FALAKNUMA NEWS

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FALAKNUMA NEWS

ENGLISH DAILY

www.falaknumanews.in

PRGI Reg NO.TGENG/26/A3255

VOL: 1 | Issue No: 164 | THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026 | PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD | PAGES: 4 | RS.1/-

CM Revanth Seeks Student Feedback on School Uniforms



Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to collect feedback from students on the school uniforms distributed to them, emphasising that their opinions should be considered while selecting colours and designs for future uniforms.

The Chief Minister reviewed the distribution of uniforms and educational kits to students of government hostels, residential schools and government schools under various departments at the MCR HRD Bodhi Pavilion. He said that compared to previous years, students had been provided with better-quality uniforms featuring attractive colours and designs.

Officials informed the meeting that the distribution of uniforms, ties, belts, identity cards, shoes, socks, plates, glasses, bowls, carpets and school bags had been almost completed. While distribution of certain items in one or two institutions had reached 95 per cent, the Chief Minister directed officials to complete the remaining work at the earliest. He instructed officials to prepare standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the next academic year well in advance. He stressed that every stage, from finalising the list of items and inviting tenders to procurement, supply and distribution, must be completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Chief Minister directed officials to prepare an action plan to ensure that students receive all uniforms and educational materials on the very first day of the next academic year. MP Vem Narender Reddy, Chief Minister's Principal Secretary N. Sridhar, Welfare Department Special Chief Secretary Sabyasachi Ghosh, Tribal and Backward Classes Department Principal Secretary Rahul Bojja and other officials attended the review meeting. Clarify the 95 per cent distribution figureShorten the article for quick publication

Four-Year Agnipath tenure unchanged, two-year extension allowed: CDS



New Delhi, Nov 4 (GNS): The four-year service tenure for 'Agniveers' remains unchanged, and those who don't get selected as "regular soldiers" in the first phase, after completing their four-year term, will have an opportunity to serve for an additional two years, clarified the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General NS Raja Subramani, on Wednesday. The move to give an additional opportunity to 'Agniveers' was taken during a Union Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. This comes months ahead of the first batch of about 18,000 Agniveers retiring from the armed forces in December 2026.

The Agnipath scheme, launched in 2022, introduced a new scheme of short-term induction of personnel into the armed forces, with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services. Those recruited under the scheme are called Agniveers.

The CDS, speaking to the press, stated that under the existing system, up to 25 per cent of Agniveers completing four years of service are to be inducted as regular soldiers. The remaining 75 per cent will now have the option of a second two-year service term, enabling them to continue serving for an additional period. After completing the second service term, their performance will be reviewed. Their efficiency, achievements during service, and organisational requirements will be assessed. Agniveers who demonstrate positive performance and meet the prescribed standards may be considered for regular service in the future.

The CDS clarified that, along with the willingness of the Agniveers, the Armed Forces' operational and organisational requirements would also be taken into account. Objective criteria will be followed for selection. Agniveers' performance is evaluated periodically during their service, he added. This evaluation includes factors such as physical fitness, motivation, morale, discipline, and technical proficiency. The purpose of the second service term is to provide Agniveers with more opportunities to enhance their skills and experience.

It will also help the armed forces retain trained and experienced manpower. During the second service period, Agniveers will receive higher pay and an increased service fund benefit, giving them better financial returns for the additional two years of service. The CDs explained that for those Agniveers who get inducted as regular soldiers after completing the second term, their seniority will be ranked after the 25 per cent of Agniveers selected in the initial phase.

"Those selected as regular soldiers in the first phase will hold higher seniority, while those selected later will be placed immediately after them," he added.

In further clarification, he said that not being selected as a "regular soldier" after the initial four-year term does not imply that an Agniveer is any less capable, as the selection is strictly merit-based.

Jaishankar Highlights India's Digital Public Infrastructure at CHOGM



n's (Antigua and Barbuda), Nov 4 (Way to News): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Wednesday highlighted the value of digital public infrastructure for good governance and financial responsibility.

EAM Jaishankar made the remarks as he represented India at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Executive Session (CHOGM) on Wednesday. In his address, EAM Jaishankar spoke about India's recent Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and other negotiations in that regard. In a post on X, EAM Jaishankar stated, "Honoured to represent India at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Executive Session. Highlighted the value of digital public infrastructure for good governance and financial responsibility. Has helped democratise our economies by expanding opportunities. The Indian example is instructive."

"Also spoke about India's recent FTAs and other negotiations underway in that regard. Such understandings will contribute to predictable trade and resilient supply chains," he added.

EAM Jaishankar is currently on an official visit to Antigua and Barbuda for CHOGM. Upon arrival, Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Minister Everly Chet Greene and Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Charles Fernandes welcomed him at the airport.

"Delighted to arrive in Antigua and Barbuda for CHOGM2026. Touched by the gesture of FM Everly Chet Greene and Tourism & Civil Aviation Minister Charles Fernandes, receiving me at the airport. Look forward to engagements here," EAM Jaishankar posted on X. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is being held in Antigua and Barbuda from November 1-4. Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the theme of the CHOGM reflects the country's enduring belief in unity, progress, and equality among nations.

Defence Min Rajnath Singh Calls for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific



New Delhi, Nov 4 (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asserted that the future of the Indo-Pacific region will not be determined solely by technology, but by how "wisely" nations use it and the level of "trust" they build in each other.

Addressing a special session of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)-2026, Rajnath Singh noted that oceans have never been distant or unfamiliar to India. "For centuries, Indian sailors have traversed these maritime routes, carrying not only goods but also knowledge, culture, and human connections. This is one of the key reasons why India has consistently contributed responsibly to a free, open, and rules-based international order," he said while adding that India's maritime responsibilities extend beyond its national coastline, and the country remains committed to supporting an open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime system. According to the Defence Minister, the global maritime security environment is currently under strain due to "deliberate disruptions" to trade.

"Freedom of navigation along sea routes is being openly challenged, and narrow maritime passages are increasingly being used as strategic tools. This growing instability at sea poses a serious challenge to the broader international order," he said. Moreover, he stressed that the answer to every disruption cannot be a retreat from globalisation, nor should there be attempts to close maritime spaces that have played a crucial role in advancing human progress. "Instead, the goal should be to make interdependence more secure through diversified supply chains."

Rajnath Singh further said that as India advances toward becoming a developed nation by 2047, the maritime sector will play a key role in national transformation. "India's ambitions go beyond expanding trade or strengthening naval capabilities; the country seeks to develop a comprehensive maritime ecosystem," he added. Noting that human capabilities are undergoing remarkable change, he highlighted that Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way data is analysed. "Autonomous systems are expanding possibilities in surveillance and operations. Advanced sensors are enhancing ocean-monitoring capabilities. Progress in materials science, biotechnology, and data analytics is opening new avenues for research and application.

