FALAKNUMA NEWS

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FALAKNUMA NEWS

ENGLISH DAILY

www.falaknumanews.in

PRGI Reg NO.TGENG/26/A3255

VOL: 1 | Issue No: 154 | MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2026 | PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD | PAGES: 4 | RS.1/-

CM Revanth to Meet Fadnavis

Tummidihatti Barrage Height



Hyderabad, Oct 25 (Patriotic Views): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to meet with his his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai on Monday to discuss the contentious issue of height of the Tummidihatti barrage, lynchpin of the Pranahitha-Chevella project which the Congress government has decided to revive following the alleged failure of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS).

Revanth Reddy along with irrigation minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and officials concerned left for Mumbai on Sunday evening to take part in Monday's meeting.

Though there was an agreement between the two states during the BRS regime to peg the barrage height at 148 metres, Revanth Reddy revived state's previous request for the project height at 152 metres to facilitate drawal of 80 tmc ft of Godavari waters. The barrage at this height is needed to divert the water to the Sundilla barrage through gravity and from there to the Sripada Yellampalli reservoir using the existing pump house. Besides, Telangana can draw more water from the barrage and the benefits include irrigating 5.34 lakh acres.

PM Modi Modi Inaugurates RBI Data Centre in Odisha



Bhubaneswar, Oct 25 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute at Info Valley-II in Jatni, Khordha district, describing the facility as an important addition to India's digital infrastructure.

"Today, Bhubaneswar is giving a new institution to the new India. The inauguration of RBI's Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute here is an important occasion," Mr Modi said, congratulating everyone associated with the project. Emphasising the Centre's development approach, the Prime Minister said the government had adopted a model of "pro-people, proactive good governance", with a focus on balanced development and creating opportunities in villages and smaller towns. The PM further said, "Nowadays, wars are not fought only with weapons. If you want to weaken a country, this can also be done by attacking its economy. And when India is becoming economically strong, we also need to protect our banking system from cyber thieves and cyber terrorists."

Built on 18.55 acres at an estimated cost of Rs 169 crore, the facility is the RBI's second data centre after the one in Navi Mumbai. It is designed to strengthen the security and resilience of India's critical financial infrastructure, including payment systems such as Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT). Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the rapid expansion of digital payments in the country, saying the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) now processes more than 2,400 crore transactions a month, or nearly 80 crore transactions a day.

Describing data centres as the "vault of the digital age," Ms Sitharaman said the new campus would enhance India's domestic capacity to support critical payment infrastructure.

She said the Cybersecurity Training Institute, which has a dedicated research wing, would develop specialised expertise in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI) and data centre technologies.

The data centre will support the secure storage and management of information associated with digital financial transactions and strengthen the continuity of banking services in the event of cyberattacks, technical failures or other disruptions.

Modi ka baap bhi jayega: Congress chief Kharge's jibe draws BJP's ire



New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's "Modi ka baap bhi jayega" remark at an event in Patna on Sunday drew an angry response from the BJP, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah accusing the Congress of indecency and saffron party chief Nitin Nabin calling it a sign of 'ideological bankruptcy'.

Kharge made the remark after a man at the event reportedly insisted that PM Narendra Modi was not going anywhere. The Congress chief then questioned Modi's promise to bring back black money within the first 100 days of his government and accused the PM of repeatedly making promises that remained unfulfilled.

Kharge also accused the BJP of "stealing votes" to capture power and alleged that the RSS had fuelled communalism since its inception. Reacting to the remark, Shah said Kharge had violated basic norms of public discourse by making an indecent comment about the PM's father. He accused the Congress of repeatedly using insulting language against Modi and his family, recalling earlier remarks about the PM's mother and references to him as a "chaiwala".

Shah said repeated electoral defeats over the past 12 years had left the Congress without a political agenda, with the party increasingly relying on personal attacks. He claimed that the Congress had lost public support and was losing its standing among its own workers. Nabin also condemned Kharge's statement, describing it as "ideological bankruptcy" and alleging that the Congress had abandoned the basic standards expected of political opposition. He said political differences should be expressed with dignity and accused Rahul Gandhi and the Opposition of dragging deceased family members into political speeches.

Kharge made the remarks while paying tribute to freedom fighter and former Bihar CM Sri Krishna Sinha on his 139th birth anniversary in Patna. The BJP has announced a nationwide protest on Monday against Kharge's "indecent and offensive" remarks targeting PM Narendra Modi.

The controversy is expected to intensify the political confrontation between the Congress and the BJP, with both parties trading allegations over the standards of public discourse. While the BJP has demanded accountability for Kharge's remarks, the Congress has linked the statement to its criticism of the Prime Minister's promises and alleged electoral irregularities.

The BJP's proposed nationwide protest on Monday is likely to bring the issue into sharper focus, as the two parties continue to clash over political rhetoric and public accountability. The episode has once again highlighted the growing acrimony between the ruling party and the Opposition, with calls for restraint and dignity in political exchanges.

Justice Kaul says 2018 SC Judges' press meet exposed fault lines



New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): Describing the January 12, 2018, press conference by four seniormost judges of the Supreme Court as "an earthquake", former Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul has said it did not serve any purpose, exposed fault lines in the judiciary and led to "loss of collegiality" among judges.

"That day, the four seniormost puisne judges of the court — Justices Ranjan Gogoi, Jasti Chelameswar, Madan Lokur and Kurian Joseph — did the unthinkable. They went public. In an extraordinary press conference, they openly criticised the Chief Justice's use of his powers as 'master of the roster' to assign certain cases," Justice Kaul recounted in his upcoming memoir, "Without Fear or Favour", to be published by Juggernaut.

"It did not ultimately serve a purpose, except to bring a difference of perception into the public domain… Though the judges certainly had a right to express their grievances, which I cannot say were entirely illegitimate, I remained unconvinced as to the wisdom of holding a press conference," read the manuscript available with The Tribune.

"But the damage was done. The fault lines had been publicly exposed. The whole affair marked something of a turning point. No longer could we expect to remain above the fray of energetic public discourse," he wrote.

Maintaining that the CJI was "only the first among equals — nothing more and nothing less", they contended that the roster he settled was a convention for the disciplined transaction of the court's business and not a recognition of any superior authority, legal or factual, over his colleagues. They alleged that cases of far-reaching consequence for the nation, including those relating to the death of Judge Brijgopal Harkishan Loya and the institution, had been assigned selectively to benches of their preference, particularly Justice Arun Mishra's court, without rational basis.

"The press conference was an earthquake. Nothing quite like this had happened before in the Indian judiciary. In 1973, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had broken the convention of appointing the seniormost judge as the Chief Justice of India and skipped three senior judges — Justices JM Shelat.

Jaishankar calls for zero tolerance against terrorism, UN reforms



New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has sharply questioned the Union government over its handling of relations with China, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take Parliament and the nation into confidence rather than targeting the Opposition. In a strongly worded post on his X handle, the Congress chief declared, "Enough clean chits to China. PM Modi must come clean before India!" and posed three pointed questions covering national security, economic security and diplomatic accountability.

On the issue of national security, Kharge expressed deep alarm over the confirmation by the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police of continuing face-offs with the People's Liberation Army in Arunachal Pradesh.

Recalling the earlier confrontations at Doklam and Galwan, he asked whether another serious confrontation was unfolding. Kharge questioned whether India's patrolling access had been compromised and stressed that Arunachal remains an inseparable part of India. He asked why the nation was being kept in the dark on such a critical matter.

