Dal, then a BJP ally, as well as the Congress, condemned the decision. Manjinder Singh Sirsa (an MLA who served as general secretary of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee), and Tarlochan Singh, ex-MP, demanded that the proposal be withdrawn.

Avtar Singh Makkar, then president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, also opposed the move. Akali leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal, then a minister in the BJP-led NDA government, said the proposed name was “unacceptable”. Punjab’s former Deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal called it “unnecessary and mischievous” and urged the Prime Minister to intervene. This decision was also slammed by academics and journalists. A meeting in this regard was convened on November 27, 2017, at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi, chaired by renowned journalist Kuldeep Nayar. On December 8, 2017, we held a press conference and described this step as an insult to a great personality. I had a detailed telephone conversation with then Union Minister SS Ahluwalia regarding the college and he promised to escalate the matter.

On December 19, 2017, during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, several MPs, including Anand Sharma, Ambika Soni, Oscar Fernandes, SS Dhindsa and BK Hariprasad, supported Naresh Kumar Gujral’s proposal. The then Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar, told the MPs that the decision to rename Dyal Singh Evening College was not taken by the Central government. Therefore, he announced a stay on the Governing Body’s decision.

On December 26, 2025, on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas, DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh raised the issue of renaming Dyal Singh Evening College. He said, “We want to rename Dyal Singh Evening College after Banda Singh Bahadur.”

He used the word “we”, which implies that he is not the only player in this name-change game. DU officials argue that having two colleges named after Dyal Singh causes confusion among students. However, no such confusion has been witnessed for the past over six decades.

The current situation is completely different from that of 2017. At that time, the proposal to change the name came from the Governing Body of Dyal Singh Evening College, but the 2025 proposal is from the Vice-Chancellor, and its approval will be sought from the Delhi University Executive Council. Based on my long experience in the field of education, I have observed that most members of college and university executive councils are yes-men who have their own axe to grind.

The Dyal Singh Evening College Staff Association unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Vice-Chancellor’s proposal. According to the resolution, “This college has long been associated with the esteemed Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia and his memory. All teachers, non-teaching staff and students are deeply attached to this name. We have to say that such an important decision has been taken without prior consultation with the stakeholders. This matter was neither discussed in the Staff Council nor shared with the Staff Association.” According to NN Vohra, former Governor of Jammu & Kashmir and Chairman of The Tribune Trust, any move to change the college’s name would be “extremely inappropriate and illadvised”.

The government should establish a central university named after Banda Singh Bahadur, but changing the name of Dyal Singh Evening College would be an insult to his legacy. I appeal to all those associated with Dyal Singh institutions to mobilise public opinion and put pressure on the government to end this name-change exercise once and for all. This would be a true tribute to Dyal Singh Majithia.

The proposed renaming also raises serious questions about the preservation of educational heritage and institutional identity. Names associated with visionaries such as Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia represent more than mere labels; they embody a long-standing commitment to education, public service and intellectual freedom. Any attempt to change such a name must therefore be considered with utmost care and sensitivity. The college has served generations of students and has built a distinct identity under the name of Dyal Singh. The institution’s teachers, non-teaching staff, students and alumni have a strong emotional and historical connection with this legacy. Ignoring their views while taking a decision of such importance could undermine the principles of consultation and democratic governance in educational institutions.

If the objective is to honour the contribution of Banda Singh Bahadur, the government and the university authorities should explore alternative avenues. Establishing a new educational institution, research centre or university in his name would be a more appropriate way to commemorate his extraordinary life and contribution. Such an initiative would honour Banda Singh Bahadur without erasing the legacy of another great institution-builder.

The authorities must also ensure that the original agreement governing Dyal Singh College is respected in letter and spirit. The issue should not be decided hastily or for political considerations. A transparent discussion involving the Trust, university authorities, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders is essential. Preserving the college’s historic name would reaffirm the importance of respecting institutional traditions and the contributions of those who laid the foundations of modern education.

