

India, Afghanistan review trade ties, discuss customs, banking, connectivity



New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): India and Afghanistan reviewed bilateral trade and economic cooperation and discussed measures to facilitate trade and deepen commercial engagement between the two countries, according to an official statement on Wednesday. According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the two sides discussed a range of issues, including trade facilitation and customs cooperation, visa facilitation for Afghan traders, banking and financial cooperation, and trade in pharmaceuticals and agricultural products.

They also discussed energy cooperation, investment and trade promotion, tariff concessions, cargo connectivity and port-related issues, it added. In addition, both sides agreed

to strengthen institutional cooperation and pursue follow-up action in the identified areas. The measures include enhanced customs and data-sharing cooperation, greater regulatory cooperation in pharmaceuticals and agriculture, improved trade connectivity and promotion of investment and business-to-business engagement. According to the ministry, the discussions took place

at a virtual meeting of the India-Afghanistan Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment. It further said that officials from both countries, including representatives from commerce, industry, customs, regulatory authorities and diplomatic missions, participated in the meeting. In the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening India-Afghanistan trade,

commerce and investment ties. They also agreed to maintain continued engagement on the issues discussed at the meeting.

Additionally, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met several world leaders in Asheville on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting and discussed the global economic outlook and India's evolving growth trajectory. In her meeting with Valdis Dombrovskis, Commissioner for Economy and Financial Affairs, European Commission, the two sides discussed further deepening of the India-EU Economic and Financial Partnership, including through the India-EU macroeconomic dialogue and the Trade and Technology Council (TTC).

AIMIM's TV Face Asim Waqar Joins Cong Ahead Of UP Polls, Alleges Party's 'Tacit Deal' With BJP

Lucknow, Sept 2 (GNS): In a significant boost for the Congress party ahead of Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, senior All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslim (AIMIM) leader and chief spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar resigned from his party and switched allegiance to the grand old party on Wednesday.

When asked about the reason behind jumping ship, he blamed it on an "understanding" between the Asaduddin Owaisi-led outfit and the ruling BJP.

Waqar joined the Congress at the party headquarters in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam, state Congress president Ajay Rai, and Congress Minority Department chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Imran Pratapgarhi. Congress leaders welcomed Waqar into the



party and said that this was inspired by pan-India campaigns led by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on issues concerning education, employment, students, women and deprived sections of society.

Rajendra Pal Gautam said that Waqar is an "articulate speaker" and his ideas were aligned with Congress and Rahul's vision for the country. Expressing confidence about the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, state Congress chief Ajay Rai said the party's flag would

fly in every village and street across the state.

Imran Pratapgarhi said that Congress was being strengthened with new members joining Rahul Gandhi's "Mohabbat Ki Dukaan" campaign and claimed that several more prominent faces would join the party in the coming days. Waqar, after joining the Congress party, stated that AIMIM, despite claiming to oppose the BJP, was working on the ground in a manner that harmed parties which were directly taking on the BJP.

Russian envoy meets BJP chief, discusses bilateral ties

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): "The interaction focused on the long-standing and time-tested India-Russia relationship. Shri Nabin highlighted the strong personal understanding and trust between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, noting that their regular high-level interactions have provided sustained momentum to bilateral relations. He also appreciated Ambassador Alipov's long association with India and his contribution to strengthening ties between the two countries," read a statement issued by Vijay Chauthaiwale, In-charge of the BJP's Foreign Affairs Department. Monday's meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek was also discussed.



Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla meets Myanmar International Relations Committee Chairman, Dr. Pwint San at Parliament House, in New Delhi. (Photo: PIB)

BLOs are the first point of contact between ECI and citizens: CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Panaji, Sept 2 (GNS): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from across Goa, describing them as the "foundational pillar" of the world's largest democracy and the first point of contact between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and citizens.

More than 1,000 BLOs from different parts of the state participated in the interaction. The programme focused on their crucial role in maintaining accurate and transparent electoral rolls and ensuring the smooth conduct of elections. Addressing the gathering, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections in India are carried out strictly in accordance with the Constitution, the law and the instructions issued by



the ECI. He highlighted the important role played by BLOs at the grassroots level, particularly in Goa, in the preparation and upkeep of electoral rolls. Calling them the first interface between the ECI and citizens, the CEC said their work is critical to ensuring that every eligible citizen is properly represented in the electoral process.

Commending the BLOs for their contribution to safeguarding the integrity of electoral rolls, the CEC also added that the electoral rolls and the wider

election process are subject to concurrent scrutiny. Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by recognised political parties, along with polling and counting agents of candidates, play an important role in this process.

The interaction also witnessed the release of short videos explaining the responsibilities of BLOs in Konkani and the role of BLAs in English. The initiative is aimed at strengthening awareness about the electoral process and the responsibilities of various stakeholders. Adding a cultural dimension to the occasion, a programme celebrating Goa's rich traditions and heritage was also organised. The BLOs subsequently took part in a question-and-answer session with the CEC, giving them an opportunity to raise issues and seek clarification on matters related to their duties and responsibilities.

SC closes NCERT 'Judiciary Corruption' case

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Tuesday closed the suo motu proceedings concerning references to "corruption in the judiciary" in an NCERT Class 8 Social Science textbook, after noting that the controversial chapter had been replaced following revisions suggested by an expert panel constituted

by the Centre. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana passed the order after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the apex court that textbooks containing the revised chapter were already in circulation.

Taking note of the development, the apex

court closed the suo motu proceedings and all consequential action in the matter. The controversy had arisen over Chapter IV, titled "The Role of Judiciary in Our Society", in NCERT's Class 8 Social Science textbook 'Exploring Society: India and Beyond', which contained a section referring to "corruption in the judiciary".