SC reconsiders two-child norm for contesting local polls



New Delhi, Nov 4 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that India's demographic landscape has undergone a significant transformation over the past two decades, and hence laws disqualifying individuals with more than two children from contesting elections may no longer be relevant in the present context. A Bench of the apex court noted that the country's fertility rate has witnessed a steady decline and has now fallen below the replacement level of 2.1. It raises concerns about an ageing population in the coming decades. In view of this changing demographic reality, the court questioned the continued justification for statutory provisions that bar persons with more than two children from contesting local body elections. The observations came while the court set aside the disqualification of Mangala Bhimrao, a former Sarpanch of Maharashtra's Kakoda Gram Panchayat, who had been barred from contesting elections following the birth of her third child.

While allowing her appeal, the Supreme Court decided to revisit its earlier position on the issue and referred the landmark Javed vs State of Haryana (2003) judgment to a larger Bench for reconsideration. In the 2003 ruing, a three-judge Bench upheld the constitutional validity of provisions under the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, which disqualified persons having more than two living children from contesting panchayat polls. The court pointed out that when the Javed judgment was delivered, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stood at around three children per woman, making population control a significant policy concern. However, demographic indicators have now changed substantially since then, with the TFR steadily declining across the country.

Noting these developments, the apex court said that a larger Bench will now determine whether such electoral disqualification provisions remain constitutionally valid and relevant in a country where population growth has slowed significantly, and concerns about demographic ageing are increasingly emerging. The reference to a larger Bench is significant as it could lead to a fresh examination of the constitutional basis of the two-child eligibility restriction. The reconsideration will also take into account changing population trends and whether such provisions continue to serve their intended purpose in the present demographic context.



Kohli Stars as India beat New Zealand by five wickets



Auckland, Nov 4 (GNS): Veteran batter Virat Kohli struck a commanding 74 off 51 balls after Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar and Anshul Kamboj's scintillating bowling show as India beat New Zealand by five wickets in a rain-affected first ODI here at Eden Park on Wednesday. India's 'inexperienced' pace attack produced an impressive collective performance to bowl New Zealand out for 185 in 40.2 overs. In response, the visitors chased down a revised target of 143 in 22.4 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. India's chase suffered an early setback when Rohit Sharma was dismissed for a six-ball duck by Kyle Jamieson in the opening over. However, Kohli joined skipper Shubman Gill to take control of the innings, with the pair building a match-defining partnership.

The chase was interrupted twice by rain, with the contest eventually reduced to 32 overs and India's target revised to 143 under the DLS method. Kohli brought up his half-century after the second resumption, reaching the milestone off 35 deliveries with a powerful pull through mid-wicket in the 16th over. The experienced batter continued to dominate New Zealand's short-ball approach, striking 13 fours and a six. His innings also saw him move past Sachin Tendulkar to become the highest run-scorer in ODI run chases, taking his tally to 8,741 runs, compared to Tendulkar's 8,720.

Gill provided steady support with 37 off 56 balls as the duo added a century partnership, their sixth 100-plus stand in 27 ODI innings together. New Zealand finally broke through when Nathan Smith had Gill caught behind for 37 in the 19th over. Kohli, however, continued to keep India comfortably ahead of the required rate before Jacob Duffy dismissed him for 74, caught by Tim Seifert at deep backward square leg. Duffy struck again in the same over, removing Axar Patel for a duck, while Shreyas Iyer fell for 15 to give the hosts a late glimmer of hope. But the result was never seriously in doubt. KL Rahul and Naman Dhir ensured there were no further complications, with the latter pulling Nathan Smith through mid-wicket for four to seal the win.

Earlier, Arshdeep Singh claimed four wickets, while Gurnoor Brar took three and Anshul Kamboj picked up two as India restricted New Zealand to 185. The hosts had no answers to the riddles and questions that India's pace attack threw at them, as they were held to a paltry total to make things a tad bit easier for the visitors.

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India has ditched the old, tragic way of dealing with threats



Abhishek Chaudhari

Harvard professor and crisis management expert Juliette Kayyem often says that preparedness is a "moving target"that is, it is constantly evolving. She draws a distinction between the "left of boom" (before a crisis occurs) and the "right of boom" (after a crisis has occurred). True preparedness, she argues, is what a nation does before the crisis occurs—how it plans, trains, and builds resilience in the system to reduce the severity of crisis. India has long lived in the shadow of boom. Today, it has stepped firmly into the realm of preparedness.For years, India's national security response to terror attacks followed a familiar, tragic cycle—condemnation, outrage, and a scramble for action. After the 1993 Mumbai blasts, 2001 Parliament attack, and the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, India found itself reacting rather than responding. Condemnation was swift, coordination was weak, and response was nil. New laws were passed in haste, but without any coherent strategy. Societal morale was high, but national readiness was low.

In 2001, despite the establishment of the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) after the Kargil War and the attack on Parliament, intelligence gaps remained. By the time 26/11 happened, the failure to connect the dots—collating and analysing—had become visible. There was no national agency tasked with terror investigation before 26/11. The response was fragmented, with national and state agencies operating in silos. Links between terrorism, narcotics, and finance were rarely explored. The response to Pakistan after 26/11 was diplomatic and verbose, not strategic. After the Parliament attack, India nearly went to war with its neighbour in Operation Parakram, yet gained little deterrence. The media too often acted without restraint. During terror strikes, live coverage gave away operational positions. Some journalists played to the gallery, perhaps even against national interest. A lot has changed over the past few years. India is no longer waiting for the boom. It is preparing before the crisis happens. And when it does, the response is swift, surgical, and strategic. India now has a robust terror jurisprudence. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was significantly strengthened in 2019, empowering the government to designate individuals—not just organisations—as terrorists. It also enhanced the powers of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), enabling it to investigate and seize properties linked to terror cases.

The NIA, formed after 26/11, has become truly national in its role. As Union Home Minister Amit Shah said during the debate on the new criminal laws in Parliament, terrorism is now clearly defined in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), giving a firm legal foundation to security action. India now operates with a preemptive mindset, ready to neutralise threats before they turn into crises. The 2022 crackdown on the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI) is one such example. In a single day, locations across the country were raided and more than 100 arrests made. It showed how a coordinated, multi-agency effort could dismantle a pan-India threat. The same integrated approach is being seen in the fight against narco-terrorism and Left Wing Extremism. The missing terror-finance-narcotics link is now a focus area for the NIA.