Economic outlook trade trends encouraging

BY DHURJATI MUKHERJEE

German Chancellor Fredrich Merz’s recent visit to India resulted in promising economic discussions. He assured Prime Minister Modi of progress on the European Union trade deal, while Germany formalized 19 defence and technology agreements. Eight other announcements seek to boost cooperation in areas like people-to-people contact, Indo-Pacific ties, green development, and visa-free transit for Indian passport holders through Germany.

A key outcome was the joint declaration of intent to strengthen bilateral cooperation, with Prime Minister Modi indicating that both parties will collaborate on a strategic roadmap aimed at enhancing defence industry partnerships and fostering new development opportunities. Additionally, four formal agreements were signed to advance cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, such as semiconductors and essential minerals. These memoranda of understanding are anticipated to invigorate trade relations and bolster collaboration between the two nations, which have a longstanding tradition of close partnership in commerce.

At same time, Spain, Germany, Belgium, and Poland are becoming reliable export markets for India in the EU, according to commerce ministry data. Spain saw a 56% increase



in Indian exports, reaching \$4.7 billion between April and November, while exports to Germany rose 9.3% to \$7.5 billion. These figures show that India is diversifying its export strategy across Europe, achieving rapid growth in Spain, steady gains in Germany, and stability in Belgium, reflecting a balanced export profile combining market diversification from tradition markets, according to government officials. There are also reports that in various other areas, exports are showing a healthy trend. Mention may be made regarding apparel exports to the U.K., Russia and Germany as Bangladesh is in a turbulent situation presently. If the trade deal with the EU is signed early, India may greatly make up for some loss that has happened as regards the US market.

Coming to China, New Delhi has rightly decided to open up the Indian economy. This would signify the consolidation of

the bilateral relationship that had witnessed seismic shocks in the light of Chinese incursions on the Indian border. However, new shoots of calm have been sprouting for a while as last year both New Delhi and Beijing agreed upon a series of mechanisms to improve relations. It makes sense for India to develop closer trade relations with China and the EU.

As is generally agreed, an economic engagement with China is thus very much desirable. However, India’s trade gap with China is expected to exceed \$100 billion in 2025 with exports estimated to improve last year but imports surged much faster from \$87.7 billion in 2021 to \$109.6 billion in 2024, according to data from the Global Trade Research Initiative. India’s domestic manufacturing sector remains heavily dependent on Chinese inputs and this makes even more sense to further our trade relations.

But despite encouraging

trends in exports, the trade deficit widened, led by a sharper jump in imports, specially gold trade, as per data published by the commerce ministry. Exports stood at \$38.51 billion, rising by 1.9% from a year earlier. The resilience was largely supported by India’s push into markets in West Asia and North Africa. Rise in imports, however, outpaced exports as it climbed by 8.8% in December from a year earlier to \$63.55 billion. As a result, India’s trade deficit widened to \$25.04 billion in December from \$24.53 billion a month earlier. While the trade deal with the US has yet to be signed with 50% tariffs hanging over the country’s head, merchandise export reported a 9.75% year-on-year increase to \$65.88 billion in the first nine months of the fiscal year.

If the trade deficit must be checked, India should give special focus on electronics and critical minerals to reduce dependence on China. In a major boost

to electronics manufacturing, the Centre cleared 22 new proposals entailing investment of nearly Rs 42,000 crore. Investments under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) produced Rs 2.6 lakh crore in the coming years and reduced reliance on imports.

In recent years, electronics manufacturing, including mobile phones, increased in the country but imports haven’t come down as the manufacturers rely on components produced in other countries, specially China. This should not happen and manufacturers should see and use Indian products and prove their worth. If this happens and China increases its imports from India and our imports are reduced, the trade gap will automatically be not so wide and glaring.

Apart from China, India economic relations with the UK, Australia, Germany, France, Israel, Brazil and some African countries are on strong foundation and expected to be enhanced. The Indo-Japan strategic dialogue held a few days back agreed to boost cooperation in AI and critical minerals while seeking enhanced engagement on issues related to South Asia, West Asia and Africa. Among the significant outcomes was a decision to establish a Japan-India AI strategic dialogue and to ramp up both private sectors and governments on issues related to economic security.

