

CM Revanth Reddy Calls for Global Promotion of Telangana Tourism

Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended greetings to the people of Telangana and tourists visiting the state on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Revanth Reddy expressed hope that Telangana's immense cultural, historical and spiritual wealth would be showcased on the global tourism map. He said the state's historical buildings, temples, forts, waterfalls, forests, wildlife sanctuaries, lakes, folk arts and festivals reflected its unique identity. He said the government



was taking several measures to develop major tourism destinations, including Ramappa, Warangal, Yadadri, Bhadradi, Alampur and Medaram, along with historical structures in Hyderabad,

to attract both domestic and international tourists. The Chief Minister said the Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-30 was aimed at encouraging investments in the tourism sector and creating

a favourable ecosystem for private investment in new tourism projects. These include adventure tourism, caravan parks, wayside amenities, eco-tourism and other related sectors.

Along with eco-tourism, temple tourism and medical tourism, the government was giving special priority to heritage tourism, he said.

Emphasising the potential of tourism to generate employment for local youth, Revanth Reddy said the government was working to provide better facilities for tourists, convenient travel and quality

services. He said efforts were also being made to attract investments and establish Telangana as a leading tourist destination in the country.

The Chief Minister said the participation of local communities, tourism sector organisations, hotels, travel agencies, artists, artisans and youth would play a key role in the development of Telangana's tourism sector.

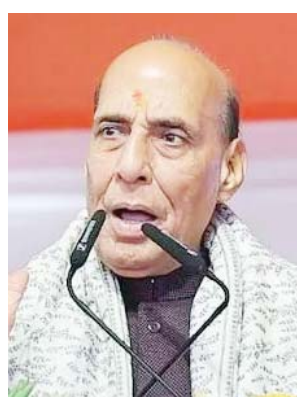
He called upon people to work towards sustainable tourism development while preserving the state's heritage, protecting nature and respecting local culture.

Rajnath Singh Issues Strong Warning on Terrorism

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday warned Pakistan that India remains fully prepared to carry out action against terrorism if the neighbouring country continues what he described as a "state policy of terrorism". He asserted that India would not compromise on national security under any circumstances.

Defence Conclave, Singh said India does not seek conflict or the territory of any other country but stressed that there is a difference between peace and cowardice. "India believes in peace. India never wants war. India never wants to capture the land of any foreign country in the world. India doesn't even want to threaten anyone. But there is a difference between peace and cowardice," he said.

Singh said India believes in dialogue, but the scope for discussions ends when



a country provides support or shelter to terrorism against India. He said countries that make terrorism their policy must understand that terrorism cannot be treated as a strategic asset. Issuing a direct warning to Pakistan, Singh said, "As long as our neighbour continues the state policy of terrorism, India is completely ready for every kind of strike against terrorism."

The Defence Minister also said India's military operations and cooperation with other countries would

always be guided by national interests. He stressed that India supports global stability and cooperation but would not compromise its strategic autonomy or national security.

Singh also rejected the idea that India fits into the "Thucydides Trap", which describes potential conflict between a rising power and an established major power. He said India was neither a status-quoist nor a revisionist power but a "civilizational power".

Singh's remarks came amid continuing exchanges between India and Pakistan at international forums over terrorism and security concerns. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for dismantling the entire ecosystem of terrorism, including its financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

UP exports set to double with new FTAs: Goyal

Greater Noida, Sept 25 (UNI): Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted that as global markets open up to India through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Uttar Pradesh's annual exports are expected to more than double from Rs 2 lakh crore to Rs 5 lakh crore by 2030.

Addressing the UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida, Goyal said that expanding exports, investments and global market access would contribute to the state's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy.

The minister said the expanding global market access through FTAs, investments, tourism and international recognition of Uttar Pradesh's products and brands would create new opportunities for the state's entrepreneurs. He called for active participation and cooperation from the state's trade and industrial community in taking forward this development journey.

He said new investments are expected to flow into India from across the globe and noted that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a preferred investment destination, supported by favourable industrial policies and proactive industrial schemes.

Rafale deal to boost fighter jet production in India

New Delhi, September 27 (UNI): The deal with France to procure more Rafale fighter jets will help India establish a second fighter aircraft production line while also supporting greater indigenisation of defence manufacturing, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Sunday.

Addressing the Strategy to Capability: Building India's Defence Edge fireside chat at the NDTV Defence Summit 2026, the top Defence Ministry official discussed India's evolving defence capabilities, including the country's fighter aircraft requirements, indigenous development and efforts



to strengthen domestic defence manufacturing.

"Rafale is a proven aircraft. France has agreed to our mandate that they make it in India with significant levels of indigenisation. It enables us to create a second production line for fighter aircraft in the country, which is why we are going through with

it," Rajesh Kumar Singh, who also holds the additional charge of Secretary, DDR&D, and DRDO Chairman, said. He also said that the procurement of additional Rafale aircraft will not come at the expense of India's indigenous Tejas fighter jet programme being led by public sector aerospace

major HAL. "Even as we continue with the Rafale deal, the indigenous LCA Tejas Mark 1A programme will continue. It will be a spiral development model where we increasingly perfect it, fitting in indigenous radars that are better than global peers alongside indigenous weapons," he stressed.

LPU protests erupt over alleged sexual assault rumours

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): Amid allegations of a sexual assault on a student in the GH3 hostel, Lovely Professional University (LPU) was rocked by violent protests late Saturday night. The protesters laid siege to the premises, vandalising property, hurling barricades and chairs, and were involved in minor arson incidents on the campus, which has over 30,000 students.

