FALAKNUMA NEWS

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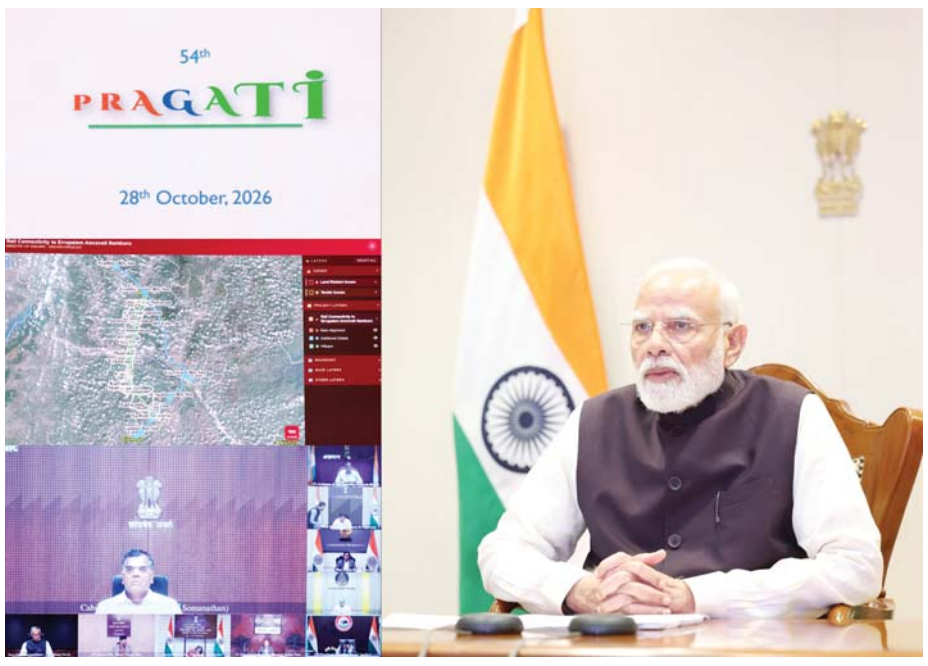
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PM chairs 54th PRAGATI Meeting at Seva Teerth, in New Delhi. (Photo: PIB)

PM Modi Reviews Projects Worth Over 16,000 Crore at 54th PRAGATI Meeting

New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired the 54th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), reviewing key infrastructure projects and development initiatives worth more than 16,000 crore across 31 States and Union Territories.

The meeting, held at Seva Teerth, focused on resolving implementation bottlenecks, improving coordination between the Centre and States, and ensuring the timely completion of projects related to Railways, PM Ekta Malls and Bulk Drug Parks. During the review, Modi emphasised the need for faster redevelopment of major railway stations across the country, stressing that modernised stations should function as multimodal transport hubs with seamless connectivity to metro systems and other modes of public transport.

The Prime Minister also reviewed the redevelopment of Ahmedabad railway station and called for expediting similar projects to improve passenger convenience and make railway travel more efficient. Reviewing the development of Bulk Drug Parks in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, Modi stressed the importance of prioritising domestic production of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and essential pharmaceutical inputs.

He said strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities was important for advancing self-reliance in the pharmaceutical sector and reducing dependence on external sources for critical medicines and raw materials. The Prime Minister underlined that PM Ekta Malls should serve as important marketplaces for locally manufactured products and traditional handicrafts, helping artisans expand their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

He called for integrating these malls with tourism destinations and local businesses to increase demand for indigenous products. Such integration, he noted, could generate employment opportunities in rural areas across production, packaging, storage and transportation.

Modi also stressed the need for regular progress reviews by Chief Secretaries to ensure that the malls are completed on time and achieve their intended objectives. Emphasising effective implementation of government welfare programmes, the Prime Minister directed Chief Secretaries to review the progress of schemes with District Magistrates every month.

Rahul Gandhi questions Tata meeting at Amit Shah's residence



New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday questioned union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over a reported meeting involving representatives of Tata Trusts and Tata Sons at the residence of union Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding to know what "legal and commercial matter" had necessitated the gathering and alleging that the Narendra Modi government favoured a handful of corporate cronies.

In a pointed post on the social media platform X, Gandhi addressed the Finance Minister as "Dear Mrs. Sitarama," before raising two questions about the reported meeting and hinting at what he suggested could be an impending move involving a powerful corporate player and the Tata group.

"Which 'legal and commercial matter' required Tata Trusts and Tata Sons to be hosted at Amit Shah's residence?" Gandhi asked. He followed it with a second, sharper question: "When is crony number 1 going to appear in the game and which pieces of Tata is he going to get?" Although Gandhi did not identify the person he described as "crony number 1", his remarks renewed the Congress's allegations of crony capitalism and preferential treatment for select business houses under the Modi government. He also asserted that the wider business community did not need any encouragement to oppose the ruling establishment, claiming that dissatisfaction extended well beyond the political Opposition.

The Congress leader's intervention has brought renewed political attention to questions of corporate access, transparency and the relationship between the govt and some of India's most influential business groups.

CJP backs INDIA bloc's November 1 rally, demands CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation



New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Wednesday extended its support to the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

In a statement, the outfit said the SIR exercise had raised serious concerns about the exclusion of eligible voters and alleged that the Election Commission was undermining the principle that people should choose their government, rather than the government choosing its voters.

"By undermining this very principle through SIR, Gyanesh Kumar has lost the trust required to oversee free and fair elections. His resignation is therefore necessary to restore the credibility and independence of the Election Commission," the CJP said.

Invoking the Constituent Assembly's commitment to universal adult franchise, the outfit said Dr B R Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and other makers of the Constitution had placed their faith in the people at a time when millions of Indians had never participated in an election. "The idea was simple: bring more citizens into democracy, not keep them out of it," it said. In a post on X, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said, "Gyanu must go! The Cockroach Janta Party extends its support to the INDIA Bloc's November 1 rally. Nation above all!"

The outfit said the Election Commission was responsible for safeguarding the voting rights of every eligible citizen and should not create obstacles to exercising them. "Our Constitution gave every adult citizen the right to vote. It is our responsibility to ensure that no eligible citizen is deprived of that right," the statement said. The CJP said it would support all organisations fighting for free and fair elections in the country. The statement ended with the slogans "Jai Bhim" and "Jai Hind".

