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CM Stresses Wider Use of Treated Water in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, Nov 2 (GNS): Chief Minister Mr. A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to transform Hyderabad into a clean and traffic-free city. He emphasized that no garbage should be visible anywhere in the city and called for continuous monitoring of waste collection processes.The Chief Minister held a review meeting with municipal officials at his Jubilee Hills residence. He instructed them to ensure that door-to-door waste collection takes place daily across the city and stated that strict action must be taken against those who show negligence.

He suggested making special arrangements for the removal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Furthermore, he advised officials to coordinate with the Industrial Local Authority to manage waste collection in the various industrial areas falling under the municipal jurisdiction. The Chief Minister directed officials to raise awareness about the effective use of 'green tankers'—an initiative launched to supply treated water from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for purposes such as construction activities, park maintenance, landscaping, and gardening.

He noted that, currently, potable (drinking) water is being used for construction, greenery maintenance, and park development; by switching to treated water from STPs for these needs, the city's drinking water resources can be conserved.
It was noted that the Water Board, in the first phase, introduced services using 28 'green water' (treated wastewater) tankers, sourced from 19 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). It was suggested that the supply of this green water be further expanded to cover areas under the GHMC, CMC, and MMC.

The Chief Minister directed officials to take necessary measures to address traffic issues in the city and transform it into a 'traffic-free' city. He instructed them to prepare plans for the construction of underpasses and elevated corridors wherever required to establish a signal-free traffic system.

Amit Shah accuses Congress of protecting infiltrators over SIR

Hyderabad, Nov 2 (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday claimed that three crore 'Bangladeshi infiltrators' are among 'absent' voters sought to be deleted in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and accused the Congress party of trying to protect them. He declared that the BJP will ensure that every infiltrator is removed from the electoral rolls and driven out of the country.



Amit Shah was addressing the 'Save Democracy Remove Anarchy' march organised by the BJP here as part of its nationwide campaign to counter the anti-SIR campaign of the INDIA bloc. Alleging that by stopping SIR, 'Congress and company' was trying to save Bangladesh infiltrators, he termed the rally organised by the INDIA bloc in Delhi on Sunday as a "Save the infiltrators" rally.

"Congress and company are trying to stop SIR because infiltrators are their vote bank. BJP workers stand firmly with SIR. Only citizens of this country will be allowed to vote here," said HM Shah, who led the foot march from Basheerbagh to Moazzam Jahi Market.

Amit Shah said Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was lying that 13 crore votes were deleted in SIR.

The Home Minister stated that 6.25 crore voters had shifted while about 3 crore voters were dead. He said another one crore voters had double entries. "The Congress party wants to capture elections through bogus voting. If one person has two votes, should one of them be cancelled or not? Now we come to the source of 'Rahul Baba's' stomach ache. Three crore votes are such that the people they belong to do not even exist. These are Bangladeshi infiltrators," he said. He alleged that by opposing the SIR, the Congress party wants to protect Bangladeshi infiltrators in the country's electoral rolls.

"But I have come here today to say that Rahul ji and Revanth Reddy ji can put in as much effort as they want. The BJP will ensure that every single infiltrator is removed from the voter list and driven out of the country." Dismissing the allegation of Rahul Gandhi that the BJP won only because of the SIR, he reminded the Congress leader that there was no SIR when Narendra Modi won in 2014, 2019 and 2024. "He won because of the voters of India. After 2024, we won in Maharashtra with the biggest majority. We won in Haryana. After 30 years, we won in Delhi. We won in Bihar with the biggest majority. In Bengal too, Didi's entire political standing has been wiped out," he said and exuded confidence that BJP will win Telangana too.

PM Modi Says 44,000 Government Buildings Now Powered by Solar Energy

New Delhi, Nov 2 (GNS): More than 44,000 government buildings across India have been connected to solar energy, generating annual savings of around Rs 700 crore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, highlighting the country's progress in renewable energy and its commitment to strengthening energy security through clean power.



Addressing the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit at the Bharat Mandapam here, the Prime Minister said India has made significant strides in the renewable energy sector over the past 12 years, connecting industries, farms and households with solar power. "Over the last 12 years, we have worked to connect industries and farms with solar power. More than 44,000 government buildings across India are now connected to solar energy, generating annual savings of around Rs 700 crore," he said "Farmers across the country are also benefiting from the PM-KUSUM scheme. Through this initiative, more than 30 lakh farmers have been provided with solar-powered irrigation facilities. Estimates suggest that each farmer can save around Rs 1 lakh annually by using solar pumps," the Prime Minister added. PM Modi said the government aims to bring every government building, school, college, hospital and street-lighting system under solar energy to further expand the country's clean energy infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the progress made under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in February 2024 with the target of installing rooftop solar panels in one crore households. "More than 65 lakh households have joined the initiative in the past 24-25 months," he said. Emphasising India's commitment to global climate goals, PM Modi said the country had achieved its target.

SC Permits Green Crackers from Nov 2 to 6



New Delhi, Nov 2 (GNS): The Supreme Court has permitted the sale and use of certified green crackers in Delhi-NCR for a limited period ahead of and on Diwali, while issuing a series of directions to regulate their manufacture, storage, sale and bursting, and directing that the complete ban on firecrackers be restored from November 9.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale allowed the sale of CSIR-NEERI-approved green crackers from November 2 to November 6, subject to stringent safeguards to prevent conventional firecrackers from being sold under their guise. The Justice Sundresh-led Bench permitted the bursting of firecrackers only between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on November 7 and 8. The apex court directed that there will be no bursting of fireworks within a 300-metre radius of hospitals, nursing homes, primary and district health centres, old-age homes.

, educational institutions, and notified silence zones. These areas will be declared 'No-Cracker Zones' and appropriately marked and publicised. Laying down detailed safeguards for manufacturers and traders, the Supreme Court directed that only manufacturers possessing valid certifications from CSIR-NEERI and PESO would be permitted to manufacture approved green crackers during the specified period.

The top court also prohibited the manufacture and sale of firecrackers joined in series, commonly known as 'ladis', and garlands, reiterating that crackers containing barium or those not approved by CSIR-NEERI would not be permitted.

Further, each box must carry a product-specific QR code issued for the particular product and batch, displaying details of the manufacturer, NEERI registration, PESO/DM licence, formulation and test certificate. In a significant relief to traders, the Justice Sundresh-led Bench directed that licences of traders whose licences had been cancelled would be restored temporarily from November 4 to Nov 6 to facilitate the sale of approved green crackers procured from CSIR-NEERI-certified manufacturers.

Shahdara station incident triggers protest by Delhi Police personnel

New Delhi, Nov 2 (GNS): Delhi Police personnel assembled outside the police headquarters to protest the transfers of Assistant Commissioner of Police Manasvi Vashistha and Shahdara Station House Officer Inspector Arun Kumar. The transfers followed a scuffle at Shahdara police station on 23 October, in which an advocate reportedly sustained a head injury.



The protestors demanded reinstatement of the transferred officers and sought a meeting with the Police Commissioner.According to around 80 personnel gathered outside Gate No. 1 of the Delhi Police Headquarters, refusing requests from senior officers to disperse or move their grievances inside. DCP (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma attempted to persuade ACP Vashistha and the assembled personnel to maintain discipline and not engage in protest-like behaviour, but the group insisted on a direct dialogue with the Commissioner. The protest was triggered by the transfer orders issued on 28 October, which were a response to demands from district court lawyers following the Shahdara incident. The lawyers had called for action against the officers involved.

Congress reviews strategy for Manipur, Uttarakhand

New Delhi, Nov 2 (GNS): Congress party's general secretary KC Venugopal on Monday said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi met with AICC in-charges, state party units' presidents and Congress Legislature Party leaders from Manipur and Uttarakhand in the national capital.