The students indulged in arson again on Sunday night, setting a police vehicle afire. The protesters claimed the police resorted to a lathicharge after they refused to move from



a highway. However, the police denied the allegations of a lathicharge and said students pelted cops with stones. The violence on the campus came a day after protests at Chitkara University near Rajpura, which were sparked

by similar viral reels and claims that two girls from the hostel were either missing or had died by suicide. The Kapurthala police on Sunday registered an FIR against unknown person in connection with the alleged rape at the LPU

following a complaint by hostel students. The case was registered under Section 64 (rape) of the BNS at the Satnampura police station. The LPU refuted the allegations, terming them baseless and rumour-driven. The unverified allegation, however, set in motion one of the most unprecedented protests on the campus, with students laying siege to the premises on Saturday night and taking to the streets at 4 am on Sunday, blocking the NH-44 (Jalandhar-Phagwara highway). Videos showed a huge crowd of students gathered outside Girls' Hostel No. 4.

Heavy rain, storms kill 56 in UP

Lucknow, Sept 27 (GNS): Heavy rain and bad weather conditions over the past 48 hours have severely disrupted normal life in Uttar Pradesh. So far, 56 people have died, 46 have been injured and 107 cattle have been killed. As many as 1,021 houses have also been damaged.

Relief and rescue operations have been intensified across the affected districts. The state Relief Commissioner on Sunday contacted District Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates and reviewed the ongoing operations. He directed officials to address the problems of affected families immediately and sensitively, stressing that there should be no negligence in relief work.

The Relief Commissioner asked District Magistrates to personally contact and meet affected families to assess their needs. He directed officials to provide immediate assistance to those in need and set timelines for relief and rescue operations.



According to the Relief Department, Uttar Pradesh received 66.5 mm of rainfall between the morning of September 25 and September 27, against the normal 7.6 mm during the period. This was 775 per cent above normal. Of the state's 75 districts, 56 recorded extremely heavy rainfall.

Sitapur is among the worst-affected districts, with seven deaths reported. Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich and Balrampur reported five deaths each, while Ayodhya and Gorakhpur recorded four deaths each.

Authorities have also been directed to arrange alternative accommodation, wherever necessary, for people whose houses have been damaged. Relief and rescue teams are moving people stranded in waterlogged areas to safer locations.

The administration has appealed to people to avoid unnecessary travel in waterlogged and flood-affected areas and stay away from fast-flowing rivers and drains. For emergency assistance, people can contact the Relief Commissioner's office helpline at 1070.

Nanomedicine to drive next generation of precision medicine, personalised healthcare: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): Nanomedicine will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of precision medicine and personalised healthcare, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, said on Sunday. Addressing scientists while inaugurating the World Congress on Nanomedicine 2026 here, the minister described nanomedicine as one of the most transformative devel-

opments in modern medical science. He said healthcare is increasingly moving towards personalised treatment approaches, where therapies are tailored to an individual's genetic profile, lifestyle, dietary habits and environmental factors.

According to him, nanotechnology offers unprecedented opportunities to achieve such precision by enabling interventions at the cellular and molecular levels. The World Congress on



Nanomedicine 2026, hosted by the Institute of Nano Medical Sciences (INMS), Faculty of Medical Scienc-

es, University of Delhi, has brought together more than 2,000 participants, including leading scientists, research-

ers, industry experts and students from across the world to discuss emerging developments and applications in

the field. Dr Singh explained that nanomedicine involves the application of nanotechnology in medicine through structures and materials operating at the scale of one-billionth of a metre. As medicine evolves towards greater precision, patients suffering from the same disease may increasingly require different treatment strategies based on individual biological and environmental characteristics, he noted.

The minister said nano-

medicine's impact is expected to extend beyond healthcare outcomes and influence the economics of healthcare delivery by improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness. He added that the growing global interest in nanomedicine reflects the immense opportunities emerging in the sector.

At the same time, Dr Singh cautioned against overdependence on technology in clinical practice. While innovations such as Artificial In-

telligence and nanotechnology are opening new frontiers in medicine, he stressed that they should complement, rather than replace, the clinical judgement and experience of doctors. He said the challenge lies in integrating advanced technologies with the human aspects of healthcare. Calling for reforms in medical education, the minister underscored the importance of preserving core clinical skills even as healthcare becomes more technology-driven.

Telangana govt must look to Delhi for lessons in managing a metro

Yunus Lasania

Each time I travel to Delhi, it makes me realise how inefficient the metro rail in Hyderabad is. Don't get me wrong, I do appreciate the civic infrastructure in my city, but there's also a reason why vehicle owners like myself do not use the metro. Actually there are many reasons, and with the state government now taking over the entire project, I think there is a very valid fear among many that the metro's fate is sealed. L&T was running the Hyderabad metro rail project since it was first inaugurated in 2017. I remember the day very well. It was the same day when Ivanka Trump landed in Hyderabad at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

The city was buzzing with excitement about the metro, especially because the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), which runs the city's buses, has always been over burdened with commuters.

Combined with lack of funds and inadequate revenue from ticket fares, it has always been a struggling system. The TGSRTC being a separate entity meant that it didn't function as part of the government, hence it had issues such as paying taxes to the state government for buses, or the government delaying release of dues for



concessions to citizens. Eventually, the inevitable merger of the TGSRTC with the state government was announced in 2023. As things stand, the process has not been fully completed. It is this Telangana government, which has still not even fully absorbed the TGSRTC, that is now going to take over the Hyderabad metro rail.