States to utilise institutional knowledge for accurate AI systems, urges Harivansh

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): The Centre jointly established by IIT Delhi, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and Grid Controller of India Ltd. (Grid India), marks an important step towards strengthening India's regulatory capacity in a rapidly evolving power sector characterised by growing electricity demand, large-scale renewable energy integration, expanding power markets, and increasing use of digital technologies.

The Centre of Excellence is envisaged as a national-level hub for regulatory research, capacity building, advisory support and knowledge dissemination. By locating the Centre within a premier academic institution and anchoring it through close collaboration between the national power regulator and the system operator, the initiative brings together policy, regulation, system operations and academic research in a single institutional framework. The Centre will work closely with CERC and Grid India to identify key regulatory and sectoral challenges, support capacity building and human resource development to strengthen institutional capabilities and promote effective knowledge management and dissemination. It will undertake cutting-edge research with access to global academic and policy networks, while also providing advisory and consultancy

support to regulators and other power sector stakeholders. While inaugurating the Centre at IIT Delhi today, Shri Manohar Lal said that as India moves towards clean energy, competitive markets and consumer-centric reforms, strong regulation backed by knowledge and research becomes essential. This Centre of Excellence at IIT Delhi will play a key role in supporting informed and forward-looking regulation, he said.

The work of the Centre of Excellence will directly support policy and regulatory decision-making by addressing the power sector trilemma of affordability, sustainability, and efficiency. It will strengthen institutional capacity within distribution utilities and regulatory commissions, and equip regulators and policymakers with robust analytical tools and India-wide system models to evaluate regulatory proposals through the lens of consumer welfare, system reliability, and investment signals. At the economy-wide level, the Centre will inform power sector reforms at a critical juncture, as solar and wind energy become mainstream and fundamentally reshape power system planning, operations, and regulatory frameworks.

Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi, said that we are delighted to be partnering with CERC and

GRID India for this new Centre. The Institute is keen to create new knowledge and analysis that will enable our electricity sector to be sustainable, affordable and future ready.

Together we also hope to enable capacity building and enhancement of electricity regulatory organisations and power sector professionals.

Addressing the inaugural event at IIT Delhi, Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairman, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, said that good regulation must be supported by sound analysis, data and long-term thinking. This Centre will help deepen regulatory research and strengthen evidence-based policymaking in the power sector.

Meanwhile Shri S C Saxena, Chairman & Managing Director, Grid Controller of India Ltd., said that regulatory frameworks must be aligned with the realities of grid operation. Through this Centre, operational experience and system insights will directly inform regulatory research and market design. Power Secretary Shri Pankaj Agarwal, complimented IIT-D, CERC and Grid Controller of India Ltd for setting up the Centre and said that it would play a crucial role in the development of the Power Sector in the country.

The CoE will focus on multidisciplinary research covering power sector reg-

Scindia Chairs BSNL Q3 Review, Stresses Mobile Growth, ARPU Rise and QoS Improvement

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, chaired the Quarter 3 (2025–26) Strategic Review and Planning Meet of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in New Delhi, today. Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Secretary (Telecommunications) Shri Amit Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Shri Gulzar Natarajan, senior officials of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and CMD BSNL Shri A. Robert J. Ravi, the Board of Directors and Chief General Managers (CGMs) from across the

country, were present at the occasion. The meeting was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, with a comprehensive review of BSNL's Quarter-3 performance and key QoS parameters. Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia emphasized the need to increase BSNL's mobile customer base and ARPU, focus on improvement of QoS parameters and achievement of revenue targets.

During the meeting a detailed, circle-wise review was undertaken of the achievement of revenue targets across all service verticals. The performance of individual circles was assessed, with a focus on identifying best practices and address-

ing gaps to ensure sustained revenue growth. Special emphasis was laid on growth of mobile customer base and initiatives to strengthen BSNL's presence in the mobile segment. Highlighting operational progress, the Union Minister said that while some circles had shown appreciable growth in mobile customer base, other circles needed to improve. The Union Minister noted that there was Q-o-Q Mobile Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) improvement. Circles where ARPUs were flat were urged to raise their ARPU levels. Measures to increase mobile Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) through improved service offerings, customer

retention strategies, and value-added services were also deliberated. The Union Minister reviewed key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters, including mobile network availability and Mean Time to Repair (MTTR). Circles like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, UP East, Karnataka, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kolkata, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were identified as leaders in Mobile BTS MTTR with significant Q-o-Q improvement.

