



PM in a group photograph at the 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. (Photo: PIB)

SCO meetings to benefit India: PM Modi

Bishkek, Sept 1 (UNI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed confidence that the meetings held on the sidelines of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek will lead to substantive benefits for India. Sharing highlights from his "productive visit" to Kyrgyzstan, PM Modi expressed gratitude to country's President Sadyr Zhaparov and the people of Kyrgyzstan for their warmth and affection.

"Here are highlights from a productive visit to the Kyrgyz Republic. The various meetings on the sidelines of SCO Summit will lead to substantive

benefits for India. At the same time, shared a roadmap for the time ahead as the SCO plans for the next 25 years. Also had a delightful interaction with people from the Kyrgyz Republic who are associated with India and paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi Ji in Bishkek. I thank the people, Government and President Zhaparov for their warmth and affection," wrote PM Modi.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi attended the SCO Summit held under Kyrgyzstan's chairmanship in Bishkek and met several SCO leaders on the sidelines of the Summit.

PM Modi met Togo President Faure Essozimna

Gnassingbe in Bishkek, with discussions held on various subjects. "Met Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, the President of Togo in Bishkek earlier today. Always a delight to exchange perspectives on various subjects," PM Modi posted on X.

PM Modi and Mongolia President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh met on the sidelines of the SCO Summit, with discussions held on various subjects, including bilateral ties. Sharing a picture from his interaction with President Khurelsukh on X, PM Modi stated, "Deliberations in Bishkek continue. Met President of Mongolia Mr. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh during the Summit. Had

the opportunity to discuss a wide range of subjects, including the strong India-Mongolia friendship."

PM Modi also interacted with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of the summit in Bishkek. He held discussions with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and expressed India's readiness to boost cooperation with Tajikistan across various sectors.

Prime Minister Modi also met Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith and discussed strengthening of bilateral linkages.

"Met Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao PDR on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Bishkek.

SC quashes FIRs over student protests, CJP withdraws march

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed FIRs registered against student protesters in Delhi, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Assam in connection with protests held between July 20 and 25, and directed that similar cases registered across the country will not be pursued or investigated.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana invoked its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to bring an end to the criminal proceedings, saying it was doing so keeping in view the future prospects of young protesters who had participated in the demonstrations. "Keeping in view



the future prospects of the young protesters who came to participate in a peaceful protest to raise their voice in support of certain demands, we deem it appropriate to invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution in order to do complete justice between the parties," the Supreme Court said.

The CJI-led Bench clari-

fied that although applications seeking quashing of FIRs had been filed by the Centre, through Delhi Police, and the governments of Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Assam, the benefit of the order would extend pan-India.

It directed that FIRs relating to the student protests between July 20 and 25 registered in any state or

Union Territory (UT) other than those specifically covered by the applications will also not be pursued or investigated and will be treated as closed.

The apex court further directed that no fresh FIR will be registered by any state or UT in relation to incidents arising out of the protests held during the said period.

However, the Supreme Court granted liberty to Delhi Police to register a single FIR against 2,873 persons who were present at the Jantar Mantar protests and were stated to have serious criminal antecedents. It said such an FIR would be strictly confined to allegations relating to bodily harm and destruction of property.

India, Denmark strengthen MSME and innovation cooperation

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): India and Denmark agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation on micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) development, innovation and intellectual property during the fourth meeting of their Joint Working Group in Copenhagen, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The meeting provided a platform for India and Denmark to exchange perspectives on their respective MSME and innovation ecosystems and to explore opportunities for greater institutional cooperation, the statement



from Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises said.

Discussions covered areas includ-

ing technology adoption, innovation, intellectual property, technology commercialisation, entrepreneurship and cluster-based MSME development. The discussions also reviewed the outcomes of previous engagements and deliberated upon priorities for future collaboration and opportunities to expand cooperation under the existing JWG framework.

The Indian delegation visited Aarhus University Innovation "Kitchen" and Agro Food Park to study Denmark's innovation support and business cluster ecosystems.

LoP Rahul Gandhi hits out at ECI over deletion 02.07 crore voters in Maharashtra SIR draft roll

New Delhi/Mumbai, Sept 1 (GNS): Raising serious alarm over the integrity of India's electoral process, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday launched a blistering attack on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing them of systematic voter list manipulation to subvert democracy.

Pointing to the latest Special

Intensive Revision (SIR) draft data in Maharashtra, LoP Gandhi highlighted that a staggering 2.07 crore voters—accounting for nearly one in every five registered voters in the state—have been excluded from the draft rolls.

Citing severe discrepancies in Maharashtra's official electoral statistics over successive revisions, LoP Gandhi questioned the transparency and accuracy of the official data, asking, "Which list

was correct?" In a detailed statement shared on social media platform X, the Congress leader laid out a stark breakdown of the fluctuating voter numbers in the state: 2024 Lok Sabha Elections: 9.29 crore voters, 2024 Assembly Elections: 9.70 crore voters and 2026 Special Intensive Revision (SIR): 7.78 crore voters.

LoP Gandhi alleged that the tactics of the ruling party and what he termed the "Vote Theft



Commission" continue to evolve with a single objective: Securing a BJP victory at any cost and undermining Indian democracy.

"For a government formed through vote theft, the public does not matter — which is why this BJP neither listens to the people nor respects their mandate," LoP Gandhi stated, adding that a government born out of voter manipulation remains entirely unaccountable to citizens.

Drawing attention to a broader pattern across multiple states, the Congress leader recalled the rapid addition of 39 lakh voters in Maharashtra in the brief interval between the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, reiterating, "I said back then, and I say it again today: This was vote theft."

He further cited the 2026 SIR exercise in West Bengal, where 91 per cent of deleted names—or 9 out of every 10 deletions—had

to be reinstated following official appeals, but only after the elections had already concluded and a regime change had taken place.