At meeting with Hegseth, Rajnath objects to US upgrade of Pak F-16s



New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday raised objections to the ongoing US-aided sustainment and modernisation package for the Pakistan Air Force's F-16 fleet at a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth. The two met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu, Philippines. Meanwhile, Singh also conducted separate bilateral meetings with two other counterparts of Quad countries -- Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles. Discussions steered around the agenda of having a "free, open and secure Indo-Pacific". In strategic circles, the phrase "free, open and secure Indo-Pacific" is a euphemism for opposing Chinese hegemony and attempts to impede maritime traffic.

Sources confirmed Rajnath Singh flagged risks of the US-aided sustainment package for F-16 jets. In the past decade or more, fresh US military supplies to Pakistan had tapered off. Post Operation Sindoor, conducted in May last year, US-Pakistan military and strategic ties have been renewed, the sources added.

The sustainment package was okayed by the US Congress in December 2025 and was notified by the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). It is valued at $686 million and intends to extend the operational life of Pakistan's F-16s to 2040. The Indian side also warned of the risk of advanced US technology falling into the hands of third parties. This comes in the backdrop of Pakistan's close military cooperation with China.

The upgrade includes avionics upgrades, cryptographic systems and related software. It includes new 500-pound bombs and a crucial communication system called 'Link-16'.

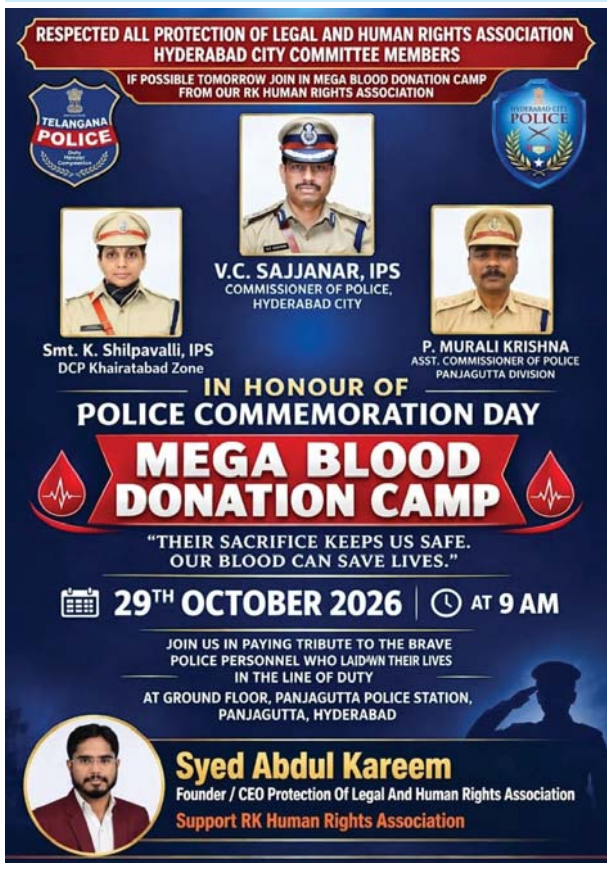
Spain train collision: Death tool reaches 64 after Renfe train hits Iryo service on Madrid-Andalusia line



URDA, Spain, Oct 28 (GNS): At least 64 people were killed on Wednesday when two high-speed trains collided in central Spain, according to regional emergency services cited by Spanish broadcaster Antena 3. Several carriages derailed, and two plunged down an embankment.

The collision happened just after 9 am local time between the towns of Mora and Orgaz in Toledo province. Regional spokeswoman Esther Padilla said two high-speed trains were heading in the same direction and that one ran into the tail of the other while it was stopped, knocking two of its cars off the track. Rail infrastructure operator Adif described it as a rear-end collision between a Renfe train and an Iryo train travelling from Madrid to Seville. Other reports described the Iryo train as travelling in the opposite direction, and the exact sequence is yet to be established.

Spanish Civil Protection sources told national media that at least 40 were confirmed dead. Some reports put the number of injured at more than 150, while El Español said the death toll could rise as rescue operations continue. Emergency services sent firefighters, medical personnel and rescue teams, including three medical helicopters and two advanced life-support units. Services between Madrid, Ciudad Real and Andalusia were suspended. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez suspended his agenda, expressed shock and said he was in constant contact with Transport Minister Óscar Puente and Castilla-La Mancha regional president Emiliano García-Page.



ED attaches Azam Khan's Ali Jauhar University properties worth Rs 1,170 cr



Lucknow, Oct 28 (GNS): In a significant development, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Wednesday attached the land and buildings of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur, which is held by the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust. The Trust was founded and is controlled by Samajwadi Party leader and former Cabinet Minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, Mohammad Azam Khan, who is also the honorary Chancellor of the university and is currently in jail.

The attachment was carried out in connection with a money laundering case against the Trust, Mohammad Azam Khan and others. The District Valuation Officer, an independent valuer, assessed the cost of construction of the 59 buildings on the university campus at Rs 494.46 crore in a report dated November 10, 2023. The land on which the university stands, acquired through 114 sale deeds, was valued at Rs 4.63 crore. The ED investigation found that only Rs 72.63 crore of the campus's cost could be explained through legitimate sources.

The investigation thus revealed that the balance of Rs 426.46 crore (Rs 499.09 crore - Rs 72.63 crore) constituted the proceeds of crime in this case, allegedly generated through illegitimate means.

The office-bearers of the Trust could not substantiate the source of the Rs 426.46 crore, which was identified as proceeds of crime in the case. Therefore, the land and buildings of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, Rampur, to the extent of Rs 426.46 crore and having a current market value of Rs 1,170 crore, were provisionally attached under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The ED initiated the investigation based on 26 FIRs registered at Azeem Nagar police station in Rampur under Section 384 of the IPC and other sections, alleging that agricultural land belonging to farmers had been forcibly taken over for the university. Further, according to an inquiry report by the Rampur district administration, 45 plots of enemy property measuring about 34 acres in Singhankhera village were also allegedly illegally occupied by Mohammad Azam Khan for the university, even after the custodian had cancelled the lease of the land to the Trust.

Possession of this land has been taken back by the custodian of enemy property under the Union Home Ministry through the Rampur district administration.