In a post on X, Venugopal said the anger witnessed at Ramlila Maidan the previous day was only a glimpse of the sweeping anti-incumbency sentiment prevailing in these BJP-ruled states. He alleged that hatred, loot, land-grab and total misgovernance symbolised the BJP's "trouble engine" model in both states. Referring to Manipur, Venugopal said the state continued to burn in the flames of ethnic conflict lit by the ruling regime.

He noted that the people had already rejected the BJP in both Lok Sabha seats in 2024 and were eager to drive the party out completely. On Uttarakhand, he alleged that even the temples of Devbhoomi had not been spared from the "Chanda Chori" that the BJP had mastered in Ayodhya and elsewhere. He further claimed that vast mountains were being handed over to corporates despite clear warnings from nature against such destruction.

Delhi High Court Seeks Response on Ban on Non-BS-VI Vehicles, Denies Stay

New Delhi, Nov 2 (GNS): The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notice on a petition challenging the city government's notification restricting the entry of vehicles registered outside the national capital that do not comply with BS-VI emission standards from November 1, but declined to grant any interim stay on its implementation.



A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma issued notice on the plea and directed that it be tagged with another pending matter.The High Court listed the matter for further hearing on November 27.The petition challenges the city government's decision to prohibit non-BS-VI compliant vehicles registered outside Delhi from entering the national capital during the winter pollution-control period, contending that the restriction is arbitrary and discriminatory.

Seeking interim relief, the petitioner argued that vehicles registered in Delhi that do not meet BS-VI emission standards would continue to be permitted to ply in the capital, while similarly placed vehicles registered in neighbouring states would be barred from entering the city.

It contended that such differential treatment violates Article 14 of the Constitution, as the classification is based on the place of registration rather than the emission characteristics of the vehicles. The plea argued that vehicles with identical emission standards cannot be subjected to different treatment merely because they are registered in different states. The restriction, which came into effect on November 1, will remain in force until January 31, 2027, as part of the Delhi government's measures to tackle rising pollution levels during the winter season. Under the restrictions.

Centre, Assam Sign MoU to Set Up Skill India International Centre

Guwahati, Nov 2 (GNS): The Centre and the Assam Government on Monday exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up a Skill India International Centre as part of the strategic partnership under the PM-SETU initiative.



The announcement was made at a programme organised here by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 'Skilling for International Mobility & PM-SETU', with a special focus on the tourism and hospitality sector. Letters of Intent (LoIs) were also signed for two ITI clusters in Jorhat and Tinsukhia, supported by Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Oil India Limited (OIL), respectively, under the PM-SETU scheme. This marks a significant milestone in strengthening industry participation and fostering industry-led transformation of the vocational education and training ecosystem in the region.

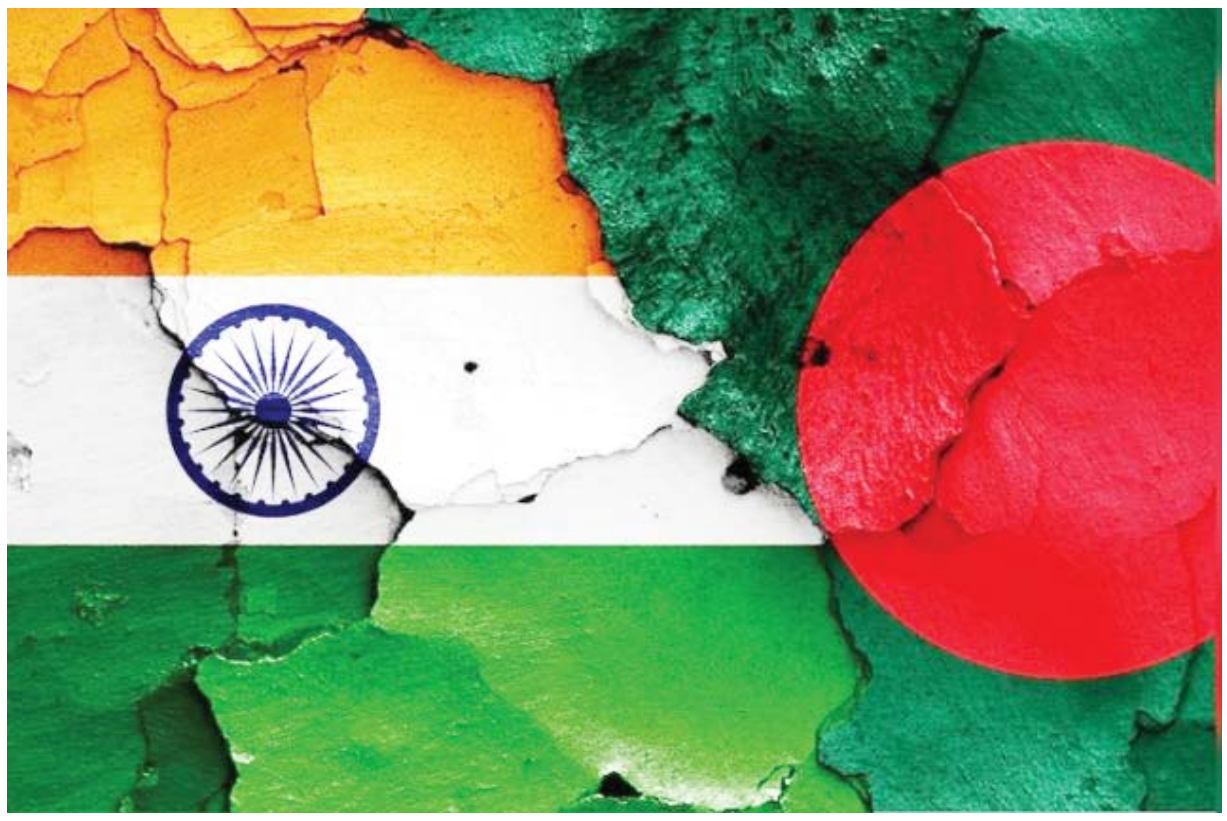
The programme also deliberated on international mobility and WorldSkills as avenues for expanding opportunities for young people from the North-Eastern Region. Delivering the keynote address, Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, highlighted the importance of aligning India's skilling architecture with the changing requirements of industry and the global economy.

He emphasised that initiatives such as PM-SETU are aimed at bringing industry closer to skill development and training, ensuring that ITIs evolve into modern, demand-driven institutions capable of preparing young people for emerging opportunities.

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India–Bangladesh Ties Show No Revival

Prof (Dr) DK Giri



The latest in India-Bangladesh ties is the ban on imports of yarn from India by Bangladesh through land and ports. It may have been done in retaliation to New Delhi stopping the transshipment facility for Bangladeshi goods through ports and airports. This act by India has apparently been provoked by Mohammed Yunus' 'Freudian slip' or deliberate statement during his tour to China. He said that Northeast India is landlocked, Bangladesh is the guardian of the ocean for the region and could be the gateway for China's influence in Northeast India. So, the tit-for-tat seems to be the case between India and Bangladesh since Yunus became the Head of Bangladesh government under the sobriquet of chief advisor to the interim Bangladesh government.

Mohammad Yunus is 84-year-oldhas been an academic, with little experience in politics. He earned unrivalled reputation through the Grameen Bank, an institution he created to lend money to poor rural women entrepreneurs to do business and earn their living. This scheme became such a big success that Yunus was awarded with the highly prestigious Noble prize. His international reputation persuaded the Bangladesh military to install him as the 'titular head' of the government. Bangladesh military still has the remote.

