



PM Modi witnesses the exchange of MoUs between India and Belgium at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi. (Photo: PIB)

India, Belgium to deepen defence ties, target doubling of bilateral trade

New Delhi, Sept 3 (GNS) India and Belgium on Thursday agreed to step up defence and security cooperation, expand collaboration in clean energy and critical minerals and work towards doubling bilateral trade over the next five years as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever, who is on his first visit to India.

The two countries will expand military exchanges and training and open up new opportunities for joint development and production of defence equipment. They will also strengthen intelligence-sharing and cooperation between their security agencies to combat crime and terrorism.

"Defence and security co-operation is a key pillar of our relationship," Modi said at a joint press meet with De Wever. He said agreements between the two governments and their defence industries would create new opportunities for co-development and co-production.

On the economic front, India will set up an investment fast-track mechanism for Belgian companies, while the India-Belgium

Business Forum will be made a regular platform. The two countries will also step up cooperation among their financial, fintech and regulatory institutions.

"These initiatives will help us realise the goal of doubling bilateral trade over the next five years," Modi said.

The partnership is also widening into newer strategic areas. Modi said India and Belgium were working together on modern defence equipment, including the Zorawar tank, while a major green ammonia project was being developed at Kakina-da in Andhra Pradesh.

The two countries signed an MoU on renewable energy and agreed to cooperate more closely in the processing and recycling of critical minerals, an area gaining importance amid global efforts to secure reliable supply chains.

Modi said Belgium's technological expertise and India's growing scale in semiconductors could complement each other. The two sides will work towards connecting Belgium's imec research institute with India's semiconductor ecosystem.

The partnership will also get a push in areas ranging

from startups and maritime training to higher education and research. India and Belgium are expected to sign a Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement soon to facilitate the movement of talent between the two countries. The two leaders also discussed the wars in Ukraine and West Asia. Modi said India and Belgium supported an early cessation of hostilities and efforts to find peaceful solutions through dialogue and diplomacy.

"Both India and Belgium believe in the rule of law, dialogue and diplomacy," he said, adding that eliminating terrorism in all its forms remained a shared commitment. Modi also highlighted the historical links between the two countries, recalling the courage and sacrifice of thousands of Indian soldiers who fought in Belgium during the First World War.

He referred to De Wever's long association with Antwerp's Indian community and the diamond trade during his tenure as the city's mayor. "Diamonds have long linked India and Belgium. Today, we are transforming this historic connection into a comprehensive partnership," Modi said.

NALSAR row: BCI, state Bar bodies lack power to regulate law students' conduct- Supreme Court

New Delhi, Sept 3 (GNS): The Bar Council of India (BCI) and state Bar councils have no statutory power to regulate the conduct of law students as it was for educational institutions to take action against them as per their own regulatory norms, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday. "We are of the opinion that the Advocates Act, 1961, whereunder the BCI has been statutorily created, does not confer any express or implied power upon the BCI or any State Bar Council to take any disciplinary action against the students of law, a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said.

"Such a power is preceded by registration of a law graduate as an advocate under the said Act. So far as students are concerned, it



is their parent institution or the authority prescribed under the regulations/byelaws of such institution which alone are competent to take disciplinary action," said the Bench which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana.

"We declare all communications dated August 13 or subsequent modified communication to be without any authority of law," the Bench said, setting aside two

notifications issued by the BCI in connection with the NALSAR row even though the notifications were withdrawn within hours following public outrage.

"The BCI does not have jurisdiction...after someone passes out...once a law graduate gets registered as an advocate, then BCI is statutory authority to regulate conduct. But not of students," said the CJ who had earlier strongly disapproved of the

BCI's intervention. "It's a dialogue between students and me. Who are they (BCI) to interfere? This is totally uncalled for," CJ Kant had said.

Thursday's order came on a petition filed by NALSAR alumni Mihira Sood and Abhishek Tiwari challenging the BCI's action against NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad students over their objections to the CJ's proposed participation in the university's convocation. The controversy erupted last month after the BCI directed state Bar councils not to enrol NALSAR's 2026 graduates as advocates until further orders over an alleged campaign against CJ Kant's proposed visit to the university. On August 13, BCI Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra had issued directions that NALSAR stu-

dents shall not be enrolled as advocates for the time pending an inquiry into the entire episode. However, Mishra was forced to withdraw the communications within hours of their issuance after public outrage and widespread criticism.

"This is a question of freedom of speech and expression in a university. It is not about just one student. It is about banning freedom of speech and expression across an entire university," senior advocate K Parameshwar told the Bench on behalf of the law students. Even though the BCI chairman's directions were withdrawn, there needed to be an inquiry into the manner in which they were issued, he said, adding, to that extent, the petition survived.

