

# Bairabi-Sairang railway line ushers in a historic moment for Mizoram

The project marks a turning point for the State's connectivity, trade, and growth prospects

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HYDERABAD/AIZAWL

THE inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line has ushered in a historic moment for Mizoram, promising to reshape livelihoods, expand economic opportunities, and bring the remote hill state closer to the national mainstream after decades of geographical isolation.

Built at a cost of over Rs 8,000 crore, the 51-kilometre stretch connects Aizawl, the State capital, with India's vast railway network for the first time, overcoming difficult terrain with towering bridges, long tunnels, and complex viaducts that stand as engineering marvels but, more importantly, as pathways to progress.

For the people of Mizoram, long dependent on narrow and landslide-prone roads, the new railway means far more than modern infrastructure—it is the assurance of cheaper goods, faster access, and more reliable lifelines. Analysts suggest transport costs for essentials like fuel, construction materials, farm inputs, and groceries could fall by 30–40 percent, while consumer prices in many districts may drop by 10–20 percent, giving households real savings and easing inflationary pressure on the state's fragile economy.

"This line is a lifeline for



Mizoram," said CPRO adding that the project will "revolutionise connectivity, bring down costs, and unlock opportunities for both small traders and large industries." For farmers, who make up a large portion of the workforce, the line will sharply reduce post-harvest losses, ensuring that pineapples, ginger, turmeric, oranges, and other perishable crops can reach markets in Assam, West Bengal, and beyond before they spoil, thereby raising incomes and boosting cultivation.

Tourism, too, is expected to flourish, as the state's scenic hills, vibrant culture, and biodiversity become

more accessible; industry observers forecast a 40–50 percent increase in tourist arrivals within five years, benefiting homestays, hotels, handicraft sellers, and local guides.

"Tourism is one of the sectors that will see immediate benefits," noted the CPRO, emphasising that "Mizoram can now showcase its beauty to the rest of the country without connectivity being a barrier." The railway's impact on employment is equally significant: thousands were engaged during construction, and thousands more are expected to find work in logistics, retail, transport,

and hospitality as ancillary industries grow, with experts predicting 3,000–5,000 indirect jobs each year.

Local industries, from bamboo crafts to textiles and food processing, will also gain reliable access to larger markets, reducing dependence on middlemen and opening pathways for Mizoram's unique products to gain national visibility. Beyond economics, the project is set to enhance quality of life, enabling students to travel for higher education more affordably, patients to access advanced healthcare faster, and schools and hospitals to receive supplies more reliably, especially

during monsoon disruptions. Strategically, the Bairabi-Sairang line strengthens India's Act East policy, improving integration with Assam and potentially linking trade corridors to Myanmar and Southeast Asia, positioning Mizoram as a gateway rather than a cul-de-sac. Economists estimate that the railway could add ₹500–700 crore annually to the state's Gross State Domestic Product, lifting growth by 2–3 percent—a substantial boost for a small state.

Yet, challenges remain: maintaining the line through rugged hills will require sustained investment, environmental safeguards must be respected, and policies must ensure that benefits reach remote communities rather than concentrating in urban centres.

Still, the mood across Mizoram is one of optimism, with the steel tracks now symbolising a dream finally realised. As the CPRO remarked, "Railways have always been a driver of progress, and with this project Mizoram finally joins the national rail family."

It is not just about trains—it is about growth, opportunity, and hope." If harnessed wisely, the Bairabi-Sairang railway will not only carry trains but also carry Mizoram into a new era of economic resilience, social mobility, and integration with the wider world.



## Kishan urges doctors to embrace India's ancient medical wisdom

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister G Kishan Reddy has urged practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to embrace India's ancient medical wisdom and integrate it with modern science. He was addressing the National Ayurveda Conference–2025, hosted by the Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad and its Telangana Chapter here on Saturday. The event brought together leading voices in traditional medicine to discuss the future of Ayurveda in India and abroad.

Reddy congratulated the organisers for their decades-long commitment to preserving and promoting Ayurveda. He praised the Parishad's efforts in raising awareness and passing on this ancient science to future generations, calling it a commendable service to the nation.

He emphasised that Ayurveda is not merely a system of medicine but a holistic philosophy rooted in the Indian way of life, encompassing wellness, physical balance, and mental harmony. Sharing a personal anecdote, Reddy noted that he relied solely on Ayurvedic remedies until he completed his intermediate education, underscoring his deep faith in its efficacy.

The minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership since 2014 for the resurgence of Ayurveda, which had

previously been sidelined. He highlighted India's rich medical heritage, referencing pioneers like Charaka, Sushruta, and Vagbhatta, whose contributions laid the foundation for surgery, toxicology, and diagnostics centuries ago.