Last September, the Telangana government announced that it is formally taking over the Hyderabad Metro rail project from L&T Metro. Phase one of the existing project will be taken over, plus L&T's Rs 13,000 crore debt will be absorbed by the government. Moreover, the state has also agreed to pay about Rs 2,000 crore to L&T toward its equity investment as a one-time settlement.

This story is not very different from the TGSRTC,

the only difference being that the corporation was always led by a government administration—the Managing Director was always an IAS or IPS officer. Now, with the metro also coming under the state, I don't have much faith in the government to actually make it better.

All one has to do is to look at social media to see the state of affairs. The situation seems worse in the metro than at bus stops during peak hours. Crowded stations, leaking roofs during rains, and repeated technical issues leading to delays are pretty common.

More than technical aspects, the layout of the Hyderabad Metro rail itself is enough to see that it is not the most efficient system to use. It is however great for a chunk of people in the IT sector. As of now the metro here has three

lines: Blue (Nagole to Hitech City), Red (Miyapur to LB Nagar) and Green (JBS to MGBS). The Blue line is what connects one end of Secunderabad, (the former British cantonment) falling on the north of Greater Hyderabad, to the Hitec City or IT sector areas. This makes it a great option for many who have jobs there.

The red line and green both meet the MGBS stop in the Old City, which drops commuters to the edge of the Old City. This is unlike the Delhi Metro where one can get right to the middle of Old Delhi.

Sure, one can take an auto or bike-taxi to reach their destination, but that is a different game altogether. So far, reaching the Charminar has been a hassle. That line is finally underway but it's anyone's guess how long the work may take. The biggest is-

sue in Hyderabad however is the fact that there is absolutely no last mile connectivity. The stations have all been built on the main roads, which are in fact close to nothing except big malls or landmarks. For example, even though a station on the green line is near my house, I can't take it to go to an area like Banjara Hills in the west. I can however go to Jubilee Hills, after getting down at Parade Grounds and then changing to the Blue line.

But even then not all of Jubilee Hills is accessible. It is only useful in certain situations, so it is in fact faster and more efficient to use my car or bike to commute. Many take the metro because they would rather pay a little more and travel in AC as opposed to the bus, but when that is combined with extreme crowds and unending waits, the convenience

Iran's Chabahar exposes the gap between India's standing and Modi's grandstanding

Amitabh Dubey

The Chabahar port would “alter the course of history”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared once upon a time, describing the agreement on a trilateral transport corridor with Iran and Afghanistan as “a new foundation of convergence between our three nations”. He painted an expansive picture of Indian investments in “gas-based fertiliser plants, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and IT”. Later, during the 2024 elections, he called it a “very big achievement”, emphasising that India would make its own decisions, and not based on any third party's interests, i.e. the US.

Now, in less than two years, India is on the verge of exiting the project, having effectively shut down the Indian firm overseeing it, and transferring its promised \$120 million (Rs 1,100 crore) contribution to Iran before a US sanctions waiver expires on 26 April 2026. This episode is proving to be a costly lesson for India in great power politics. It reveals India's actual standing, as opposed to Modi's grandstanding.

The truth is that India's outreach to its “civilisational” partner, Iran, is at the mercy of the larger US-Israel-Iran relationship. When the US deemed that an alternative to China's CPEC was, on balance, desirable, it carved out space for India. Now that it is tightening the screws on Iran, India is



being forced to abandon a critical national project.

There is a larger, more disturbing dynamic here. Even as Trump asserts his version of the Monroe Doctrine — the so-called “Donroe” doctrine — we are seeing a “Gonroe” doctrine, in which India's influence in its immediate neighbourhood is practically gone. Under Modi's watch, “colour” revolutions with suspected links to the US have overthrown incumbent governments in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, including India's close ally Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Governments sympathetic to China are now ensconced in Myanmar and the Maldives. India is being boxed in by the US-China rivalry, and external powers are now driving outcomes in our neighbourhood.

Gone are the days when

India would intervene in Sri Lanka to prevent the US from building a naval base in Trincomalee, or launch a military operation to stop a coup by mercenaries in the Maldives, or facilitate negotiations in Nepal to end a brutal civil war.

And this weakening of Indian influence during a supposed period of Indian ascendancy is evident in the Chabahar saga. Conceived in 2003, the Chabahar project became politically feasible only after the international community signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran in July 2015, lifting sanctions in return for the country agreeing to constrain its nuclear programme. This facilitated the agreement during Modi's May 2016 Iran visit to develop two cargo terminals

at Chabahar. Two years later, Iran leased the port terminals to the India Ports Global Limited and bulk and container traffic began to flow from Indian ports.

India's space for manoeuvre began to shrink after President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and reimposed major sanctions on Iran. India managed to secure a sanctions waiver for Chabahar, having convinced the US that an alternative to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was in its interests, but any further expansion became risky. For instance, India exited a venture to build a 628 km railway line from Chabahar to Zahedan, near the Afghan border. The continuation of the waiver under the Biden administration created the space for India to receive a

longer-term, 10-year contract in May 2024 for Chabahar. But the US preference for an alternative to the Russia-focused International North-South Transport Corridor was clear. Thus came a new carrot, even as the stick remained sheathed, in the form of US support for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Skip Iran, go through Saudi Arabia and Israel instead, they told us. And so, IMEC is a rail and shipping corridor network connecting India and Europe via Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. A preliminary agreement was signed in September 2023. Ahead of this, coincidentally, Modi's close friend Gautam Adani was awarded a lucrative 70 per cent stake in Israel's Haifa Port. However, the Gaza war has put a halt to IMEC for now.