Circular economy, clean energy to be key drivers of next industrial revolution: Dr. Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS) Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday that India must accelerate its transition to secure, clean, sustainable and self-reliant energy systems amid geopolitical uncertainty and volatile markets.

Dr Singh was addressing the 6th International Climate Summit 2026 here, while he warned that energy security is inseparable from national security, strategic autonomy and economic resilience, the statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology said.

The Union Minister said that technological advancement and self-reliance are closely interlinked, and affordability is equally im-



portant for ensuring that the benefits of emerging technologies reach their full potential. The minister said that India would require affordable as well as clean sources of energy to derive maximum outcomes amidst emergence of an AI-driven data-centre era.

The minister said that In-

dia seeks to assume a greater global role, and hence has to keep pace with global trends and technological developments in the energy sector.

On the government's approach of pursuing energy security through multiple pathways, Dr. Singh said that nuclear energy is a key area being pursued.

He highlighted the nuclear energy mission with a target of 100 GW by 2047, describing the opening up of the nuclear sector to private players as a significant development. An integrated approach and an enlarged resource pool would be necessary to meet the country's ambitious energy targets.

The minister also referred to the aim of establishing five Small Modular Reactors by 2033, and the ongoing efforts in the green hydrogen sector, including the recently flagged-off green hydrogen train. Dr. Singh emphasised that biofuels and the circular economy would form an important part of India's clean-energy transition.

Viksit Bharat possible only when every state, district and village develops: Vice President

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS) Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan today attended the Third Convocation Ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur, and called upon the graduating students to shoulder the responsibility of serving the health, trust and lives of the people of Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice President said that a convocation is not merely a moment of celebration but also a moment of responsibility. "Today, you receive your degrees and tomorrow, you will be entrusted with something far more valuable—the health, trust and lives of the people of Bharat," he said. The Vice President high-



lighted the important role played by AIIMS Raipur since its establishment in 2012 in addressing regional disparities in healthcare, medical education and research, particularly in central India. He said that in a remarkably short period, the institution has evolved into a major tertiary-care institution serving Chhattisgarh and neighbour-

ing states, including rural and tribal communities. He noted that the growth of AIIMS Raipur reflects the remarkable transformation taking place in Chhattisgarh. Referring to the challenges faced by parts of Chhattisgarh for decades, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said difficult geography, inadequate connectivity and Left-Wing Extremism had created

serious obstacles to development. In many remote and tribal areas, fear and violence had disrupted the growth of roads, schools and hospitals, leaving communities facing distance and deprivation in accessing essential services.

The Vice President said that Chhattisgarh today has emerged from the shadows of its past and is witnessing a new dawn of prosperity, development and progress. He attributed this transformation to the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the strategic resolve of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and the committed leadership of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai.

Trump sets a perilous precedent

C UDAY BHASKAR

THE outcome of the UN Security Council's emergency meeting on the US military operation, which resulted in the outrageous abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, was predictable. Strategic timidity in the face of the intimidation unleashed by US President Donald Trump is the dominant orientation of the global community. The famed horseshoe table did not issue any statement. Given that the spotlight was on the US, with its veto power as a permanent member of the UNSC, Washington would not have allowed any censure of its Operation Absolute Resolve.

Panama was subjected to a similar action in 1989. There are notable parallels between the US capture of Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega on January 3, 1990, and the kidnapping of the Venezuelan President on the same day in 2026. The latter is the most direct US military intervention in Latin America since the Panama operation. In both cases, heads of state — sitting (Maduro) and de facto (Noriega) — have been indicted on federal drug trafficking charges; Noriega for racketeering and cocaine smuggling, and Maduro for narco-terrorism and related conspiracies that were deemed inimical to US national security. This action is being interpreted as the first step to implement



the new doctrine unveiled by President Trump that builds on the 1823 Monroe doctrine, and has been dubbed the Donroe doctrine. However, notwithstanding Trump's assertion that Latin American affairs are now a top US security priority and that he would authorise military action and intervention at will, rumblings of dissent were evident at the UNSC's January 5 meeting.

The deliberations reflected the widespread international condemnation of the US action as a violation of international law, sovereignty and the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force against a state's territorial integrity or political independence. Despite the distinctive backdrop, UN Secretary-General António Guterres was not present at the meeting; his statement, which was read out by an official, emphasised that “the power of the law

must prevail” and called for inclusive democratic dialogue respecting human rights and Venezuela's sovereignty. To his credit, Guterres was the first to condemn the US action and voiced the overwhelming global shock and anguish. At the UNSC meeting, two of the permanent members, Russia and China, along with Brazil, Colombia (which made a request for the meeting), Cuba and Mexico denounced the operation as an act of aggression, armed attack or “imperialist” intervention. Some demanded Maduro's immediate release and rejected unilateral actions.

Even US allies such as France and Denmark criticised the move for undermining the principles of international order, though some acknowledged Maduro's repressive rule and the need to address drug trafficking and human rights issues

through lawful means.

In response, Mike Waltz, US Ambassador to the UN, defended the action as a “surgical law enforcement operation” against indicted “narco-terrorists”, not an act of war or occupation, and stated that the US had no plans to occupy Venezuela. This was not accepted by the global community. It is instructive that no nation, except Argentina and Ecuador, has unambiguously endorsed the belligerent US action against Maduro.

The fact that the US action flouts international law related to state sovereignty and humanitarian rights protocols has been highlighted worldwide and even within the US — but to little avail. The Trump doctrine (Donroe is specific to Latin America) boils down to bludgeoning any interlocutor who does not toe the “Donald line”, and the use of tariffs as a weapon is all too familiar.