US envoy Sergio Gor's 'Piyush will arrange it' remark sparks row

New Delhi, Sept 3 (GNS): A light-hearted exchange between US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal over their friendship has triggered a political row, with Opposition leaders taking exception to the envoy's remark that those unable to reach him could approach Goyal to "arrange" it. Speaking at an event, Gor described Goyal and his wife as "dear friends" and singled out the Commerce Minister among his favourite Cabinet colleagues, alongside External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"Since I have arrived in New Delhi, I have two favourite Ministers. One is Honourable Dr Jaishankar and the second one is my friend Piyush Goyal. So you have somebody who cares deeply about the relation-



ship between the United States and India," Gor said.

He then turned to Goyal's role in facilitating access to the US Embassy. "Piyush and his wife have truly become dear friends. So a lot of you here have asked me, as I was walking in, about different items related to the US Embassy. If you can't get a hold of me, reach out to Piyush and he'll arrange it," Gor said. Goyal responded with a joke about the possible consequences of the envoy pub-

licly offering him as a point of contact. "I'm now worried to call you a friend. If you make such comments, I'll have half of them at my office looking for visa appointments in the US," he said.

Goyal has previously credited Gor with playing a "very important role" in the conclusion of the framework for the India-US interim trade agreement, describing the envoy as a friend and well-wisher of the bilateral relationship.

Satyendar Jain gets bail in delhi Jal Board corruption case

New Delhi, Sept 3 (GNS) A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a case involving the Delhi Jal Board. "Bail plea is allowed," Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh said in a brief order passed orally. He directed Jain to furnish a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh along with two sureties of the like amount. A reasoned order is awaited. Jain had been sent to 14-day judicial custody on August 19.

The case pertains to a tender awarded to Ms Euroteck Environmental Private Limited when Jain was the Delhi water minister. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had alleged that there was manipulation of tender conditions, as the tendering process was deliberately made technolo-



gy-centric to favour Euroteck Environmental.

It also alleged that Jain arbitrarily increased the capacity of the Rohini sewage treatment plant (STP) from 15 million gallons per day (mgd) to 30 mgd without a technical feasibility study, resulting in a cost escalation of around Rs 123 crore.

The ACB had claimed a money trail where commissions were routed through intermediaries to the bank accounts of various accused persons.

Rahul Gandhi meets Bihar students injured in police action, questions use of bullets over fair exam demands

New Delhi, Sept 3 (GNS) Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday met students and youths from Bihar who were allegedly injured in police action during protests against examination irregularities, and questioned why those demanding a transparent recruitment system were met with "lathis and bullets".

Gandhi alleged that several students suffered serious injuries after police used force, including firing from AK-47 rifles and pistols, and said the Bihar Government could not escape responsibility by fixing the blame on junior officials. The Congress leader shared details of his



interaction with the injured youths as part of his continuing 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign over examination irregularities, paper leaks and employment.

"I met those students and youths from Bihar who suf-

fered horrific police brutality merely for raising their voice against irregularities in the examination system," Gandhi said.

Making a serious allegation over the use of firearms, Gandhi said police lathis and

bullets fired from AK-47 rifles and pistols had left several students injured. He particularly referred to a youth who, according to him, wanted to join the armed forces but suffered a bullet injury in his leg. "A young man who dreamt of joining the Army and serving the country had his leg shattered by a bullet fired from an AK-47 and with it, his life's dream was also broken," Gandhi said. Questioning the use of force, the Congress leader said the protesters were seeking nothing more than a fair opportunity, transparency in examinations and their rights.

"Why was there a need to use lathis and bullets for such demands?" he asked.

Gandhi also sought to put responsibility for the alleged police action at the higher levels of the Bihar Government, arguing that action against lower-ranking officials alone would not answer questions over how such force came to be used. "The government cannot save itself by putting the responsibility for such massive brutality only on a few junior officials. This action was either the result of orders from above or a grave failure of those in power," he said. The Congress leader said he would stand by the affected students irrespective of the steps taken by the Bihar Government and offered them all possible assistance.

UP Polls: Irfan Jamiawala Meets SBSP Chief on Muslim Representation

Lucknow, Sept 3 (GNS): Uttar Pradesh Ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Irfan Jamiawala, National President of the Muslim Ittehad Federation, held an important political discussion with the Uttar Pradesh minister and national president of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP).

The discussion focused on Muslim political representation, electoral participation and possible candidature on assembly seats. Both sides discussed the need for wider political coordination to ensure representation for backward, minority and socially disadvantaged



communities. Irfan Jamiawala emphasised that Muslims should not be viewed merely as a vote bank, but as equal political stakeholders with meaningful representation. The possibility of contesting the upcoming elections together with

like-minded parties and organisations was also discussed.