The Multi-Agency Centre itself has been upgraded at a cost of Rs 500 crore. Inaugurated by Amit Shah this month, the new MAC at North Block is designed to be India's internal security grid, unifying intelligence and operations against terrorism, organised crime, and cyber threats.

India's military response to terrorism has also evolved. After the 2016 Uri attack, India launched surgical strikes across the LoC, targeting terror launchpads. After the Pulwama attack in 2019, it conducted airstrikes across the border in Balakot. In both cases, Pakistan's retaliatory attempts were countered without escalation.

But the biggest shift came after the recent Pahalgam attack. India launched wide-ranging airstrikes on nine terror camps in Pakistan. In response to Pakistan's air provocations, India targeted its air force infrastructure—putting real costs on the table. This isn't posturing; this is strategy. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared, if there is a terror attack on India, it will respond firmly on its own terms—striking at the roots, rejecting nuclear blackmail, and treating terror masterminds and their state sponsors as one, with Operation Sindoor now India's new normal. Earlier, India was often seen as the complainant in the global court of opinion. Now, it acts first and informs later. It does not wait for mediation. It sets the narrative. During the Kargil War in 1999, India scrambled to import ammunition. In contrast, 88 per cent of the Army's ammunition needs today are met domestically. Moreover, India now manufactures 65 per cent of its defence equipment domestically—a remarkable turnaround from the earlier 65 per cent import dependency, underscoring India's growing self-reliance in defence.

The defence ecosystem has expanded—from BrahMos and Pinaka to advanced radars and drone systems. The Akashteer air defence system intercepted every Pakistani missile and drone during Operation Sindoor. The indigenous D4 anti-drone system and Bhargavastra hard-kill drones neutralised the threat of swarm drones, including Turkish ones. Defence-tech firms like BEL, Paras Defence, IdeaForge, and Zen Technologies now power India's preparedness.

India's diplomacy too remained firm. Even while responding to terror, the government signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK and PM Modi addressed a global space conference. This is not a business-as-usual mindset. It reflects the maturity of a nation handling multiple challenges at once. The media has also matured. Gone are the days of breathless reporting during an attack. A new generation of tech-savvy journalists understands operational sensitivity.

They help decode misinformation during conflict and give citizens factual updates when calm returns. Access journalism has given way to informed, analytical reporting.

India is now in a better place—legally, operationally, and strategically. From reacting with outrage to responding with resolve, the transformation has been slow but steady. Preparedness is never final. It is a moving target. But India is now moving with it—and, more importantly, ahead of it.

MLA Sudheer Reddy Urges HMDA to Expedite Land Use Approvals

India's approach also reflects a growing emphasis on institutional coordination rather than isolated responses. Intelligence sharing, joint operational planning and the use of advanced surveillance technologies have become central to the country's security architecture. Such coordination helps security agencies identify emerging threats, track suspicious networks and act before they develop into major security challenges.

Another important pillar of preparedness is strengthening border security and protecting critical infrastructure. Improved monitoring systems, modern communication networks and enhanced capabilities to counter drones and cyberattacks are essential as security threats become increasingly complex. The focus is no longer limited to responding to conventional attacks but also to anticipating unconventional and technology-driven risks.

BJP's Election Manifesto for Assam

The Ongoing War in the Middle East has certainly stirred and jolted the present world posing quite a very complex and jumbled proposition as to whether in the course of critical times war becomes a living reality to create and regenerate a congenial scenario for having life long stint of the enduring peace amongst the societies for the ultimate prosperity and prolonged usefulness of holistic human endeavor forever. Let us dive deep and churn out the ultimate basic truth: Human civilization has always oscillated between the ideals of peace and the harsh realities of war. Philosophers, Strategists and political leaders do often debate that as to whether war can ever be justified as means to achieve lasting peace. While some argue that war is sometimes necessary to eliminate tyranny or restore stability. History repeatedly demonstrates that wars often create deeper divisions, suffering, and long-term instability. The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East or West Asia—particularly the wars involving Gaza strip, Israel, Iran and Yemen raise serious questions, whether war truly leads to peace or merely perpetuates cycles of violence. In theory, some scholars of International relations believe in the concept of " war for peace". The logic is that decisive military action can dismantle oppressive regimes or deter aggression. For example, the devastation of world war ii, Institutions like United Nations were created to maintain global peace. However, the paradox remains that while war may sometimes stop a particular threat, it rarely removes the deeper political, economic and ideological conflicts that caused it.

The contemporary conflicts in West Asia highlight this dilemma quite vividly. The Israel- Palestine conflict which escalated dramatically after October 7 Hamas -led attack on Israel, has resulted in massive destruction and humanitarian crises. Thousands of civilians have suffered, cities have been devastated and the region remains deeply polarized. Similarly the long standing rivalry between Iran and Israel has raised fears of a wider regional war, while the civil war in Yemen continues to devastate one of the world's poorest nation. These conflicts illustrate that war often multiplies grievances than resolving them. Another critical dimension of these wars is the role of geopolitical interests and natural resources The Middle East possesses nearly half of the world's proven oil reserves, making it strategically vital for global energy security. Major powers have historically competed for influence in the region to secure access to the resources such as petroleum and natural gas. The involvement of external powers in countries like Iraq and Syria have often been interpreted by critics as driven partly by resource interests and strategic dominance. While uranium resources are not the central factor in Middle Eastern conflicts, nuclear ambitions, particularly those associated with Iran—have intensified global tensions. Thus it is not entirely inaccurate to say that resource competition, combined with strategic arrogance and ideological rivalries fuel many of these wars.

However, reducing all conflicts merely to the struggle for oil or uranium would be an over simplification. Historical grievances, territorial disputes, religious divisions and political power struggles also play a major role. For example, roots of Israel -Palestine conflict lie in the complex history surrounding the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, displacement of populations and unresolved questions of sovereignty. These layered causes make it extremely difficult for military solutions alone to bring sustainable peace. The consequences of war extend far beyond the immediate battlefield. Humanitarian catastrophes, displacement of millions, destruction of infrastructure, and long term psychological trauma are common outcomes. Economies collapse, Education systems are disrupted and generations grow up in environments of fear and instability. The refugee crisis arising from conflicts in Syria and Yemen demonstrates as to how regional wars can become global humanitarian challenges. For a country like India, these conflicts carry serious implications. Our country heavily depends on energy imports from Gulf region, making stability in west Asia crucial for its economic security. Escalating conflicts can lead to higher oil prices, disruption in shipping routes and inflationary pressures on the Indian economy. Furthermore, millions of Indian expatriates work in countries such as united Arab emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Any regional instability directly affects their safety and livelihoods. India must, therefore, carefully balance its diplomatic relations with all sides while advocating peace and stability.