Hence, most nations have chosen prudence in response to the US military operation. India, Japan and many other countries have issued anodyne statements that do not directly condemn the US action or uphold any normative principle of international law. The operation has raised disturbing questions. If the US arrogates unto itself the right to abduct/kidnap the head of another state for perceived transgression of American laws, is any global leader safe from such predatory action? Will leaders attending the UN General Assembly meeting in New York be sanguine about their own safety?

The use of force by the US in Venezuela raises doubts about the legitimacy of its actions. At least 115 deaths were reported from US military strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats (including go-fast boats and semi-submersibles) in the months leading to Operation Absolute Resolve. These strikes were part of a campaign that began in early September 2025 and targeted vessels primarily in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean. A total of 36 vessels were struck on the suspicion of carrying drugs. Should the US military have been part of such an operation against unarmed small vessels? The January 3 operation itself reportedly caused 70-80 fatalities, mostly Venezuelan and Cuban personnel tasked to protect Maduro.

Lessons from the pandemic battlefield

Exactly six years ago, India began fighting its most deadly war ever against an invisible tiny virus and won the battle. The coronavirus disease or Covid-19, was an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Indian scientists have documented the learnings from the pandemic so that the country is better prepared when a similar catastrophe strikes. It is not a question of if but when the next pandemic strikes the world.

Seven million people are estimated to have died worldwide as the coronavirus pandemic tore through societies, with some assessments placing the true toll several times higher. India's official count stood at about half a million deaths, but the World Health Organisation estimated fatalities to be nearly ten times that number.

Six years on, a definitive scientific account of how India confronted the virus has been published in the form of a peer-reviewed book, 'At War with the Single Strand: How Indian Science Fought the COVID-19 Pandemic', brought out by Springer, a leading publisher for science. All the key players who fought the war against the virus have documented their learnings.

The world came to a standstill in early 2020, as a microscopic RNA virus, named SARS-CoV-2, threw humanity into chaos. For India, this was not just a health emergency; it was a defining moment for science and innovation. What followed was an extraordinary saga of resilience, collaboration and determination. It was a war fought in laboratories, hospitals and digital platforms, with science as the frontline soldier. India established the One Health Mission in 2024 to holistically look at diseases that originate in animals and plants and spill over to humans. The mission is a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach that unites human, animal and environmental health sectors. It recognises the interconnectedness of these domains, aiming to optimise health outcomes and address challenges across sectors. The country's Principal Scientific Adviser's office is leading the initiative. With its diverse wildlife, one of the largest livestock populations and a high density of human population, India carries heightened risks for the inter-compartmental spread of diseases.

One learning was highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he said, "The coronavirus crisis has taught India to be self-sufficient and not depend on others for anything we need in our daily lives. It has made it absolutely clear that we have to depend only on ourselves for our survival."

As news of the virus spread in China in late December 2019, Indian scientists began urgent discussions on how to respond. By early January 2020, the country had a clear R&D strategy built on four pillars: understanding the virus through genome sequencing, developing affordable diagnostics, creating novel therapeutics and building vaccines to prevent infection. This blueprint would become the foundation of the country's fight against Covid-19. Dr Renu Swarup, former Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology and lead author of the book, recalls those early days: "Science became the frontline defence. From genome sequencing to diagnostics and vaccines, our researchers and industry partners worked tirelessly to deliver solutions in record time. This was not just a fight against Covid-19, it was a fight to build a robust ecosystem for future health challenges."

In March 2020, India was dependent on imported diagnostic kits. Within three months, that changed dramatically. By June, India had achieved complete self-reliance in testing. Industry leaders, academia and startups collaborated to produce indigenous molecular diagnostic kits that were both affordable and highly sensitive. The Department of Biotechnology, Andhra Medtech Zone (AMTZ) and Mylab, a startup, led this transformation, ensuring uninterrupted testing even during the peak of the Delta wave. Today, these kits are also exported - a shining example of atmanirbhar Bharat. India's fight faltered during the second deadly wave when the Delta variant struck the country with virulence and the mismanagement of oxygen cylinders in the country left many dead.

Perhaps the most remarkable chapter in this fight is India's vaccine development programme, named Mission Covid Suraksha. Leveraging multiple platform technologies -- from inactivated virus to mRNA and DNA -- India created a diverse portfolio of vaccine candidates. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Serum Institute's Covishield became household names, while Zydus Cadila, Biological-E and Gennova Biopharmaceuticals added many vaccines to the arsenal.

Dr Narendra Kumar Arora, Chairman of INCLEN Trust International, emphasises the scale of this achievement: "India was known as the world's vaccine manufacturer. During the Covid-19 pandemic, India got recognised as a global leader in vaccine development. This was possible because of strong industry-academia partnerships and an enabling ecosystem that will accelerate future vaccine research for diseases like TB, HIV and malaria." Since then, India has been testing new vaccines against TB, dengue and Zika. The country executed the largest vaccination drive in history, administering over 2 billion doses. Behind this success was a vast clinical trial network and regulatory systems that ensured safety and efficacy. A critical enabler of India's vaccination success was CoWIN, an indigenously developed digital platform that streamlined registration, scheduling and certification. CoWIN also set a global benchmark for digital health solutions. Its success has inspired plans for future adult vaccination programmes in India. Through initiatives like Vaccine atri and contributions to the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, India supplied millions of vaccine doses to countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. A whopping 162 million doses were supplied to 96 countries even as Indians were vaccinated with nearly two billion doses. This act of solidarity reinforced India's role as a trusted global health partner and a solid supply chain backbone.