The meeting is being seen as part of efforts to strengthen political coordination among minority and socially disadvantaged communities ahead of the elections.

Indian bureaucracy should be given incentives and rewards

MH MODY

Bureaucracy, which is the machinery through which a government functions, closely follows the politicians in power. The bureau concept is wide enough to encompass governmentally-run undertakings—such as railways or telecommunications, as well as state sector undertakings—in addition to the administrative machinery that administers the law and order system. Irrespective of the wideness or narrowness of the concept, an underlying relationship can be easily detected between the politicians and the bureaucracy. The politician is dependent on the bureaucracy for its services that are in compliance with his interests. In turn, the bureaucracy is dependent on the politician for its annual grants or budgets. Over a period of time, a relationship of mutual interdependence develops so that the activities of a bureau fosters and at the same time feeds upon the politician. But for the fact that this is a socially destructive activity, one would call this relationship symbiotic.

All bureaucratic activities must be subject to what the Americans call “sunset laws”, i.e., any government department must, by a specific statutory provision, have a lim-



ited life. Under this provision, on the expiry of the period, which in my view should seldom exceed ten years, its continuance beyond that period would require specific legislative approval and would therefore involve a re-examination of its functions.

Consider now the limitations of the bureaucracy. Firstly, the bureaucracy is not subject to any quantitative test of efficiency. Secondly, there are no economic incentives that could motivate a bureau to make the most of a given budget. In short, there is the absence of a measure of performance and the incentive of “profit”. The word “profit” is anathema to a bureaucrat. Indeed, the secular trend in bureaucracies is that they grow in size rapidly irrespective of the relevance or the efficiency of the function they perform. Inevitably, they find a rationale for their existence even

if the underlying basis of their creation may have ceased altogether. Even in areas which are considered as appropriate for a modern government to undertake, there is no method by which the cost of delay by a bureaucracy can be quantified. The Indian bureaucracy has much to account for in this area of delay. Many decisions taken are wise, if not actually profound; but the delay to which the decision-making process is subjected is itself self-defeating.

A bureaucracy may be very effective in its work but the official rhetoric of a bureau is socialistic. One big advantage of socialism over capitalism is clearly a matter of rhetoric and argumentation rather than performance. It simply appears too self-serving when an individual who has profited greatly from the system says: “My labours also improve the country as a whole”. In a

socialist system, all are presumably working directly for the common good. The fact that the elites in most third world socialist countries are uncommonly well rewarded for their labour is frequently overlooked. A perceptive and witty scholar has observed: “Those countries devoted to freedom have done more for equality than those devoted to equality have done for freedom or equality”.

The concept of the faceless bureaucrat who self-effacingly carries out orders from above, merely executing but not making policy, and motivated by the noble motive of public interest, is a myth deliberately created by the bureaucracy. Bureaucrats, as has been demonstrated in the last few decades, cannot be considered as economically neutral. They will seek to expand the size of their bureaus since it is universally accepted that

the salary and perquisites of office are related directly to the size of the budget which is administered by a bureau. The built-in force for expansion, which inherently exists in a bureaucracy, results in a budget maximising department. Tax payers end up by being no better off than they would be without the provision of a public good or service. All their “net benefits” are squeezed out by the bureaucrats. The implication is that each and every public good or service, whether it is medical services, education, transport or defence, tends to be expanded beyond a tolerable level of efficiency.

It would be ideal if a system of incentives and pecuniary rewards is introduced in the bureaucracy. A competitive environment is as healthy for a bureau as it is for industry.

Anyone who has worked with bureaucrats will agree that so many of them are admirable and gifted individuals. They must surely be capable of better performances in their task than we actually get from them. Is there a place for a counter-bureaucracy, such as that represented by the Ombudsman? Or a separate and competing bureaucracy under the administrative and financial control of parliamentary committees to counter balance the force of the executive's bureaucracy?

BCCI has sabotaged India's approach to Bangladesh

VIR SANGHVI

I have often defended sports boycotts, especially when India refuses to play with Pakistan. But this new sport spat with Bangladesh strikes me as illogical, badly thought-out, and unlikely to benefit either country. Just follow the sequence of events. Teams from the Indian Premier League were asked to choose players from a pool selected by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The Kolkata Knight Riders chose Mustafizur Rahman. Rahman is a Bangladeshi, but that did not seem particularly relevant at the time.

Then, BJP politician Sangeet Som called the team's owner, Shah Rukh Khan, a traitor and said he had no right to live in India because he had selected a Bangladeshi player.