He lamented that previous governments had dismissed Ayurveda as outdated, but affirmed that the Modi government is restoring its global relevance.

Reddy pointed to the establishment of the Ministry of AYUSH in 2014 as a turning point. Within six months of taking office, Modi began advocating for global recognition of Ayurveda and Yoga, leading to the declaration of June 21 as International Yoga Day, now celebrated by 177 countries.

He also highlighted Ayurveda's role during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing its contribution to boosting immunity through traditional remedies like turmeric and Giloy. He recalled dire global predictions about India's vulnerability and asserted that Ayurveda played a key role in protecting the nation's 140 crore citizens.

The minister warned of challenges posed by multinational pharmaceutical companies and global lobbies attempting to suppress Ayurveda and Yoga. He urged practitioners to rise above professional boundaries and treat Ayurveda as a national

treasure, calling for collective action to preserve and promote it.

Reddy outlined the central government's initiatives under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), including the construction of 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals in Siddipet, Vikarabad, and Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts, with Rs 15 crore allocated per centre. He requested the Telangana government to expedite land acquisition for a similar hospital in Ramthapur, Hyderabad.

He noted that Telangana hosts 420 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers and 440 dispensaries, including Ayurvedic, Unani, and Homeopathic facilities. Across India, 7.5 lakh registered AYUSH practitioners are contributing to the vision of Arogya Bharat.

Reddy called on intellectuals and Ayurveda practitioners to publish their research in international journals and scientific magazines, and to take responsibility for spreading Ayurveda to remote corners of India and the world. He stressed that building a healthy India must be part of the national resolve to become a developed country by 2047, with AYUSH as a key pillar.

Inspired by the ancient saying "Health is the greatest blessing," Reddy called for unity and action, urging all stakeholders to work together to elevate Ayurveda as a global force for wellness and healing.

## 26 gates of Nagarjuna Sagar projects lifted

NAGARJUNA SAGAR: All 26 crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar dam were lifted on Saturday as heavy inflows continued from the upstream Srisailem reservoir, which is releasing

2,81,352 cusecs of floodwater into the project. From Nagarjuna Sagar, officials are discharging 2,09,794 cusecs through the gates, along with 32,764 cusecs released through

power generation into the downstream Krishna River. This marks the fourth time in the current season, since July 29, that the gates of Nagarjuna Sagar have been opened.

## Vigilance panel to study ACB report, recommend action

*Continued from P1*

"The commission will ascertain whether the evidence collected by the ACB substantiated the charges framed against BRS working president and the then MA&UD minister K T Rama Rao, former Municipal Administration secretary Arvind Kumar and HMDA officials, whose names were mentioned in the case. If any valid information is missing in establishing the case, the Commission will suggest the ACB to rectify the error before filing the charge sheet", officials said.

KTR was named as A1, Arvind Kumar A2 and former HMDA engineer BLN Reddy A3 in the case. The

ACB has grilled KTR twice, while Arvind appeared before the agency three times to record their statements. The ACB was claiming that it has got enough evidence to establish quid pro quo between former KTR and the e-car racing agencies during the payment of Rs 55 crore to organize the event without any official sanction.

Sources said that the Vigilance Commission report case was crucial to act against the alleged accused. Meanwhile, summoning of A4 and A5-Ace Nxt Gen Pvt's official Kiran Rao and Formula E Operations (FEO) would also be decided based on the panel's report.

## 'Students used their pocket money for drugs'

*Continued from P1*

Supporting this statement, Neha Agarwal, psychologist and co-founder of Inner-Heal Therapy, said, "Many of these students are simply trying to fill an emotional void—whether it's love, acceptance, or fear of abandonment. "The pain they want to escape can make drugs seem like an easy way out, offering a quick high and temporary thrill. Sadly, many do not realize that they are trapped until it is already too late to turn back.

Many students from well-off families use their pocket money in unhealthy ways, such as through substance abuse. Easy access to cash sometimes makes them feel independent, but without real responsibility. Often, just to feel included and part of a group, students get pulled into these habits, creating a dangerous cycle that harms their studies and personal growth," she added.

Officials stressed that strict surveillance is being paired with the rehabilitation of students. One of the students re-

cently caught is currently undergoing regular blood tests and counselling. "We are also conducting regular awareness campaigns, in collaboration with universities like ICAFI, to sensitize students to the dangers of substance abuse," an anti-narcotics officer said.

Meanwhile, Mahindra University, in its official statement, maintained that "any act that violates the law or endangers the safety of the student community will be dealt with severely." Vice-Chancellor Dr. Yajulu Meduri assured that the campus would ramp up preventive awareness, counselling, and partnerships with the law enforcement authorities.