The rapidly mutating virus demanded constant vigilance. The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics or Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genetics Consortium (INSACOG) was set up to track variants and correlate mutations with clinical outcomes. This effort positioned India as a major contributor to global genomic databases and strengthened preparedness for future pandemics. While the pandemic exposed gaps like the unforeseen shortage of oxygen cylinders, it also created opportunities. India now possesses a robust ecosystem for translational research, vaccine development and digital health. The learnings from Covid-19 will guide strategies for tackling emerging diseases and developing antivirals, a global lacuna exposed during the pandemic. India's online education and the robust fintech ecosystem with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have now become part of everyday existence.

Dr Swarup sums up the sentiment: "The fight against Covid-19 was not just about science, it was about partnerships, governance and the collective will of a nation. We have built capacities that will serve us well in the years to come." Today, the country stands better prepared, more confident, and globally recognised as a leader in health technology and pandemic response. The book gives a detailed understanding of the Covid-19 learnings and experience. The next pandemic may happen sooner than later.

The Digital Arrest Scam: Cyber Criminals and Their 'Fake Warrants'

A phone call arrives. The person on the other end claims to be an officer from the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate, or the Narcotics Department. You are accused of extremely serious crimes—drug trafficking, money laundering, or financing crimes and crime against humanity. You are informed that you are being "digitally arrested" immediately, held hostage on a video call for hours, and given the illusion of release only after paying a large sum of money. This is not the plot of a suspense thriller. It is the true story of one of the most dangerous cyber-crimes rapidly spreading — the 'Digital Arrest' scam.

The Legal Void and Psychological Onslaught:- No legal procedure called "Digital Arrest" exists under Indian law. Yet, the term has become synonymous with fear for millions. This is a sophisticated cyber fraud where criminals, impersonating law enforcement, judicial, or bank officials, contact victims. Through a systematic psychological script, they level false allegations, instill terror using threats of immediate arrest and social stigma, and ultimately extort money or sensitive personal information.

Alarming Statistics:- A 23,000 Crore Deception This scam has as-



sumed terrifying proportions in recent years. Data from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) reveals that in 2024, approximately 2.3 million cybercrime complaints were registered—a 42% increase from 2023. Financial losses to Indians from these frauds reached nearly 23,000 crore, more than triple the 7,500 crore lost in 2023. According to an analysis by Vishwas News, the 'Digital Arrest' scam remains a dominant cyber fraud modality in 2025. Notably, in October 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep concern over this escalating threat during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address.

The Five-Stage Script of Financial Extraction:-

This fraud is executed in a planned, multi-stage sequence: 1.False Contact & Accusation: Contact is made via WhatsApp, Telegram, or spoofed calls. The victim is falsely accused of grave offenses like involvement with drug parcels,

money laundering, or income tax fraud.

2.Psychological Pressure: Threats of immediate arrest, raids at home, job loss, or social defamation are used to induce fear, panic, and confusion.

3.Digital Confinement: Declaring the victim "digitally arrested," they are held captive for hours on video calls via Zoom, Skype, or WhatsApp, etc. and prevented from disconnecting or seeking advice.

4.Fabricated Judicial Drama: In many instances, deepfake technology is employed to showcase fake judges or senior officials in videos, staging mock court hearings.

5.Economic Extraction: Finally, pressure is applied for immediate money transfers under the guise of bail, fines, or security deposits. Payment is demanded through hard-to-trace channels like UPI, net banking, cryptocurrency, or gaming website wallets.

Profile of a Target:- No One is Immune There is no definitive

profile. Educated professionals, fearing for their careers; senior citizens, due to lower digital literacy; and individuals living alone, lacking immediate counsel, become easy prey. The criminals exploit fundamental human emotions: fear, social shame, and the desire for a quick resolution. Weaponization of Technology:-

To lend credibility, scammers leverage advanced tools:

- AI Voice Cloning & Deepfake Videos to impersonate relatives or officials.
- Caller ID Spoofing to make numbers appear as genuine government contacts.

- Remote Access Apps (AnyDesk, TeamViewer etc.) installed under duress, granting total control over the victim's device to directly execute banking transactions.
- Fake Websites & Documents displaying counterfeit arrest warrants or court notices.

The Defense Protocol:- Your Digital Armor Upon receiving any suspicious call, take these steps:

- 1.Stay Calm & Be Skeptical: Remember, genuine legal proceedings are never conducted via unsolicited phone calls.
- 2.Disconnect & Verify: Do not engage. Hang up and independently call the local police station or the concerned agency us-

ing their official, publicly listed number for confirmation. 3.Never, Under Any Circumstances: Share OTPs, passwords, PINs, bank details, or Aadhaar/PAN numbers. Refuse outright to install any remote access application / App.

4.Report Immediately: Call the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or file an online complaint at cybercrime.gov.in. Reporting within the first hour significantly increases the probability of fund recovery. 5.Digital Hygiene: After a suspicious call, run an anti-virus scan on your device, change passwords for all critical accounts, and enable two-factor authentication (2FA).

Final Analysis:- Awareness is the Ultimate Defense.'Digital Arrest' is not a legal procedure but a fear-based game of social engineering. The most effective countermeasures are awareness and vigilance. Discuss this scam with your family, especially senior members, and friends. If you are innocent, do not panic from any such unexpected, intimidating contact. Remain calm, verify independently, and inform the authorities promptly. This simple formula can protect you and your loved ones from falling into the trap of these cyber predators.

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Shivraj Singh Chouhan meets Global Partners to Boost Farmers' Welfare

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a high-level meeting today at Kishi Bhawan, New Delhi that brought together representatives from key international and multilateral development partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration, aligning long-term development priorities, and supporting sustainable development initiatives, including the formulation of long-term policies to improve farmers' welfare and livelihoods.