This should have been seen for what it is: dangerous, poisonous communal rhetoric used only because Khan is a Muslim and his popularity (among followers of every religion, especially Hindus) agitates the Hindu Right wing. In fact, nobody in authority told Som to shut up. And so, assuming that the leadership was fine with attacks on this issue, followers of the Sangh Parivar ideology on social media and outside kept up the assault on the actor.

Things began to get awkward when people made the obvious point: If it was so bad to select a Bangladeshi, then why



was he placed in the pool by the BCCI to begin with? Everyone knows that cricket administration in India is a deeply political affair, and cricket boards are run by politicians and their families. So the BCCI had two choices. It could maintain a high-minded silence and wait for the controversy to blow over. Or it could panic because politicians were in the firing line and surrender cravenly to the lunatic fringe by stopping Rahman from playing. No prizes for guessing which option it chose. So now, we are in the middle of a full-fledged cricket spat with Bangladesh. The Bangladesh board has said that its team will not travel to India next month to play in the T20 World Cup. India is not safe for Bangladeshis, it says, a reference to the hatred on display from the Hindu Right. Bangladesh will only play India in safe neutral venues. As I said, I do not take the line that sport should be

free of politics. Boycotts can be a useful tool in isolating rogue regimes. But boycotts must be well thought out. The world boycotted South Africa in the apartheid era, and the boycott put psychological pressure on the country to dismantle apartheid. Similarly, there is no point in India touring Pakistan and being buddy-buddy when Pakistan is organising massacres of Indian civilians.

But Bangladesh is a different case. First of all, it is not sending terrorists to India. Nor does it follow a discriminatory system like apartheid.

No Indian can be happy with what is happening in Bangladesh. There is no doubt that Hindus are nervous about their future there, given recent actions by Muslim extremists. The lynchings and violence against Hindus are deeply shocking and distressing.

The government of India has opted for a calibrated response. While we have expressed our con-

cerns, we have also made overtures to Bangladesh. There was no reason for the foreign minister to fly to Bangladesh to attend the funeral of noted India-hater Khaleda Zia—unless India wanted to reassure the Bangladeshis that, despite the anti-Hindu violence, it still wants good relations. Nor was this an altruistic gesture. Our neighbourhood is complicated, and the last thing we need is to engender hostility with a neighbour whom Pakistan is assiduously cultivating.

Besides, once this my-lynching-versus-your-lynching game begins, where does it stop? Bangladeshis have no hesitation in pointing to violence and systematic discrimination against Muslims in many BJP-ruled states in India. We never boycotted India because of those lynchings, they say. So why are you acting against us?

Quite apart from the foreign policy implications, the controversy also

reveals the sleazy, flabby underbelly of communal politics in India. Would the Hindutva Right wing have made such a fuss about a Bangladeshi player if the team that chose him was not owned by a high-profile Muslim? It is significant that Som's attack did not deal in principles or policies. He called Khan a traitor and asked him to leave India. It is an age-old Right-wing trope: find an issue involving a Muslim country, link an Indian Muslim with the issue, and then say that he is a traitor while suggesting that his loyalties are not with India but with a foreign Muslim country.

By giving in so readily to the forces of hatred, the BCCI has let India down. It has reversed its own policy and sabotaged the foreign ministry's well-thought-out approach to Bangladesh. It has also needlessly alienated even those Bangladeshis who opposed the extremist mobs.

Worse still, the BCCI decision has given new life to the lunatic fringe of the Hindu Right. It now has the confidence to force policy changes in accordance with its communal campaigns.

India is a great cricketing nation. Our players will go on to win tournament after tournament. But our sports administrators have lost this particular match. They have proved yet again that the fewer politicians we have in sports bodies, the happier we will all be.

Why SEBI Doesn't Need Unlimited Powers

The laws governing India's securities markets and the powers of one of its most powerful regulatory agencies – the Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI, are up for an overhaul. Last month, the Finance Minister tabled the Securities Markets Code Bill, in Parliament, proposing to replace decades-old laws governing SEBI, securities contracts, securities markets intermediaries, stock exchanges and depositories. The Bill has been referred to a select parliamentary committee for consideration. Most aspects of financial markets policy and governance are not sufficiently politically salient to trigger deep Parliamentary scrutiny. Parliamentarians take notice of securities markets governance when there is a scam or there are other shocks like Hindenburg Research's allegations against the Adani Group. Even so, the SMC Bill's significance for the country is hard to overstate. If passed as a law, it will, for the foreseeable future, determine how Indian companies raise capital, how secure investors feel when they trade, and—most importantly—how independent and accountable SEBI remains.

In short, this is no routine legislative exercise and deserves much more attention from the lawmakers, for they are ceding extensive powers and policymaking space to a formidable regulatory agency. For the next few weeks, this column will discuss—to put it in financial markets jargon—the upside and downside of the SMC Bill. The Bill significantly improves SEBI's processes for making regulations. However, it falters equally significantly by the unconstrained expansion of SEBI's existing direction-making powers.