Turning to economic security, the Congress president highlighted that since the Galwan clash in which 20 Indian Army personnel made the supreme sacrifice in FY 2020–21, Chinese imports into India have surged by 102 per cent while the bilateral trade deficit has ballooned by 155 per cent to reach 112.16 billion dollars. He pointed out that even Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has admitted that China continues to obstruct Indian exports.

Despite this, Kharge alleged, the government is easing restrictions on Chinese investment and is considering extending Production Linked Incentive benefits to eligible China-linked ventures.

On diplomatic accountability, Kharge listed the extensive high-level engagements held with China, including at least 23 reported meetings and interactions between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping, 25 rounds of Special Representatives' talks involving National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, 36 meetings of the working mechanism for consultation and coordination, and successive summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS.

3 MPs booked for trespass at Jamia Millia Islamia

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): The Delhi Police have registered an FIR against three MPs following a complaint by Jamia Millia Islamia's administration alleging trespassing on the university campus and inciting unrest during a student agitation demanding the restoration of the student union polls, police sources said.

The administration has alleged that Congress MP Imran Masood and Imran Pratapgarhi forcefully entered the campus and met the protesters

In a social media post, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) alleged that hundreds of police personnel detained students outside Gate 7, describing the action as a crackdown on students.

The agitation centres on the demand for the restoration of the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU), whose elections have not been held since 2006. Four students have been on a hunger strike for the past 13 days as part of the protest.

Police have begun an investigation into the complaint and are examining the circumstances surrounding the alleged entry of the MPs into the university campus. The allegations relate to their interaction with students participating in the agitation for the restoration of student union elections.

The SFI has criticised the police action, alleging that hundreds of personnel detained students outside Gate 7. The organisation described the detentions as a crackdown on the student protest and called attention to the students' demand for democratic representation on campus.

The demand for restoring the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union elections has remained unresolved for nearly two decades, with polls not held since 2006.

Indian army heads to Indonesia for exercise garuda shakti

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): The Indian Army contingent, comprising Special Forces personnel, departed on Sunday for Indonesia's Banyuwangi to participate in the 12th edition of 'Exercise Garuda Shakti'.

The exercise will enhance interoperability between the armies of two nations through the exchange of tactics, techniques, and procedures for special operations in jungle terrain under counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism scenarios, according to an Indian Army statement.

In a post on X, the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information said: "The Indian Army contingent comprising of Special Forces personnel, departed for Banyuwangi, Indonesia, to participate in the 12th edition of Exercise Garuda Shakti. The bilateral exercise will enhance interoperability through the exchange of tactics, techniques and procedures for special operations in jungle terrain under counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism scenarios."

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaunak was on a goodwill visit to Jakarta from October 17-19, strengthening cooperation between India and Indonesia, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) stated. Its port call to Jakarta included productive professional interactions and mutual exchanges aimed at bolstering bilateral maritime cooperation and enhancing regional maritime security.

"Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaunak undertook a goodwill visit to Jakarta, Indonesia, from 17–19 Oct 2026, reinforcing the strong maritime friendship between India and Indonesia.

Op trident busts international Narco-Cartel in northeast, 18 arrested: Amit Shah



New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): Anti-narcotics agencies conducted coordinated operations across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur under 'Operation Trident', dismantling an international narco-cartel and arresting 18 people, the Central government announced on Sunday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the success of the operation in a post on X, describing it as another major action against drug trafficking.

"Modi Govt deals another lethal blow against drugs with Operation Trident," he said. "Our agencies launched a barrage of simultaneous crackdowns across 38 locations in Assam, Mizoram and Manipur on 23 October, smashing an international narco-cartel," HM Shah said, highlighting the scale of the coordinated crackdown carried out by the agencies across the three northeastern states.

According to the Home Minister, the operation exposed hawala transactions worth Rs 100 crore and resulted in the freezing of 1,424 bank accounts.

Authorities also attached properties valued at Rs 17.82 crore, seized 500 detonators and Rs 12 lakh in cash, and arrested 18 people in connection with the operation.

"The network trafficked narcotics across the borders of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh through the Death Triangle Corridor. The offensive attests to India's Himalayan resolve to realise the mission of eradicating every drug network by 31 December 2029. India will hammer until the last nail is driven into the coffin of drug cartels," he said. "Heartiest congratulations to the anti-narcotics team comprising central agencies and police forces of the three states," the Home Minister added, congratulating the personnel involved in the coordinated operation. Earlier on October 21, speaking at Police Commemoration Day in New Delhi, HM Shah announced that the Union Home Ministry has decided that during the remaining part of 2026, as well as in 2027, 2028 and 2029, a united fight will be waged against drugs over the next three-and-a-half years, and the country will be free from the drug problem by December 31, 2029.

"This is a very important goal for us, even more important than tackling the three hotspots. The drug problem hollows out our future generations, places an undue burden on our economy and provides financial support to organisations engaged in anti-national activities," HM Shah said. "Today, I want to call upon police forces across the country to wholeheartedly work towards achieving the goal of a drug-free India, following the roadmap we have prepared and the target set by our respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so that we can protect our future generations," he added.

Why Google's antitrust loss feels a lot like a win

Dave Lee, Bloomberg



Something close to the best-case scenario emerged for Google on Tuesday when a federal judge outlined its punishments for running an illegal search monopoly. The company will not be forced to sell its Chrome browser or Android operating system. There will be no hampering of its artificial-intelligence efforts. It can even still shovel billions of dollars a year to Apple Inc. to help attract search traffic from iPhone users if it wants.

The ruling confirmed the fears of those who felt these antitrust proceedings, groundbreaking as they were, simply came too late. Judge Amit Mehta's remedies are an attempt to level a playing field in a game that ended long ago. They force the Alphabet Inc. unit to refrain from certain exclusivity deals and requirements for preferential app placement among its device partners. Google must also make available limited search data to competitors. Sure, if competitors can use this newly available search data to their advantage, it might mean a single-digit percentage hit to Google's market share, but the status quo will remain pretty much just that.

Knowing this was a likely outcome, the Department of Justice had hoped that Judge Mehta might take a broad view of his powers to use the remedies to hamper Google's future endeavors in AI. The government's argument was that Google's positioning in the AI market, where its Gemini bot competes with ChatGPT and others, was made possible only with the fruits of its monopolistic behavior in search.

This proposition put the judge in an uncomfortable position. "Unlike the typical case where the court's job is to resolve a dispute based on historic facts," he wrote, "here the court is asked to gaze into a crystal ball and look to the future. Not exactly a judge's forte." Further complicating matters was the fact that the AI space is fiercely competitive and, if anything, Google is perceived as struggling somewhat. Restraining the company's ability to compete in the space risked reducing competition, not the other way around.

The judge's concern followed a pattern. In 2023, the Federal Trade Commission failed to block Microsoft Corp.'s deal to buy the video game company Activision Blizzard Inc. in part because it failed to convince a judge to base her ruling on competition concerns in a market - cloud-based gaming - that was still nascent. An earlier case seeking to block Meta Platforms Inc.'s purchase of a virtual-reality fitness company fell at a similar hurdle.

This case emphasizes, yet again, that antitrust laws were not designed to work at the speed of tech. Judge Mehta noted that nobody even mentioned generative AI during the initial trial. It was only in the remedy phase, after the launch of ChatGPT, that the emerging tech was talked about as the single biggest threat to Google's business.

