

Singapore Expresses Interest in Setting Up Semiconductor Industry in Telangana

Hyderabad, Sept 16 (Patriotic Views): Singapore Ministry of Energy and Commerce has announced that it is ready to set up a semiconductor industry in Telangana. The delegation led by the Permanent Secretary of Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry Augustine Lee garu Chief Minister Sri A. Had a meeting with Revanth Reddy.

Discussions on industrial investments were held in this meeting in the Chamber of Assembly. The Chief Minister has explained the positive aspects for investments in Telangana. Along with investing in the



state, they asked to provide financial support for the development of the state. It is said that the government

will cooperate in every way for the investments. Chief Minister has invited Augustine Lee to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit to be organized in December. On this occasion, the Chief Minister has explained the plans of Moosi Renaissance, India Future City development to the Singapore representatives. In the first step, the confluence of Moosa and Esa rivers till Gandhi Sarovar is being revived. It is said that plans have been prepared for the development of the night economy along with Moosi Riverfront.

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Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C. R. Patil launches Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, in New Delhi. (Photo: PIB)

Any 'Boundary Cooperation' between China and Pakistan concerning Indian territories completely unacceptable: MEA

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): Reiterating that it has never recognised the so-called 'China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement' of 1963 and have consistently maintained that it is illegal and invalid, India on Wednesday rejected a boundary joint commission created by China and Pakistan, saying that any so-called boundary cooperation between China and Pakistan concerning Indian territories would be "completely unacceptable".

"We have seen reports in this regard. Our position on this matter is clear and consistent. There is no boundary between Pakistan and China. We reject the so-



called Joint Commission, which is without any legal basis. The entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. Pakistan has no locus standi to enter into arrangements concerning Indian territory under its

illegal and forcible occupation," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while responding to media queries on the so-called 'Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission'.

"We resolutely oppose and reject any attempts to alter the status of these

occupied territories or legitimise illegal occupation, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Any so-called boundary cooperation between China and Pakistan concerning Indian territories would be completely unacceptable and would have no bearing whatsoever on India's

sovereignty over these territories. Instead of engaging in such theatrics, we call on Pakistan to immediately vacate from areas under its illegal and forcible occupation," the MEA spokesperson added.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs termed the "operationalisation" of the Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission as a "significant milestone" for Pakistan-China relations, mentioning that the two sides on Wednesday set the stage for enhanced cooperation in border management, joint border surveys, trade flows and people to people connectivity.

PIL in SC questions centre's decision to impose MDR on UPI transactions above Rs 2,000

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's recent framework permitting Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on specified high-value Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions above Rs 2,000, alleging that the move is arbitrary, discriminatory and imposes a nationwide financial burden without adequate statutory safeguards.

The plea, filed by advocate Anjan Datta through advocate Ashutosh Dubey, has challenged the Gazette Notification published on September 14, 2026, under Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, as well as the framework announced on September 15 for imposing MDR on specified person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above Rs 2,000. According to the petition, the new framework proposes a 0.4 per cent MDR on P2M UPI transactions above Rs 2,000, capped at



Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above, with separate rates for certain sectors. "The challenge is not to the legitimate objective of maintaining secure and resilient payment infrastructure. It is to the manner in which a nationwide compulsory payment burden has been created, classified and distributed without publication of the complete operative instrument, statutory source, underlying cost study, minutes, methodology, safeguards or enforceable anti-pass-through mechanism," the plea stated.

The petitioner has claimed that the framework, proposed to take effect from October 15, creates different

thresholds and categories without disclosing the empirical basis or principles underlying them. "The Rs. 2,000 transaction threshold, the Rs. 1 lakh monthly-receipt classification, the differential sector rates, and the Rs. 75,000 cap are unsupported in the public domain by disclosed data or determining principles," the plea stated.

The petition further claimed that a transaction of Rs 2,001 would attract a percentage charge while a Rs 2,000 transaction would not, describing such "cliffs" as capable of distorting behaviour and creating unequal treatment among similarly placed merchants.

India, Bangladesh discuss boosting air connectivity



Dhaka, Sept 16 (GNS): India and Bangladesh on Wednesday held discussions on enhancing cooperation in civil aviation, improving air connectivity and increasing air cargo capacity.

The talks took place during a meeting between India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi and Bangladesh's Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mr. M Rashiduzzaman Millat, in Dhaka.

"High Commissioner of India Shri Dinesh Trivedi met the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mr. M Rashiduzzaman Millat on 16 Sep 2026. They held discussions on wide-ranging topics including enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of civil aviation, improving air connectivity, enhancing air cargo capacity, improving bilateral working mechanisms and promoting tourism," the

Indian High Commission in Bangladesh wrote on X following the meeting.

On September 13, Trivedi met Zahed Ur Rahman, Advisor for Policy and Strategy to Bangladesh's Prime Minister and discussed a wide range of topics in India-Bangladesh relations.

"The meeting included discussions on a wide range of topics in India-Bangladesh relations. Both dignitaries expressed optimism that the two vibrant democracies will continue to work together to enhance people-to-people relations," the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh posted on X.

He also held a meeting with the Minister of Water Resources of Bangladesh, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee and discussed the importance of strengthening bilateral engagement for achieving the shared aspirations of the people.

India launches net zero portal, NAPCC dashboard to boost climate transparency

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh on Wednesday launched India's Net Zero Portal and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) Dashboard in Mumbai on World Ozone Day 2026, to strengthen transparency, coordination and evidence based climate action.