India's traditional foreign policy principle of strategic autonomy and peaceful existence can pay a constructive role in addressing such crises. Right from beginning, India has supported dialogue, non-alignment and multilateral diplomacy. In recent years, India has strengthened ties with Israel while also maintaining cordial relations with Arab countries and Iran. This balanced approach places India in a unique position to encourage dialogue and humanitarian cooperation. For the purpose of resolving the gigantic crisis facing the Middle East and prevent further global instability, several measures are essential such as:- 1.Diplomatic engagement must replace military confrontation.

International organizations like the United Nations must be strengthened to so that they can act as effective mediators. 2. Major powers should avoid turning regional conflicts into proxy wars. When external powers compete for influence, local disputes often escalate into prolonged wars. 3. Economic cooperation and regional development initiatives can reduce tensions by creating shared interests. Investments in education, infrastructure and employment opportunities can help stabilize societies that are currently vulnerable to conflict. 4. Humanitarian aid and reconstruction must be prioritized to alleviate the sufferings of civilians. 5. Finally there must be a global commitment to ethical leadership and restraint. Military strength may deter aggression but arrogance and unilateralism often deepen hostility. Genuine peace requires justice, dialogue and mutual respect among nations.

Apple's India pivot is making China insecure

Abhishek Chaudhari

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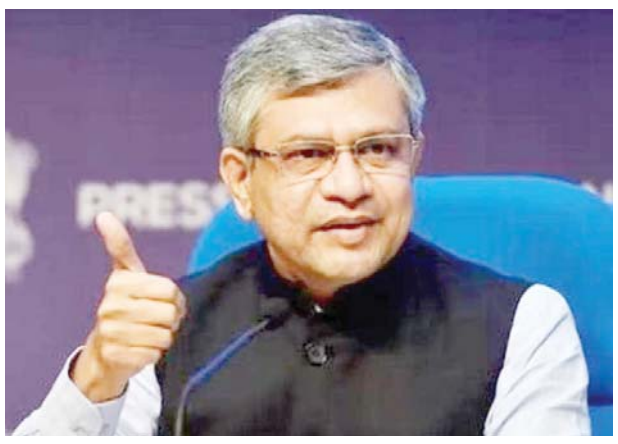
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Manufacturing, Services Both Key for Growth: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): IT and Electronics Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday announced that the first Made in India semiconductor chip of 28-90 nm will be rolled out this year. Addressing the CII's Annual Business Summit here, the minister said: "We targeted a particular segment, which has 60 per cent of market volume, using a targeted approach."



"Today we have six units under construction. The first made-in-India chip of 28-90 nm will roll out this year. We started manufacturing in 2022," the minister observed.

In the context of semiconductor manufacturing, smaller nanometer (nm) measurements signify more compact transistor designs, allowing manufacturers to fit more transistors onto a single chip. The 28-90 nm chip is used in automotive, telecom, power, and trains. Underscoring the importance of the manufacturing sector, the minister said: "Many top economists want us to focus on services. Manufacturing and services are both equally important for the next level of growth. We should increase our work, wherever we get the opportunity. We should have our own IP, product, design and standards." He also highlighted the positive change that was happening due to Artificial Intelligence (AI). "We have experienced a big change due to AI, and it is here for good," he remarked.

"What the internet did for the world, a similar phenomenon would be brought forth from AI. We should be prepared for that change regardless of industry and sector. AI will bring in a humongous change in our society and industry," the minister said.He emphasised the need to have AI models that are trained on Indian culture, nuances, languages, and social norms. The minister said that one of the first such models is being developed by Sarvam. Vaishnaw also highlighted the achievements and growth of the Indian Railways, of which he also holds charge as minister. "We have achieved a major milestone as we have become the second largest cargo carrying railway in the world with the transportation of 1,612 million tonnes of freight, overtaking the US and Russia," he observed.

"Our passenger carrying capacity has also increased substantially. We have reached a level where dreams are being fulfilled and goals are being achieved. We are going in a steady direction in railways, more industries must join," Vaishnaw added. The Railway Minister further stated that the country's experiment of bringing startups into the railway sector has proved to be very successful.

"We are now bringing a new policy where we can test a new innovative idea and then scale it up based on the results of the test," he added.

The minister said India's semiconductor ambitions would require sustained investment, skilled manpower and close collaboration between industry, research institutions and the government. He stressed that developing domestic capabilities in chip design and manufacturing would help reduce dependence on imports and strengthen the country's position in the global electronics supply chain.

He also called on Indian industries to embrace emerging technologies and innovation to remain competitive in a rapidly changing global economy. Vaishnaw said the government was committed to creating an ecosystem that encourages startups, supports indigenous research and enables new ideas to move from testing to large-scale implementation.

Landmark FTA with EFTA to Drive $100 Billion Investment into India

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): India is an attractive investment destination and has the potential to remain the fastest-growing large economy in the world for the next 30 years, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has said.



Goyal said the country has maintained sustained growth of 6–7 per cent and hopes to push it to 8 per cent at constant prices. Speaking at the CII 'Annual Business Summit 2025' here, the minister said that even amid international upheavals, "we are among the better-performing emerging markets".

"Today, India holds the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about $690 billion. Our inflation has remained below 4 per cent for the last three months. The Reserve Bank has done a commendable job balancing liquidity and currency management," he told the gathering. Goyal highlighted India as an attractive investment destination. "Over the past 20–25 years, Indian companies have delivered nearly 20 per cent CAGR returns, making India a compulsive investment destination. FDI inflows are consistently breaking records. We are back on track on the growth trajectory, working through international trading relations," he added. The minister cited progress on various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including those with the UAE, Australia, the UK, the four EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland), and the ongoing bilateral trade agreement negotiations with the US.

"We are well on track with our bilateral trade agreement with the USA and making fast progress with the European Union's 27-nation bloc. We have also launched negotiations with New Zealand," he stated. The EFTA countries have committed $100 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) to India over the next 15 years. This is expected to crystallise into a total investment of $500 billion. Furthermore, the large ecosystem that will be created around this investment has the potential to attract an additional $500 billion. "We are not aiming small," said Goyal, emphasising that this figure does not include investments from the Norwegian Pension Fund and represents pure FDI. He further highlighted that this is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the world to include such a forward-looking investment clause.