Google still has antitrust concerns on its plate. A separate case could result in a partial dismantling of its lucrative advertising tech platform, a move that would, unlike being forced to sell of Chrome or Android, make some logical sense. Elsewhere, the European Union is preparing a fine for similar ad tech concerns, though on Monday regulators backed out of their own deadline for announcing it over fears it would upset President Donald Trump and hamper trade talks. But this case, with its threats to split up significant components of Google's business, was seen as potentially the most damaging. Even had the judge had been bolder and ventured into harsher penalties with the future AI market in mind, Google's legal appeal would have been immediate and strong - dragging this futile case out for even longer than the five years it has clocked up already. Instead, Alphabet stock hit a record in after-hours training as investors celebrated the outcome of a case that, technically, Google lost.

The ruling is likely to intensify the debate over whether existing antitrust laws are sufficient to regulate technology giants whose influence extends across multiple digital markets. While restrictions on exclusive agreements may create additional opportunities for rival search engines, competitors will still face the enormous challenge of matching Google's scale, brand recognition and established relationships with device manufacturers. Access to limited search data could help challengers improve their services, but its effectiveness will depend on the quality of the information provided and the ability of competitors to turn it into commercially viable products.

For Google, the decision provides considerable strategic flexibility at a time when artificial intelligence is reshaping the technology industry. The company can continue integrating its Gemini AI models into its products, invest in infrastructure and develop new search experiences without the additional restrictions sought by the US government. This freedom could prove particularly important as technology companies compete to become the primary gateway through which users access information, conduct online searches and interact with digital assistants.

Why The Great Nicobar Project Is An Ambitious Leap

By Tuhin A. Sinha



The Great Nicobar Project, a visionary endeavour of the Modi government, is poised to transform the Great Nicobar Island into a strategic and economic hub, reinforcing India's stature in the Indo-Pacific. This Rs 75,000-crore mega-infrastructure initiative, a cornerstone of the Act East Policy, harnesses the island's unique geostrategic location to drive national security, economic prosperity, and regional connectivity. While the project promises immense benefits, the Modi government has also prioritised environmental sustainability and the welfare of indigenous tribal communities. In contrast, the Congress party's opposition to this transformative initiative reflects a historical pattern of resisting progress, lacking the foresight to champion bold gamechanger projects.

The Great Nicobar Project is a multifaceted plan designed to capitalise on the island's proximity to the Malacca Strait, a critical artery for global trade. Its key components - an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), a greenfield international airport, a modern township, and a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant - promise to reshape India's maritime and economic landscape. The Great Nicobar's location, just 150 km from Indonesia, places it at the crossroads of vital sea lanes. The ICTT at Galathea Bay, capable of handling 16 million TEUs, will position India as a major transshipment hub, reducing dependence on foreign ports such as Colombo and Singapore. This strengthens India's maritime influence, complementing the Indian Navy's INS Baaz airbase to enhance surveillance and counter regional geopolitical challenges, particularly China's expanding presence in the Indian Ocean. By securing control over these critical routes, the project bolsters India's role as a net security provider, safeguarding national interests and global trade flows.

The ICTT will transform the Great Nicobar into a global shipping hub, slashing logistics costs for Indian trade and saving foreign exchange. The greenfield international airport, designed to handle 4,000 passengers per hour by 2050, will serve both civilian and defense needs, connecting the island to mainland India and Southeast Asia. The planned township, accommodating 3-4 lakh people, will foster economic activity through residential, commercial, and institutional developments. Aligned with the Act East Policy, the project will deepen trade and investment ties with ASEAN nations, positioning the Great Nicobar as a gateway for regional commerce and enhancing India's economic competitiveness.

Moreover, the Great Nicobar's pristine beaches, lush rainforests, and rich biodiversity make it a prime destination for ecotourism. The project envisions infrastructure for activities like river cruises, kayaking, and bird watching, drawing visitors while preserving the island's natural allure. Enhanced connectivity via the airport and port will boost local businesses, creating jobs and economic opportunities for residents. Managed by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO), the project ensures that economic benefits reach local communities, transforming the region into a vibrant hub for tourism and trade.

As part of the Holistic Development of Islands programme, the Great Nicobar Project integrates the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into India's strategic and economic framework. By establishing the island as a maritime and tourism hub, it strengthens north-south connectivity, fostering closer ties with Indo-Pacific nations. This aligns with India's ambition to lead in the region, countering geopolitical challenges while promoting economic cooperation. With a 30-year phased implementation, the project reflects a forward-looking commitment to sustainable growth and regional influence. The Modi government recognises the ecological and cultural significance of the Great Nicobar, home to unique biodiversity and indigenous tribes like the Nicobarese and Shompen. While critics highlight risks of deforestation and tribal displacement, the government has implemented robust measures to ensure sustainable development and protect these communities. The project secured environmental and forest clearances in 2022, with strict conditions to minimise ecological harm. Compensatory afforestation programs will offset tree felling, preserving the island's biodiversity-rich rainforests. The government has prioritised protecting critical habitats, avoiding turtle nesting sites and coral reefs to safeguard species like leatherback sea turtles, dugongs, and Nicobar macaques.

The adoption of gas and solar-based power plants underscores a commitment to cleaner energy, reducing the project's environmental footprint. Collaboration with institutions like the Wildlife Institute of India ensures rigorous biodiversity monitoring, while adherence to Coastal Regulation Zone norms reinforces ecological accountability. The welfare of the Nicobarese and Shompen, including the particularly vulnerable Shompen living in voluntary isolation, is central to the project's planning. The government has engaged with the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar Islands to address land use concerns, resolving tribal rights under the Forest Rights Act to facilitate sustainable development.

Trump's 50% Tariffs Threaten India's Exports and GDP

In a landmark move that underscores the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the GST Council has rolled out sweeping reforms under what is being hailed as GST 2.0. These changes, effective from September 22, 2025, simplify the tax structure to just two primary slabs – 5% and 18% while introducing zero percent tax on essential items and a 40% rate on select luxury goods. This overhaul is not merely a fiscal adjustment; it is a strategic masterstroke designed to boost domestic consumption, invigorate economic growth, and provide much-needed relief to the common Indian citizen amid global uncertainties.

Under Prime Minister Modi's stewardship, the BJP commands a strong position in Parliament to drive these transformative policies. With 240 seats in the Lok Sabha alone, as secured in the 2024 general elections, the party, along with its NDA allies, holds a commanding majority to pass legislation swiftly and effectively. This parliamentary strength has enabled the seamless implementation of GST 2.0, reflecting the trust reposed in Modi's leadership by the Indian electorate.

At the heart of these reforms is a commitment to making life easier for millions of Indians. By rationalizing tax rates, the government aims to reduce the cost of living, stimulate manufacturing, and foster a more inclusive economy. Daily essentials such as hair oil, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bicycles, and kitchenware will now attract only 5% GST, down from higher slabs previously. Small cars, which were burdened with a 28% tax, will see a reduction to 18%, making them more affordable for middle-class families.

Even more significantly, a host of items will become entirely tax-free, including life-saving drugs, individual health insurance policies, and several school stationery products. Notebooks, pencils, erasers, maps, and even geometry and colour boxes previously taxed at 12% or higher will now be available at zero percent GST, directly benefiting students and parents across the nation. This reduction from as high as 28% on certain items to zero percent on many everyday necessities exemplifies the BJP-led government's people-centric approach, ensuring that education and basic needs are not luxuries but rights accessible to all.