"The Net Zero Portal provides a national platform for voluntary Net Zero commitments by entities, while the NAPCC Dashboard enables consolidated monitoring of progress across the National Missions on climate change," the statement from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said. The portal is a centralised digital platform for voluntary registration and disclosure of Net Zero commitments by Indian entities across sectors.

Participating entities can disclose their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, declare Net Zero targets and provide annual progress updates. Entities are encouraged to



report Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, while reporting of Scope 3 emissions remains voluntary. The portal also enables entities to outline pathways towards Net Zero, including measures related to clean energy transition, energy efficiency, technological interventions and carbon removals, as applicable.

The initiative brings voluntary climate actions onto a common platform, enhances transparency and encourages credible long-term climate planning. Entities successfully declaring their Net Zero targets will receive an acknowledgement from the MoEFCC. Public access to declarations by participating entities, organisations and industries will also create a

consolidated repository of voluntary Net Zero actions in the country. The NAPCC Dashboard provides a consolidated digital view of implementation and progress across the National Missions under the NAPCC. It brings together mission-related information and identified indicators on a common platform, facilitating systematic monitoring by concerned ministries and departments.

The dashboard will strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, support evidence-based assessment of national climate actions, help assess sectoral progress, identify implementation gaps and consolidate relevant inputs from ministries and departments.

Jharkhand CID arrests four more accused in JPSC, JSSC CGL exam irregularities cases

Ranchi, Sept 16 (GNS): Jharkhand's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), probing two separate cases related to irregularities in recruitment examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC), has arrested four more accused, officials said on Wednesday. Following preliminary interrogation, all four accused have been sent to judicial custody.

The CID has so far arrested and sent over 30 people to jail in connection with the examination scam. Those arrested earlier include former JPSC Chairman L. Khingte, former examination controller Shweta Gupta, examination agency official Ramveer Singh, and alleged kingpin Abhay Tiwari, among others.

According to the CID, two accused, Hrithik Roshan



from Mango in Jamshedpur and Pankaj Prasun from Sukhdevnagar in Ranchi, were arrested in Case No. 16/2026 related to the JPSC examination.

Investigators allege that both candidates received undue benefits during the recruitment examination process. The agency claims that the alleged advantage was facilitated through Sanjeet Kumar, operator of the Ranchi-based coaching institute 'Shivangan Ki Pathshala', who had been arrested earlier in the case.

The CID is now probing the manner in which the two candidates allegedly

benefited and the involvement of other individuals in the process. In a separate development linked to Case No. 01/2025 concerning the JSSC CGL examination, the CID arrested Rajesh Prasad Yadav of Golwadhav in Koderma and Sandeep Kumar of Purna Nagar. The agency alleged that both played a role in extending undue benefits to several candidates in the examination.

The CID said it is investigating various links in the alleged network through which candidates were purportedly provided unfair advantages in recruitment examinations. The agency had earlier questioned and arrested several individuals as part of the ongoing probe. Officials said fresh information about other suspects and their roles is being gathered based on the interrogation of those arrested.

Why the EU-India trade deal matters now

LARAVEYS MAHMOUDI

As India prepares to celebrate Republic Day on January 26 and hosts the European Union on January 27 for its annual summit in New Delhi, attention turns once again to the long-anticipated EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Originally set to be concluded by the end of 2025, negotiations on the FTA have stretched beyond initial expectations. However, notable diplomatic momentum in the opening weeks of 2026, marked by a series of high-level engagements and intensified negotiations, signals continued determination on both sides to expedite the agreement's conclusion by the end of January.

On January 9, India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal concluded a two-day visit to Brussels, following preparatory engagements earlier in the month. After talks with European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefcovic, Goyal indicated that remaining differences were narrowing and that negotiations had entered their final phase.

His visit followed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's trip to France and Luxembourg earlier in the month, as well as India's participation, for the first time, in discussions with the Weimar Triangle, signalling New Delhi's growing engagement with key European groupings. European leaders have reinforced this momentum.



During German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to India on January 12, he suggested that Brussels and New Delhi could finalise the FTA by the end of the month, highlighting the strategic impetus driving negotiations.

This has been complemented by parallel diplomatic engagements, including a visit by French Presidential Diplomatic Adviser Emmanuel Bonne ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's planned visit in February, as well as a visit by Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski on January 17-19.

EU-India FTA negotiations have spanned nearly two decades. First launched in 2007, suspended for several years and formally revived in 2022, their longevity reflects both the scale of ambition on both sides and the political sensitivities involved.

Against a backdrop of growing fragmentation in the global trade environment, marked by transatlantic uncertainty, structural dependencies and supply-chain vulnerabili-

ties, Brussels' search for reliable, long-term partners has sharpened.

An EU-India FTA offers a strategic pathway to diversify Europe's economic relationships, deepen engagement with a market of over 1.4 billion people and anchor cooperation within a rules-based framework aligned with shared principles.Despite evident political momentum, several unresolved issues continue to constrain finalisation of the FTA. Market access remains one of the most persistent points of contention. The EU is pressing for deeper tariff reductions in high-value sectors such as automobiles and medical devices, while India remains cautious about liberalisation that could affect domestic manufacturers and small businesses.

The EU has sought to protect its domestic steel industry through tariffs, quotas and safeguard measures, alongside increasing emphasis on climate-linked regulation. India, by contrast, has raised concerns over restricted access to the European market

and the cumulative impact of trade-defence instruments on its exporters.

Agriculture is expected to remain largely excluded from the agreement. Given the sector's political sensitivity and the scale of employment it supports in India, New Delhi has shown little willingness to open this market freely, limiting the scope for comprehensive liberalisation.