Directions were issued to all circles to continuously improve network reliability, reduce downtime, and ensure timely fault resolution to enhance customer experience. In the Enterprise Busi-

ness segment, the Union Minister congratulated five Star-performing Circles—Karnataka, Odisha, Gujarat, Haryana, and UP (West)—for their commendable performance in acquisition and growth of Enterprise Business. Circle-wise plans and strategies to achieve revenue targets for the fourth quarter of the current financial year were presented and discussed. The Union Minister instructed all CGMs to focus on achieving revenue targets through sustained customer acquisition and continuing emphasis on QoS.

The Union Minister concluded by emphasizing the need for focused execution, accountability.

Strengthening Bilateral trade and Int'l Market Linkage

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is organizing a “Round Table conference with Ambassador and High commissioners on Seafood export promotions” for strengthening Bilateral trade and International Market Linkage on 21st January 2026, at New Delhi. The event will be chaired by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in the gracious presence of Shri George Kurian, Minister of State, MoFAH&D

and Ministry of Minority Affairs, and Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

India is the world's second-largest aquaculture producer and one of the leading global producers of fish and aquatic foods. Over the years, the sector has transformed from a predominantly subsistence activity into a commercially robust, export-oriented ecosystem spanning farming, feed, processing, cold chains, logistics, and value addition while continuing to support millions of small, marginal and artisanal fishers and farmers.

APEDA Organizes Organic Conclave-cum-Buyer Seller Meet to Strengthen Agri-Exports from Assam

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, organised an Organic Conclave-cum-Buyer Seller Meet at Guwahati, in collaboration with the Government of Assam. The event was aimed at strengthening agri-export linkages and improving market access for Assam's agricultural and processed food products.

The conclave witnessed participation from over 30 exporters, 9 importers and around 50 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) from Assam. The Buyer Seller Meet provided a structured platform for business-to-business interactions, enabling stakeholders to explore trade opportunities and establish long-term partnerships with domestic and international buyers.

Assam, with its rich agro-climatic diversity, produces a wide range of export-potential commodities. In addition to Assam's Joha Rice and various non-basmati speciality rice varieties, fruits and vegetables such as banana, pineapple, mandarin orange, Assam lemon, organic ginger, turmeric, black pepper, along with a range of horticultural and other organic produce, offer strong opportunities to expand the State's presence in global agricultural markets. The conclave also featured a sensitisation session on

the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) 8th Edition, including the regulatory framework and labelling requirements. The session aimed at enhancing awareness among exporters, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), FPCs and entrepreneurs to ensure compliance with international quality and certification standards. The Buyer Seller Meet facilitated direct interactions among producers, exporters and buyers, supporting the development of new trade partnerships.

Addressing the gathering, Minister of Agriculture, Horticulture and Excise, Government of Assam, Shri Atul Bora, stated that Assam and the Northeast possess a rich basket of high-quality, organically grown agricultural and horticultural products, including Joha Rice, speciality rice varieties, spices, fruits and indigenous produce with strong global demand. He emphasised that with focused support in aggregation, certification, infrastructure and market access, and with APEDA's continued partnership, the State is committed to transforming regional farm produce into globally competitive exports while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for farmers.

Commissioner and Secretary-cum-Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam, Smt. Aruna Rajoria, IAS, stated that Assam has unique GI-tagged and organically

grown agricultural products with strong global demand. She emphasised that strengthening aggregation, certification and market linkages, in close collaboration with APEDA, will enable farmers and entrepreneurs to access international markets in a sustainable and commercially viable manner.

During his address, Chairman, APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev, appreciated the coordination and support of the Government of Assam in APEDA's export promotion activities. He highlighted the immense potential for agricultural, horticultural and organic exports from the State, supported by farmer-friendly provisions in the revised NPOP and expanded market access for organic products through recently signed Organic Mutual Recognition Agreements with Australia and New Zealand, as well as recently finalised Free Trade Agreements with the United Kingdom, Oman and the EFTA countries.