Be that as it may, under the pressure from the military and from pro-Pak and pro-China but anti-India forces, Yunus is behaving strangely. He did show some of his own self when he appealed to the rioters to stop tormenting the Hindu minorities. But that was a natural human display of sympathy and solidarity. The physical violence may have subsided, but Hindus continue to live in fear and insecurities. This is a major cause of concern for Indians and New Delhi. Second, Yunus, due to his geo-political inexperience, is playing into the manipulation of China. Beijing is deviously sneaking into South Asia, to encircle India by a hostile neighborhood. Beijing mollycoddled Nepal against India by flaunting it surplus money. It did the same in Maldives, Sri Lanka and now Bangladesh. Pakistan is a different case. It has become a vassal state of China. Beijing uses Pakistan against India wherever it sniffs an opening. The Chinese game plan aims at browbeating India by seducing away her smaller neighbours. It is indeed sad that Bangladesh fails to see the long-term benefits of associating with India. The shared history, cultural affinities and economic mutuality should not be lost on its leadership. The present young generation of Bangladeshis may not remember the pain and horror of the 1971 partition. Without the active intervention of India, the violent and ghoulish occupation of the country by Pakistan would have continued unabated. America was trying to caution as well as counsel India against it. But India and its Prime Minister Indira did. The rest is history.

Seikh Hasina gratefully acknowledges the contribution of India to the liberation of Bangladesh. She had gone through the trauma and torment with her father, Seikh Mujibur Rehman, who spearheaded the liberation movement. At any rate, one could not live in the past. New Delhi could hardly expect eternal obligation of Bangladesh for liberating it. Remember how Germany psychologically turned against America although it rebuilt the war-torn country with the latter's money that came under the Marshall plan. The mistake of basking in the reflected glory of the past should not continue to be committed by India. New Delhi has to deal with Bangladesh as it is today– rising Islamic radicalism, a generation unconnected with the liberation movement, caught in crosshairs of India vs Pakistan and China, and Trump's American given Yunus' expressed liking for Democrats.

Second, New Delhi should not repeat the strategic mistake it did in Nepal at one point in time. That is when it supported the Madhesis in relation to the government in Kathmandu. New Delhi should deal with Bangladesh, not just Seikh Hasina. The resentment, and later, revolt occurred against Hasina when she made reservation in jobs for 1971 freedom fighters' family members. They were already getting a pension. Hasina became overconfident heedless of the shimmering discontent that blew in her face consuming her government. She should sort out herself and her party and possibly plough her way back into politics of Bangladesh. It is the internal political matter of her country. India giving asylum to her is another matter independent of the political turmoil in Dhaka.

Third, New Delhi should not let Dhaka slip away into the Chinese camp. India is presently using the carrot and stick policy. The suspension of transshipment facility has hit Bangladesh hard, especially its garment industry, which is its major export industry. Thousands of workers are scared of losing their jobs. Bangladeshi media has reacted sharply for incurring the displeasure of New Delhi and the consequent cancellation of the facility. Finally, New Delhi should treat the deterioration of India-Bangladesh ties as a consequence of Chinese attempt to sting India through her neighbours. India can no longer ignore the hard fact that China is her biggest threat. New Delhi should deal with China, but not get carried away by Beijing's deceptive benevolence of granting easy visas to 85000 Indians. Beijing's overtures are a desperate reaction to American tearing tariffs of 245 per cent on Chinese exports.

Some of us have written trees of articles to alert South block to the lurking menace of China.

The External Affairs Minister, thankfully, has recently publicly acknowledged that India could no longer ignore that China is a problem. New Delhi's robust geopolitical strategy towards China should restore friendship and normalcy with all her neighbours except Pakistan who is incorrigible at its best.

At the same time, Dhaka should do well to learn from the bankruptcy that Sri Lanka plunged into by embracing China's debt-infected investment policy. Sri Lankan then president had to flee the country to escape the anger and despair of the people that spontaneously spilled onto the streets in protest and picketing. One Prime Minister of Bangladesh also fled her country albeiton different grounds. Let there be no repeat of another leader escaping the country.

India-Bangladesh relations consist of multiple interconnected ties. Bangladesh should seek to snap them at its own peril. India should also be sensitive to the current political instability in Bangladesh which would pass. New Delhi's neigbours are wary of its big-brother attitude which stems from the comparative bigger size of the country. New Delhi has done well not to behave as one. The same attitude should permeate New Delhi's relations with her neigbours. Let the wise words of the former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee continue to ring in the South Block, "We can change our friends, but we cannot change our neighbours".

India must therefore pursue a calibrated diplomatic approach that combines firmness on security concerns with sustained engagement on trade, connectivity and regional cooperation. Economic restrictions may send a strong political message, but prolonged confrontation could hurt businesses and ordinary citizens on both sides. Maintaining channels of communication with Dhaka will be essential to prevent temporary political differences from turning into a lasting strategic divide.

New Delhi should also strengthen its engagement with Bangladesh's emerging political leadership, civil society, business groups and younger generation. Building relationships beyond individual political personalities would help India protect its long-term interests irrespective of changes in government. Greater educational, cultural and people-to-people exchanges could also counter misinformation and rebuild confidence between the two neighbouring societies.

The security of minorities, particularly Hindus in Bangladesh, must remain an important concern in bilateral discussions. India should continue to raise reports of attacks, intimidation and discrimination through appropriate diplomatic channels while encouraging the Bangladeshi authorities to uphold constitutional guarantees and protect all communities. A stable and inclusive Bangladesh would serve the interests of both countries and contribute to peace across the region.

Ultimately, geography, history and economic interdependence make India and Bangladesh natural partners. Their shared rivers, borders, transport links, energy cooperation and trade cannot be easily replaced by external alliances.

Why we must learn to laugh at ourselves again

Once upon a time, we laughed without offence or guilt. We laughed at power, at politics, at bureaucracy, and most of all, at ourselves. It was a laughter steeped not in mockery but in a shared understanding of the absurdities of life. Remember R. K. Laxman's Common Man? The bespectacled, bewildered figure who stood silently witnessing the nation's daily dramas was our collective conscience drawn in ink. His was the lens through which middle-class India smiled at its foibles. No one was spared, and yet no one was wounded. His cartoons, which ran for decades under the banner You Said It, didn't merely capture the socio-political temperature — they made us laugh through the chaos, without cynicism, without rage, and it inspired us to gauge ourselves on the scale of changing times. How far we've come — and not for the better! Just the other day, The Times of India reported that Western Railway in Mumbai asked for the removal of a hoarding that humorously depicted Mumbai's famously crowded local trains. Everyone who knows the city even remotely will vouch that the depiction wasn't far from reality. But even reality now seems too irreverent to tolerate. Our thresholds have shrunk. Satire is suspect. Irony is an offence. And humour — a great salve to wounded hearts — has become a minefield. It is as though we have forgotten how to laugh without hurting, or how to be the subject of a joke without taking it personally. The public frame has grown brittle. Everything is either an insult or an agenda. Our collective skin has thinned, and with it, our ability to process humour as a mirror rather than a missile. We have become sensitive to our peril, for laughter now is no more a medicine but an action to be indulged in stealth. We now laugh at our own risk, for not all out there are amused. But let us pause here. What does it mean to laugh at oneself? And why is it so crucial to the health of a society, and to the sanity of the individual? To laugh at oneself is acknowledging one's imperfections without shame or embarrassment. It is to accept the human comedy in which we are all actors, fumbling, contradicting, faltering and having great falls like Humpty-Dumpty.