Welcoming the representatives, Shri Chouhan highlighted that India's agricultural journey has been phenomenal, marked by a transformation from a food-deficit to a major exporter of key agricultural commodities and the role of international organisations. He noted that the country has successfully achieved food security and is now firmly focused on advancing

nutritional security while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. He further underscored that India is well-positioned to share its experiences and best practices with other countries, while also learning from global innovations and successful models adopted elsewhere, thereby fostering mutual growth and cooperation in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The representatives from these organizations highlighted key focus areas for collaboration, including inclusive agriculture, improved market access for smallholders, and a strong emphasis on youth, women, and farmer organizations. They also underscored the importance of technology & innovation, finance, private sector participation, and investment, along with enhanced focus on research and development (R&D), digital agriculture, post-harvest infrastructure development, promoting climate resilient crops, and sustainable natural resource management.

The Hon'ble Minister thanked the representatives for their valuable suggestions and insights, noting that these would be instrumental in strengthening long-term planning and policy formulation in the agriculture sector, and in further strengthening our collaboration.

AI must act as an enabler as future governance demands officers who can adapt, learn and deliver: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): Emphasising that capacity building in government must be a continuous and role-oriented process, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, said that the institutional framework for capacity building being implemented today is rooted in the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recognised the need for a structured mechanism to prepare government officials for dynamically changing responsibilities.

These remarks were made at the event on “AI for Capacity Building:

Transforming Governance”, organised by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and Karmayogi Bharat, in partnership with the India AI Mission.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that governance can no longer be confined to silos and rule-bound procedures alone. He said the iGOT Karmayogi platform represents a decisive shift from “rule to role”, enabling officers to approach their assignments with greater clarity, accountability and outcome-orientation. He underlined that while traditional systems helped officers qualify for service, they did not always prepare

them for the actual responsibilities they assume, often across multiple sectors during their careers.

The Minister highlighted that Mission Karmayogi has evolved steadily, beginning with civil servants and gradually expanding to cover officials across ministries, departments and levels. He said the initiative has also been extended to newly recruited officers through Mission Karmayogi Prarambh, which is being offered along with appointment letters issued during Rozgar Melas, allowing officers to prepare themselves for real-world administrative challenges from the very beginning of

their service.

Referring to the integration of Artificial Intelligence into the capacity building ecosystem, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that under the leadership of Smt. Radha Chauhan, Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission, the iGOT platform has adopted AI-driven tools such as AI Saarthi, AI Tutor and AI-based Capacity Building Plans. These tools, he said, are enabling personalised learning pathways, faster planning and improved delivery across ministries and departments. He emphasised that artificial intelligence must function as an

enabler, working in tandem with human intelligence through a hybrid approach to strengthen governance outcomes.

The event was attended by senior dignitaries including Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training; Smt. Radha Chauhan, Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission; and Shri Subramanian Ramadorai, Chairperson, Karmayogi Bharat, along with senior officers from the Centre and States, representatives from academia, industry, training institutions and capacity building units across ministries. Setting the

context for the workshop, Smt. Chhavi Bhardwaj, CEO, Karmayogi Bharat, highlighted that iGOT has emerged as the foundational digital infrastructure for public sector capacity building, with over 1.5 crore learners and more than 6.7 crore course completions. Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, DoPT, emphasised that AI can significantly strengthen transparent, responsive and citizen-centric governance by improving relevance, timeliness and personalisation in capacity building, while underscoring the importance of ethical safeguards and inclusive access.

Jayant Chaudhary Inaugurates Girls' Hostel at NSTI Panipat, Boosts Women's Skilling

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, Shri Jayant Chaudhary today inaugurated a new, fully equipped Girls' Hostel at the National Skill Training Institute (Women), Panipat, reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to empowering young women through enhanced access to high-quality technical training and safe, inclusive residential infrastructure.

The new Girls' Hostel, designed has been developed over an area of 2,758

square metres and is a G+2 storey facility, with a focus on safety, accessibility and sustainability, significantly expands the residential capacity of NSTI (Women) Panipat. The hostel comprises a total of 59 rooms, including a recreation room. It offers modern 50 twin-sharing accommodation, guest facilities and common spaces that enable trainees to learn and live in an environment that supports academic excellence and personal growth. The infrastructure integrates energy-efficient systems and modern amenities to provide young women with the kind of secure and as-

pirational campus life that encourages them to excel in technical fields.

Speaking at the event, Shri Jayant Chaudhary emphasised that India's growth journey is stronger when young women are able to pursue their ambitions without constraints. He noted that Haryana has always been a land of immense energy, talent and sporting excellence, with youth who continue to make the nation proud. He added that the new hostel will ensure that more young women can confidently step forward into high-skill career pathways and contribute meaningfully to

Viksit Bharat.

Referring to the recently launched SOAR (Skilling for AI Readiness) - #Skill-TheNation Challenge announced by the President of India on January 1, Shri Chaudhary urged students and youth to actively join the movement, take the AI course, and nominate their friends and family members to participate.

He underlined that learning AI today opens doors to new opportunities across sectors, empowering every learner—irrespective of background—to be future-ready and shape India's digital and economic transformation.

Collaboration to Enhance India's Leadership in Global Telecom Standardization and Emerging Technologies

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) to collaborate on joint studies, research, and technical contributions in advanced telecom technologies and global standardisation activities.

The partnership will focus on the development of India-specific standards and testing frameworks for emerging and future communication technologies, including 6G, Artificial Intelligence in Telecom,

Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs), Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twin, Metaverse, and Quantum Communication. It also aims to enhance India's active participation and leadership in global standard-setting and radiocommunication bodies such as ITU-T, ITU-R, 3GPP, and other relevant international forums.