The inaugural session was graced by Minister of Agriculture, Horticulture and Excise, Government of Assam, Shri Atul Bora, and attended by Commissioner and Secretary-cum-Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam, Smt. Aruna Rajoria, IAS; Chairman, APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev; and Director of Agriculture, Government of Assam, Shri Uday Praveen, IAS.

NIXI marks one year of Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building scheme

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) marked the successful completion of one year of its Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS) with a commemorative event held in New Delhi on 19th January 2026. The milestone event celebrated a year of focused efforts towards building awareness, skills, and leadership in the field of internet governance among India's young digital talent. The initiative has brought together students, academic institutions, and policymakers to strengthen India's participation in global internet governance processes.

The event was graced by Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary,

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by key dignitaries, including Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar, IAS, CEO, UIDAI; Shri Sushil Pal, Joint Secretary, MeitY; and Dr Devesh Tyagi, CEO, NIXI, along with interns, professors, university and college deans, senior officials from MeitY, IT students, and academic leaders from institutions across the country.

The IGICBS portal was officially launched, and the IGICBS Impact Report was unveiled, highlighting the programme's progress and key milestones achieved over the past year.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar, IAS,

CEO, UIDAI said: “When we first conceptualised this initiative, internet governance was still a relatively less explored domain for many, and the objective was to create a strong pool of informed volunteers and future ambassadors for India. It is encouraging to hear from interns that the programme has been meaningful, and that mentorship has played a key role in shaping their learning journey. I urge all participants to remain connected with this ecosystem beyond the internship, and carry forward the learnings, and to strengthen India's presence in regional and global internet governance forums.”

S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Infor-

mation Technology said: “The internet has evolved from a space driven by early volunteerism into a critical backbone of our economic and social infrastructure. As digital adoption deepens, it becomes equally important to ensure a safer, more resilient and trustworthy internet for everyone. Initiatives like IGICBS are vital in building an informed and committed community of young professionals who can engage meaningfully in national and global internet governance forums and represent India's interests.

Dr Devesh Tyagi, CEO, NIXI, emphasised the importance of creating a strong talent pool in internet governance. He said the initiative would help young professionals un-

derstand emerging digital challenges and contribute to policy discussions shaping the future of the internet.

The IGICBS programme has provided interns with opportunities to engage with experts, academic institutions and policymakers. Through mentorship, training sessions and practical exposure, participants gained insights into issues such as cybersecurity, data protection, digital inclusion and internet infrastructure. The initiative also aims to encourage greater participation from Indian students and researchers in international internet governance forums.

No NOC for Vehicle Transfer, Fitness Renewal and Permits with pending toll dues

New Delhi, Sept 14 (GNS): In order to strengthen compliance towards user fee payment at the toll plazas on National Highways, the Government of India has notified the ‘Central Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026’, introducing key changes to the ‘Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989’. These amendments are aimed at improving user fee compliance, enhancing efficiency of Electronic Toll Collection and discouraging user fee evasion on National Highways.

Under the amended rules, a new definition of ‘unpaid user fee’ has been introduced and it refers to the user fee payable for the use of a National Highway section, where Electronic Toll

Collection (ETC) system has recorded the vehicle's passage, but the applicable fee has not been received in accordance with the National Highways Act, 1956.

The amendments link the clearance of unpaid National Highway user fee with a vehicle-related services. As per the provisions, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for transfer of ownership or transfer of a vehicle from one State to another shall not be granted until any unpaid user fee is cleared. In addition, renewal or generation of a Certificate of Fitness for vehicles will not be permitted unless outstanding user fee dues have been paid. For commercial vehicles seeking a National Permit, the amended rules

make it mandatory that the vehicle must not have any unpaid user fee.