India is cornered by China's lock on tech

Last year, India's richest tycoon had Washington breathing down his neck. This year, Beijing is giving him a hard time. Now that Mukesh Ambani's refinery is pivoting away from buying Russian oil, falling in line with President Donald Trump's diktat that Indian billionaires stop funding Vladimir Putin's war machine, the energy czar has a new worry: China's curbs on technology transfers.

Ambani's flagship conglomerate, Reliance Industries Ltd., has paused plans to make lithium-ion cells after failing to secure Chinese knowhow, Bloomberg News reported last week, citing people who did not want to be identified. Xiamen Hithium Energy Storage Technology Co., with which Reliance was in talks to license cell technology, withdrew from the proposed partnership, the article said. While this particular project aims to store solar power and use it to produce nonpolluting fuels like green hydrogen, similar Chinese restrictions are also expected to apply to electric-vehicle battery tech, stunting the growth of India's EV industry. While President Xi Jinping's hawkish stance on technology exports isn't specifically directed at India, it does call for a more realistic assessment of the recent thaw in relations between the world's two most-populous nations.

Direct flights, suspended during the pandemic and kept in abeyance after 2020 border clashes, have resumed, and New Delhi is reportedly open to allowing Chinese firms to bid for government projects. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party met with a Chinese Communist Party delegation in its office, despite China's air-defense support to Islamabad during last May's India-Pakistan conflict. But just because ice is melting, there's no reason to drink it up as Kool-Aid. The détente is nowhere near where the two neighbors can consider each other as natural partners. While Indian corporate chiefs — from Ambani to Gautam Adani and Sajjan Jindal — are looking to China as a solution to their technology deficit, Beijing views India opportunistically, as a market where its firms can offload some of their excess production.

are a prime example. While Beijing will want Indian automakers to keep sourcing Chinese-made lithium-ion cells and packs, the technology to manufacture them now requires a State Council license before it can be transferred overseas. Getting past that hurdle will be challenging, and not just for large energy-storage projects like Ambani's. Exide Industries Ltd., which has been making traditional lead-acid batteries in India since 1947, is also betting on Chinese knowhow for lithium-ion cells. So is its rival Amara Raja Energy and Mobility Ltd., which has a licensing agreement with a unit of Hefei, Anhui-based Gotion High-Tech Co.

An outside dependence on China underscores the limits of Modi's “Make in India” industrial policy. Nearly five years ago, New Delhi earmarked 181 billion rupees (\$2 billion) in fiscal incentives for setting up 50 gigawatt-hour of cell production capacity. So far, only 1 GWh has been installed. Meanwhile, imports of lithium-ion cells by Indian EV makers and others has grown 2.5 times to \$3 billion. Of this, 75% comes from China.

Reliance says its alternative-energy plans remain on track. It's setting up a 40 GWh battery storage system assembly and cell manufacturing factory, with commissioning planned in phases during the year. “We have already received all the critical production line equipment at site with a plan to further scale up to 100 GWh annual capacity,” the company said Friday while presenting its quarterly earnings. Although even Europe has floundered on the path to building a locally owned battery industry, it remains central to Ambani's ambitions. Still, from policymakers' perspective, the technology squeeze is very real. It adds to New Delhi's growing worries about rare earths, a vulnerability it woke up to last year when Beijing's export curbs gave it leverage against Washington and led to a truce in the US-China trade war.

Even with the accord between Trump and Xi, China is still restricting the rare-earth elements the US needs to produce its own permanent magnets. There's no reason why Beijing should make availability any easier for Indian automakers.

New Delhi's solution once again is to throw money at the problem: \$800 million in subsidies for making magnets locally. But will funds alone ease the crunch? A top Indian geophysicist told the BBC that he's skeptical. Although India has significant reserves of rare earths along its coastline, it has very little mining. For more than a decade, the state-run miner has sold its output to the Japanese — a practice that is reportedly being stopped only now when local electric carmakers are already facing magnet shortages.

Even if India steps up mining and processing, it may still come up short on some critical minerals that it doesn't have in extractable quantities. The US will also struggle to shake off China's chokehold in a hurry. But without developing technologies to make high-performance magnets out of domestically available minerals, the dependence on China may be more durable for India.

In fact, Indian firms' aversion to spending money on research is eroding their sway even in their immediate neighborhood. Nepal, where three out of four cars sold are now electric, China's BYD Co. has become the market leader. The erstwhile dominance of Indian gasoline and diesel cars has evaporated, and Indian-made EVs are finding it hard to compete on quality and price.

China's lock on knowhow has hemmed India in, and Beijing has no reason to arrest the ballooning trade surplus in its favor. Just as Ambani's preeminent position within India Inc. made him Exhibit A of the rapid unraveling of New Delhi's three-decade-long courtship of Washington, his hiccups with sourcing Chinese technology are once again emblematic of a broader trend.

This column reflects the personal views of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Andy Mukherjee is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering industrial companies and financial services in Asia. Previously, he worked for Reuters, the Straits Times and Bloomberg News. The episode highlights the challenges Indian companies face in building domestic battery manufacturing capabilities while relying on overseas technology. Restrictions on the transfer of Chinese knowhow could complicate plans by Indian firms seeking to expand lithium-ion cell production for energy storage and electric vehicles. India has offered financial incentives to encourage local cell manufacturing, but capacity has expanded slowly compared with the growth in demand. At the same time, the country remains heavily dependent on China for lithium-ion cell imports, underscoring the gap between policy ambitions and the availability of domestic technology and manufacturing expertise.

The technology challenge extends beyond batteries to critical minerals and rare-earth materials. India is seeking to increase domestic production of permanent magnets and other strategic inputs, but limited mining, processing capacity and technological capabilities could continue to constrain efforts to reduce dependence on Chinese supplies.