These reforms come at a pivotal time when the global trade landscape is fraught with challenges, particularly from the aggressive tariff policies of US President Donald Trump. Trump's imposition of up to 50% tariffs on Indian exports, ostensibly as retaliation for India's continued purchase of Russian oil, threatens to disrupt supply chains and impact sectors like textiles, jewelry, and apparel, which could potentially shave off 0.8% of India's GDP if prolonged.

However, GST 2.0 serves as a robust countermeasure. By slashing taxes on domestic goods, these reforms encourage local consumption and manufacturing, reducing reliance on exports vulnerable to such tariffs. This shift bolsters the 'Make in India' initiative, making Indian products more competitive at home and potentially in alternative global markets. As domestic demand surges due to lower prices, it cushions the blow from external shocks, ensuring that India's economic engine keeps humming without significant disruptions.

Importantly, these changes will not adversely affect India's GDP; in fact, they are poised to enhance it. The simplified tax structure is expected to improve compliance, widen the tax base, and spur consumer spending, leading to higher economic activity overall. Projections indicate that the focus on affordability for essentials will drive growth in key sectors without inflationary pressures, maintaining fiscal stability. The BJP government, with its proven track record, knows precisely how to navigate such situations-balancing bold reforms with prudent economic management. I must take a moment to appreciate Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her instrumental role in architecting these reforms. Her meticulous planning and unwavering dedication have made goods cheaper for Indian consumers, alleviating financial burdens on households and small businesses alike. Sitharaman's leadership in the GST Council has turned complex taxation into a tool for empowerment, ensuring that the benefits trickle down to the last mile. As India goes global, these reforms align perfectly with our ambitions. While countering protectionist measures like Trump's tariffs, the BJP government is fortifying the 'Make in India' program, particularly in the defence sector. Investments in indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment not only reduce import dependencies but also position India as a reliable exporter in a multipolar world. This dual strategy of domestic resilience and global outreach is strengthening our economy, creating jobs, and enhancing national security.

In a commendable move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Budget 2025-26 had also introduced several duty reductions and GST reforms that make essential items more affordable, acting as a true Diwali bonanza for poor and middle-class families. Consumer durables and building materials now attract reduced GST easing the financial burden on middle-class households and enabling more festive spending on home improvements and appliances. On the flip side, the budget wisely increased costs on luxury and non-essential items to curb extravagant spending and encourage responsible consumption, while ensuring the nation's economic equilibrium remains intact. This strategic approach balances GDP growth-projected at 6.3-6.8% for FY 2025-26-by stimulating demand in essential sectors like agriculture, MSMEs, and manufacturing through lower input costs and tax reliefs up to ?12.75 lakh income slab, fostering employment and domestic production. Revenue remains safeguarded as simplified GST structures enhance compliance and expand the tax base, with higher collections expected to offset any forgone direct taxes, supported by a robust CAGR of 18% in recent GST inflows and targeted cess on select items. The GST 2.0 is a testament to the BJP's commitment to 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' kind of development for all. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly said, "Reforms are not just about changing policies; they are about transforming lives." Under his dynamic guidance, India is not just weathering storms but emerging stronger, ready to lead on the world stage.

The GST reforms are also expected to provide a significant boost to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which form the backbone of India's economy. A simplified tax regime can reduce compliance burdens, improve cash flow and help small businesses expand their operations. Lower taxes on essential goods and selected manufacturing inputs could also encourage entrepreneurs to invest in production, create employment opportunities and strengthen local supply chains. This will further support the government's objective of building a self-reliant economy.

Another important aspect of GST 2.0 is its potential to strengthen consumer confidence and increase purchasing power. When households spend less on essential goods, they may have more disposable income for healthcare, education, housing and other necessities. Increased consumption can create a positive cycle in which businesses experience higher demand, manufacturers increase output and employment opportunities expand. The extent of these benefits, however, will depend on how effectively tax reductions are passed on to consumers through lower retail prices. The reforms also highlight the importance of maintaining a balance between economic growth and fiscal discipline. While lower tax rates may initially reduce revenue from certain categories, improved compliance, a broader tax base and increased economic activity could help offset some of the impact over time. Transparent tax administration, timely refunds and continued cooperation between the Centre and state governments will remain essential to ensuring that the new structure delivers sustainable benefits. Regular monitoring of revenue collections and price movements will help policymakers address any emerging challenges.

Ultimately, GST 2.0 represents an opportunity to strengthen India's domestic economic foundations while expanding its global ambitions. By combining tax simplification with support for manufacturing, small businesses and household consumption, the reforms can complement initiatives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. As India navigates international trade uncertainties and changing supply chains, a competitive domestic market and a resilient manufacturing sector will be crucial. The long-term success of these measures will depend on effective implementation, fair competition and ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach consumers, workers, farmers and businesses across the country.

Govt. to help industry expand markets, strengthen supply chains and build resilience: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): The automobile retail sector is the interface between consumers and the industry, responsible for ethical marketing, providing good quality service, fair financing and insurance terms, and smooth registration processes stated Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, at the inauguration of FADA's 7th Auto Retail Conclave and 4th Finance & Insurance Summit today. The Minister, the sector acts as a bridge between customers and automobile companies, and the credibility of the companies depends on how dealers operate and serve consumers. He said that with automobiles becoming more affordable, the benefits of the GST reductions will be passed on to consumers from 22 September.

Goyal underlined the critical importance of after-sales service, availability of spare parts, and continued support for customers, even in situations where companies decide to discontinue specific models or exit the Indian market entirely. He observed that there have been cases where companies set up operations in India, only to wind up and leave after some time, creating challenges for customers who had purchased their products. In such instances, the responsibility often falls on dealers to address consumer concerns. To prevent disruption and protect buyers, he suggested the creation of a framework or charter that would require all companies operating in India to commit to maintaining a local presence and providing after-sales support for a defined period before they are permitted to close operations. This, he emphasized, would ensure that customers are not left stranded and that the credibility and trustworthiness of the automobile sector are maintained.

He observed that India is negotiating Free Trade Agreements with several developed countries and attracting significant investment from global companies because of the size of the Indian market. While supporting domestic industry and manufacturers, he said there must also be fair competition, as competition improves efficiency, product quality, and consumer choice. He explained that growth in manufacturing will come when global companies test their products in the Indian market, leading to larger investments. The aim, he said, is to expand markets, strengthen supply chains, and build resilience, while ensuring domestic manufacturing remains strongly supported.

The Minister noted that the Government of India has undertaken significant and serious efforts to make it easier to do business in the country. This includes reducing unnecessary harassment, streamlining multiple government procedures, simplifying compliance requirements, and minimizing bureaucratic processes that can create obstacles for the sector. He invited industry stakeholders to compile and submit suggestions at the central, state, and local levels on how business operations could be further facilitated. These suggestions could relate to reducing compliance burdens, simplifying existing laws such as the Motor Vehicles Act, or decriminalising minor offences that currently create hurdles for companies. Shri Goyal assured the sector that all recommendations would be carefully reviewed and taken up with the relevant authorities across government, with the aim of creating a smoother, more efficient, and more supportive business environment for the automobile industry.

Goyal also stressed the need to strengthen consumer confidence in automobile dealerships through greater transparency and accountability. He said dealers must ensure that customers receive accurate information about vehicle features, pricing, warranties, financing options and insurance coverage. Transparent business practices would help prevent disputes, improve customer satisfaction and build long-term relationships between buyers, dealers and manufacturers. He urged industry representatives to maintain high professional standards and place consumer interests at the centre of their business operations.