The ED shared this information with the Uttar Pradesh Police under Section 66(2) of the PMLA. Based on this information, an FIR was registered at Azeem Nagar police station in Rampur on October 13, 2026, against Mohammad Azam Khan, the Trust and others under Sections 61, 316(5) and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Sections 7 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

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Heritage conservation under conflicts and disasters



Col Satish Singh Lalotra

The word 'heritage' in itself has connotations spanning a humongous array of traditions, cultures and such like issues dating back to centuries that are directly connected to the anthropogenic(man oriented) activities ; both having positive as well as negative effects on the conservation of such an important aspect of human evolution. The world over, man has been constantly evolving himself to a degree of perfection as per the changing environmental milieu and in the bargain leaving his footprints over the sand dunes of time in the form of 'Heritage'. This heritage has been in certain places conserved at length with great painstaking efforts for the future generations to partake& peep into the times of yore and see with their own eyes the chain of human development down the ages. At other places it has been under a constant onslaught of human depredations, avarice and sheer force of conflicts and disasters, thus depriving a priceless heap of monuments and palaces from being explored and learnt by the younger generation of today. What can be a greater tragedy than the fact that it is human being again behind such depredations in the form of conflicts and wars that goes to destroy priceless monuments, architectural marvels which are in direct line of sight of these war mongers; only to fill in their own coffers with ill-gotten property? As if this is not enough, the intangibles in the form of various 'Force Majeure' actions like, earthquakes, Tsunamis and such like disasters drive the last nail in the coffin of conservation efforts for such heritage places around the world.

It has been a given thing without any shred of doubt, that in case of wars, conflicts, skirmishes and the like the first thing in the minds of enemy commanders is the capture of these iconic heritage sites , and make them part and parcel of their occupation strategy. Since these national heritage sites are the typical symbols representing the very sinews of a country's existence , the same under occupation by the enemy during conflict sounds a death knell to the collective pride and prestige of a race. In other cases if these heritage sites are unable to be occupied, then raze them to ground, as happened with world famous Abbey of 'Monte Cassino' in Italy during the 2 WW. Though the world body of UN had come up way back in 1954 ,with international conventions like the 'Hague convention' to protect cultural property emphasizing its importance for humanity and the need to prevent its deliberate destruction ;there was a felt need to do more so by this world body in order to streamline and act as a 'stabilizing factor' against human being's depredations in this regard. Hence dawned the day of 18 th April 1982, which was designated as 'World heritage day' for monuments and sites' by the 'International council for monuments and sites' aka 'ICOMOS'. This august organization was formed based on the principles outlined in the 'Venice charter 'created in 1964 to guide the conservation and restoration of monuments and sites. As on today almost all the continents of earth are raging with minor to major conflicts numbering from 70 to 100, and all having the potential of gobbling up the priceless monuments and sites to no end falling in their arc of influence.

Closer home, we have had the most infamous incident of Taliban militants in Afghanistan destroying the world famous (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE) 'Bamiyan Buddha statues dating back to 618 CE with the help of artillery guns way back in 2001 under direct orders of Mullah Mohammed Omar who wanted the idol worshipping to be a thing of the past in that land locked country. Though the world bodies rose in a crescendo against this oddity, the damage had been done. In the similar vein in the Gilgit -Baltisthan area of POK due to the ongoing CPEC as well as the construction of famous DiamerBhasha dam , some of the oldest Buddhist sculptures , inscriptions , rock edicts & such like heritage icons are under the direct threat of extinction. Partly due to Pakistan's complicity in joining hands with China riding high on expediencies of the times and more so due to sheer indifference regarding saving these priceless items .In our own Kashmir valley the world famous 'Charar -e-Sharif ' mosque and shrine dedicated to 14 th century sufi saint 'Sheikh Noor-ud-Din aka Nund Rishi was destroyed by the Pakistan based militant 'Mast Gul' way back in 1995 at the height of Kashmir militancy cum conflict between the security forces and the militants. Going a few centuries back the famous 'Martand sun temple' of Kashmir built during the reign of 'LalitadityaMuktapida' was razed to the ground by Sultan Sikander Shah Miri in the early 15 th century signaling a massive politico-religious churn that still has its reverberations felt even after more than 700 years . Actually India must be one of those unique countries of the world which has been feeling the heat of heritage destruction solely due to anthropogenic activities dating back to 8/9 th century AD. The country's rich landscape and history is replete with examples when due to foreign armies invading the nation had world famous temples like Somnath on their radars of destruction. The Afghan ruler cum war lord Mohammed Gazni attacked this famous temple numerous times not only to pillage and ransack the entire area, but also took along with him bullock carts laden with gems and jewelry followed by carts full of women and children as slaves.

Many a time the heritage conservation cum protection which is a highly technical and painstaking job for a given area or monument gets stuck due to sheer apathy, lack of vision, and inertia among the stakeholders. The iconic 'Mubarak Mandi palace' the seat of Dogra rulers at Jammu is that typical example of heritage conservation having gone horribly wrong. With myriad interests working at cross purposes , is it any brainer that the project has not taken off in the right earnest with dime a dozen governments having come and gone? Same is the state of affairs with the famous 'Jasrota palace' at Jasrota, the Samba palace to name a few. As brought earlier heritage conservation is not only a painstaking job requiring latest technical knowhow in the related field, but also demands an unequivocal attention in both technical expertise as well as a free flow of funds to support such an exclusive field where not everybody may be on the same page. While ICOMOS (International council of monuments & sites) will celebrate the theme-'Disaster & conflict resilient heritage' that is slated for this year of 2025, NGOs too are invited to acknowledge the IDMS under the overarching theme of '-Disaster and conflict resilient heritage , thereby encouraging them to share their experiences, events, and publications as also outcomes of discussions with ICOMOS members and the international secretariat.

Some of the activities that might include inventorying, collection of data on damage and losses and assessment of vulnerabilities ; understanding risks, and building corresponding capabilities ; collaboration between stakeholders, communication between relevant agencies in the heritage and disaster risk management may lead to successful tackling of this gigantic bundle of problems. Since its beginning,ICOMOS has grown to include more than 10,000 members from 150 countries worldwide. Among these members are 400 representatives from institutions, national committees and international scientific organisations , all working together to safeguard important sites and identify new ones that require attention. Just 2 years back, two new Indian sites were added to the world heritage list: sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas and Santiniketan.

Now how do you celebrate this iconic 'World heritage day'? As far as schools and organisations having a preponderance of younger work force are concerned, they can organize story telling sessions , trips to monuments and heritage sites in India , show movies that celebrate culture and traditions. On an individual scale, spread the word of ' World Heritage day' in your area / neighbourhood by word of mouth or even on social media platforms for a quick and effective response . Join in and show your support for these crucial causes by finding local events by checking your community's facebook group for details. Share a post or a photo of a notable international or even national site that might have been visited by you or hope to visit in the near future and ask your followers to share their favourites. As far as India is concerned the list is quite long with about 42 Indian sites that have earned a spot on the world heritage site. Some of the Indian sites with year of their inclusion having made up to the 'World heritage list' are as under

Ranjit Sagar Dam: Legacy of grit and glory

THE Ranjit Sagar Dam is the youngest member of the 'Dam Family Tree' of the northern region. As per the Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, the waters of three eastern rivers — the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — were allotted exclusively to India. Three multipurpose river valley projects, especially flood control-cum-storage dams, were planned and constructed. A massive concrete dam at Bhakra on the Sutlej was taken up first, followed by the earthen dams on the Beas and the Ravi. The Ranjit Sagar Dam is also known as Thein Dam, named after a small village in Kathua district of J&K.