It is an act of humility. And humility, unlike humiliation, does not diminish. It enlarges us. It softens the ego, smoothens the sharp edges of pride, and allows us to be more forgiving — towards others, yes, but especially towards ourselves. We are not meant to take ourselves too seriously. The capacity to see one s absurdity, to smile at it, and even to share it with others, is a mark of inner strength. In that laughter is a quiet wisdom — the wisdom to know that life is far too unpredictable to be lived in perpetual indignation. And as creatures, we are too tiny and insignificant in the canvas of the cosmos. Philosophers from every tradition have hinted at this. In Zen, the enlightened monk is often depicted laughing. In ancient Greece, Socrates was known for his irony, and his capacity to deflate pomposity through humour. Closer home, the Bhakti poets gently mocked dogma and orthodoxy. Their irreverence was rooted in love, not spite. They knew that humour could illuminate truth in ways solemnity never could, and it was taken in its true spirit. But today, we confuse being offended with being right. And so, we silence the comedian, the cartoonist, the satirist, and slowly, we silence ourselves. We build fortresses around our fragility and call it righteousness. We seek apology where we should seek perspective.

This is not a defence for vulgarity or cruelty masquerading as humour, which too has become abundant in these indiscreet times. We know the difference between crassness and coolness. And we must always be vigilant against humour that punches down, that mocks the marginalised, that cloaks prejudice in punchlines or masks depravity in insensitivity. But the answer to bad humour is not humourlessness. It is better humour. Finer irony. Truer satire. And most of all, a thicker skin. As a society, we need to grow up. We need to rediscover the art of laughing together and at ourselves. The Common Man did not need to speak because the society around him understood the language of the silent chuckle. That silent chuckle is now endangered. Let us then re-learn the ability to look at ourselves with a smile, not a scowl. Let us not fear humour; let us fear the day when we lose our humour. When people can no longer laugh at themselves, they are no longer free.

Pahalgam attack exposes major security lapses

Brig Anil Gupta (Retd)



The horrific black day, 22nd April 2025, will remain etched in the memory of Indians for many years to come. It just fell short of an indirect attack on India's sovereignty but has raised the important question of the intent of Pakistan to continue to bleed India through thousand cuts. The provocative speeches of the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Gen Munir and Saifullah Kasuri, a deputy of LeT Chief Hafiz Saeed and the Deep State's intent to make Kashmir as "land of the pure" are believed to be the triggers for this barbaric massacre which can be committed only by the beasts. Three of the beasts belong to the terror land of Pakistan while the other two locals were trained by the fountainhead of Jihadi terror, Pakistan. Rightly, Pakistan has been identified as the perpetrator and the main culprit of the horrific attack. But does the buck stop there? It's time for hard talk and thorough introspection of the lapses that allowed the jihadis to carryout the massacre with impunity.

It's time to call spade a spade. There are clear cut administrative and security lapses. The blame game cannot go endlessly nor should an attempt be made to push the incident under the carpet. Accountability needs to be fixed, those responsible for the lapses identified and the heads must roll. The area being isolated, away from the roadhead with no motorable connection, a slippery trek with deep gorges, dense forests provides an ideal target for the terrorists apart from being prone to accidental falls and injuries. Apparently, the coordination between the security agencies and the local administration was lacking. The area was not secured, there were no security pickets either on the foot/ pony track or in the Valley itself. There were no medical aid posts. There are no rescue teams placed in the area to provide immediate assistance even in the case of an accidental fall leave alone a terrorist attack. There are no cctv cameras placed for surveillance and security. All these glaring lapses have happened despite the fact that the area is promoted as "mini Switzerland" and is one of the most popular tourist hotspot during the Pahalgam sojourn having a daily footfall of 500 souls approximately. While the Baisaran Valley is 30-40 mins away from the roadhead, the nearest medical facility is another 30-40 mins away from the roadhead. It's a clearcut case of things being taken for granted resulting in the setting in of complacency.The net result of the complacency has been the deadly massacre of the innocent tourists who had come to enjoy the so called "heaven on the earth" that turned into a bloody hell for the unsuspecting ladies and children accompanying them, some of them just married and were there to enjoy their honeymoon. They will never forgive those responsible for these lapses and nether should the nation's leadership which should be uncompromising in identifying the culprits however well placed they may be.

Hurriyat may have been dismembered but the separatist mindset still prevails among the Valley based political leadership. The narrative of "outsiders" is being promoted by these leaders and their cohorts in Jammu region. This narrative is promoting separatism and exclusivity. Till such time this narrative is shed away, total integration of J&K with rest of the country will remain a myth. Just like a wolf wearing lion's skin does not become a lion, sub-nationalist leaders do not become secular or democrats by joining the democratic process. Under the garb of freedom of expression, the poisonous and divisive statements made by such leaders act as elixir for the Jihadi terrorists.Jammu travel guide

The tourists have been thronging to Kashmir based on the assurances given by the top leadership that all is well and it is safe and secure to visit. Tempting campaigns are being launched by the tourism department to attract and lure the tourists. Many such campaigns are led by the CM himself. It is thus incumbent on the government to ensure the safety and security of the tourists through holistic appreciations of the security of the various tourist destinations and not permitting the tourists to venture into areas considered unsafe. Either keep all the tourist hotspots safe and secure or declare them as "No Go" areas. Proper advisories need to be issued to the tourists by the administration. No surety has been given by anyone that the tourists will not be targeted by the terrorists. Hence this presumption should not be allowed to cloud the minds of the planners and administrators.Moreover, there should be no hurry in declaring certain areas as terror free zones. Such situations are transitory and temporary because the terrorists like water follow the path of least resistance. They re-emerge when the resistance weakens. No area should be declared terror free till the last gun is eliminated from the union territory.

There is also a need to review the entire gamut of security in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Unified Command System needs to be enforced strictly. There is no scope of turf battles when it comes to national security.

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Quantum computing to revolutionise innovation and scientific discovery: Jyotiraditya Scindia

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Quantum computing is not just another step forward but a giant leap that will define innovation, accelerate scientific discovery and unlock multiple solutions to human problems that were hitherto always thought of as insurmountable, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Friday. The minister pointed out that future now is no longer just digital, the future now is quantum.

"And the ripple effects of quantum computing are already touching not only scientific discovery but also our lives. Let's step into the quantum age with boldness, brilliance, and a clear sense of purpose," he said during the third International Quantum Communication Conclave in the national capital.

The conclave was organised as part of India's definite steps in taking lead in the areas of quantum communication technologies, especially in light of the National Quantum Mission launched in 2023 with an outlay of Rs 6,003.65 crore.

The mission, a key initiative under the Prime Minister's Science and Technology Innovation Advisory Council, aims to seed and scale up R&D in quantum technologies while fostering a vibrant and innovative ecosystem across academia, industry, and start-ups.

As part of the event, three significant documents were unveiled to support and promote the deployment of quantum secure technologies: the Standard on Generic Requirements for Quantum Random Number Generators (QRNG), a Technical Report on Migration to Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), and a Technical Report on Quantum Secure 5G/ Beyond 5G Core using PQC.

Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State for Communications, said India is committed to lead the quantum technology transformation.

"Through the national quantum mission, we are investing deeply in quantum computing, quantum communications, quantum sensing, and quantum materials. Our vibrant startup ecosystem, our world-class research institutions, and our industry pioneers are already delivering indigenous quantum solutions ready for deployment," said Pemmasani. Principal Scientific Adviser Professor Ajay Kumar Sood highlighted that the conclave is taking place in the year 2025 which has been declared as the Year of Quantum by the United Nations General Assembly.

Sood dwelt on the evolution of Quantum Technologies over the last 100 years, stating that "today, we are in the second revolution of Quantum Mechanics of the newest technology frontier where we now have the tools to controlling the quantum systems."

The conclave was organised by Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

The conclave brought together policymakers, scientists, researchers, telecom experts and industry representatives to discuss the evolving landscape of quantum technologies and their potential applications. Participants highlighted the need for closer collaboration between government institutions, academic organisations and private enterprises to accelerate research and translate innovations into practical solutions.