Echoing the Leader of Opposition's concerns, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) has urged the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to immediately publish and share a booth-wise list of voters marked for notices under the ongoing SIR drive.

Fresh customs, banking reforms on cards towards 'Viksit Bharat': FM Sitharaman

Asheville, Sept 1 (GNS): India is preparing further customs and banking reforms, including risk-based import screening and a high-level review of the banking sector's role towards building a developed India, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman said. In an exclusive interview with on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting here, FM Sitharaman said the next phase would build on changes already made in direct and indirect taxation.

"We've done quite a few things about the direct and indirect taxes. Customs, we've done some, we'll have to do more. We'll be taking those up," she said.



The government is working to make the movement of imported goods through Indian ports more seamless, the Finance Minister said.

A key proposal involves deploying scanners and concentrating checks on high-risk importers. Other consignments could then be cleared automatically, re-

ducing delays for businesses and easing congestion at ports. "We are trying to bring in scanners and have high-risk importers alone go through them, and the rest of them can be cleared automatically," FM Sitharaman said. "A lot of reforms in the customs area," she added.

The approach would al-

low customs authorities to focus their scrutiny on higher-risk imports while facilitating faster clearances in other cases. However, FM Sitharaman did not provide a timetable for introducing the scanners or implementing the proposed automatic clearance system.

The government has also appointed a high-level committee to examine the banking sector and its future role in achieving India's development goals. "The banks, of course, we've appointed a high-level committee to look into banking for Viksit Bharat," she told. "That committee will also give its report," she added, without indicating when its recommendations would be submitted.

Andhra Liquor Scam: SC pulls up SIT over handling of Kesireddy arrest

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Monday declined to stay an Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the arrest and consequential remand of Kesireddy Rajasekhara Reddy, alias Raj Kesireddy, in connection with the multi-crore liquor scam, while expressing serious concern over the manner in which the Special Investigation Team (SIT) conducted the probe.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana questioned the SIT's decision to seek a production warrant against Raj Kesireddy when his anticipatory bail petition was pending, and



he was already in custody in another case.

The CJI Kant-led Bench observed that since Raj Kesireddy was already in custody, there was no question of him absconding and questioned the need for seeking a production warrant in such circumstances.

The apex court also

questioned the apparent contradiction in the SIT's stand, remarking that while the investigating agency had sought custodial interrogation and obtained a production warrant, it was reportedly not prepared to take Kesireddy into police custody when he was produced before the court and instead sought his judicial custody. The CJI Kant-led Bench issued notice on the petition filed by the State of Andhra Pradesh and the Additional Superintendent of Police challenging the High Court's order and adjourned the matter after the respondents sought time to file their counter.

The Andhra Pradesh

High Court had earlier held Raj Kesireddy's arrest and consequential remand to be legally unsustainable, finding that the manner in which the grounds of arrest were communicated violated the constitutional safeguard under Article 22(1).

The High Court held that informing an arrested person of the grounds of arrest was not a mere procedural formality but a substantive safeguard of personal liberty. It observed that the grounds had to be communicated in writing and within a timeframe that enabled the accused to consult counsel, oppose remand and seek bail.

Beyond electricity and exports how should India actually check GDP growth now?

BIDISHA BHATTACHARYA

When a former chief economic advisor persists with a question, it is typically because the answer still matters. With the publication of his new book and a fresh round of interviews, Arvind Subramanian has revisited an argument he initially presented in 2019: that India's reported GDP growth in the years following the 2011 methodological revision may have been overstated by as much as 2.5 percentage points a year. The claim is not new; however, the context in which it is resurfacing is. Nearly six years after the original paper incited official rebuttals and academic discourse, the fundamental question remains unresolved: Does India possess a reliable mechanism to validate its growth figures in an economy undergoing rapid transformation?

Subramanian's original argument was often oversimplified as a mere discrepancy between GDP and a few traditional indicators. In reality, it was based on a more structured empirical approach. In his 2019 paper, Subramanian asked whether India's GDP began exhibiting different behaviour following a specific breakpoint—the 2011-2012 rebasing and methodological overhaul—compared to its historical performance and that of other



countries. To address this, he employed what economists refer to as a difference-in-differences style approach. When stripped of jargon, the logic is straightforward. Initially, it is observed that before 2011, India's GDP growth generally aligned with indicators such as electricity consumption, trade flows, credit growth, railway freight and petroleum use. Subsequently, it is noted that post-2011, GDP growth remained robust despite a weakening in many of these indicators. Finally, this change is compared not in isolation but against the experiences of other economies during the same period.

If global forces, such as slower trade or energy efficiency gains, were responsible, similar divergences should be evident elsewhere. Subramanian identified that India's divergence was unusually

pronounced. That “extra” divergence formed the basis of his estimation that growth may have been overstated.

This was not presented as a definitive conclusion but as an anomaly—something statistically unusual that deserved explanation. Nevertheless, the response was swift and sceptical. Government economists and several academics contended that the method relied on a fragile assumption: that the relationship between GDP and these indicators should remain stable over time. This brought a technical concept into focus: the non-stationarity of correlations. In simpler terms, it implies that the relationship between economic variables does not remain constant as an economy evolves. Indicators that were effective in a manufacturing-heavy economy may lose rel-

evance as services, digital activity, and intangible output expand. Critics argued that electricity use, freight movement, and fuel consumption are goods-biased measures. If growth increasingly stems from software, finance, healthcare, logistics platforms, or digital services, it may leave a weaker physical footprint. A breakdown in correlation, therefore, does not automatically imply mismeasurement; it may reflect genuine structural change.

Although physical activity continues to be influenced by economic cycles, the period following 2011 indicates that GDP growth has increasingly surpassed electricity consumption. This trend suggests that traditional proxies alone are no longer sufficient to validate economic growth.