The Bhakra-Nangal Complex was commissioned in 1963. A US team, headed by Harvey Slocum, was the consultant. It was instrumental in grooming a large force of Indian construction workers and engineers. After the completion of the Bhakra Dam, this force was transferred to the Beas project. The Beas Dam was using indigenous resources, manpower and technology. The earthen dam on the Beas was completed in 1974. However, the next in line, the Ranjit Sagar Dam, could not take off in time. The 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan created a financial strain and the project had to be deferred for a decade. This resulted in the non-utilisation of surplus and skilled manpower and the equipment spared from the Bhakra-Beas projects. Some of the staff were posted to the neighbouring projects. Some engineers were sent on assignments in Africa and South-East Asian countries.

Ultimately, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation for this project in November, 1985. The project was also included in the Seventh Five-Year Plan for adequate funding. Skilled staff and engineers from the Bhakra-Beas and other projects were recalled and engaged for the work.

Ranjit Sagar Dam is an earthen dam, similar to the Beas dam, but smaller in volume. It comprises four tunnels, an earthen dam, a spillway and a powerhouse. The construction was taken up with a departmental setup and work was done around the clock. The dam was completed by the sweat and toil of a dedicated band of 15,000 workers, technicians and engineers. Over 126 workers and other associates laid down their lives during the construction period. We salute these martyrs. The dam was commissioned and dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on March 4, 2001. It has now completed 25 years of successful operations. During the course of construction, the dam encountered some hurdles and natural calamities:

All embankments and protection bundhs along the river protecting the upstream and downstream portals (faces) of the tunnels, the powerhouse foundation and service roads were flooded and washed away. As a result, the flood waters entered the tunnels and filled them with silt, debris, uprooted trees, animal carcasses, etc.

The hard labour was undone in a few seconds. I was then the Executive Engineer. We stood there helpless and shocked. This was a big setback, delaying the project by two-three years. The demoralisation was such that the abandonment of the project was also considered.

Tunnelling work is the most challenging and hazardous job in civil engineering, especially when geological surprises strike. RS Gill, eminent engineer, who was also Chairman of the consultant committee, held many meetings with engineers and workers to lift their spirits. He reminded them that some hazards had also been faced at Bhakra and Beas dams and were overcome. The Bhakra Dam site has the distinction of having been visited 13 times by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the construction period. However, the Beas Dam was not lucky in this respect. The Ranjit Sagar Dam site was also visited by three PMs — Rajiv Gandhi in 1985, PV Narasimha Rao in 1995 and Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2001 (dedication ceremony).

However, jovial moments too were a part of the process. Engineers remained busy monitoring the progress, estimates, accounts, arrears, etc. More heat than light was generated during the meetings because of work tension. Some lighter moments are as follows: Once a villager visited the house of the Chief Engineer to complain about land payment on a winter morning and rang the bell. The Chief Engineer, who was in a night suit, opened the door and said: "Bataayen, kya baat hai?" (what's the matter). He responded, "Yaar, maine aapse baat nahi karni. Apne Chief ko bhejo. Aur thand bahut zyada hai, ek chai ka cup aur biscuit bejh do." (I don't want to talk to you, send your Chief. Also, send a cup of tea and biscuits to warm me up.) Sir just enjoyed the moment. The GM decided to have a security check at the dam site. He wore casuals, got into a different car with the driver and set out for the site. At the check post, the security personnel asked the driver his name and the occupant with him. The driver recorded his name and said: "GM Sir is in the car."

The personnel peeped in and said, "Yaar, jhooth kyu bol rahe ho. Hum GM sahab ko pehchante hain, woh hamesha proper dress mein rehte hain." (Please don't lie. We recognise GM Sahab, he is always well dressed). Before the driver could object, he added, "Mujhe lagta hai, tu apne kisi rishtedar ko dam dikhane ja raha hai aur naam GM Sahab ka le raha hai." (You are taking your relative or friend for a free ride and taking GM Sahab's name)." The driver got enraged and a verbal bout started. The GM signalled the driver to return. He asked, "Sir, woh surprise check?" The GM smiled: "Ho to gaya hai. I am happy with the security arrangement as even the GM is not allowed." An officer told his wife that he would return home late as the foundation of the dam was being laid that day. His wife protested, saying: "What have you been doing at the dam for the last five years if it was to start today?"

The Ranjit Sagar Dam has completed 25 years and has been ushering prosperity in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and J&K. The dam's administrative control rests, by and large, with the Punjab government, as per the agreements with the states concerned. It is not under the BBMB's control.

BIMSTEC: An Emerging and Effective Platform for Regional Cooperation

Dr Ashwani Mahajan

A few days ago, the Prime Minister of India participated in the sixth summit of the seven Asian countries 'BIMSTEC' held in Bangkok and called for better connectivity, economic and digital relations among these countries. It is worth noting that 'BIMSTEC' includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. According to the International Monetary Fund's 2024 estimates, these countries produce a total GDP of 5.23 trillion USD, in which naturally India has the highest contribution. It is an international economic cooperation organization of the countries on the coast or near the Bay of Bengal. Most important point is that Pakistan is not a member country of this organization. Although this organization has been running for more than 27 years, it was initially formed in June 1997, as BISTEC, i.e. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation. Shortly in December 1997, Myanmar was included in it and its became, BIMSTEC, that is, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation. In February 2004, Nepal and Bhutan became its members and its name remained BIMSTEC, but it now came to be known as 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation'. So far, its 6 Summits have been held in Thailand, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka respectively, after which its sixth summit was held once again in Thailand, Bangkok from 2 to 4 April 2025.

How is BIMSTEC different from SAARC? It is worth noting that SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) is also an organization of India's neighbouring countries. SAARC was formed in 1985 as an organization of seven countries of South Asia, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan



and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined it in 2007. SAARC has 9 observer countries also, which also include the European Union, the United States of America, Iran and China. To promote trade among the SAARC countries, two agreements named South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement, i.e. SAPTA; and South Asian Free Trade Area, i.e. SAFTA were signed in 1995 and 2004 respectively. The purpose of these agreements was to promote trade and development for the welfare of the people in this region. There was some controversy in SAARC from the very beginning, because Pakistan had started working to defame India by instigating smaller countries against her. In view of this attitude of Pakistan, the work of promoting BIMSTEC was started under India's 'Look East Policy' starting from 1992. BIMSTEC was strengthened by making Indian Ocean Rim Association in 1997, Mekong Ganga Cooperation in 2000 and Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal Transport Agreement in 2015. It is worth mentioning that after India showed cold feet to SAARC, the importance of SAARC eroded and not a single summit has been held for the last more than 10 years.