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) also remains a significant point of friction. While Brussels frames the mechanism as a tool to align imports with its climate objectives, New Delhi has expressed concern over its potential obstructive impact on Indian exporters, particularly in energy-intensive sectors.

Furthermore, negotiations on services trade, intellectual property and regulatory alignment remain ongoing, with differences persisting over the scope and enforcement of intellectual property provisions.

Ultimately, the agreement will require the EU to balance its economic pri-

orities with commitments to sustainability and regulatory standards. Both sides have nevertheless stressed the importance of delivering a fair and balanced outcome. These considerations continue to shape the final compromises currently under negotiation.

For the EU, the prospective benefits of an FTA with India are both economic and strategic. On the economic front, the agreement would deepen trade and investment ties, expanding opportunities for European firms in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Beyond tariff reductions, the FTA would facilitate stronger investment flows and supply-chain integration, offering European industry a credible alternative market and production base as it seeks to reduce exposure to concentrated supply chains and geopolitical risk. Strategically, the agreement would strengthen the EU's footprint in the Indo-Pacific and anchor relations with a partner that broadly shares Europe's commitment to democracy and a rules-based international order.

Finalising the FTA with India offers Brussels a means of embedding long-term stability and openness into its external economic strategy, particularly as it seeks to diversify key economic partnerships. Set to be one of the EU's largest trade agreements to date, the conclusion of the deal would signal a durable recalibration of Europe's global economic posture.

Bad & less bad choices for Punjab voters

THREE recent political developments — the Congress high command berating its Punjab leaders for publicly voicing differences, the Aam Aadmi Party rolling out the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna and the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal getting aggressive with their Punjab agenda during the Maghi Mela — all point to the sort of issues that will be tossed around ahead of the elections.

That factionalism plagues the Punjab Congress is well known, but the party's central leadership wakes up only when things come to a boil. Punjab Congress leaders are not exactly known for maintaining party discipline or resisting the temptation to take on opponents within the party. Infighting frequently comes in the way of the party's pursuit of power.

Intra-party sparring was largely responsible for the Congress not holding a political rally at the recent Maghi Mela. It could not find a better excuse for skipping Muktsar than saying that it had abided by the Akal Takht directive urging parties not to indulge in any politicking during a solemn religious occasion. That excuse, however, is indigestible from a party responsible for the terrible 1984 assault on Akal Takht.

Both the Congress and AAP are formidable rivals in the race for power. With the introduction of the health scheme offering free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to every family in Punjab, AAP is taking its vote-winning populist policies to another level. At the Muktsar Mela, the Chief Minister had announced that the coming budget would provide for the payment of Rs 1,000 to Punjabi women.

In addition to carrying forward the party's agenda of handouts, Bhagwant Mann has, of late, been venturing into the landmine of the religious arena, which has already led to his appearance before Akal Takht and an embarrassment over the so-called recovery of some missing "saroops" of Guru Granth Sahib.

Mann, no doubt, is unbeatable when it comes to public connect. But his opponents make light of his jokes and remind people of what a comedian-turned-politician has done to Ukraine. Lately, he has started displaying signs of intolerance, if not dictatorship. His government has slapped FIRs on quite a few journalists and youtubers and is arm-twisting a newspaper group, that too in an election year.

Quite surprising was the BJP's decision — the first of its kind — to drum up a gathering at the Sikh religious mela. In recent years, the Hindutva-wedded party has been welcoming into its fold turbaned Sikhs who have dabbled in politics, with or without a shady past, regardless of their anti-BJP stance in their previous avatar, just to spread its footprint in Punjab. BJP loyalists are justifiably disappointed by this free-for-all entry of defectors, though none are perturbed enough to vocally express their displeasure to the leadership in Delhi. Many at the top now holding the BJP flag are Congress leftovers who had been swept aside by AAP's electoral tornado in 2022.

A surprise, however, was the arrival of Chief Minister Nayab Saini from the neighbouring Haryana, with which Punjab has a longstanding water dispute. Donning a turban, he mistakenly believed, would endear him to the Sikh masses, who are particularly annoyed by his government giving frequent parole to a dera head convicted of murder and rape. Saini did raise a valid question: If Haryana can procure 24 crops at the minimum support price, why can't Punjab? This was meant to needle his Punjab counterpart.

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, who had ditched the Congress after being dumped for the post of Chief Minister, highlighted the Mann government's failure to effectively address the serious problems of debt and drugs. The latter issue is expected to dominate pre-poll election speeches.

Another notable speaker whom the BJP fielded was Manpreet Singh Badal, a former Congress Finance Minister who is best remembered for his repeated "treasury-is-empty" statements, implying not to expect anything from him. At Muktsar, he punctured Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's boast of providing 60,000 jobs to youth, saying that over four years, a minimum of 72,000 employees had already retired. Unemployment has been a serious and emotive issue in Punjab, resulting in the large-scale outflow of precious young talent and hard-earned money of Punjabis. Chief ministers, eager to be seen as job creators, have made it a ritual to hand over job offer letters to young people at well-publicised official functions.

A former Congress Chief Minister, Capt Amarinder Singh, now in the BJP, had won his second term in 2017, partly by luring unemployed youth into voting for him by making them fill job forms on the disingenuous advice of poll strategist Prashant Kishor. The job scheme ultimately fell far short of its ambitious promises.