Corresponding changes have also been made to ‘Form 28’ which now requires applicants to disclose whether any demand for an unpaid user fee at a toll plaza is pending against the vehicle, along with relevant details. Promoting digital processes, the rules also enable the electronic issuance of relevant portions of ‘Form 28’ through the designated online portal. ‘Form 28’ is application for a No Objection Certificate (NOC), a key document required for transferring vehicle ownership to another state or district confirming the vehicle has no pending taxes, challans, or legal is-

sues. These Amendments will also help in user fee collection after the implementation of the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) system, that will enable barrier less tolling on the National Highway network.

The amendments have been issued following publication of draft rules on 11th July 2025 vide a Gazette Notification, which invited suggestions from stakeholders and the general public. Copies of the draft notification were made available to the public on 14th July 2025. After careful consideration of the feedback received, the Government of India has finalized and notified the amended rules. These amendments will help NHAI in fostering

transparent and technology-driven tolling systems for sustained development and maintenance of the National Highway network across the country.

CSIR road repair technology moves to market as Technology Development Board (TDB) signs pact with Industry partner

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh recommended the use of steel slag-based technology for sustainable road construction, particularly in difficult and hilly terrains, noting that its adoption in the Himalayan States and UTs remains limited and needs to be accelerated through targeted outreach and training.

Addressing an event marking the signing of an agreement between the Technology Development Board (TDB) and Visakhapatnam-based Industry partner "Ramuka Global Eco Work Private Limited" for commercial production of ECOFIX, a ready-to-use pothole repair mix, the Minister said workshops were now being organised to familiarise state agencies with the technology.

The Minister said a two-day workshop on Steel slag technology would be held next week in Jammu & Kashmir followed by other States and UTs as well, aimed at sensitising engineers and officials from road construction departments about its application and benefits.

According to the Minister, several Himalayan and hill states stand to gain the most from the technology because of shorter working seasons, heavy rainfall and frequent road damage, yet awareness on the ground remains uneven.

Tracing the journey of the technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh said trials had begun around two years ago, starting with pilot projects in places such as Surat in Gujarat and parts of the Northeast, including Arunachal Pradesh. Since then, steel slag-based road repair solutions have been used to varying extents in states like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh. However, he pointed out that

many potential users, including senior engineers in some states, were still unaware of its availability, underscoring the need for proactive dissemination by both government agencies and industry partners.

The occasion also marked the formalisation of an agreement enabling the commercial rollout of 'ECOFIX', a pothole repair mix developed by the CSIR–Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) and now being taken to market with TDB support. The product uses processed iron and steel slag, converting industrial waste into a construction input, and is designed as a ready-to-use mix that can be applied even in wet or waterlogged conditions.

TG Governor for further strengthening cooperation with Aga Khan Network

Hyderabad, Sep 14 (GNS): Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday called for further strengthening cooperation between the state and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in the areas of education, healthcare, urban development and community welfare. The Governor welcomed Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, the 50th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and Chairman of the AKDN, to Lok Bhavan during his first official visit to India and Telangana after assuming his responsibilities.

He paid his respects to the late Aga Khan IV, recalling his significant contribution to India and the work of the Aga Khan Development Network. He noted that the late Aga Khan IV was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in 2015 and was held in high regard in India.



Shukla recalled Hyderabad's enduring association with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and warmly remembered Prince Rahim's visit to Hyderabad in July 2024 for the inauguration of the restored Qutb Shahi complex. He described the conservation and landscape development undertaken by the Trust as a notable example of public-private partnership.

The Governor appreciated the multifaceted development initiatives of the AKDN in Telangana, particularly in education, urban renewal, community healthcare, women-led development and employment generation. He highlighted the Aga Khan Academy near Hyderabad as an institution of excellence

that is nurturing young minds and future leaders.

“We see your Network as a force for good and would encourage enhancing the co-operation between Telangana and AKDN,” the Governor said, while inviting Prince Rahim Aga Khan to share his perspectives on the initiatives undertaken by the Network in Telangana and across India

for the progress and welfare of humanity.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V highlighted the AKDN's work in Telangana in urban renewal, community healthcare, women-led development and employment generation, and noted the substantial benefits these initiatives have brought to local communities. He expressed the importance of continuing and further strengthening the development partnership between the AKDN and Telangana. The Governor expressed confidence that the longstanding association between Telangana and the AKDN would continue to grow and contribute to inclusive, sustainable and people-centric development. Earlier, Minister for Minorities Welfare Mohammed Azharuddin welcomed Prince Rahim Aga Khan on his arrival in Hyderabad.