It is worth noting that all the seven neighbouring or adjacent countries of India included in BIMSTEC are developing countries. India is the largest among these countries in terms of economy and population. Today, when various types of barriers and confusions are on the rise, among the countries around the world, the importance of this regional economic cooperation organization increases further under India's 'Look East Policy'. The people of this region are impressed by the technological and economic progress that India has made in the last decade. Whether it is a matter of connectivity or digitization, or cooperation in the field of space, India is in a position today to cooperate with the countries of this region. Both India's strong economic position and soft power make it the most important part of BIMSTEC for the leadership of this region. This is the reason why the speech given by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the sixth summit of BIMSTEC holds special importance. Prime Minister Modi described BIMSTEC as an important bridge between South Asia and South East Asia. The Prime Minister said that BIMSTEC has now become an effective platform for regional cooperation, coordination and development. In this context, Prime Minister Modi called for further strengthening the agenda and capacity of BIMSTEC. The Prime Minister also announced a number of India-led initiatives towards institution and capacity building in BIMSTEC. These include setting up of BIMSTEC Centres of Excellence in India on research and training in disaster management, sustainable maritime transport, traditional medicine and agriculture.

He also announced a new programme for skilling the youth, under which training and scholarships will be provided to professionals.

India to become trusted bridge of global connectivity through IMEC: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): The country is poised to become a trusted bridge of global connectivity through India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has said. Goyal said during an event here that the IMEC is a powerful endorsement of the leadership and partnership of India and Middle East and East Europe a very forward and visionary concept that has caught the fancy of the world. The minister stated that IMEC is not merely a trade route, but a modern-day Silk Route — a partnership of equals — that fosters synergy, connectivity, and inclusive prosperity.

"It will bring down logistics costs by up to 30 per cent, reduce transportation time by 40 per cent, and create seamless trade linkages across continents," he said, adding that "We will not only be linking trade; we will be linking civilisations and cultures — from Southeast Asia to the Gulf, from the Middle East to Central Europe." Highlighting its potential reach, Goyal added that IMEC could even enhance connectivity to Africa through the Middle East. The corridor would include railways, roadways, energy pipelines, and clean energy infrastructure, including undersea cables. "India is already in discussions with Singapore on clean energy transmission. We are also engaged in dialogue with Saudi Arabia and the UAE," he noted.

Goyal underscored the corridor's emphasis on sustainability and digital connectivity. "This initiative respects sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is not about dominance or creating economic unions. It is a partnership built on mutual trust, inclusivity and sustainability," he said. The minister further outlined five key suggestions as a way forward for the IMEC initiative. First, Goyal stressed the importance of viewing IMEC through the lens of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). He emphasised that leaving the initiative solely to the government would limit its efficiency and financial viability. Instead, he called for a collaborative model where the private sector leads, bringing to the table its real-world expertise, needs, and innovative capabilities. Second, he highlighted the need to focus on Regulatory Connectivity, going beyond just physical infrastructure. Third, he underlined the need for Innovative Financing Models to support both the development of the corridor and the trade it will generate. Fourth, he recommended active engagement with industry bodies and trade associations, asserting that their insights are essential for designing a corridor that aligns with the real needs of businesses.

Lastly, Goyal proposed bringing in think tanks and academia to the visioning and design process. These institutions, he noted, bring creativity, research strength, and long-term thinking.

Centre issues norms for setting up CoE to boost R&D in critical minerals



New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): The Ministry of Mines on Wednesday issued the guidelines for setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Mineral Mission to promote research and technology development in critical minerals. Critical raw materials form the crucial supply chain for emerging sectors of clean energy and mobility transition, in addition to advanced technology and strategic sectors like electronics, defence, electric vehicles and space.

In order to develop, demonstrate and deploy technologies in an end-to-end systems approach, it is essential to conduct R&D so as to reach higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRL). The Centres of Excellence (CoE) will identify, develop and implement extraction process and beneficiation technologies for a host of critical minerals from multiple sources and conduct directed R&D to reach TRL 7/8 pilot plant and pre-commercial demonstration and create a competency centre, according to an official statement.

Under this new initiative, reputed academic/R&D institutions, as per eligibility prescribed, will be evaluated and recognized as CoEs for R&D in critical minerals. CoEs will undertake innovative and transformational research to strengthen and advance the nation's science and technology capability in the area of critical minerals. CoEs will aim at undertaking cutting edge research and promoting inter-/multi-disciplinary approaches to problem solving in critical minerals domain, the statement explained. A CoE will operate as a consortium, on a hub and spoke model, to leverage R&D in critical minerals and pooling the core competence of each constituent under one umbrella. The CoE (Hub Institute) will bring in at least two industry partners and at least two R&D/academic partners in the consortium.

As part of the process to recognize CoEs, the Ministry will call for proposals from eligible institutes shortly, the statement added. The Union Cabinet had approved the launch of the National Critical Mineral Mission with an outlay of Rs.16,300 crore and expected investment of Rs.18,000 crore by public sector undertakings.

The mission aims to reduce the dependence on import of critical minerals and ensure self-reliance. Currnently China is the dominant producer of critical minerals and enjoys a near-monopoly over this crucial raw material required for advanced technology products.

India to grow by 6.5 pc in 2025 amid global slump: UN report

New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): India is expected to remain the fastest growing major economy with a 6.5 per cent growth rate in 2025 while global growth is seen as marking a shift towards a recessionary path with the international trading system facing its most serious challenge since the Second World War, according to the latest UNCTAD report.

India has been listed among the countries that are propelling growth with higher government expenditure and monetary policy stimulus in the report titled 'Trade and Development Foresights 2025 - Under pressure: Uncertainty reshapes global economic prospects'.

The report projected China's growth rate at 4.4 per cent, while the US economy is expected to grow at 1 per cent. The growth for the European Union has also been projected at 1 per cent, although France, Germany and Italy are all expected to record below 1 per cent growth. Similarly, Japan's economic growth rate is expected to come down to a mere 0.5 per cent. "The international trading system is facing its most serious challenge since the Second World War. The transformation in the structure of world trade (UNCTAD, 2024) and the reconfiguration of global value chains have been unfolding over the past decade or so. The repercussions of the current policy shock and global uncertainty are set to accelerate these shifts, thereby making any predictions about the ultimate impact of trade reconfiguration difficult. Yet it is already clear that merchandise trade flows are under intense pressure and will be significantly affected," the UNCTAD report said.