Regulations are much like the law. Codifying SEBI's powers to make regulations for the securities market, the SMC Bill introduces the norms of transparency and proportionality in regulation-making. It requires SEBI to publish draft regulations, invite public comments, and respond to them. The Bill also requires SEBI to periodically review its regulations, underscoring the emphasis on keeping up with reality.

noteworthy reform is the Bill's recognition of the fact that SEBI often enacts regulatory measures through circulars, guidelines, and other instruments of various nomenclatures. For example, a study of SEBI's regulatory measures from 2014 to 2016 showed that nearly 70 per cent of such measures were issued through “circulars”, none of which were tabled before Parliament, and less than 10 per cent of which underwent public consultation. The Bill, to its credit, constrains SEBI's power to enact regulatory measures through such ad hoc instruments.

Additionally, the SMC Bill requires the SEBI Board to “review its performance and functioning, including proportionality and effectiveness of the regulation” made by it. To the sceptic, these may seem like motherhood and apple pie statements. Hardcoding such normative provisions in the law nevertheless creates scope for contesting disproportionate regulatory measures.

On the downside, the Bill not only retains but also expands SEBI's open-ended direction-making powers. It empowers an adjudication officer of SEBI to issue directions to any service provider, market participant, or any person associated with the securities market. The directions may be issued in “the interest of investors”, “orderly development of securities markets”, or to “secure the proper management” of any market participant. That is, these directions may be issued not only when someone is suspected of violating the securities markets laws, not only because of an impending systemic risk to the market or the like, but on much broader grounds. The duration of these directions continues to be open-ended.

The scope of these powers is not defined, and an indicative list in the law of what such directions may look like does not inspire confidence. For example, take the power to annul and reverse trades on stock exchanges, or to suspend the clearing of contracts by clearing corporations. Contracts and trades executed on stock exchanges are sacrosanct. Trading with anonymous people on a stock exchange works because of the assurance that once a trade goes through, it will be honoured. Under the current law, only stock exchanges are allowed to annul such contracts in “exceptional circumstances” as per a rather stringent process under their bylaws. Against this backdrop, empowering a SEBI adjudicating officer to annul trades and contracts is deeply troubling—and risks shaking confidence in the very idea of exchange-traded markets.

SEBI has earlier used such powers to punish and pre-empt what it perceives as wrongdoing in the market. A study of SEBI's enforcement actions over ten years showed that 30 per cent of its enforcement actions were taken through “directions”. The most commonly issued direction involves restricting persons from accessing the securities market. SEBI has also used these powers to ban or suspend financial products, such as derivatives on specific agricultural commodities. As many have argued earlier, the ban had zero impact on the wholesale prices of the underlying commodities, even as it killed fledgling segments of the commodities market.

There are several concerns with these open-ended direction-making powers in the SMC Bill. First, SEBI already enjoys reasonably high success rates in its enforcement proceedings. Its powers to issue interim orders and cease desist orders, pending the completion of the investigation process, are separately provided for. What then justifies the retention of such open-ended direction-making powers?

Second, through caselaw and practice, SEBI generally grants hearings before issuing such directions to a market participant. The SMC Bill, however, strangely omits codifying this practice. Third, while the SEBI Act empowers a whole-time member of the SEBI Board to issue such directions, the SMC Bill empowers any adjudicating officer to issue such directions.

The problem with SEBI's open-ended direction-making powers is exacerbated by the SMC Bill, like the current SEBI Act, simultaneously empowering the government to issue directions to SEBI. While the Bill requires the government to issue such directions in writing, it does not obligate SEBI or the government to publish such directions. The implication is that SEBI may use its direction-making powers, open-ended as they are, to further the government's policy preferences with respect to the Indian securities market. If we are indeed comfortable with this scenario, we need to ask more fundamental questions about whether we need an independent regulator at all for the Indian securities market.

Parliamentarians must ask why, in a law that purports to provide a modern legal framework for a modern securities market, such wide-ranging direction-making powers have been retained. To what end have these powers been expanded and are likely to be used, and what explains the dilution of the standards for issuing such open-ended directions?

Reforms of the scale and kind as the SMC Bill do not, and should not, occur at a high frequency. That a consolidated securities markets code has seen the light of day after years of recommendations by committees such as the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission is encouraging. And yet, as increasing swathes of the economy come under the purview of unelected regulatory agencies, questions of delegation of power can no longer remain confined to committees, courtrooms and classrooms.

How much power is delegated, how will it be used, and how can it be contested and checked, are real questions affecting the lives of thousands of capital issuers, intermediaries and investors. The Parliamentarians owe it to them to scrutinise this Bill closely—and to ask questions about every power it delegates to SEBI.