The MoU was signed on 8th January 2026 by Shri Amit Kumar Srivastava, DDG (Mobile Technologies), TEC and Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean (R&D), IITK, in presence of Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IITK, Prof. Rohit Budhiraja, IITK and Shri Shashi Mohan, DDG (Information Technology), TEC. The partnership creates a formal

framework for TEC to work closely with IIT Kanpur on next-generation telecom and standardisation activities. Exploration of 6G architecture and enabling technologies with contributions to research, pre-standardization and standardization activities in global forums such as 3GPP and ITU. Telecom Networks & Architecture: Joint studies and technical contributions in 4G, 5G, LTE-A, NB-IoT and future networks covering architecture, signalling, protocols and interoperability testing. AI-Enabled Telecom Systems: Joint research in AI/ML for network automation, optimization and intelligent management, with a roadmap towards AI-native capabilities for future

networks. Radio, Antenna & MIMO Technologies: Collaborative research in advanced antenna systems, massive MIMO and related radio access technologies.

Satellite & Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs): Joint studies in satellite communication systems, NTNs, HAPS and satellite-terrestrial integration, including disaster-resilient and emergency connectivity solutions. IoT, Digital Twins & Immersive Systems: Joint research in IoT ecosystems, digital twin technologies and immersive communication platforms. Quantum Communication: Joint studies in quantum communication technologies including QKD, PQC, QRNG and

related components for secure communications.

This partnership aims to increase India's influence in global standardisation processes by strengthening India's contributions to global standardisation bodies such as ITU and 3GPP. This collaboration will further the Amanirbhar Bharat vision by strengthening indigenous research, design and manufacturing in telecom - developing India-specific standards, test frameworks and home-grown solutions that bolster national self-reliance, secure critical communications infrastructure and reduce dependence on imports. The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) is the technical arm of the De-

partment of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. TEC formulates technical standards, specifications, and conformity assessment requirements for telecom equipment and networks in India, ensuring interoperability, quality, and alignment with global best practices. TEC represents India in international fora such as the ITU-T, ITU-R and coordinates National Working Groups for global standardization activities

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) is a premier institute of national importance with strong academic and research capabilities in advanced telecommunications, 5G/6G technologies.

APEDA's 'Bharati Initiative' to spotlight agri-food start-ups

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India inaugurated Indusfood 2026 at Expo Mart, Greater Noida, on 8th January 2026. Indusfood is Asia's premier food and beverage tradeshow. This is the biggest edition of the show yet covering a total area of 120,000 square meters. Shri Abhishek Dev, Chairman APEDA, Mr. Mohit Singla, Chairman, Trade Promotion Council of India, Mr. Jens Wolfgang Michel, CEO, Abu Dhabi Food Hub (KEZAD), Mr. Ashish Kumar Agrawal, Managing Director of Bhikharam Chandmal, etc. were present on the occasion besides industry leaders, buyers, exhibitors and members of the global F&B ecosystem.

Delivering his inaugural address, Shri Paswan said, “I am here to support and motivate you all. The mere fact that Government of India has a separate Ministry for the food processing sector underlines the importance accorded to the sector. We are trying to be bridge between the government and industry.” Minister congratulated TPCI for organizing the 9th successful edition of Indusfood and providing big platform to the industry. Food Processing Minister further appealed

that, “Now that we are food surplus, we all need to convert this volume into value. We all know the strength of the sector and the untapped potential of India to be the global food basket; the need is to now channelize the resources.” He said that his ministry is supporting more and more entrepreneurs to enter this field.

Schemes like PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), Pradhan antri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, etc. are helping both farmers and the industry. He also saidthat National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management scope will be extended to cover more states.

He said that, “Government is behind the food processing industry with unwavering support and will do anything for a supportive policy matter, such as ease of doing business.” The Minister informed that he took high GST rate on the food processing sector which got addressed through GST reforms and GST were reduced to lowest slab either to 5% or 0, which apparently helped create greater market access for the sector.

Conclave on AI for Science Sets the Agenda for Open, Equitable, and Impact-Driven Research Ahead of India AI Impact Summit 2026

New Delhi, Sept 2 (GNS): As a key preparatory milestone leading up to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the Conclave on AI for Science - Working Group Meeting was convened today at the IIT Bombay Research Park. Hosted by IndiaAI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and IIT Bombay, the one-day hybrid conclave brought together leading scientists, policymakers, technologists, and innovators to explore how artificial intelligence can accelerate scientific discovery and deliver societal solutions.

The Working Group on Science chaired by Prof. Ab-

hay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) articulated a shared vision of a future where AI advances science through open, transparent, and equitable collaboration, bridging global divides in capacity and participation. The group emphasized the need to build collective understanding and shared norms so that AI expands rather than narrows the frontiers of global science.

Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST, in his keynote address said “The use of AI in science is already causing significant disruption, particularly in hypothesis formulation and analysis. As scientific discovery itself be-

comes further transformed, the impact will be far greater than what we currently associate with AI driven applications. This calls for deeper technological innovation rooted in strong scientific foundations.” In his address, Shri Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary (CD), Ministry of External Affairs, highlighted that research capacity divide and said, “AI is transforming the nature and pace of scientific research. Our responsibility is to ensure it becomes a force for global progress, used responsibly, inclusively, and as a public good.”

Representing the state government, Dr. Richa Bagla, Principal Secretary (Accounts & Treasury), Finance

Department, Government of Maharashtra, said, “We look forward to stronger collaboration between technology institutions to co-create solutions that are scalable, secure, and citizen-centric.”