For Indian manufacturers, the situation highlights the need for greater investment in research, technology development and domestic supply chains. Building competitive capabilities in batteries, electric vehicles and critical minerals could become increasingly important as India seeks to reduce external vulnerabilities and strengthen its position in advanced manufacturing.

MoUs Signed with 9 Major Institutions Including Delhi Traffic Police, DMRC, AAI, SBI

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah today formally launched India's first cooperative-based taxi service 'Bharat Taxi' in New Delhi. On this occasion, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Krishan Pal Gurjar and Shri Murlidhar Mohol, and Cooperation Secretary Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, along with several dignitaries, were present. More than 1,200 "Sarathis" (driver partners) from various States participated in this historic programme, reflecting broad support for Bharat Taxi's driver-empowerment and cooperative-ownership-based model.

Addressing the programme, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri

Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Ministry of Cooperation is developing an ownership-rights model for people working in the unorganised sector. He said that within three years, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Dwarka to Kamakhya, Sahakar Taxi will become a very big medium for the welfare of our taxi Sarathis. Shri Shah said that when he first raised the subject of Sahakar Taxi before Parliament, many people—especially companies connected with taxi operations—questioned why the government was entering the taxi sector. He said such people do not know the difference between 'Sahakar' (coopera-



tion) and 'Sarkar' (government). Shri Shah said the government is not entering the taxi sector; rather, co-

operation (Cooperation) is entering the taxi sector. Union Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said

that perhaps for the first time in the whole world, such a unique company is coming into existence

whose real owner is neither any individual nor any external company, but the Sarathi who drives the taxi.

Every Sarathi brother-sister associated with Sahakar Taxi is the true owner of this cooperative taxi society. He said this concept will bring a fundamental transformation in the life, self-confidence, and economic condition of the Sarathis who join Sahakar Taxi. Shri Shah also said that many such models have succeeded in our country earlier. Only 11 milk producers started Amul. Today, in Gujarat, a huge banyan tree of more than 36 lakh women livestock-rearers has taken shape. These women livestock-rearers do business worth more than one lakh twenty-five thousand crore rupees. He said this model shows that when ordinary people themselves become

owners, even a small beginning can yield very big results. He said that today, women livestock-rearers are earning up to one crore rupees annually by selling milk, which is the marvel of the cooperative model.

Amit Shah appealed to taxi Sarathis that they are driving taxis now; they will continue to drive taxis even after joining Sahakar Taxi, but there will be one major difference between the two. He said that at present, the wheel of the taxi puts money into someone else's pocket, but now the earnings from the wheel of the Sarathis' taxis will go into the Sarathis' own pockets. He said this idea is born from the spirit of cooperation.

Lower Tariffs to Boost Rice, Spice and Textile Exports; Cotton Farmers to Gain: Shivraj

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): To accelerate the country's goal of achieving self-reliance in pulses, a National Consultation and Strategy Meeting will be held on Saturday, 7th February, 2026 at the Food Legume Research Platform (FLRP), Amlaha, Sehore district. The meeting will be chaired by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, Minister of State (Agriculture & Farmers Welfare) Shri Bhagirath Choudhary and Shri Ram Nath Thakur and Agriculture Ministers from major pulse-growing states will participate in the programme.

This important event is being organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The programme will commence on 7th February with a plantation drive. Thereafter, the Union Agriculture Minister will visit the fields to witness demonstrations of advanced technologies and new pulse varieties and interact with farmers. He will also inaugurate the administrative building, farmer training centre, and state-of-the-art laboratories related to

plant genomics, tissue culture, breeding and plant pathology. The Union Minister will visit the exhibition area showcasing improved pulse seeds, products and technologies. On this occasion, the "Pulses Mission Portal" will be launched and improved variety of pulse seeds will be distributed to the progressive farmers.

During the programme, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will address the gathering & highlight the Government's strategy for enhancing pulse production in the country, procurement on MSP, strengthening the seed system, value chains and increasing farmers' income. The Chief Minister

of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, will also address the august gathering during the event. Agriculture Ministers from pulse-producing states such as Odisha, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana will participate in the consultation, while the Agriculture Minister of other States will join the programme through video conferencing.

As stated by Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Pulses), the senior officers from Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, eminent scientists from Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR),

International Croup Research Institutes for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), representatives of NAFED-NCCF, National Seeds Corporation, senior officials from various states, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, partners from the seed and processing sectors, and representatives of the plant-based food sector will deliberate on concrete strategies related to new varieties, seed production, disease management, mechanization, value addition and market linkages to boost the production of on major pulse crops such as tur

(pigeon pea), urad (black gram) and masoor (lentil).

The discussions during the event would focus upon the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modito make India fully self-reliant in pulses, reduce dependence on imports and give remunerative prices to the farmers.

The national consultation will further strengthen the spirit of cooperative federalism between the Centre and States and will help in formulating a clear, actionable roadmap based on the experiences and suggestions of all stakeholders.

The objective of this initiative is not only to give a new dimension to the pulse sector, but to make significant

Govt Revises Startup Recognition Framework to Strengthen Startup India Action Plan

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): The Government has revised the startup recognition framework to further strengthen the Startup India Action Plan and advance the Prime Minister's vision of positioning India as a global innovation powerhouse, a manufacturing-led economy, and a hub for emerging technologies. As Startup India enters its second decade, the revised framework seeks to provide a more predictable, inclusive and future-ready policy environment for founders, while facilitating the flow of long-term patient capital into high-technology and research-intensive sectors.