KTR's aides appear before police over assembly scuffle



Hyderabad, Sep 14 (GNS): BRS Working President, K.T. Rama Rao's Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer on Monday appeared before the police for questioning in a case registered against them in connection with the scuffle with the police that took place at Telangana Legislative Assembly entrance on September 7. Rama Rao's Public Relations Officer (PRO), Manikya Mahesh, and Personal Assistant, Kumbala Mahender Reddy, appeared before the Investigating Officer at Saifabad Police Station, in response to a notice issued to them. A case was registered against Mahesh and Mahender Reddy on September 9 for allegedly obstructing police personnel from discharging their duties during a confrontation outside the Assembly.

A case under Sections 132, 352, 351 (2) read with 395) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was booked on a complaint by reserve Inspector B. Jangaiah. Following this, Rama Rao's aides had approached the Telangana High

Court, which directed the police not to take any coercive step against the petitioners but permitted the Investigation Officer to proceed with the investigation.

The incident had occurred on September 7 when Rama Rao, former minister T. Harish Rao and other legislators of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) reached the Assembly wearing black shirts carrying slogans against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the state government. Police stopped them from entering the premises over the T-Shirts carrying political slogans, following which an argument and scuffle broke out. Two cases have already been booked against Rama Rao, Harish Rao and 12 BRS MLAs and MLCs.

They have been accused of obstructing women police personnel from discharging their duties, using abusive language and threatening them. A woman police Constable alleged the BRS MLAs and MLCs allegedly made objectionable remarks against policewomen. They also took

off their T-shirts to stand half-naked before women police officers. The police Constable alleged that the MLAs stood semi-naked very close to the women personnel, causing extreme discomfort and embarrassment. A separate case was registered against two MLCs of BRS for allegedly making derogatory and abusive remarks against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. MLCs T. Madhusudan alias Madhu and N. Naveen Kumar Reddy were booked on a complaint filed by Pollepalli Venkatesham, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Assembly Speaker. They were arrested on September 8 but were released on bail by a court the same day.

BRS has alleged that its women legislators were man-handled by the police officers during the stand-off at Assembly gate. It complained to National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women that police did not book a case despite the complaint by the women legislators.

10 August: Not just a date for Muslims, but a question of Justice



Irfan Jamiawala
10 August 1950... India had become independent. The process of framing the Constitution was underway. The nation was dreaming of an India where every citizen would receive equality, dignity and justice. Yet during this period, an important decision emerged that linked the constitutional recognition of Scheduled Castes with religion.

On 10 August 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order was issued. Under Paragraph 3, the constitutional status of Scheduled Caste was initially restricted to people belonging to the Hindu religion. Later, Sikhs and Buddhists were also brought within its scope, while Muslims and Christians remained outside it. This raises a fundamental question Does the pain

of social injustice change because of a person's religion? If a person belonging to a particular social and caste background can receive constitutional Scheduled Caste status because they are Hindu, while another person from the same social background is denied that status because they are Muslim, is that consistent with the principle of equality? This is the question Muslims are raising today.

We do not want to take away anyone else's rights.

We are not against the reservation rights of any other community. We are simply asking If deprivation is social, why should its constitutional remedy be different on the basis of religion? A large number of Muslims have historically been associated with handicrafts, weaving, agriculture, manual labour and various traditional occupations. A change in religious identity does not automatically eliminate a person's social or economic deprivation.

Therefore, the call to remember 10 August as a “Black Day” should not

be understood as a voice against any religion. It is a question addressed to the Constitution of India In a secular country, why can social justice not also be provided on secular principles? The National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities had also recommended that Scheduled Caste status should be de-linked from religion and that Muslim and Christian communities facing comparable social conditions should also be considered within its framework.