This is a serious and valid critique. Economies do not merely grow; they

transform. Treating historical correlations as permanent benchmarks would be erroneous. In this sense, the non-stationarity defence is not an evasion; it is an important reminder of the significance of economic structure.

Structural change may weaken relationships, yet they seldom eliminate them entirely and simultaneously. The divergence observed post-2011 manifested across various unrelated indicators, such as energy, trade, transport and credit, simultaneously. While growth driven by the services sector may be less energy-intensive, it still leaves traces. Offices consume electricity, firms engage in borrowing, workers commute, and consumers spend. A sustained acceleration in growth should be evident beyond the confines of national accounts.

More critically, the argument of non-stationarity elucidates why traditional indicators may be inadequate, yet it fails to propose suitable alternatives. And this is exactly where the discourse has stagnated. Rather than advancing toward improved validation tools, India remains stuck in a binary debate: either fully trust the GDP or entirely distrust it. During the 2000s and early 2010s, IndiaSecond, signals from the digital economy should no longer be regarded as merely anecdotal.

AI can replace my job, but not my vibe

SAMAH QUNDEEL

AI is everywhere this year. My memes are either AI generated or about AI. You know, the absurd slop cat videos that look wrong in a way I can't explain. In my email, finishing my sentences. It shows up in people's photos as something that looks exactly like them and yet unmistakably isn't them, very uncanny valley. But AI can only generate likeness. It cannot generate a vibe. That distinction is the centre of the current panic around artificial intelligence. Since late 2022, when generative AI went mainstream, the anxiety has felt different from past technological shifts. This time, the fear isn't just about automation of labour or efficiency gains, it's about meaning. AI doesn't just do tasks. It writes, draws, speaks, imitates. It enters spaces we once assumed were human-only.

Historically, this fear isn't new. Every major technological leap, from mechanised looms to computers, has displaced workers, while eventually creating new industries. Those transitions were never painless, but they followed a pattern. What feels different now is scope. AI performs cognitive tasks across fields simultaneously, leading some experts to argue that this time may actually be different.

And yet, I'm oddly calm about it. Maybe AI can take my job. But it



can't take my absurdity. AI cannot quote a random meme or Bollywood movie in the middle of a conversation, derailing the whole point of that interaction. AI cannot order my friend a cheesecake just because it can sense that she's sad. AI might be able to write perfectly, but it cannot recreate my unique writing style. Can AI randomly say, "All my flabbers are gasted!" after hearing something shocking? It most certainly won't but I can and I do.

The line "AI can take my job, not my vibe" might sound flippant, but it captures something serious. AI is a system trained on data. Humans are systems shaped by experience and in my case, a lot of brain rot. We carry contradictions. We change our minds halfway through sentences. We make decisions influenced by mood, memory, and fatigue. That messiness isn't inefficiency, it's context; it's essence.

This is visible in AI-generated art. The images are

stunning, symmetrical, and technically impressive yet hollow. You can always (well, mostly) tell. There's no accident in them. No error that becomes meaningful later. No moment where someone chose the wrong colour and discovered something better. And even if you believe it for a moment, when you realise that it's AI, the wonder of the spectacle disappears. AI cannot create that flaw in the picture that I can, the half-open mouth, the wrong angle, the eyes half shut.

Human creativity depends on friction. The badly written fanfiction I read on Wattpad as a teenager did more to shape my inner life than any perfectly optimised AI story. Van Gogh's work didn't change my brain chemistry because it was clean, it did so because it was unstable, emotional. It drew something out of me. A man consumed by grief painted stars in an asylum. That is what makes it beautiful, context. I start-

ed painting because of it, not to accomplish greatness but just because I thought grief can be tackled like that.

AI can replicate style. It cannot replicate context. A Ghibli style picture cannot replace the wonder the movies have in them. People don't love Ghibli because the art is "cute", but because of the fantasy, whimsy, emotion and meaning embedded in the art. This also becomes clearer when AI is asked to reason morally. I once asked an AI chatbot whether killing someone is wrong, and it said yes, with caveats. Self-defence. Legal framing. Ethical qualifiers. It answers correctly, but not meaningfully. It doesn't hesitate. It doesn't feel the weight of what it's saying, of what a life means, what it costs. Ask it for advice about people, and it often validates you, even when you're wrong. Its instinct is resolution: Quit the job, cut off the friend, optimise the outcome. Efficiency

over reckoning. Closure over accountability. That's not a flaw. That's what it was built to do.

Which is why the panic about replacement often misunderstands the role AI was meant to play. AI was supposed to assist, not replace. A quote from the author Joanna Maciejewska captures what I feel about AI—"I want AI to do my laundry and dishes so that I can do art and writing, not for AI to do my art and writing so that I can do my laundry and dishes." That feels like the correct hierarchy.

In the workplace, AI excels at automating repetitive, data-heavy tasks. That doesn't eliminate human labour so much as shift it. Roles change. Judgement, interpretation, empathy, and decision-making become more valuable, not less. The future isn't human versus machine. It's human with machine.

Experts broadly agree on this point: Those who learn to work with AI will thrive. Not by competing with it on efficiency, but by doing what it cannot. Reading a room. Navigating ambiguity. Making choices without clean data. Knowing when not to optimise. AI cannot play characters. Like me, it cannot be unpredictable. It can't text a friend telling them I love them just because I felt like it. That's the part of the conversation we're missing. The fear of replacement assumes humans are primarily producers of output.

India's rich culture can boost manufacturing sector

India's unemployment challenge is symptomatic of the failure to establish itself as a modern manufacturing nation. Consequently, there is a great deal of emphasis by the Modi government to promote manufacturing in India. There is a near consensus that, following the deindustrialisation during colonial rule, the manufacturing sector should have been a major area of policy emphasis in India in the post-Independence era. Instead, policy prioritised capital goods, leaving the consumer goods industry to its fate. The dalliance with socialist ideals in the later years crippled factor market mobility even more and exacerbated the problems faced by the manufacturing sector.