Quantum communication is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening cybersecurity by enabling secure transmission of sensitive information. With conventional encryption methods facing potential challenges from advances in quantum computing, the development of quantum-resistant security systems has emerged as a key priority for governments and technology companies worldwide.

Experts also discussed the importance of developing indigenous technologies to reduce dependence on imported systems and strengthen India's technological capabilities. Building domestic expertise in quantum hardware, software, communication networks and advanced materials will be essential to establishing a competitive position in the emerging global quantum ecosystem.

The National Quantum Mission seeks to establish advanced research facilities and support the development of quantum technology applications across strategic sectors. Its focus areas include quantum computing, secure quantum communication, precision sensing and metrology, and the development of quantum materials and devices.

The discussions at the conclave underscored India's ambition to emerge as a global contributor to the next generation of communication technologies. The standards and technical reports released at the event are expected to provide guidance for industry stakeholders and researchers working towards the adoption of secure, reliable and indigenous quantum communication solutions.

The conclave also highlighted the importance of developing skilled human resources to support the country's growing quantum technology ecosystem. Strengthening specialised education, research training and industry partnerships will be vital to preparing young scientists and engineers for emerging opportunities and ensuring that India remains at the forefront of this technological transformation.

India's steel industry poised for global growth, focus on FTAs and self-reliance: Piyush Goyal

Mumbai, Oct 2 (GNS): India's steel industry is set to play a significant role in meeting both domestic and global demand, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. The minister emphasised India's position as a highly efficient, cost-effective, and high-quality producer of steel, asserting that the sector will not only cater to India's growing needs but also contribute significantly to global demand in an increasingly competitive environment.

"The country is actively pursuing free trade agreements (FTAs) with countries and regional blocs, including the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), and New Zealand, to gain greater access for its steel products," Goyal said at the sidelines of the Steel India 2025 event here. "India is consistently focused on self-reliance (Atmanirbharta). But when we talk about Atmanirbharta, we are not closing the doors to the world. We are, in fact, opening the doors wider because every country will have its competitive advantages for different products," the minister said.

India is currently negotiating 10-12 such agreements to ensure that its steel, known for its cost-effectiveness and high quality, is available to international markets, the Union Minister added. Goyal also mentioned that India's steel industry is well-positioned to contribute to the growing needs of the world while also addressing the needs of domestic consumers. "The government remains vigilant and proactive in protecting the steel industry against unfair trading practices," he stated.

"India has already taken steps to safeguard its industry from the dumping of steel at irrationally low prices, as identified in a quasi-judicial inquiry by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)," Goyal noted. India's commitment to boosting its steel sector is reflected in its diplomatic efforts to engage with key trading partners.

With the global trade environment becoming more uncertain, India's push for FTAs is crucial in ensuring continued access to international markets. The trade pact with the UK is reportedly near completion, and negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US are advancing ahead of schedule. The minister said expanding India's presence in international markets would require sustained improvements in productivity, technology adoption and product quality. He stressed that Indian steel manufacturers must remain competitive while meeting global standards and adapting to changing market requirements.

The government is also focusing on strengthening domestic steel production through policy support, infrastructure development and investment in modern manufacturing facilities. Rising demand from sectors such as construction, railways, automobiles and infrastructure is expected to create significant opportunities for the industry.

Goyal reiterated that India would continue to pursue a balanced trade policy, encouraging exports while ensuring that domestic manufacturers are protected from unfair competition. He said international trade agreements would open new opportunities for Indian producers.

Fitch Ratings sees Adani Ports' acquisition of NQXT as positive step for global diversification

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Fitch Ratings has characterised Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited's (APSEZ) acquisition of the North Queensland Export Terminal in Australia as credit neutral, while highlighting its positive strategic implications.

The global ratings agency believes the acquisition will support APSEZ's efforts toward international diversification, a key long-term goal for the company.

Announced on April 17, 2025, the acquisition involves APSEZ issuing new equity shares to the current shareholders of North Queensland Export Terminal (NQXT), who also belong to the same promoter group as APSEZ. The deal is subject to regulatory and shareholder approval.

Fitch expects APSEZ's financial stability to remain unaffected by the acquisition, forecasting gross leverage to stay around 3x from FY26 to FY29. The transaction is anticipated to increase the company's global EBITDA contribution from 4 per cent to 10 per cent, marking a significant step in its global expansion strategy. Additionally, the acquisition slightly raises the share of coal in APSEZ's cargo mix, though this is expected to decline over time due to stronger growth in containerised and other non-coal segments. Operationally, the impact on NQXT is expected to be minimal, as APSEZ already operates the terminal. The terminal, with an annual coal throughput of 35 million tonnes and a current utilisation rate of 70 per cent, requires limited capital expenditure in the medium term. Moreover, long-term take-or-pay contracts and a remaining lease life of 85 years provide strong cash flow visibility for APSEZ. The acquisition also poses minimal refinancing risk, with NQXT holding no debt maturities until 2030. Its existing debt structure includes conservative features such as restrictions on additional borrowing and controlled cash outflows, further ensuring financial discipline.

The importance of Fitch's view lies in the agency's global influence on investor sentiment, particularly in emerging markets. As a major credit rating agency, Fitch's assessments are closely watched by global investors, financial institutions, and policymakers. A credit-neutral but strategically supportive view from Fitch signals that the acquisition is a calculated move that strengthens APSEZ's long-term business profile without jeopardising its financial health.

While the acquisition may not immediately impact APSEZ's credit rating, Fitch's analysis affirms the strategic rationale behind the move, reinforcing investor confidence in the company's global growth ambitions.

The North Queensland Export Terminal (NQXT) is located in the Port of Abbot Point, approximately 25 kilometres north of Bowen, Queensland, Australia. It's the most northerly deepwater coal export terminal in Australia. The acquisition is part of APSEZ's broader strategy to expand its international footprint and build a diversified portfolio of port assets across key maritime markets. Strengthening its presence in Australia is expected to provide access to established trade routes and enhance the company's ability to serve global commodity and energy supply chains.

India's equity markets emerge resilient amid global trade war shocks

Mumbai, Oct 2 (GNS): India's equity market has shown its resilience despite global uncertainties, and is well-positioned in a world reshaped by trade and tariffs, a report said on Friday.

The BSE 500 recorded a 6.25 per cent gain in March — its best monthly performance in 15 months, indicating that much of the market excess has likely been corrected. India's macro fundamentals are notably resilient. GDP growth is projected at 6.5 per cent in FY25, supported by strong domestic consumption, capex, and manufacturing upcycle, according to the report by PL Asset Management, the asset management arm of PL Capital Group (Prabhudas Lilladher). The March Manufacturing PMI rose to 58.1 an eight-month high while industrial output expanded 5 per cent YoY in January.

The re-emergence of US-China trade tensions in April 2025 has impacted global indices, echoing the market behaviour last seen during the 2018 trade war.

While indices like the S&P 500 and Nasdaq fell by 13 per cent and 11 per cent respectively, India's Nifty 50 remained relatively resilient, falling just 3 per cent.

"Spreads for higher risk factors are near zero, a point from which historically markets have entered a recovery phase. In recent months, Quality factor bottomed out, and we're now seeing early signs of a rotation back towards Value, suggesting a market tilt towards fundamentally cheaper, cyclical names," the report mentioned. Momentum's dominance has faded sharply, as investors shift focus to low volatility. The Smallcap outperformance has unwound, with rotation back into Largecaps, reflecting a market preference for size and stability. These are signs as the market positions itself for a recovery phase. "The recent trend in early 2025 shows a moderate rise in stocks near their lows, suggesting caution among investors amid potential uncertainties or corrections. However, with extreme pessimism already built in, this could signal that a rebound is on the horizon as markets begin to price in a potential turnaround," the report noted.