Keeping in view the evolving startup ecosystem and the need to support enterprises at different stages of their business lifecycle, the turnover limit for recognition as a startup has been increased from 100 crore to 200 crore.

A new sub-category of "Deep Tech Startup" has been introduced for entities working on cutting-edge and breakthrough technologies. The core attributes of Deep Tech Startups have been finalised through consultations with line Ministries, Departments and ecosystem stakeholders to ensure clarity, consistency and objective identification. In recognition of the long gestation periods, high research and development intensity, and capital-intensive nature of deep technology enterpris-

es, the eligibility criteria for this category have been expanded, with the age limit extended from 10 years to 20 years from the date of incorporation or registration, and the turnover limit enhanced to 300 crore.

To promote innovation-driven growth at the grass-roots level in agriculture, allied sectors, rural industries and community-based enterprises, startup recognition eligibility has been extended to cooperative entities. Accordingly, Multi-State Cooperative Societies registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, as well as Cooperative Societies registered under State and Union Territory Cooperative Acts, are now eligible for startup recognition, subject to fulfilment of other applicable criteria.

The revised framework follows extensive consultations with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem, as well as with various Ministries and Departments. The updated criteria are expected to expand access to startup benefits for research- and innovation-driven enterprises, provide targeted support to deep tech ventures requiring extended development timelines, enable cooperatives to drive innovation in agriculture and rural development, and further strengthen India's position as a global hub for high-technology and knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship.

Scindia Reaffirms Govt's Commitment to Nationwide High-Quality Telecom Services

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): The Government is committed to providing telecom services across all parts of the country while ensuring high service quality. Service performance is objectively assessed against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks mandated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Recently, TRAI has revised these QoS benchmarks, making them more stringent and implementing a glide path to align with global standards. The benchmarks comprise specific performance parameters, including call drop rate, packet loss, and service downtime.

Data for these metrics is systematically collected from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), and detailed compliance reports are published in the public domain on a monthly basis.

As per the TRAI report for December 2025, all TSPs met all QoS benchmarks for network-related parameters, including call drop rates, in the Maharashtra Licensed Service Area (LSA). Specifically, in Pune District, all TSPs complied with TRAI's QoS benchmarks for the 4G/5G network.

To further safeguard service quality, a dedicated mechanism for public feedback is in place. Citizens can report poor service by lodging complaints through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal.

The department analyzes these complaints and coordinates directly with the concerned TSPs to ensure effective redressal.

Regarding specific localities, no complaint pertaining to call drops has been reported in Hinjewadi and Baramati during the year 2025-26. However, a minimal number of service complaints on network issues were registered - three in Hinjewadi and one in Baramati.

An independent drive test in Pune's Hinjewadi area was conducted by TRAI in September 2025. It was observed that all TSPs met the QoS benchmarks for network parameters and call drop rates.

Following the launch of 5G by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st October 2022, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have expanded their 5G services beyond the minimum rollout obligations across all States and UTs in the country. Presently, 5G services are available in 776 out of 777 districts, covering 99.87% of the nation's districts. The expansion of mobile services beyond the minimum rollout obligations depends on the techno-commercial considerations of the TSPs.

To date, more than 5.18 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed, and approximately 38 crore wireless data subscribers have begun using 5G services in the country. This represents one of the fastest rollouts in the world.

1.6 Cr Boost for Puducherry Fisherwomen Cooperative Under PMMSY

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): Under the PMMSY scheme of the Department of Fisheries, the Government of India is supporting fisheries cooperatives. In this context, the Sri Sengazhaneeraman Fisherwomen Cooperative Society in Puducherry has received approval for a PMMSY subsidy of 72 lakh for its Deep-Sea Fishing Vessel and accessories. To enable the cooperative to implement the project, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has sanctioned 88 lakh as term loan assistance.

This financial support is expected to significantly strengthen the operational capacity of the fisherwomen cooperative by enabling access to a modern deep-sea vessel, thereby expanding

livelihood opportunities and enhancing collective economic resilience. The initiative shall contribute to empowering fisheries cooperatives, expanding India's deep-sea fishing capabilities, and enabling technological upgradation under PMMSY. The project will also support the cooperative in improving access to deeper fishing grounds, adopting safer and more efficient fishing practices, and enhancing income opportunities for its members.

The initiative further reflects the Government of India's broader focus on empowering fisheries cooperatives under the vision of "Sahkarita Se Samridhhi". With this approval, the effort reinforces cooperatives as key drivers of inclusive and

sustainable growth in the country's blue economy.

This development is also aligned with the Government of India's ongoing push to expand deep-sea fishing capacity under PMMSY. Notably, on 27 October 2025, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the 'Deep Sea Fishing Vessels' at Mazgaon Dock, Mumbai under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. During the event, the Hon'ble Home Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening the blue economy and advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat by leveraging the transformative potential.

of the cooperative sector. The present sanction

contributes to this national effort by enabling cooperative-led deep-sea fishing expansion in Puducherry.

As part of its continued efforts to strengthen fisheries cooperatives across the country, the Department of Fisheries has introduced structured mechanisms to enhance cooperative participation in the management of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours. On World Fisheries Day, 21 November 2025, the Hon'ble Ministers of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel and Shri George Kurian released the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Development and Management of Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours. The SOP provides clear,

ICANN85 in Mumbai: Strengthening Single, Interoperable Internet for All

New Delhi, Sept 27 (GNS): The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will convene its 85th Public Meeting in Mumbai from 7-12 March 2026, hosted by the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). With its more than one billion Internet users and a thriving digital economy, India is an ideal location for participants from around the world to gather at the ICANN85 Community Forum to advance the technical work that ensures the secure and stable operation of the Internet.