The global development literature on newly independent countries in the 20th century shows that no economy sustained annual growth of 7-8 per cent per annum without relying on exports. These exports consisted of low-value, mass-produced, and undifferentiated products that did not involve much human skill beyond operating basic tools and machinery. South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand were the pioneers of this model, and later China mastered it to perfection. This economic model delivered economic growth, jobs, and prosperity to these countries. India is now trying hard to ride this bandwagon. Exports are expected to address the unemployment problem and provide an additional engine of growth. The recent initiatives of the Modi Government have focused on factor market reforms, improvements in infrastructure, lower compliance and logistics costs, and a shift toward trust-based regulation to support the manufacturing sector.

Coupled with initiatives like the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) and Employment Linked Incentives (ELI), there is no doubt that manufacturing has become a major policy priority. Next Gen GST 2.0 reforms and the notification of the long-pending labour codes underscore the government's sense of urgency. India must focus on its manufacturing sector despite the ongoing de-globalisation trends and the abandonment of WTO mechanisms.

The fickleness of global trade aside, India has another manufacturing subset to focus on. It historically excelled in handmade, intricate, high-value products involving exceptional skills. Such products were in great demand among affluent sections all over the world. Indian products made of cotton and silk, wood, metals and their alloys, enamel, ivory, etc., were status symbols, coveted for their uniqueness and snob value. The Roman aristocracy's appetite for Indian luxury goods was so intense that Pliny the Elder, in the 1st century CE, lamented the steady drain of gold from Rome to India, an era of mass commodification and machine-made goods, where human involvement is reducing with each passing day, human-made products will be most valued. They have stories to tell. With increasing domestic and global affluence, the demand for such products will increase exponentially. India has millions of artisans involved in making products that command awe and astonishment. Their fine craftsmanship is the result of a generational accumulation of knowledge and years of practice that culminate in mastery.

Regional centres of excellence, such as the Bidri work of Bidar (Karnataka), brass-works of Moradabad and woodcarvings of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Madhubani paintings of Bihar, iron craft of the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, and the numerous textile specialties spread across the country, are only a few of the specialties that we possess. Most of these products have some kind of market linkage, but it is far below their potential market. The practitioners of these crafts face issues related to certifications, promotional marketing, finance, packaging, and distribution, etc.

A vibrant traditional arts and crafts sector ensures that people find livelihood in their native place and are not compelled to migrate in search of jobs. The government has taken a number of steps to make this sector robust. The private sector must also pitch in with its expertise and corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. The sustained campaign to get intellectual protection like the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag will ensure that the economic benefits flow to the original purveyors of the art form and not to some shrewd but marketing-savvy interloper. If we fail to make our handicrafts remunerative, we will lose such skills and the civilisational wealth associated with them forever. That would be an irreparable loss not only for India but for the entire humanity.

India's cultural content in the field of art, music, dance, food, festivals, and architecture can catalyse countries' services and manufacturing sectors, particularly MSME and cottage industries. Our focus on the cultural and creative economy will take development to the rural areas, helping with a bottom-up approach for economic growth. This will counter the concentration of wealth as an outcome of the current GDP-based growth model and its trickle-down approach.

Unhealthy Food Warning

There is a certain irony in a food safety regulator needing to be dragged to court before it does its job. Yet that is precisely what has happened with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, which has finally proposed a red hexagonal front-of-pack warning label for packaged foods high in salt, sugar and fat - not out of its own initiative, but because a Kerala-based non-profit forced its hand before the Supreme Court. The timeline tells its own story. The Indian Council of Medical Research's Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024, flagged the dangers of excessive sugar, salt and fat with unambiguous clarity. FSSAI, the very body constituted to safeguard consumer health, did nothing. It took a public interest litigation and judicial prodding for the regulator to even file a compliance affidavit. It is reluctant compliance, and it raises an uncomfortable question: whose interests has FSSAI been protecting all this while?

The proposal itself, unfortunately, does little to dispel that impression. Consider the two-phase plan. In the first phase, only products high in two or more of the three flagged ingredients will carry a warning. A product loaded with sugar alone, or salt alone, escapes the label entirely. Worse, no timeline has been offered for the second phase, when single-ingredient breaches would finally attract a warning. An open-ended promise is not a policy; it is a deferral. Then there is the vexed question of "added" sugar and fat. Restricting the warning to added quantities ignores the plain fact that naturally occurring sugars, consumed in excess through processed foods, are equally harmful. It also hands manufacturers a convenient loophole, since "added" content is notoriously difficult to verify and enforce. Add to this a font size merely one point larger than the fine print on the nutrition table at the back of the pack and an English-only label in a multilingual country, and the proposal begins to look less like a warning and more like a formality designed to satisfy the court without unsettling the industry.

India's packaged food market is expanding at a ferocious pace, and consumers, particularly children and young adults, are consuming these products with little understanding of the long-term health hazards they carry - obesity, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease chief among them. This is precisely the moment for bold, unambiguous regulation, not one riddled with ifs and buts designed to ease industry into compliance at its own leisure.

A meaningful warning system must be designed around the consumer, not the convenience of manufacturers. The label should be prominent, easily understood at a glance and displayed in a way that does not require consumers to study the fine print. It should also use clear nutritional thresholds based on credible scientific evidence and apply consistently across product categories, without creating exemptions that dilute its purpose.

The regulator must also ensure that the proposed system is backed by strong monitoring and enforcement. Merely prescribing a warning label will have little impact if manufacturers can manipulate declarations, exploit ambiguities or escape scrutiny through technical loopholes. Regular inspections, independent testing and meaningful penalties for violations are essential to make the policy effective and prevent it from becoming another box-ticking exercise.