One party that BJP speakers chose not to attack was the Shiromani Akali Dal led by Sukhbir Singh Badal, who also helpfully played along. Sukhbir also laid bare the SAD electoral agenda, which contained promises like free tubewell connections to farmers and interest-free loans up to Rs 10 lakh to youth, apart from the party's commitment to "correct historical injustices", including the diversion of Punjab's waters to Rajasthan through the Indira Gandhi canal. Sukhbir Badal keeps accusing AAP of plundering Punjab for the party's expansion elsewhere. But these days he himself is at the receiving end with the arrest of his chartered accountant in the case of 328 missing Guru Granth Sahib "saroops". Given the sizable turnout at the SAD conference, it is clear that people in increasing numbers are willing to give him another chance.

The present electoral system propagates poseurs who blather endlessly, promising everything but delivering little. Thanks to shortsighted, people-pleaser politicians who hardly have any credible development model, Punjab has in the last two and a half decades slid from its once number one position in the country. It is falling behind on almost every parameter. There are, therefore, no good choices before the Punjab voters, only bad or less bad ones. Regardless of which party wins the next election, there is little hope of economic resurgence, at least in the near future. Every party relies on the same winning model of freebies. Punjab's economic turnaround is on no party's agenda.

With the Punjab Assembly elections approaching, political parties are expected to sharpen their focus on issues such as unemployment, drugs, farmers' concerns, public health and the state's finances. Welfare promises and targeted schemes are likely to remain central to the campaign, while parties seek to project themselves as capable of addressing Punjab's longstanding economic and social challenges.

The political contest is also likely to involve competing approaches to agriculture and rural development. Farmers remain an influential constituency, and issues relating to minimum support prices, irrigation, power supply, farm debt and water sharing are expected to feature prominently in election debates and campaign speeches.

Religious and identity-related issues could also remain part of Punjab's political discourse. The involvement of political parties in religious gatherings, debates surrounding Sikh institutions and unresolved issues concerning the Guru Granth Sahib have already generated political attention, making the balance between electoral politics and religious sensitivities an important issue for the major parties.

Ultimately, the election campaign is likely to test whether political parties can move beyond immediate welfare announcements and present credible long-term plans for employment generation, industrial growth, agriculture, public services and fiscal sustainability. Voters will have the opportunity to assess the competing promises and policy proposals as the parties prepare for the electoral contest.

BJP tightens grip on Maharashtra

JULIO RIBEIRO

WE Catholics use an Italian word, "Papabili", to identify Cardinals who have the qualities to become the Pope. There is no corresponding term in the lexicon of politics, but if there was, it would surely be used for Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who has done wonders for the BJP in the 2024 Assembly elections and the recent civic polls. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath are often mentioned as the contenders to succeed PM Narendra Modi as and when he steps down. To that list, Fadnavis' name has to be added. He has divided and weakened Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of Sharad Pawar, who was once hailed as the Maratha strongman but has now been reduced to a mere shadow of his former self.

Playing on the ambitions and weaknesses of his political opponents, Fadnavis first lured Eknath Shinde, a Shiv Sainik from Mumbai's neighbouring Thane district who had risen from the ranks, to jump ship and join forces with the Hindutva brigade. Then he repeated the exercise with Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit. Shinde had been fearing stagnation within the Shiv Sena as the compulsions of dynastic rule had closed the doors for his progress.

Shinde was made the Chief Minister of one of India's most prosperous



states, thereby sealing the split in the ranks of the "Marathi Manoos".

Bal Thackeray, the Sena patriarch, had played on the sensibilities of the Marathi-speaking residents of Mumbai by convincing them that "outsiders" (those who spoke Gujarati at home) were robbing them of their patrimony and Tamil as well as other southerners were depriving them of white-collar jobs which could assure them of a better life. Balasaheb was an orator par excellence, a notch above even Modi. Like the Prime Minister, he could convince his audience that black was white, and vice versa. Such is the power of words when uttered by seasoned orators!

Marathi-speaking people residing in Mumbai were mainly from the coastal villages and small towns south of the city in the Konkan area of the state. They joined the Sena in hordes. When asked to use muscle power to drive home their point, they did so enthusiastically. The police were not keen to

stop their excesses as the ruling Congress in those days was using the Sena to neutralise the Left parties which constituted the main opposition to its rule. The government's pusillanimity encouraged the Sena, which soon became a force to reckon with in Mumbai.

I once had a conversation in New Delhi with then Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani. The BJP had decided to hitch its wagon to the Sena to gain a foothold in Maharashtra. I told Advani about the methods used by Bal Thackeray to assert the Sena's dominance. I thought I was warning him of the dangers involved, not realising that the BJP was taking a calculated decision to ride on the back of the "tiger". Advani looked at me with a glint in his eyes and dismissed my views as those of one who did not understand politics. (he was correct). The BJP is now firmly installed as the Sena's senior partner in Maharashtra. After the split in the Sena and the NCP, Fadnavis set his sights on ruling the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which boasts of an annual budget that exceeds that of some small states.

The Sena had dominated the municipality for more than two decades. It was widely rumoured that corporators appropriated 10 per cent share of the contracts signed within their jurisdiction. It was commonly understood in the city that the Sena could survive as an organised political party because of the pickings from the municipality, its sole source of funds when it was not part of Central or state governments.

Many Sena members, including corporators, crossed over to Shinde's faction because they were deprived of their "subsistence". The municipal elections were delayed by over three years to apparently enable Shinde to win over Sena corporators who found themselves powerless after the Mahayuti government appointed its own functionaries to manage the BMC's affairs. The Op-

position's repeated accusations of "vote chori" can be dismissed as the rant of poor losers, but one allegation is true. A lot of money was distributed among voters during the civic polls. Today, the BJP is easily the richest party in India. The high number of its corporators elected unopposed due to last-minute withdrawals by their opponents merits scrutiny. The BJP is known to use all means, fair or foul, to achieve its goal of an Opposition-free state. These unopposed victories of its candidates were possible largely through monetary inducements.