Delivering the Special Address, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, said, “Science spans physics, chemistry, and mathematics and AI has successfully embedded itself across these disciplines, inspiring new discoveries. It will have further impact across sectors. This is why the India AI Impact Summit is crucial, as it strengthens our sovereignty and gives us a critical competitive edge.” Mohammad Y. Safirulla,

Director, IndiaAI, noted, “The India AI Impact Summit is a global platform to democratize AI, bridge the digital divide and develop indigenous solutions, while aligning with global standards and empowering every voice in the global AI discourse.” Prof. Mani Bhushan, IIT Bombay, said, “By bringing policy, academia, industry and students together, this conclave reflects the collaborative approach needed to advance AI for science.”

Prof. Shireesh B. Kedare, Director, IIT Bombay, underscored the role of academic institutions, saying, “While we must embrace AI, we must also handle it with care. A key question is how

we keep the role of researchers relevant. The answer lies in domain-specific applications of AI, where AI acts as an integrating force, bringing everyone along without losing their identity.”

A major highlight was the keynote by Prof. Amit Sheth, University of South Carolina, on the neuro-symbolic approach to robust and trustworthy AI, illustrated through applications in health, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing. He outlined a two-way symbiotic relationship between AI and Engineering, framing it as a strategic national imperative. Prof. Pramod Khargonekar, University of California, Irvine spoke to a room full of

AI enthusiasts about AI and the future of engineering. He explained the need for a mindset shift, where humans and machines collaborate to augment capabilities, drive discoveries, and tackle complex challenges across disciplines. The panel discussion ‘AI for All: Building Global Collaboration for Local Challenges’, moderated by Prof. D. Manjunath (IIT Bombay), explored how global AI collaborations can be tailored to local scientific and societal needs. Panelists underscored the need for sovereign, collaborative, and product-oriented AI development, leveraging India's scale, diversity, and grassroots deployments to drive innovation. Another

keynote by Prof. Amit Apte, IISER Pune provided a cautionary and nuanced view on the role of AI in fundamental scientific discovery, emphasizing the need for mathematical rigor.

The second panel, ‘Making Public AI Investments Work: Evaluation, Funding, and Pathways to Impactful Translation’, moderated by Prof. Ravi Gudi (IIT Bombay), examined how public funding in AI can be evaluated and translated into real-world outcomes. Speakers emphasized sovereign, inclusive, and responsible AI, backed by strong governance, holistic public investment, and a focus on safety, scalability.

CM Revanth Reddy seeks Rajnath Singh's support for defence expo-2026

Hyderabad, Sept 2 (GNS) The Telangana Government is set to host the prestigious Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026 from December 7-9 at Bharat Future City. Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy invited Hon'ble Union Defence Minister Sri Rajnath Singh to attend the summit and inaugurate Defence Expo-2026.

The Chief Minister, along with several MPs, met Defence Minister Sri Rajnath Singh in Delhi and discussed key issues. He outlined plans for a dedicated Aerospace, Defence & Space

conference, air show, industrial exhibition and live demonstrations of land-based defence systems. The Chief Minister noted that the Defence Minister's participation and guidance would inspire defence industries, startups and young scientists from across the country. The Telangana Government looks forward to welcoming him to Defence Expo-2026 in Hyderabad.

He requested the Defence Ministry's support for an international-standard Defence Expo, including airspace clearances and participation of Indian Air Force



aircraft, the Surya Kiran and Sarang aerobatic teams. The Chief Minister also sought support for a static aircraft display, showcasing advanced defence systems of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and participation of senior officers and representatives of the three Services. He requested extensive participation by HAL, BEL,

BDL, MDL and other defence PSUs, along with DRDO laboratories, to showcase indigenous defence technologies. Support was also sought for meetings with foreign defence representatives, bilateral delegations and global defence industry leaders.

On Adilabad Airport, the Chief Minister informed the Defence Minister that the State has already acquired 750 acres and is ready to acquire an additional 750 acres, as sought by the Defence Ministry, taking the total to 1,500 acres.

For a prestigious DRDL project in Devarakadra Mandal of Mahabubnagar district, TGIIC has agreed to allot 416.18 acres. The land will be leased for 33 years at a nominal annual rent of 1 for the entire parcel, with provision for two further extensions if required.

Telangana Minister Sri Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, MPs Sri Anil Kumar Yadav, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Sri Suresh Kumar Shetkar and Sri Porika Balram Naik, State Government Advisor (Protocol) Sri Harkara Venugopal Rao and Chief Secretary Sri Sanjay Jaju attended the meeting.

Birthday celebrations of Ponnamm Ashok Goud garu at the High Court of telangana



Hyderabad, Sept 2 (GNS) The birthday celebrations of Ponnamm Ashok Goud Garu, Chairman, Legal Cell – Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member, Bar Council of Telangana, were held with great enthusiasm and warmth at the High Court Advocates Association, High Court of Telangana, on 02-09-2026.

On the occasion, Ponnamm Ashok Goud Garu celebrated his birthday by cutting the cake in the presence of senior advocates, members of the High Court Bar Association, advocates, Legal Cell-TPCC members and well-wishers. He also distributed cake and sweets to the advocates present on the occasion.

Momin Roshan Zameer, Advocate, State General Secretary and In-Charge Social Media, Legal Cell (Law, Human Rights and RTI Department), Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), and Member, Hyderabad Waqf Protection and Coordination Committee, Government of Telangana, extended his heartfelt birthday greetings and best wishes to Ponnamm Ashok Goud Garu. On this occasion, he presented a shawl and a flower bouquet as a mark of respect and warm

birthday wishes. The celebrations were attended by High Court Bar Association President Surender Reddy, Vice-President Pandu, General Secretary Sravan Goud, Niranjana Reddy and members of the Executive Body of the High Court Bar Association, along with several senior advocates and members of the legal fraternity.