Piyush Goyal's liechtenstein visit boosts India–EFTA trade and investment ties

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal undertook an official visit to Liechtenstein on 7 January 2026. During the visit, the Minister paid a courtesy call on H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein at Vaduz Castle, called on H.E. Ms Brigitte Haas, Prime Minister, held a meeting with H.E. Ms Sabine Monauni, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture, participated in an interview with ORF, attended a luncheon hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister; visited Hilti AG for an interaction with its leadership.

The first ministerial visit of 2026 reflects India's commitment to accelerate the im-



plementation of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and translate it into sustained trade, investment, and manufacturing partnerships. The Minister also recalled the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's emphasis on India's constructive role and optimism in the global economy. Prime Minister Modi has said: "The world is seeing India with a

ray of hope amidst uncertainty" The Minister noted that this sentiment resonates with India's approach to partnerships that create real outcomes for businesses, MSMEs, farmers, fishermen and communities.

TEPA is India's first free trade agreement with a developed group of EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland). It signals the improving quality of

Indian products, the expanding and diversified range of Indian exports, and a steady strengthening of India's manufacturing capabilities that support "Make in India" and "Make for the World".

The Minister underlined that TEPA represents a shift to a higher-quality economic relationship. India's manufacturing ecosystem is increasingly combining scale, competitiveness, and reli-

ability for global markets.

In meetings with the Liechtenstein leadership and business community, the Minister set out India's growth story as a stable and scalable base for long-term partnership. India is today the fourth largest economy, with an estimated GDP of USD 4.13 trillion in 2025. India offers both scale and reform momentum, a large and expanding consumer market, a deepening indus-

trial base, and a sustained focus on ease of doing business, digitisation, and infrastructure-led competitiveness.

Both sides also exchanged views on the global business environment. With supply chains facing disruptions, uncertainties, and sharper volatility, India and Liechtenstein can combine strengths to offer stability and predictability to investors and enterprises. India's scale, talent,

and manufacturing depth can complement Liechtenstein's specialised industrial capabilities, high-value innovation, and financial expertise. Together, these can create resilient value chains and a reliable investment bridge, sending a signal of confidence and hope in an increasingly unsettled world.

At Hilti AG, the Minister encouraged stronger industry-to-industry partnerships, higher value addition, supplier linkages including MSMEs, and an expanded role for India-based production in global operations. He invited Liechtenstein companies to use TEPA as a platform to grow their India presence, build manufacturing and innovation partnerships, and participate in

India's expanding opportunities across sectors.

The visit concluded with a call to intensify India–Liechtenstein and wider India–EFTA engagement in the months ahead. The Minister encouraged greater participation of EFTA companies in key trade and investment events in India and invited closer collaboration through business dialogues and delegations. TEPA carries an agreed ambition to facilitate USD 100 billion in investments into India and support the creation of one million direct jobs. The EFTA's market access offer under TEPA covers 100% of non-agri products and tariff concession on Processed Agricultural Products (PAP). Sensitivity related to PLI in

DRI Busts International Gold Smuggling Syndicate, Seizes 29 kg Gold and Rs 2.9 Crore Cash

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): In a major crackdown on trans-border smuggling, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) conducted searches at Delhi and Agartala and busted a well-organised international gold smuggling syndicate, operating from Dubai and Bangladesh. The action led to the seizure of more than 29 kg foreign-origin gold and cash worth approximately 2.90 crore.

Based on specific intelligence, on 6th January 2026, a key syndicate member was apprehended from a domestic logistics warehouse, while taking delivery of two consignments originating from Agartala, Tripura. Examination of the consignments led to the recovery of 15 kg of foreign-origin gold, bearing international refinery markings, valued at approximately 20.73 crore. Simultaneous searches conducted at multiple locations in Delhi and Agartala resulted in the recovery of an additional 14.2 kg foreign origin gold and 2.90 crore in cash, including Indian and Bangladeshi currency.

Thus, a total of 29.2 kg gold, valued at approx. 40 crore, and cash amount of 2.9 crore have been seized under the provisions of Customs Act. Further, four members of the syndicate have been arrested.

Investigation has revealed that the syndicate

was smuggling gold into India through the Indo–Bangladesh border with Tripura, and subsequently transporting it to Delhi through domestic cargo services with the active connivance of handlers based in Dubai, Bangladesh and local operatives running jewellery shops in Agartala.

By intercepting illicit gold flows, DRI continues to safeguard India's economic and fiscal stability, and ensure a fair and transparent trading environment.

The investigation revealed that the seized gold was of foreign origin and had been routed through a carefully planned network to evade customs checks. Officials found that the consignments were moved using domestic logistics channels after entering the country through the Tripura sector of the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The DRI conducted coordinated searches at several premises in Delhi and Agartala as part of the operation. During the searches, officers recovered additional quantities of gold and cash believed to be linked to the activities of the syndicate.

The four arrested accused are being questioned to establish the full extent of the network and identify other persons involved in the smuggling operation.

India Post, Rural Development Ministry Sign MoU to Boost Financial Inclusion and SHG Empowerment

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): In a major step towards accelerating rural transformation and expanding financial, digital and logistics services for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and rural households across the country, the Department of Posts (DoP) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen collaboration in support of inclusive and sustainable rural development.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region,

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, and the Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The collaboration aligns with the Government's vision, as envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to strengthen "Dak Sewa, Jan Sewa" and reposition India Post as a key driver of the rural economy. It also reflects the priorities outlined in the Union Budget 2025–26, which emphasise leveraging India Post's unparalleled reach to promote financial inclusion, digital empowerment and livelihood opportunities in rural India. With

its extensive network of over 1.5 lakh rural post offices, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and nearly 2.4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks, the Department of Posts will play a pivotal role in enabling last-mile delivery of financial and digital services. The partnership aims to enhance financial inclusion, promote entrepreneurship, strengthen digital capabilities and improve market access for rural women, Self-Help Groups and community institutions across the country.