S. Krishnan, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Chairman,

NIXI said, "India's digital transformation is anchored in an open, secure, inclusive and resilient Internet. Hosting ICANN85 reflects India's commitment to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and to advancing policy frameworks that support innovation, inclusion, and trust in the global Internet ecosystem."

"Ten years after the ICANN Public Meeting in Hyderabad, the ICANN85 Community Forum in Mumbai offers the Indian Internet community an excellent opportunity to attend and participate in the global dialogue on important Internet governance issues," said Samiran Gupta, ICANN Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement and Manag-

ing Director for the Asia Pacific region. "I want to thank our host NIXI for bringing ICANN85 to Mumbai and I look forward to a fruitful meeting." ICANN85 takes place at a pivotal moment – just before the launch of the next application round for the New gTLD Program in April. The program, the next expansion of the Domain Name System, provides businesses, communities, governments, and other organizations the rare opportunity to apply for new top-level domains tailored to fit their organization, community, culture, language, and customer interests. The meeting will include important updates about the next round and how to apply.

The New gTLD Program

helps to advance ICANN's 2030 vision as the trusted steward of the Internet's unique identifier systems to strengthen the single, globally interoperable Internet for all. This truly multilingual Internet enables people globally to use the Internet in their own languages and scripts, which matches the Indian government's approach to expanding Internet usage. ICANN85 is the first ICANN Public Meeting since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the WSIS+20 Outcomes Document on 17 December 2025. The World Summit on the Information Society: 20-year review (WSIS+20) reaffirmed that the Internet is a shared global resource whose stability, openness, and in-

teroperability depend on the multistakeholder model approach, a position strongly supported by ICANN and the Government of India.

WSIS+20 marked a reaffirmation rather than an end point, demonstrating the need to continue the work of the multistakeholder model, bringing new voices and expertise into the Internet governance ecosystem, strengthening knowledge transfer and capacity building, and sustaining engagement through forums like ICANN Public Meetings.

The ICANN85 Community Forum is expected to bring together representatives from governments, businesses, technical organisations, civil society and the Internet community to discuss key

issues affecting the global digital ecosystem. The Mumbai meeting will provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views and contribute to ongoing Internet governance processes.

A major focus will be the upcoming expansion of the Domain Name System through the New gTLD Program. The new application round is expected to create opportunities for organisations to seek domain extensions reflecting their businesses, communities, languages and cultural identities. The meeting will also highlight the importance of multilingual Internet access, particularly for countries such as India with diverse languages and a rapidly expanding digital user base.

KLIS barrage rehabilitation to begin by mid-November: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday announced that comprehensive rehabilitation of the three Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme barrages—Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla—would commence by mid-November 2026 and be completed before the onset of the 2027 monsoon. Reviewing the rehabilitation proposals with senior Irrigation officials at his official camp office in Hyderabad, the Minister said the State Government had finalised the designs for restoring the safety and operational reliability of all three barrages. The rehabilitation scheme prepared by the project designer includes strengthening



ing the foundations through grouting, extending the stilling basins and constructing fresh cutoff walls. These interventions are intended to address deficiencies in the earlier energy-dissipation arrangements, foundation stability and under-seepage control. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the rehabilitation strategy had been formulated

after taking into account the concerns raised by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and other expert bodies regarding the safety of the barrages. “There will be no compromise on structural safety or the quality of rehabilitation. The works will be executed strictly on the basis of scientific studies and the recommendations

of national technical institutions,” he said. The Minister said the proposed designs were undergoing validation through computational fluid dynamics modelling at the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune. The modelling would assess hydraulic behaviour and verify the efficiency of the proposed energy-dissipation measures under different flow conditions.

The designs would be presented to the Technical Oversight Committee under the Central Water Commission in New Delhi on October 5 for expert examination and recommendations.

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed Irrigation officials to complete all preparatory work

simultaneously so that there would be no delay after technical clearance was received. The Irrigation and Command Area Development Department was preparing detailed cost estimates and finalising the contractual mechanism required for government approval, he said.

The process would facilitate immediate tendering and award of the works following approval of the designs. The Minister said the execution framework would incorporate stringent quality-control procedures, independent testing and clearly defined timelines. Senior officials would continuously monitor progress to ensure that the rehabilitation was completed before the next monsoon.

Srihari calls for Mudiraj unity and representation

Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports, Vakiti Srihari, called upon the Mudiraj community to remain united and work collectively to secure their rights and improve their social and political representation.

Addressing community members, Srihari said he would continue to raise issues concerning the Mudiraj community, including reservations, social development and welfare, with the government. He said the community should convert its numerical strength into greater social and political representation.

The minister said the



recently released SEEPC caste census data recorded the Mudiraj population at around 26.36 lakh, accounting for 7.43 per cent of the state's population. He said the data could be used for policy discussions related to education, employment, welfare and political representation.

Srihari urged Mudiraj families to focus on the edu-

cation of their children and encourage them to pursue higher studies, professional careers, business and technology. He said education was the key to the community's future progress and called for more Mudiraj youth to aspire to become IAS and IPS officers, entrepreneurs and professionals.

Referring to the historical figure Panduga Sayanna, the minister urged the younger generation to draw inspiration from his legacy of standing up for poor and weaker sections. He also said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had responded positively to the demand for official recognition of Panduga Sayanna's birth and death anniversaries.

Seethakka reviews rural development works in TG



Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Dr. Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), stated that, following the directives of Chief Minister Sri Revanth Reddy, the construction of Gram Panchayat buildings is being undertaken in 'saturation mode' to ensure every Gram Panchayat in the state has its own building.