Goyal expressed pride at India's continued economic progress and stated that the IMF has projected that by 2027, India will be the world's third largest GDP. He added that despite global volatility, uncertainty and complexity, India remains the fastest-growing economy and continues to power global growth through growth in India. The minister underlined that growth through trade, resilient supply chains and innovation would remain incomplete without inclusive growth.

Goyal said the government was focused on ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach all sections of society, particularly through employment generation, entrepreneurship and improved opportunities for young people. He emphasised that India's expanding domestic market, skilled workforce and growing manufacturing capabilities would continue to strengthen its appeal to global investors. He also called for greater collaboration between the government and industry to boost exports, improve competitiveness and build resilient supply chains.

India must build AI models to solve world challenges: Amitabh Kant

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Artificial Intelligence (AI) race has just started, and Indian foundational models will solve many challenges for the world, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Thursday, urging Indian companies to build better and efficient AI foundational models. "What we did in digital public infrastructure (DPI) is that we used open source, open API, globally interoperable models, and those models will be the way forward for us," Amitabh Kant said at the CII Annual Business Summit 2025.

"Therefore, India must build its foundational model. I believe India will provide these foundational models for many areas which have challenges for the world. How to improve learning outcomes, health outcomes and nutritional standards, etc," he told the gathering. According to Amitabh Kant, India will use 22 languages and thousands of dialects to find solutions to many of the challenges of the world. "Indian startups will do some pathbreaking work in this area," he added.

Talking about the ease of doing business, the G20 Sherpa said that the Central government has put in the building blocks, and it is time for states to bring reforms. He also urged the industry to invest in research and development to develop cutting-edge technologies to sustain India's accelerated growth. Amitabh Kant also said that Quality Control Orders (QCOs) must be used rationally to ensure Indian industry can grow. To make Indian Industry more competitive, he suggested that states give land to the industry on long-term lease and privatise discoms to make them more efficient. He also underlined the need for an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to ensure speedy justice, especially in commercial cases. Amitabh Kant said that tourism is another great area for growth. "We need to roll out a massive Incredible India campaign to attract tourism in a big way.

This is India's soft power. It has a huge multiplier effect in terms of jobs and can create millions of jobs. States must drive the tourism sector as the driver of growth," he said.

CII's President Designate (2024-25) and EY India Chairman and CEO, Rajiv Memani, said that India has done a lot of work in manufacturing and underlined the need to boost the sector further. He also highlighted the need for second-generation reforms and advocated for alternate dispute resolution.

Kant stressed that developing indigenous AI capabilities would be crucial for India's technological independence and global competitiveness. He said collaboration between startups, academic institutions and industry could accelerate innovation, while access to quality data and computing infrastructure would help Indian developers create reliable and efficient AI solutions. He also called for a stronger partnership between the Centre and state governments to translate policy initiatives into tangible economic outcomes. Emphasising the importance of reforms, investment and innovation, Kant said India must build an enabling ecosystem that supports businesses, encourages entrepreneurship.

Ola Electric's net loss doubles in Q4, revenue tanks 62 pc

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Ola Electric's financial performance took a sharp beating in the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25, as the Bhavish Aggarwal-led electric vehicle maker on Thursday reported a steep drop in revenue and a two-fold increase in net losses on year-on-year (YoY) basis. The company posted a net loss of Rs 870 crore for the January–March quarter (Q4), up from Rs 416 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal (Q4 FY24), according to its stock exchange filing.

Revenue from operations fell significantly to Rs 611 crore in Q4 FY25, marking a 61.8 per cent decline from Rs 1,598 crore a year ago.

This is one of the company's worst quarterly revenue performances since it began commercial deliveries of its electric two-wheelers in late 2021. The drop comes amid rising competition in the electric scooter market, regulatory uncertainty around government subsidies, and inventory correction across dealerships. For the full year FY25, Ola Electric's revenue also fell to Rs 4,645 crore, down from Rs 5,126 crore in FY24. The company, however, said it is working toward cost efficiency and profitability through its internal cost-cutting initiative, 'Project Lakshya'. It noted that the auto segment's operating cost structure has already been brought down to Rs 121 crore in April 2025, with a target of Rs 110 crore by June 2025.

Ola Electric also said that through its cost-optimisation plans -- Project Lakshya and Project Vistaar -- it has managed to lower the EBITDA break-even point for its auto segment to under 25,000 units per month.

"With the introduction of new electric motorcycles and rising sales of its Gen 3 S1 scooters, the company aims to achieve EBITDA-level profitability in the auto business during FY26," the electric vehicle maker said in its regulatory filing. The company's Q4 results were announced after market hours. Earlier in the day, Ola Electric's stock closed 0.60 per cent higher at Rs 53.24 on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The company attributed the challenging quarter to market conditions and said it remained focused on strengthening its business fundamentals. Its cost-reduction measures are aimed at improving operational efficiency, streamlining expenses and creating a more sustainable business model amid intensifying competition in the electric two-wheeler segment.Ola Electric is also banking on its expanding product portfolio to revive demand. The introduction of new electric motorcycles and the Gen 3 S1 scooter range is expected to help attract customers and improve sales volumes. The company is seeking to strengthen its position through product innovation and improved manufacturing efficiency.

The electric vehicle maker has been facing pressure from established two-wheeler manufacturers and emerging EV players, making pricing, service quality and customer experience increasingly important factors. Improving dealership operations and maintaining customer confidence will be key to its efforts to regain momentum in the market.

Nearly 47 pc of digital transactions in India, UPI has gone global: Minister

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS):Around 47 per cent of the digital transactions are in India and the unified payments interface (UPI) has gone global in its scope, Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia has stressed. Moreover, India today is leading the revolution in the technology and telecommunications space. "For instance, India is seen as a digital-first economy and there is a telecom revolution currently underway. Scalability has reduced the cost of communication which presently is among the lowest in the world. The country has achieved 'atmanirbharta' in telecom and is among the four countries manufacturing the technology stack," Scindia said at the Annual Business Summit 2025 held by CII here.

Technology is also transforming the postal department with new services being introduced in the postal system, the minister added.

According to him, recognising that building trust through enlightened leadership has emerged as a cornerstone for sustainable growth and a hallmark for taking India forward, it is imperative to focus on outcomes which inspire trust. India emerging as the fourth largest economy in the world is a commendable achievement, he said.