"As global markets recalibrate to a world shaped by geopolitical fragmentation and macro uncertainty, our strategies remain focused on adaptive, quantitative frameworks that capture alpha across cycles," said Siddharth Vora, Fund Manager, PL Asset Management Executive Director, PL Capital (Prabhudas Lilladher).

The report noted that investors are increasingly favouring companies with strong balance sheets, consistent earnings and sustainable business models amid heightened global uncertainty. This shift towards fundamentally sound businesses could help markets navigate short-term volatility while creating opportunities for long-term investors.

It also highlighted the importance of monitoring global trade developments, interest rate movements and corporate earnings to assess the market's direction. India's strong domestic demand, infrastructure spending and manufacturing growth are expected to provide support to corporate performance and strengthen the equity market's long-term prospects.

Corporates pre-commit 10.8 mn sq ft office space in India via 38 deals

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Corporates pre-committed close to 38 office space deals, covering a total area of around 10.8 million square feet during the six-month period from October 2024 to March 2025, a report said on Friday. These deals have been pre-committed by companies in Bengaluru, Mumbai and the National Capital Region (NCR), according to the report by Anarock. "The increased demand from both Indian companies and global MNCs, along with changing workplace needs such as advanced tech infrastructure and ESG compliance, has driven the pre-commitment activity," said Peush Jain, Managing Director of Commercial Leasing and Advisory at Anarock Group.

A growing number of global capability centres (GCCs) are also expected to drive demand further, as companies seek large, high-quality workspaces that allow them to maintain their unique identity. Bengaluru led the trend with nearly 5.7 million sq. ft. of pre-committed space, accounting for 53 per cent of the total, followed by Mumbai with 3.1 million sq. ft. (29 per cent) and NCR with 2 million sq. ft. (19 per cent).

These three cities are home to a large number of domestic companies and multinational corporations (MNCs) in the technology, banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI), and co-working sectors. With the availability of quality Grade A+ office space falling short over the past two years, many companies have chosen to secure their future offices through pre-commitment deals.

These agreements, signed during the under-construction stage of a project, help companies secure prime locations, negotiate better lease terms, and avoid future rental hikes. Bengaluru saw the highest average deal size, with corporates committing to about 0.5 million sq. ft. per deal. In Mumbai, the average size was 0.4 million sq. ft., and in NCR, it stood at around 0.1 million sq. ft. The report noted that 42 per cent of the total deals were for spaces larger than 0.3 million sq. ft. Bengaluru had the highest number of such large deals at nine, followed by Mumbai with four and NCR with three. Most of these deals were signed by global firms in the IT/ITeS and BFSI sectors.

ED seeks look-out circular to nab Jaggi brothers in Gensol case

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS):The Enforcement Directorate has asked the Bureau of Immigration to issue a look-out circular against Puneet Singh Jaggi and Anmol Singh Jaggi, the promoters of Gensol Engineering Ltd, in connection with an investigation into the diversion of funds from the scam-hit company, reports said on Friday.

A portion of the loans raised by Gensol from financial institutions is suspected to have been diverted overseas in violation of the Foreign Exchange Act (FEMA). Investigations are on to collection information on other firms linked to the Jaggi brothers that may have been used as front companies to route funds to foreign accounts, an NDTV Profit report said. Anmol Singh Jaggi is reportedly in Dubai, while Puneet Singh Jaggi was questioned by ED officials for over 6 hours in connection with the case on Thursday. Earlier in the day, a news report had cited sources to say that Puneet Singh Jaggi had been taken into custody, but a senior ED official later denied any arrest or detention of the businessman. The ED has searched multiple premises in Delhi, Gurugram, and Ahmedabad linked to the Jaggi brothers. The ED is investigating suspected foreign exchange violations involving unauthorised remittances of around Rs 200 crore to Rs 300 crore. Government-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has already filed a complaint with the Delhi Police against Gensol Engineering Ltd for allegedly filing false documents to take loans for buying electric vehicles.

The public sector undertaking said it is also examining the matter internally under its anti-fraud policy. The investigation will focus on tracking missing delivery receipts for EVs financed by the PFC.

Gensol had taken loans to the tune of Rs 978 crore from the PFC and the Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) to buy electric vehicles for running an online green taxi service, which had become quite popular in Delhi NCR and Bengaluru. These loans were supposed to be used for buying EVs, but over Rs 200 crore.

Maruti Suzuki India's Q4 profit falls 4 pc, announces Rs 135 dividend

Mumbai, Oct 2 (GNS): Maruti Suzuki India on Friday reported a 4.29 per cent drop in its net profit at Rs 3,711.1 crore for the fourth quarter of last fiscal (Q4 FY25), compared to Rs 3,877.8 crore in the same period in the previous fiscal. According to its stock exchange filings, the company's total expenses rose 8.55 per cent YoY to Rs 37,585.5 crore in the March 2025 quarter.

However, the company's revenue from operations rose by 5.86 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 38,848.8 crore, up from Rs 36,697.5 crore a year ago. The automaker also registered a slight growth in overall income, which stood at Rs 40,674 crore during the quarter, compared to Rs 38,235 crore in the year-ago period. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) came in at Rs 4,264.5 crore. The EBITDA margin stood at 10.5 per cent, the company said its filings.

Even as profits dipped, the company's board has recommended a record final dividend of Rs 135 per share for FY25, the highest-ever announced by the company. This is subject to shareholder approval at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). The record date for the dividend is August 1, and the payment will be made on September 3. "The dividend on equity shares for the year ended March 31, if declared at the ensuing Annual General Meeting, will be paid to the Members as at the close of business hours on Friday, August 1, (Record Date). The date of payment of dividend is September 3," the company said in its filings.

This marks the 19th time Maruti Suzuki India has declared a dividend. In previous years, the company had announced dividends of Rs 125 per share in August 2024, Rs 90 per share in August 2023, and Rs 60 per share in August 2022. Around 2:40 pm, the shares of the company were trading at Rs 11,642, down by Rs 252 or 2.12 per cent on Friday on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The decline in quarterly profit came despite an increase in revenue, reflecting the impact of higher operating expenses during the reporting period. The rise in total expenditure highlights the cost pressures faced by the automobile manufacturer amid changing market conditions and increased input costs.

Maruti Suzuki continues to focus on expanding its product portfolio, strengthening its manufacturing capabilities and improving operational efficiency. The company has also been investing in new technologies and alternative fuel options to cater to evolving consumer preferences and meet stricter emission requirements.

The record dividend recommendation reflects the company's efforts to reward shareholders while maintaining its focus on long-term growth. The proposed payout, subject to approval at the AGM, is expected to reinforce investor interest in the country's largest passenger vehicle manufacturer.

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Boult Audio's net profit declines by 37 pc in FY24, revenue up 41 pc

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Boult Audio, the bootstrapped consumer electronics brand, has reported a 37 per cent drop in its net profit to Rs 2.5 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), compared to Rs 4 crore in FY23. The Delhi-based company, which designs and manufactures wireless earbuds, headphones, smartwatches, and speakers, saw its revenue from operations increase to Rs 697 crore in FY24 from Rs 498 crore in the previous fiscal, as per its financials.

Boult also made Rs 5 crore from non-operating revenue, bringing its total revenue to Rs 702 crore. However, the rising expenses, particularly in materials, advertising, and post-supply discounts, outpaced the revenue growth.