This is not a demand for special privilege. It is a demand for equality. It is not against the rights of any Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist brother. It is not against any religion. It is simply a question Will justice be determined by religion or by social reality? For us, 10 August is not a day of hatred. It is a day of remembrance and reflection. It is a day to remember millions of people who worked for generations but could not secure an equal place on the social ladder. Our struggle is not about taking something away from anyone.

Dayakar Rao Seeks Sitting Judge Probe Into Saifabad Attack

Warangal, 14 Sept (GNS): Former minister and BRS leader Errabelli Dayakar Rao has condemned the alleged attack on KTR's PRO Mahesh and PA Mahender Reddy inside the Saifabad police station in Hyderabad, describing the incident as a serious and disturbing development. He alleged that around 15 persons forcibly entered the police station and assaulted the two men in the presence of police personnel.

Mr. Dayakar Rao questioned whether the incident was carried out by Congress supporters or whether the police, allegedly acting in plain clothes, were involved in a pre-planned conspiracy. He demanded a probe by a sitting judge into the incident and said Chief Minister and Home Minister A Revanth Reddy should take full responsibility for the incident.

He alleged that Mahesh and Mahender Reddy had

been called to the police station for questioning in connection with a politically motivated case and that the delay from morning until evening indicated that the attack may have been planned in advance. He also pointed out that the High Court had directed that no action be taken against the two until further orders, alleging that the attack was part of political vendetta.

Mr. Dayakar Rao demanded immediate security and better medical treatment for Mahesh and Mahender Reddy, who were injured in the attack. He also called for the preservation of CCTV footage from all cameras installed inside and outside the police station and urged the authorities to identify and take stringent action against all those responsible for the incident. He warned that the BRS would not remain silent if action was not taken.

BRS leader seeks action over sewage overflow in Karwan

Hyderabad, Sept 14 (GNS) BRS Gudi Malkapur Division president Sumair V has urged the authorities to immediately inspect the sewerage line and identify the cause of sewage overflow in the Jamia Masjid Taleem area of Karwan constituency. He said the damaged or blocked sewerage line from H.No. 13-5-400 to 13-5-422, near Basti Dawakhana and Hospital Lane, should be cleared or replaced wherever necessary. He also urged officials to stop the continuous discharge of sewage onto the public road and take action against anyone responsible for illegal discharge or obstruction of the sewerage system.

Sumair V further requested the authorities to restore and clean the affected portion of the road and take preventive measures to ensure that the problem does not recur. He said immediate action was necessary to protect public health and provide relief to residents of the locality.



Indiramma Houses: Allotment documents to beneficiaries this week

Hyderabad, Sept 14 (GNS) The government has given good news to the LIG (Low Income Group) beneficiaries selected under the Indiramma Towers scheme in Hyderabad. Telangana Housing Board Vice Chairman and Commissioner V.P. Gautam announced on Sunday that they will be given the flat allotment documents this week itself. He said that the eligible beneficiaries will be provided with the official allotment document, the amount to be paid in the first installment, the deadline and the official bank account details.

Gautam explained that out of the total 7,340 people selected through the lucky draw, about 6,660 people have been completed in the field verification so far. He clarified

that 5,521 of them have been confirmed as eligible and the verification of the rest will also be completed this week itself. As soon as this process is completed, documents will be issued to all the eligible ones.

On this occasion, he gave key instructions to the beneficiaries. He warned that payments should be made only to the official account specified by the government and not to trust intermediaries and brokers and give them money in the form of cash or commission. He reminded that the process of refunding the EMD of Rs. 10,000 has already started for those who are not selected. These houses are being constructed in 16 constituencies under the 'CURE' scope within the Hyderabad Outer Ring

Road (ORR). While the government is providing a subsidy of Rs. 5 lakhs on each flat, the beneficiaries will have to pay Rs. 6 lakhs in installments. For complete information, officials suggested that people should visit the official website of the Telangana Housing Board or contact the number 040-24603572.

Officials said the allotment process will be carried out transparently and only beneficiaries who complete all eligibility requirements will receive the documents. The Housing Board is completing the remaining field verifications on a priority basis to avoid delays. The beneficiaries will receive details of the payment schedule along with the allotment documents.



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