Under the MoU, IPPB will facilitate doorstep banking services, including savings, payments and remittances, through its digitally enabled

platform. To further empower SHG members, electronic tablets and Point of Sale (PoS) machines will be provided to enable seamless digital transactions, promote cashless payments and improve record-keeping at the grassroots level. Certificates will also be issued to SHG members to formally recognise their participation and enhance their credibility for financial and market linkages.

The Department of Posts will ensure last-mile service delivery through its extensive network of postal staff and Gramin Dak Sevaks, enabling outreach even in remote and underserved

regions. Market access for SHG products will be strengthened through Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras, facilitating domestic and international marketing and export opportunities for rural enterprises.

The partnership will also focus on strengthening the digital and financial literacy of SHG members, enabling them to make greater use of formal banking and digital payment systems. Training and capacity-building initiatives will help rural women and community institutions manage transactions, maintain records and access available financial services more effectively.The

collaboration is expected to create new opportunities for rural entrepreneurs by connecting SHGs with wider markets and customers. Through postal infrastructure and digital platforms, locally produced goods can gain greater visibility and reach beyond their immediate geographical areas.

Special emphasis will be placed on improving access to services for women-led SHGs and households in remote and underserved areas. The extensive network of post offices and Gramin Dak Sevaks will help bridge the last-mile gap and ensure that government-supported financial.

India's highways are now transitioning from fossil-fuel dependency to bio-driven, regenerative, and circular economy solutions: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): "This day will go down in the history as India enters into an era of 'Clean, Green Highways', with the successful Technology Transfer titled "Bio-Bitumen via Pyrolysis: From Farm Residue to Roads", an indigenous innovation developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) New Delhi and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum Dehradun (CSIR-IIP)".

This was stated here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology,

Earth Sciences, and Vice-President, CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh, while addressing the Technology Transfer ceremony

titled "Bio-Bitumen via Pyrolysis: From Farm Residue to Roads".

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the day would be remembered as a historic milestone, stating that India's highways are now transitioning from fossil-fuel dependency to bio-driven, regenerative, and circular economy solutions. The roads constructed using this technology will involve lesser budget, have a more sustainable lifespan, and will also be free from the hazard of causing environmental pollution.

He described the initiative as a Whole-of-Science, Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society effort, which together repre-

sents the Whole-of-Nation approach envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for building a Viksit Bharat. The Minister underlined that technologies such as bio-bitumen demonstrate how scientific research can directly serve national missions including cleanliness, Atmanirbhar Bharat and economic self-reliance. Stressing the importance of communication and outreach, he said innovation must be articulated in a manner that enables wider stakeholder understanding and adoption.

Dr Jitendra Singh further highlighted that while each of CSIR's 37 laboratories has strong success stories, the

last decade has focused on opening science to citizens, industry, and states alike. Referring to the waste-to-wealth approach, he noted that bio-bitumen addresses multiple challenges simultaneously, from stubble management and environmental protection to reduction in imports. He observed that India currently imports nearly 50% of its bitumen requirement, and innovations like bio-bitumen would significantly reduce foreign dependence while strengthening domestic capabilities.

The event showcased the industrial-scale technology transfer of Bio-Bitumen produced via pyrolysis of farm residue. The process

involves collection of post-harvest rice straw, palletisation, pyrolysis to produce bio-oil, and subsequent blending with conventional bitumen. Extensive laboratory validation has demonstrated that 20–30% of conventional bitumen can be safely replaced without compromising performance. The technology has undergone physical, rheological, chemical, and mechanical characterisation, including rutting, cracking, moisture damage, and resilient modulus tests. A 100-metre trial stretch using bio-bitumen has already been successfully laid on the Jorabat–Shillong Expressway (NH-40) in Meghalaya.

, confirming field-level feasibility. A patent for the technology has been filed, and multiple industries have been onboarded for commercial deployment.

While congratulating the CSIR team, the Minister described the bio-bitumen innovation as a globally significant breakthrough. He highlighted the economic potential of replacing imported bitumen worth 25,000–30,000 crore annually and called for region-specific, resource-based research.

The Minister also shared insights from his experience in deploying alternative materials such as steel slag, waste plastic, and bio-fuels

Rajasthan Hosts Regional AI Impact Conference, Advancing India's Vision for Inclusive and Responsible AI

New Delhi, Sept 1 (GNS): The Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference was held on Tuesday, 06th January 2026, bringing together national and state leadership, policymakers, industry leaders, startups, and academia to deliberate on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in governance, infrastructure, innovation, and workforce development. The conference serves as a precursor to the India AI Impact Summit to be held from 15-20 February 2026.

The conference was attended by Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Government of

India (attended virtually), Shri. Jitin Prasada, Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics & IT, Government of India, and Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Cabinet Minister for IT & Communication, Government of Rajasthan, along with senior officials from the MeitY and Government of Rajasthan. Their participation underscored the strong Centre-State collaboration in positioning Rajasthan as a key contributor to India's AI-led growth journey. Addressing the gathering Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics & IT, Government of India said "The kind of transformation brought about by the Industrial Revolution, electricity, computers, semi-

conductors, the internet, and mobile technology is now set to occur through artificial intelligence at the same scale. The Prime Minister has a clear mission to democratize technology so that intelligence powered by AI reaches every individual, every household, and every enterprise, rather than remaining confined to a select few. In line with this mission, a programme has been launched today to train one million young people in artificial intelligence skills, ensuring that India's youth are fully prepared for this new technological era."