The report pointed out that the late-2024 and early-2025 uptick in global trade was driven in part by front-loaded orders. This momentum is expected to fade, or even reverse, during the rest of 2025 as new tariffs come into effect. Trade policy uncertainty is already affecting businesses and long-term planning decisions.

Amid escalating trade tensions, developing countries should leverage existing trade relationships and seek out multilateral frameworks and regional arrangements to boost intraregional as well as South–South trade. A strategy of "open regionalism" can offer a workable alternative to the global stalemate and a pathway to achieving development objectives, according to the report. Strengthening existing trade ties, including within the global South, offers a buffer against rising uncertainty. But many low-income countries face a convergence of risks: worsening external conditions, heavy debt burdens and weakening domestic growth. If the geoeconomic confrontation continues to disrupt the global economy, poorer nations can face a perfect storm, the report said. In the case of China, growth is expected to be supported by the ramping up of fiscal and monetary stimulus measures as well as structural policies. Similarly, a series of policy actions undertaken to stabilise the real estate sector appear to have had the desired effect, as the sector's declining trend has eased since the end of 2024. However, the increasingly difficult external context will undoubtedly weigh on growth, the report added.

Indian stock market opens in red, IT stocks drag

Mumbai, Oct 28 (GNS): After three consecutive days of gains, the domestic benchmark indices opened in red on Thursday amid weak global cues, as selling was seen in the IT and auto sectors in the early trade. At around 9.27 am, Sensex was trading 338.13 points or 0.44 per cent down at 76,706.16 while the Nifty declined 120.75 points or 0.52 per cent at 23,316.45

Nifty Bank was up 62.25 points or 0.12 per cent at 53,180.00. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 52,300.65 after declining 44.90 points or 0.09 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 16,347.85 after declining 1.40 points or 0.01 per cent. According to market watchers, after a negative opening, Nifty can find support at 23,300 followed by 23,200 and 23,000. On the higher side, 23,500 can be an immediate resistance, followed by 23,600 and 23,800.

"The charts of Bank Nifty indicate that it may get support at 52,800 followed by 52,500 and 52,300. If the index advances further, 53,300 would be the initial key resistance, followed by 53,500 and 53,800," said Hardik Matalia, Derivative Analyst of Choice Broking.

Meanwhile, in the Sensex pack, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Tata Steel, TCS, L&T, M&M, Bajaj Finance, Titan, Asian Paints, Nestle India, Tata Motors were the top losers. Whereas, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, NTPC and HDFC Bank were the top gainers. In the last trading session, Dow Jones in the US declined 1.73 per cent to close at 39,669.39. The S&P 500 declined 2.24 per cent to 5,275.70 and the Nasdaq declined 3.07 per cent to close at 16,307.16. In the Asian markets, Jakarta was trading in red. Whereas Japan, Seoul, China, Bangkok and Hong Kong were trading in green. The foreign institutional investors (FIIs) extended buying on second day on April 16 as they bought equities worth Rs 3,936.42 crore.

However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) extended their selling on second session as they sold equities of Rs 2,512.77 crore on the same day.

Market analysts advised investors to remain cautious amid global volatility and mixed institutional investment trends.

CCPA issues notices to coaching centres for misleading ads

New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued notices to some coaching institutes for violating the Consumer Protection Act and Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector, according to an official statement issued on Thursday.

Following the recent declaration of results for examinations such as IIT-JEE and NEET, the CCPA observed that coaching centres are not adhering to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector, 2024. It has also detected unfair trade practices including promised services not provided, admission cancelled but fee not refunded, deficiency in service, non/partial refund of fees. The CCPA has advised all coaching centres to strictly adhere to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector. The authority said this is essential their representations are accurate, clear, and free from misleading claims or the concealment of important information from consumers. Additionally, coaching centres should avoid making assurances of guaranteed success. Coaching centres must clearly disclose key details in their advertisements, including the student's name, rank, course type, and whether the course was paid. Disclaimers must be prominently displayed in the same font size as other important information to ensure consumers are not misled. Abovementioned claims and practices appear to be violating various provisions of the Act including Section- 2(28) and 2 (47) of Consumer Protection Act.

India up against Hormuz dilemma

New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): Chinese President Hu Jintao's acknowledgment of his country's "Malacca dilemma" drew global attention to that Southeast Asian maritime chokepoint, even as the Indian Navy's (IN) maritime strategy had long identified the Strait of Hormuz as the true jugular vein of global energy. Linking the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea, its closure would, according to the IN assessment, "severely affect the energy security of many nations, including India." This vulnerability is shared by the world's other leading oil importers, notably China, Japan and South Korea.

With India's 23 oil refineries demanding over 5 million barrels of crude daily, the country's economic and industrial well-being depend on the assured arrival of 2-3 very large crude carriers every day at our west coast ports. Similarly, one ship carrying liquefied natural gas must arrive at one of our "regasification" terminals daily to maintain the national gas grid. Apart from the pain that energy shortages will inflict on the economy and citizens, there will also be second-order adverse effects on sectors like fertilisers and pharmaceuticals. Iran's blockade of the crucial Strait of Hormuz is the spearhead of its determined response to the unprovoked US-Israel air campaign targeting Iranian leadership, nuclear facilities and missile infrastructure. The newly chosen Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Mojtaba Khamenei, has adopted a defiant "war of survival" strategy, in which weaponisation of the 30-km-wide Strait of Hormuz aims to achieve two disruptive aims.

First, by posing a threat to oil tankers with sea mines and low-cost drones, Iran has sent maritime insurance premiums and freight rates skyrocketing, paralysing shipping traffic. Second, by lining the strait's northern shore with missile batteries and "swarms" of aerial and seaborne drones, Iran has created a formidable deterrent.

India's auto sector accelerates deal growth with $1.5 billion in Q1 2025

New Delhi, Oct 28 (GNS): India's automotive and mobility sector saw 29 deals valued at $1.5 billion in the January-March quarter (Q1) this year, a report showed on Thursday. Excluding IPOs and QIPs, the sector recorded a 27 per cent rise in volumes — from 22 in Q4 2024 to 28 — and a remarkable 191 per cent surge in values, from $509 million to $1.4 billion, according to a Grant Thornton Bharat report.