Boult's cost of material consumed surged by 25 per cent to Rs 402 crore, making up nearly 58 per cent of its total expenses. Advertising expenses jumped by 74 per cent to Rs 162 crore, and post-supply discounts saw an 84 per cent increase to Rs 70 crore, as per an Entrackr report. As a result of these rising costs, Boult's overall expenses climbed by 41 per cent to Rs 699 crore in FY24, according to its financials. This increase in operational costs significantly impacted the company's bottom line, leading to a sharp decline in its net profit. The company's domestic sales saw a growth of 45 per cent, reaching Rs 620 crore, while international sales remained stable at Rs 77 crore, contributing 11 per cent to the total revenue.

However, unlike its competitors, Boult has maintained its bootstrapped status and is led by co-founders Varun Gupta and Tarun Gupta, who own a combined 49.5 per cent stake in the company. According to industry experts, while the company is making efforts to build its brand and prepare for high-volume sales, the growing competition in the consumer electronics market and the rising cost pressures have made it difficult for Boult to maintain profitability. The company's revenue growth reflects increasing consumer demand for affordable personal audio devices and wearable technology in India. Boult has expanded its presence across online marketplaces and retail channels, competing in a segment dominated by established electronics brands and emerging domestic players. The sharp rise in advertising expenditure indicates the company's continued focus on brand building and customer acquisition. Higher promotional spending has become an important strategy for consumer electronics companies seeking to improve visibility, attract younger buyers and expand their market share in an increasingly crowded industry.

Boult's bootstrapped business model distinguishes it from several competitors that have relied on external funding to finance expansion. Retaining promoter control has allowed the company to pursue growth without significant dependence on institutional investors, although rising operating costs have put pressure on its profitability.

Governor Highlights India's Unity in Diversity at State Formation Day Celebrations



Hyderabad, Nov 2 (GNS): Telangana is preparing to introduce an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered digital market yard system for the first time in the country, aiming to bring greater transparency to agricultural trade and ensure fair prices for farmers.

State Agriculture, Marketing and Cooperation Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao directed officials to develop a comprehensive digital platform covering every stage of the agricultural marketing process, from a farmer's arrival at the market yard to the sale of produce and final payment. The Minister made these directions during a review meeting with senior Marketing Department officials at the Secretariat on Monday, along with Minister D. Sridhar Babu. Under the proposed system, farmers' details will be registered digitally, and a unique identification number will be assigned to every produce lot. The platform will integrate crop quality testing (assaying), digital bidding, online auctions, price determination, farmers' approval, weighing, sales billing, market fee calculations and payments.

After the auction or tender process, the final price will be displayed on the system. An OTP will be sent to the farmer through the commission agent to obtain confirmation of the agreed price before proceeding with the sale.

Once the produce is weighed, the sales bill will be generated based on the recorded weight and agreed price. Market charges and payment details will also be recorded digitally. After completion of all formalities, e-receipts and e-permits will be issued through the gate-exit system.

AI Technology to Prevent Irregularities The Minister instructed officials to develop a Management Information System (MIS) to provide real-time information on agricultural arrivals, price trends, traders, commission agents and auction activities. Historical auction and transaction records should also be preserved for future analysis, inspections and verification. All stages of the process must be interconnected to ensure automatic data integration and accountability.

He directed officials to study digital market systems operating in different states and introduce a more advanced model in Telangana. The attendance and biometric records of Marketing Department employees should also be integrated into the platform. Tummala instructed officials to coordinate with the IT Department and complete the tender invitation process within one week.

He further directed the installation of CCTV cameras across market yards to monitor warehouses and daily activities. Digital display screens should be installed to provide farmers and traders with information on crop prices prevailing in different markets across the country.

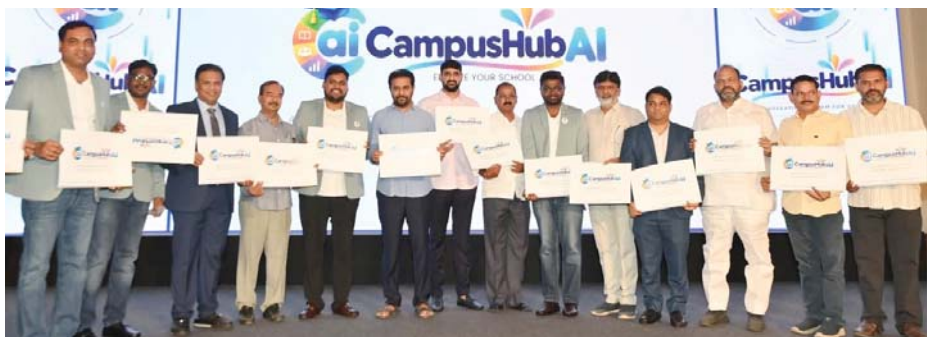
The facilities will initially be introduced in major market yards with high trading volumes and gradually extended to all markets across Telangana. The Minister stressed that technology should minimise manual intervention and ensure transparency in every transaction.

Kohheda Integrated Fruit Market to Be Completed in March During the same meeting, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao reviewed the progress of the Kohheda Integrated Fruit Market project and directed officials to accelerate construction works.

He instructed officials to complete the first phase by March 2027 and make the facility available to farmers.

Expressing displeasure over the delay in initiating the tender process, the Minister directed officials to obtain the Chief Minister's approval for the land-levelling modifications suggested by Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited representatives and invite tenders within the next seven days. He said the government's objective was to develop an internationally standardised integrated fruit market at Kohheda with modern infrastructure and advanced facilities. The Minister emphasised that there should be no further delays and instructed officials to take all necessary measures to speed up the construction work.

KTR Calls for AI Integration Across Education, Agriculture and Governance



Hyderabad, Nov 2 (GNS): BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) said Artificial Intelligence (AI) would play a crucial role in shaping the future and stressed the need to expand its use across education, agriculture, industry and governance. Speaking at the launch of the CampusHub AI product at the Sheraton Hotel in Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, KTR expressed happiness over the initiative launched by four young entrepreneurs from rural backgrounds. He described them as role models for society and urged youngsters to think big and achieve greater heights.

KTR said Telangana had given significant importance to the IT sector in the past, but the world was now entering the era of Artificial Intelligence. He stressed that society must adapt to changing technologies, particularly in the education sector. Describing AI as a tool that could benefit humanity rather than something to fear, he said technology should be used wherever necessary and should not be misused.

Recalling earlier initiatives, KTR said efforts had been made to bring AI-based innovations into agriculture. An AI-driven agricultural project was launched in a village in Sircilla district to help farmers gain better knowledge about crop cultivation. He also referred to the initiative titled Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture Innovation.

He pointed out that technology had evolved from landline telephones to smartphones and said AI would have a major role in the coming years, with driverless vehicles already becoming a reality. He added that Hyderabad need not be the only destination for IT companies, as rural areas could also attract technology businesses. He appreciated a young entrepreneur named Rakesh for establishing an IT company in Parkal.

KTR urged the government to encourage AI technology and said Telangana needed to expand the IT sector across the state. He also expressed confidence that once the party forms the government, AI would be integrated into all government departments and given priority across sectors. He said the emergence of AI-based platforms such as CampusHub reflected the growing role of young innovators in developing solutions to address changing societal needs. Encouraging startups to explore emerging technologies, KTR said entrepreneurship and innovation could create new opportunities for employment and economic growth.

KTR also highlighted the importance of making advanced technology accessible beyond major urban centres. He said expanding digital infrastructure and technology-driven services in smaller towns and rural areas would help bridge the urban-rural divide and enable more young people to participate in the digital economy. He stressed that educational institutions, industry and the government should work together to prepare students for a technology-driven future. Developing AI-related skills, promoting research and encouraging practical applications of emerging technologies would be essential to ensuring that the next generation is equipped to meet future challenges.