Yet, as more institutions figure in the narcotics trail and as courier loopholes remain unaddressed, the case underscores a disturbing dual reality. While Hyderabad's private universities project themselves as global education hubs, they are also becoming fertile grounds for organized rackets feeding on the youth's vulnerabilities.

## UN congratulates new Nepal PM Sushila Karki

*Continued from P1*

She also recognised the contributions of the president, the chief of army staff and 'Gen Z' youth leaders, noting that their efforts "helped make this transition possible". Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Ram Chandra Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and representatives of youth protesters.

President Paudel administered the oath of office to former chief justice Karki, 73, on Friday three days after Oli resigned from the prime minister's post following the worst unrest that the Himalayan nation has witnessed in decades. Oli quit on Tuesday shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during Monday's protests.

## Karki is shining example of women empowerment: Modi

*Continued from P1*

"I want to congratulate Karki on behalf of 140 crore Indians. I am confident that she will pave the way for peace, stability, and prosperity in Nepal," the PM said.

Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki on Friday night became Nepal's first woman prime minister to lead an interim government.

"Karki occupying the top post of that country is an ex-

ample of women's empowerment," Modi asserted. Her appointment ended days of political uncertainty after the K P Sharma Oli dispensation was forced to quit in the face of a nationwide agitation triggered by a social media ban.

Karki was chosen to lead the interim government after a meeting between President Paudel, Nepal's top military brass, and the youth protesters, who spearheaded the ag-

itation. The PM also lauded the resilience of the Nepali people, noting how citizens, especially young men and women, were taking part in cleaning and painting buildings in the past few days, amid political turbulence. "I also want to congratulate the people of Nepal who, despite such turbulent times, have kept democratic values supreme," Modi said, drawing applause from the gathering.

## 3-hour pit stop is not compassion: Cong targets Modi's Manipur visit

*Continued from P1*

"864 days of violence:-- 300 lives lost, 67,000 displaced, 1,500 plus injured. You made 46 foreign trips since, but not a single visit to share two words of sympathy with your own citizens," Kharge said.

"Your last visit to Manipur? January 2022 for elections! Your 'Double Engine' has bulldozed the innocent lives of Manipur. You and Home Minister Amit Shah's gross incompetence and complicity in betraying all communities was shielded from scrutiny, by imposing President's Rule

in the state. Violence still continues," he said. It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining law and order in the state and it is now the Union government which is again dithering, he claimed.

"Not to forget, that is your government which is responsible for National Security and border patrol. This hush-hush pit stop isn't repentance. It's not even guilt. You are organising a grand welcome ceremony for yourself. It is a cruel prick to the wounds of those still suffering because of your own abdication of basic constitutional

responsibilities!" Kharge said. Speaking with reporters in Wayanad, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the PM and said he should have visited the state long before.

"I am glad that he has decided, after two years, that it is worth visiting (Manipur). He should have gone long before. It is very unfortunate that he has allowed what is happening there to continue for so long and for so many people to be killed. That has not been the tradition of prime ministers in India," she said.

## Govt does homework to strengthen TG's position before KWDT-2

*Continued from P1*

Making several suggestions to the legal experts to put an end to the injustice meted to Telangana in water sharing, the Chief Minister asked the officials to submit to the tribunal all details relevant to the projects planned to be built, incomplete projects, and the neglected projects. All the GOs, memos, and official documents issued in the erstwhile united AP state should also be kept ready.

The meeting also discussed how the erstwhile government had caused "irreparable loss" to Telangana by agreeing to allot 512 TMC to AP and, therefore, only 299 TMC for Telangana. Legal experts briefed the Chief Minister that AP has now brought up the matter of the then chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao agreeing to a share of 299 TMC before the tribunal.

The Chief Minister said that the KCR government, during the 10-year rule failed miserably in achieving the legally due share of water in Krishna waters. As a result, all the Palamuru and Dindi projects were put on hold. The Chief Minister made

it clear that Telangana deserved a share of 904 TMC of water in Krishna and arguments should be prepared accordingly.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the AP government had illegally diverted Krishna waters due to the negligence and indifference of the previous government, and that the matter should be brought before the tribunal.

Due to the illegal diversion of Krishna water by AP, there is a threat of closure of the hydroelectric projects at Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala, the Chief Minister said. The hydroelectric power generation at low cost will be hampered. The Chief Minister ordered that all these issues be presented as arguments before the tribunal.

The CM stressed that Telangana has all the rights and qualifications to get its due share of water as a newly formed state. He instructed the officials to bring to the attention of the Tribunal the peculiar problems of drought-prone districts of Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy and Nalgonda, along with their irrigation and drinking water needs.