This growth was driven by a mix of strategic and financial investments, including a marquee billion-dollar private equity deal, and heightened interest across emerging segments such as electric vehicles (EVs), autotech and Mobility as a Service (MaaS).

The presence of one-billion-dollar transaction and three high-value deals ($50 million) reflects the sector's continued attractiveness to investors. "India's automotive and mobility sector is undergoing a pivotal transformation, driven by electrification, digital integration and a rising focus on sustainability. Despite evolving global trade dynamics and supply chain headwinds, investor confidence remains strong, reflected in the sharp rise in deal volumes and values this past quarter," said Saket Mehra, Partner and Auto Industry Leader at Grant Thornton Bharat.

To stay competitive, Indian players must double down on innovation, strategic partnerships and value-added offerings, particularly in areas like EVs, auto components and next-gen mobility solutions, he mentioned. The M&A landscape in India's automotive and mobility sector continued its upward trajectory in Q1 2025, recording 9 deals worth $359 million.

This marks the third consecutive quarter of growth, driven largely by domestic consolidations aimed at enhancing localisation and aligning product portfolios.

While inbound activity saw a revival with Italy-based Fontana Gruppo acquiring a 60 per cent stake in Right Tight Fasteners for USD 115 million, outbound activity remained muted.

Domestic transactions dominated the space, with the average deal size jumping from $5 million in the previous quarter to $31 million. Private equity and venture capital activity in India's automotive and mobility sector witnessed robust growth in Q1 2025, with 19 deals totalling $1.12 billion. This represents a six-fold (500 per cent) surge in deal values and a 36 per cent increase in volumes over the previous quarter.

The report highlighted growing investor interest in electric mobility, advanced automotive technologies and digital platforms that are reshaping transportation in India. Experts said continued investment in research and development, localisation of components and stronger domestic supply chains would be critical to sustaining growth. They added that strategic partnerships between automakers, technology companies .



Revanth Reddy directs 100% STP capacity, treated water use in Hyderabad

CM orders strict monitoring of drinking water supplies, mandates treated water for construction activities from November 1



Hyderabad, Oct 28 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to take all necessary measures to prevent a drinking water crisis in Hyderabad, stressing the need for continuous monitoring of reservoir storage levels and drinking water supplies in view of the El Niño phenomenon and future requirements. At a review meeting held at the Bodhi Pavilion of the MCRHRD Institute on Wednesday, the Chief Minister reviewed drinking water supply, the construction and operation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), and the utilisation of treated wastewater in the city's core area.

Revanth Reddy instructed officials to ensure that all STPs in the core area operate at 100 per cent capacity. He emphasised that treated water should be utilised for non-drinking purposes, including construction activities, maintenance of greenery, cleaning of public parks and roads, and other operational requirements.

The Chief Minister directed officials to use treated water at the Secretariat, Chief Minister's Office, Outer Ring Road premises, Metro Rail facilities and offices of various government departments. He also stressed strict enforcement of the requirement to use treated water at construction sites.

The government should encourage private establishments to set up STPs and facilitate the supply of treated water to data centres, he said. He also asked senior officials of the Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation (REDCO) to explore the feasibility of using solar power to operate STPs.

Emphasising the importance of water quality, the Chief Minister said treatment plants must adhere to state-of-the-art technical standards, with no compromise on the quality of treated water. He directed officials to appoint a dedicated officer for each treatment plant and connect all STPs to a command control centre for continuous monitoring. He further instructed officials to ensure regular monitoring of the plants' performance by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA). A tracking system should also be introduced for tankers transporting treated water to ensure proper monitoring of supply and utilisation.

Calling for greater public awareness, Revanth Reddy directed officials to launch awareness campaigns explaining the importance and benefits of using treated wastewater for non-drinking purposes. He also proposed establishing a dedicated toll-free number to provide information and address issues relating to treated water. The Chief Minister instructed officials to implement the directives on STP operations and treated water utilisation from November 1. During the meeting, Water Board officials informed the Chief Minister that treated water from 26 STPs was already being supplied through specially designated green tankers. They said the water was provided free of cost, with consumers required to pay only transportation charges.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, CMO Secretary Manik Raj, Director of School Education Naveen Nicholas, Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner Srujana, Malkajgiri Municipal Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy, TGSPDCL Managing Director Jitesh V. Patil, Pollution Control Board Member Secretary Ravi and Special Commissioner of the Information and Public Relations Department Mukunda Reddy, among others.

Ponguleti launches free online coaching for unemployed youth under PSR yuva nestham



Hyderabad, Oct 28 (GNS): Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy formally inaugurated the program on Wednesday in his chamber at the Secretariat, coinciding with his birthday. The event was attended by Minister Vakiti Srihari, MP Ramasahayam Raghurami Reddy, and MLAs Vemula Veeresham and Lakshma Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the initiative was launched with the objective of providing quality training to unemployed youth and creating the necessary opportunities for them to secure government jobs. He noted that 'RC Exams' has been shaping talented individuals for the past 30 years, providing guidance to aspirants aiming for high-level positions, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). The Minister noted that the involvement of experienced educators and faculty members—such as Karim, Krishna Reddy, and Memula Saidulu—in this training program would prove highly beneficial for the candidates. Past experience serves as the inspiration for 'Yuva Nestham'

Recalling his entry into politics in 2013 and his election as an MP in 2014, the Minister mentioned that he had organized a special training program for unemployed youth in the Khammam region in 2016. He stated that, at the time, approximately 2,300 unemployed individuals were provided with offline training, along with all necessary facilities. He revealed that 462 of those who received the training went on to secure jobs in various government departments.

Telangana Governor calls for drug-free state by 2029, launches 60-day awareness campaign



Hyderabad, Oct 28 (GNS): Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has called upon students and youth to lead the fight against drug abuse, stressing that the State must aim to become drug-free by 2029 through collective efforts involving educational institutions, parents, government agencies and civil society.

Addressing the Nasha Mukt Bharat and Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat–2047 awareness programme at Tagore Auditorium on the Osmania University campus on Wednesday, the Governor urged young people to focus on their dreams and aspirations rather than fall prey to substance abuse.

The programme was jointly organised by the Telangana State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Cell of Osmania University.

Emphasising the need for early intervention, Shukla said he had suggested to the State Government that students be required to take an anti-drug pledge at the time of admission to schools and colleges. He said the fight against drugs should become a people's movement rather than remain the responsibility of the government alone.

Youth crucial to building a drug-free Telangana

The Governor observed that the nation's future was shaped in classrooms as much as in factories and mines. He cautioned that the goals of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Telangana could not be achieved if young people became victims of drug abuse.