Highlighting the changing dynamics of the automobile market, the Minister said that affordability would play a crucial role in expanding vehicle ownership across the country. The reduction in GST rates, effective September 22, 2025, is expected to provide relief to prospective buyers and encourage demand across various vehicle segments. He emphasised that manufacturers and dealerships should ensure that the benefits of tax reductions are passed on to consumers, helping improve purchasing power and supporting growth in automobile sales.

He further pointed out that the automobile retail ecosystem has significant potential to generate employment, particularly for young people. Dealerships, service centres, finance companies and insurance providers offer opportunities in sales, customer relations, technical maintenance and administrative services. As the industry adopts digital technologies and modern service practices, the workforce will also need appropriate training and new skills. Closer cooperation between industry stakeholders and training institutions can help develop a skilled workforce capable of meeting the sector's evolving requirements.

The Minister encouraged automobile dealers and financial institutions to work together to make vehicle financing more accessible and transparent.

Centre orders insurers to pass GST benefits to policyholders

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): The government has directed insurance companies to proactively undertake outreach campaigns to publicise GST reforms and pass on the benefits to policyholders. M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), chaired a meeting with senior officials of DFS, IRDAI, CMDs of public sector insurance companies and CEOs of leading private sector life and non-life insurance companies and officials from Life Insurance Council and General Insurance Council here.

The secretary highlighted prospective positive impact of the GST reforms in making insurance more affordable and accessible for the common man. The measure is expected to make insurance more accessible and cost-effective, thereby strengthening financial security and enhancing insurance penetration across the country, according to a Finance Ministry statement. The meeting was held in pursuance of the exemption of GST on all individual life and health insurance policies as approved by the GST council in its 56th meeting. During the meeting, the Secretary emphasised the importance of ensuring that the benefits of the tax reduction are fully passed on to both existing and prospective policyholders. The GST rationalisation on life and health insurance premiums will significantly improve affordability, strengthen penetration and provide a boost to consumption ahead of the festive season. Health and life insurance, which earlier attracted 18 per cent GST, have now been moved to the nil tax category. According to a report by rating agency ICRA, policyholders will benefit from lower premiums.

In general insurance, the retail health segment which accounted for 16 per cent of the industry's gross direct premium income (GDPI) in FY25, will see premiums come down, though profitability of standalone health insurers may be under pressure if the full benefit is passed on.

The Secretary urged insurance companies to strengthen coordination with distributors, agents, banks and digital platforms to ensure that policyholders are clearly informed about the revised tax structure. He stressed that awareness campaigns should explain how the GST exemption affects premiums and the overall cost of insurance. Companies were also encouraged to address customer queries promptly and maintain transparency in policy-related communication, ensuring that the benefits reach people across urban and rural areas.

The exemption is expected to encourage more individuals and families to purchase life and health insurance, particularly those who have remained outside the formal insurance network because of affordability concerns. Lower premiums could help households manage medical expenses and financial uncertainties more effectively. The initiative also aligns with the government's broader objective of expanding insurance coverage and strengthening financial protection for vulnerable sections of society.

Industry representatives are expected to monitor the impact of the GST exemption on new policy sales, renewals and overall insurance penetration.

Govt sets Rabi's crops production target at 362.50 million tonnes: Shivraj Singh

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): The Central government has set a production target for rabi crops at 362.50 million tonnes for 2025–26, up from 341.55 million tonnes last year, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, said on Tuesday.

India's total foodgrain production reached 353.96 million tonnes in 2024–25, an increase of 21.66 million tonnes or 6.5 per cent over the previous year, the minister informed media persons during 'National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025' here. The country achieved record harvests in key crops like rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, and soybean. This output was 12.41 million tonnes higher than the set target of 341.55 million tonnes. According to the Agriculture Minister, the Rabi Conference is a successful example of achieving the vision of 'One Nation – One Agriculture – One Team'. It provides a platform for Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from different states and UTs to engage in in-depth deliberations. Earlier, the Rabi Conference used to be a one-day event, but this time it was extended to two days to allow more detailed discussions, he added. Chouhan stressed that the Centre and States have come together to work jointly for comprehensive agricultural development.

Along with foodgrain output, fruit and vegetable production have also seen a significant rise this year compared to the previous year. The Centre and States will continue their coordinated efforts to ensure agricultural growth and farmers' welfare, he added.

Discussing the flood situation, Chouhan said that the government is making every possible effort to assist those affected. He mentioned that Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Assam, and parts of Haryana have been particularly impacted. The six major themes discussed during the two-day conference were: climate resilience; quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides; horticulture; natural farming; effective extension services and the role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and coordination of centrally sponsored schemes. Detailed deliberations were also held on boosting pulses and oilseeds productivity and on integrated farming systems.

The Agriculture Minister called for a focused strategy to improve crop productivity through the timely availability of quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. He stressed the need to promote modern agricultural technologies, scientific farming practices and efficient water management to help farmers achieve higher yields. Special attention will be given to strengthening the production of pulses and oilseeds to reduce import dependence and improve the country's food security.

Chouhan also highlighted the importance of climate-resilient agriculture in addressing the challenges posed by irregular rainfall, floods, droughts and changing weather patterns. He emphasised the need to encourage crop diversification, natural farming and integrated farming systems to improve soil health and provide farmers with additional sources of income. Krishi Vigyan Kendras and agricultural extension services were urged to play a greater role in disseminating scientific knowledge and helping farmers adopt suitable technologies.

CCS UPS Rules 2025 Will Equip Employees to Make an Informed Choice, Says Dr. Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, released the CCS (Implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme under the National Pension Scheme) Rules, 2025, enabling Central Government employees to make a choice between the National Pension System (NPS) and the newly introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). This he did during the 14th Pension Adalat held at Vigyan Bhawan here today.

Alongside the notification of the new rules, Dr. Jitendra Singh also released a short film addressing frequently asked questions on the UPS, aimed at clarifying key aspects of the scheme for employees and pensioners. The Minister said that the notification marks an important step in giving Central Government staff greater flexibility, noting that employees will have a two-week window to exercise their option between NPS and UPS. To ensure wider awareness, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has planned an extensive outreach drive. This includes social media campaigns, content on the Department's official YouTube channel, and both online and offline workshops across ministries and departments. "I am sure that this scheme would find interest among all stakeholders," Dr. Jitendra Singh told reporters after the event. According to officials, the CCS (Implementation of UPS under NPS) Rules, 2025 — notified on September 2 — cover a wide range of issues. For employees joining UPS, the rules spell out how they can enroll and exercise their option in a clear manner. Importantly, those who change their mind later are not locked in forever — they can switch back to NPS, one year before retirement or three months before opting for voluntary retirement.

The rules also define how contributions will work under UPS, both from the employee and the government, so that deductions and matching deposits remain transparent. In case there is any delay by the authorities in registering someone under UPS or crediting their contribution on time, the employee will be compensated — ensuring they don't lose out because of administrative lapses. Another key area is protection for employees and their families in unexpected situations. If a government servant dies in service or becomes disabled, the family will have the choice to claim benefits either under the traditional CCS (Pension) Rules or under UPS regulations, whichever is more beneficial. The rules also explain what benefits will be paid in different retirement situations — whether it is normal retirement, voluntary retirement, premature retirement, retirement due to ill health, resignation, or even absorption into a PSU or autonomous body. Each of these scenarios has been clearly covered so that there is no ambiguity about entitlements. Officials said the notification of these rules provides a clear framework for implementing the UPS and will help employees make an informed choice between the two pension systems.