Jitin Prasada, Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics & IT, Government of India said "Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi firmly believes that technology must be democratized. Guided by this vision, the government has committed an investment of 10,000 crore under the India AI Mission to leverage artificial intelligence across sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and the environment. The objective is to enhance citizens' incomes, improve ease of living, and boost the overall productivity of the nation through responsible and inclusive use of AI."

Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan said "Today, Rajasthan is moving beyond e-governance and inclusion and taking decisive steps towards becoming a leader in artificial intelligence

and machine learning. Artificial intelligence represents the next major phase in our country's journey. Advancing further in this direction, we have introduced an AI and ML policy. This policy will ensure that AI systems become more transparent, fair, and accountable to the principles of integrity. Through the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning, public service delivery can be made faster, more transparent, and more citizen-centric. This will enhance administrative efficiency and also promote innovation-driven economic growth."

A major highlight of the conference was the announcement and launch of

several national and state-level AI initiatives, reinforcing Rajasthan's role as a key hub for AI-led innovation and governance. These programmes and initiatives are as follows

YUVA AI for All – National AI Literacy Program a flagship initiative of the Government of India led by the IndiaAI Mission under MeitY, aimed at building foundational AI awareness among students and youth nationwide. Anchored around National Youth Day (12 January), the campaign seeks to mobilize lakhs of learners to complete a short, self-paced Foundational AI (AI 101) course, creating a nationwide moment of collective AI learning aligned with the vision

of Viksit Bharat and inclusive, democratic AI adoption. Launch of the Rajasthan AI/ML Policy 2026 which aims to strengthen governance, accelerate economic growth, foster research, and innovation. and generate high value employment. The launch of the policy followed by the launch of Rajasthan's AI portal

iStart Learning Management System (LMS) to support skill development and entrepreneurship and innovation across the state Rajasthan AVGC-XR Portal, aimed at strengthening the Animation, VFX, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality ecosystem in the state. An AI-themed video showcasing India's and Ra-

jasthan's AI vision was also unveiled Strengthening institutional collaboration, the event saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google, IIT Delhi, National Law University, Jodhpur, and the Skill Development Network (Wadhvani Foundation) to advance AI research, skilling, ethical frameworks, and innovation ecosystems.

A high-level strategic session brought together Shri Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MeitY, CEO of the IndiaAI Mission and DG, NIC, in conversation with Shri Vishal Dhupar, Managing Director – South Asia, NVIDIA, moderated by Shri Sameer Jain, Managing Director, Primus Partners.

Bhatti hands over Rs 1 crore insurance to kin of deceased TRANSCO employee

Hyderabad, Sept 1 (GNS): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka handed over a cheque for Rs 1 crore towards accident insurance to Boda Swathi, wife of Shankar Reddy, a Grade-II employee who died accidentally while on duty under the jurisdiction of the TRANSCO Huzurabad 132/11 KV Sub-Station. The cheque was handed over at Praja Bhavan on Tuesday. Shankar Reddy, who was performing his duties in the Huzurabad area, lost

his life on October 1, 2025, due to an electrical short circuit while on duty. In view of the incident, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka personally handed over the 1 crore accident insurance cheque to his wife, Boda Swathi. During the interaction, the Deputy Chief Minister enquired about the family's well-being and financial circumstances. He also asked about the education of the children and other family details. He advised



Swathi to utilise the insurance amount for the welfare and education of the children and ensure a secure future for them. Officials stated that the State Government is giving the highest priority to the welfare of electricity employees. The 1 crore accident insurance scheme is being implemented to provide financial security to the families of employees who lose their lives in accidents while performing their official duties.

The officials further stated that the accident insurance scheme was initially introduced in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and is now being implemented across all electricity utility companies in the State. They said the scheme has been highly beneficial in providing financial support and security to the families of electricity employees. TRANSCO CMD Krishna Bhaskar, senior TRANSCO officials, employees and others participated in the programme.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar reviews Ganesh festival readiness



Hyderabad, Sept 1 (GNS): State Transport and BC Welfare Minister and District In-charge Minister Sri Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the Ganesh Navaratri celebrations would be conducted in a magnificent manner. The Minister directed senior officials from relevant departments to work in coordination to ensure the upcoming Ganesh Navaratri celebrations in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts are conducted grandly, peacefully, and smoothly. On Tuesday, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar held a high-level preparatory coordination meeting regarding the Ganesh Utsav celebrations (2026) at the Dr. MCR HRD Institute in Jubilee Hills. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stated that the 'Praja Palana' government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is providing free electricity to all Ganesh pandals across the state; he advised organizers to apply through the prescribed procedure to avail themselves of this facility. He directed officials to keep in mind the long-standing tradition of Ganesh festivities in Hyderabad—spanning approximately 47 years—and to proactively identify and resolve any issues or shortcomings based on past experiences.

He instructed all departments to work in coordination to ensure devotees face no inconvenience and directed officials to remain vigilant until the conclusion of the festivities and the immersion process. The Minister ordered the implementation of traffic control and robust security arrangements within the limits of the Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda Police Commissionerates. He advised deploying 'She Teams' and anti-theft surveillance squads, alongside taking necessary measures to maintain law and order and communal harmony. He also directed officials to formulate advance plans to prevent traffic disruptions and to ensure the availability of parking spaces, traffic diversions, and traffic volunteers. He instructed municipal departments to keep sanitation staff available round-the-clock, undertake road repairs, ensure proper maintenance of streetlights, and handle the construction and maintenance of 'baby ponds' (immersion ponds). He also emphasized the need to focus specifically on fogging operations and the installation of bio-toilets. Instructions were issued to prominently display and popularize the logos of the newly established municipal

corporations among the public. The Minister directed the Medical and Health Department to set up 24-hour medical camps in key locations. He instructed that medical officers, ANMs, and ASHA workers be deployed, along with first-aid kits and essential medicines, and that ambulances and medical teams be kept ready on a shift basis. The Minister ordered Electricity Department officials to inspect power infrastructure in advance and ensure strict adherence to electrical safety standards. He directed them to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the festivities and to take special precautions to prevent electrical accidents. Instructions were issued to the Transport Department and TGSRTC to use only buses with valid fitness certificates and to operate approximately 700 special bus services to cater to the rush of devotees. He directed them to coordinate with the traffic police for necessary route diversions and to keep mobile breakdown relief vehicles ready. He also ordered the extension of Hyderabad Metro Rail services based on demand, an increase in train frequency, the provision of advance information to passengers, and the installation of clear signage at stations.