Collaboration Aimed at Sustainable, Market-Linked Farming

New Delhi, Sept 3 (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.

Mission Karmayogi Strengthens Capacity Building in Govt

New Delhi, Sept 3 (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 Capac-

ity 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. Ji-

tendra 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 in-

cluding 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.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of “Karmayogi Classroom”, a new AI-enabled feature on the iGOT Karmayogi platform designed to enhance contextual, interactive and personalised learning for civil servants. The programme also featured live demonstrations.

State-of-the-Art Hostel Boosts Capacity at NSTI (Women) Panipat

New Delhi, Sept 3 (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 fa-

cility, 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 aspirational 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. This facility will encourage more girl trainees from across the state to take up technical and future-ready skills.

TEC Partnership Aims to Build Indigenous Telecom Standards

New Delhi, Sept 3 (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-gen-

eration 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 ad-

vanced 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 Atmanirbhar 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 Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. TEC formulates technical stan-

dards, 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, artificial intelligence applications in telecom, convergence & broadcasting, space technology and emerging ICT domains.

Food Processing Ministry Key to Industry Growth: Paswan

New Delhi, Sept 3 (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 said that National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management scope will be extended to cover more states.

Delivering his inaugural address, Shri Paswan said that the government was committed to supporting and motivating entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders in the food processing sector. He highlighted that the creation of a separate Ministry for Food Processing Industries reflects the importance accorded to the sector by the Government of India. He also congratulated the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) for organising the ninth successful edition of Indusfood and providing a major platform for the industry.

AI Disrupting Research, Demands Strong Scientific Foundations

New Delhi, Sept 3 (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. Abhay 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 becomes further transformed, the impact will be far greater than what we currently associate with AI driven appli-

cations. 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, and real-world impact for India and the Global South. The conclave concluded with a closed-door Working Group Meeting, followed by a concluding session chaired by Prof. Raghavan B. Sunoj (IIT Bombay), Shri Vikas Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Maharashtra, and Smt. Kavita Bhatia, COO, IndiaAI.

CM Revanth says nobody can cow him down

Hyderabad, Sept 3 (GNS):
Telangana Chief Minister
A. Revanth Reddy said on
Thursday that nobody can
cow him down and that he
is not a slave to anyone.

Asserting that nobody
can intimidate him, the
CM said he can be won
only with friendship.

“Nobody can cow me
down. You can win me only
with friendship. I am ready
to do anything in friend-
ship,” he said while ad-
dressing a public meeting
in the old city of Hyderabad
after inaugurating a flyover
along with Hyderabad MP
and AIMIM president Asa-
duddin Owaisi. “I am not
a slave to anybody. I am a
slave only to friendship,”
said the Chief Minister.

His remarks came hours
after Konda Surekha ac-
cused him of blackmailing
the Congress high com-
mand to remove her from
the Cabinet. After the high
command's nod, the Chief
Minister on Thursday de-
cided to drop her from the
Council of Ministers and
sent a letter to the Gover-
nor. Revanth Reddy also
stated that he has a long
political career ahead. “I
have to be amidst you for
another 25 years. I have
not entered politics to go
back,” he told people.

The Chief Minister said
that he has a personal
friendship with Asaduddin



Owaisi. He also reacted to
the AIMIM chief's advice to
demonstrate his aggressive
style of politics. “You can be
aggressive in opposition,
but while in power you will
have a responsibility. You
have to be soft and take
everyone along,” he said.
He also remarked that as
the Chief Minister, he can
get many works done with
a mere 'stare', but he would
like to get the works done
by winning hearts and by
carrying everybody along.

Owaisi, during his
speech on the occasion,
also made a significant re-
mark that AIMIM is sup-
porting the government
only because of Revanth
Reddy and not because of
the Congress party. The MP
thanked Revanth Reddy for
releasing funds and for giv-

ing approvals for develop-
ment works in the old city.

He noted that while the
foundation stone for the
Chanchalguda-Santosh-
nagar Steel Flyover was laid
by the previous BRS gov-
ernment, the work started
only after Revanth Reddy
released the funds.

The Chief Minister in-
augurated the 3.32-km,
four-lane Chanchalguda-
Santoshnagar Steel Fly-
over, constructed at a cost
of Rs 620 crore. Owaisi also
praised the Chief Minister
for ensuring resumption
of stalled works on Metro
Rail connectivity to the old
city by sanctioning Rs 2,200
crore and for approving a ca-
ble bridge across Mir Alam
Tank at a cost of Rs 400 crore.
Revanth Reddy assured all
support for the develop-

ment of the old city, describ-
ing it as the original city and
the pride of the people.