Among those who conveyed their heartfelt birthday wishes to Ponnamm Ashok Goud Garu were Uma Shankar, Venkateshwar Reddy, E. Deva, Momin Roshan Zameer, P. Abhilash, P. Ganesh, Rajkumar, Vishal Maharana, Hafeez Rana, Arvind, Vishnu, Raghu, Rajnish, Srinivas, P. Rajashekar Goud, Inayathulla, Karthik, Anthony, S.S. Rao, Abdul Rahman Hyder, Sanddeep, Raju, Karthik, Nagarjuna, Sahithi, Mounika and Sheeba, along with other advocates and well-wishers.

Members of the Legal Cell-TPCC, including Omer, Mahir Hussain, Nashra, Farhan, Hamza and Zoha, also extended their warm birthday greetings and best wishes to Ponnamm Ashok Goud Garu and wished him continued success, good health and a long and distinguished public and professional life.

SC/ST MPs Condemn ‘Purification’ Incident After Kharge’s Visit



Hyderabad, Sept 2 (GNS) SC and ST Members of Parliament in New Delhi have strongly condemned the reported “purification” incident following Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's visit.

The MPs described the alleged act as an insult to Kharge and an attack on the dignity and self-respect of the SC/ST community, calling it a violation of constitutional values of equality and the abolition of untouchability. They demanded strict legal action against those responsible.

The MPs have decided to convene a meeting at Indira Bhawan on September 7 and meet President Droupadi Murmu on September 8, seeking her intervention in the matter.

Telangana high-level delegation on study tour to South Korea

Hyderabad, Sept 2 (GNS) A high-level delegation of officials from Telangana is visiting South Korea to study state-of-the-art underground sewage treatment plants (STPs) and water re-use systems. This study tour began on September 1 and will continue till September 4. The objective of this visit is to study, at the field level, the possibilities of using advanced technology in urban sewage management and Musi River rejuvenation projects. This team comprises Water Board MD K. Ashok Reddy, Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) MD E.V. Narasimha Reddy, Water Board CGM M. Sujatha, DGM J. Shiva, and MRDCL EE Zakir Hussain.



As part of the tour, the team inspected a state-of-the-art, 250 MLD capacity underground sewage treatment plant in Guangming on Wednesday, September 2. The officials studied the operations, odour control systems, and treatment processes of this automated tertiary treatment plant, which is constructed underground. The team inspected the plant's operations, which include sewage treatment, electricity generation via biogas, and eco-friendly sludge management.

Subsequently, the team of officials inspected the Cheonggyecheon urban river restoration project. They studied the improvements in water quality, the promenades established at both upstream and downstream levels, and the riverfront areas made accessible to the

public. The team examined the approach used to restore biodiversity—including flora, fish, birds, and insects—by rehabilitating wetlands and natural habitats through nature-based solutions. They gathered details on flood-resilient infrastructure, long-term maintenance, and the development of riverfront areas for public use.

As part of this study tour, the team will inspect the Anyang Public Sewage Treatment Plant, the Han River corridor in Seoul, and the various stages of the Godeok Public Wastewater Treatment Plant in Pyeongtaek.

YSR left indelible mark on people's heart, says Telangana CM

Hyderabad, Sept 2 (GNS) Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday paid tribute to former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), describing him as a great leader who left an indelible mark on the hearts of the people through his development and welfare initiatives. CM Revanth Reddy garlanded YSR's portrait at his official residence in Delhi on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he noted that YSR left an enduring legacy in governance through development projects such as irrigation schemes and the Outer Ring Road and welfare programs like loan waivers, fee reimbursement, and Arogyasri. Minister G. Vivek Venkatswamy and MPs Dr. Mallu Ravi, Suresh Shetkar, Porika Balram Naik, and M. Anil Kumar Yadav, among others, were present on the occasion.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka repaid heartfelt tributes to YSR, describing him as the



champion of the poor and the architect of welfare schemes. In his message on 'X', the Deputy CM said that YSR's Padayatra that wiped away the tears of farmers, and his welfare governance, will always serve as a guiding light for “our people's government.”

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud said that YSR dedicated his life and even his last breath to the welfare of the people. “I pay my heartfelt tributes to the beloved leader of the poor. His unwavering commitment to farmers, women, the underprivileged and the weaker sections remains an enduring legacy. YSR Garu will always live on in the hearts of the people,” said the state Congress chief. Telangana ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, V. Sridhar, Adhuri Lakshman Kumar, along with key leaders of the Congress Party, garlanded the YSR statue at Panjagutta in Hyderabad and paid rich tributes to him. Ponnamm Prabhakar said the services rendered by YSR for the welfare of the poor, farmers, women, and students will never be forgotten.

The minister said that YSR was a great leader who regarded the people's hardships as his own and brought light into their lives. He said the path of public service shown by YSR remains a constant source of inspiration for him.



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158 Telangana medical shops raided for selling illegal drugs

Hyderabad, Sept 2 (GNS) The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has detected violations at 158 medical shops statewide during a special enforcement drive against the illegal sale of habit-forming medicines.

The drugs wing of TG SAFE conducted raids on Wednesday, September 2, and discovered Tramadol, Pregabalin-containing formulations, Nitrazepam, Alprazolam, Tapentadol, Codeine-based cough syrups and Zolpidem, sold without valid prescrip-

tions. Shop owners failed to produce bills, non-maintenance or non-production of sales records, and prescription and Schedule H1 drug registers. Other violations included dispensing prescription medicines in the absence of a registered pharmacist, failure to produce purchase bills and irregular maintenance of sales and purchase records, officials said. Show-cause notices have been issued to all 158 medical shops, with TG SAFE warning that departmental action.



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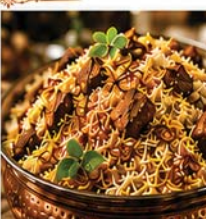
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