Telangana HC Grants Interim Relief to HYDRAA Commissioner

Hyderabad, Sept 1 (GNS): In a relief to Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, the Telangana High Court on Tuesday temporarily suspended its single judge's order, directing the state government to remove him from the post and appoint another officer in his place. Ranganath had filed a petition challenging the single judge's order of July 27. The petition came up for hearing before a division bench with former Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Rajiv Shakdher appearing for Ranganath. After hearing the initial arguments, the bench temporarily suspended the single judge's order. Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti on July 27 had directed the Chief Secretary to relieve Ranganath as HYDRAA Commissioner and appoint a suitable replacement. The order came on a contempt petition filed by Shanta Sriam Constructions Private Limited, which alleged that HYDRAA officials violated court orders and entered its 40-acre land in Lothkunta with 50 vehicles and 200 personnel. The court had observed that Ranganath had become a "law unto himself" and that HYDRAA was acting beyond its mandate, by-passing revenue, irrigation and GHMC departments.



At an earlier hearing, the court had severely reprimanded the HYDRAA Commissioner, warning that it could direct the army to take him into custody and place him in the army barracks for repeatedly violating court orders. The Commissioner was directed to issue an affidavit, explicitly apologising for HYDRAA men and machinery entering and fencing the disputed property without the petitioner's permission. As the affidavit was not filed and the officer did not turn up for hearing, Justice Jukanti

took serious objection and directed the government to remove Ranganath as HYDRAA Commissioner. The court noted that as many as 63 contempt petitions had been pending against Ranganath within a period of about one-and-a-half years. Following the order, Ranganath said he would contest all 63 contempt cases filed against him through legal means and expressed full faith in the judiciary. He alleged that all cases were filed by influential encroachers affected by

HYDRAA's drive to protect lakes and government lands. Ranganath alleged that land mafias and encroachers were misleading the courts with false information. "Regardless of the responsibilities entrusted to me by the government, I am committed to delivering 100 per cent results, and I will continue to do so," he said. Ranganth, an Indian Police Service (IPS) official, has been heading HYDRAA since the agency was formed two years ago by the state government. During the last two years, HYDRAA claims to have saved 3,315 acres of government land worth a whopping Rs.1.5 lakh crore and restored several water bodies. The agency said that it reclaimed and protected lakes, nalas, parks, government lands, and blue-green resources.

POSHAN MAAH-2026 Outreach Programme Inaugurated in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Sept 1 (GNS): Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Dr. K. Laxman today inaugurated the Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on POSHAN MAAH-2026, organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, at AV College Grounds, Gagan Mahal, Hyderabad. Dr. Laxman appreciated the CBC for organising the nutrition awareness exhibition, describing it as informative and thought-provoking. He said the exhibition was also a learning experience for him and highlighted the importance of nutrition in nation building. "Nation building does not mean merely building with bricks, cement, sand and all the material used for construction. Nation



building means making a child healthy and fit. A fit child makes a fit India and a healthy India," Dr. Laxman said. He called upon students and youth to become active volunteers in the nutrition awareness campaign, taking the message of proper nutrition to parents, children and particularly disadvantaged sections of society. He urged the college management to encourage students to take

up such outreach as a project and create awareness about challenges including anaemia, underweight, overweight, obesity and underdevelopment. He referred to the digital tracking of Anganwadi Centres and said that around 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres and nearly 9 crore children are being covered through the system. He also stated that around 12 crore children receive hot

cooked meals every day across more than 11 lakh schools and referred to government expenditure towards strengthening Anganwadi Centres. Speaking about Telangana, Dr. Laxman said that the proportion of children falling behind in growth had declined from 33 per cent to 27 per cent, attributing the improvement to the efforts of frontline and Anganwadi workers and government support. Dr. Laxman stressed the importance of promoting millets and traditional dietary practices. Referring to the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, he highlighted their nutritional value and relevance to small and rain-fed farmers. He appreciated a nutritious millet-based food product showcased during the exhibition and encouraged students to explore innova-

tion and entrepreneurship. Referring to India's growing startup ecosystem, Dr. Laxman urged young people not merely to seek employment but also to consider becoming job creators. Dr. Laxman said that nutrition should be complemented by physical fitness. He urged students to participate in sports and physical activities and referred to initiatives such as Khelo India. He also highlighted the importance of yoga for physical and mental well-being and encouraged young people to adopt healthy dietary practices, physical activity and yoga as part of their daily lives. Smt. Shruti Patil, ADG, PIB/CBC, in her inaugural address said that nutrition is not merely about food but is closely linked to health, productivity, learning and quality of life.



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Central team to inspect airport sites in Kothagudem

Hyderabad, Sept 1 (GNS): A Central technical team will visit Telangana on September 7 to inspect four to five newly identified sites for the proposed airport in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. The decision was announced after a meeting between Telangana Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao and Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu in New Delhi on Tuesday. Earlier, two proposed locations were found unsuitable for airport

construction due to technical constraints. Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu assured the Telangana government that the Centre would move forward with the airport project if the technical team's report is favourable. Meanwhile, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to discuss the proposed airports at Mamnoon (Warangal) and Adilabad with the Union government on Sept 2. The proposed airport in Bhadradi Kothagudem is expected.



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