Shaik Abdullah Sohail urges graduates to register as MLC voters before Nov 6



Hyderabad, Oct 28 (GNS): Senior BRS leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail on Wednesday appealed to eligible graduates across the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates' Legislative Council constituencies to register themselves as voters before the November 6 deadline. He said fresh registration was mandatory even for those who had voted in previous Graduate MLC elections, as the electoral rolls were being prepared afresh.

In a statement, Sohail urged graduates, including young professionals, employees, entrepreneurs and job-seekers, to complete the registration process without waiting until the last date. He expressed concern that many eligible graduates might remain unaware of the requirement for separate enrolment in the Graduates' constituencies.

"Many graduates believe that because they voted in the previous MLC election, their names will automatically remain on the electoral rolls. This is incorrect. Every eligible graduate must submit a fresh Form-18 application. Similarly, having a regular voter ID for Assembly or Lok Sabha elections does not automatically make someone a Graduate MLC voter," he said. Explaining the eligibility criteria, the BRS leader said any Indian citizen ordinarily residing in the respective Graduates' constituency who had obtained a university degree or recognised equivalent qualification on or before October 31, 2023, could apply for enrolment, subject to the prescribed electoral requirements.

He clarified that the relevant date was when the applicant passed the qualifying examination, not the date of convocation or issuance of the degree certificate. Those who completed their qualifying degree after October 31, 2023, would not be eligible under the present revision.

Bhatti Vikramarka calls for AI-driven, faster public services



Hyderabad, Oct 28 (GNS): The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) must accelerate work in government offices and ensure the timely resolution of public grievances. Farmers, pensioners and ordinary citizens should no longer have to visit government offices repeatedly to get their work done. Every hour saved in government offices must translate into time returned to the public. The real measure of AI's success in governance is the positive change it brings to people's lives, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka asserted.

He emphasised that what matters is not how advanced a technology is, but how effectively it delivers better services to the public. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 'AI Saksham' programme, organised by TG Math with the support of the Planning Department at MCR HRD, Hyderabad. He said the primary objective of the programme was to enhance the capabilities of government employees and build an administrative system that delivers services to citizens more quickly, transparently and efficiently.

Bhatti Vikramarka said AI tools could help the Finance Department analyse whether public funds were reaching their intended beneficiaries, identify the reasons for delays in expenditure and detect shortcomings in project implementation.

By comparing expenditure across various projects and identifying unusual spending patterns, officials could improve the efficiency of their work, he said. However, he clarified that an unusual pattern identified by a system should not be treated as proof of wrongdoing. Every such instance must be examined in accordance with the evidence and applicable rules.

In the field of planning, he noted that statistical averages might not fully reflect ground realities. Even if development indicators were favourable in a district, people living in remote areas might still be deprived of government services.

AI-based analysis could help identify whether all eligible beneficiaries were receiving the benefits of welfare schemes and where gaps existed, he explained. At the same time, he stressed that field visits, public feedback and the practical experience of government employees must continue to play an important role.

The Deputy Chief Minister said AI could help forecast electricity demand, identify equipment faults and improve maintenance operations. Such technologies could contribute to ensuring an uninterrupted power supply to farmers, small industries and hospitals. However, he advised that AI-based systems should be implemented only after thoroughly assessing their performance under real-world conditions and ensuring compliance with safety standards.

Well-Known Social Worker and Muslim Leader Syed Asgar Hussain's Daughter Nabeera Akhtar Maseera Fatima Receives Telangana Excellence Award for Painting and Calligraphy

Karimnagar Artist Honoured for Promoting Traditional Art and Teaching Students Across India and Abroad

Report: Irfan Jamiawala

Karimnagar, Oct 28:

Daughter of well-known social worker and Muslim community leader Syed Asgar Hussain, Nabeera Akhtar Maseera Fatima from Karimnagar has brought laurels to the district by receiving the prestigious Telangana Excellence Award for her outstanding contribution to Painting and Calligraphy.

The award was presented at a grand ceremony held on October 24 at Manikonda, Hyderabad by the Telangana organization TELA. Nabeera was felicitated in two categories - Artist and Calligrapher - for her exceptional creative talent, dedication towards traditional art forms and her continuous efforts to teach and promote calligraphy among youth.

This recognition is not only a personal achievement for Nabeera but also a proud moment for Karimnagar, as her father Syed Asgar Hussain is widely respected for his social service and leadership in the community. The family's commitment to education, culture and social welfare is well known in Telangana.

Art That Connects Heritage with Creativity

Nabeera's work stands out for beautifully blending artistic imagination with cultural heritage. While her paintings express thoughts and emotions through colours and forms, her calligraphy - especially Arabic calligraphy - transforms words into visual beauty with perfect balance, rhythm and proportion.

Arabic calligraphy has a centuries-old history and is considered one of the most refined forms of Islamic art. Nabeera has kept this heritage alive while making it relevant for today's generation. Her dedication, patience and technical skill have been appreciated by art lovers and experts.

Teaching Calligraphy to Students Worldwide Through Online Classes



What makes Nabeera's journey more inspiring is her role as a teacher. Apart from creating art, she is actively teaching calligraphy through online classes. Students from different parts of India and abroad are learning from her. She teaches Arabic Thuluth, English Italic and modern calligraphic lettering techniques. Through digital platforms, she has removed geographical barriers and made quality art education accessible to those who cannot attend regular classes. Her students say that her teaching method is simple, structured and very encouraging for beginners. By sharing her knowledge, she is not only creating new artists but also ensuring that the tradition of calligraphy continues to the next generation.

Preparing Calligraphy Practice Book 'Zulqalam'

Nabeera is now working on a calligraphy practice book titled 'Zulqalam'. The book is being designed as a practical guide for learners, especially beginners.

It will include step-by-step guidance on letter formation, spacing, proportion and consistency - the core principles of good calligraphy. Once published, the book will be a valuable resource for students who want to practice regularly at home along with her online classes.

An Inspiration for Women Artists

Nabeera's achievement is also an inspiration for young women who want to make a career in art and creative education. She has proved that with talent, hard work and willingness to teach others, an artist can create a much larger impact than just personal success.

Her journey shows how a woman artist can preserve cultural heritage, educate others and build a global community of learners from a small city like Karimnagar.

The award ceremony on October 24 has brought her work into the limelight and is expected to encourage more youngsters to learn painting and calligraphy.

The entire Karimnagar district, especially the Muslim community, has congratulated Nabeera and her family. Her father, Syed Asgar Hussain, said that this award is a result of his daughter's years of hard work and passion for art.. .

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