The latest defeat of the Sena faction led by Uddhav Thackeray and the NCP outfit headed by Sharad Pawar who fought the Pune municipal election along with his estranged nephew has been dubbed as the "death knell" for the two leaders. Sharad Pawar should have handed over the reins of his party to Ajit in view of age-related infirmities. He will find himself isolated now. But as far as Uddhav is concerned, I do not subscribe to the idea of writing him off just yet. Shinde has made inroads into Uddhav's territory in Mumbai, but the latter's faction has shown that it is still alive and kicking. In Marathi-speaking localities, it bested Shinde's candidates in most of the seats it contested.

The Shinde faction has 29 seats in the BMC, while Uddhav's faction and his cousin Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena together have 71.

MBT Welcomes CM Revanth Reddy's Remarks on Nizam-Era Hyderabad

Demands Restoration and Preservation of Nizam Heritage



Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS) Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) Spokesman Amjed Ullah Khan welcomed the remarks made by Telangana Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy on the floor of the Telangana Legislative Assembly, wherein the Chief Minister spoke about the administrative and developmental contributions of the Nizam-era government and acknowledged the role of Nizam-era revenues in creating several major public institutions and infrastructure projects in Hyderabad and Telangana.

Mr. Amjed Ullah Khan said that the Chief Minister's statement is significant because many institutions and

public assets established during the Nizam era continue to serve the people of Telangana even today.

He said that landmarks such as Osmania University, Osmania General Hospital, the High Court building, City College, Nizam College, Nizam Sagar, irrigation infrastructure, Hyderabad Deccan Railway Station (Nampally), the State Central Library and several other public buildings and institutions form an important part of Hyderabad's historical and architectural heritage.

At the same time, Mr. Khan questioned successive governments, including Congress, TDP and BRS governments, for what he described as decades of neglect in main-

MBT Demands Nizam Museum in Hyderabad

Mr. Amjed Ullah Khan also reiterated MBT's demand for the establishment of a grand "Nizam Museum" in Hyderabad on the lines of the Salar Jung Museum, where the history, architecture, documents, artefacts and valuables associated with the Nizam-era Hyderabad State can be preserved and displayed for the public and future generations.

He said the issue of the Nizam's jewellery requires particular attention. According to a Parliament record, the Government of India acquired 173 items of jewellery belonging to the erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad on January 12, 1995, pursuant to Supreme Court orders, for a reported amount of approximately 180.37 crore plus interest.

Mr. Khan said that Hyderabad should not be deprived of the oppor-

tunity to publicly exhibit such historically significant artefacts connected with its own history.

He recalled that the issue of permanently displaying the Nizam jewellery in Hyderabad had previously been considered by the Union Government. A 2001 Parliamentary answer recorded that the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had suggested permanent display of the jewellery in Hyderabad, with the possibility of using Khilawat Mahal at Chowmahalla Palace, subject to security considerations. "These are not merely expensive jewels. They are part of the history of Hyderabad and the Deccan. Hyderabad deserves a world-class museum where this heritage can be preserved, researched and displayed for students, historians, tourists and the general public," Mr. Khan said.

Government Must Preserve History Without Political Bias

Mr. Khan said historical heritage should not be viewed through the lens of contemporary political rivalries.

He said the contributions and controversies associated with the Nizam period should both be studied by historians and preserved through authentic documentation, rather than allowing political narratives to determine which parts of Hyderabad's history are remembered and which are ignored.

"History should be preserved in its entirety. The achievements, adminis-

trative institutions, public works and cultural contributions of the Nizam era, as well as the historical events and struggles associated with that period, should all be documented honestly. Future generations have a right to know the complete history of Hyderabad," he said.

Mr. Khan stated that MBT welcomes the Chief Minister's recognition of the contribution of Nizam-era public infrastructure and expects the Telangana Government to translate such recognition into concrete measures for conservation and restoration.

taining and protecting several Nizam-era public institutions.

"If successive governments acknowledge the historical importance of these institutions, they must also take responsibility for preserving them. It cannot be enough to praise the Nizam-era contribution in speeches while al-

lowing historically important buildings to deteriorate due to neglect and inadequate maintenance," Mr. Khan said.

He particularly referred to the condition and maintenance of Osmania General Hospital and other historic public buildings, stating that their heritage character must



'India Energy Week 2026' to focus on global partnerships: Hardeep Puri

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India Energy Week has emerged as a strong platform for building long-term global energy partnerships, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Saturday. Millennial media consulting. In a post on social media platform X, Puri said that India Energy Week 2026 will mark a shift from discussions to direct collaboration in the global energy sector. "Under the leadership of PM Modi, India Energy Week has become a platform for sustained global energy partnerships," Puri said. He said the event will bring together key international and domestic stakeholders to strengthen cooperation across energy value chains.

"As part of the event, the 9th Prime Minister's Roundtable will be held, bringing

foreign CEOs, Indian private sector leaders and public sector representatives on one platform," he stated. "This will be complemented by the India-Arab Energy Dialogue, an India-Japan Roundtable following earlier discussions in Tokyo, and additional roundtables with Iceland, the Netherlands and the India-US Business Council," he mentioned.

Puri said this will help align global investment and policy thinking with India's fast-growing energy needs.

He added that the roundtable will be supported by several focused dialogues, including the India-Arab Energy Dialogue and an India-Japan Roundtable, which will follow earlier discussions held in Tokyo.