The Chief Minister also
dismissed the allegations
made against AIMIM and
Owaisi. “Some people say
AIMIM and Owaisi are
against the country, but
I have seen how he came
out in support of the In-
dian Army during Opera-
tion Sindoor. We may have
political differences, but
nobody can suspect the
patriotism of Asaduddin
Owaisi and Akbaruddin
Owaisi. They are no less
patriots than Narendra
Modi and Amit Shah,” he
said. The CM asserted that
Telangana will develop
only when the Hindus and
Muslims are united and
move together.

He reiterated that he

would give priority to de-
velopment and speak poli-
tics only during the elec-
tions. CM Revanth Reddy
castigated the opposition
BRS and BJP for creating
hurdles to the prestigious
Musi Rejuvenation project.
He said that the State gov-
ernment has taken up the
Musi project aiming to cre-
ate a night-time economy
in the city. The project also
ensured job opportunities
for the local poor Muslim
community.

The Chief Minister an-
nounced that the Metro
Rail project between Gowl-
iguda and Chandrayana-
gutta would be completed
by the next Assembly elec-
tions. The CM reiterated
that he will visit the old city
on the Metro Rail to seek
votes in the next elections.

A New Era for Theatre in Bihar: The Hope of an NSD Centre

Five years of continuous efforts have now turned into a new hope for the artistic and theatrical future of Bihar

*Bihar Kala Sangam &
Mediacrafts Studio, Bihar
Md. Irfan Jamiawala*

Bihar has always been a
land of literature, cul-
ture, folk traditions, perform-
ing arts and theatre. Its soil
has produced outstanding
writers, artists, theatre prac-
titioners and cultural per-
sonalities. Yet, for decades,
young theatre artists from
Bihar have often had to travel
to Delhi, Mumbai and other
cities to receive professional
and advanced theatre train-
ing. Recognising this need,
I had been continuously
submitting applications and
representations for nearly
five years to the Bihar De-
partment of Art and Culture,
requesting that a branch or
regional centre of the Nation-
al School of Drama (NSD) be
established in Bihar.

Today, as a positive initia-
tive and a new possibility
emerges in this direction, it
is not merely a victory for
one individual or one organ-
isation. It is a victory for ev-
ery young artist and theatre



practitioner of Bihar who
dreams of receiving profes-
sional, national-level train-
ing without having to leave
the state. On behalf of Bihar
Kala Sangam and Media-
crafts Studio, Bihar, I sincere-
ly express my gratitude to all
the Ministers associated with
Art and Culture in Bihar, es-
pecially Shri Pranav Kumar,
Chairman of the Bihar Art
and Culture Department,
and Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri Samrat Choudhary, for
giving importance to this
long-standing aspiration.

We hope that an NSD cen-
tre in Bihar will not merely

become an institution for the-
atre education. It can become
a powerful bridge connecting
Bihar's theatre movement
with the national and interna-
tional cultural landscape.

Bihar has no shortage of
talent—in villages, towns and
cities alike. What our young
people need is professional
training, a platform and
meaningful opportunities.
An NSD centre can create
new possibilities in acting,
direction, playwriting, stage
design, lighting, music, the-
atre technology, production
and theatre management. It
can also create a meaning-

ful dialogue between Bihar's
rich folk traditions and con-
temporary theatre.

Our dream is that Bihar's
young artists should not al-
ways have to leave the state
in search of opportunities.
Instead, we want to see a
day when young artists from
across India come to Bihar to
learn, train and experience
its extraordinary cultural
heritage. Such an initiative
can strengthen not only the-
atre but also employment,
cultural tourism, cinema
and television, folk arts and
Bihar's emerging creative
economy. Today, through

Bihar Kala Sangam and Me-
diacrafts Studio, we say with
hope: This is only the begin-
ning. The journey ahead is
long. Our vision is to give
Bihar's theatre artists na-
tional and international rec-
ognition, provide world-class
professional training within
the state, and restore Bihar
to its rightful place on India's
cultural map. Bihar will move
forward. Bihar's theatre will
move forward. And Bihar's
artistic talent will make its
mark across India and the
world. Art is not merely en-
tertainment; it is the soul of
society and civilisation.

BJP chief Ramchander Rao detained after house arrest

Hyderabad, Sept 3 (GNS):
Telangana BJP president
N Ramchander Rao was
detained by Telangana Po-
lice from his residence on
Tuesday after he was alleg-
edly placed under house
arrest, with the BJP leader
claiming that he was pre-
vented from travelling to
Nalgonda. Heavy police
security was deployed out-
side Rao's residence in Hy-
derabad as police detained
him. Visuals from the site
showed a heavy police
presence and protests dur-
ing the detention.