The Minister said the government is committed to making pension-related services more transparent, accessible and responsive to the needs of serving employees and pensioners. He emphasised that the Unified Pension Scheme rules would help remove uncertainty regarding eligibility, contributions and retirement benefits. The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare will continue engaging with employee associations and administrative authorities to address concerns and ensure that the provisions are understood correctly before employees exercise their options.

The 14th Pension Adalat also provided an opportunity to address long-pending pension grievances and facilitate their timely resolution. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the importance of resolving individual cases through direct interaction between pensioners and the concerned departments. Such initiatives are intended to reduce procedural delays, improve accountability and ensure that retired employees receive their legitimate benefits without unnecessary hardship.

Officials said the awareness campaign would focus on explaining the key differences between NPS and UPS, including contribution requirements, assured payout provisions and the conditions governing retirement benefits. The informational film and digital outreach initiatives are expected to help employees understand the implications of choosing either scheme. Workshops across ministries and departments will also provide opportunities for employees to seek clarification on specific provisions and administrative procedures.

The rules also establish safeguards against administrative delays in processing enrolment and contributions under UPS. Compensation provisions are intended to protect employees where delays attributable to the authorities affect the timely crediting of contributions. In addition, the provisions covering death, disability and different forms of retirement seek to clarify the benefits available to employees and their families. These measures are aimed at ensuring greater predictability and protecting pension-related entitlements throughout an employee's service and retirement.

The introduction of the detailed implementation framework marks another step in the government's efforts to strengthen pension administration for Central Government employees.

After GST rate cut, govt waives mandatory re-labelling of medicines

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): In a major relief for the pharma sector, the government has dismissed the mandatory rule for drug manufacturers to recall, or re-label medicines already released in the market before September 22, the Department of Pharmaceuticals said. This follows the latest revision in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates early this month by the GST Council, which reduced the GST on medical devices to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), in an Office Memorandum, clarified that companies can instead comply by ensuring revised pricing is reflected at the retailer level. "All manufacturers/ marketing companies selling drugs/ formulations shall revise the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of drugs/ formulations (including medical devices). The manufacturers/ marketing companies shall issue a revised price list or supplementary price list to dealers and retailers for display to consumers, and to State Drug Controllers and the Government, reflecting the revised GST rates and revised MRP," the NPPA said.

"Recalling, re-labelling, or re-stickering on the label of a container or pack of stocks released in the market prior to September 22, 2025, is not mandatory, if manufacturer/ marketing companies are able to ensure price compliance at the retailer level," according to the FAQs issued by the Finance Ministry. The pharmaceutical industry had earlier expressed concerns over the practical challenges and costs of recalling and re-labelling medicines already in circulation. The new decision to permit revised price lists instead is expected to reduce disruptions in the supply chain, ensuring that patients do not face shortages of essential medicines due to technical labelling requirements.

India's tyre industry expected to grow 12 times to Rs 1.30 lakh cr by 2047

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): Due to a resilient original equipment manufacturer (OEM) base, acceleration in vehicle exports, and replacement demand, India's tyre industry revenue is expected to grow 12 times to Rs 1.30 lakh crore by 2047, a report said on Tuesday. The industry's production volume would expand approximately 4 times during the period.

"The sharp rise in revenue growth is attributed to a change in the tyre industry's revenue mix, premiumization, increase in raw material prices, growing share of exports, electrification and servitisation," a joint report by the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) and PwC India said.

India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 presents a huge opportunity for the tyre industry, not only to meet the aspirations of its domestic customer base but also to exponentially scale up tyre exports, especially in the commercial vehicle and passenger vehicle segments across key markets like the US and EU, said Kavan Mukhtyar, Partner and Leader – Automotive, PwC India. "Emerging consumer trends and mobility shifts, a dynamic global business environment, and sustainability imperatives present a unique opportunity for the Indian tyre industry to transform itself and drive sustainable growth through 2047," he added. According to the report, robust passenger vehicle (PV) and two-wheeler (2W) sales led by improving per capita income, rising commercial vehicle CV sales led by strong infrastructure spending and consumption demand are expected to drive OEM tyre demand.

Increased people mobility and freight availability are expected to support replacement tyre demand.

Additionally, adopting export-centric growth strategies supported by market and use case-specific innovations, improved market access through newer free trade agreements., improved cost competitiveness and brand positioning, especially in PV and CV tyre segments, will be among the key factors aiding the acceleration of exports.

Ensuring sustained and cost-competitive availability of natural rubber, a dynamic regulatory environment, and non-tariff barriers will be among the key challenges for the growth of exports.

"The Indian Tyre Industry stands at the cusp of a transformational journey, driven by rapid economic growth, evolving mobility trends, and an expanding global footprint," said Arun Mammen, Chairman, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).

"This growth will be fueled by a shift towards premiumisation, sustainability-led innovation, and a strong focus on technology and exports. As we move towards 'Viksit Bharat 2047,' the Tyre Industry is poised to play a pivotal role in enabling India's automotive ambitions to build a resilient and future-ready sector," he added.

India tops Asia Pacific in AI adoption with 56 pc of city adults using Gen AI

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): India has emerged as the leader in artificial intelligence (AI) adoption across the Asia Pacific region, with more than half of metro adults actively using generative AI this year, a new report said. The data compiled by Forrester highlights that 56 per cent of Indians living in cities are using generative AI tools in 2025, up from 44 per cent in 2024, making India the frontrunner in the region. The report shows that Indian consumers are not only quick to adopt AI but also have the highest levels of AI knowledge globally.

Around 63 per cent of Indian adults say they understand AI well, compared to just 18 per cent in Australia and 26 per cent in Singapore. Only 5 per cent of Indians said they did not understand AI, the lowest percentage worldwide. Among different age groups, millennials stand out as the most knowledgeable, with nearly 69 per cent showing strong AI understanding. However, the research also reveals a trust paradox. While 45 per cent of Indians see AI as a serious threat to society, 66 per cent of those who are knowledgeable about AI also trust the information it provides. This reflects how greater awareness of AI brings both caution and confidence. For example, 64 per cent of Indian consumers trust AI-powered language translation services, much higher than in Australia (27 per cent) or Singapore (38 per cent).

When it comes to managing AI risks, Indians place the most confidence in long-established companies and big tech firms, with 58 per cent trusting these players. Highly regulated institutions such as banks also enjoy significant trust. This trust level is much higher than in Australia and Singapore, where private companies typically inspire less confidence. "India's AI landscape presents a remarkable combination of high adoption, sophisticated understanding, and pragmatic scepticism," said Vasupradha Srinivasan, principal analyst at Forrester. "Indian consumers are discerning users who understand both AI's potential and its risks. This creates an environment where transparency, security, and credibility become competitive strengths for enterprises," Srinivasan added.

The report also points to growing opportunities for businesses to integrate AI into customer service, education, healthcare, financial services and digital communication. With a rising number of consumers familiar with generative AI, companies can use these technologies to improve efficiency, personalise services and simplify everyday tasks. However, the findings underline the importance of protecting personal data, ensuring accurate outputs and communicating clearly about how AI systems operate to maintain consumer confidence.