Apart from this, India will also hold energy roundtables with countries like Iceland and the Netherlands, along with interactions in-

volving the India-US Business Council. According to Puri, India Energy Week 2026 will also see participation from 11 country pavilions -- reflecting strong international interest. Several bilateral meetings are also planned, involving senior leadership, including the Prime Minister. Puri said these engagements further reinforce India's role as a global energy convener and highlight how India Energy Week has grown into a key forum for sustained global energy cooperation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Additionally, the Union Minister noted that India Energy Week has steadily evolved into a results-oriented forum, moving beyond policy deliberations to practical outcomes such as technology collaboration, investment facilitation and supply-chain integration.

An attack on Journalists is an attack on the Voice of Democracy: Irfan Jamiawala

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): Renowned social worker, journalist, writer and political thinker Irfan Jamiawala has expressed serious concern over the alleged assault by Delhi Police on two women journalists, Shaheen Khan of 4 PM News Network and Nafisa Khan, an independent journalist.

Irfan Jamiawala said that any alleged assault or intimidation of a journalist is not merely an individual matter. It raises wider questions about press freedom, accountability and democratic values. Journalists have a responsibility to ask questions, report facts and bring public concerns before institutions



and authorities. Differences over a report or a question should be addressed through law and dialogue, not through physical force.

He said the allegations involving women journalists deserve particular seriousness.

He demanded an independent, impartial and transparent inquiry into the incident and said that if any police official is found responsible after due investigation, appropriate action should be taken according to law.

Jamiawala also stressed that journalist safety cannot remain limited to statements, guidelines or official assurances. Journalists often work in difficult circumstances while reporting issues related to corruption, crime, injustice and the problems of ordinary citizens. Their safety and dignity must therefore be treated as an important part of a democratic environment.

Kerala Key to India's Maritime Future: Union Minister Sonowal

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): The Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, on Saturday inaugurated the capacity augmentation works of Vizhinjam International Seaport at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The event was held in the presence of Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, senior State and Central Government officials, and representatives of the concessionaire.

The inauguration marked the commencement of construction works for Phases II, III and IV of the Vizhinjam International Seaport, which are being implemented under a fast-tracked and integrated development programme. The expansion aims to substantially augment India's container transshipment capacity and strengthen the country's maritime infrastructure ecosystem.

Vizhinjam International Seaport commenced commercial operations of Phase I on 3 December 2024 with a designed capacity of 1 million TEUs. Within a short period of operation, the port has demonstrated strong performance, han-

dling over 1.43 million TEUs and operating at more than 130 per cent capacity utilisation. The port has established direct connectivity with major global shipping routes across Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Far East, reinforcing its role as a key national transshipment terminal.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The rapid operationalisation and expansion of Vizhinjam International Seaport reflects India's focused approach towards building world-class port infrastructure. He stated that the capacity augmentation will play a critical role in reducing India's dependence on foreign transshipment hubs, improving logistics efficiency, and supporting the growth of India's external trade."

Under the capacity augmentation programme, the existing container berth will be extended to create a continuous 2-kilometre-long container berth, the longest in India. The breakwater will be extended to 3.88 kilometres, and additional container yards will be developed through sea reclamation. The port's cargo

handling capacity will be strengthened through the addition of ship-to-shore and yard cranes, enabling the handling of next-generation container vessels of up to 28,000 TEUs. On completion, the port will be capable of handling up to five mother vessels simultaneously, with an operational throughput capacity of up to 5.7 million TEUs per annum.

The capacity augmentation works are being undertaken pursuant to a Supplementary Concession Agreement signed in November 2024 between the Government of Kerala and Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited, advancing the project timeline by nearly 17 years, with completion targeted by December 2028. The total investment envisaged for the Vizhinjam International Seaport project is approximately 16,000 crore, including about 7,398 crore for the expansion phases.

The Union Minister further noted that the development of Vizhinjam International Seaport is aligned with the national objectives under Maritime Vision 2030 and the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, and will contribute to the creation

of a resilient, efficient and globally competitive maritime sector. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble CM of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan said, "Vizhinjam is currently serving mainly Indian Container Ports as a Transshipment port. With the completion of Phase 2 development, Vizhinjam will become the transshipment hub of the whole world including continents of Asia, Europe, America and Africa."

With the commencement of the capacity augmentation works, Vizhinjam International Seaport is set to progress towards becoming a regional transshipment hub, strengthening India's position in global maritime trade and supporting long-term economic growth.

The expansion will enhance the port's ability to handle larger container vessels and accommodate rising cargo volumes. The development of modern terminal facilities is expected to improve turnaround times and strengthen the efficiency of container handling operations.

The extended berth and additional yard facilities will provide greater flexibility in

managing transshipment cargo. The upgraded infrastructure is also expected to support shipping lines seeking direct connections to international markets through India. The project is likely to have wider economic benefits for Kerala by encouraging investments in logistics, warehousing, transportation and other port-linked industries. Increased maritime activity could also create employment opportunities across various sectors associated with the port.

The development of Vizhinjam is also expected to complement India's efforts to strengthen coastal infrastructure and improve the movement of goods. Better integration of port facilities with road, rail and logistics networks will be important for maximising the benefits of the expanded capacity. With the completion of the planned phases, Vizhinjam is expected to handle substantially higher container volumes and accommodate multiple large vessels at the same time. The project is aimed at strengthening India's role in international shipping and reducing reliance on overseas transshipment centres.