A regional review meeting covering the erstwhile districts of Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, and Medak was held on Saturday at the Ranga Reddy District Collectorate. The Minister reviewed the progress of ongoing development programs under the departments of Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Rural Water Supply. The Minister noted that 5,118 Gram Panchayats in the state currently lack their own buildings and that the government has sanctioned 1,000 crore for their construction. She stated that construction work on 3,269 Gram Panchayat buildings

is already about 70% complete and directed officials to take measures to finish the remaining work within the current year. *Buildings for Women's Groups in 8,000 Villages* The Minister stated that buildings for women's groups are being constructed in 8,000 villages across the state, alongside Gram Panchayat buildings. She mentioned that the government has sanctioned 800 crore for this initiative and that construction work has already reached the final stage. She noted that having their own buildings would enable women's groups to conduct their activities more efficiently.

Minister Seethakka stated that rural roads in Telangana are being constructed using the HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model) approach—a method being used for rural road construction for the first time in the country. She revealed that under the HAM project, 3,861 kilometers of roads are being built across the erstwhile districts of Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar,

Shiv Pratap Shukla calls for linking India's knowledge heritage with modern education

Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla was the Chief Guest at a seminar on “Bharatiya Gyan Parampara and New Generation: Education, Values and the Future”, organised by Dainik Jagran in Varanasi on Saturday.

India's rich intellectual heritage should be made accessible to the younger generation, Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla said. The knowledge embodied in the Vedas and Upanishads, and India's contributions to yoga, Ayurveda, mathematics and astronomy, should be connected with con-



porary learning, Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla said. Values such as integrity, a sense of duty, compassion and responsibility towards nature should be harmonised with a scientific outlook, Telangana Governor Shri Shiv

Pratap Shukla said. Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla also recalled the contributions of late Narendra Mohan, former Editor-in-Chief of Dainik Jagran and former Rajya Sabha member. Professor Biharilal Sharma, Vice-

Chancellor, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University; Professor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University; Padma Bhushan Dr. Devi Prasad Dwivedi; and Padma Shri Rajeshwar Acharya were among those present.

Shukla said the younger generation should be encouraged to learn about India's intellectual traditions while developing a scientific and modern outlook. He stressed the importance of combining traditional knowledge with contemporary education to help students understand the country's cultural and intellectual contributions.

India launches carbon payments for 2,550 farmers adopting regenerative practices

Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): India's agricultural carbon market has moved from policy to the farm level, with more than 2,500 smallholder farmers in Punjab and Haryana set to receive digital payments for adopting regenerative farming practices. The first payments were released at a programme organised at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, marking a new link between sustainable agricultural practices and additional income for farmers. Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and



Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, initiated the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to 2,550 farmers from Punjab and Haryana.

The payments are part of 'Aadi', a Grow Indigo farmer carbon programme

launched in 2019 with technical guidance from ICAR. Under the programme, farmers adopted practices such as Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), reduced tillage, and crop residue management between 2019 and 2022. The

resulting greenhouse-gas reductions and increases in soil carbon were measured and independently verified before carbon credits were issued. The programme covers more than two million acres and over 100,000 farmers across seven states and has issued agricultural carbon credits under the Verra VM0042 methodology.

The programme builds on a broader transition towards regenerative agriculture in Punjab and Haryana, including crop residue management, water conservation, and farming systems.

Medical care must balance shariah, privacy and genuine need: Mufti Saber Pasha



Falaknuma News State Bureau M.A.Samad Hyderabad, Sept 27 Islamic principles attach importance both to the preservation of human life and to maintaining modesty, privacy and dignity during medical treatment, said Maulana Mufti Dr. Hafiz Mohammed Saber Pasha Quadri, Chairman of the Languages Development Organisation. He was responding to public queries at the “Solution to Public Problems in the Light of Ahkam-e-Shariat” programme organised at the LDO Head Office, Banjara Hills, Road No. 12, Hyderabad.

Maulana Saber Pasha Quadri said medical treatment should be based on genuine necessity while avoiding unnecessary interaction and situations that could compromise privacy or religious values. He emphasised the need for a practical and balanced approach in healthcare

matters. Speaking about women pursuing medical education, he said women may study in co-educational medical institutions when necessary, particularly for specialisations such as gynaecology and nursing. However, wherever suitable women-only institutions are available, they should be preferred, he said.

He further stated that when a qualified female gynaecologist is available, unnecessary consultation or treatment by a male doctor should be avoided. If an appropriate female specialist is unavailable, lacks the required expertise or treatment by her would create an exceptional financial burden, consultation with a male doctor may be permitted in circumstances of genuine need. On pregnancy and ultrasound examinations, he said such medical examinations are permissible for monitoring the health of the mother and foetus.



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Kishan Reddy Launches Anganwadi Modernisation Drive

Hyderabad, Sept 27 (GNS): Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said Anganwadi centres in the Secunderabad Parliamentary constituency are being modernised as part of celebrations marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and his completion of 25 years in public leadership as Chief Minister and Prime Minister.

Kishan Reddy said the initiative aims to upgrade Anganwadi centres based on the number of children attending them and create an attractive environment that encourages children from economically weaker families to take an early interest in education. As part

of the programme, around 50 Anganwadi centres have so far received new flooring, colourful painting and wall artwork. Children have also been provided with new uniforms, school bags and water bottles. He said fans, televisions and special educational software featuring different rhymes and learning content have also been installed to support children's learning and development.

Kishan Reddy said several Anganwadi centres earlier faced problems such as inadequate lighting, poor flooring, lack of beautification and unhygienic surroundings. With the support of prominent members of society,



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