Rao had alleged that
police placed him under
house arrest since morn-
ing to prevent him from
visiting Nalgonda, where he
was scheduled to meet BJP
district president Varshit
Reddy and his family. Rao
criticised the State govern-
ment over his detention
and described the situation
in Telangana as "worst un-
democratic", comparing it
to the Emergency days. "I
decided to go to Nalgonda,
whatever may come. Since
morning, the police have
put me on house arrest.

'Remarks row': Telangana CM drops Konda Surekha from Cabinet

Hyderabad, Sept 3 (GNS):
Telangana Chief Minister A.
Revanth Reddy on Thursday
decided to drop Forest, En-
vironment, and Endowment
Minister Konda Surekha
from the Council of Minis-
ters with immediate effect.
According to a statement
from the Chief Minister's Of-
fice, a recommendation to
this effect has already been
sent to the Governor.

The Chief Minister has also
decided to rescind the ap-
pointment of Dr G. Chinna
Reddy as Vice Chairman,
Telangana Planning Board,
with immediate effect. In his
place, Gadwal Vijayalakshmi
has been appointed to the
post. The Chief Minister has
also approved the appoint-
ment of Nerella Sharada as
Chairperson, Telangana State
Commission for Women. He
also approved the appoint-



ment of former Rajya Sabha
member G. Sudha Rani as
Chairperson, Kakatiya Ur-
ban Development Author-
ity (KUDA). Government Or-
ders relating to rescinding of
Chinna Reddy as Vice-Chair-
man of Telangana Planning
Board and the new appoint-
ments have been issued.

The Chief Minister de-
cided to drop Surekha from
the Cabinet after the Con-
gress Party high command
cracked the whip over indis-

cipline. Chinna Reddy has
also been removed as Vice
Chairman of the Planning
Board over indiscipline.

The Disciplinary Commit-
tee of state Congress recom-
mended strong action against
both Konda Surekha and
Chinna Reddy. Surekha had
been in the eye of a storm
following her daughter Su-
smitha's outbursts against
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.
She had also found fault with
the show-cause notice issued
to her, saying she can't be
held responsible for the per-
sonal views of her daughter.
The high command took the
decision at the crucial meet-
ing Congress General Secre-
tary K.C. Venugopal had with
top leaders Sonia Gandhi and
Rahul Gandhi on Thursday
following a series of meetings
with the state leadership over
the last three days.

Telangana Minister Srinivasa Reddy hits back after KTR's swipe over aerospace foray

Hyderabad, Sept 3 (GNS):
Telangana's Minister for
Revenue and Housing,
Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy,
on Thursday hit back at
Bharat Rashtra Samithi
(BRS) Working President K.
T. Rama Rao after the latter
raised questions over his
family's foray into the aero-
space industry.

Srinivasa Reddy accused
the family of Rama Rao of
corruption and illegal activi-
ties. The minister posted on
X his reply to an earlier post
by K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), who
took a swipe at the launch
of Raghava Aerospace & De-
fence. “After CM Anumula
brother's aerospace & de-
fence foray, now the Revenue
Minister Ponguleti fam-
ily has entered the aerospace
industry. I guess these are the
two brilliant companies that
will provide the 2 lakh jobs



promised by Rahul Gandhi,”
posted KTR. “Well done, sir,
on empowering your CM
& Minister's families... hu-
mongous growth within a
short span. Why don't you go
ahead and share tips on “Get
Richie rich quick” scheme
with the rest of the country's
youth, Rahul Ji,” taunted the
former minister.

Srinivasa Reddy hit back
with a stinging post, target-

ing KTR and his family. “Kal-
vakuntla Academy of Cor-
ruption - All illegal activities
are taught here. Professor:
KTR - King of Teaching Rob-
bery Corruption College
Location: Erravelli Farm
House,” wrote the minister.

“You've already given the
nation a masterclass in pa-
per leaks through Globare-
na, linked to student sui-
cides in Telangana, followed
by the NEET paper leak and
suicides nationwide,” the
Congress leader told KTR.

“Now, let's move on to the
next chapters in your course:
How to tap your own sister-
ter's and brother-in-law's
phones. How to grab lands
through Dharani. How to
do business with hospitals
while serving as Health Min-
ister - your brother-in-law
Harish Rao could take a mas-
terclass here.



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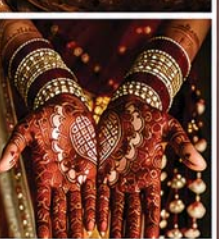
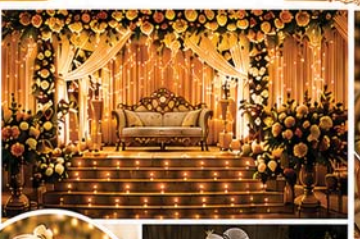


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