MBT'S DEMANDS

Amjed Ullah Khan demanded that the Telangana Government:

- ▶ Establish a Nizam Museum in Hyderabad on the lines of the Salar Jung Museum.
- ▶ Prepare a comprehensive inventory of all major Nizam-era heritage buildings, institutions and infrastructure in Telangana.
- ▶ Undertake scientific restoration and regular maintenance of historic public buildings, including Osmania General Hospital and other Nizam-era institutions.
- ▶ Coordinate with the Union Government for the permanent public display of the 173 Nizam jewellery items in Hyderabad, subject to applicable legal, ownership and security requirements.
- ▶ Explore suitable heritage locations in Hyderabad, including historically significant sites, for the proposed museum.
- ▶ Digitise Nizam-era records, documents, maps, photographs and other historical material and make them accessible to researchers and the public.
- ▶ Develop a dedicated Hyderabad Deccan Heritage Circuit connecting major Nizam-era educational, medical, architectural, judicial, railway and irrigation landmarks.
- ▶ Ensure that the preservation of Hyderabad's heritage remains above party politics and is undertaken for the benefit of present and future generations.

be protected while ensuring that these institutions continue to serve the public. Mr. Khan said the government should prepare a comprehensive Nizam-Era Heritage Conservation Plan covering

historic educational institutions, hospitals, government buildings, libraries, railway infrastructure, irrigation projects and other public assets established during the Hyderabad State period.

Govt committed to inclusive development, last-mile delivery in underserved regions: MoS

New Delhi, Sept 16 (GNS): The Government remains firmly committed to inclusive development and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the last mile, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shripad Yesso Naik, said. During an interaction with beneficiaries of key government schemes here, Naik highlighted the achievements of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

These beneficiaries have been specially invited to attend the Republic Day celebrations this year. The interaction reflected the Government's focus on inclusive

growth under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Out of around 1.43 lakh identified households, nearly 1.36 lakh homes have already been electrified, achieving about 95 per cent progress," Naik added. "This success has been made possible through coordinated efforts of the Ministry of Power, State Governments and electricity distribution companies," the minister stated. The Minister also spoke about the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DA-JGUA), launched in October 2024 to bring development benefits to Scheduled Tribe habitations.

Singapore expresses interest in setting up semiconductor industry in TG

FROM PAGE 1

It is said that Hyderabad city is being transformed into a world-renowned knowledge hub, not just a tourist. Explained that plans have been made to develop India's future city as a net-zero city. Chief Minister mentioned that Harvard, Oxford University, MIT, London School of Business have already agreed to set up their offshore campuses in Hyderabad. Singapore delegation responded positively on investments.. The occasion has revealed that the semiconductor industry is in favor of setting up. Government adviser K in



this meeting. Mr. Ramakrishna Rao, Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry, Dr. Francis Chong, Senior Director of South Asia, Sin-

gapore Consul General William Chick, along with other delegates participated. Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry has ex-

pressed interest in establishing a semiconductor industry in Telangana. A delegation led by Mr. Augustine Lee, Permanent Sec-

retary, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, met Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy at his Chamber in the Assembly.

Discussions focused on investment opportunities in Telangana. The Chief Minister highlighted the state's investor-friendly ecosystem, sought Singapore's participation in the state's development, and assured full government support for investments. He also invited Mr. Augustine Lee to the Invest Telangana Global Summit to be held in December.

The Chief Minister briefed the delegation on the Musi River rejuvena-

tion and Bharat Future City projects, including plans for a riverfront, night economy, Hyderabad as a global knowledge hub, and Bharat Future City as a net-zero city. The Singapore delegation responded positively to the investment opportunities and expressed its readiness to explore setting up a semiconductor industry in Telangana. Government Adviser K. Ramakrishna Rao, Dr. Francis Chong, Senior Director, South Asia, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore Consul General William Chik, and other representatives attended the meeting.

VP Radhakrishnan to lead Hyd Liberation Day celebrations



Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS) Vice-President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan will be hoisting the National Flag at Secunderabad Parade Grounds here on Thursday to mark Hyderabad Liberation Day. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan will be the chief guest at this year's event. He will review the parade by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Central ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, G. Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay Kumar and others will attend the event, which will also feature cultural programmes.

It was on September 17, 1948, that the then Hyderabad State was annexed into the Indian Union. For the fifth consecutive year, the Centre is organising Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations. Like the last few years, the Central and Telangana governments will celebrate the day with different themes.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will unfurl the National Flag at the main event to be held at the Public Garden in Hyderabad.

For the third year in a row,

the state government is celebrating it as 'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam (people's governance day)'. State ministers, government advisors, and key representatives will hoist the National Flag and take the salute at the official celebrations in all 32 district headquarters. The National Flag will also be unfurled at all government offices, urban local bodies, and gram panchayats. While the earlier Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government celebrated September 17 as 'National Integration Day' in 2022 and 2023, Congress, which came to power in December 2023, decided to celebrate the occasion as 'Praja Palana Dinotsavam'.

In 2022, the Union Ministry of Culture started organising the celebrations in Hyderabad on September 17. In 2024, the BJP-led government at the Centre decided to celebrate September 17 as Hyderabad Liberation Day. It issued a gazette notification, mentioning that Hyderabad did not get independence for 13 months after India's Independence on August 15, 1947 and continued to be under the Nizam's rule.

Distribution of Natural Farming Kits in the 107th Episode of 'Rythu Nestam'

Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS): The 107th episode of the "Rythu Nestam" video conference program, organized by the State Agriculture Department, was broadcast on Tuesday. During this episode, Sri K. Surendra Mohan, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary of the Agriculture Department, distributed natural farming kits to farmers under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) scheme. Dr. B. Gopi, IAS, Director of Agriculture, initiated the program with introductory remarks. Subsequently, videos related to PJTAU and the Agriculture Department were screened.