Experts believe that India's combination of rapid adoption and growing AI awareness could strengthen its position in the global digital economy.

Telangana seeks Korean investments, Job creation,technology partnerships

Bhatti Vikramarka invites Korean firms to invest in key sectors, highlights 15,000-Crore tourism plan and three lakh jobs





Hyderabad, Oct 25 (GNS): Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the state government is prioritising investments from Korean companies, along with job creation, technology transfer and skill development among youth. He stated that Telangana offers vast opportunities for collaboration with Korean companies in electronics, electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, renewable energy and emerging technology sectors.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the K-Harmony Festa – Korea Culture Day 2026, held at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Bhatti Vikramarka recalled that the investment discussions held during Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to South Korea in August 2024 laid the foundation for economic cooperation between the two regions. He said the government would work to strengthen this partnership further and expand investments and employment opportunities.

He observed that Telangana had much to learn from South Korea's economic progress, adding that sustained investments in education, skill development, infrastructure and technology had played a crucial role in the country's development.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed the desire to strengthen cooperation among industries, universities, research institutions, startups and small enterprises. Highlighting the opportunities in tourism, Bhatti Vikramarka said Telangana's Tourism Policy 2025–2030 aims to attract investments worth 15,000 crore and create three lakh additional employment opportunities over five years. He welcomed Korean companies to participate in developing tourism infrastructure, hospitality, film tourism, wellness tourism and cultural experiences across the state. Bhatti Vikramarka said the festival, showcasing Korean culture, arts, music and traditions, would further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of India and South Korea. He praised South Korea for overcoming challenges such as war and poverty to emerge as one of the world's developed economies. He said the country's achievements in technology, manufacturing, education and innovation were commendable.

Korean music, films and television programmes have attracted young audiences across the world, demonstrating how cultural influence can enhance a country's international recognition, he noted. The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the similarities between Indian and Korean societies in areas such as education, family values, traditions and respect for elders. He also referred to the legend of Queen Heo Hwang-ok, who is believed to have travelled to Korea from ancient India, describing it as a symbol of the historical friendship between the two countries.

Bhatti Vikramarka said Hyderabad had served for centuries as a meeting point of diverse cultures, languages and traditions. He highlighted Telangana's distinctive cultural heritage, including Bathukamma, Bonalu, Telugu traditions and historic monuments. The state has several tourist attractions, including the Charminar, Golconda Fort and the Ramappa Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

TPCC legal cell state executive meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan

Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer Appeals to Advocates, Their Families, Relatives and Friends to Enrol as Graduate MLC Voters and Support Congress Candidate Sama Ram Mohan Reddy



Hyderabad, Oct 25 (GNS): The State Executive Meeting of the Legal Cell, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), was held at Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad, on 24 October 2026 under the leadership of Ponnam Ashok Goud Garu, Chairman, Legal Cell–TPCC and Member, Bar Council of Telangana.During the meeting, Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer, 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 Co-ordination Committee, Government of Telangana, addressed the gathering and appealed to advocates across Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts to actively participate in the Graduate MLC electoral process.

Momin Roshan Zameer urged all advocates to enrol as eligible Graduate MLC voters and encourage their family members, relatives and friends who fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria to register as graduate voters. He further appealed to all eligible voters to exercise their democratic right and extend their support to Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, Congress Party candidate for the Graduate Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) constituency covering Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts.

Addressing the gathering, Momin Roshan Zameer stated that Sama Ram Mohan Reddy had been associated with the Congress Party for a long time and had consistently worked for the party. He described him as a young and committed leader and expressed confidence that his dedication, energy and commitment to public service would enable him to represent the aspirations and concerns of graduate voters effectively.

He emphasised the importance of graduate voter enrolment and urged advocates to take an active role in spreading awareness among eligible graduates. He called upon members of the legal fraternity to strengthen democratic participation by ensuring that eligible graduates complete their voter registration and cast their votes in support of the Congress Party candidate.

The meeting was attended by Sachin Sawan Ji, AICC Secretary; B. Mahesh Kumar Goud Garu, President, TPCC; Ponnam Prabhakar Garu, Vivek Garu and D. Sridhar Babu Garu, Ministers in the Government of Telangana; Madhu Yaskhi Goud Garu, Chairman, All India Professionals' Congress; N. Rajendar Reddy Garu, Madhusudhan Reddy Garu and Kota Neelima Garu, MLAs; along with the TPCC Vice President, Legal Cell–TPCC district presidents, members and advocates. The State Executive Meeting provided an opportunity for Legal Cell–TPCC representatives and advocates to discuss organisational activities, strengthen coordination among district units and encourage greater participation by the legal fraternity in the party's programmes and electoral initiatives. The meeting concluded with an appeal to advocates and eligible graduate voters to work collectively for the success of Sama Ram Mohan Reddy in the Graduate MLC election and to strengthen the Congress Party's outreach among graduates in Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts.

TG CID busts rice diversion racket, 14 millers held

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (GNS): The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has registered three criminal cases into alleged irregularities in the delivery of Sanna Rakam rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the Kharif 2025–26 season, with 14 rice millers arrested so far. According to the CID, the investigation followed a complaint lodged by the General Manager (Procurement) of the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation on Saturday, Oct 24. The alleged irregularities involve the diversion of Sanna Rakam paddy allotted to rice mills to the open market and its substitution with cheaper coarse rice, including rice allegedly sourced from outside Telangana.

The State government procured 71.86 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the Kharif season against a target of 59.60 lakh metric tonnes of rice for delivery to the FCI. Inspections by Enforcement and Task Force (ETF) teams, followed by laboratory analysis, reportedly found that samples supplied did not conform to the Sanna Rakam variety specified in the allotments. In Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Mulugu districts, 16 rice mills allegedly delivered 3,385.820 metric tonnes of coarse rice against Sanna Rakam allotments. The bonus-related financial loss from these deliveries is estimated at approximately Rs. 1.69 crore. Another 45,414.833 metric tonnes of paddy had reportedly been allocated for conversion, involving a potential bonus-related financial implication of around Rs. 242 crore.

SAY NO TO DRUGS – YES TO LIFE

Campaign Poster Released by DSP Nagendra Chari in Rajanna Sircilla District



Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 25 (GNS): Today, the campaign poster titled "SAY NO TO DRUGS – YES TO LIFE", organized by the Protection of Legal and Human Rights Association, was officially unveiled by the Hon'ble Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of Rajanna Sircilla District, Mr. Nagendra Chari.

The programme was attended by the Association's Founder & CEO, Mr. Syed Abdul Kareem; National Assistant Director, Mr. Mohammad Najeeruddin; National Chairman (Legal Cell), Advocate Ajay Kumar Siliveri; Telangana State Secretary, Mr. Mohammed Abdul Kaleem; and other executive members of the Association.

The primary objective of this campaign is to raise public awareness, particularly among young people, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage them to stay away from drugs and lead healthy, responsible lives. Through this initiative, the Association appealed to the public to extend their cooperation in building a drug-free society and to guide the younger generation towards a healthy, safe, and bright future. The Association emphasized the importance of collective efforts by individuals, families, and communities in preventing drug abuse and protecting the future of young people.