Kavitha Seeks Extension of Graduate MLC Voter Registration Deadline



Hyderabad, Nov 2 (GNS): Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha met Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudarshan Reddy at BRK Bhavan in Hyderabad and requested an extension of the deadline for voter registration for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Kavitha said the voter registration deadline is currently scheduled for November 6 and urged the Election Commission to extend it until the filing of nominations.

She pointed out that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is scheduled to continue until November 21 and requested that graduate voter registration also be extended accordingly. She said the CEO had responded positively to their request. Kavitha stated that the Graduate MLC elections are being held across the state's six erstwhile districts and that graduates, including members of Generation Z, should take the elections seriously and register as voters. She said graduates would consider the performance of the government and the conduct of opposition parties before casting their votes. She added that the elections provide an opportunity for new political parties like Telangana Rakshana Sena to present their agendas to the public.

Kavitha also raised the issue of Telangana Rakshana Sena's party registration, which is pending in Delhi. She requested the Telangana CEO to submit a report to the concerned authorities in Delhi highlighting the party's activities, organisational committees and efforts to compete with mainstream political parties.

She further expressed concern over the requirement for graduates to re-register before every MLC election, stating that the process creates difficulties and increases expenses for candidates. Kavitha also alleged that large educational institutions were influencing the elections through their students, potentially affecting the fairness of the electoral process. She said the issue would be brought to the Election Commission's attention after the elections.

Kavitha said simplifying the registration process would encourage more eligible graduates to participate in the electoral process. She stressed that greater awareness was needed among young voters about the importance of registering within the prescribed period and exercising their democratic rights.

She also called for wider outreach by election authorities, particularly in universities, colleges and professional institutions, to ensure that eligible graduates were informed about the registration requirements. Such efforts, she said, could help improve voter participation in the Graduate MLC elections.

The Telangana Rakshana Sena chief said her party would continue to raise issues concerning graduates and seek a larger role for young people in public affairs. She maintained that the Graduate MLC elections offered an important platform to discuss education, employment and other concerns affecting the educated youth.

Komatireddy Pushes to Showcase Telangana at 85th Indian Roads Congress



Hyderabad, Nov 2 (GNS): Telangana Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has directed officials to organise the 85th Indian Roads Congress (IRC) conference as a major global platform to showcase Telangana's development, culture and investment opportunities. The Minister conducted an extensive review meeting with senior Roads and Buildings Department officials at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday, reviewing departmental development works and preparations for the IRC conference for nearly three-and-a-half hours.

The 85th Indian Roads Congress global conference will be held at HITEX, Hyderabad, from November 19 to 22. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will jointly inaugurate the event on the morning of November 19. Several Union Ministers, Ministers from different states, senior officials, international delegates and experts from the engineering and infrastructure sectors are expected to attend. Komatireddy said the prestigious conference should not be restricted to technical discussions but should also serve as an international platform to highlight Telangana's infrastructure development and attract investments.

The Minister directed officials to establish a special Telangana Pavilion at the HITEX premises, alongside around 400 exhibition stalls. The pavilion should showcase Telangana's history, culture, traditions, arts, tourism destinations, major infrastructure projects and investment opportunities. He also instructed officials to organise cultural performances by Telangana artists for at least one hour every day during the four-day conference. Special souvenirs reflecting the state's cultural identity should be presented to delegates.

Arrangements should also be made for live streaming of important conference events. In coordination with the Tourism Department, special tour programmes should be organised to enable delegates to visit prominent temples, historical monuments and tourist destinations across Telangana. The Minister called for extensive publicity campaigns in Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. He instructed officials to install attractive hoardings and visual advertisements at airports, metro stations, railway stations, bus terminals and other major public transport locations.

He also stressed the effective use of print, electronic, digital and social media platforms to give the conference national and international visibility. Komatireddy said the 85th IRC conference should serve as a pre-summit event for the prestigious 'Invest Telangana Global Summit', scheduled to be organised in December at Bharat Future City under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He asked officials to prepare a special action plan to introduce Telangana's investment potential, industrial-friendly environment, transport infrastructure and future development projects to Union Ministers, representatives of various states, international delegates, industrialists and investors attending the IRC conference.

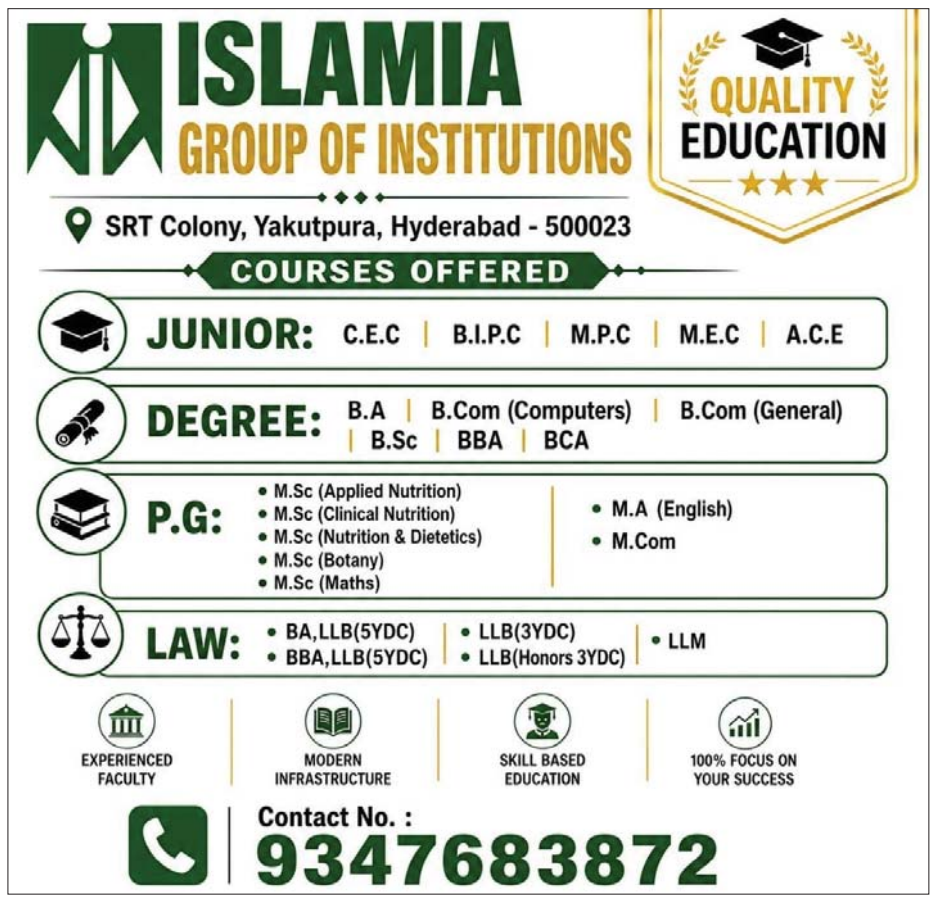
The objective should be to attract more investments, industries and employment opportunities to the state through the conference.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the progress of various road construction works across Telangana and directed officials to complete all projects within the stipulated deadlines while maintaining quality standards. He instructed officials to accelerate HAM road projects and construction of major hospitals, particularly the Alwal TIMS Hospital and Warangal Super Speciality Hospital, and make them ready for public services within this year. He also reviewed the progress of the Osmania General Hospital, NIMS expansion project and the construction of the new High Court building, directing officials to expedite the works.

The Minister said providing better transport and healthcare facilities to the people was a key priority of the government and called upon officials to work with special attention to achieve the targets.

He expressed confidence that important announcements concerning Telangana's road network and railway projects would be made during the 85th IRC conference, making it a significant milestone in the state's development.





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