The minister also underscored the significance of the northeast as a centre piece of India's progress with the decadal growth rate exceeding 12-13 per cent. "The eight states would emerge as an engine driving India's ambition of Viksit Bharat," he added. Sanjiv Puri, President, CII, while congratulating the Minister for garnering investment interest of Rs 4.3 lakh crore from the 'Rising North-East Investors Summit 2025', stated that the northeast was transforming . into India's strategic gateway to South-East Asia, powering trade, connectivity and our ambition for Viksit Bharat.

"There is tremendous scope for industry participation in areas such as developing skill hubs in hospitality, food processing etc, which should be leveraged for maximum advantage," he added.

India's household savings may surge to Rs 22 lakh crore in FY25

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Net financial savings of India's household sector may reach Rs 22 lakh crore or 6.5 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI) in FY25 based on the current trends, according to an SBI report released on Friday.

With the latest RBI annual report indicating that the household sector showed strong financial resilience, with net savings rising to 5.1 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI) in FY24, the SBI report says this growing capital pool remains crucial for funding government and corporate deficits and supporting macroeconomic stability. Further, as against the increase in household liabilities to 6.1 per cent of GNDI, the gross financial savings of households increased to 11.2 per cent of GNDI in 2023-24 from 10.7 per cent in the previous year. As per the central bank report, the RBI's balance sheet expanded by 8.19 per cent in FY25, less than the nominal GDP growth of 9.9 per cent. Despite contractions in traditional income, streams such as domestic interest and LAF earnings, strategic management of foreign exchange and efforts to mitigate rupee volatility materially enhanced surplus generation. A Rs 44,861.7 crore provision to the Contingency Fund kept realised equity healthy at 7.5 per cent of the balance sheet, enabling record Rs 2.69 lakh crore surplus transfers to the government and enhancing the fiscal space.

Further, total gold holdings were at 879.58 metric tonnes, reflecting an increase of 57.48 metric tonnes of gold during FY25. The share of gold in NFA increased to 12.0 per cent as at end-March 2025 from 8.3 per cent as at end-March 2024 due to appreciation in gold prices. Currency in circulation expanded steadily in FY25, with banknotes in circulation rising by 6 per cent in value and 5.6 per cent. in volume.Rs 500 notes dominated both value and volume. Withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes progressed well, reclaiming 98.2 per cent of those in circulation.

Increased issuance of durable Rs 10 coins alongside reduced Rs 10 notes marks a cost-effective currency shift. Counterfeit note detections fell overall by 2.4 per cent to 2.17 lakh pieces but rose for the Rs 200.

Indian shrimp exporters to see 2-3 pc uptick in revenues this fiscal

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Indian shrimp exporters will see a marginal 2-3 per cent uptick in revenues this fiscal (FY26) on improved realisations stemming from rising prices and currency gains, a Crisil report said on Friday.

Though the low-value-added shrimp exports will likely see increased pressures, Indian exporters have a competitive advantage in the value-added segment over other Asian peers, such as China, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, which face higher tariffs but enjoy over one-third market share in the US. However, export volumes will be flat because of higher tariffs expected to be imposed by the US and subdued demand in key importer nations as sluggish economic growth affects disposable incomes.

India exports close to 48 per cent of its produce to the US. The reciprocal tariffs announced by the US, though paused for the time being, will benefit south American exporters such as Ecuador, the largest shrimp exporter in the world. Indian exporters will face higher competition from them in the raw frozen and peeled frozen categories, which have low value addition and are less remunerative. According to the report, operating margins will be under pressure because the tariff burden will be passed on only partially and gradually, as seen in the past, even as exporters scout for other markets and improve offerings through value addition.

Credit profiles will continue to face challenges as elongated working capital cycles induce further recourse to credit lines that, in turn, would moderate debt protection metrics. Capital structures are expected to remain comfortable, however, the report mentioned. "Last fiscal, the waters turned choppy for Indian shrimp exporters as prices and competition increased after a countervailing duty of 5.77 per cent was slapped by the US," said Himank Sharma, Director, Crisil Ratings. This fiscal, with the US imposing reciprocal tariffs -- even as other major markets such as the European Union and China see sluggish economic activity -- exporters will likely see flattish demand. "But as realisations tick up, overall growth in revenues should be in low single digit this fiscal," Sharma added.

Global shrimp demand has flatlined at 4 million tonne (MT) over the past few fiscals and will likely remain subdued this fiscal, too. Indian exporters have around a fifth of the global market share as of now, while domestic production is seen flat at 1.2 MT due to non-remunerative global prices impacting shrimp culture and growth, this fiscal. Nagarjun Alaparthi, Associate Director, Crisil Ratings, said that "Despite rising debt, the capital structures of shrimp exporters will remain healthy".

The report said exporters are likely to focus on diversifying their overseas markets and increasing the share of value-added products to protect profitability. Strengthening processing capabilities, improving product quality and exploring new trade destinations will be important as companies navigate tariff-related uncertainties and changing global demand patterns.

SEBI introduces new rules for equity F&O segment to boost transparency, stability

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday announced a new set of rules for the equity Futures and Options (F&O) segment. These changes aim to improve transparency, control excessive speculation, and bring more stability to the market. One of the major changes introduced by the SEBI is a new method for measuring open interest (OI) in the equity F&O segment. Open interest refers to the total number of outstanding contracts in futures or options. The SEBI said it will now closely monitor the open interest levels during the day, especially for single stock futures and options, instead of waiting until the end of the day. The capital market regulator has also decided to link the market-wide position limit (MWPL) to the cash market volume and the free float of the stock. MWPL is the maximum number of contracts that can be open in F&O trading for a particular stock.

This move is aimed at preventing excessive speculation in stocks with limited liquidity. In another key measure, the SEBI has increased the position limits for trading in Index Futures and Index Options, saying that it wants to strike a balance between allowing market participants to take meaningful positions in large indices and avoiding manipulation risks.

For Index Options, the net end-of-day position limit for futures-equivalent open interest (FutEq OI) will be Rs 1,500 crore. In terms of gross positions, neither the long nor the short side should exceed Rs 10,000 crore. When it comes to Index Futures, position limits will vary by category of participants.

For example, for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in Category I, mutual funds, and brokers (including proprietary and client trades), the limit will be the higher of either 15 per cent of the total futures open interest or Rs 500 crore. For FPIs in Category II -- excluding individuals, family offices, and corporates -- the limit will be the higher of 10 per cent of the open interest or Rs 500 crore. Brokers, including their proprietary and client accounts combined, will have an overall cap of 15 per cent of open interest or Rs 7,500 crore, whichever is lower. The SEBI clarified that these limits are in addition to any holdings the participants have in the cash market or actual stock holdings.