"Stay Away from Drugs, Love Your Life, and Play Your Part in Building a Healthy Society." Protection of Legal and Human Rights Association

Jalaluddin Akbar Appointed as Karimnagar District Minority Welfare Officer (DMWO)

Congress Muslim Minority Leaders Felicitate the Newly Appointed Officer



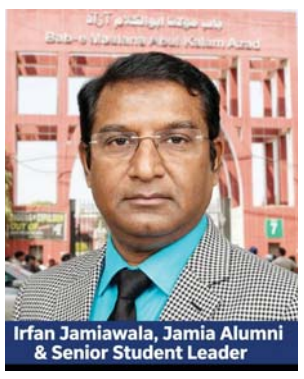
Karimnagar, Oct 25 (GNS): Congress Muslim Minority leaders met Mr. Jalaluddin Akbar, the newly appointed Karimnagar District Minority Welfare Officer (DMWO), congratulated him on his appointment, and felicitated him with honour.

The Congress Muslim Minority leaders stated that, for the past ten years, the responsibilities of the District Minority Welfare Officer had been entrusted to Additional District Revenue Officers (DROs). They expressed happiness that, after the Congress government came to power, a person belonging to the minority community had been appointed as the District Minority Welfare Officer. On behalf of the Muslim minorities of Karimnagar and the Congress Muslim Minority Department, the leaders conveyed their heartfelt thanks to State Ministers Sri Ponnam Prabhakar Garu and Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu Garu, as well as MLAs Sri Adduri Lakshman Kumar Garu, Dr. Kavvampally Satyanarayana Garu, and Sri Medipalli Satyam Garu, along with other senior leaders who supported the appointment. The leaders expressed hope that this appointment would contribute to the welfare, development, and progress of minority communities in Karimnagar district. Congress Leaders Who Participated The programme was attended by Abdul Rahman, former Youth Congress President; senior Congress leader Nehal Ahmed; DCC spokesperson Jameel; Youth Congress General Secretary Shabbaz; Urban DCC spokesperson Mohammed Ameer; Chand; Arif; Abdul Bari; Azmath; Saleem Bhai; Zafar; Jameel; Mufti Saab; Saddam; Sarwar Khan; Sadiq Bhai; Wajid Bhai, and other Congress Muslim Minority leaders. The leaders congratulated the newly appointed officer and expressed their best wishes for his successful tenure in serving the minority communities of Karimnagar district.

JMI Faculty and staff condemn objectionable wall slogans, appeal to students to end protest

More than 1,500 employees attend meeting as university shifts classes online amid student union election agitation

By Irfan Jamiawala



Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) witnessed a significant development on Saturday as more than 1,500 teaching and non-teaching staff members expressed concern over objectionable slogans written on campus walls and alleged damage to university property amid an ongoing student protest demanding elections to the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU).

The meeting was attended by JMI Vice-Chancellor Professor Mazhar Asif and Registrar Professor Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi. Held on the lawns of the university's Ansari Auditorium, the gathering focused on restoring peace and normal academic activities on campus. Two resolutions adopted unanimously

A seven-member high-level committee of university professors was constituted on October 18, 2026, to facilitate dialogue with students protesting for student union elections. The committee had held four rounds of discussions and issued an appeal the previous night urging the students to call off their agitation.

During Saturday's meeting, the teaching and non-teaching staff unanimously adopted two resolutions.

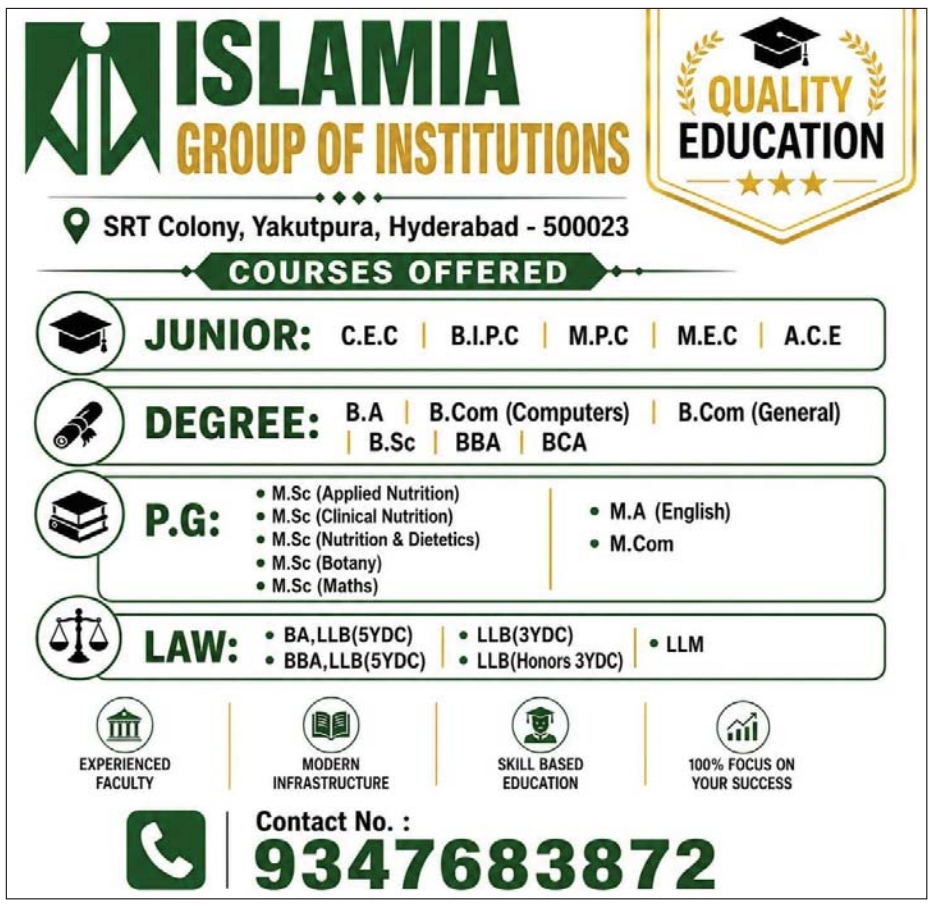
The first called upon the protesting students to end their agitation, vacate the protest site and cooperate in restoring peace and normalcy on campus. According to the university administration, Gate No. 18 had been designated as the protest site, while the students were staging their demonstration on the lawns near the statue of Mirza Ghalib. The second resolution called for repainting the defaced campus walls and removing what the employees described as highly objectionable slogans. Participants stressed that protecting university property and preserving the institution's reputation were collective responsibilities.

Faculty members and staff expressed concern that vandalism, objectionable wall writings and alleged misinformation circulating on social media could adversely affect the university's standing. They emphasised the importance of safeguarding the reputation of an institution with a 106-year history.

Vice-Chancellor and Registrar express concern

Vice-Chancellor Professor Mazhar Asif and Registrar Professor Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi expressed serious concern over the alleged defacement of university property and slogans reportedly raising issues relating to the country's integrity and sovereignty.

They warned that such incidents could affect not only JMI's institutional reputation but also students' academic prospects, opportunities for higher education and future employment and campus placement opportunities.





EDITOR, PRINTER, PUBLISHER & OWNER by MOHD ATHER RAHEEM PUBLISHED From FALAKNUMA NEWS English Daily 19-4-276/5/A, Flat No.502. 5th Floor, Lake view Residency, Baquar Nagar, BNK Colony, Miralam Tank, Hyderabad 500 064. Printed at RIYAZ PRINTING PRESS. #22-8-161 Behind Nayaab Hotel Chatta Bazar, Hyderabad - 500002 Telangana. Head Office Contact No.0404537318, falaknumanews@gmail.com www.falaknumanews.in