Regarding the impact of



El Niño, IMD scientist Dr. Sravani, the Joint Director of the Groundwater Department, and Sri Ramesh, Superintending Engineer of the Irrigation Department, provided details on rainfall patterns, groundwater levels, and the status of irrigation projects.

Sri Prakash Naik, a natural

farming practitioner from Rajaram Thanda in Kathalapur Mandal, Jagtial District, shared his success story with fellow farmers. Dr. Y. Chandra Mohan, Principal Scientist and Director of the Rice Research Division at PJTAU, explained the significance of seven fine-grain paddy varieties to the farmers.

Telangana DGP urges IPS officers to withdraw promotion appeals

Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS): Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand on Wednesday, September 16, urged Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to withdraw their appeals regarding seniority and promotion issues. Anand convened a meeting with IPS officers from the 1991, 1995, 1996 and 1998 batches who are currently serving as Deputy Superintendents of Police and Additional Superintendents of Police and have been awaiting promotions despite vacancies.

"The promotion issue stemmed from seniority disputes, court cases, zonal issues and other administrative complexities over the years, which have made



the matter increasingly complicated," the DGP said in a post on X. He added that a committee was set up to examine the issue in detail. Anand convened a meeting with IPS officers from Warangal, Hyderabad City and Hyderabad Range and explained the findings of the committee and the seniority rules to them.

The DGP urged the of-

ficers not to let differences get the better of them, adding that it would hinder their promotions. In July, Anand set up a committee to resolve long-running disputes over seniority and vacancies in the police force.

The complaints came from officers who joined as Sub-Inspectors (Civil) in 1991 and are now Additional SPs and non-cadre IPS officers. At issue is a 2018 government order that redrew the statewide seniority list for Inspectors of Police (Civil).

While fixing earlier errors, it accounted for inspector vacancies in the old Warangal range that had been left out, and these officers objected to how that was done.

Telangana to set up eight new Minority Study Circles

Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS): Telangana Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin has announced plans to establish eight new Minority Study Circles across the state. The announcement was made during the Telangana Legislative Assembly proceedings on Wednesday, September 16. The new centres are aimed at improving access

to competitive examination coaching and educational support for minority students.

Replying to questions from Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin, the minister said the Hyderabad Study Circle had previously operated from a private building. After the Congress government came to power, the facility was shifted to a government



building. The government is also working on providing hostel facilities for students enrolled at the Study Circle. The minister informed the Assembly that the current budget for the Minority Study Circle is Rs 4 crore. He said the allocation would be increased as more Study Circles are established across Telangana. Azharuddin also

shared enrolment details for students currently attending different programmes at the Hyderabad Study Circle. The centre has 776 students enrolled in various courses: Sirpur/Kagaznagar MLA Palvai Harish Babu raised concerns about two Telangana Minority Residential Educational Institutions (TMREIS) schools in Kagaznagar.

TG HC allows Lambadi student to join NEET counselling

Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS): The Telangana High Court has directed Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) to allow a Lambadi NEET aspirant to participate in the second phase of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) counselling as a local candidate, subject to the outcome of the writ petition. A bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin passed the interim order on Sunday, September 13, while hearing a petition filed by Chawan Aarthi, who challenged her exclusion from the Telangana Scheduled Tribe quota.

The petitioner's counsel, Prabhakar Chikkudu, said that the University had included Aarthi's name in the list of people ineligible to claim Telangana ST reservation because they had migrated from other states. He argued that the petitioner's parents had been issued community certificates from the com-

petent authority in Vikarabad, recognising them as members of the Lambadis-28 (ST) community. Aarthi had also completed the past four years of her studies in Telangana institutions, he said.

The University, however, relying on the Supreme Court order in Marri Chandra Shekhar Rao v Dean, Seth GS Medical College, argued that the petitioner figured in the list of people who had migrated from Karnataka and Maharashtra and was not entitled to Telangana ST reservation.

They also pointed to a letter in which Aarthi had allegedly stated that she did not want to claim Telangana ST benefits as her caste was recognised under the Scheduled Caste category in Karnataka.

The Assistant Government Pleader for the Social Welfare Department submitted that the Vikarabad Tahsildar was the competent authority to issue the community certificates and sought time to file a counter-affidavit.

Telangana Assembly: Section 22A lands, palm oil discussed

Hyderabad, Sept 16 (GNS): On the seventh day of the Telangana Assembly's monsoon session, legislators took up discussions on palm oil cultivation and Section 22A lands. The Assembly had been adjourned on September 12 and resumed proceedings on Wednesday, September 16. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy had spoken at length about the Section 22A prohibited lands issue in the Assembly on September 12. The discussion was resumed on September 16.

Communist Party of India (CPI) MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao said that there are a total of 2,49,76,000 acre of land in Telangana. This includes forest lands, assigned lands, government lands,



Part-B lands and private lands. He said that while a narrative is being built that one crore acres has been put under the prohibited list, the issue at hand only pertains to 3,73,930 acres of private land. There cannot be any changes in forest lands or assigned lands, he said.

Rao said he was not supporting the government but is stating the facts so that people do not have miscon-

ceptions. He also urged the government to gather details on the Nizam's land, Bhoodan lands, and area under lakes and ponds. He said that if assigned lands were acquired by affluent people, the properties must be recovered so that the poor can benefit. He said that farmers have been ousted for irrigation projects like Sri Ram Sagar Project and Nagarjunasagar and urged the government to conduct a forensic audit to check if the lands were used for the project or fell into the hands of contractors.

MLAs brought up issues being faced by farmers for palm oil cultivation and processing in various districts, like trees touching overhead wires and a lack of refineries.

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