The new rules are expected to make the F&O segment more transparent and efficient, while also keeping excessive risk in check. SEBI said the revised framework is intended to strengthen risk management and ensure that trading positions remain proportionate to the liquidity and depth of the underlying market. By monitoring open interest more closely, the regulator expects to identify unusual build-ups in positions and address potential risks before they affect market stability.

The changes also seek to provide greater clarity to market participants, including institutional investors, brokers and individual traders, on the permissible limits for derivatives trading. The revised position limits are expected to help maintain orderly trading while allowing adequate flexibility for genuine hedging and investment.

Telangana to complete comprehensive land survey within a year



Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, has directed officials to conduct a re-survey of lands across the state—primarily for the benefit of farmers—ensuring that the process takes place in their presence to facilitate the resolution of any land-related issues they may face. He mandated that Tahsildars must visit the villages where the re-survey is underway on a daily basis. Furthermore, RDOs, Additional Collectors, and District Collectors are required to provide continuous supervision and visit these villages at least once a week.

The Minister stated that the government's objective is to conduct a comprehensive survey of every inch of land across the state within the coming year, with the goal of providing landowners with secure, dispute-free land titles. The Minister stated that it is the government's resolve to provide every landowner with comprehensive and secure land records—akin to an 'Aadhaar card' for their land—along with official passbooks.

On Wednesday, a detailed review meeting was held at the Medchal-Malkajgiri Collectorate, focusing on land surveys, revenue matters, stamps and registration, and housing for the undivided Ranga Reddy district. The meeting was led by D. Sridhar Babu, the Minister in-charge of Ranga Reddy district. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that the government's ambitious comprehensive land survey project would be launched in a phased manner. In the first phase, the survey will be expedited in selected revenue villages across every district in the state, in strict accordance with the law. He noted that while previous reviews were conducted in Hyderabad with state-level officials, this time, the review is being held directly in the districts, involving local public representatives, senior state-level officials, and field-level revenue staff to address specific issues.

He further explained that officials from the mandal level are being selected at random to discuss various aspects of the survey—including pending applications, objections raised by the public, and practical challenges encountered on the ground. He urged the officials to provide a transparent and accurate account of the public's requests, the difficulties they themselves are facing, and the specific government-level permissions or guidelines required to resolve these matters. He assured that if problems are clearly communicated—rather than being concealed—instructions will be issued to the relevant officials on the spot to take corrective action.

The Minister stated that the government will commend officials who work responsibly and address public grievances with integrity. He warned that, conversely, strict and immediate action will be taken against any officials who deliberately misrepresent issues or cause hardship to the public. He noted that the state is undertaking a comprehensive land survey on a massive scale—the first such exercise in approximately 125 years. He explained that this survey will go beyond mere land measurement; it will provide a permanent solution to discrepancies, such as cases where official survey records do not align with the actual physical possession of the land.

He added that the comprehensive survey will also help identify and resolve issues such as boundary disputes between the Revenue and Forest departments, problems concerning *patta* (titled) lands, and conflicts regarding land boundaries. He urged officials to work together diligently to ensure the success of this prestigious, state-wide initiative. Furthermore, Minister Ponguleti directed officials to examine any issues related to 'Section 22A' (prohibited land transactions) that have not been covered by existing Government Orders (GOs) or memos, and to take necessary steps to resolve them. MP Eatala Rajender, MLAs Kale Yadaiah, Manohar Reddy, Arikepudi Gandhi, Bandaru Lakshma Reddy, Eerlapalli Shankar, and Marri Rajashekar Reddy, along with other public representatives, participated in this meeting.

Jupally: Literacy Empowers Women Economically



Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): Nov 04, Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has said that literacy is the foundation of women's empowerment and economic independence. He emphasised that every individual should be able to read and write, describing it as his long-cherished aspiration.

On Wednesday, the minister distributed slates and writing materials to illiterate women in Tellarallapalli village of Panagal mandal in Kollapur constituency to encourage them to learn reading and writing. He had earlier provided financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 for purchasing the materials.

The minister stressed that the initiative should continue as an ongoing programme rather than remain a one-time activity. He directed village sarpanch Jambalayya to arrange special classes for women every day, with one hour of teaching in the morning and another hour in the evening. He also announced financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 towards conducting the classes.

Stating that there is no age limit for education, Jupally announced a cash reward of Rs. 5,000 for the woman who first learns to read and write. He said literacy would boost women's confidence, create greater opportunities for economic independence and contribute to the development of families and society.

TG to build 1,920 Indiramma Houses, allottees selected through e-lottery



Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): Beneficiaries for the 1,920 houses to be constructed across these constituencies were selected through an e-lottery system, utilizing advanced technology. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Reddy stated that the *bhumi puja* (groundbreaking ceremony) for the construction of these houses would be held soon. He noted that the government has utilized lands belonging to the RTC and the Police Department for this prestigious initiative, which aims to fulfill the dream of homeownership for the poor. He emphasized that the government is actively acquiring suitable land for the construction of a total of one lakh (100,000) houses—a testament to the government's sincere commitment. He added that steps are being taken to ensure that the beneficiaries can move into their new homes by the time of the upcoming Bonalu festival.

Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh, speaking at the event, praised the government's resolve to provide housing for the poor within the very constituencies where they currently reside. He requested that additional suitable land, which has been identified in various parts of the constituency, also be utilized for the construction of 'Indiramma' houses.

Housing Board Vice-Chairman V.P. Gautham stated that the construction of 'Indiramma' housing towers will continue until every eligible individual is provided with a home of their own. He further announced that notifications for similar housing projects in four other assembly constituencies located within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will be issued shortly. A nominal price of six lakh rupees has been set for these housing units with the intention of involving the beneficiaries in the construction process, ensuring that the work is completed under their own supervision. Beyond providing a home—which would be valued at 40–50 lakh rupees in the open market—at such a nominal cost, it has also been decided to waive registration fees. To ensure complete transparency and eliminate any room for doubt, the housing allotment process is being conducted via an e-lottery. Arrangements have been made to notify those selected through this lottery immediately via SMS.

Under the pilot project for 'Indiramma' housing towers, a 'mop-up' lottery will be held on Wednesday, November 4th, to reallocate housing units that were cancelled—due to reasons such as issues identified during field-level inspections or other factors—across the 16 constituencies where the initial allotment process had already been completed.

SEBI Cancels Karvy, 7 Others' Registrations Over Fee Default

Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cancelled the registrations of eight investment advisers, including Karvy Investment Advisory Services Ltd and IDFC Alternatives Ltd, after they failed to pay mandatory renewal fees required to maintain their licences.

The market regulator said the affected entities did not comply with the renewal fee requirements prescribed under the SEBI (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013, resulting in their registrations ceasing to remain in force. Apart from Karvy Investment Advisory Services and IDFC Alternatives, the action also covers Sagacis Investment Advisor, Tathastu Investment Adviser, Quant Capital, Arkanis Capital, IRA Wealth Advisor and Indianivesh Investment Managers.

In its order, SEBI said registered investment advisers are required to pay renewal fees every five years to keep their registrations valid. Since the eight entities failed to make the necessary payments, their certificates of registration have been cancelled with immediate effect. The regulator said the move was aimed at preventing possible misuse of expired registration certificates.

KTR Congratulates Adilabad BRS Leaders and Cadres on Successful Rythu Garjana



Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) congratulated party leaders and workers from Adilabad district for the successful organisation of the Rythu Garjana programme at the district headquarters. He urged party cadres to draw inspiration from the event and work with renewed enthusiasm among the people while continuing their fight for farmers' issues.

Former Minister and senior BRS leader Jogu Ramanna, Bhargav Deshpande, young leader Jogu Mahender and several other district leaders and workers met KTR at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad. KTR appreciated their efforts in making the programme successful, expressing satisfaction over the large turnout of farmers and people from different parts of the district. During the meeting, district leaders briefed KTR on the programme and said the BRS campaign for resolving farmers' problems had received a positive response. They stated that the success of Rythu Garjana had infused fresh enthusiasm among party workers.

The leaders recalled that during the previous ten-year BRS government under K. Chandrashekar Rao, schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, 24-hour free electricity and irrigation facilities provided support to farmers. They alleged that delays in implementing Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima and the failure to fulfil promises by the present Congress government had caused difficulties for farmers.

KTR urged party leaders and workers not to limit their efforts to the success of Rythu Garjana but to remain actively engaged with people at the grassroots level. He called upon them to continuously raise farmers' concerns and highlight what the party describes as the failures of the state government. Meanwhile, several leaders belonging to different political parties joined the BRS in the presence of KTR. He welcomed them into the party by presenting them with pink scarves and called for collective efforts to strengthen the BRS in Adilabad district.

Govt Forms Committee on Sugarcane Farmers and Sugar Sector

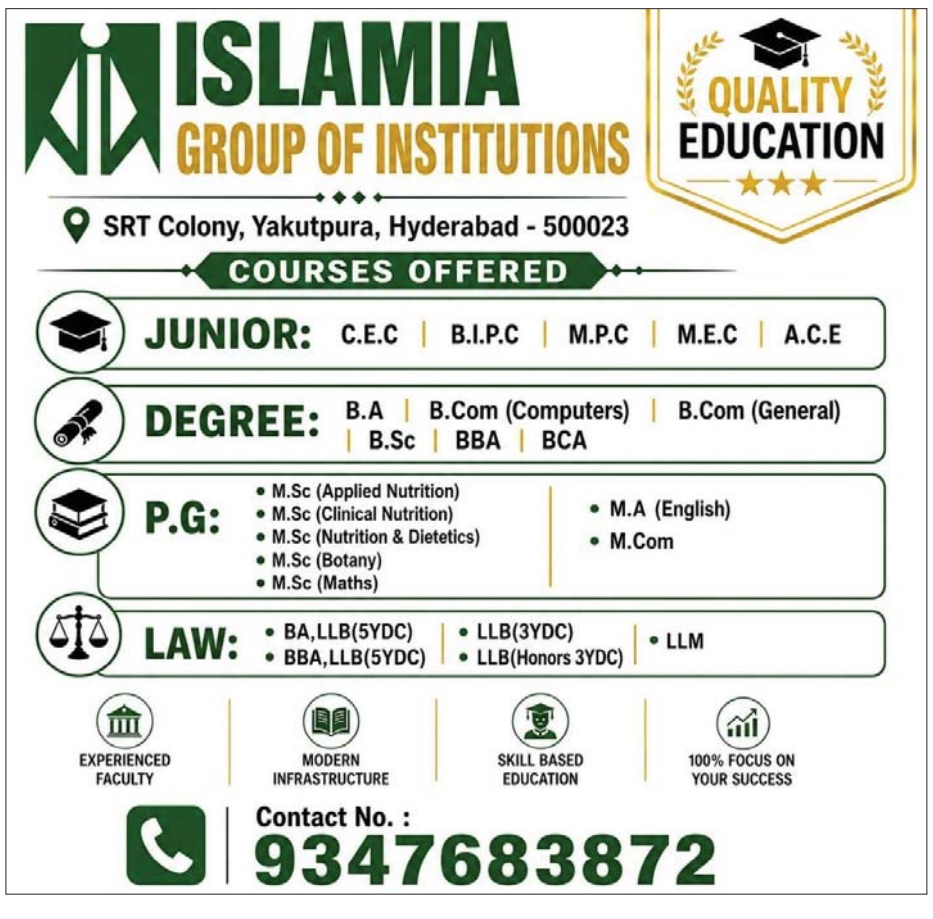
Hyderabad, Nov 4 (GNS): The Government of India has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, former Member of NITI Aayog, to examine issues raised by sugarcane farmers and recommend appropriate measures for addressing their concerns. The constitution of the Committee follows the decisions taken during a meeting of representatives of sugarcane farmers from Karnataka and Maharashtra with the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The Committee will examine the demand for an increase in remunerative returns to sugarcane farmers, taking into account cultivation costs and other relevant factors. It will also examine the demand for revision of the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar in the context of sugar production costs, market realisations, and the financial viability of sugar mills. Other key areas of examination will include existing mechanisms for testing and reporting sugar recovery, measures to ensure transparent verification of recovery, and prevailing sugarcane weighment practices at sugar mills, including the adequacy of calibration, inspection and verification mechanisms. The Committee will also examine prevailing practices, relating to deductions from the weight of mechanically harvested sugarcane and assess.

the extent of actual losses, if any, arising from mechanised harvesting. It will evaluate the financial impact of the present practices on the cane price payable to farmers and may consider any other related matters deemed necessary.

The Committee will consult all stakeholders, including farmers' representatives, sugar mill associations, State Governments and other experts or organisations, as considered necessary. The Committee will submit its report, containing its findings and specific recommendations, as early as possible, for consideration by the competent authority. The Chairman of the committee, Prof. Ramesh Chand, an eminent agricultural economist and public policy expert, served as a Member of NITI Aayog from 2015 to 2026 and previously as Director of ICAR-NIAP and Member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.





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